

HEROIN SMUGGLING
Banking info of 12 companies under probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The CID-led five-member team investigating heroin smuggling to the UK started scrutinising banking information of 12 business houses, including BD Foods Limited and its nine sister concerns, on Thursday night.
"We have received banking reports of some of the companies involved in smuggling heroin to the UK and hope to get those of others within a day or two," a member of the team told The Daily Star last night.
He said the team did not find any suspicious transaction in the reports scrutinised so far. "Those involved in the smuggling are hard nuts. They possibly do not transact money of such illegal trade through banking channels," he speculated.
Sources said an official representing Bangladesh Bank (BB) in SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

EU to slap terror tag on LTTE

AFP, Brussels/ Colombo
The European Union has agreed in principle to blacklist Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels as a "terrorist" group, EU diplomats said yesterday, in a move the rebels said would only lead to war in the country.
A formal decision on the blacklisting "could come extremely quickly", perhaps as early next week, one EU diplomat said in Brussels. Another said it would come "before June".
A number of diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the "extremely sensitive" nature of the subject, told AFP the decision had been taken by EU officials late on Thursday.
The decision came two days

after a US State Department official said in Sri Lanka that Washington had encouraged the 25-member EU to ban the Tigers, declare them a terrorist group and cut off their international funding.
Diplomatic sources had said some EU members feared a ban could prompt the Tigers to pull out of the peace process completely.
The rebels' top negotiator, in comments received earlier Friday, said moves to ban the Tigers would be detrimental to peace.
"Emboldened by international support, and especially by further proscriptions of the LTTE, the Sinhala headline elements will undoubtedly take steps to further escalate the violence and precipitate a war in which they hope to

destroy the LTTE," Anton Balasingham was quoted as saying by the pro-rebel Tamilnet.com website.
He has led delegations of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in negotiations with various Sri Lankan governments.
The Tigers are fighting for a minority Tamil homeland on the island where Sinhalese form the majority.
Balasingham was quoted as saying that an EU ban "is not going to help bring about peace, (but) will only serve to exacerbate the conditions of war and endanger the lives of Tamil civilians entrapped by Sinhala occupation forces."
He warned that further bans on SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Sutrapur Police Station besieged over murder of schoolboy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Hundreds of locals yesterday besieged Sutrapur Police Station (PS) in the capital demanding punishment of two police officials for gross negligence to duty.
Despite being repeatedly asked, the two failed to give any information to murdered schoolboy Jisan Ahmed's father Anwar Ahmed although Sutrapur police recovered the boy's body, made an inquest report and sent the body to Salimullah Medical College morgue on Thursday.
The agitating people alleged that Sub-inspector (SI) Abdullah and Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) Shima had links with the killers of the 11-year-old boy and tried to hush up the killing.
The mob withdrew the siege after police finally recorded a murder case accusing nine people, SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Locals besiege Sutrapur Police Station in Old Dhaka yesterday protesting what they said was gross negligence of duty of two police officials in the killing of schoolboy Jihan.



This is one of the portable power transformers Desa has stationed in the city's Demra area to pacify the power-starved angry locals. But the way it is parked on a North Jatrabari thoroughfare poses high risk of electrocution and other accidents in this storm-prone season.

2 street urchins hurt in wrapped bottle bomb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Two street urchins were injured in an explosion as one of them unsuspectingly tried to throw a wrapped bottle into the Buriganga at Sadarghat in the city yesterday noon.
Police rescued injured Mohammad Miraj, 10, and Shahidul Islam Faruk, 12, and took them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment. SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

ELECTORAL REFORM
Opposition's campaign in north starts today

UNB, Dhaka
Awami League-led 14-party combine begins a three-day mass campaign in the northern districts today to garner support for their demands for electoral reforms, cancellation of "fake" voter list and uninterrupted supply of power and water.
The other objective of the cam SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Kushtia lawyers sue an editor for defamation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia
Leaders of Kushtia Bar Association (KBA) filed a defamation case against the founder, editor-publisher and the acting editor of a Kushtia based daily.
General Secretary of KBA Nurul Islam Dulal filed the defamation case on Thursday with a magistrate's court accusing the founder Alauddin Ahmed, editor and publisher Gazi Mahub Rahman and acting editor Jamal Uddin Haidari. SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Safe water scarce in hill districts

Junk tube-wells force people to use raw stream water
PORIMOL PALMA, back from Bandarban
Rangamati and Khagrachhari districts in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).
Only a small portion of the hill people have access to such water sources while a great number of those are dysfunctional.
Like Mrinalini Chakma, most of the hill people who use stream water for drinking are not aware that water from such sources should be boiled and cooled before drinking.
"I don't feel like boiling the stream water, as it is clear like any tube well water," Mrinalini told this correspondent visiting the hill district.
Hlu Ching Murma, a youth leader of Thuaingo Para, a village in the other part of the same upazila, said in the village there are three functional ring wells - two installed by the government or non-government organisations at some 'suitable' places of Bandarban, the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).
People of the village, which has relatively good communications for the government authorities or NGOs, are more fortunate than those of the other areas of CHT - at least in terms of having access to drinking water, he said.
But four other such wells in the village are dysfunctional, as those were installed in improper places where digging at deeper levels is needed to get water, he said, adding, "These four ring wells, installed by the DPHE in association with some NGOs, have not been repaired for long."
"Many of the people in the area SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

India to join US-backed gas pipeline project

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi
With Iran playing tough on gas pricing, India has decided to join the United States-backed 3.5 billion dollar Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) gas pipeline project to meet its burgeoning energy demands.
"The cabinet has approved petroleum ministry's proposal for joining the TAP project," an official said here on Thursday night.
India had in mid-February participated for the first time as an 'observer' in the 9th meeting of the steering committee of the TAP project and has since decided to SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

PHULBARI COAL MINE

Final nod to project faces further delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Phulbari coal mine development by British company Asia Energy will be delayed by about a year as a government expert committee has failed to submit its report despite repeated extension of deadline.
Asia Energy says because of the upcoming monsoon, it cannot start primary development work this year as the government is yet to give a final clearance to its \$3 billion development scheme.
The government is delaying the

clearance as an expert committee headed by Professor Nurul Islam of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology designated to review Asia Energy's scheme is yet to give its report, and missed several deadlines.
Mining operations by Asia Energy Corporation (Bangladesh), a subsidiary of UK-based Asia Energy PLC, on October 2 last year officially presented to the government the Feasibility Study and Scheme of Development for Phulbari Coal Mine Project. As per the contract, the government was

supposed to give its decision within 90 days.
Sources say disagreement among the expert committee members is one of the main reasons why the committee repeatedly missed its deadlines.
Mining operations by Asia Energy was scheduled to start late this year with first coal extraction in 2008. Full production was expected to begin by 2013.
Asia Energy officials say such delay will only frustrate the foreign SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

'TERROR FINANCING'

2 RIHS staff ejected from country

Two of its subsidiaries shut down

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi
The top suspected donor to Islamist militants in the country, Bangladesh chapter of Kuwait based NGO Revival of Islamic Heritage Society (RIHS), sent back two of its foreign officials to the headquarters and shut down its two institutes early this month following government insistence.
Iraqi citizen Zafar Musa Abu Moaz, director of RIHS run kidney dialysis centre, and Sudanese

citizen Kamal Hussain, director of RIHS education sector, left Bangladesh on May 12 as they had been asked to leave within 24 hours of notice, said sources.
The government in March this year objected to the presence of the two in Bangladesh for their suspected roles behind militancy in the country.
The kidney dialysis centre at Banani in Dhaka and the education department at RIHS Uttara office SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

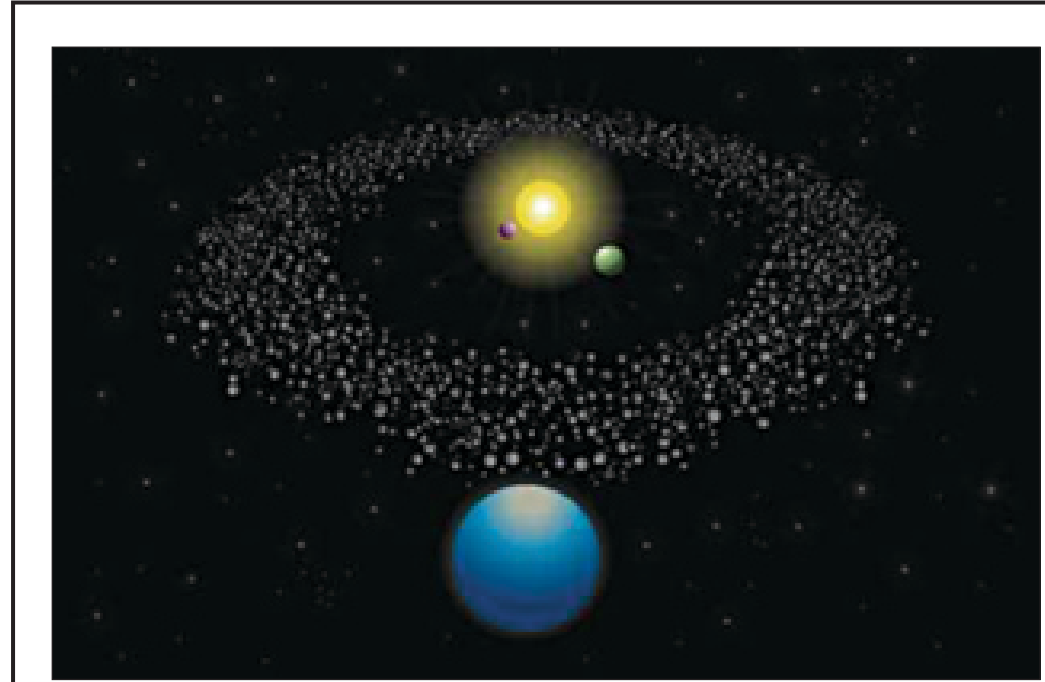


CIVIL SOCIETY MOVE
3rd regional dialogue in Comilla today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The third regional dialogue titled 'National Election 2007: Civil Society Initiative for Accountable Development' will be held in Comilla today.
Political leaders, academics, cultural activists, businessmen, development workers and representatives from mass organisations SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

3 killed by outlaws

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia
Criminals allegedly belonging to an outlawed party killed three people in three different incidents in Meherpur and Rajbari on Thursday night.
Meherpur police said members of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Janajuddha faction stormed the house of Asher Ali at Barabamundi of Gangni upazila and kidnapped him at gunpoint.
Taking him to a nearby field the SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



An artist's conception of three planets in orbit around the star HD 69830. It is believed that the outermost planet in the new star system may have water on its surface.

3 Neptune-size planets found

AFP, Paris
Astronomers reported they had found three enticing Neptune-sized planets orbiting a distant star, in a discovery that marks a further step towards the goal of finding another Earth.
More than 170 planets outside our own Solar System have been spotted in the past decade or so.
But almost all of them have been gaseous Jupiter-sized giants that race around their star at a close range. Their atmosphere would be too scorching and too dense to have liquid water, an essential ingredient for life as we know it.
In a paper published in the British journal "Nature", a team led by Christophe Lovis from the Geneva Observatory in Switzerland located a smaller SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



A policeman watches over a demonstration by the residents of Demra and Shyampur areas at Shanir Akhra in the city in demand of smooth power and water supply yesterday.

Prayer Timing		
May 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation