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A caring society is needed to spread 2child family norm; and Common ground for the future of child development and learning Page 5

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#### **Business**

Dhaka to get \$90m ADB loan for urban

World's 1.3b people live in extreme poverty: UNDP Pages 6, 7

### Metropolitan



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**NEWS BRIEFS** 

#### Transport strike in Sylhet today

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Oct 18: A day long transport strike has been called for tomorrow in the district to protest the extortions at different points on Sylhet-Tamabil Jafflong road. The truckers have been on strike since Sunday for the same cause.

#### Girl commits suicide

JHENIDAH, Oct 18: A teenaged girl allegedly committed suicide as she disliked her saree purchased on the occasion of Durga Puja, at village Rish khali in Harinakundu thana of the district today. Police said that Khoma Rani Das. 16. daughter of Gokul Chandar Das. took away her life by hanging herself with a tree near her house with a saree in the afternoon as her father could not ensure her to change the saree. A UD case was filed with Harinakundu police, reports UNB.

#### One electrocuted in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 18: A young man was electrocuted at village Fulkocha in Sadar thana of the district today. Police said the victim Abdus Sattar. 25. met the tragic end of his life when he was trying to take illegal connections at his residence from a nearby electric pole. A case was filed with local police. reports UNB.

#### Sino-Indian border talks end

BEIJING, Oct 18: China and India ended their ninth round of border talks here today, making probable progress in clarifying the line of actual control and on increasing confidence-building measures. The three-day talks of the Sino-Indian joint working group on border issues and the consultations at the vice foreign minister level began on October 16. reports Xinhua.

### JCD-BCL clash in Sirajganj: 30 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 18: At least 30 people were injured in separate clashes between rival student groups in Raiganj and Tarash thanas of the district on Thursday and Friday, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

## Power purchase from India

KARTIK 4 1403 BS.

# Feasibility report to PM likely in 15 days

By Sharier Khan and Inam Ahmed

The Energy Ministry is likely to submit a feasibility report on power purchase from India to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her approval within a couple of weeks, according to highly-placed sources in the Ministry.

The report, being prepared by a team of experts headed by the Chairman of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), will recommend at what price power could be purchased from India. for how many hours everyday and other issues, they said.

The expert team recently visited West Bengal to review the

Malaysia to

flog illegal

immigrants

KUALA LUMPUR. Oct 18:

illegal immigrants and those

responsible for bringing them

into the country, local newspa-

pers reported today, says

Mahathir Mohamad as telling

reporters on Thursday that the

National Security Council has

decided to take a tough stand to

curb the influx of illegal immi-

grants. Mahathir is also the

was quoted by the New Straits

whoever employ them will be

severely dealt with, and the

government had decided that

they be caned," he said, adding

that besides caning, they would

along the coasts would be increated to prevent illegal immi-

rants from entering the coun-

Mahathir said surveillance

Deputy Prime Minister An-

var Ibrahim said last week that

He said there were 1.75 mil

Anwar said if companies

the government had stopped is-

suing permits allowing compa-

lion foreign workers in

Malaysia and one million o

them were illegal immigrants.

needed foreign labour they

could recruit illegal immigrants

nies to import foreign labour.

"Illegal immigrants and

Council's chairman.

Times as saying.

also be deported.

They quoted Prime Minister

feasibility of purchasing power from India to meet the requirement in the power-deficit western zone of the country. from Khulna to Dinajpur.

The government has also decided to send another team of experts to Nepal by January to study the prospect of purchasing hydro-power.

The price of power in West Bengal and Nepal is less than that in Bangladesh said an official of the Energy Ministry. Power purchase from India

may cost the government

around Tk 50 crore for setting

stalling other equipment at two

up transmission lines and in-

bordering points, according to a preliminary estimate by the

Bangladesh can get through these lines at best 250 MW power. But these will also open the avenue for Bangladesh to sell excess power developed by private power companies in the future, sources concerned noted.

Bangladesh has a transmission line in Chapainawabganj close to Maldah of West Bengal and another at Benapole which is close to Bangaon.

A multilateral donor organisation has expressed its keenness to provide 10 million US See Page 12 Col 4.



Having a puff (not the real stuff though) ... a girl mimicks a sweeper taking a break during a dress-as-you-like competition for children, arranged at the Abahani ground Month.

#### held temporarily at immigraat Dhanmondi yesterday on the occasion of the Tourism tion depots before being depor--Star photo Delhi seminar ends with call for permanent water accord

NEW DELHI, Oct 18: Experts from Bangladesh, India and Nepal rounding up their threeday seminar here today resolved that the opportunity created by the changes in the political scenes in all the countries should be utilised to solve outstanding problems among them, reports BSS.

They also called for dispelling suspicion and mistrust among themselves and stressed on concerted efforts to promote cooperation using water sharing issues as an entry point.

The experts emphasizing on free and unimpeded flow of data and information among the countries also observed that transparency and openness both internally and among themselves would help promote understanding and widening consensus and facilitate movement toward joint planning for optimum benefit from the available resources.

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and Institute for Integrated Development

Studies (IIDS), three independent think thanks of Bangladesh, India and Nepal respectively, organised the seminar on Eastern Himalayan Water and Environment" from October 15 to 17, based on their studies which have been going

on from the past several years. The 15 member Bangladesh delegation to the seminar was led by Dr Qazi Khaliguzzaman Ahmed, chairman of

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP). The delegation included Sultan Md Monsur Ahmed MP. Hasanul Haq Inu, former chairman of WDB Amjad Hossain Khan, former VC of Dhaka University Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah. Dr Ainun Nishat of BUET. Dr KB Sajjadur Rasheed of Dhaka University and JRC

Director Khalilur Rahman The Indian delegation led by Dr VA Pai Panandiker included RR Lyer, VG Verghese, KC Sivaramakrishanan, R Rangachari, H Karlekar and Nancy

The Nepalese delegation led by Dr MM Sainju included former speaker of House of Representatives DN Dhungana, Dr RS Mahat, JN Khanal MP, R Dahal. KD Adhikari and SK Malla.

According to the joint statement issued by the leaders of the three delegations here today, the experts and politicians participating in the seminar welcomed the on-going discussions between the governments of Bangladesh and India on the Ganges water sharing issue and called for its early resolution.

They observed that there should be a permanent agreement under a treaty rather then temporary or short-term memorandum of understandings (MOUs)

"There was an Indus treaty between India and Pakistan and recently a Mohakali treaty between India and Nepal," the experts said in the statement and added. There was no reason why there should not be a Ganga treaty between India and Bangladesh.

In this context, the participants suggested that the Ganges. See Page 12 col 5

#### 28 courts to deal with repression on women,

arms cases soon Star Report

Separate courts exclusively dealing with cases of repression on women and children are likely to start functioning in the districts from the beginning of next month, according to official sources.

The ten courts will be of the level of district and sessions judges' courts. The courts have already been set up and postings of officials made. The officials are due to join by the last week of this month, the sources said. Separate courts exclusively

dealing with cases of arms and explosives are also likely to start functioning in eighteen districts next month, the sources said. These courts will be of the level of additional district and sessions judge's courts.

Posting of officials in the 18 courts have been finalised after consultation with the Supreme Court and orders are likely to be released shortly, the sources

Thakur remanded again Ex-army Havilder

#### Major arrested Police yesterday picked up

one retired army personnel from his village home in Savar in connection with the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was later brought to CID office in Dhaka. reports UNB. A joint team of CID and

Savar police raided the residence of Abdur Razzak at Kourgaon and arrested him in the afernoon. Police said Razzak was a

Havilder Major in 1975 and reportedly took part in the bloody coup. He was later promoted to honourary Captain. Meanwhile, Taheruddin

Thakur was taken on an eightday police remand yesterday for interrogation. The remand was granted by

the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court when he was produced there by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) at See Page 12 Col 4

#### Fire in ship near Mongla: One more crew dies From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 18: One more crew who received serious burns injuries in the Panamanian ship fire on Thursday died at the Sadar Hospital today.
With this, the death toll rose

to four. Three others died in the ship that caught fire in deep sea about 50 nautical miles off the Mongla port on Thursday.

The victims were identified as Forth Nato Sucgang, 30, R Santillan, 40. DB Lahunay and Patrick Costa - all are Filipinos, according to Captain Ramjan Ali of the Mongla Port Authority.

The ship MV Alexandra sailed from Brazil for Mongla Port for loading exportable jute and jute goods.

Meanwhile, the port author ity has formed a three-member committee to inquire into the fire incident. The committee will submit a report within a

The dead bodies have been sent to Dhaka by Biman this af ternoon after autopsy in Khulna and Bagerhat Sadar hospitals.

#### Autopsy of Tuhin's body conducted

By Staff Correspondent

Autopsy of the body of Soem Mahmud Tuhin who died in custody at Motijheel thana on Thursday, was conducted at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) vesterday, according to police and hospital

handed over to police "shortly. sources at the DMCH said. The body was handed over to Tuhin's relatives yesterday He

The autopsy report will be

was later burried at the Shahjahanpur graveyard in the city.

### Sharp fall in percentage of pass in HSC exams Falling standard of edn, abolition of question bank likely causes

By Mizan Ali and Aminul Islam

Chairman of Dhaka Board

also observed that results of

colleges in the city were better

than in other areas. Perfor-

mance of students in English

was "Miserable" compared to

Editorial on page 4

of both Dhaka and Chittagong

boards, deviation from the set

pattern of questionnaire may

have also contributed to the

sharp fall in the percentage of

reforms in the education sys-

Board suggested changes in the

examination system in HSC

Russel, youngest son of Banga-

bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rah-

man. Russel was killed along

with his parents and 24 others

by Russel Jatiya Shishu

Kishore Parishad at Osmani

cident of August 15, the Prime

Minister said, "As Russel

wanted to go to mother, a killer

took him on his lap and killed

ber 18. I still remember the day

when Russel was born. Our fa-

ther was away in Chittagong

when he was born. I took him in

my lap. We were then four

brothers and sisters. Russel was

rorism. I don't want any sister

there any country in the world.

where law blocks the trial of

killers? But here in Bangladesh

lawwwas promulgated to bar

to lose his brother like me."

"I want an end to state ter-

The Prime Minister said, "Is

Said Hasina: Today is Octo-

Memorial Hall.

very dear to us all.

trial of the killers.

The function was organised

Narrating the gruesome in-

in the August 15 coup of 1975.

They also suggested some

The Controller of Comilla

According to the chairmen

other subjects, he added.

group, he added.

pass this year.

tem in the country.

Falling standard of education in institutions particularly in rural areas was the main reason for low percentage of pass in Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations this year, according to the chairmen of Dhaka and Chittagong education boards yester-

The chairman of Chittagong Board, talking to The Daily Star on telephone yesterday. observed that the examination results reflected a "sharp difference between the urban and rural areas."

According to him the percentage of pass was higher in urban areas than in rural areas in Chittagong Board. The students of Science group did bet ter than those of Humanities

and SSC. "The existing system of appearing in all the subjects for those not passing in one subject should be changed," the controller observed.

There should be a system for HSC and SSC students to reappear in those subjects only in which they failed in the first

chance, he said. In this connection he also cited the examples of O level

and A level examinations. Results of HSC examinations of 1996 under four educational Boards out of the five in the country were declared Thursday. The percentage of pass was 30.76 in Comilla Board, 34.49 in Chittagong Board, 24.32 in Dhaka Board and 19.35 in Jessore Board. See Page 12 Col 4

Villager 'beaten

to death' by

police in

Sunamganj

From Staff Correspondent

old man was reportedly beaten

to death by police at village

Grisnagar under Doarabazar

thana of Sunamganj district

group of police went to the

village to arrest some wanted

persons. When they were

returning after arresting Abdul

Hamid, the relatives and

villagers wanted to know about

the cause of his arrest. At one

stage, they had an exchange of

hot words. Police then swooped

on them and gave a good beating. Shahabuddin, a

villager died on the spot. The

The next day the villagers,

policemen later left the scene.

protested the killing and de-

manded exemplary punishment

of the police contingent Deputy

Commissioner and SP, Sunam-

ganj visited the village yester-

day and assured the villagers of

taking punitive measures

spondent the DIG of police, Syl-

het range said tonight that, the

victim died of heart failure.

Two Sub-Inspectors Abul

Kalam Azad and Harun-Ur-

Rashid had been put under sus-

pension for not properly han-

While talking to this Corre-

against those responsible.

According to the villagers a

Wednesday night.

SYLHET. Oct 18: A 45-year-

### Aug 15 killers must be tried: Prime Minister

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vesterday said the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and others, including Russel, must be held on the soil of this country, reports UNB.

"Children and women were not killed even in the most tragic incident of Karbala. But the killers did not spare 10year-old Russel and other children and women on August 15," she said in an emotion-choked

The PM was speaking as chief guest at a function in the afternoon marking the 32nd birth anniversary of Sheikh

#### Ctg BCL factions clash: Tendons of 3 cut, 3 shot CHITTAGONG, Oct 18: Three

and tendons of three others were cut during clashed between two fartions of pro-Awami League Chhatra League in the port city today, reports UNB. Witnesses said the rival groups exchanged 20-30 gun-

people were injured with bullets

Reazuddin Bazar, Nandan Kanan and Rifle Club. Traffic came to a halt and shops kept their shutters down during the clash that erupted following intra-party conflicts.

BCL activists Ershad, Kalam and Belal were admitted to local clinics with bullet injury. Locals said tendons of three other BCL activists were cut by rivals during the clash.

As a bankruptcy law is set to

be enacted in the next session of

Parliament, leading bankers

and senior officials said mere

enactment of the law will not be

to take quick legal action

against the loan defaulters, but

I suspect they will surely find

out the loopholes in the law to

save themselves." said the

managing director of a private

or less devoid of sense of dignity

and prestige. If one company

becomes bankrupt, they are

more likely to try to take loan

in the name of another com

pany," he told UNB, seeking

proved the draft Bankruptcy

Act, proposing to bar loan de-

faulters from getting fresh loan

unless they repay the past

pass the law in its next session.

loans Parliament is expected to

The Cabinet on Monday ap-

anonymity.

This type of people is more

The law will help the banks

enough to check loan defaults.

"We want secured life for children," she said adding that shots besides exploding cracktrial of this injustice must be ers during the clashes at held on this soil. Hasina said she would try to provide shelter to the shelter-

Proposed Bankruptcy Law

Mere enactment of law

won't do, fear officials

less children known as 'tokai' and ensure bright future for the children. Sheikh Hasina, who is the chief patron of the parishad,

called upon its leaders to do something for those unfortunate children (Tokai's) and assured them of all possible help See Page 12 Col 1

According to Bangladesh

Bank, the total classified loan

bad, doubtful and substan-

dard — amounted to some Tk

9.835 crore on January 1996. Of

the amount, four nationalised

commercial banks have Tk

5.953 crore and private banks

said that the amount of classi-

fied loan had already reached

some Tk 15,000 crore which is

45 per cent of the total credit

channeled from the banking

bank, however, claimed that

the classified loan amount

crossed 50 per cent of the total

credit of Tk 38,000 crore, and 80

per cent of the defaulted loan is

stuck up with 100 business

limits of a bank, directed loan,

political favour and taking

loan by the directors from their

See Page 12 Col 1

Providing loans beyond the

A senior official of a private

But a central bank official

Tk 3.871 crore.

families.

# Durga Puja

dling the situation.

Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of the Hindu community, began all over the country yesterday amid much enthusiasm, reports UNB.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia in separate messages on the occasion congratulated the Hindu believers.

. Mahanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee has taken up elaborate programmes in the city to observe the puja. Yesterday was "Durga Sasthi."

The celebration of Durga Puja will end with the immersion of "Durga Protima" on the day of "Dashami" on October 21 More than 110 puja mandaps have been erected in the capital. The main festival will be held

at Dhakeswari Puja Mandap in the old part of the city. Reports from Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal Sylhet, Narayanganj, My-

See Page 12 Col 2

#### 3 killed in truck plunge

COMILLA, Oct 18: Three persons were killed when a speeding truck fell into a roadside ditch on Comilla-Sylhet road today, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Rabi Mia, 17, and M Alam, 18, of Istagram in Debiddar thana of the district and Niranjan Das. 35. of Bhairabnagar in Kosba thana of Brahmanbaria district Police said that the young

men died on the sport when the Comilla bound truck, in which they were travelling, hit a roadside tree and fell into a ditch as its driver lost control.

Police seized the truck but its driver fled the scene.

#### HSC examinee missing in city

By Staff Correspondent An HSC examinee has been missing since she went out of her residence at Riazbagh, Khilgaon, in the city Thursday morning to know her result.

family sources said.

sources said.

Nahid Farhana, 17, daughter of one Nurul Huq, appeared in the HSC examination from Vigarunnessa Noon College. Farhana, around five feet tall and of fair complexion has a tendency of fainting, the

A general diary has been filed with Ramna thana in this connection, police said.

### Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka Handicapped scouts join campaign

Being physically handi capped normally carries also a psychological barrier for a person, especially if he or she is young and embarks upon a task to motivate the citizens to keep

their neighbourhood tidy. But it failed to deter five brave boys of Kalayani Protibondhi Foundation School yesterday from joining hundreds of other boy and girl scouts to do community work and carry on the Save Dhaka Clean Dhaka campaign in different parts of the metropolis.

Munna, proudly wearing the scout uniform with his four comrades, tried to convince residents of Moghbazar, a middle-class neighbourhood. knocking around doors in the weekend morning.

Some were clearly annoyed seeing the group. However, Munna, Ratan, Monir, Mainul and Farid had

residents of the locality with innocent smiles. They convinced the residents that they should also lend their hand to keep the environ free of rub-Well, sir, that's the job of the city corporation. But you too

their own way to win over the

have a citizen's responsibility to ensure that your kitchen leftovers do not spill over the sacks or poly bags when left at doorstep or street corners, a common sight in the city." The arguments, neatly written on a sheet, left people to

ponder over the issue. "That's our primary job today," Monirul Hasan, scout

teacher of the school explained as he led his small band, experiencing their first such ven-He said the boys showed tremendous enthusiasm to ex-

plain and try to motivate the

"They spoke to the people in their own way. Nobody showed the door to them. Rather we were allowed inside. Some offered us treats. I am proud of the boys." the leader said. But motivating the people is not enough, Moslem Ali, Secre-

middle-class neighbourhood

tary of the Dhaka Railway scouts told The Daily Star. which pioneered the campaign with the active help of the scouts and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in 48 neighbourhoods of the city. Ali and four of his colleagues

led nearly 150 boys and girls

marching down the nook and

corner of Shahajahanpur Rail-

way Colony with a rickshaw-

tention. They carried brooms and See Page 12 col 6



mounted microphone announcing their presence and the in-Handicapped scouts of Kalayani Protibondhi School making their bit. In the Save Dhaka Clean Dhaka campaign yesterday at Moghbazar, urging citizens to keep their neighbourhoods tidy and to dump garbage at bins between 6 pm and 9 pm.