

For Documents Door to Door delivery
To 237 Destinations in INDIA

BLUE DART

EXPRESS LIMITED

PLEASE CONTACT: BANGLADESH AIR EXPRESS INT'L LTD.
Head Office: 9565114, Fax: 9565112, Gulshan: 887771, Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khulna: (041) 725008

Team to visit Dhaka soon Thailand for jt venture, direct investment

Thailand yesterday agreed to take immediate steps for direct investment and joint venture in Bangladesh in the sectors like gas, petrochemical, textile, shrimp, poultry, cement and fruit processing, a message received here from Bangkok said, reports BSS.

The Thai agreement came at official talks between Bangladesh and Thailand held at the Ministry of Industries at Bangkok.

In the talks, Bangladesh side was led by Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed while the Thai side was led by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of Industries Korn Dabbaransi.

In the opening remarks, Ahmed gave a picture of the resources and potentials of Bangladesh in bolstering trade and investment with Thailand.

He said Bangladesh has a huge reserve of gas and is producing electricity, urea and liquefied natural gas using the gas. He said many international firms are now working in Bangladesh to explore gas and oil.

Tofael said market of Bangladesh garments and frozen foods in Canada, EU, USA, Japan and other developed countries is very encouraging. He said the government has allocated land for shrimp culture and hatchery.

Appreciating the sincerity of the Bangladesh government in creating investment opportunity, the Thai DPM said the Thai investors and government are very much impressed with the potentials of Bangladesh. He said in the globalised economy, time is running very fast and we like to take immediate measures to avail of the opportunities for mutual benefit.

He assured the Bangladesh side that a Thai team will visit Bangladesh shortly to finalise the investment and joint venture proposals.

The other members of the Bangladesh side included BOI Executive Chairman Anisul Haq Chowdhury, Additional Secretary of Industries Ministry Dr S Zaman Majumder, BEPZA Executive Chairman Moazzem Hossain Khan, Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Akramul Qader, MCCI President Samson H Chowdhury, BGMEA President Mostafa Golam Quddus, MD of Rama Group, Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, President of Frozen Food Exporters Association Golam Mostafa and Director of Aftab Poultry Akramuzaman.

The Thai side was represented by Industry Secretary, D G of Mineral Resources Department, D G of Industrial Economics, Governor of Industrial Estate Authority, DDG of Industrial Works and other potential investors of CP group and other private companies.

Hand Mixer

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics NV for lighting products, radio and TV sets
Dhaka: 815306-9, 819625-9, 899993
Ctg: 716353, 723578, Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

Backed by Guarantee



Film artists demonstrating in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding trial of the killers of Salman Shah. —Star photo

Rizvi confesses in CMM's court 'Salman Shah's murder was pre-planned'

By Staff Correspondent

Rizvi Ahmed, arrested in connection with the alleged murder of popular film star Salman Shah, has confessed in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court that he was involved in the murder.

Rizvi was produced in the court Tuesday on the expiry of his one-day police remand.

Cantonment police arrested him Sunday night from a house in the city's DOHS area where Salman's parents are now residing.

According to Rizvi's confessional statement, Salman's murder was pre-planned. He said, following instructions from the 'Godfathers', the murderer went up to the apartment of Salman at Eskatoni Plaza at about 2 am on the day of the incident. He then called up a waiting group which included Rizvi. The murderer knocked the door and Salman's wife, Samira, opened it. The group entered the

Dutch help sought for Ganges barrage

Bangladesh yesterday officially sought financial assistance from the Netherlands for the construction of Ganges Barrage, an important project conceived for proper use of water of the river Padma, reports UNB.

The request for financing the barrage was made by Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria in the bilateral official meeting between Bangladesh and the Netherlands in the afternoon at State Guest House Meghna.

Ribria led a 13-member Bangladesh team at the talks while a 10-member Netherlands delegation was headed by visiting Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation Jan P Pronk.

During the one-and-a-half-hour meeting, the Bangladesh minister also sought financial assistance for the construction of school-cum-cyclone shelters and more allocation for the Rural Electrification Board (REB).

IFIC : High Court order

From page 1

Shamsuddoha of Doha Securities, Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam, who are present during the hearing on behalf of the Secretary of Ministry of Finance Banking Division, submitted that he has instructions to make a submission that the said AGM should be held under the supervision of the Court.

Earlier, the petitioners filed an application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994 praying for directives that the AGM of IFIC, due on July 27, be held and chaired by a person appointed by the Court, and be conducted in a manner as the Court may deem fit and proper. They also prayed for an order that the AGM of IFIC for the year 1997 be called, held and conducted in such a manner as the court shall deem fit and proper.

The application was admitted for hearing and registered accordingly.

Simultaneously with the filing of the said application, the petitioners filed a separate application praying for a notice upon the respondents to show cause as to why Sohel Rahman shall not be restrained from presiding over the AGM, why Salman and Sohel Rahman shall not be restrained from seeking election as directors of the IFIC Bank and why the Bank shall not be restrained from electing Salman and Sohel Rahman as its directors.

The petitioners also prayed that IFIC and its directors be asked to show cause as to why they shall not be restrained from holding the AGM of IFIC on July 27, and further prayed for an ad-interim injunction to that effect, pending the disposal of the application.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, appearing on behalf of the petitioners, submitted that admitted Salman Rahman had huge liabilities with IFIC Bank, amounting to over Tk 200 crore and other similar amount with AB Bank which they obtained in false and fictitious names. He contended that when obtaining of such loans by them was detected in course of Bangladesh Bank's investigation in 1993, Salman and Sohel Rahman admitted their misdeed, undertook to repay the amounts obtained from these two banks in false names and furnished personal guarantees for repayment of the loans, but they have not so.

Barrister Mahmud argued that Salman and Sohel Rahman have violated the provisions of paragraph 7 of Article 108 of the Articles of Association of IFIC Bank, read with Section 94(2) and Section 108(2) of Companies Act 1994, making themselves not only disqualified to be elected as director of IFIC in the next AGM, but also they vacated their posts of director of IFIC by operation of the law and the articles.

He further submitted that the respondents have violated the provisions of Section 211(1) of the Companies Act, 1994 in not publishing the names of the prospective auditors who would be willing to be appointed in the said AGM.

Barrister Rafiqul Huq, appearing on behalf of IFIC Bank, submitted that the court may postpone the said AGM till disposal of this matter.

Barrister Huq mentioned that The Daily Star and the Bhorer Kagoj have committed contempt of court by reporting the matter. The lawyer, however, refrained from making any comment on Huq's observation.

Report on Shima Showcase on Inqilab editor, Ananya Roy

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday issued a suo moto rule on the Editor, and the Printer and Publisher of The Daily Inqilab and Professor Ananya Roy of Jatiya Hindu Nari Jagaran Samity for publishing a report relating to a public meeting on the Shima rape case.

The Division Bench of the HC, comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Haque and Justice Md Hassan Ameen, directed them to show cause within July 30 as to why they should not be proceeded against for committing a contempt of Court and punished accordingly.

The court also asked AMM Bahauddin, Editor, ASM Baqillah, Printer and Publisher of the Daily Inqilab and Prof Ananya Roy to appear personally before the court at 10:30 am on August 5.

The HC issued the Rule for publishing a news item under the caption, "No Hindu police raped Shima Chowdhury of Chittagong" in the July 23 issue of the daily.

In a resolution adopted at the public meeting, it was resolved that if the Home Minister failed to take action within December 15 against the persons responsible for the rape and death of Shima Chowdhury, they would take the law in their own hands for December 16.

In the news item the name of a sitting High Court Judge was also mentioned as being present in the public meeting.

ID cards

From page 1

June 30, 1999. By this time, the EC intends to provide all the eligible voters with ID cards and set up computer database at the district level.

Thirty three per cent of work on the preparation of ID cards was completed under the original project. Of these ID cards, about 24 per cent were distributed among the eligible voters. The process of slowed down following the government's decision that people could vote without ID cards.

An official of the ID card project said, a separate 50 crore taka UNDP-funded project to set up a central computer database is also awaiting EC-NEC approval. The computer project has several components, including training election officials and creating awareness among voters," the official said.

When asked about who would provide the money for the revised ID card project, the official said the EC had asked the External Resources Division (ERD) recently to find a donor for the project.

As per the provisions of a bill passed in the Jatiya Sangsad in 1994, every eligible voter must be provided with an ID card before any general election. As the ID card project could not be implemented in time ordinances were promulgated before the last two general elections enabling the EC to conduct the polls without ID cards.

Mosharraf denies reconciliation with Zeenat

By Staff Correspondent

A K M Mosharraf Hossain, a former secretary, has denied withdrawing the divorce proceedings against his wife, Zeenat Mosharraf. His lawyer said a section of newspapers had published reports on Tuesday saying they have reconciled after the withdrawal of the divorce notice.

Mosharraf, now in Malaysia, said his divorce letter given on April 16 is 'firm and final'.

Jamaat for judicial probe into incident at Miladunnabi function

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-e-Islami has urged the government to form a high-powered judicial committee, headed by a Supreme Court judge, to probe the incident that occurred at a religious function on the premises of the Baitul Mokarram national mosque on July 17.

Jamaat Secretary General Motiur Rahman Nizami in a statement yesterday said, an impartial investigation into the incident was not possible by any official of the Religious Affairs Ministry.

5 km 'danger zone'

From page 1

ing about half a kilometre area. Five kilometre area will be fenced with barbed wire.

They are also drilling three small wells to vent out sub-soil gas. Already pipe has been sunk in one of the wells.

"We are always afraid of any possible fresh blow-out," said a worker at the site. "It has become very risky here."

The hills surrounding the disaster zone were trembling while the air has become unbearable as gas contents have risen. Gas bubbles are popping everywhere, even at the adjacent hillsides.

The soil has become muddy and loose due to last few weeks' rainfalls.

Occidental has put warning signboards all around the disaster zone and hoisted red flags near the sources of fire.

Occidental's site manager Texas Richardson who refused entry of The Daily Star team earlier, described the present situation as "very dangerous". "We are preventing the danger by not letting anyone go there," he said.

While refusing to comment further on anything regarding the Magurchhara well, the site manager said, "It will be out of danger when we'll be able to control the gas leakage." He refused to elaborate.

According to other people working at the site, Occidental is new trying to determine a spot to drill a relief well.

The rig which will be used for drilling this well is still at Fenchuganj, to be sent to Magurchhara. District administration sources said that the rig can not be transported to Magurchhara now because of the poor condition of the road between Fenchuganj and Magurchhara.

Earlier on Saturday 40 more Khastia families were evacuated from Magurchhara. They have been taken to Kamalganj for rehabilitation.

DD, All India Radio granted autonomy

NEW DELHI, July 23: In a sudden move, the government yesterday notified the seven-year-old Prasar Bharati Act aimed at granting autonomy to Doordarshan and All India Radio, reports FTI.

The Act, legislated in 1990 by the National Front Government, would come into force from September 15, a gazette notification said yesterday, a day ahead of commencement of the monsoon session of parliament.

The Act provides for constitution of a board of governors to be headed by a part-time chairman who will be an eminent personality.

AI report

From page 1

"A series of failures by different institutions of the state has effectively allowed the police to get away with rape — and led to Shima Chowdhury's death several months later," Amnesty International said in its report. "It is time the Home Ministry, the police, the court, the jail administration and hospital authorities all acknowledge their responsibility in this."

Two inquiries into Shima Chowdhury's death instituted by the government and by the parliament have been disappointing. More than five months after their formation, they are yet to produce any reports and recommendations, it said.

However, following protests by women's rights groups including Sammitilo Nari Samaj and Ain O Salish Kendra the government announced that it would appeal against the acquittal of the four policemen.

"Shima Chowdhury should never have been in custody in the first place. At the very least she should have been released as soon as her medical condition deteriorated, as women's groups and human rights organizations were urging," Amnesty International said. "Instead, she was left to cope with her own traumatic experience, and with a serious illness without medication or necessary treatment," the report said.

The practice of so-called "safe-custody" — a form of imprisonment ordered by the judge on application from the police, continues even though victims and human rights activists have urged its abolition on the grounds that it violates the women's fundamental rights to liberty and gives the scope of ill-treatment. Some women have been kept in "safe-custody" for up to four years, the report pointed out.

Asia Cup cricket

From page 1

The tourists were jolted on Tuesday when former Pakistani wicketkeeper Rashid Latif hinted in the Delhi-based Outlook magazine that four Indian cricketers may have been involved in a betting scandal.

Three of the players who are currently touring Sri Lanka — former skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja and Navot Siddhu — refuted the allegations and produced a written statement from Latif that he had not accused them of any wrong doing.

Tendulkar stressed that the controversy had not affected the morale of the team.

Hearing of writs challenging amended law on CHT councils begins

Three writ petitions challenging the amended law on the Chittagong Hill District Local Government Councils were partly heard yesterday by a High Court Bench, reports UNB.

Four writ petitions were earlier filed challenging constitutional validity of the councils run by nominated bodies after Section 16 of the act having been amended by the present government as Section 16A.

The petitions were filed by four petitioners separately in which the operation of the newly amended law has been stayed at the time of issuance of the writ by the High Court in all the petitions.

The writ petition filed by Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan MP was partly heard. It was moved by Barrister Moudud Ahmed on behalf of the petitioner.

Attorney General Barrister KS Nabi and DAG Shahabuddin Ahmed appearing for the government filed a written reply (affidavit in opposition) in the court.

The partly heard writ petitions will be taken up for hearing at 10:30 am today.

Khaleda

From page 1

ers and workers of Zia Smriti Sangsad who called on her at 29 Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament last night.

The Leader of the Opposition said the government would not be able to implement its current bid to erase the name of Zia permanently.

"The people of this country who love Ziaur Rahman very dearly would not allow the ruling party to implement its evil designs and efforts for a long time."

The BNP Chairperson said failing to run the country, the government was campaigning against BNP and its success. As part of this campaign, they are erasing the name of Zia to cover up their failure and to divert the eyes of people on other issues.

Laying emphasis on media, Begum Zia said media have a very vital role in the present global context but are not in the hand of BNP.

"The state-controlled radio and television are continuously making propaganda against BNP and engaged in character assassination of BNP leaders and workers," she said.

The newspapers owned by the ruling party and its supporters are also campaigning against the BNP, the opposition leader alleged.

Unfair practice alleged

From page 1

House and Majestic Leather Inds had obtained visas from the Japanese Embassy in Dhaka, they did not turn up during the exhibition."

He also alleged that the participants did not decorate the stalls properly and displayed poor quality goods which tarnished the image of the country in Japan.

In the letter addressed to the Vice-Chairman of EPB, the ambassador also alleged that the brochures and other trade directories sent to the exhibition contained old fax and telephone numbers which were not only useless but misleading. Copies of the letter were also sent to Commerce and Foreign ministries.

He suggested that practices done by other countries in the region in this regard should be followed. He mentioned that in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Malaysia and Indonesia, private sector participants in international trade fairs bear their own expenses including transportation of exhibits. He also suggested selecting such participants in close coordination with the leading chamber bodies including the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the Bangladesh Chamber of Industry (BCI).

Bangladesh participates in 30 to 40 international and single-country trade fairs every year.

When contacted EPB Vice-Chairman Faisal Ahmed Chowdhury denied the allegation of involvement of a section of EPB officials in sending people abroad.

He said, "We only select the company and their representatives for participation in a fair but other proceedings depend on the embassy of the host country. Before giving visas they thoroughly check the financial capabilities of the company and their representatives."

"In selecting representatives we normally prefer owners and manager-level people of the company. Moreover, we confiscate the security money amounting Tk 10,000, if a selected person does not remain present or disappear after arrival at the venue," he said.

He however admitted that only 4 representatives out of 12 attended the Tokyo Trade Fair but said the cause of their failure in attending the fair is yet to be known.

Bangabandhu

From page 1

"Sometimes there will be hot exchange between the prosecution and defence, laughter, but these are normal and is in practice since the British period," said Judge Kazi Golam Rasul.

Khatib

From page 1

adding he would reply to the showcase notice within the stipulated seven days' time.

When asked if he will conduct the next Jumma prayers on Friday at the Baitul Mukarram mosque, the Khatib replied: "Inshallah."

Ruling Awami League at a rally on Tuesday called upon the musullits to attend the Jumma prayers there to cleanse the National Mosque of the "religion traders".

লটারী!
লটারী!!
লটারী!!!

সরকার অনুমোদিত
ক্রীড়া উন্নয়ন তহবিল লটারী '৯৭
এর ১ম পর্ব

৪০ লক্ষ টাকা

প্রথম পুরস্কার

২য় পুরস্কার ২টি, ৫ লক্ষ টাকা
প্রতিটি, ৩য় পুরস্কার ২টি,
২ লক্ষ টাকা প্রতিটিসহ
মোট ২০৩ টি
পুরস্কার

সংশ্লিষ্ট ককেন

বাণিজ্যিক : ক্রীড়া ভবন, ঢাকা কোলা ক্রীড়া
সংস্থা অফিস, এমবিসিওর অফিস,
স্বামী বাক, বনজা বাক,
বাইম বাক ও সেনাবাহী বাক

জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ
৬২/৩, পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা। ফোন : ৯৫৫৬৬৬৬

Editor : Mahfus Anam

Printed by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrai, Dhaka-1000 and published by him on behalf of Mediaword Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi RA, Dhaka-1205 PABX 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No. 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net