

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)-723008

**Hasina tells banquet in Manila  
Dhaka has opened up avenues  
for foreign direct investment**

MANILA, Sept 8: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government had initiated comprehensive structural adjustment measures to create an enabling environment for all to participate in nation-building efforts under democratic set-up, reports UNB.

"We firmly believe that private sector, foreign investment, free media and NGOs all have important roles to play in the process of development in a democratic polity," she said at a banquet at Malacanang Palace here this evening.

President Fidel Ramos and First Lady Amelita M Ramos hosted the banquet at the Ceremonial Hall of the Palace in honour of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who arrived here today after a four-day official visit to Indonesia.

Sheikh Hasina told the function that her government was trying to create an ideal environment for all agents so that they can help "us reach our goal of equitable development."

"As in the Philippines, we have adopted liberal trade and economic policies... most of our productive and service sectors have been opened up for foreign direct investment."

The attractive package of incentives offered by the government to foreign investors include the foreign ownership without limit, legal protection to investors against nationalisation, generous tax-holidays and

unrestricted repatriation of capital, profits etc., she said.

The Prime Minister invited the business and industrial entrepreneurs of the Philippines to visit Bangladesh and see for themselves the unique opportunities for trade and investment.

Bangladesh-Philippines relations are characterised by a general convergence of views on a large number of international and regional issues and problems, she noted.

"Our common objectives are development, peace and prosperity of our peoples. To achieve these objectives, two countries have chosen the path of democracy and free market economy."

Hasina said Bangladesh attached special importance to further development of relations with neighbouring and regional countries.

She, in this context, mentioned that in SAARC the member countries had decided to have a free-trade area by the year 2001.

"With India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, we have formed a forum for economic cooperation, known as BISTEC, which could eventually create a bridge with the ASEAN," she told the function.

On August 28 this year, Myanmar formally joined the BISTEC, thereby causing the forum to be called now as BIM-STEC, she added.

The Prime Minister said these initiatives should lead to

**Manila, Dhaka both committed to fight poverty: Ramos**

MANILA, Sept 8: President Fidel V Ramos tonight said the Philippines and Bangladesh have traditionally espoused the same causes in regional and multilateral forums and taken similar positions on issues affecting mankind, reports BSS.

"We value and appreciate the active support that Bangladesh has extended and continues to extend to the peace process in the southern Philippines," he said at the banquet hosted by him and First Lady Amelita M Ramos at the Malacanang Palace in honour of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He said the support attests to the high regard and mutual respect that animate our bilateral links. It reflects Bangladesh's unequivocal commitment to the international peace and harmony. In the same spirit Bangladesh has participated in the United Nations sponsored peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, Iraq, Kuwait, Namibia, Haiti, Cambodia, Somalia, Mozambique and recently in Georgia of the former Soviet Union, he said.

He said, "Bangladesh is also a source of inspiration to us." It is one of the moving spirits behind the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which is the counterpart of ASEAN in South Asia, he added.


President Ramos expressed the hope that SAARC would soon realise its legitimate aspirations and assume its rightful place in the galaxy of regional groupings.

He said that 1977 is a watershed in our countries' relations as they have been marked by exchange of visits at the highest level. Exchanges at other levels and various agreements also further strengthened our relations, he observed.

Ramos said our common determination to fight poverty is a strong bond that ties the Philippines and Bangladesh. He said as partners in a rapidly globalising economy, Bangladesh and the Philippines should seize every opportunity to build on the strong foundations of our bilateral relationship.

Ministers, congressmen, senior officials and diplomats attended the banquet.

**L'OREAL**  
PARIS




**PLENTITUDE**

EXCELL-A<sup>3</sup> Cream and Lotion

1. Reveals a smoother, clearer complexion
2. Combats the signs of premature ageing
3. Protects against damaging UV rays

TRANSCOMB DISTRIBUTION CO. LTD.



**Illegal water connections at DMCH snapped**

By Staff Correspondent

About 50 unauthorised water connections were disconnected Sunday at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), according to the executive engineer of the Health Division of Public Works Department (PWD).

The action came after a report on the matter was published in The Daily Star on Sunday.

"Despite Sunday's action on the illegal water connections, a few of them still exist," said the Director of DMCH. "I had asked a number of leaders of the slum community on the same day to cooperate with the authorities and avoid any conflicts," he added.

The remaining unauthorised water connections would soon be disconnected, the DMCH authorities hoped. According to witnesses, PWD engineers are continuing their efforts to identify the illegal water connections. "It would take some time before DMCH is completely free of such illegal connections," said the PWD executive engineer.

The unauthorised water connections were taken from the main water pump outlet at DMCH installed behind the hospital premises. The illegal water connections were set up allegedly by a section of hospital employees. The inhabitants of the nearby slum, mostly occupied by lower level employees of the hospital, had been using the illegal water supply for quite a long time, according to sources in the DMCH.

Due to the unapproved consumption of water, the hospital was facing chronic water crisis which recently turned acute.

According to the sources, operations at the ENT department could not be performed due to the water crisis since August 28.

**President for planned investment in education sector**

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said planned investment in the educational sector may lead us to a healthy democratic culture, report agencies.

He said this investment will ensure economic development as well as social welfare and a terrorism-free atmosphere which will help building a healthy civil society.

Justice Shahabuddin stressed the need for bringing every village under primary education, extension of non-formal education and distribution of educational inputs free of cost to build a literate nation.

"To remove illiteracy and guarantee free and compulsory primary education is one of the fundamental principles of our constitution in governing the state," the President observed.

"But," he regretted, "we could not make literate all the citizens during the last 25 years." The literacy rate is only 47 per cent, he said.

The President was addressing a prize-giving ceremony at Osmani auditorium in the morning to accord award for the best contribution in non-formal education on the occasion of International Literacy Day.

Organised by Primary and Mass Education Department, the function was also addressed by Education Minister ASHK Sadique, Deputy Minister for Primary and Mass Education Prof Zinatunnesa Talukder and Secretary of Primary and Mass Education Dr Sadat Hossain.

Shahabuddin Ahmed said it is necessary to raise literacy

human resource providing technical education to deal with the increasing population pressure. The major prerequisite for development is the development of human resources.

The President said today many Asian countries achieved tremendous success in economic uplift due to their education system as well as necessary measure to upgrade human resources.

The President suggested that besides providing equal facilities for all children, educational opportunity should be made available for the drop-outs and deprived schoolchildren and elderly men and women.

He expressed satisfaction at government steps in this regard.

Justice Shahabuddin emphasised the need for bringing all the nationals under vocational education by implementing compulsory primary education as well as non-formal education programmes.

The President urged NGOs, all sections of society, voluntary organisations, professionals and government and semi-government organisations to help implement the education-for-all drive as it is not possible for the government alone to carry out the responsibility.

He is optimistic about building an illiteracy-free society if people irrespective of party affiliation come forward.

**Chhatak thana declared pourashava**

CHHATAK, Sept 8: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at a public meeting at Chhatak bazar yesterday declared the Chhatak thana of Sunamganj district as pourashava, reports UNB.

While addressing the meeting he said, "the pre-election pledge of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to make Chhatak pourashava has been fulfilled with this declaration."

A directive of the LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman in this connection was read out by LGRD Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hayer.

Presided over by Chhatak thana Awami League president Dr Mohammad Harris Ali, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Nurul Islam Nahid MP, Syed Rafiqul Haque MP and Syeda Zubunnesa MP.

Addressing the meeting the Foreign Minister urged all to shun the path of negative politics and come forward to be part in nation-building activities.

Earlier, Samad Azad visited the erosion-hit Bausha area of the thana by a speed boat. He was accompanied by the MPs and officials of Water Development Board.

**400 feared drowned in Haiti**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Sept 8: A ferry sank north of the capital today and Haitian officials said as many as 400 people were missing and feared drowned. First radio reports said about 25 bodies washed ashore, reports AP.

Haiti's coast guard reported at least 700 people were on the ferry and that 300 to 400 people drowned, said US Coast Guard Petty Officer Veronica Bandrowsky in Miami.

**JP demonstration Sept 21**

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party will stage demonstration across the country on September 21 demanding fixation of the lowest price of jute at Tk 500 per maund and reduction in prices of petroleum products, said a party press release.

The party will also handover memorandum to the administrative officials at district and thana headquarters, the release added.

**Maj Khairuzzaman's condition: PM's intervention sought**

By Staff Correspondent

Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, senior defence counsel of Maj (ret) M Khairuzzaman, in a statement yesterday requested the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and human rights organisations to intervene immediately to save the life of his client who, he said, "is being persecuted, punished without being guilty."

Rahman said that his client has been denied of Class-1 status and of proper medical treatment in jail.

"It is more than a year that he has been kept in a deplorable, extremely unhygienic condition in a small closed cell, forcing a total solitary confinement on him with an exposed toilet inside the cell where he eats food, says his prayers and sleeps," said Advocate Mahbubur Rahman.

**Next hearing of 2 cases against Ershad Nov 6**

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party Chairman and former President HM Ershad appeared before the Dhaka District Court yesterday in connection with the hearing of the DIT Plot Case and the Gold Smuggling Case against him, his lawyer Yousuf Hossain Humayun said.

Humayun told this correspondent that the judge, holding the charge of 7th Additional District Court and Special Tribunal number 16, fixed November 6 for the next hearing of these cases.

When petitions were placed for dispensing with Ershad's presence in person and representation by his lawyer in the court during hearing of the cases, the judge observed that the 'regular' judge of the court had been transferred and that he was functioning as 'in-charge'. The judge also observed that the applications be filed when a 'regular' judge takes over.

**Bangabandhu**

From Page 1

answered, "not true."

When another defence lawyer suggested that he had disarmed the police at Bangabandhu's residence at gun point Bashir said, "it is not true."

To the suggestion of a lawyer that he was also an accused in this case because of his activities on August 15, 1975, he replied, "not true."

The defence lawyers suggested that he was made a prosecution witness on condition of recording evidence as directed by the police. Bashir said, "it is not true."

"I, along with seven or eight others, were brought in an artillery truck and dropped in front of Bangabandhu's residence," the PW-11 said. Those brought in that truck included Capt Bazul Huda, Maj, Noor, Risalder Sarwar, one Naik of Artillery and three sepoy, he said. Bashir, however, could not remember the name of the Naik and the three sepoy.

**Dacoits stab night coach driver to death**

COMILLA, Sept 8: Armed dacoits killed a night coach driver and injured two of his passengers on Dhaka-Chittagong highway here early today, reports UNB.

Police said a band of six dacoits in guise of passengers boarded the Chittagong-bound bus from Dhaka and swooped on the passengers as it reached the Montapur area in Kotwali thana.

As they failed to seize control of the bus, the dacoits stabbed driver Abul Kasem, 40, indiscriminately. He died on way to the hospital at about 2 am.

Two passengers — Mohammad Shahidullah and Laskhandhara Das — were also stabbed by the robbers as they refused to handover their belongings.

The armed gang made off with the booty worth about Tk 50,000, leaving the bus at Joorakanan in Kotwali thana.

**Mobutu dies**

From Page 1

He had been living in exile in Morocco since May, following his ouster by the forces of Laurent Kabila, who restored his country's old name of Congo.

At the military hospital in the early morning hours, there was no sign of activity. Soldiers posted in front waved away journalists. The hospital workers said Mobutu's body was in the hospital morgue.

The Moroccan ministry of communication and the ministry of the interior said this morning the government had no official reaction to Mobutu's death and no information on funeral arrangements.

Mobutu arrived in Morocco on May 23, after searching for a country that would take him following his fall from power. King Hassan II agreed to host him for a few days, but the deposed leader ended up staying over three months.

In Congo, there was very little reaction this morning to the news of Mobutu's death, a sign of how indifferent most Congolese had become to him since he left Kinshasa.

The announcement of his death was made at 6 am on Congolese state radio, which said "In the African tradition, you don't say anything bad about someone who has died and you don't rejoice in his leaving, even if he has caused harm or he had been your enemy."

Congolese state radio also said if Mobutu's family wished, they could bury him in Gbadolite, the jungle hideaway where he often lived when he was in Zaire, as the country was known when he ruled.

**Businessman stabbed to death**

CHITTAGONG, Sept 8: A businessman was stabbed to death by the miscreants at Pathantooli under Double-mooring thana here this afternoon, reports BSS.

According to police, the victim Bazal Ahmed came under attack by a group of miscreants who stabbed him to death. The reason behind the killing could not be ascertained immediately.

Police recovered the body and sent it for autopsy.

**US Open**

From Page 1

handed Rusedski, rushing to the nets and setting up points that had all the thrills of power-tennis coupled with the imaginative and sometimes innovative strokeplay. It had always been better than the mundane staccato from the baseline which the celebrities of the game normally dole out for the spectators. Imagine a US Open without any of the top ten players of the game yet vibrant, thrilling and thoroughly enjoyable.

Earlier in the evening Martina Hingis, the wonder girl of world tennis took apart unseeded Venus Williams with Swiss precision Sunday to sweep to victory in the US Open women's singles final for her third Grand Slam title of the year.

The 16-year-old Hingis extended her extraordinary season record to 63-2 with a 6-0, 6-4 defeat of the 17-year-old American rising star in a pairing of the youngest Grand Slam finalists in the Open era history.

(More on page-11)

**Dhaka, Manila**

From Page 1

his visit to Dhaka in March and said within a span of six months the two countries could sign three agreements for the promotion of trade and commerce.

Describing the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as memorable, Ramos expressed the hope that the two countries would work together and strengthen the relations for mutual benefits.

Replying to a question about Bangladesh's inclusion in the ASEAN, President Ramos said, "There are some process which should be followed." He agreed that Bangladesh could be benefited by becoming a member of BISMTEC and the D-8.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, replying to question on the emergence of women leaders in Bangladesh, said, "There is nothing wrong in women ruling the country. My predecessor was also a woman."

In a lighter vein, the prime minister said, "I believe that women can take strong decisions and they are more courageous."

Ramos told a questioner that the Grameen Bank concept of Bangladesh was beneficial for the women in the Philippines. "Women are good debtors than the male counterparts, even better than the rich industrialists," he said.

**Cargo transportation**

From Page 1

by waterways, the envoy said. "It would presently involve multi-modal transportation. However, the costs and transport benefits would be calculated by the users."

The ambassador hoped that although the transit route would be useful for Nepal for trade with third countries, bilateral trade between Dhaka and Kathmandu could be started immediately.

The envoy said, "What is important is that the transit route has been inaugurated. We have finally made a breakthrough because of cooperation extended by India and Bangladesh. The transit trade along with the mode of transportation would develop through trial and error, through experience."

Some Bangladeshi businessmen are already in Nepal and more are expected to go to explore avenues for bilateral trade, the envoy said.

Presently, Nepal exports pulses to Bangladesh while Dhaka's exports include a wide range of items including jute goods, carpet, readymade garments and pharmaceuticals.

The authorities are yet to set up a regular Customs point on the Bangladesh side at Banglabandh. The government is learnt to have told the Nepalese authorities to inform it about the movement of goods into Bangladesh so that it could provide "appropriate support" and also set up Customs checking.

The government needs to establish a permanent Customs post shortly and provide warehousing facilities to encourage Nepalese businessmen,

**Police action**

From Page 1

nurses.

Later, while he was having talks with the leaders, the nurses shouted and chanted slogans. Police tried to calm down the agitators but failed.

At one stage, police resorted to lathicharge to disperse agitators.

"We ran to save our lives but the police chased us and attacked some of us who were not involved in any violence," said Shamsur Nahar while talking to this correspondent.

Condition of the two injured nurses, were stated to be serious.

The director of the hospital was not available for comments.

Hospital sources said that there were no nurses in the hospital emergency unit till the afternoon. Later, a team of nurses attended the emergency ward.

**RB HSC**

From Page 1

tion, sources said.

Two retained examinees (whose Roll numbers are Raj-314148 and Raj-314150) had filed a case with the Assistant Judge's Court seeking injunction on publication of results of HSC examination.

The Court on Thursday asked the Board authorities to submit a written objections against the injunction. The court also issued a showcause notice on the Board as why the decision of cancellation of the examinations of 6686 students would not be declared 'illegal'.

Results of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations held in May-June, 1997 were scheduled to be published on September 11, according to an earlier decision of the Board.

**Team leaves**

From Page 1

and regulations, the question of interference by the Education Ministry does not arise," the handout said.

It said, "In fact, there is no logical ground to keep the boards if the ministry settles those matters."

The results of over 6000 examinees of 1997 under the board remained withheld for irregularities during the examinations.

**Illegal water connections at DMCH snapped**

By Staff Correspondent

About 50 unauthorised water connections were disconnected Sunday at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), according to the executive engineer of the Health Division of Public Works Department (PWD).

The action came after a report on the matter was published in The Daily Star on Sunday.

"Despite Sunday's action on the illegal water connections, a few of them still exist," said the Director of DMCH. "I had asked a number of leaders of the slum community on the same day to cooperate with the authorities and avoid any conflicts," he added.

The remaining unauthorised water connections would soon be disconnected, the DMCH authorities hoped. According to witnesses, PWD engineers are continuing their efforts to identify the illegal water connections. "It would take some time before DMCH is completely free of such illegal connections," said the PWD executive engineer.

The unauthorised water connections were taken from the main water pump outlet at DMCH installed behind the hospital premises. The illegal water connections were set up allegedly by a section of hospital employees. The inhabitants of the nearby slum, mostly occupied by lower level employees of the hospital, had been using the illegal water supply for quite a long time, according to sources in the DMCH.

Due to the unapproved consumption of water, the hospital was facing chronic water crisis which recently turned acute.

According to the sources, operations at the ENT department could not be performed due to the water crisis since August 28.

**Teresa**

From Page 1

wanted: Calcutta's archbishop, Henry d' Souza granted the request after consultations in Rome with Vatican officials. He was to return to Calcutta on Tuesday.

Not everyone in Calcutta's Catholic community agrees. Critics say Mother Teresa's life of giving and compassion meant that she belonged to everyone and should be buried in a public place.

"It is wrong of the Missionaries of Charity claim her as their personal property," said Bemvinda Pereira, a spokesperson for the Loreto Convent, the order in which Mother Teresa took her final vows in 1937.

**JCD workers**

From Page 1

Police said the JCD activists — Kazi Tanvir Ahmed alias Kishore, M Jasimuddin Khan, M Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury alias Abdus Sattar, Manju Hossain, Khandakar Prokash Babar, M Nur Alam and Shawkatullah alias Kazi M Masud — were involved in the killing of a BCL activist, Nazrul Islam, and concealing his body.

They were also wanted in several cases filed with Sadar, Sonagazi and Chhagalnaiya thanas of Feni district, said a DMP press release.

**No-confidence motion against Thai govt**

BANGKOK, Sept 8: The Thai opposition submitted today a parliamentary vote of no-confidence against the government, accusing it of leading Thailand to the verge of bankruptcy, officials said, reports AFP.

An earlier AP report says: Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh has challenged Thailand's opposition parties to launch a censure debate against him this week, his spokesman said today.

"The prime minister said nothing will be changed and he is in full gear to run the administration," Kanara said.

**Diana**

From Page 1

But many of her admirers were outraged, and since her death in Paris August 31, a campaign has begun to restore it posthumously.

At her Westminster Abbey funeral Saturday, Diana's brother the 9th Earl Spencer made a pointed reference to the loss of the HRH, saying she had "needed no royal title to continue to generate her particular brand of insight."

Hours later, Palace officials spoke with the Spencer family about restoration of the HRH.

"Their (the family's) very firm view was that the Princess herself would not have wished for any change to the style and title by which she was known at the time of her death," a Palace spokesman said on customary condition of anonymity.

"The Spencer family itself also did not wish for it to be changed."

A spokeswoman for Lord Spencer said, "The Palace statement is correct and we have nothing to add."

**Vehicles**

From Page 1

train stops before it crosses the bridge on either side and gets clearance from the duty signal man.

The Directives came at a meeting held at the Foreign Ministry on Saistaganj Bailey Bridge with Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in the chair.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain, Communications Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, acting foreign secretary Aminul Islam were present at the meeting.

The meeting also decided that the district police authorities of Habiganj and Moulvibazar would ensure maintenance of the road rules by trucks and other vehicles on Habiganj-Nabiganj road. No vehicle would be allowed to exceed 5 tons.

**Hollywood**

From Page 1

ment of the theatre infrastructure would take some time, the tariff part can be rationalised easily by the government to allow development of healthy entertainment facility.

The business prospect in Bangladesh is positive as the satellite channels, already supplementing the Hollywood movie world, had created an unmet demand in Bangladesh, he added.

"The young generation, specially between the age of 18 and 29, is very much aware of what is happening in the entertainment industry around the world. In fact, they are the people whose demands have, in India, helped us release brand new movies." Mike said sharing his experience in India where cinema halls were not properly equipped for a perfect Hollywood-style entertainment till recently.

If theatres improve, audience of all classes will start to go back to cinema halls for a type of entertainment which is almost missing for a long time, he said.

**Khaleeda back home**

From Page 1

buses and trucks started thronging the airport area since the small hours yesterday braving the drizzle.

Coming out of the airport lounge, Begum Zia waved at the waiting crowd who reciprocated with full-throated slogans welcoming her back home.

Flowers were showered as the fleet of cars carrying Begum Zia and the members of her entourage passed through the cheering crowd.

She also stopped at places to exchange pleasantries with the members of the crowd which lined up from the VIP lounge to end of the approach road of the airport.

Vehicles carrying the BNP workers were seen heading towards the airport even when the BNP chief was on the way to her Cantonment residence.

Top BNP leaders present at the Zia to receive Begum Zia included Saifur Rahman, MP, Dr Khandakar Mosharrif Hossain, MP, Jamiruddin Sircar, MP, Abdul Matin Choudhury, Dr RA Ghani, Shamsul Islam, MP, Sarwari

**Team leaves**

From Page 1

and regulations, the question of interference by the Education Ministry does not arise," the handout said.

It said, "In fact, there is no logical ground to keep the boards if the ministry settles those matters."

The results of over 6000 examinees of 1997 under the board remained withheld for irregularities during the examinations.

**Indian terms**

From Page 1

the commodities must be contained and not more than 45 trucks can pass through on a given day, the sources said.

All the trucks that use the Indo-Bangladesh transit point have to move in a convoy, escorted by Indian police up to the Indian border point of Fulbari.

The transit permission, effective from September 1, shall be reviewed after six months.

Observers feel that the conditions could be "very restricting" to the Nepalese businessmen in using the new transit route. This is one of the reasons which have discouraged use of the transit route since the opening of it, sources said.

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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