



Bangladesh Air Express International Limited

Quality Worldwide Logistics

PLEASE CONTACT:

Head Office Tel : 9565114, Logistics Office Tel : 9884851, Fax : (880-2) 9886531, E-mail : dac@aelogis.com
Chittagong Office Tel : (031) 721085, Fax : (880-31) 710106, Internet : ledcgp@spcnet.com.smp.

Air and Ocean-Forwarding • Customs Brokerage • Warehousing and Distribution • Express • NVOCC



Rice Cooker



Dry Iron

Ideal gift for any occasion.

Transcom Electronics Limited

Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets
Dhaka : 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg. : 716353, 723578
Khulna : 720304, Bogra : 6215

Let's make things better



Dhaka University campus during yesterday's strike called by JCD in all the educational institutions to protest the CHT accord. — Star photo

Classes not held at DU as JCD enforces strike

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) enforced a strike at the Dhaka University yesterday protesting the CHT accord.

No examinations and classes were held due to the strike.

JCD brought out a procession and later held a rally on the campus.

The JCD leaders, at the rally, termed the accord as a "black one". They said that once the accord was implemented, the country would lose its sovereignty over the CHT.

The leaders urged the student community of the country to resist the implementation of the accord at any cost.

Indus Valley

From Page 1

they were seriously looking into the matter. "We are scrutinising all the legal aspects of the contract and we will soon take a decision about it," he said without elaborating.

Some 220 acres of lakeside land in Gulshan area was leased out to Indus Valley for 75 years on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis. Under the deal, Indus was to build a series of multi-storied buildings with a host of other facilities.

After reports of serious irregularities in the Rajuk deal, the government suspended the contract and set up an inquiry committee. After the inquiry committee submitted its report to the Works Minister, Rajuk Chairman Humayun Khadem was removed from his post and placed as Officer on Special Duty.

A Rajuk official said none other than Rajuk had the authority to cancel the contract with Indus Valley. "The two signing parties were Rajuk and Indus so it is one of them who can cancel it," said a Rajuk official, adding that Rajuk had just received a formal letter from the ministry to take steps to cancel the contract.

Consensus needed to reap advantage of ALTID project

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar on 'Economic Potential of the Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) Project' yesterday stressed the need for a political consensus and a specific national action plan to reap the fullest advantage of the project.

The seminar, jointly organised by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), was inaugurated by Minister for Communications Anwar Hossain Manju at a city hotel.

The seminar was spread over three technical sessions, chaired by Wajidul Islam, Secretary, Statistics Division of Communications Ministry, Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Executive Chairman of CPD and Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury of BUET.

The salient features of the recommendations adopted at the seminar include: Political consensus and specific national action plan to reap the fullest advantage of the ALTID project.

Comparative study of Mongla and Chittagong ports from the point of view of Nepalese transit.

The route passing through Sylhet-Astagram-Karimganj is more suitable for the Asian Highway than the Tamabil road between Bangladesh and India.

Debate over having the exit through Sylhet or Chittagong for the Asian Highway should be ended. To start with, the Sylhet route should be considered immediately and Chittagong route could be taken up subsequently.

Stand alone railway bridge over the river Jamuna.

Inaugurating the seminar, Anwar Hossain Manju said, "The whole initiative is aimed at providing a framework for

reciprocal understanding and cooperation that will enhance the activities for unhindered international flow of trade and tourism.

"It is important to learn to share infrastructure facilities with others to bring about mutual benefits of all. The role of road, railway and other modes of transportation in this context will remain the focal point.

"If any country does not agree with this concept, it will be automatically isolated from the process of globalisation."

Among the others who spoke at the inaugural session are: Syed Rezaul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Dr. Q. K. Ahmed of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, Dr. Rahmatullah, Director, T.C.T.D. ES-CAP and Hassanul Haq Inu of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal.

ALCWC

From Page 1

contact' programme to remove the confusion from the minds of the people, meeting sources said.

With AL acting president Amir Hussain Amu in the chair, the meeting was held at the party central office in the city.

The ALCWC meeting also discussed the party programmes for the Martyred Intellectuals' Day and Victory Day.

Today, a joint meeting of the front organisations of Awami League will be held at the party central office at 10 am.

BCL ransacks

From Page 1

robbers, a police van and ransacked five shops at the Mukti-joddha Sangsad Market, witnesses said. This created panic in the town.

At about 1 pm, they called a four-hour hartal in the town from 2 pm. No untoward incident was reported during the hartal hour, police said.

Meanwhile, nine persons — Nadim, Sharif, Kamruzzaman, Shabirul Karim, Beleyet Hossain, Mustaqim, Sumon, Mofizuddin and Rabindranath — were arrested in connection with the killing, police said. Eight of the arrested are PDB employees and the rest one is a restaurant owner.

Police said Azad's younger brother Rashedul Haq Ranju, the then president of Awami League-backed Chhatra League of Edward College unit of Chhatra League was also killed in the town on May 16, 1993.

Abul Kalam Azad was the plaintiff and principal witness in the Ranju murder case.

Azad recently deposed before the trial court but his deposition was incomplete.

Hartal

From Page 1

plying from the morning through rickshaws were exempted from hartal after 2 pm.

At Khagrachhari, police dispersed a procession brought out by hartal supporters. No major untoward incidents were, however, reported from the CHT and from any area in Chittagong.

Most of the shops and offices here remained closed during the hartal hours. Four pickets were arrested.

At Chittagong Port, cargo handling works continued inside the jetties while delivery of goods to and from the port was suspended due to lack of trucks.

UNB adds: The pro-hartal activists attacked the press clubs in Rangamati and Khagrachhari, leaving several journalists injured, burned the effigy of the Prime Minister in Rangamati and 1800 copies of Daily Janakantha in Khagrachhari.

Meghna PET Industries go into production

By Staff Correspondent

A joint venture polyethylene terephthalate (PET) container manufacturing plant, the first of its kind in the country, went into commercial production yesterday.

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria formally inaugurated the commercial production of the industry.

Bangladesh can not attain economic prosperity without setting up of modern industries. Kibria told the opening function, held in the industry complex at Meghna ghat in Narayanang.

The Tk 22 crore Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia joint venture project, Meghna PET Industries will produce bottles which will be environment friendly and hygienic for the storage of food stuff and drinks, the company officials claimed.

Chairman of the Meghna group M F Kamal later told the reporters that the bottles produced by his industry will be cheaper than the imported ones and thus save foreign currency by discouraging import of such bottles.

Among others, Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdullah Omar Barry, Japanese Embassy minister Shigeharu Maruyama, Shipping Secretary H Mofazzal Karim attended the function.

Ferry ghats

From Page 1

tion due to 'technical faults'. Two of the, however, rejoined yesterday the fleet of 24 ferries operating in the two routes from Aricha, a BIWTC official said.

There was a nearly two km long queue of vehicles at Aricha ghat on Wednesday but it eased to some extent as some ferries quickly carried those.

"Till 6 pm yesterday, about 750 vehicles were waiting at Aricha, around 900 at Natakola and nearly 350 at Daulatdia," the official said.

High officials of BIWTC and BIWTA visited the three ghats yesterday.

All 13 of our buses bound for the capital from northern region got stranded at Natakola yesterday," said Saiful Islam, deputy general manager of a bus company.

"Our coaches from Bogra, Rangpur and Naogaon that left for the capital early yesterday morning did not reach Gabtali bus terminal till 6 pm yesterday," manager of another bus company said.

Similar reports were given by many other inter-district bus operators at the city's Gabtali terminal.



Ami Birangana Bolchhi on TV from today

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Television will telecast a documentary on the war of independence 'Ami Birangana Bolchhi' after ten o'clock news for the next three days beginning today.

Dr. Nilima Ibrahim, Nawasheba Sharaf, Meghna Guha Thakurata, Subarna Mustafa Rini Reza, Shampa Reza and Jayedul Kabir will present the documentary sponsored by Pride Textiles.

Directed by Rafi Hossain and the documentary has been produced by Rodela.

Laloo Prasad granted bail

NEW DELHI, Dec 11: A high-ranking former ally of the outgoing Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral was granted bail today in a multi-million dollar corruption case, the United News of India reported, says AFP.

Victory Day

From Page 1

Special programmes for children will be organised by the Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote on the occasion. A gathering of children will be held on the premises of the Shikha Chirantan at 3 pm on December 13.

A discussion meeting for children will be held on the same day at 4 pm at the Ramna Batamul.

Naripakkha, a women's organisation, organised a Candle Light programme at the Central Shahid Minar yesterday evening.

People in general and specially many of those who had lost their dear ones in the Liberation War gathered at the foot of the Shaheed Minar and described horrific incidents of killing by the Pakistani occupation forces. Many came from different parts of the country.

Gas reserves not enough

From Page 1

ment by the energy minister. "It appears that by making such over-optimistic statements, they are trying to justify a conspiratorial plan to export gas to India or other countries," said the former minister.

Dr. Badrul Imam, giving technical details about the prospects of hydrocarbon reserves, said that in order to double the 10.8 TCF gas reserve, at least 75 exploratory wells should be drilled. There are 21 production gas wells in the country. This ratio has been calculated on the basis of success rate of the explorers in finding gas (one gas structure in every three exploratory well), he said.

"But the present statistics on the geological structure show us that there is only 6 such untested prospective spots and even if a very much optimistic, the number of such spots would hardly exceed 40," Imam said. "Forty spots mean only 13 recoverable wells."

Commenting on the current negotiations on block bidding, he said that in Block 9, the Irish

company Tullow has proposed to drill 10 exploratory wells. "This is unbelievable. Block 9 does not have 10 such structures (or prospective spots). There are 3 to 4 such structures only."

Imran Ahmed, an Awami League MP, however, said that the government must consider the present situation first and future later. "We can't keep gas unutilised now just for the sake of the future," he said.

SM Akram, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of JS also said, "we must remember that a large part of the country does not have energy. We must address this issue first. But we must also strike a balance between the present and the future needs."

"But should we wait for the future?" He questioned. "Someone in the future may come up with a new solution to the energy crisis."

Saifur Rahman said, "The future may have some new solution, but now we don't have any such thing. So we can't kill the bird in our hand for the one in the bush."

Hasina spends busy day

From Page 1

D-8 summit in Dhaka. Palestine President Arafat and Sheikh Hasina met for the second time during the summit and discussed matters of mutual interest.

During her meeting with the Sudanese president the two leaders agreed to further strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan praised Hasina's role in the empowerment of women in Bangladesh.

Annan also said signing of the water treaty with India is a positive development in the region.

During the meeting Sheikh Hasina assured him of Bangladesh's continued support to the Organisation.

Dr. Laraki appreciated the role of Bangladesh in the OIC and expressed the confidence that it would make positive contribution to the promotion of the Muslim Ummah.

Earlier yesterday evening Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had separate meetings with President Hafez Al-Assad of Syria, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives and President Yaya Gammeh of Gambia.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Zohreh Khatami, wife of Iranian President Seyed Mohammad Khatami, met Hasina at the conference centre here this evening.

She stayed with the Prime Minister for some time and discussed the women issues of Bangladesh.

Later, Fatemah Hashemi, daughter of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani also met Sheikh Hasina and stayed with her for sometime.

UP polls violence 30 injured, polling in 18 centres cancelled

By Staff Correspondent

More than 30 people were injured and polling in at least 18 centres were cancelled due to incidents of violence yesterday, the ninth day of the on-going Union Parishad elections.

Elections in 16 polling centres under Iswarganj thana of Mymensingh district were cancelled following clashes over snatching of ballot papers and boxes by supporters of rival candidates, our correspondent reported from Mymensingh.

The centres are three Maizbagh union, three in Jatia, six in Rajshahi, one in Magatola, two in Sarisha and one in Sohagi union.

The Public Relations Department of the Election Com-

mission, however, said last night that polling was cancelled in six centres in four unions. Elections were cancelled in three centres in Maizbagh union and one in Jatia union under Iswarganj thana of Mymensingh district and one centre each in Dighali and Ushakhal unions under Laksmipur Sadar thana. The EC however said that the number of affected centres might increase.

The District Commissioner of Mymensingh told The Daily Star over telephone that he had so far received information about cancellation of polling in seven centres under Iswarganj thana. He, however, said that the number might rise.

The elections were held yesterday in 24 unions of 37 thanas spreading over 35 districts.

Gold seized

From Page 1

after Abdur Rashid whispered something to him and left the Customs hall.

Later, Customs officials stopped Jaill at the Green Channel at about 12 midnight. When Jaill denied that he was carrying gold, customs officials scanned his green trolley bag and detected the gold inside it.

In the bag they found the gold chains inside the batteries wrapped in carbon papers.

Customs sources said Jaill confessed that Rashid was also involved in the smuggling. Both the accused were handed over to Cantonment thana. A case was also lodged in this connection.

JS body

From Page 1

ces, the committee reviewed some allegations of irregularities in the constitution work of a few food godowns. The issue of the appointment of adviser for construction of the godowns also came up for discussion. The details of the discussion were not available yesterday.

Akhতারuzzaman and Sultan Mohammad Mansur, who were Awami League MPs and Dr. TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury MP of Jatiya Party were present at the meeting.

BNP won't go to court

From Page 1

"Since the whole nation is opposed to the accord, we will have to continue street agitation against it," Bhuiyan asserted. He claimed that the ruling party units in the CHT also participated in the Opposition-called two-day hartal in the hill districts, that ended yesterday.

When his attention was drawn to the Prime Minister's comment that the previous BNP government was about to grant autonomy to the CHT, Mannan Bhuiyan said: Her statement is purely deceptive and contradictory facts.

The experts committee of BNP, which earlier examined the CHT accord to decide the party stance, is also examining the PM's speech on the issue. "We'll further speak on the matter as soon as the committee prepares its report," he added.

Asked if his party would join the planned special session of parliament for discussing the CHT accord, the BNP Secretary General replied, "Participating

in the discussion would mean legalising the unconstitutional agreement... We would have definitely taken part in the discussion had it been arranged before signing of the accord... We're still ready to discuss the issue in parliament if the government goes for a fresh accord."

The CHT accord had discriminated the tribal and non-tribal people in the hill districts and frustrated the people in other areas.

Earlier, Mannan Bhuiyan thanked the people of Chittagong and three hill districts for "rejecting" the CHT accord through spontaneous observance of hartal yesterday and the day before. He also alleged repression by police and ruling party activists during the hartals and demanded immediate release of all those arrested in connection with the anti-accord agitation.

On the second day of hartal yesterday, he alleged, police arrested 38 BNP men, of whom 23 were later freed, and raided the houses of all the BNP leaders in Chittagong.

Hasina leaves Tehran for home today

TEHRAN, Dec 11: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves here tomorrow morning for Dhaka ending her four-day visit to Tehran where she attended the OIC summit, reports BSS.

Six more BNP activists held in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Dec 11: Six more BNP activists were arrested and two pistols were recovered from different places in the city last night, police said.

Earlier, BNP city unit senior vice-president Nazrul Huda and party worker Hira were arrested.

According to police, the others were arrested acting on their confession.

Shibir sources, however, claimed that one of the arrested is their activist.

WDB officers

From Page 1

swer the showcase notices served by the Board, the sources added.

Besides, the Board placed five more personnel, including an executive engineer in a lower scale of pay as a punitive measure for their indulgence in corruption and irregularities in the implementation of town protection work of Damudya Bandar and township. They are Mohammad Sajedul Karim Chowdhury, Executive Engineer, Coastal Embankment Rehabilitation Project, Cox's Bazar, Mohammad Abul Kashem Miah, Sub-divisional Engineer of Shariatpur, Mohammad Abdul Moid, Section Officer of Madaripur, Mohammad Atiqur Rahman, Section Officer of Damudya, Shariatpur, and Jotirmoy Kundu, Section Officer, Ullahpara of Sirajganj district.

JASAS Bijoy Mela

From Page 1

programme yesterday as police Tuesday dismantled the podium erected there, he claimed.

Mannan claimed that permission was taken from PWD for holding the mela. But the PWD cancelled the permission after police dismantled the podium. Mannan condemned the alleged police action.

"In the face of widespread protests and plans for agitation against the heinous act, the government has given permission again for holding the mela, Mannan said.

He said that he contacted Telecommunications and Housing Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday. Nasim managed the fresh permission.

JASAS chief Rezabuddin also spoke on the occasion.

RANGAMATI-ABODE OF PEACE BECKONS YOU

Parjatan offers 3-days 2-nights tour to Rangamati - paradise of nature. Take a break from hustle and bustle of citylife. Be a guest of Parjatan. Enjoy your holiday in serene nature and colourful tribal people for a memorable experience.

Date of Departure : 19th December 1997, Friday
Starting place & time : Dhaka Sheraton Hotel at 8 A.M.
Tour price : Tk. 3700/- per person (Tk. 200/- extra for A/C accommodation)

Services include : Non A/C Luxury transport, all meals at fixed menu as per programme, Non A/C twin sharing accommodation at Parjatan Motel Rangamati, sightseeing, lake cruise and guide service.

Attractions : Thousand years old turtles in a tank nearby the Shrine of Hazrat Bayazid Bostami (RM), Tribal Cultural Museum, Tribal Village, Ornamental Rajbon Bihar, Bain Textile & Picnic Hill.

For ticket please contact :
Tour Division (Head Office) : 327842, 817855-9
Tourist Information Center
Head Office (Bijoy Sarani) : 819192, 817855-9
Dhaka Sheraton Hotel : 509479, 863391/8566

BANGLADESH PARJATAN CORPORATION

Editor : Mahfuz Anam
Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaword 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 edition address: http://www.dailystartnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

Now Open

Masala Mix

To add spice to your life in a unique environment we offer you some mouthwatering continental and orientalcuisine.

Limited special offers :
MASALA T-SHIRT

With every Tk. 500/- worth of food consumed!

You have to come to experience the atmosphere.

PS. This is an extension of SHEHNAI one of the top restaurants of Dhaka

53/B, Kemal Ataturk Ave., Banani, Dhaka.
Tel : 870225, 872679