

PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS & FREIGHT WORLDWIDE



FedEx Federal Express

The World on Time

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 9883927, 9130647, 894213, DEPZ 9338931 Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108, Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N.Gani, Tel: 9714336

Ideal gift for any occasion.



Sandwich maker



Toaster - 2 Slices

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

PHILIPS

Backed by Guarantee

## Govt considering gas export

From Page 1  
pipeline. This means the government could supply every unit of gas for less than half a dollar. On top of it, the pipeline would remain a national property.

Again, export through pipeline would require Bangladesh to charge a very high price for gas. As per the model agreement, a foreign company would accept nothing less than the international price. So, after paying one dollar royalty to a pipeline builder like Unocal, Bangladesh would need to strike a deal with the importer which should be at least one dollar higher than the international price to maintain a break-even position. The current bulk rate of gas in India is 1.7 dollar per unit.

lution is now getting power. That too is irregular due to short supply of gas. Think about the 85 per cent power-deprived people. Think how better supply of gas and power can change our economy and the lives of the individual. Gas export cannot be a substitute for utilisation of gas for the local sectors.

Economist Dr Omar Haider Chowdhury told The Daily Star, "Gas is not a fuel as such, it has many alternative usages. There is no sign in sight that new energy technology will be economically viable. We have to consider gas export very carefully because the domestic demand is already rising quickly and will rise manifold in the future, but the gas reserve is limited."

He further said, Gas will not last as long as we thought be-

### One arrested

From Page 1  
she took liquid food yesterday. Meanwhile, police also arrested seven others during raids in and around the locality throughout the day yesterday. They were held under Section 54 for interrogation. Police produced two of them before the CMM's Court yesterday praying for five days remand.

The Investigating Officer (IO) of the case, Sub-Inspector Alauddin, tried to talk with the victim at the DMCH yesterday evening. But the IO could not record her statement as the girl was still in a traumatised state.

Police were interrogating Mizan who did not confess to his involvement in the rape incident till filing of this report last night. Police said Mizan, an unemployed man, had three wives.

Police said Mizan was arrested on the basis of some secret information from reliable police sources. But it was yet premature to confirm his involvement in the rape until the victim was completely recovered and could identify the culprit.

### PCP faction

From Page 1  
fire. The damaged bus was later removed from the road by the army with the help of a crane as some vehicles of security force were stranded there.

The PCP pickets also snatched documents from the driver of another passenger bus plying at Baibonhhara under Panchhari thana of Khagrachhari at around 1 pm, local sources said.

Besides, the activists of PCP's splinter faction staged demonstration at Matiranga and other places of Khagrachhari.

fore. We must be careful in our effort to jack up foreign reserve by exporting gas. This can as well result in 'Dutch Disease' syndrome. We should see whether internal value addition in industrial sectors is more worthwhile by using gas."

Dr Chowdhury noted, "Instead of thinking of short term profit, we should look at alternative uses of gas. At the current level of reserve, it would not be wise to export gas. It could be considered only if further reserves are discovered."

A Petrobangla expert said, "The primary purpose of inviting foreign companies was never gas export. It was to rebuild the gas sector which is now on the verge of collapse."

But the decision-makers say that there is no point in sitting over a pile of natural resource in the form of energy. They say that with new developments in the energy sector, the form of energy changes and a natural resource may no longer remain so. They point out that coal was once the only energy source. But now many countries do not even extract coal because alternative energy sources have been found. Similarly, if we do not quickly utilise gas, developments in the future may make it a redundant natural resource as well.

But energy experts differ with this view. The Daily Star talked with a number of BUET teachers on this issue. They said even if the world goes nuclear or solar in future, Bangladesh would have the edge over others because gas is cheaper than those forms of energy and at the same time environment friendly, unlike coal.

"We are simply going to commit suicide by exhausting our gas reserve through export," one expert said.

### Woman's body recovered

By Staff Correspondent  
Police recovered a body of about 25-year-old woman from inside a tailoring shop at Shama Prasad Lane in the old city yesterday afternoon.

Sutrapur police could not identify the body till last night. The body bore several stab injuries, police said.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. Police suspected she was killed Friday night.

Police recovered the body from the tailoring shop at about 5:30 pm yesterday. None, however, was arrested in this connection till filing of this report last night.

The body was sent to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was lodged with Sutrapur thana late last night.

## President: Faith in court

From Page 1  
able that barring a few, all the courts across the country do not start the trial process timely," he said.

Depicting a grim picture of functioning of the courts and delay in disposal of cases, Shahabuddin said, judges used to complain that lawyers do not attend the court timely while lawyers make counter complaints. "Some judges work for some time, then leave the court and do not turn up during the whole day," he added.

He said a cordial relation and cooperation is needed for proper functioning of the court. Sometimes, despite cordial re-

### Mother, son killed in Sitakunda road accident

CHITTAGONG, Mar 21: A mother and her son were killed when a Chittagong-bound bus hit them at Fakirhat under Sitakunda thana on Dhaka-Chittagong highway today, reports BSS.

Another son of the woman was also critically injured as the bus hit the three while they were walking down the road.

Nur Khatoun, 30, and her son Shamsuddin 3, died on the spot while Kutubuddin, 5, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

### Occidental

From Page 1  
tation with a legal expert. The legal expert has now declined to work with Petrobangla as "upholding Bangladesh's interest" is "no longer in the priority list." Sources said that a number of amendment proposals have already been drafted but now those would be shelved.

The draft amendments included increase of Bangladesh's share in the PSC from the present 77.5 per cent (for discovered gasfields) to 80 to 85 per cent and inclusion of Petrobangla's exploration wing BAPEX as a partner of Occidental on "carried interest" basis.

Occidental has been lobbying for 'quick and favourable' extension of the PSC which expired on January 11 because the US company could not fulfil the PSC's minimum work obligations.

It recently held a meeting with two ministers and a state minister at a commercial place in the city in this connection.

While Occidental's operation in the blocks 13 and 14 had been very poor, its negligent performance while drilling the Magurchhara well in June last year led to an explosion, damaging natural resources worth hundreds of crores of taka.

lations between them, cases are not disposed of quickly due to frequent adjournments.

Referring to holiday in higher courts, the President said the number of holidays are more than required. Supreme Court enjoys holiday for 90 days a year in addition to 20 days government holidays. Besides, there are unscheduled holidays because of hartal, strike etc. But court holidays in neighbouring India and Pakistan are half of that in Bangladesh.

He said when he was the Chief Justice, he had discussed the matter with his colleagues time and again to reduce the number of holidays, but none agreed.

The President suggested that the 90 days of holiday should be reduced to 60 days considering the volume of pending cases and deterioration of law and order situation.

About the appointment of judges in the High Court Division, he said it has not yet been done for a long time. Despite the handing over of the old High Court building to the Supreme Court four years ago to raise the number of benches, not a single bench was set up there, he said.

Referring to the writ petition which is on increase, the President said after giving the interim orders following filing of the writ, it is the obligation of the court to dispose the matter speedily. But the matter is left over the years, he said.

The President said the court should apply its extraordinary jurisdiction of interim order under special circumstances. Indiscriminate application of it may lead to serious complication in the administrative system.

The government court officers have a great responsibility in this regard. But the President noted, they are not seen active on many occasions.

It must be remembered that a writ petition is not a suit or an appeal and it is not compulsory to use the writ power. It is merely a discretionary power, Justice Shahabuddin said.

He said experienced judges and lawyers should involve themselves in writ cases considering socio-economic condition, need of the time and the interest and security of the state.

The President also suggested close monitoring of judicial activities at lower courts. Judges of the Supreme Court should frequently go for inspection, submit their report and take preventive steps against irregularities.

Later, President Shahabuddin handed over 'Silver Jubilee Award to Advocate Sabita Rangan Paul and Barrister Asrarul Hussain who have contributed a lot to the legal profession in their long career.

## JS session

From Page 1  
Paurashava (amendment) Bill, 1998. The bill has proposed introduction of 'one ward, one commissioner' system, instead of the present system of electing three commissioners from one ward.

If the proposed legislation is adopted in parliament, a ward would be divided into three wards. The bill has also proposed one reserved seat for women from every three wards.

The parliamentary standing committee on the Health Ministry would submit its report on a bill seeking renaming of the IPGMR after the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, while the parliamentary committee on Finance Ministry would place a report on a bill seeking enhancement of the salary and allowances of the Comptroller General.

## Trade fair ends

From Page 1  
ground. Besides, three companies have been given trophies for National Flower Show '98.

The winners were: Otobi Limited, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, Monno Ceramics, Tamin Marketing Corporation, Rang Group, Micro Electronics Ltd, Square Tolerities, Quasem Group, Asian Textile Mills, Super Door, Apex Polymer Group, Perfume Chemical Industries, Fu Wang Ceramic Industry, Taiwan, Taichi Company, Japan, Kwang Sia Pte, Singapore, Electrium Dorman Smith, UK Co Ro Food, Denmark and Mobil Corporation, USA.

## 40 lakh blind people in country

By Staff Correspondent

There are about 40 lakh blind people in the country.

This was disclosed at the fifth biennial national convention of SNEDS held yesterday at the BIRDEM auditorium in the city.

Speakers at the convention said that Sandhani National Eye Donation Society (SNEDS) was making its best efforts to restore eye sight of many through cornea grafting and other procedures. But due to lack of vital equipment and accessories like operating microscope and eye bank, its activities were being hampered, they added.

"Due to lack of optisol solution, donated eyes cannot be preserved for more than six hours. Whereas, with the solution, transplanted eyes can be preserved for as long as 14 hours," one speaker noted.

## ALCWC

From Page 1  
She was a bit critical of ministers for 'not informing' whenever thing developed and asked them to increase their efficiency.

When some members raised the issue of power supply in the country the AL president expressed the hope that by the end of 1998, things would be much better than what it was now.

Coming to organisational matters, the ALCWC resolved to overcome stagnancy in party activities and decided that members of the council of ministers as well as senior party leaders must interact with AL workers and visit the party central office. Ministers would resume the "Meet-the-Party Workers" programme from March 28, it was decided.

Besides, detailed tour programmes would be chalked out for senior party leaders after the Eid-ul-Azha, the meeting resolved.

ALCWC decided to observe the Independence Day on March 26 in a befitting manner.

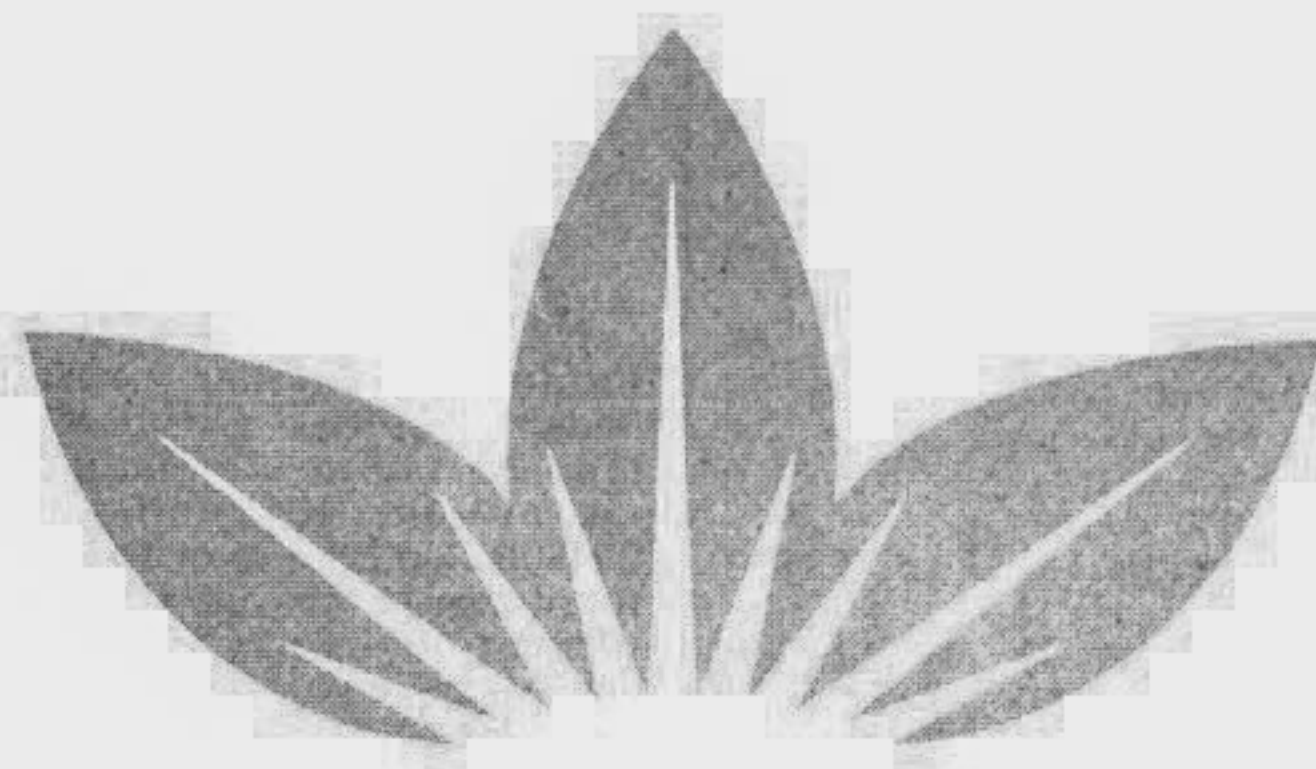
## NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME OF BANGLADESH TOBACCO COMPANY LIMITED

Notice is hereby given to all concerns that Bangladesh Tobacco Company Limited (BTC) has changed its name to British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Limited after complying with all legal formalities. Prior approval has been obtained from the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies. All concerns are advised to correspond with this Company in its new name.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned here that in view of change of name from Bangladesh Tobacco Company Limited to British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Limited, no person can use or apply for registration of any company in the former name of this Company.

(Rafique-Ul Huq, Barrister-at-Law)  
For, BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO BANGLADESH COMPANY LIMITED  
(Formerly Bangladesh Tobacco Company Limited)

# OUR NEW IDENTITY



BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO BANGLADESH



Bangladesh Tobacco Company

will now be known as British American Tobacco Bangladesh.

This is part of a global unification programme.

The new corporate signature reflects and projects the benefits of a unified organisation:

A flag to rally around as we look into a future filled with promise, for our company and our industry.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam