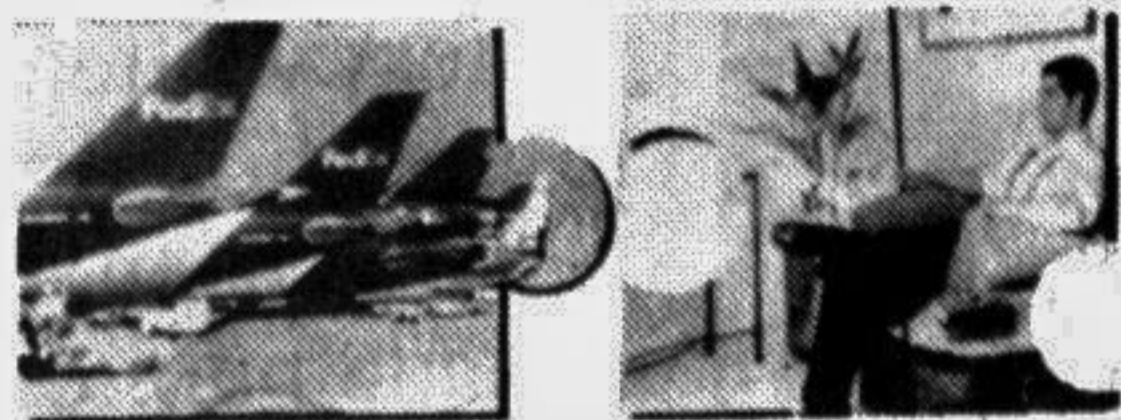


We do our Piece so you can have your peace



Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 9883927, 9130647, 894213, 808803 DEPZ 9338931
Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108
Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N'Ganj, Tel: 9714336



Ideal gift for any occasion.

Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 5,000

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official license 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

City areas flooded

From Page 1

Mymensingh. Diarrhoea has broken out in several flood affected areas. Severe crisis of pure drinking water were reported from many flood-hit districts, according to our correspondents and news agencies.

In Narayanganj, the flood situation worsened further after the Shitalakha river crossed the danger level.

The badly affected thanas of the district include Narayanganj Sadar, Aarrahazar, Sonargon, Bandar and Roopgonj. But with the rise of water levels, fresh areas under Fatullah thana have also been inundated.

Direct road-link between Rangamati and Khagrachhari hill district snapped yesterday as landslides blocked Kutubchhari under Naniarchhar thana on the Rangamati-Khagrachhari Highway, officials told BSS.

One minor boy (Rana, 10) was drowned when a strong downhill current swept him away while he was playing in rain waters in the old court building premises yesterday morning.

New terminal

From Page 1

Chittagong Port or new ports in private sector, he added.

He reassured the leaders of the trade unions at the port that they would lose their jobs if the private terminal starts operating from 2001-2. Rather it would create more jobs.

The deputy minister also said a guideline for operating private equipment at Chittagong Port is also being prepared.

Later, the trade union leaders including CBA President Mahfuzur Rahman, who is an audit assistant told the journalist that they were sticking to their programme of agitations against the private sector terminal. Mahfuzur Rahman said "We do not care even if the country's biggest foreign investment offer of about 500 million dollars is lost. We want to save jobs," he asserted. In the same breath, he said "We want foreign investment but would not agree that if the SSA.B, postpones its project, it would scare away other potential foreign investors."

But Mahfuzur Rahman's alliance of 22 trade union organisations is facing cracks as Dock Sramik leaders Abdul Khaleq Chowdhury and Jahangir Alam Chowdhury disassociated themselves from the movement against the new terminal in private sector.

Talking to the same group of journalists later, president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Convenor of the Port Users Forum Kamaluddin Ahmed expressed his resentment at the slow handling, corruption, impediments in the way of allowing private operators to work freely at the port and even procuring an ADB loan for more equipment.

He also said, "They are not opposed to the private terminal but wants a guideline on the new port, its user facilities and tariff etc."

Khaleda

From Page 1

dence of Rubel, a university student, who was tortured to death in custody on Thursday.

The assembly was organised by the city BNP and its front organisations to protest the killing of Rubel.

Begum Zia visited the grief-stricken family of Rubel and consoled his parents. Rubel's mother broke down in tears and cried, "How shall we live in this country? My son was picked up by police and after some hours he was found dead."

Addressing the gathering Begum Zia demanded judicial inquiry into the killing of Rubel and trial of the killers in a special court.

Drawing attention of the President to the brutal killing of Rubel, she said, "You were a judge, you should intervene in such incidents for ensuring justice."

Begum Zia said all these killings were pre-planned to weaken the nation, stabilise their (AL) power and turn the country into a vassal state of their alien master, India.

"Why the meritorious student, Rubel, was tortured to death," questioned Begum Zia. She said he was never involved in active politics and there was no specific allegation against him.

"This government has proved itself an oppressive, repressive and autocratic one. It should not be allowed to stay in power any more," Begum Zia said.



Dr Nafis Sadik arrives today

Dr Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Under Secretary General, United Nations will arrive in the city today on a four-day official visit, reports UNB.

During her stay in Dhaka, she is expected to call on the Minister for Health and Family Welfare and the Finance Minister. She will also meet other high government and NGO officials.

The meetings are expected to discuss matters relating to UNFPA's assistance to Bangladesh and implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

She will attend the opening session of the roundtable on "Partnership with Civil Society ICPD+5". This roundtable, which is being hosted by the government, will be participated by 35 countries, including Bangladesh.

Dr Sadik will also have a meeting with the representatives of the donor community in Bangladesh.

Jyoti Basu

From Page 1

Basu denounced what he termed the Mumbai police move to brand Indians as Bangladeshis and hound them out of the country. The West Bengal government would lodge protests with the Centre and the Maharashtra Government on the issue, he said, according to PTI.

The way in which Indians are being branded as Bangladeshis is very unfair. We have come to know that 35 more people are being brought here tomorrow," Basu said.

West Bengal lodged a strong protest with the Maharashtra government for bringing Bangladeshis infiltrators to the state for handover to the BSF for deportation, without prior information to the state administration.

Describing the act as "unacceptable" Buddhadev Bhattacharya told newspapermen that the matter has been taken up with the Maharashtra government at an appropriate level.

Meanwhile, a court in Calcutta stopped the Indian authorities from deporting three people to Bangladesh, AP quoting an official said today.

High Court Judge Samresh Banerjee issued the orders yesterday on a petition filed by the three in Calcutta. They claimed that they were residents of West Bengal state and had taken up jobs in Mumbai.

The three were among a group of 34 people who were arrested by police earlier this week in Mumbai.

Buddhadev Bhattacharya said today investigation showed that some of those arrested were registered voters of the state.

The state government will file a petition in the court next week seeking to stop deportations from the Maharashtra state. "Even if some of them are found to be illegal migrants, this is not the way to deal with them," Bhattacharya said.



Rubel's father addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

Rubel: Judicial probe

From Page 1

Minister to ensure a quick trial and exemplary punishment of those involved in the killing? "They (plainclothesmen) tortured my son till death," added the father, a cardiac patient.

He demanded that a judicial probe body headed by a Supreme Court judge should investigate his son's death in police custody.

Rubel's eldest brother Iftekaruddin Ahmed said they found deep black scars under the shoulders and on his back.

Blood was coming out from his nose at the DMCH morgue. He suffered serious injuries in his head, Ahmed alleged.

The autopsy report is yet to be prepared.

Rob alleged that the plainclothesmen pushed his daughter-in-law to the ground as she tried to prevent them from beating Rubel indiscriminately in front of his Sideswari house at about 7:30 pm on Thursday.

The wife of Rubel's elder brother had come out of the house, hearing his screams. She saw a group of plainclothesmen bouncing and kicking Rubel, he said.

Iftekar said they waited at the Minto Road office of the Detective Branch for one and a half hours since they went there at about 8 pm on Thursday, soon after Rubel was taken back to the DB office room Sideswari.

"No one at the DB office was telling us anything except that they will tell everything we wanted to know about our brother," he added.

At around 9:30 pm, some plainclothesmen were seen whispering with DB Assistant Commissioner Akram Hossain. They left in a few minutes. Similar scenes of arrival of detectives and whispering with their boss, AC Akram, were witnessed for several times within about half an hour at the DB office, Rubel's brothers said.

At around 10 pm, AC Akram told them to go to Ramna thana

BCS (admn)

From Page 1

"Officials in the other 28 cadres feel that the new guidelines have marginalised their chances of promotion to policy-making levels, as 75 per cent posts in the rank of deputy secretary has been reserved for a particular cadre. The guidelines are biased towards the former secretariat cadre and the BCS administration cadre," one source alleged.

In the new guidelines, the rank of deputy secretary has been made the entry point for moving to higher levels of the administration, with minimum five years of service in the post.

Promotion to the rank of deputy secretary and above should be open to members of all the cadres to ensure fair and good governance. The entry could be made through a competitive examination on the basis of a common syllabus, some officials maintained.

"A senior policy pool was created to ensure equal entry of all the cadres in the late 70s and early 80s, but it was never implemented," an official noted.

The gazetted guidelines will not only create rivalry between the administration cadre and the other 28 cadres but also among the 28 cadres, he felt.

There are about 50,000 officials in the 28 cadres and about 5,000 in the secretariat cadre and BCS administration cadre, sources said.

Unocal

From Page 1

the same policy guideline in January 1997. At that time, the LOI was severely criticised by other foreign companies who were waiting for the Second Round Block Bidding for oil and gas exploration. They had said that it violated the policy and the principle of equal opportunity for them to participate.

On the basis of the LOI, Unocal submitted a very ambitious "Western Region Integrated Project" (WRIP) which aimed at developing the Shabbazpur field, setting up a number of power plants and a laying a regional gas pipeline.

The Shabbazpur gas field was discovered by Bangladesh exploration company, BAPEX in 1995.

Japanese team arrives today to formulate plan for Rupsha bridge

From Page 1

A high powered advisory and consultant mission from Japan will arrive in city today to formulate a plan for construction of the proposed bridge on the river Rupsha in Khulna, reports UNB.

The mission comprising three advisory members and 13 consultants will prepare a master plan for integral components of transport development surrounding the Rupsha bridge.

Yuzo Akat Suka, Professor of Faculty of Regional Development Studies, Tokyo University is leading the team.

It will also study the provision of road-cum-railway, selection of site and estimated cost of the bridge.

The mission is expected to submit its report to the government next month.

The Japanese government gave a positive response to finance the Rupsha bridge project during the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Japan in July last year.

Earlier, a project formulation mission visited the project site at Rupsha and also to Mongla Port soon after the visit of the Prime Minister.

The mission's visit was followed by another team to make a pre-feasibility study in March this year.

Vajpayee

From Page 1

of more Bangladeshi items to Indian market to reduce to some extent the existing huge trade gap between the two countries, resulting from Bangladesh's imports worth over one billion US dollars from India annually as against its exports worth around 50 million dollar, the Indian prime minister said "We are working together with the government of Bangladesh to see how the trade gap can be reduced through tariff and other measures."

He said India had granted a number of tariff concessions during the two rounds of SAPTA and more measures would be considered in the third round.

PM: Flood-hit areas

From Page 1

the flood situation. "The government is very much conscious so that people do not face scarcity of food, shelter and medicine."

"We're taking rapid precautionary measures for post-flood situation," the prime minister said, adding that adequate measures have been taken to ensure medicare to the flood-affected people.

BNP MPs

From Page 1

chief Begum Khaleda Zia. Some lawmakers of the party hinted at a fresh debate when the issue will be raised at a BNPP meeting, the party leader said.

"But submission of resignation letters to the Speaker is unlikely to take place soon. It will largely depend on the government's treatment to BNP and its steps to address the opposition party's grievances", commented a member of the party's Standing Committee. Till the submission, the party MPs would continue to attend the parliamentary session, he added.

It has been planned that resignation letters will be kept ready for submission (to the Speaker) to keep the government under pressure as well as to check desertion by the party lawmakers to join the government, he said adding, the move also "aims at intensifying the planned agitation for a mid-term election."

The party hope to intensify its planned agitation for a mid-term election after the rainy season and the floods are over.

Those who masterminded the plan for resignation think that it would also help the party check any possible split among its MPs on the question of quitting the parliament in future. On several occasions in the past, when the party boycotted the parliament session, the party lawmakers were sharply divided on the issue.

But the MPs disliking the strategy argued that they would feel "mentally disturbed" and "be undermined" by their electorate if they keep their resignation letters ready for submission.

There was a storming debate at the Standing Committee meeting over the issue. A good number of party heavyweights opposed the move for collection of resignation letters. Begum Khaleda Zia sided with those who favoured the move, sources said.

BNP programme

From Page 1

gherao programme was announced to protest water-power-gas crisis, price-hike of essentials and deterioration of law and order in the country.

The release asked the party leaders and workers to stand by the flood-affected people.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the BNP Committee on Relief and Rehabilitation, yesterday alleged that the government failed to protect the flood-hit people and said that the government steps in this regard were inadequate.

The meeting also decided to raise relief funds for the flood victims and urged the people to deposit their relief materials at the BNP central office at Naya Paltan in the city.

It also decided to send three relief teams to Gaibandha, Tangail and Comilla today.

IT'S A STEAL!

At just Tk. 23,800/-, the Motorola StarTAC 3000, one of the smallest, lightest cellular phones in the world couldn't be anything but a steal. Combined with some of the latest features it promises to deliver the best possible service wherever you are.

***Additional Charges:**
Refundable security deposit - Tk. 5,000/-
Govt. Royalty - Tk. 1,100/-
Vat on the set (3%) - Tk. 714/-

Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited
4/Fir. Pacific Center, 14, Mohakhali C.A., Dhaka. Tel: 882186, 882187, 885281, 885282
81, Kakrail Dhaka. Tel: 9338331-2. Fax: 880-0-883575, 800060

CITYCELL
I'll be there.

NAVANA

ALLOTMENT GOING ON

NAVANA CONDOMINIUM
76, SEGUNBAGICHA, DHAKA
Flat Size: 1806 sq. ft. Each

NAVANA TOWER
GULSHAN CIRCLE-1, DHAKA
Shops and office spaces

NAVANA BANU GARDEN
115 BARA MAGHBAZAR, DHAKA.
(near Vikarunnisa Noon School & College)
Flat size: 1867, 1834 & 1727 Sq. ft. each

For more information

NAVANA REAL ESTATE LTD.

(A Navana Group Company)
HOUSE # 35, RD # 9A (New), DHANMONDI, DHAKA
TEL: 9121602, 9123750, 9118292, 9132051 FAX: 880-2-9566324
email: nrel@citechco.net

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 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: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, 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