Federal Express

The World On Time

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED

From documents to packages, FedEx delivers peace of mind reliably to over 212 countries worldwide. Our integrated network of 590 planes, 38,500 vehicles and 1,37,000 people, promises smooth delivery every step of the way. We can even advise you on the status of your shipments, thanks to our unique computerised global tracking system. So the next time you have got to send a package relax - call your FedEx agent BANEX to deliver your package hassle-free -on time- to your

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel . 9565114, 9883927, 9130647 894213, 808803, 9345261 DEPZ 9338931 Chittagong, Tel. (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108, Khulna, Tel. (041) 725008, N'Ganj, Tel. 9714336



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

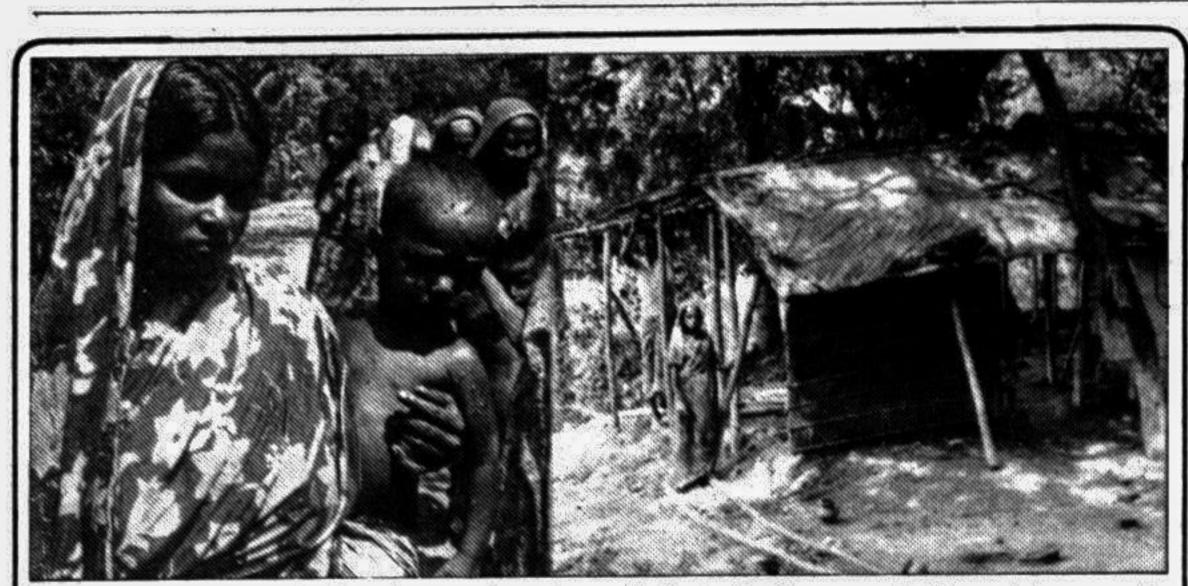
Transcom Electronics Limited Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg.: 716353, 723578

Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

Let's make things better

Backed by Guarantee

PHILIPS



Zarina, a mother of three, queueing for relief at flood ravaged Char Ishwarganj, Mymensingh Sadar on Monday. Her children are sick with scabies (left). A family raises - Star photo their hut at the Char.

A pariah kite stood vigil on a dead tree, eyeing for a bubble or hint of a fish along with homo sapiens as the old Brahmaputra quietly retreated from the wetland on its eastern bank.

It was early afternoon on Monday at Char Govinda and Char Ishwarganj, two hamlets under Sadar thana of the district, where most males - children to elderly - were out of their shanties on an embankment and on the marsh.

Fishing has become the primary occupation at the moment as the river quietly went back to its shallow, muddy course. Most of the straw huts in the two hamlets have either been mangled or washed away by the

Some bamboos marked a square on a yard of what had been the home of Shaharunnessa, a widow who was stooping, her eyes full of water as she was having a severe bout of conjunctivitis.

Her neighbour Subid Mia, with the help of his wife, was trying to raise their shack, portions of which have been gnawed by the river.

But Shaharunnessa had been waiting for her son to return from the river, working on a dinghy (small boat) and net. He had collected some bamboos but did not get a chance to raise the badly damaged shack.

They await help to start life anew

By Shehab Ahmed, back from Mymensingh

Nearby, Zarina, a young mother of three, had been queuing for doles from a multinational company, providing two kg of rice and one kg of lentil, each for 150 people.

But the ration was exhausted soon and more desperate hands lunged for help, something the company had not anticipated when their representatives had collected the names and issued

Zarina's husband had gone to the river but failed to earn enough to treat their young son whose face had been dotted with lessons from scabies, spreading all over his body.

"How can I help him?" said Zarina. Money is needed to buy medicine, something his father could not arrange as the priority was food.

She said, apart from some students, a voluntary organisation and the multinational company no one bothered to know how several hundred flood victims in the hamlets

were surviving.

There had neither been any relief from the UP chairman nor they got any Vulnerable Group Feeding Cards, which would have provided people like her with rations for a month from the government.

Zarina, a resident of Char Ishurdi had returned home to see what had remained of her abode. There had been three shacks. One had tin roofing. The tins had gone.

Apart from scooping out some fish, her husband tried to find some work

But there was no offering as most people had lost heavily due to the longest flooding in this century.

As this correspondent spoke to her near Subid's Shanty more and more people arrived there. Two other widows -Khodeja and Eiddunnessa also said that they too received no help.

They do not know how to rebuild their lives again.

The Land Ministry also

asked the DC to immediately

submit a report informing it

what steps have been taken

against the Aponjon for its 'il-

legal construction on the leased

The DC preferred to keep si-

istry once again asked the DC

on June 23 this year to give the

ago. But the DC's report has not

Deputy Commissioner

(Revenue) had instructed a Sub-

Assistant Engineer of the DC's

office on June 15 this year to

submit an "estimate for repair-

ing the front side of the build-

ing, i.e. the part occupied by

asked him to give a separate 'es-

timate for repairing the entire

building', only if it is neces-

showed no concern about Bi-

mala Sarker's allegation

against the Aponjon. Instead.

the Sub Assistant Engineer

came up with a recommenda-

tion which, if implemented,

might give an apparent legiti-

macy to the illegal occupation

of a part of the building by

The engineer, instead o

preparing the estimate as asked

by his boss, suggested that a

private engineering firm be ap-

pointed as consultant to give

the estimate. Recommending a

certain firm, he further said

that the "Aponjon was ready to

make the payment to the firm.

which would do the repair work

under the direct supervision of

how could an official of the DC's

office recommend taking mone-

tary help for repair work from

an organisation which has been

illegally occupying the building

concerned said that he had

neither any idea about the

club's illegal occupation of the

building, nor was he aware of

Bimala's appeal to the PM

against the Aponjonmen. The

DC and ADC concerned could

not be reached despite repeated

clearly failed to respond to the

PMO's concern for helpless Bi-

mala Sarker. May be, Bimala

has now to pay dearly for the

Bihar govt

From Page 1

as a surprise because its mem-

bers were expected to wait for

Prime Minister Atal Behari Va-

jpayee's return from New York

early next week before deciding

net to resolve the matter imme-

But Vajpayee asked the cabi-

engineer's 'ignorance' (?!)

on the next move.

diately, PTI said.

However, the DC's office has

When contacted, the engineer

The question now remains,

The ADC, however, also

The ADC's letter visibly

report 'within a week'.

Aponjon.

Aponjon.

an engineer.

in question?

attempts.

yet reached the ministry.

After almost a year, the min-

The deadline expired long

Meanwhile, the Additional

Gunfight at BNP factions clash Kushtia: One in Pabna over shot dead preparation for Khaleda's meeting

thana health complex.

Reza Habib locked in a clash at

about 11.30 am over prepara-

tion for party chief Begum Khaleda Zia's public meeting at Nazirganj High School ground on Monday.

Quader and Habib were lobby-

ing for obtaining party ticket

for the by-elections in Pabna-2

(Sujanagar) constituency that

fell vacant after the death of

Awami League MP Ahmed

deferred voting in the con-

BPC probe

From Page 1

thana headquarters of Golap-

ganj at a cost of Tk 24 crore by

the Rupantarita Prakritik Gas

Company Limited (RPGCL)

while another plant had been

installed by the BPC at a cost of

The plants could not be put

into commercial operation

even after 14 months of their

completion yet. The LPG is to be

produced by using the Natural

Gas Liquid (NGL) from the

nearby Kailashtila gas field. It

is the first of its kind in the

Tk 30 crore to bottle the LPG.

The Election Commission

Tamijuddin on June 27.

stituency due to floods.

Local sources said both

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Sept 26: A PABNA, Sept 26: At least 15 people were injured when supporters of rival factions of the youngman was gunned down in a gunfight in the town this afternoon. local unit of BNP clashed in Su-

Police and witnesses said that a gunfight ensued between two rival gangs at Kuthipara in the town this afternoon, leaving one person dead and another injured.

Bappi, 22, son of one Abdul Mannan, was shot dead and Joni, 18, son of one Firoz, received bullet wounds.

The clash took place in connection with toll collection at Amlapara Ghat, local people al-

German polls

From Page 1 three of the six parties in the outgoing governing coalition of the Bundestag which included his core CDU. The CDU has the support of the Christian Social Union (CSU) which enjoys overwhelming popularity in the state of Bavaria.

Traditionally, the CDU and CSU form one joint parliamentary group because they do not compete in any state as a result of their shared political goals.

Kohl's main rival, 54-yearold Gerhard Schroder has been nominated from the Social Democratic Party (SPD). Schroder has governed the German state of Lower Saxony as premier for eight years.

With the dynamic and comparatively youthful Schroder as the aspiring Chancellor candidate, the SPD hopes to return to government after 16 years in the opposition. The SPD views itself as a mainstream party that strives for social justice. The party was founded in 1869. Schroder's victory will lead to a possible tie-up with 'The Greens'.

Helmut Kohl, 68, has been the longest-serving German Chancellor, having been elected four times. He has been occupying the highest German office for 16 years. A veteran politician. Kohl presided over the reunification of east and west Germany.

Low over Bay

From Page 1 wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions.

Sajedur Rahman said the weather is changing for the transition from monsoon to dry weather from the first week of October. The sun has crossed the equator on September 22 and the wind pattern is changing, he added.

FBCCI

From Page 1 important thing is to generate

employment," he said. Harun called for immediate disbursement of agricultural loans of more than Tk 3.000 crore as pledged by the government to boost rural economy.

Despite floods, he said, export is intact. The real picture of damage to business sector will emerge in mid-October after a thorough study, he said.

JU clash

From Page 1 sault on the 'two' should not be linked with the ongoing spontaneous movement of the stu-

Sheikh Nuruzzaman, in a press conference on the campus yesterday, 'temporarily expelled the 13 accused from the

Earlier BCL had expelled five of the 13 on September 1 for their involvement in assaulting a teacher on the campus on August 23.

The 'Kakor Group' was ousted from the campus about a year ago following the murder of a BCL leader, Ananda Kumar Ghosh. Kakor is one of the 13 chargesheeted accused in the murder case.

Meanwhile, the university will remain closed for seven days from today for Puja vaca-

The Syndicate meeting, however, will be held today at 3:00 pm as per the previous decision, sources said.

The VC held a meeting with provosts of all the halls at his residence last night. The meeting decided that the provosts would not leave the halfs during the night. The decision was made to prevent recurrence of any untoward incident.

All rivers fall

From Page 1 battling to contain the spread of water-borne diseases. Health Ministry's control room reported 23 fresh deaths from diarrhoea across the country in the past 24 hours ending 12 noon yesterday. They said 12,368 people were treated in different government and nongovernment facilities including the ICDDR,B.

APB from Sirajganj adds: Diarrhoea claimed seven lives and attacked 1,240 others in four thanas of the district during the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday.

The dead were identified as Shahana, 8, Rabiul, 3, Bulan, 6, and Momena, 3, of Belkuchi thana, Khadiza, 2, of Raiganj, Rahela, 2 of Ullapara, and Sumon, 4, of sadar thana.

India, Pakistan to open cross-border bus service

ISLAMABAD, Sept 26: Pak-istan and India have agreed to open cross-border road traffic as the rival nations prepare to resume political dialogue, officials said today, reports AFP.

Authorities of the two coun-

janagar thana today, reports tries will work out the details on opening a bus service across Of the injured, Lutfar Rahborder at Wagha near Lahore. man, Jalal Ahmed and Torab capital of Pakistani province of were admitted to Sujanagar Punjab, a Foreign Office spokesman told reporters. Police said supporters of He did not say when the plan BNP leader Major (retd) Manzur Quader and former MP Selim

would come into effect. Pakistan and India already have rail and air services between the two countries and the addition of a road link would help foster mutual confidence.

The spokesman said Pak-

he said.

Bid to snatch ornaments from jewellery shop: 2 women caught

CHITTAGONG, Sept 26: Two armed young women were caught while trying to snatch ornaments from a jewellery shop in the city last night, reports UNB.

Police said Hazera Khatun, 30, and Nargis Akhter, 32, entered Ritu Jewellers on Hazari Road in Kotwali thana at about 9 pm on plea of selling gold to the shop. At one stage of their conver-

sation with the owner of the shop, they took out pistols from their purses in a bid to take away gold ornaments. But the owner tactfully

caught the women with the help of other people and handed them over to Kotwali police.

istan was looking forward to the talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries. scheduled here for October 15-18 under the agreement reached between them in New York earlier this week.

He said Pakistan would enter the dialogue with 'sincerity and all seriousness, and it hoped that India would do the

He said that all bilateral efforts in the past to find a just settlement of the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir, the disputed state divided between the two countries, had "foundered on the rock of Indian intransigence.

"The international community's engagement and active involvement, even if in the form of moral pressure on India, could ensure that India summons the political dialogue to address the Kashmir dispute in a serious and result-oriented manner," the spokesman said.

2 accomplices of Nasir held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 26: Police arrested two accomplices of Shibir cadre Nasir from Chawkbazar here this morning. reports BSS.

Police raided a house at Chawkbazar, known as stronghold of Islami Chhatra Shibir. and arrested two absconding accused Ramjan and Alamgir from there. The arrested were wanted in

six criminal cases in Hathazari Fatikchhari and Raozan thanas.

They have been involved in various criminal acts in the district for a long time, police

Involve army in relief, rehabilitation work: Khaleda

FARIDPUR, Sept 26: Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia today asked the government to involve the Army in relief and post-flood rehabilitation activities, reports UNB.

"Army should be involved along with civil administration for quick and proper distribu-tion of relief and rehabilitation of the distressed people," said the former prime minister while visiting the worst hit flood affected areas of the dis-

She also distributed relief goods among the flood victims. "The army have been kept away deliberately from the task of relief distribution so that they (ruling party men) could safely misappropriate relief goods," she said.

The opposition leader asked the civil administration to maintain neutrality in carrying out the responsibility towards the flood hit people.

Pointing to incidents of misappropriation of relief as reported in the press, she urged the government to bring the

culprits to book. The opposition leader warned that a vigorous movement would be launched if the government failed in reaching relief to the needy and rehabili-

tating farmers and the produc-

tive sectors of the economy Begum Zia also asked the government to make proper assessment of the damages, identify them sector-wise and extend help either in the form of grant or loan.

SUYING HOUSES GARMENT BUYERS KNITTING INDUSTRIES Do you know that Monno Fabrics is now fully in production? __quipped with state-of-the-art technology from Europe and Japan. Monne produces export quality 100% cotton and blended yarn and woven fabrics. Boosted by the success of its sister concern Monno Ceramic, Monno Fabrics has indulged itself in carrying on the torch of fame of the Monno family. Monno Fabrics is ready to cater to the global and local needs of garment manufacturers and buying houses. Monno Fabrics welcomes you to Ils significant features: CONSIDER Top quality autospliced, electronically cleared and usterised. auto-coned yarns with an exclusive pount range of NE7 + NE120 Plain, stripes, check or twill fabrics woven on the most modern Tsudakoma air-iet weaving machines, Bleached on Beninger (Switzerland) and mercensed on Kyoto (Japan) machinery High quality of shade and pattern obtained by the Pad-Dyeing System from Beninger (Switzerland) and Babcock (Germany). RD-IV Rotary screen printing machines from Storks Brabant (Holland): offer a spectrum of 16 colour printing choices. Own in-house design section and most modern and sophisticated laboratory develop any specific design and pattern in any colour and shade. Best quality dyes and finishing chemicals for colour fastness. Azo-compound free dyes used. Classic German technology to pre-shrink Monno's fabrics for attaining zero shrinkage and resin treatment given for non-iron effect. Simply choose the design, colour and pattern suited for your needs and then be assured of the quality and uniformity provided only by Monno Fabrics. WALK The Morno way. Share the experience of those who appreciate excellence.

9. Wyre street, Wari, Dhaka-1203, Bangladesh. Phone: 246041-5 Fax: 880-2-9562185

E-mail: monno@bangla.net

MONNO

PM's order goes unheeded last year, asking him to take to repair the damages done to From Page 1 'legal steps' as regards the conthe building by the club. Two Bimala's residence, the press tent of Bimala's appeal to the picked up the issue. The DC's ofyears have gone by, but the DC's office is yet to respond to that.

Not that the DC's office is

unaware of the danger. Fearing

collapse of the building, it had

once advised Bimala's family

members to "live somewhere

else for a few days for the sake

the Aponjonmen and fed up

ference. Bimala Sarker went to

the Prime Minister's Office and

submitted a petition for reme-

the secretaries of the Ministry

of Housing and Public Works

and the Ministry of Home Af-

fairs the same month. It asked

the secretaries to take 'appro-

priate steps' after 'investigation'

The Ministry of Housing and

Public Works referred the case

to the Secretary of the Land

Ministry in April, requesting

him to 'take necessary steps' in

this regard. The Housing Min-

istry also sent a copy of the let-

Three months after the re-

The PMO referred the case to

with the administrative indif-

Continuously harassed by

of life and property.

dies in March last year.

into the allegations.

fice cancelled Aponjon's lease in November, 1994 on charge of 'distorting the structure of the building in the name of some 'small repair work.' The administration even leased out that part of the building to another

Out of vengeance, the club people one day assaulted Bimala's son. He had just returned from the police station on January 18, 1995. They threw him from the roof. Luckily, he did not succumb to injuries. This time police took a case. But none was arrested. The case is still pending with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's

Court. Aponjon, however, went to court against the administrative order cancelling the lease. They got 'temporary injunction' on the order in February, 1995, but eventually lost the case in

September the same year. By the time the club lost the legal battle, its members managed to have a new political identity — the identity of the

would evict them? Meanwhile, Bimala's son

ter to the DC. erstwhile ruling party. So who ceipt of the Housing Ministry request, the Ministry of Land issued a letter to the DC in July

wrote to the DC for permission

Arsenic contamination

From Page 1

of arsenic more than 0.1 mg/L. However, until today, arsenic contamination in water of deep tubewells sunk beyond 250 meters have not been reported. But scientists do not rule out the possibility saying.

from arsenic We have just completed the first phase (one year) of the groundwater studies for origin of arsenic contamination. The second phase would focus on more details on original source of arsenic poisoning," said Pe-

ter Ravenscroft. Professor C F A Bryce, a researcher in the field of biochemistry in Napier University (Edinburgh), now visiting Bangladesh to find possible solution to the problem, when contacted yesterday said, "First hand assessment say there are about 50 million people in the country who are affected by the (arsenic) contamination problem." He agreed with the findings of BGS team.

The weathered base metal deposits are known to occur in the Ganges Basin covering Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West

So weathering of these armg/L arsenic, occur within a senic-rich base metal sulphides narrow range of 20 to 40 meters. has supplied arsenic-rich iron Below 100 meter depth, few wa ter samples show concentration oxyhydroxide to downstream sediments during the late ancient Pleistocene time.

Bengal.

The arsenic-rich groundwater is mostly restricted to the alluvial aquifers of the Ganges delta. The source of arsenicrich iron oxyhydroxides must The deep aquifer is not free therefore lie in the Ganges source upstream of Bangladesh, the reports said.

> Extensive surveys conducted by the Dhaka Community Hospital (DCH) in collaboration with Jadavpur University of Calcutta earlier showed that tubewell waters in 41 out of 60 districts are contaminated with arsenic.

Water samples tested from these districts showed presence of arsenic more than the WHO recommended level of 0.01 mg/L. The deadly arsenic poison-

ing so far claimed over 2500

lives and millions are suffering from various ailments after taking the contaminated water. The most severely affected districts are Laxmipur, Chandpur, Jessore, Chapainawabganj, Kushtia, Pabna, Faridpur,

Satkhira and Comilla.

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.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net