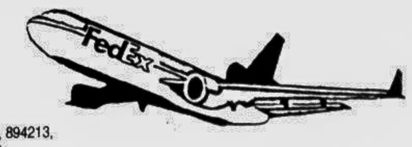
The Daily Star

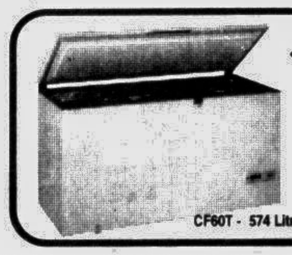
PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS & FREIGHT WORLDWIDE



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'Ganj, Tel : 9714336



Whirlpool HOME APPLIANCES

Refrigerator & Freezer

Instalment facility available

Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA
Dhaka : 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg. : 716353, 723578
Khulna : 720304 Bogra : 6215

CF60T - 574 Litres

ART290 - 265 Litres

বাংলাদেশের চারুকলার পঞ্চাশ বছর পূর্তি উৎসব

Programme marking 50 yrs of fine art movement begins

By Staff Correspondent

A three-week long programme marking 50 years of fine art movement in the country begins in the city today.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in collaboration with the National Museum has organised the programme. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will inaugurate the festival at the auditorium of the National Museum at 11 am while Minister of State for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader will attend the function as special guest.

The programmes include 13th National Art Exhibition, a special exhibition of art by the selected artists of the 50s, a day-long seminar and get-together of artists. Ten celebrated artists of the country will be awarded on the occasion.

The 13th National Art Exhibition will also be opened today at the Shilpakala Academy gallery and the National Museum gallery simultaneously. A special art exhibition will be held in the main gallery of the National Museum. More than 100 works of 35 artists including Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hasan, S M Sultan and Shafiuddin Ahmed will be put on display.

The 13th National Art Exhibition and the special exhibition will continue till December 15 from 11 am to 6 pm everyday (on Fridays from 3 pm to 7 pm).

WB credit

From Page 1

including a 10-year grace period.

According to the WB release, the project will provide assistance for the agricultural sector to ensure that farmers have adequate supplies of seeds, fertilisers and other agricultural inputs for planning the next rice crop.

"This will also provide assistance for additional food imports in order to maintain and augment grain stock that would otherwise be depleted with the partial loss of two rice crops," it said.

In the flood-hit manufacturing sector, the funds will enable manufacturers to import machinery, spare parts and other raw materials, besides additional import of fuel, cement and other construction materials that are needed for relief operation and repair of physical infrastructure.

As per the aid conditions, up to 20 per cent of the credit proceeds could be used retroactively for eligible imports for which payments were made after July 12, 1998, the date of the onset of severe flooding.

According to assessment by the donor agency, the floods will have a substantially adverse impact on economic growth in 1998-99.

"A preliminary assessment suggests that GDP growth this fiscal year could decline to below 4 per cent from the 5.6 per cent achieved in 1997-98. The agriculture sector is likely to suffer the largest loss," said the World Bank.

Seven women, four children rescued from traffickers

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 25: Sylhet Kotwali police arrested four persons and took seven women and six children into custody today from Sylhet town suspecting the men as members of women and child trafficking gang.

A police official said, a team of the Kotwali thana arrested Ratikanta Baishnab, village Batura of Austagram thana, Bisweshwar Das, village Mirgaon of Itna thana, Sukumar Das of village Bakshait under Itna thana, all in Kishoreganj district and Abdur Rouf of village Uttar Aior under Jakiganj thana of Sylhet district from the Kadamtali Bus Stand at about 10-30 am when the group was preparing to leave for the Jakiganj thana along the border. The police also rescued the women and their children from those men.

Police suspected that the women along with their minor children were being trafficked to India. The women said that they were on way to the Sylhet town for visiting the shrine of the great saint Hajrat Shahjalal (RA). They sought help from the aforesaid persons as they had never come to Sylhet. The men, however, could not give satisfactory answer to the police as to why they were taking them to the Jakiganj thana.

Police also recovered 290 Indian rupees from the possession of Abdur Rouf who hails from Jakiganj thana. The women are Saraswati Das, Sulekha, Fultara, Kamala, Tulsi, Bishakha and Ria. The children are, Pankaj, 7, Palak, 2, Niloy, 7, Khelna, 7, Bimal, 10, Beauty, 2 Shilpi, 4 and Sukla, 7.

All the 17 people were produced before the court this afternoon. The magistrate sent the four men to the jail *hajat* while the women and children to the safe custody.

Starting from the Central Shaheed Minar, activists of Sammilita Nari Samaj march through the city streets yesterday to mark International Women's Repression Protest Day. — Star photo

Parishad to review police work, supervise social dev

The Upazila Parishad will have 17 administrative, development and supervisory functions along with other activities as directed by the government, says BSS.

The local government body would adopt small irrigation projects, ensuring the optimum use of surface water as directed by the government. The Parishad would supply drinking water and take steps to develop sanitation and sewerage system.

The Parishad would review local law and order and activities of police and send regular reports to "higher authorities" on the issues.

It will also take measures including mobilisation of opinions against terrorism, mugging, robbery, smuggling, abuse of drugs, repression of women and children and other criminal activities.

The Parishad would extend its support to help cooperative societies and voluntary organisations and take steps to promote small and cottage industries.

It would also formulate independent plans for self-employment projects and poverty alleviation along with providing assistance to the government in implementing such programmes.

The Parishad would oversee and coordinate the union parishad activities and programmes and construct roads linking union with unions.

It will supervise and help the secondary schools and madrasas and take motivational programmes for promoting education at Upazila level.

It will work for the development of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forest resources and take steps for maintaining environment including social afforestation.

Body on private container terminal

CHITTAGONG, Nov 25: A five-member committee has been formed to examine the location and feasibility of the proposed private container terminal in Patenga, reports UNB.

Headed by Prof Hossain Ali, Chairman of Civil Engineering Department of BUET, the committee will examine the prospect whether the proposed terminal will affect the depth of Karnafuli river and the channel of Chittagong Port.

The committee will submit its report within two weeks.

Other members of the committee are CPA members Captain Zahir Uddin Mamun and AMM Shahjahan, Director of Surface Water Modeling Center Emad Uddin Ahmed and engineer Mazharul Anwar Chowdhury of Shipping Ministry.

Meanwhile, Port Dock Sramik-Karmachari Parishad called for constituting a new committee replacing present committee chairman Hossain Ali and members AMM Shahjahan and Mazharul Anwar Chowdhury.

The parishad threatened to launch a tougher action programme if their demand was not met by November 30.

Indian polls

From Page 1

which also is the federal capital, was the highest profile of the four electoral battles.

Pre-election surveys predicted gains by the Congress Party over the Bharatiya Janata Party, mainly because of discontent with the soaring prices of vegetables. The BJP, which also heads the federal government, governs two of the four states, and Congress rules two.

In another violent incident, police arrested a Congress Party candidate, Hari Singh Narvaria, after he fired gunshots in the air apparently to scare away his opponents, United News of India news agency said. Leftist extremists were blamed for looting a polling station.

Ershad to visit Ctg to 'wake up' party

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Nov 25: The Chittagong chapter of Jatiya Party, country's third biggest political party, has became almost inactive now as most of its local leaders went into "political hibernation" after the fall of Ershad government, party insider said.

JP activities reached a "very poor level" in the port city and surrounding areas in the last eight years, creating frustration among the party activists, they said.

When contacted, president of Chittagong chapter of Jatiya Party Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury said, "Party activities have slowed down as a section of our leaders in this commercial city always want to remain in favour of the 'rising sun.'"

"Now we are trying to reactivate and reorganise the party here." Party chairman H M Ershad will arrive here on December 9 with this end in view, he said. Ershad will hold a public meeting at Laldighi Maidan in the city on that day, he said.

A coordination meeting of the party was held today at Chowdhury's residence to make the public meeting a success, party sources said. This will be Ershad's first public meeting in Chittagong after his release from jail.

Party insiders say, Ershad may reshuffle the party's city committee to step up its activities centring the next mayoral election.

The existing city committee with Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury as president and Jahangir Alam as general secretary was formed when JP was in power.

Some front-ranking JP leaders including Anisul Islam Mahmud (former foreign minister) and Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu (former energy minister) who were "very active" here during JP rule, are hardly seen in the field now, party source said.

BNP leader shot dead in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 25: A union parishad chairman and local BNP leader was gunned down by unidentified assailants at Moheshpur in Jhenidah district today.

The dead was identified as Rafiqul Islam Saber, 40.

Witnesses said, a gang of assailants swooped on Rafiqul Islam, general secretary of Moheshpur thana BNP and chairman of Shamkur union parishad while he was returning home from UP office riding a motorcycle at about 5 pm.

He died on way to Jessore Sadar Hospital.

Young man slaughtered in city

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was slaughtered by a gang of criminals at Golapbagh in the city yesterday evening.

Police identified the victim as Abdul Khalek, 21, of Bibir Baghicha under Demra thana.

The gang called him out of a garage at Sayedabad and took him to Golapbagh Outfall and slaughtered him there. Police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The incident was a sequel to previous enmity. The victim was wanted in four criminal cases filed with Demra thana, police said.

His father has lodged a case with Demra thana accusing four persons for the murder of his son.

Rajuk chairman's service term extended

By Staff Correspondent

The government has decided to extend the service term of Rajuk Chairman M Azizul Haque for two more years. Haque will serve the Rajuk on contract basis.

The Chairman was supposed to go on retirement yesterday, Rajuk sources said.

Upazila Parishad Bill

From Page 1

right to impose certain kinds of taxes and tolls under the law.

The Parishad will have the right to appoint, subject to the prior approval of the government, its officers and employees.

The functions of the Upazila Parishad will include preparing five-year plans for social and economic development in the constituency, co-ordination among various government departments to be put under the Parishad, help maintain law and order and so on.

Besides, the government will preserve the right to say 'no' to Upazila Parishad plans or suspend them if it finds them inconsistent with law.

Jatiya Party members rejoiced at the government attempt to "re-introduction" of the Upazila Parishad system, introduced by the government of former President H M Ershad in the 80s but later abrogated by the BNP government in 1991. But they also protested the "anti-constitutional provisions of the proposed law".

BNP and JP members argued that the way the government proposed to constitute the Parishad was clearly violative of the Articles 11 and 59 of the Constitution.

Interpreting the Articles, they said that all local bodies, including the Upazila Parishads, have to consist of those elected directly by people in the constituency.

They strongly criticised the provision under which the chairmen of the Union Parishads and the municipalities will be the members of the Upazila Parishad by virtue of their posts.

They argued that the chairmen of the Union Parishads have no mandate to be a member of a superior local body.

Arguing for elections under the caretaker government, they said the constituencies of an Upazila Parishad chairman and a member of Parliament would be almost similar. Besides, it has by now an well-accepted proposition that no partisan government is able to conduct elections in a free and fair manner.

The opposition members also opposed the provision giving the authority of formulating election rules for the Upazila Parishad polls to the government. They demanded that the authority be given to the Election Commission.

Minister Zillur Rahman, however, claimed that there would be no violation of any provision of the Constitution.

He said that the Articles in question called for forming the local government bodies with the elected representatives of the people. "The chairman of the Union Parishads are very much elected persons."

Arguing against the demand for holding Upazila Parishad elections under caretaker government, the minister said that the opposition should understand the difference between national elections and those to local bodies.

Scamsters

From Page 1

Bin Farouq and MKM Mohiuddin of First Capital Securities, Imtiyaz Hussain (the then chairman of DSE) of Imtiyaz Hussain & Company, Hemayet Uddin Ahmed, Mustak Ahmed Sadek, Syed Mahabub Morshed, Sharif Ataur Rahman and Ahmed Iqbal Hassan of HMMS Financial Consultancy & Services, MG Azam Chowdhury, M Shahidullah and Professor Mahabub Ahmed of Securities Consultant Ltd and AS Shahidul Haq Bulbul, M Rakibur Rahman (current DSE chairman) and Abu Tayeb of Chittagong Cement Clinker.

Ferocious

From Page 1

man alias Rony, police said. Police suspected that they were planning to prepare fake dollar notes. The foreigners had legal documents to stay in Bangladesh but they came in different times.

They were produced before the CMM's court in the evening which sent them to Dhaka Central Jail.

High officials of police told The Daily Star last night that this was the highest number of foreigners arrested on a single day for such offence.

Acting on a tiff-off, three DB teams arrested six of the foreigners and Mojibar from a hotel in the city's busy Gulistan area at around 2:30 am.

They were interrogated at the DB office and on the basis of their statement DB raided another hotel on the North South Road and arrested six other foreigners at about 11:30 am.

Injured DB Inspector Jiban Kanti Sarkar and ASI Ziarat were given first aid for bite injurries, police said.

Cases were filed against the arrested persons.

City BNP activists parade the streets yesterday to protest price hike of gas and essentials. — Star photo

Pabna bypolls: Symbols allotted to 4 candidates

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Nov 25: Election symbols were allotted today to the four candidates contesting the Pabna-2 by-election scheduled for December 10.

Awami League candidate Air Vice Marshal (Rtd) A K Khandaker got the 'boat' symbol, BNP candidate A K M Selim Reza Habib got 'sheaf of paddy', Jatiya Party candidate Sazzad Hossain got 'plough' and Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon candidate Mohammad Sadeque got the 'cock' symbol.

Deputy Commissioner Mahbubur Rahman who is the Returning Officer allotted the symbols.

The Jatiya Sangsad seat fell vacant following the death of Awami League MP Tafizuddin Ahmed on June 27.

The four candidates and their parties have hectic campaign in the constituency.

Telecommunications, Public Works and Housing Minister Mohammad Nasim who is also organising secretary of Awami League and State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, also a central leader of the party, arrived in the constituency on November 19.

Since then they have been holding at least three public meetings in the constituency everyday. Khondaker arrived in the constituency on November 17.

According to AL sources, Abdur Razzaq, Minister for Water Resources, Begum Motia Chowdhury, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Mohammad Hanif, Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation and several other central leaders of the party will also arrive soon for campaigning.

BNP is also in the field. Selim Reza Habib along with district BNP leaders is holding public meetings. Their central leaders are expected to come on November 29.

Fire in shoe factory

By Staff Correspondent

A fire broke out in a shoe factory at Nayarhat under Dhamrai thana in the evening yesterday.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire broke out at 5:30 pm in a room of the shoe factory that has been closed for the last few months.

Govt offices

From Page 1

Women and Children Affairs Ministry — thana women officer, employees and officials under his authority and their activities.

Primary Education Division — primary education officer, employees and officials under his authority.

LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry — thana engineer of the LGED, the employees and officials under his authority and their activities.

Agriculture Ministry — thana agriculture officer and employees and officials under his authority and their activities.

5 killed

From Page 1

cidents in Sitakunda and Patiya of the district yesterday.

According to district police control room sources, Mahbubul Alam 22, was killed at mazar gate under Patiya thana when a Cox's Bazar bound speeding truck ran over him.

The other unidentified person was killed in front of S K Jute Mill under Sitakunda thana on Dhaka-Chittagong road when a Dhaka bound truck ran over him.

Drivers of both the trucks, however, fled away soon after the accidents, the sources said.

Tk 4466cr bad loans

From Page 1

crore of "bad" loans lie with different government institutions and Tk 654.33 crore with the private sector.

The classified loans of Agrani Bank stood at Tk. 2360.81 crore till June 30, 1997.

The total classified loans of Janata Bank till March 31, 1996 stood at Tk 414.62 crore. The entire amount, given to 115 borrowers, has turned bad. Government institutions owe the bank Tk 84.49 crore while the private sector the rest Tk 330.13 crore.

Rupali Bank's classified loans stood at Tk 305.41 crore till October 31,1996, of which Tk 110.56 crore remained unrealised till September 30, 1997.

Below are lists of defaulting borrowers as detected by the auditors:

Sonali Bank

Name of the company	Unrealised amount (Tk in Crore)
Dhaka Vegetable Oil Co	46.55
Kalimoor Jute Mills Ltd	28.19
Md Nur Hossain	15.85
Coastal Sea Food Ltd	10.33
Premier Products Ltd	10.31
Syed Amir Ali Industries	9.98
M/S Fazlur Rahman Pvt Ltd	9.49
Star Sea Food, Khulna	8.83
JC Hosiery	8.24
Rahman Hosiery Dyeing & Finishing	7.00
Marnid Ltd, Ctg	6.69
Master Products Ltd	6.59
Dandy Dyeing	6.06
Eastern Pharmaceuticals Ltd	5.73
Saleh Zarina Ltd, Ctg	5.42
Rahman Hosiery and Garments	4.49
M/S Gazi Najimuddin	3.75
Barisal Fishing Ltd	3.22
Precision Alloy Casting Ltd	3.01
M/S Abdul Monem Ltd	2.84
M/S Yussuf Brothers Tannery	32.15
Ibrahim Rerolling Steem	2.42
S&S Co	2.15
Kasem Sahar Ltd	1.70
H D S Ltd	1.58

Agrani Bank

Name of the company	Unrealised amount (Tk in Crore)
Bengal Steel Works Ltd	19.09
East West Property Development Ltd	12.47
Evergreen Ship Breaking Ind Ltd	10.14
Northern Distilleries Ltd	9.94
Bombay Dyeing Printing & Finishing Ind	8.41
Bombay Fabrics Ltd	6.97
Hasan Enterprise	6.90
Chung Hing Sweater (Bangladesh)	6.20
Rupon Oil and Feeds Ltd	5.48
Imon Ice & Co Ltd	5.32
Gachihata Aqua Culture	5.11
A B Traders	4.19
Anwara Sea Food	4.55
Khulna Metal Industries Ltd	3.16
Eastern Traders	1.62
Ship Aqua Culture Industries Ltd	1.03

Janata Bank

Name of Company	Unrealised amount (Tk in crore)
Bengal Jute Industries Ltd	32.80
Pioneer Farmaceuticals Ltd	14.94
Rahman Metal Industries Ltd	9.08
Jace Garments Ltd	8.82
Bangladesh Tea Export Ltd	7.04
M/S Nurul Islam & M/S Brothers and AB Nurul Haq	5.27
M/S Indralal Chakma	5.19
Barlab International	4.77
Bengal Carpets Ltd	4.62
Doel Dress Ltd	4.19
Cresent Industries Ltd	2.99
Reliance Textile Mills Ltd	2.77
Khulna Salt Industries	2.73
BK Alloy Steel	2.66
High Speed Electrodes Ltd	2.46
Minarva Textiles Mills Ltd	2.31
Bangladesh Enterprise Colour & Coatings	2.00
United Fish Exports Ltd	1.84
M/S Md Ilias Brothers	1.79
Mitali Salt Industries	1.78
M/S Abdullah & Co	1.38

Rupali Bank

Name of Company	Unrealised amount (Tk in crore)
M/S Mannan Brothers	49.48
Sirajganj Spinning Mills Ltd	11.11
Bangladesh Match Co	8.47
Inam Tannery	7.35
Gaucia Cotton Spinning Mills	5.35
MA Salam & Co	5.25
M/S International Tannery	3.57
H A Timber Industry	3.00
Ten clients including MS Hira Enterprises	2.80
North Bengal Razor Blade Manufacturing	2.48
Pex Garments Ltd	2.03
M/S Siraj Mia	1.98
M/S International Shoe Co	1.91
Bengal Ceramic Industry	1.76
R & S Corporation	1.55
Md Zaker Hossain/ Al-Habib Industries Ltd	1.48
Rising Leather Co	1.47
M/S Enamul Haq	1.41
RM Leather Complex	1.40
M/S Russel & Brothers (forged signature)	1.31
Jafrul Metal Corporation	1.27
Rita Corporation	1.20
M/S H&A Enterprise and M/S HK Enterprise	1.10
Moonlight Silk Mills	1.10
M/S Moinuddin A Co	.95
M/S Feroj Ahmed	.87

(More stories on the audit reports will follow.)

Alleged snatcher succumbs to injuries at DMCH

By Staff Correspondent,

An alleged snatcher, who was critically injured in a mob beating at city's Monipuri Para on Tuesday, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) last night.

The victim is Arab Ali, 25, a resident of West Nakhalpara, police and hospital sources said.

Arab and his two accomplices were caught while fleeing after snatching gold ornament from an auto-rickshaw passenger.

Police said the accomplices were sent to Dhaka Central Jail.

The body of Arab was kept at DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Khaleda

From Page 1

She also dismissed the announcement of early elections as a 'bluff' to the nation. "She says this sensing that time has run out for them to stay in power."

The BNP chief asserted that launching political programmes cannot be prevented by "killing, arrest and harassment" of BNP leaders and workers.

"There are various ranks of BNP leaders and workers. After repression on one echelon of leaders, another will face. Finally, the people will stand to government's atrocities and misdeeds," she said.

Presided over by Dr Alhaj Mohammed Hanifuddin, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by BNP leader Khandoker Mosharraf Hossain, Matiur Rahman, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Shafiqul Gani Swapan and Alamgir Kabir MP.

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