

JUICE
JAM
PICKLE
KETCHUP
SHERBET

প্রাণ

SQUASH
VINEGAR
KEWRA-
WATER
ROSE-
WATER

PRAN for Health **প্রাণ**

The Daily Star

BUY NOW - PAY LATER

Whirlpool
HOME APPLIANCES
USA

Gas Cooker

Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

VOL. VIII NO. 308 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: http://www.dailystarnews.com

AGRAHAYAN 17, 1405 BS

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 1, 1998

SHABAN 10, 1419 HIJRI

16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

Shab-e-Barat now Dec 4

The holy Shab-e-Barat will now be observed in the country on December 4 instead of December 5, reports UNB.

Counting the month of Shaban and the date of Shab-e-Barat have been re-fixed at an emergency meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee yesterday with State Minister for Religious Affairs Mohammad Nurul Islam in the chair.

According to delayed but reliable reports on sighting of the new moon in some remote villages of Sylhet district, the first day of Shaban will be counted from November 21, not November 22 as decided earlier, said a press release of the Islamic Foundation.

Sohel, Salman, 3 others get bail in share scam cases

By Court Correspondent

Salman F Rahman, Sohel F Rahman and two other directors of Beximco companies — AB Siddique and D H Khan — AKM Shamsuddoha of Doha Securities, all accused in share scam cases, were granted ad-interim bail by the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka yesterday.

They surrendered in the court of Mia Mohammad Sharif Hossain and sought bail.

Yesterday was the date for charge framing in the cases.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filed 15 cases against 42 people of different listed companies and securities firms on April 2, 1997 following the 1996 share market crash. The cases were filed with the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka. The court, taking cognizance, issued warrants of arrest against the accused.

See Page 12 Col 5

Inside Today

Article

PM's 'No Hartal' Promise: How Much Sense Does it Make?

by Dr Akhtar Hossain

Page 4

Focus

Is public relations relevant today?

Page 5

Neither DC-10 nor F-28 comes Biman way

By Shehab Ahmed

Bangladesh Biman's quest for procuring a DC-10-30 aircraft and bringing two F-28-4000 at the expense of two ATPs ran into rough weather, aviation sources said.

The national carrier found it's ambitions to expand dented after initiating a two million dollar World Bank aided project to off-load 49 per cent shares, under which it was seeking suitable partners to take it off to a better height.

It finalised a deal with a non-listed US company, Chase Air, to provide it with the DC-10-30 aircraft.

But it backed out when the world aviation industry was alerted after the US company failed to honour its commitment with Royal Nepal Airlines to provide it with a Boeing 757 combi.

After that incident the local agent of the Chase having ties with influential people here was abandoned and another US company, GIA, was chosen to provide the aircraft.

But the aircraft GIA could offer Biman on a long dry lease

posed more problems.

Unlike Biman's four other DC-10-30s, the new plane's gulley is on the lower deck, which makes it difficult for the cabin crew. "With gulley at the back, it is difficult to service passengers of both executive and economy classes," said a Biman official.

Biman is now rethinking its plans. Some other companies are offering other types of aircraft, including a Boeing 747. Sources say Biman may opt for a tender for the DC-10-30.

Meanwhile, the national carrier is reaching 24 international destinations with only four DC-10-30s and two medium-haul Airbus A310.

Planned expansions with more destinations have therefore been shelved for the moment, including opening the Dhaka-Manchester route. Biman currently operates five flights a week to London.

As wide-body expansion stalled in mid air, the planned exchange of two ATPs with two F-28-4000 of Britain's Fortis remained grounded.

Biman had decided to sell the ATPs to a Nepalese company at a price reportedly far less than their worth, but the deal was shelved after newspaper reports.

Meanwhile, Biman has offered the British company the two ATPs and some cash to get the two F-28-4000. The plan is to run the domestic service with the same type of aircraft.

The loss of one F-28-4000 in a crash off the Sylhet airport on December 21 last year prompted it to take on lease two similar aircraft from an Indonesian company. These two were also procured through Fortis.

The F-28s were retained after expiry of their lease with the expectation that they would be absorbed with Biman service.

But the two planes were far older than the ceiling — 15 years — imposed by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), which was approached to bend the rules.

But the issue involving Biman, the British firm and CAAB remains to be sorted out.



ANOTHER VICTIM: Mother wails over the body of the murdered Dhaka College student yesterday. — Star photo

Rivals kill BCL boy at Dhaka College

By Staff Correspondent

A student of Dhaka College was shot dead and another was injured by activists of a faction of the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League on the campus at about 5:00 pm yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mohammed Abdul Karim alias Dublu, 25, a master's student of psychology department. The injured is Monir Hossain alias Babu, 25, of Mirpur.

Karim was the son of Sheikh Abdul Fazlul Karim of Abul Khairat road in Kotwali thana.

Witnesses said Karim, Babu and Labu of a faction of the BCL was coming to the South Hostel from the college canteen by a motor bike.

Sujon along with his associates of the rival faction shot Karim and stabbed Babu, witnesses said. Labu, however, managed to flee.

Police said the incident took place just after the rival factions agreed not to fight each other on the college campus. Principal of the college Prof. Jahannara Begum mediated the agreement at her office room.

Karim was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. His See Page 12 Col 1

Cabinet endorses draft law for scrippless share trading

By Nurul Kabir

The Cabinet yesterday endorsed a draft law to introduce scrippless trading system in the country's capital market.

After the draft law — The Depository Act, 1998 — is passed by parliament, the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) would launch a central depository system which the government believes, would curb transaction of fake share certificates in the country's two bourses.

The Cabinet meeting, held yesterday morning, was presided over by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

According to official sources, the draft law would be moved in parliament in its next session.

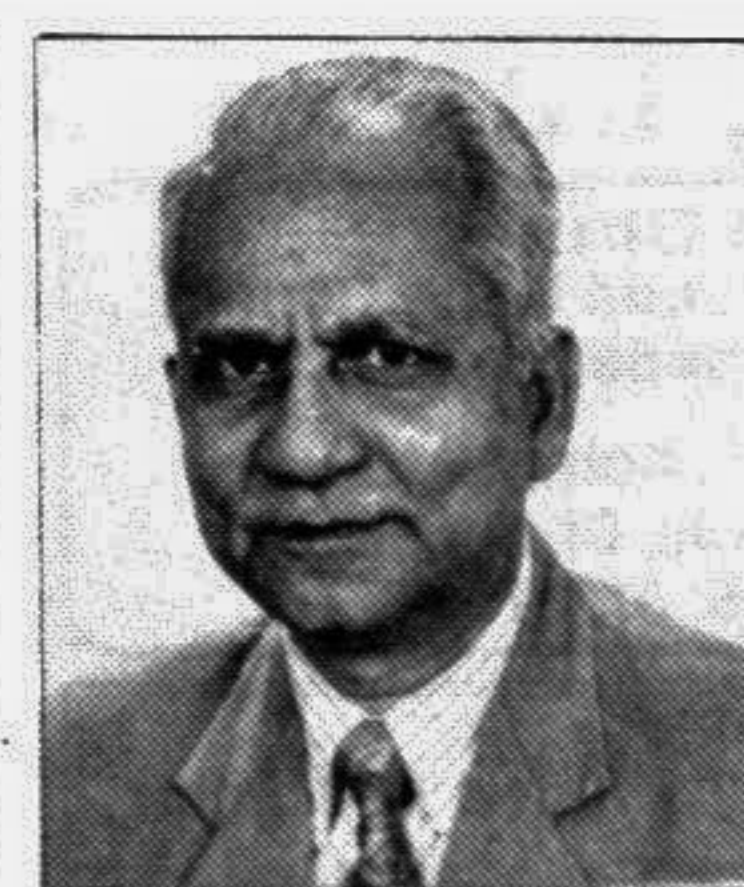
With the approval of the

draft law, a long standing debate as to whether the SEC should enjoy the right to formulate certain rules necessary to effectively run the central depository is over.

The original draft made by the government said that the SEC would have the right to formulate rules within the per-view of the law. But before the rules are made, the SEC has to get those vetted by the Ministry of Law.

SEC officials argued that the provision would complicate the process and thus eventually affect the objective of the proposed legislation. They demanded that the SEC should be given the right to formulate the rules independent of the law ministry. In a bid to substantiate their argument, the SEC made an appeal to the government in the last week of October that cited examples of the United States, India and Pakistan.

While approving the draft, See Page 12 Col 4



Dr Al-Muti Sharfuddin dead

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin, an eminent scientist, country's leading science writer and a former secretary died at BIRDEM hospital in the city yesterday. He was 68.

Dr Sharfuddin was suffering from cancer.

He left behind his mother, wife, two sons, one daughter, relatives, friends and a host of well wishers to mourn his death.

See Page 12 Col 3

Foundation of Mohila Bhaban laid Development ignoring half of population impossible: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said, the cardinal principle of her government is to ensure empowerment of women as it believes that no real national development can be achieved leaving half the country's total population idle, reports BSS.

She said, the women themselves have to be self-conscious of their rights and responsibility as nobody will give them their due share willingly.

Addressing the foundation laying ceremony of the Jatiya Mohila Sangstha Bhaban at the Baily Road in the city as the chief guest, the prime minister said her government has taken some revolutionary steps to stop oppression against women and establish their due rights in society.

State minister for women and children affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain, chairman of the Sangstha Ivy Rahman, acting secretary of the women and children affairs Prof Tehmina Hossain also spoke on the occasion while member of the

Sangstha's managing committee Baby Moudud gave note of thanks.

The 12-storey complex is being built at a cost of Tk 10 crore and is expected to be completed by the year 2000.

The Prime Minister recalled that the Constitution framed by Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had guaranteed the dignity of women, their equal rights, and safety and security of the women and the children. She said Bangabandhu had established the Women Welfare and Rehabilitation Foundation.

She said, as part of the endeavours to materialise the unfinished tasks of Bangabandhu, her government had laid due importance on expansion of women education. She referred to introduction of sub-stipends for girls student, establishment of three polytechnic institutes and technical training centres for women.

The Prime Minister said her government has framed the National Women Development

Policy, ensuring equal rights for men and women, empowerment of women, and turned them as skilled human resources.

Hasina said to stop woman oppression, resistance committees have been formed in district, thana, union and ward levels. A 13-point charter of development programmes has been announced in the Fifth Five-year Plan for empowerment of women and to protect their rights.

The Prime Minister said three seats have been reserved for direct election of women in union parishads to ensure active participation of rural women in the development activities at grassroots level. More than 1,200 women members and many women chairmen were elected in the union parishads following the reform of the system, she said.

Sheikh Hasina said the process of empowering women will be easier and the foundation of democracy will be strengthened See Page 12 Col 6

BB rejects Abbas Uddin Ahmed as IFIC MD

Star Report

Bangladesh Bank yesterday rejected the reappointment of Abbas Uddin Ahmed as Managing Director of IFIC Bank.

Ahmed's three-year term expired on September 30 this year.

Despite expiry of his tenure, Ahmed was continuing as managing director of the bank, sources said.

According to banking regulations, appointment of an MD needs prior approval of the central bank. "But the IFIC violating the provision allowed the MD to continue and applied to Bangladesh Bank later," according to an insider of the bank.

During Ahmed's tenure, BB had unearthed several incidents of fraud and gross violations of banking rules by business tycoons. The central bank also gave notices, asked him to explain why he would not be removed from his job and face legal action.

The MD had also been asked by BB to take punitive action against the IFIC executives involved in the irregularities, failing which he would be held responsible.

অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

অভিকর কর্তন সম্পর্কিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বন্যা উত্তর পুনর্বাসন কার্যক্রম ত্বরান্বিত করার উদ্দেশ্যে বন্যা উত্তর পুনর্বাসন (অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ আহরণ) অধ্যাদেশ—১৯৯৮-এর মাধ্যমে কতিপয় পণ্য ও কার্যক্রমের উপর অভিকর আরোপ করা হয়েছে। তন্মধ্যে সঞ্চয়পত্র এবং যে কোন ব্যাংকে রাখিত স্থায়ী ও মেয়াদি আমানতের সুদ বা মুনাফার উপর যে অভিকর আরোপ করা হয়েছে তা আগামী ৩০-০৬-৯৯ইং পর্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকবে।

পুনরায় না দেয়া পর্যন্ত ১৯-১০-৯৮ইং বা তারপরে থেকে ৩০-০৬-৯৯ইং পর্যন্ত যে কোন সময়ে মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ যে কোন স্থায়ী বা মেয়াদি আমানতের বা সঞ্চয়পত্রের সুদ বা মুনাফা যা ১৯-১০-৯৮ বা তারপরে থেকে ৩০-০৬-৯৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত যে কোন তারিখে প্রদেয় হলে যে সময়েই এই সুদ/মুনাফা পরিশোধ বা আসলের সাথে যোগ করা হোক না কেন, তার উপর অভিকর প্রযোজ্য হবে। [এমনকি তা ৩০-০৬-৯৯-এর পরে প্রদান করা হ'লেও]।

কিন্তু ১৯-১০-৯৮ইং তারিখের পূর্বে আমানত/সঞ্চয়পত্রের মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ হওয়ার কারণে যে সুদ/মুনাফা প্রদেয়/পরিশোধযোগ্য হয়েছে, তার উপর অভিকর প্রযোজ্য হবে না [তা ১৯-১০-৯৮ বা তারপরে দাবী/পরিশোধ করা হ'লেও]।

স্বয়ংক্রিয় নবায়নযোগ্য (Auto Renewable) সঞ্চয়পত্র বা স্থায়ী ও মেয়াদি ব্যাংক আমানতের বিপরীতে পরিশোধযোগ্য (Payable) সুদ বা মুনাফা [যা ১৯-১০-৯৮ইং বা তারপরে মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ হওয়ার কারণে প্রদেয়] উপরোক্ত একই নিয়মে তা আমানতকারীর হিসাবে ক্রেডিট করার বা আসলের সাথে যোগ করার সময় তার উপর উক্ত অভিকর আদায় বা কর্তনযোগ্য হবে। উক্তরূপে কর্তনযোগ্য অভিকর "০৯০৫-বন্যা-উত্তর পুনর্বাসন অভিকর" কোড নং-১-১১০৩-০০০১-০৯০৫ সরকারি হিসাবের আওতে কর্তন করার সাথে সাথে জমা করতে হবে। এই বিষয়ে কোন সমস্যা থাকলে নিম্নবর্ণিত টেলিফোনে বা সংশ্লিষ্ট এলাকার মূল্য সংযোজন কর কার্যালয়ের সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

পিশু কান্তি নাথ

দ্বিতীয় সচিব [মূল্য সংযোজন কর]

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

ডিএফবি-২৫০৭৩-০০/১১

জি-২৭০১

ফোন : ৮০৬৪১৬, ৮০৫১৯৮

Interview with The Daily Star

BJP's communal agenda rejected: Kuldip Nayar

By M Anwarul Haq



Kuldip Nayar making a point during interview. — Star photo

The dismal performance of the BJP in the recent Indian state elections have only proved that it failed to perform.

"As a party it did not succeed in governing. They could not deliver what they promised, nor did they know what or how to deliver. They belied absolutely the hopes and expectations of the electorate. The BJP tried to play on communal sentiments but it did not work."

This was stated by leading columnist of the Sub-Continent Kuldip Nayar in an interview with The Daily Star in Dhaka yesterday. He was giving his views on the electoral setback of BJP in three major Indian states.

Kuldip Nayar felt that the BJP failed to retain its support base. The Muslims en bloc came back to vote for the Congress.

In fact the BJP, through its policies, has alienated not only 130 million Muslims but also minorities including the Chris-

tians in India.

Asked what would happen now, Nayar commented, "It is likely that the Opposition parties will clamour for mid term polls or resignation of the government while BJP's coalition partners may be feeling ill at ease."

The recent election experience should make the BJP rethink their strategy. They might push towards implementation of more extreme policies so far as their communal agenda is concerned or realising that communalism is receding and is being rejected, may now opt to be more accommodative and adopt a more liberal policy outlook, the journalist who is a veteran watcher of the Indian political scene commented.

However Nayar cautioned that the recent poor show by the BJP cannot be said to be a rehearsal for early Lok Sabha elections. Moreover, the See Page 12 Col 1

Shazneen's father questioned in court for second day

By Staff Correspondent

The defence lawyer for Badal in the Shazneen murder case continued yesterday to cross-examine eminent businessman Latifur Rahman, father of the murdered school girl, in the court of the Sixth Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

Mohammad Ali, the lawyer for Badal, one of the seven accused in the case, questioned the informant for the second day yesterday regarding his 15-year-old daughter, brutally killed on April 23.

The cross-examination has been adjourned till January 11, 1999 as the Court would remain closed for annual vacation.

During the cross-examination, Latifur Rahman replied to the questions as detailed below: The Russian Embassy is located on the northern side of my house. The Australian High Commission is in the southern side of my residence. On the other side of the road, there is an apartment building on the east. The name of the apartment is Concord Mayfair. I can

not say how many apartments are there. The building was built about one and a half years ago. People are residing there.

I invited some of my acquaintances to a dinner on the night of the incident.

I read several daily newspapers everyday. I do not read Banglar Bani. I did not read the April 12 issue of that newspaper.

I did not invite any of my relatives as the party was for my friends and the friends of See Page 12 Col 7

সুবর্ণ সুযোগ
সীমিত সংখ্যক পুট
১ কাঠা জমির মূল্যে কিনুন ৩ কাঠা

আপনার উত্তরাধিকারীর উজ্জ্বল ভবিষ্যত নিশ্চিত জীবন আপনারই হাতে
সুবর্ণ শতাব্দীর চিকানা

বসুন্ধরা

বারিবারা ডিপ্লোমেটিক জোন সংলগ্ন একটি পরিকল্পিত আবাসিক প্রকল্প

আগামী শতকে ঢাকা পরিণত হবে বিশ্বের একটি অন্যতম জনবহুল মেগাসিটিতে। এই মেগাসিটির ক্রমবর্ধমান আবাসিক সমস্যার চ্যালেঞ্জ মোকাবেলায় বসুন্ধরা এখন থেকেই সচেতন। মেগাসিটির প্রুট মানেই আকাশ-চুম্বী মূল্য। কিন্তু বসুন্ধরা তা দিচ্ছে আকর্ষণীয় প্রাসক্ত মূল্যে এবং দীর্ঘমেয়াদী সহজ কিস্তিতে। ভবিষ্যত মেগাসিটির একটি আবাসিক প্রুট ক্রয়ের এখনই সুবর্ণ সুযোগ।

মাত্র ১ (এক) লক্ষ টাকা জমা দিয়ে ২৭ মাসের সহজ কিস্তিতে মূল্য পরিশোধ করে ভবিষ্যত মেগাসিটির একটি প্রুটের পবিত্র মালিক হয়ে আপনার ও আপনার পরবর্তী প্রজন্মের নিজস্ব আবাসন নিশ্চিত করুন।

এ সুযোগ ৩রা জানুয়ারী থেকে ২০শে ফেব্রুয়ারী, ১৯৯৯ ইং পর্যন্ত

বিস্তারিত তথ্য এবং বুকিং এর জন্য-

ইস্ট ওয়েস্ট প্রপার্টি ডেভেলপমেন্ট (প্রাঃ) লিঃ
(বসুন্ধরা গ্রুপের একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)

সেনা কল্যাণ ভবন (১৪ তলা), ১৯৫, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা, বাংলাদেশ।
ফোন : ৯৫৬৯৭৯৪, ৯৫৬৯৭৯৫, ৯৫৬৯৭৯৬, সাইট অফিস - ৬০১৭৪০
ফ্যাক্স : ৮৮০২-৯৫৬৯১৭২ ও ৯৫৬৮৫২৯

শাখা অফিস :

এস, ডব্লিউ, সি-১৪, রোড-৭, ওলশান-১, ঢাকা, বাংলাদেশ।
ফোন : ৮৮১১৯২, ০১১-৮৫৪৭৭৩ ই-মেইল - mggroup@bdcom.com