

Fed Exx

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

Backed by Guarantee

Let's make things better.

PHILIPS

Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 7,500



Dhaka: 815307-10 Ctg.: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215 Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today



Steam Iron





A health worker administers polio vaccine to a child in the city on the second phase of the 5th National Immunisation Day yesterday.

-Star photo-Direct bus service Official talks with Delhi deferred

The official talks between Bangladesh and India for introducing direct bus service between the two countries are expected to be held in the third week of this month, sources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday, reports BSS.

Earlier it was agreed that the talks would be held in New Delhi later this week.

A Bangladesh delegation comprising high officials of the ministries of Communications, Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs was due to leave today for Indian capital for signing the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two neighbours for the Dhaka-Calcutta bus service.

Replying to a question, the sources said there is nothing to wary about the delay. He said the draft is ready and we are prepared to sign the document leading to the introduction of the service which will be an epoch-making event in the relations between the two countries.

Street drama

From Page 1 and Universal Theatre - pre-

sented their dramas. Three more dramas will be

staged today as part of the seven-day long National Street Drama Festival at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The main event of the Amar Ekushey programme, the month-long book fair will begin on the Bangla Academy premises on Friday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the fair as chief guest. Renowned Poet Shamsur Rahman will preside over the inaugural session.

Intra-SAARC investment flow should increase: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for expeditious adoption of regional in-vestment agreement, addressing of double taxation issue and settlement of commercial disputes to raise investment flow within the SAARC region, reports UNB.

"On the issue of trade and investment, I would emphasise that intra-SAARC investment flow should increase," she said inaugurating the 3rd SAARC Commerce Ministers' Meeting at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday morning.

The two-day meeting is aimed at increasing intra-regional trade and investment by exploring new areas of cooperation, simplifying trade procedure and narmonising tariff

Commerce and industries minister Tofail Ahmed, Sri Lanka minister for internal and international commerce and food Kingsley T Wickramaratne, and SAARC secretary general Nihal Rodrigo also ad-

Awami League and BNP leg-

islators were of diametrically

opposite views about the con-

tent of the President's speech as

they continued debate in par-

liament over the presidential

speech for the second day yes-

Ahmed delivered his annual

speech in parliament on the

opening day of this year's first

session of Jatiya Sangsad on

the Treasury and Opposition

benches, made their deliveries

on a motion of vote of thanks

all praise for the President as,

according to them, the head of

state rightly projected the per-

formances of a successful gov-

ernment. The opposition law-

makers, however, refused to

thank the President as, they

maintained, he just read out a

promotional leaflet prepared by

a government that has been

criticised the government of

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

for making Shahabuddin

Ahmed, a man who earned rep-

utation of being a neutral per-

sonality, deliver a 'partisan

They said it was very unfor-tunate that the President did

not mention anything about the

government's failure to contain

volatile law and order, soaring

price of essential commodities,

ruling party-sponsored oppres-

sion on the opposition leaders

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) PROFESSION

Dhanmondi Center, House # 96, Road # 11/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.

Tel: 019 340903, 9564386 Fax: 9564379, E-mail: iit@bdonline.com

The opposition MPs also

proved a failure.

speech'.

The ruling party MPs were

on the Presidential speech.

Twelve MPs, six each from

January 25.

President Shahabuddin

dressed the inaugural function. Trade and commerce minister of the Maldives Abdullah Yameen, finance and economic affairs minister of Pakistan Mohammad Ishaq Bar, com-merce minister of Nepal Purna Bahadur Khadka, trade and industry minister of Bhutan Ly-onpo Khandu Wangchuk and

Indian commerce secretary P P Probhu attended the function. The prime minister, in her speech, also put emphasis on the South Asia Growth Quadrangle, created within the SAARC framework to harness the untapped resources of Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the north-eastern part of India for mutually beneficial productive purposes.

bility of investment covering the field of hydro-power, infrastructure, communication, sea ports, gas and energy," she

There are immense possi-

"The size of potential profitability of such projects should be attractive to foreign in-

and activists across the coun-

try, shortfall in revenue collec-

tions, ruining of the country's

industrial sector especially due

other hand, praised the Presi-

dent for recognising the gov-

ernment's success to ensure the

trial of the killers of Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman, introduction

of old-age allowance, signing of

Chittagong Hill Tracts accord,

Ganges water sharing treaty

with India and so on. They crit-

icised BNP for forging an al-

liance with Jamaat-e-Islami

and the faction of Jatiya Party

Depression

over Bay

led by H M Ershad.

The ruling party MPs, on the

to power crisis and so on.

President's speech in JS

Opposition MPs criticise,

ruling party praise

By Staff Correspondent

vestors as well."

The prime minister said: "While we seek investment from developed nations, we should ensure that surplus funds from member states of SAARC should flow into other member countries."

It could be in the form of joint venture and direct investment preferably with buy back arrangements, she said adding that this would lead to increased trade flow and stronger ties, in addition to promoting industrialisation.

She mentioned that institutional arrangements by way of bilateral and regional agreement for investment promotion and protection are required for providing confidence to the in-

The prime minister said that in a short period of time. SAARC has made commendable progress in many fields. "However, one needs to proceed with a certain degree of caution be-See page 11



Care Unit", he said

was removed.

ogy Transplant Unit.

the doctors said.

the Nephrology Department af-

ter the operation while her

mother was moved to the gen-

eral Post Operative Intensive

transplantation at the hospital.

who regained consciousness af-

ter about one hour of the opera-

tion, urinated normally in over

five months, excreting 900 cc of

urine. She was on haemodialy-

sis since her functioning kidney

12 hours and will remain at the

ICU for four weeks. She will

then be shifted to the Nephrol-

tion for two months to see how

her body accepts the new tis-

sues. She may be released after

the observation. Her mother

will be released after two weeks.

Scrap Sec 54

Instead of producing her be-

fore a magistrate within 24

hours of her arrest as required

by Article 33 of the Constitu-

tion of Bangladesh, the police

took her to nearby Raozan Po-

That night, Seema was al-

legedly gangraped by four po-

licemen in the police station. In

her written statement recorded

for "safe custody" -- a routine

detention procedure by police in

such cases. But after four

months of detention she died in

the jail under the most myste-

rious circumstances. During

this four months of detention,

neither her mother nor her

lighted the injustices that are

frequently inflicted on the pow-

erless section of our society.

The video advocated for

changes in the Article 54 of the

address: dstar@bangla.net

The documentary high-

brother was allowed to see her.

Later, Seema was sent to jail

lice Station the next day.

later. Seema alleged rape.

functioning since her birth.

From Page 1

Asma's other kidney is non-

She will be under observa-

Asma is now on sedation for

It was the 112 th kidney

Other doctors said Asma,

Asma (middle), flanked by her mother (left) and doctors and nurses, walk into the operation theatre for the crucial kidney transplantation yesterday. - Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Asma From Page 1

Choudhury, before taking up the day's agenda yesterday. greeted the Jatiya Sangsad members with Assalamu

But a number of BNP law-

Speaker said it was not beyond rule to greet the members both the ways.

their protests, a visibly angry Speaker ruled that both Salam and Adaab are applicable.

pioneered the protests.

The depression, formed over southwest and adjoining southeast Bay yesterday, further intensified and moved slightly north-westwards, reports UNB.

The depression, which centred at 9 pm about 1600-km south-southwest of Chittagong Port is likely to intensify further and move in a west-northwesterly direction, said a special bulletin of the Storm Warning Centre Maximum sustained wind

within 44-km of the depression centre is about 40-kilometre per hour, rising to 50 kph in gusts or squalls.

Maritime ports of Chit-

tagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist Distant Cautionary Signal Number

JS snippets

By Nazmul Ashraf

Speaker Humayun Rashid Alaikum and Adaab.

makers sharply reacted to his To justify his saying so, the

As the BNP MPs continued

"You can also take Adaad, if

you wish", he told Joynal Abedin Faruk, the BNP whip who

Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives and Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman was ridiculed by some opposition members as he was found busy talking to some of the colleagues from the back benches while issues relating to his ministry were being talked

When Abdul Mannan Talukdar of BNP was speaking about the dilapidated roads in his area, the minister was found talking to his colleagues behind, moving his revolving chair back.

tice of Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid by several BNP members, he said, "Honourable minister, your attention is being drawn. At this, the minister moved his chair to try to understand

As it was brought to the no-

what was being discussed. But moments after, he resumed his discussion with those sitting behind him. He did the same when BNP

lawmaker Abdul Wahab was speaking something about the ister was criticised.

Elderly Awami League MP Abdul Mannan crossed the floor and started looking for his seat in the opposition bench. He was about to sit in the chair of BNP lawmaker Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf. He seemed shocked seeing Kamal's name on the file put on that

With laughter all around, Mannan rushed to his seat in the Treasury Bench.

Month-long int'l trade fair opens in city By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday coined a new slogan, "prosperity through trade", and urged entrepreneurs from home and abroad to take advantage of the "most liberal trade policy" and an investment-friendly atmosphere in the country to inject dynamism in the economy

Almost all the sectors have been opened to the private sector, both local and foreign, and "very attractive and encouraging opportunities and facilities have been offered for investment and trade", she said while inaugurating the month-long Fifth Dhaka International Trade Fair (DIFT) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

Bangladesh has been able to draw world attention as an attractive investment spot. Stability in the country, a grownup framework for market economy and government's reform measures and sincere efforts have been praised abroad, she

Gunfight

From Page 1

joint team of Motijheel and Shabujbagh police went to Wahab Colony in Bashabo area to rescue two transport workers at around 11 am.

Sohel and Anwar, the transport workers, were earlier allegedly abducted from the city's Gulistan area by the gang yesterday morning when the two refused to pay them toll.

The transport workers could not be rescued till filing of this report last night, Motijheel police said. Witnesses and locals said.

sensing the presence of police, the gang started firing at them. Police retaliated with a number of shots. Liton received bullet wounds at his waist during the clash.

Two separate cases were lodged with Sabujbagh and

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

Boosting the economy needs united and co-ordinated efforts by the public and private sectors, she said and urged local entrepreneurs to enter into competition by taking risks in establishing industries and expansion of foreign trade. "Our flourishing economic

framework is gradually getting firm footing. We will have to face all challenges and surmount all impediments boldly. For this, we need peace, stability, initiative and diligence. There is no alternative to united endeavours for the overall economic development of the country". She said despite an insignif-

icant share of Bangladesh in the world trade, the government has adopted the most liberal trade policy in this region of the "The country's balance of

payment position has improved tremendously as a result of correct macro economic management and proper blending of trade and investment policy," she said. Exports have registered growth along with in-

Attack on houses of 2 poura chairman candidates

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Feb 2: Unidentified miscreants last night hurled bombs at the residences of two Naogaon pourashava chairman candidates.

Police said, a group of 8-10 young men stormed the residence of Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, the incumbent chairman of Naogaon Pourashava. They hurled some handmade bombs at about 10 pm.

Another group attacked the residence of BNP nominee Ab-

World Heritage Flag to fly in the Sundarbans from tomorrow From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Feb2: The World Heritage Flag will fly from February 4 in the Sundarbans. the largest mangrove forest in the world. Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina is expected to declare 1,400-square-kilometre area of the Sundarbans as the 'World Heritage Site' at a simple ceremony at Heron Point when she will unveil the World Heritage Plaque, said an official source

From now on, extraction of forest and fish resources will not be allowed in the Site, the source said.

The entire Sundarbans will come under this project covering Nilkamal, Tiger Point, Kata and Kanchkhali. The command area will be increased in phases, said a forest official The source said the function

kilometres off the Mongla port where approach roads have been built and jetties repaired and forest offices renovated for giving the place a festive look. The plaque, made of stone.

will be held at Nilkamal, 60

has already been set in place ahead of the high security ceremony.

Among others, as many as 15 ministers, many members of parliament, senior officials and foreign diplomats are expected to attend the ceremony at the 300-capacity inaugural function venue.

Opposition

From Page 1 A number of senior opposi-

tion leaders, while talking to this correspondent, observed that the government was now taking the "hard line" and was resorting to repression on the opposition parties "beyond any limit", forcing them to opt for tougher agitation.

Meanwhile, opposition sources confirmed hectic attempts by the diplomatic circles in Dhaka to persuade BNP and other parties not to go for the planned hartal on February 9-10. Representatives of the diplomatic missions, mainly those of the US Embassy, continued their parleys with the key figures in the opposition,

Ex-army chief

From Page 1 windows covered.

inside the jeep.

When asked about his meeting with the opposition leader. Mahbub just shook hands with the newsmen and smiled. Pressed, he said he had come to exchange Eid greetings with her. "See you again," he told the journalists as he hurriedly got

A senior BNP leader told The Daily Star that several former army generals, who went on retirement recently, would join BNP soon. They include Mahbub and former major general Mohammad Subed Ali Bhuiyan. The leader said a few others would join after completion of their feave preparatory to retirement. Sources said Bhuiyan, who

was sent into retirement in December 1997, is currently active as a social worker and busy doing "mass contact" at his hometown Daudkandi.

