



# The Daily Star

**LEASE FINANCING**  
Are You Looking For Financial Assistance In

- Capital Machinery
- Heavy Construction Equipment
- Medical Equipment
- Marine Transport
- Generator & Boiler
- Vehicle like Luxury Buses, Microbuses, Trucks, Tractors
- Cargo Carriers, Pick-Up, Cars
- Lifts/Elevators
- Air Conditioning Plants

**PHOENIX LEASING COMPANY LTD.**  
Shahinatala Bhaban (1st fl.) 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka  
Phone: 9569007 (Auto Hunting) Fax: 9567781  
Kajirabad Branch, R.M. House, 51 Agrabad C/A, Ctg. Ph: 710085, Fax: 710086

VOL. IX NO. 70 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> CHAITRA 20, 1405 BS DHAKA SATURDAY APRIL 3, 1999 ZILHAIJ 15, 1419 HIJRI 16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

## CID interrogates six DB men

**By Staff Correspondent**  
The six DB officials asked to turn up at the CID office for interrogation in connection with killing of Jalal Ahmed Shafi finally showed up yesterday. Earlier on Wednesday night, they allegedly gheraoed the DC DB office, refusing to go to the CID office for interrogation. The interrogation was being conducted at the CID office at Malibagh in the city in presence of ASP Subodh Chandra, ASP Shakwat and investigating officer ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman. It began at 3 pm and was continuing till the writing of this report at 10.30 pm. Details were not immediately available. Shafi's decomposed body was found in the rooftop water tank at the DB office at Mintoo Road March 25. It was identified on March 31.

See Page 12 Col 8

## 1 killed, 100 hurt as train derails in Mymensingh

**From Our Correspondent**  
Mymensingh, Apr 2: One person was killed and over 100 were hurt, 15 seriously, as a Chittagong-bound mail train derailed near Shohagi station in Ishwarganj thana this morning. Of the injured, 88 were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and Ishwarganj thana health complex. The rest were given first aid. The condition of 15 at MMCH was stated to be critical. The dead, aged about 25, could not be identified immediately. Police said three passenger compartments and two wagons of the Chittagong-bound mail train from Bahadurabad over-

turned along with rail tracks at a level crossing at about 9.30 am. Railway officials said some 1200 feet of the tracks were damaged in the accident and train communication was restored at 9:45 pm after the railway engineers repaired the tracks, reports UNB.

expected that train movement in the route would be restored by 10 tonight. Dhaka Division Railway Manager Rafiquzzaman, who was on the spot supervising rescue operation, told UNB that a four-member inquiry committee had been constituted to probe the train accident. Railway's Dhaka Division Engineer Liakat Ali heads the probe body. Other members are Anwar Kabir Khan, DTO, Anwar Hossain, DME, and Mizanur Rahman, DMT.

Following the accident, train communications from Mymensingh remained snapped for 11 hours until two relief trains from Mymensingh and Akhaura reached the spot and removed the derailed carriages at 8 pm. Deputy Commissioner Rafiqul Islam and acting SP Soibai Kanti visited the spot and the hospital. The train was passing the

See Page 12 Col 8

## All eight approach roads at Aricha, Daulatdia ghats in bad shape

**By Naimul Haq**  
The approach roads to pontoons at Aricha and Daulatdia ferry ghats remain in a miserable condition almost round the year. Cars, buses and trucks negotiate those at great risk. The authorities collect fat revenues from the ghats and the ferries but seem little concerned about repair of the roads. A transport owner mentioned that three of his passenger buses plying in Dhaka-Khulna route had got stuck up at the Aricha ghat approach roads. "Then I was compelled to hire a truck to tow away the stranded vehicles from the one-way passage. I really had a tough time to cool down the disgruntled passengers waiting in the buses," he recalled. A truck driver who also had similar sufferings at Aricha and Daulatdia ghats said, "The compact material underneath. These are made of mud, sand and broken pieces of brick making it too difficult for the vehicles to move," an engineer concerned said. A transport owner mentioned that three of his passenger buses plying in Dhaka-Khulna route had got stuck up at the Aricha ghat approach roads. "Then I was compelled to hire a truck to tow away the stranded vehicles from the one-way passage. I really had a tough time to cool down the disgruntled passengers waiting in the buses," he recalled. A truck driver who also had similar sufferings at Aricha and Daulatdia ghats said, "The layers of asphalt on the surface. The idea is to create rigidity on the passage to hold the soil in position. The passages, each about 200 metres in length, are constructed and maintained by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA). A large portion of the authority's revenue earnings is allocated for maintenance of approach roads at ferry ghats across the country. But there are widespread allegations of misuse of funds by a section of BIWTA officials and employees. "Every year, at least Tk 10 lakh is allocated to maintain the passages at Aricha, Daulat-

See Page 12 Col 1

## Dhaka-Calcutta bus service likely to start by month-end

The commercial bus service between Dhaka and Calcutta is likely to start at the end of this month, reports UNB. A 20-member technical team will leave Dhaka for Calcutta on April 6 to work out details about the commercial operation. The Bangladesh team will hold a meeting with its Indian counterpart on April 7 and return home the next day. A similar team from India will arrive in Dhaka on April 8. After the working tour on April 6 and 8 from both sides, the commercial operation of bus service may start at the end of the current month, said a source at the communication ministry. The technical teams will hold discussion on the basis of agreed minutes signed between Dhaka and Delhi in February over the operation of direct bus service between the two neighbours. After detailing all the existing problems, the two sides will submit separate reports to their respective governments for signing the final agreement on the bus service, the source said.

See Page 12 Col 3

## Dialogue with Opposition PM sees no need for President's initiative

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she does not see any necessity of a Presidential initiative for a government-Opposition dialogue. "The door is always open and dialogue can take place any time," she said. "All the problems can be solved through making the parliament effective," the Prime Minister said in an interview with the BBC yesterday. The interview followed her getting the UNESCO Peace Prize for her initiative for the 1997 peace agreement that ended a 22-year insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. She was asked whether she would request the President to take initiative for a dialogue with the Opposition. "Why should I make such a request? The parliament is functioning. There are law-makers of different parties and the Leader of the Opposition herself is present in the parliament. So there is a lot of scope for discussion. They (Opposition leaders) should come to the parliament for discussions. But they do not turn up properly and do not want to sit across the table for discussion. Rather, they complain that they are not given the opportunity to speak. This is not definitely not desirable." The question of President's initiative to bring about a solution to the current political crisis arose following calls from different quarters including Bangladesh's development partners and the US ambassador recently. The PM said, there is no logic for agitation against an elected government since the next election will be held under a caretaker government. Talking about law and order, Hasina said the government is taking action promptly whenever any incident of terrorist activity is reported. The PM said "it is very much regrettable and undemocratic when terrorist activities are launched in the name of political movement for political ends." Commenting on reported PDB men to go on work stoppage

See Page 12 Col 4

## One killed in BDR firing in Sylhet

**From Staff Correspondent**  
SYLHET, Apr 2: One person was killed and another was injured in BDR firing in a village in Jaintapur thana yesterday morning. Official sources said, a BDR team was patrolling at village Bagerkhal. They challenged some people carrying betel leaf from the border areas. The villagers raised a hue and cry and attacked the BDR men. According to a source, 11 rounds of fires were shot and Jalal Uddin, 30, son of Abdul Karim of village Hatgram under Gowainghat thana died on the spot. Shafiqur Rahman, 32, who was critically wounded was admitted to the Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital. However, the villagers alleged that the victims and others were carrying betel leaf from inside the Bangladesh territory and were on way to a local market. It was not a case of smuggling. The border is more than 35 miles away from the place of occurrence, they added. To protest the incident, local people held a meeting at Bagerkhal yesterday with the Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Matin in the chair. The speakers condemned the firing by the BDR personnel and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible. They also threatened to start agitation. The BDR also lodged a case accusing 12 people.



A woman vending icecream and more. For five years Sayida has been earning Tk 70 to Tk 80 daily to run her family as well as meet educational expenses of her son and daughter. More and more women are going into activities traditionally reserved for men. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Young man beaten to death in city

**By Staff Correspondent**  
A young man was beaten to death by miscreants near Faridabad police post under Sutrapur police station in the city yesterday evening. The dead was identified as Ramzan. Sources said while Ramzan was playing carom with local youths near the Faridabad police post, he had an altercation at one stage with the youths. Later, he was stabbed to death. When contacted, the duty officer of Sutrapur police station said they heard about the killing and their officer went to the spot. The body of the victim was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

## World's population to be 8b by 2026

WASHINGTON, Apr 2: The world's population, currently nearing 6 billion, will climb to 8 billion by 2026, the US Census Bureau reports, says AP. And the total will reach 9.3 billion by 2050, the agency projected in a report released today. The report concluded that 99 per cent of natural increase — the difference between births and deaths — occurs in the developing regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America. By early in the next century deaths will exceed births in all the developed nations and all of the net growth will be in developing countries, the report added. The world's age structure also will shift, becoming progressively older, in coming years with the population of those aged 65 and over more than doubling while the number of those under age 15 will grow by 6 per cent.

## Crimes on rise in Rajshahi

**By Nurul Kabir, back from Rajshahi**  
The law and order in Rajshahi metropolitan area is still better than that in other metropolitan cities but the rate of crimes is steadily increasing, police records show. In 1998, crime incidents recorded with different thanas under Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) were 1009 and 710 people were arrested in connection with those. "The number is much lower than that in any other metropolitan city in the country," says RMP Deputy Commissioner, Irfan Ali Khan. But the rate of crimes is on the rise, he admits. "The number of crime incidents rose to 1009 in 1998 from 835 in 1997. The rate slightly increased in the first quarter of the current year. Still, the rate of increase is lower than that in other metropolitan areas." Khan attributes the "better law and order" mainly to the "balance of power" between the political forces. "The opposition parties have strong political bases in Rajshahi. The ruling party, which is organisationally not that strong, enjoys the state power. There is a balance of power among the opposing political camps that automatically helps maintain a relatively better law and order." Another police official attributes the better law and order mainly to smuggling, prevalent in the areas. "Poverty and unemployment are the major sources of crimes in every society. Rampant cross-border smuggling in bordering districts like Rajshahi provide employment to many youths, keeping them away from other crimes," says the official on condition of anonymity. However, the main areas of crimes in the metropolis are theft, burglary, smuggling, rioting, repression on women and illegal drug trading. Incidents of kidnapping for ransom also take place, he said. The number of smuggling incidents recorded with the RMP in 1997 was 35. The figure rose to 62 in 1998. Fifty-seven cases of burglary were recorded in 1997, which rose to 64 in 1998. The number of kidnapping incidents rose to 12 in 1998 from eight in 1997. According to the RMP records, the situation has improved in some areas of crime. There were 118 incidents of rioting in 1997, mostly among unruly youths of different areas of the town. The number came down to 96 in 1998. There were 35 cases of repression on women in the metropolis in 1997, which came down to 30 in 1998. Twelve people were killed in clashes in the metropolitan area in 1997. The figure came down to eight in 1998. Cases relating to explosives came down to eight in 1998 from 11 in 1997. In 1997, there were 11 inci-

See Page 12 Col 8

## BJP's row with AIADMK resolved

GOA, Apr 2: India's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said today it had resolved a row with a crucial ally but took a defiant stand saying the government would survive even if the partner decided to withdraw support, reports Reuters. The prime minister himself has clarified...and after that (ally leader Jayaram) Jay-alalitha has not said anything about withdrawing support," said BJP general secretary Krishnaiah Sharma. Senior BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, were attending a three-day national executive committee meeting of the party that began today in the western coastal state of Goa. On Thursday, a BJP ally in the multi-party coalition, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) threatened to withdraw support for the government because

See Page 12 Col 4

## Ctg Chamber's polls on Apr 8 seem uncertain

**From Nurul Alam**  
CHITTAGONG, Apr 2: A battle line has been drawn between two rival camps centring the election of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), sources said. A fresh election date has been fixed for April 8 but the polls seem uncertain as the CCI members and directors are "sharply divided" over some related issues that led to a legal battle. The division arose mainly from a dispute over giving membership to 600 new applicants, renewal of membership of some old CCI members, and a plea by one group to hold the election without holding the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the CCI, postponed earlier by a court injunction. The election was scheduled to be held on December 20 last year. But it was postponed following a court injunction after some members and directors

## Bio-safety guidelines to be gazetted soon

**By Staff Correspondent**  
The bio-safety guidelines is likely to be gazetted shortly. Sources concerned said the guidelines have been approved by the National Council of Science and Technology. The bio-safety guidelines have been prepared by relevant scientists based on study of similar guidelines in other developing countries. Adoption of bio-safety guidelines will lead to safe production and use of products for public consumption.

## Inside Today Article

**Politics of Gas Export**  
by Muslehuddin Ahmad  
Page 4

## Star Literature

Fine Arts' annual exhibition: An outlook; A long-awaited South Asian Atlas  
Pages 6 & 7

## Business

Indian exports bank on agri output, global recovery

China, EU, Japan continue to have unfair trade practices: US report  
Pages 8, 9

## Prayer Timings

April 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	5:35
Zohr	12:45	1:20
Asr	4:30	4:35
Maghrib	6:20	6:23
Esha	7:30	7:35

Source: Islamic Foundation

## 15kg heroin smuggled into country every month

**Star Report**  
At least 15 kilograms of heroin are smuggled into the country every month as heroin addiction is increasing, according to police. Interrogation of suspects by police have revealed that heroin is brought from Myanmar almost regularly on alternative days. Sometimes the smugglers travel through India. Heroin users are mostly from slums, one of the investigators said. "It is easily available in slums. One fourth of a small tablet-size quantity of heroin can be bought for Tk 50 in a slum." He further said, "Many people living in slums or elsewhere first try heroin out of curiosity. But by the time they find it is injurious to their health, they already become addicts." Heroin addiction is also found among students in some educational institutions and children of affluent and middle class families. However, there is no statistics with the police or any other agency regarding the number of heroin users in the country. Police claim they are trying hard to detect people involved in heroin trade, but say narcotics department has the main responsibility.

However, there are allegations that both police and narcotics department are taking huge amounts of money both from the smugglers and traders and normally provide them protection. A high official in narcotics department claimed that they are working with a small staff and a single official is taking care of Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas of the city. "Staff is very limited and we are always under pressure." There is a total of about 1300 posts in narcotics department but more than 300 are lying vacant.

See Page 12 Col 8

**GRAND OPENING**

# Sausly's

Bangladesh-German Foods (Pvt.) Ltd.,  
noted for its high quality Pastries, Cakes, Pies, Sandwiches, Burgers, Sausages and Such, now opens its doors on popular public demand at 9/C Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

on  
**Saturday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 99** INSHAALLAH

Please dial : 9552535, 9554120