



Over 3 million customers depend on FedEx everyday for timely and reliable delivery of their packages and freight to 211 countries worldwide.

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd. Licensee of Federal Express Corporation. 95, Motijheel C.A. Dhaka-1000. E-mail: banex@bangla.net

Philips advertisement for an iron and air cleaner. Includes text: 'Ideal gift for any occasion. Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 7,500' and 'Transcom Electronics Limited'.

Investors feel discouraged

From page 1 Referring to the forthcoming Paris meeting, CK Haider said, "Unlike in previous years, it will not be easy for Bangladesh to convince the donors, unless they are convinced that objective conditions prevail in Bangladesh for utilisation of development assistance."

maintained that corruption was much more in Bangladesh than in many other developing countries. The EU delegation also observed that there were certain political matters which should not be ignored.

"The buck does not stop at Paris. If we don't improve the situation, Bangladesh may face problems in aid disbursement," he added.

All these problems are emerging out of lack of governance. If we take law and order as the index, governance has definitely deteriorated," CK Haider said giving MCCI's point of view.

'Withdraw case against intellectuals'

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday castigated the government for what he called its repressive measures against political opponents, including intellectuals, litterateurs and artists, reports UNB.

He said that power and water supplies, transportation sector and rampant corruption severely affected normal economic activities. "Except one or two ministries, all other ministries are doing worse than before," he maintained.

BNP's cultural front JASAS organised the press conference protesting a case filed against some intellectuals and cultural activists.

CK Haider pointed out that due to increase in corruption and lawlessness and price hike of power and gas, the cost of production has gone up. "That is why smuggled goods are cheaper than locally produced goods," he noted.

The party declared action programme, including gherao of television building at Rampura in the city on April 28 to protest filing of the "false" case.

Mahubub Jamil in his written speech to the EU delegation placed five suggestions for the government to find a solution to the political conflicts. These are: allotment of two to three hours a week on the electronic media for the Opposition parties to project their viewpoints, ensuring neutrality of police

No remedy

From page 1 water crisis. "To pacify agitated people, PDB has improved the affected power flow by using a load flow system in Haripur on a temporary basis. Work is going on to restore the affected Siddhirganj breaker," an official said.

38 commissioners

From page 1 The commissioners said a state of chaos and anarchy has been prevailing in the country due to "limitless failures and incompetence" of this "corrupt and litigious government".

Following the Siddhirganj breaker disorder, PDB had to reduce power generation from 2300 MW to 1850 MW on Friday and 2000 MW on Saturday.

They said the entire capital city and other parts of the country are facing a serious water crisis. The country plunged into darkness due to power failure, paralysing public life.

"Siddhirganj sub-station is very old. It was set up in the early sixties and the system there needed to be replaced long ago. But PDB had not done it. PDB was considering shifting of the system to Haripur sub-station gradually but it was not prepared for such a breakdown," the official added.

But the government, instead of trying to ensure the fundamental rights and resolve civic problems, has resorted to repression on the distressed people.

The power grid that supplies flows power in Dhaka is also in a bad shape because of negligence of the authorities. Sources said that when DESA was created in 1991, it was given the responsibility of a 132 KV grid. But as DESA did not have the expertise to look after that grid, it took expertise from PDB under a three-year contract. But on expiry of the contract, DESA was still not ready to take charge of that grid. PDB then reluctantly signed another three-year supervision contract and gradually none took interest in taking care of the grid.

"It has become difficult for the city dwellers to have a normal life following inadequate supply of electricity, water and gas that is continuing days after days. Even the devotees are not getting water in mosques for ablution," the statement said.

The ward commissioners demanded resignation of the government for its "complete failures" in resolving people's sufferings.

In a separate statement, the DCC commissioners strongly condemned and protested against the arrest of BNP leader Alamgir Kabir MP and demanded his immediate and unconditional release.

Shafi murder

From page 1 terrologist cell at its Minto Road office.

Li Peng due in city today

From page 1 This afternoon, Li Peng will lay the foundation of Bangladesh International Conference Centre which is being constructed with a Chinese interest-free soft loan of 24 million dollars.

The decision came after widespread criticism triggered by the discovery of Shaif's decomposed body in the rooftop water tank at the DB office on March 25.

Li Peng received Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina when she paid an official visit to China in September, 1996.

Earlier, Rubel, a BBA student at Independent University, was tortured to death in the DB custody on July 23 last year.

A top foreign ministry official said, though Li Peng's visit is being termed a "goodwill visit", it will contribute to "revitalising trade, economic and cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries."

Suspects arrested by the DB would now be kept at the respective thana custody and the detective personnel would interrogate them at the thana custody. DB officials said yesterday.

When contacted last night, the deputy commissioner of DMP's DB, Altaf Hossain Mollah, said, "We took the decision on a temporary basis as it is a transitional period for DB after the killing of Shaif. We'll decide later what to do about it."

When asked whether rules permitted DB to interrogate any suspect taking him into its interrogation cell at the DB office, the DC replied, "There is no hard and fast rule about this."

Besides, the investigators continued interrogating the five persons, remanded by CID, till last night. They included four DB men -- Inspector Zia, SI Shahjahan, havidler Belal, constable Rob -- and canteen man Anwar.

Sources close to the investigators said the arrested five and AC Humayun Kabir were giving the CID contradictory information. The AC, however, was freed in the evening on condition that he would not leave the city without permission.

CID officials said last night that the then driver of AC Humayun Kabir's official car did not appear before the investigators though he had been summoned four days ago.

Meanwhile, Kabir, the helper of Shaif's microbus, was summoned by investigators for questioning. CID is going to interrogate him in a day or two.

When asked why the investigation was proceeding 'slowly', the investigating officer replied, "No, we are trying our best to solve the mystery as early as possible."

CID officials claimed there were a number of other issues involved such as several incidents related to heroin, gold and foreign currency smuggling.

The investigators were putting emphasis on two incidents -- firstly, the recovery of heroin worth Tk 2.5 crore and secondly, recovery of 240 gold bars.

US Embassy officials in New Delhi also expressed regret, and hoped Pakistan would not respond in kind. The test was "out of step with the positive developments" in easing regional tension, including India's own statements that it wanted to avoid a missile race and keep its deterrent at the lowest possible level, said an official, who asked not to be identified by name.

India testfires Agni II fallout of the test. "We don't need to be told by anybody about restraint," he told a news conference. "No one can put pressure on us," and India would not compromise with anyone on its national security, he said.

The two-stage missile lifted off "without a hitch" from a new test site on India's eastern coast at 9:47 am (04:17 GMT) carrying "a substantial payload," reaching its point of impact 11 minutes later, Fernandes said.

Pakistan was given advanced warning of the launch, under the terms of an agreement signed in February when Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee travelled overland to the Pakistani city of Lahore to meet his counterpart, Nawaz Sharif.

In Islamabad, Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz confirmed Pakistan received the warning yesterday. "We are disappointed and concerned," he told The Associated Press. "We had decided on restraint," he said, but now Pakistan will have to decide in the next two or three days "how to respond to the Indian tests."

Today's launch came 11 months after India conducted a series of underground nuclear explosions May 11, and sought recognition as a member of the exclusive club of nuclear-armed nations. That test prompted Pakistan to respond with tests of its own, raising international fears of a nuclear arms race among the two belligerent nations.



A procession of the city unit of BNP yesterday demanding release of party MP Alamgir Kabir. - Star photo

Li Peng due in city today

From page 1 This afternoon, Li Peng will lay the foundation of Bangladesh International Conference Centre which is being constructed with a Chinese interest-free soft loan of 24 million dollars.

The Chinese leader and the business community to make use of the investment opportunities in Bangladesh and emphasise joint sector investment in medium scale projects.

Hasina may urge that Chinese trade delegations visit Bangladesh to explore the market for purchase of more Bangladeshi products. Dhaka will also stress the need for reducing the yawning trade imbalance between the two countries, which is against Bangladesh.

Dhaka exported goods worth around 68 million US dollars in 1997-98 while Beijing's exports were worth nearly 690 million dollars.

Dhaka will now stress diversifying its exports which mainly comprises jute, jute goods, leather and tea. Tortoise and frozen foods has been added recently, though on a small scale.

The official talks will also cover all aspects of bilateral relations besides regional and international issues.

CU dean polls today

From CU Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Apr 11: Election of deans of the Arts and Social Science faculties of Chittagong University will be held tomorrow.

Four candidates from two panels -- Awami League backed Pink and BNP-Jamaat backed White -- are contesting the election.

Fernandes said the range of the new Agni was "in excess of 2,000 kilometers." That would be one-third longer than the earlier version with a range of 1,500 kilometers which also can strike targets deep inside the territory of India's neighbours Pakistan and China.

India testfires Agni II

From page 1 fallout of the test. "We don't need to be told by anybody about restraint," he told a news conference. "No one can put pressure on us," and India would not compromise with anyone on its national security, he said.

A film of the liftoff showed a sleek white rocket mounted with a black reentry vehicle on a launch pad mounted on rails at a test site with tall trees in the background. Indian naval ships and ground stations tracked the missile as it soared into the sky, leaving a trail of thick white smoke. International shipping and airlines were warned to stay out of the test zone.

The Agni underwent four earlier tests, beginning in 1992. But the Indian public had its first view of the 20-metre missile during the annual Republic Day parade last January.

India testfires Agni II

From page 1 fallout of the test. "We don't need to be told by anybody about restraint," he told a news conference. "No one can put pressure on us," and India would not compromise with anyone on its national security, he said.

A film of the liftoff showed a sleek white rocket mounted with a black reentry vehicle on a launch pad mounted on rails at a test site with tall trees in the background. Indian naval ships and ground stations tracked the missile as it soared into the sky, leaving a trail of thick white smoke. International shipping and airlines were warned to stay out of the test zone.

The Agni underwent four earlier tests, beginning in 1992. But the Indian public had its first view of the 20-metre missile during the annual Republic Day parade last January.

India testfires Agni II

From page 1 fallout of the test. "We don't need to be told by anybody about restraint," he told a news conference. "No one can put pressure on us," and India would not compromise with anyone on its national security, he said.

A film of the liftoff showed a sleek white rocket mounted with a black reentry vehicle on a launch pad mounted on rails at a test site with tall trees in the background. Indian naval ships and ground stations tracked the missile as it soared into the sky, leaving a trail of thick white smoke. International shipping and airlines were warned to stay out of the test zone.

The Agni underwent four earlier tests, beginning in 1992. But the Indian public had its first view of the 20-metre missile during the annual Republic Day parade last January.

India testfires Agni II

From page 1 fallout of the test. "We don't need to be told by anybody about restraint," he told a news conference. "No one can put pressure on us," and India would not compromise with anyone on its national security, he said.

A film of the liftoff showed a sleek white rocket mounted with a black reentry vehicle on a launch pad mounted on rails at a test site with tall trees in the background. Indian naval ships and ground stations tracked the missile as it soared into the sky, leaving a trail of thick white smoke. International shipping and airlines were warned to stay out of the test zone.

The Agni underwent four earlier tests, beginning in 1992. But the Indian public had its first view of the 20-metre missile during the annual Republic Day parade last January.

Hartal at Barguna demanding power supply

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Apr 11: A half-day hartal was observed at the Barguna district headquarters today demanding restoration of power supply in the town.

Saldanadi Gasfield Drilling of second well by BAPEX begins

SALDANADI (Brahmanbaria), Apr 11: As drilling of a second well in Saldanadi Gasfield by domestic explorers began today, the energy minister said resource constraints were forcing the government to lease out gas blocks to foreign firms, reports UNB.

India in Sharjah final

Star Report In a nail-biting finish, India beat England by nine runs yesterday to set up a clash with Pakistan in the final of the triangular Coca-Cola Champions Trophy at Sharjah.

India in Sharjah final

Star Report In a nail-biting finish, India beat England by nine runs yesterday to set up a clash with Pakistan in the final of the triangular Coca-Cola Champions Trophy at Sharjah.

Pourasava polls

From page 1 Some 27 candidates will contest for the posts of chairmen in the seven pourasavas while 231 for general commissioner and 55 women for the reserved seats in a total of 63 wards.

Chhatak MP

From page 1 Lais would improve within 10 to 15 days. His statement is being considered 'very important' for the investigations, an official said.

Seven returning officers and the same number of assistant returning officers will conduct the fray. Voting will take place from 8 am to 4 pm.

The CID may also talk to the Army team of explosive experts which recovered live and inoperative bombs, huge quantity of bomb making materials and weapons from the house, the source added. The team also viewed that the blast occurred at the time of making bombs on the first floor of the two-story building.

Election to a total of 136 municipalities was held February 23-25 amid opposition boycott and countryside hartal.

Meanwhile, DIG of CID Quazi Nazrul Islam was in Sylhet yesterday on a day-long visit.

Meanwhile, UNB Chandpur correspondent says, the district administration deployed 257 police, 30 BDR and 162 asar forces guided by nine magistrates in Sahrasati poura area to police the polls.

In the case, he alleged that an organised group backed by an 'influential quarter' was responsible for the incident. The attack was designed to kill him, the ruling party MP alleged.

Election for the new pourasava was put off following demarcation complications.

The case was later transferred to the CID and it began investigation from April 3.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Telephone Directory. Text: 'গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ড ঢাকা টেলিযোগাযোগ অঞ্চলের ইংরেজি টেলিফোন নির্দেশিকা-১৯৯৯ সংখ্যা সংগ্রহ করা সংক্রান্ত বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি'.

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 RA, 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

Large advertisement for John Player Gold Leaf Lights. Features a large image of a pack of cigarettes and the text: 'HAVE YOU TRIED IT YET? New Improved John Player Gold Leaf Lights! GOLD LEAF LIGHTS JOHN PLAYER GOLD LEAF A TASTE APART'.