

Over 3 million customers depend on Fed everyday for timely and reliable delivery of their packages and freight to 211 countries worldwide. You will get the same level of world-class service here at Fed 2x

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

For customer service details, please dial: Dhaka (880-2) 9565114, 9884851, 9883927, 894213, 9130647, 9338931, 9345261, 9667462, 808803, 863896, 9010493 Chittagong (880-31) 712127, 724823, CEPZ 740108 Narayanganj (880-2) 9714336, Khulna (880-41) 725008



Ideal gift for any occasion. 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

lay the foundation of Banga-

bandhu International Confer-

ence Centre which is being con-

structed with a Chinese inter-

est-free soft loan of 24 million

will have a floor space of 20,000

square feet and include a 1500-

seat plenary hall. The con-

struction work will be super-

vised by Chinese engineers and

builders and the complex is be-

ing built keeping in view the

NAM Summit in Dhaka in

2001. The loan would be paid

back in cash and through com-

modity exchange with a 10-year

assistance for construction of a

bridge at Gab Khan in Jalakathi

in Barisal. This would be the

fifth bridge involving Chinese

assistance. China is also

involved in Barapukria coal

mine project and in the second

time, the date for the next meet-

ing of Bangladesh-China Joint

Economic Commission is

leave tomorrow at 3.15 pm for

During Li Peng's visit this

The Chinese leader will

phase of Raujan power plant.

Beijing is expected to commit

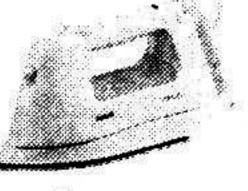
The two-storied complex

dollars.

moratorium.

likely to be fixed.

Bangkok.



Steam Iron



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."

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

One diplomat told the MCCI leaders that as the economic activities between his country and Bangladesh deteriorated significantly, his country recently closed its 'economic section on Bangladesh.

The EU delegation also

'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 artistes, reports UNB.

"Nobody, even intellectuals, litterateurs and actors, is being spared by the government. It is becoming more and more ferocious and is being isolated from the people everyday," Bhuiyan told a press conference at party central office.

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

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.

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. Following the Siddhirgani

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

"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.

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 con-tract, 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.

maintained that corruption was much more in Bangladesh than in many other developing

The EU delegation also observed that there were certain political matters which should not be ignored. If there is any controversy regarding the Election Commission, it should be solved for the sake of democracy, it observed.

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

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.

investments in Bangladesh during 1996-97 financial year were 101.94 million US dollars (4.8 per cent of total investment in the country). Exports from Bangladesh to EU countries in the same year were 1986.96 million dollars (44.97 per cent of total export) and imports from EU were worth 761.87 million dollars (10.64 per cent of the total im-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.

Mahbub 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

38 commissioners

From page 1 day's demonstrations.

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".

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.

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

"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.

and administration, ensuring impartiality of the Election Commission and holding political dialogues with the Opposi-tion to defuse the prevailing He also suggested that the

Opposition parties must also refrain from calling hartals. Focusing on the poor shape of the financial institutions,

tension.

Mahbub Jamil also suggested that the government should take stern action against those who misused the financial institutions and wilful defaulters. The banking sector contin-

ued to be severely affected by government borrowings and spoon-feeding the losing stateowned enterprises. "Its continuous borrowings from the banking sector have been crowding out the private sec-

He urged the EU to play a better role for revival of the dying capital market. "Immediate inflow of some institutional investor funds can help activate the capital market as the government has failed to provide the upturn through privatisation programme.

Shafi murder

From page 1 terrogation cell at its Minto Road office.

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

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

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 yester-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 Shafi. 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 first 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, havilder 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 Shafi'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



PHILIPS

- Star photo

Li Peng due in city today

business community to make

use of the investment opportu-

nities in Bangladesh and em-

phasise joint sector investment

nese trade delegations visit

Bangladesh to explore the mar-

ket for purchase of more

Bangladeshi products. Dhaka

will also stress the need for re-

ducing the yawning trade im-

balance between the two coun-

Bangladesh.

million dollars.

tries, which is against

around 68 million US dollars

in 1997-98 while Beijing's ex-

ports were worth nearly 690

Dhaka will now stress diver-

sifying its exports which

mainly comprises jute, jute

goods, leather and tea. Tortoise

and frozen foods has been added

recently, though on a small

na's import of more non-tradi-

tional items to balance the

trade deficit," informed an offi-

cover all aspects of bilateral

relations besides regional and

international issues.

"Our stress will be on Chi-

The official talks will also

Dhaka exported goods worth

Hasina may urge that Chi-

in medium scale projects.

From page 1

Party leaders. He was Prime Minister twice and now holds the second position in the Chinese leadership after President Jiang Zemin. In his present capacity, he presides over the sessions of Chinese Parliament as Speaker

This will be his second visit ing in 1989 as Prime Minister.

in September, 1996. A top foreign ministry official said, though Li Peng's visit is being termed a "goodwill visit", it will contribute to "revitalising trade, economic

military hardware

The itinerary of the Li Peng includes official talks with Sheikh Hasina, visits to the Smriti Soudha and the Bangabandhu Museum and laying of foundation stone of Bangabandhu International Conference Centre at Osmany Uddyan in the city.

Li Peng and his delegation will be lodged at Sonargaon

evening.

CU dean polls today

tomorrow.

the Chinese leader and the This afternoon, Li Peng will

fluential Chinese Communist

and cultural cooperation between the two friendly coun-

has also a significant level of defence cooperation with China which is a major supplier of

Official talks between Li Peng and Hasina will be held at the Bangabhaban at 7 this

banquet by the Bangladesh haban.

CHITTAGONG, Apr 11: Election of deans of the Arts and Social Science faculties of Chit-

Four candidates from two

to Bangladesh, the first one be-Li Peng received Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina when she paid an official visit to China

Bangladesh, he pointed out,

Later he will be hosted a

Prime Minister at the Bangab-The visiting dignitary will pay a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed and will

hold a meeting with Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. At the official talks, the Bangladesh side is likely to urge

From CU Correspondent

tagong University will be held

panels - Awami League backed Pink and BNP-Jamaat backed White - are contesting the elec-

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,

The two-stage missile lifted off "without a hitch" from a new test site on India's eastern coast at 9:47 am (0417 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."

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

Agni - which means 'fire' in Sanskrit — was last in February 1994. Along with the Prithvi or "Earth," it is expected to be the mainstay of India's nuclear delivery system. Either missile also can carry conventional or nuclear payloads. 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 neigh-bours Pakistan and China.

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-meter missile during the annual Republic Day parade last January.

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

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. Power supply in the town remained suspended since April

Angry consumers brought out a procession during the hartal and gheraoed the office of the resident engineer of PDB.

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 were 239 for 6 in 50

overs, thanks to an unbeaten 74 by stand-in captain Ajay Jadeja and 63 by Rahul Dravid. In reply, England were all

out for 230 in 48.5 overs. Opener Nick Knight scored a fine 84 and Graham Thorpe came up with a fighting 79. But Anil Kumble (2/28) and

Venkatesh Prasad (3/35) bowled brilliantly to put brakes on the English run chase. Prasad bagged the \$1000 man-of-thematch cheque.

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. 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. Election to a total of 136 municipalities was held February 23-25 amid opposition boy-

cott and countrywide hartal. Meanwhile, UNB Chandpur correspondent says, the district administration deployed 257 police, 30 BDR and 162 ansar forces guided by nine magistrates in Sahrasti poura area to police the polls.

Election for the new

pourasava was put off following demarcation complications.

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. State Minister for Power,

Energy and Mineral Resources Rafiqul Islam made the statement inaugurating the gas drilling by local exploration-company BAPEX, a subsidiary of Petrobangla. Financed by the govern-

ment, BAPEX discovered the field and is already extracting about 13 mmcfd gas everyday from the well-1 and throwing it into the national grid. The minister said BAPEX

would be elevated to a fullfledged exploration company and engaged with foreign companies in exploration of gas Officials said the work on

the Saldanadi-2 well which began today is expected to be completed by September this year at a cost of Tk 34.18 crore.

Chhatak MP From page

Lais would improve within 10 to 15 days. His statement is being considered 'very important' for the investigations, an offi-

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

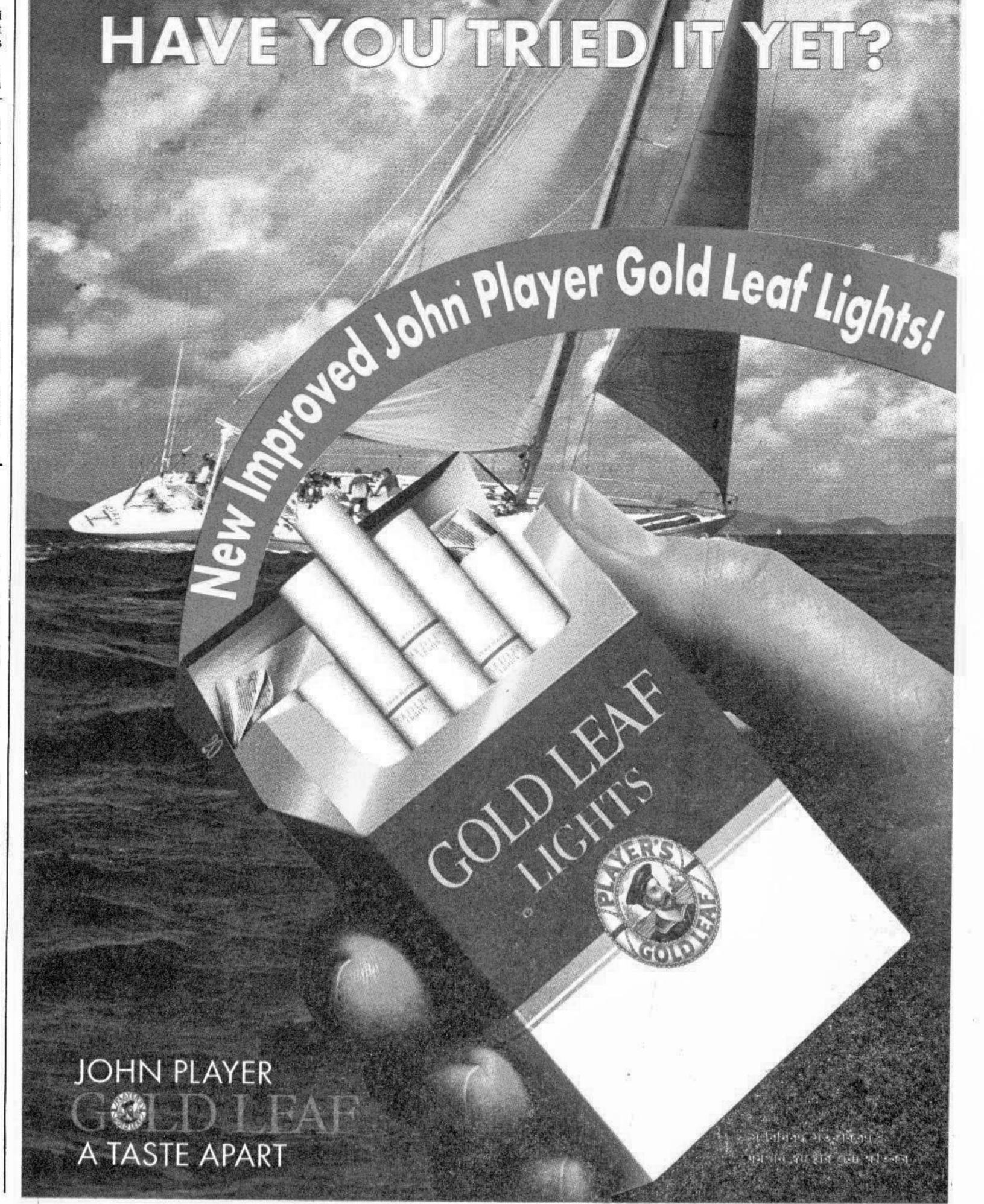
Meanwhile, DIG of CID Quazi Nazrul Islam was in Sylhet yesterday on a day-long visit. Muhibur Rahman Manik MP, who went home from Dhaka on March 15 on getting

information of the blast, him-

self had lodged a case with the Chhatak thana the next day. 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 case was later transferred to the CID and it began investigation from April 3.

the ruling party MP alleged.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ড

ঢাকা টেলিযোগাযোগ অঞ্চলের ইংরেজি एलियान निर्पिनिका-১৯৯৯ সংখ্যा সংগ্রহ করা সংক্রান্ত বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা টেলিযোগাযোগ অঞ্চলের সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের অবগতির জন্য জানান যাচ্ছে যে, বেসরকারীভাবে বাণিজ্যিক ভিত্তিতে (হলুদ পাতাসহ) ইংরেজি ভাষায় টেলিফোন নির্দেশিকা-১৯৯৯ সংখ্যা প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। এমতাবস্থায় সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে ঢাকার নিম্নবর্ণিত স্থান থেকে প্রতিকপি ৫০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ) টাকার বিনিময়ে রশিদ গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে আগামী ১৮ই এপ্রিল ১৯৯৯ তারিখ হতে নির্দেশিকা সংগ্রহ করতে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ

- করা যাচ্ছেঃ ★ ওয়ান পয়েয় সার্ভিস সেয়ায় ★ টেলিয়োগায়োগ ভবন
- (রমনা টেলিফোন ভবন) ★ কেন্দ্রীয় টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস, রমনা

★ মগবাজার টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস

🖈 চকবাজার টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস

- ★ আজিমপুর টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস
- ★ ঢাকা সদর টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস ★ সায়েদাবাদ টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস

★ নারায়ণগঞ্জ টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস

ডিএফপি-৭৬২৭-১১/৪/৯৯ জি-৬২৯

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

★ শের-ই-বাংলা নগর টেলিগ্রাফ ★ মিরপুর টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস ★ আবহাওয়া টেলিয়াফ অফিস,

আগারগাঁও ★ মোহামদপুর টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস ★ জাতীয় সংসদ টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস

★ জিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান বলর

🖈 গুলশান টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস

টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস ★ টংগী টেলিগ্রাফ অফিস গ্রাহক সেবাই আমাদের লক্ষ্য বাংলাদেশ তার ও

টেলিফোন বোর্ড

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

address: dstar@bangla.net