



Over 3 million customers depend on **FedEx** 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 **FedEx**.

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

Transcom Electronics Limited

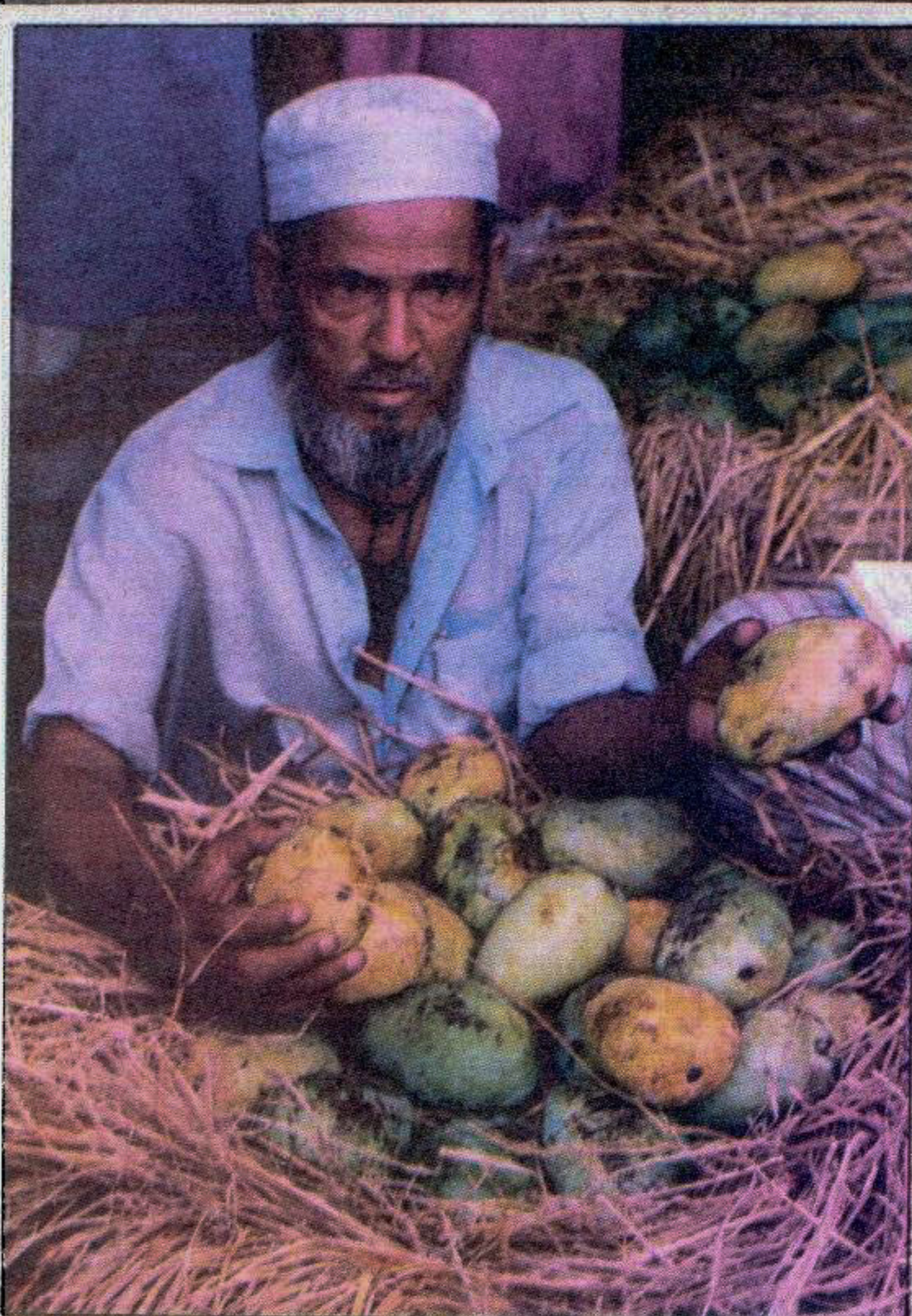
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.

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



Let's make things better

PHILIPS



Immaculate conception

The Urdu poet Mirza Ghalib termed the mango as God's most perfect creation. The summer fruit remains abundant and cheap even in monsoon this year. — Star photo

Mangoes still abundant, could be cheaper

By Reaz Ahmad

With the season almost over, mangoes still remain abundant in the city markets at a cheaper price compared to previous years, thanks to bumper production this year.

But retailers and wholesalers said the fruit could have been offered at a much lower price had there been some sort of control over extortionists who collect unauthorised toll on mango-laden trucks almost at will.

Mohiuddin supplies mango to city's burgeoning fruit markets in Badamtali, Sadarghat and Gulistan areas after procuring the fruit from different mango gardens in Rajshahi. On his way from Rajshahi to the capital, Mohiuddin has to count over Tk 1000 per truck as toll money. He has lost faith in members of law-enforcing agencies, who, he says, maintain unholy alliance with the toll collectors.

Illegal imports of mango from across the border also irked the Badamtali traders. Sadhan Chandra Das, vice pres-

ident of the Fruit Merchants' Association, told The Daily Star that a low price because of import during the peak-season would frustrate local mango growers and urged for an end to mango import.

Meanwhile, the season's mango bonanza saw a rapid expansion of mango markets across the city. Traditional fruit markets apart, baskets full of mangoes are now finding their way to every city neighbourhood.

Badsha sells mango at a little shop facing Sadarghat launch terminal. For him fall in mango price is no good news. But increase in sales volume brings in much profit for him to forget the price factor. "There are over 50 fruit shops in the vicinity. I can guess an average business of Tk 5000 per shop a day," he said.

Despite a huge supply of mangoes there have been no reports of wastage. The only time they rot is during hantals and other communication disruption.

Barak promises to revive Wye Peace Accord

EREZ CROSSING POINT (Gaza Strip), July 11: Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Barak held his first summit today with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and emerged pledging to 'move forward in peace' together, reports AP.

"Both sides have suffered enough," the new Israeli prime minister said at a news conference afterward, as Arafat looked on, nodding. "Palestinians and Israelis alike are waiting for us... to provide them with a better and safe future."

"It is time to put an end to the cycle of violence and confrontation," Arafat said.

Heading into the meeting, Barak warned it would take time to get diplomacy back on track. But Palestinian officials demanded quick action as a show of good faith.

"We expect full compliance" on existing agreements, Arafat

told Barak. The Israeli leader promised to implement the US-brokered Wye Accord and consult with the Palestinians about how to wrap that in with so-called final status talks leading to a permanent peace accord.

The session at a border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip lasted little over an hour. The two leaders — Barak in a dark suit, Arafat, in his trademark fatigues — shook hands and waved to onlookers as they entered the meeting room.

Barak's words about peace have to be followed up by deeds, Palestinian parliament speaker Ahmed Qureia, also known as Abu Ala, told official Voice of Palestine radio before the meeting began.

Palestinian officials said their main demand was to implement the US-brokered Wye

River accord and other existing agreements that call for Israel to hand over more West Bank land and release several hundred Palestinian prisoners. They also want a halt to Jewish settlement-building.

Barak, though, sought to dampen expectations about timing.

"The diplomatic road will not be short," he told a Cabinet meeting — his first — hours before the summit. He briefed ministers on talks Friday with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and upcoming meetings with Jordan's King Abdullah II and US President Bill Clinton, the Cabinet said in a statement.

Security was tight for the summit. More than 100 journalists on hand to cover the event spent an hour passing through metal detectors before-hand.

Power agreement signed

Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (PGCB) and M/s LG Engineering Ltd., Korea, has signed an agreement yesterday for extension of 230/132 KV Haripur and Comilla (North) Substations on turn-key basis under Meghnaghat Power Station. Associated Transmission Lines Project, says a press release.

Financed by the Asian Development Bank, the agreement, amounting to Tk. 20.84 crore, was signed by Mohammed Salim, Company Secretary of PGCB and Ki-Joo Han, Project Manager, M/s LG Engineering Ltd., Korea, Senior officials of both the parties were present.

The work will be completed by October 2000. The extension work will facilitate supply of 450 MW power generated by the Meghnaghat Power Station to the national grid, the press release added.

BNP Kishoreganj unit dissolved

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP has dissolved its Kishoreganj district committee and formed a new 104-member convening committee headed by Mujibur Rahman Manju, MP. Masud Helali, Giasuddin and Mujibur Hag Chinnu have been made joint convenors of the new committee, said a BNP press release yesterday.

All activities of the now dissolved committee headed by Major (Retd) Akhteruzzaman MP had long been suspended due to intra-party conflict over leadership.

Police-BCL clash Gazipur BIT closed sine die

GAZIPUR, July 11: Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) has been declared closed sine die after a clash between BCL supporters and police on the campus today, reports UNB.

BIT authorities took the decision after an emergency meeting soon after the incident and declared the closure of the institute for an indefinite period.

Witnesses and police said a group of BCL activists attacked the administrative office at 10 am and damaged the furniture and equipment after the authorities announced the list of seven students, including BCL President Amirul Hak, punished on various terms.

Khaleda tells partymen Strengthen party to win elections

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has asked her partymen to face the "fascist" government — politically by strengthening the organisation, reports UNB.

"People's thinking will have to be changed through politics... strong organisation is necessary to reach the goal," she said addressing a closed door meeting of BNP's Magura district committee at her Minto Road official residence.

The opposition leader has started a series of meetings to exchange views with BNP's district committees to know the organisational situation as well as the opinion of local leaders.

She will exchange views with 21 full-fledged district committees in the first phase that began on Friday with Rajshahi district committee.

The meeting that lasted more than three hours, most of the members of 151 strong Magura district committee and leaders of front organisations led by district BNP president Kazi Salimul Huq Kamal were present.

Twenty-five district and central leaders, including BNP Sec-

Ban on import of SSP fertiliser, gypsum

The government embargoed opening of fresh LC for importing powdered SSP fertiliser and also banned import of gypsum, reports UNB.

"Decision to prohibit the import of gypsum was taken because domestic production of the fertiliser is quite sufficient compared to the demand," said an official announcement.

Embargo on LC opening for SSP imports came following reports that the single superphosphate fertiliser is adulterated with substandard material.

The measures were taken at a meeting of the advisory committee on fertiliser distribution at the industries' ministry, yesterday.

The meeting projected an enhanced demand target of urea fertiliser of 23 lakh metric tonnes for the country in the new (1999-2000) fiscal year.

Last year's demand was 21.79 lakh mts.

retary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Vice Chairman Tariqul Islam, Khulna divisional organising secretary Mashur Rahman and Mofiqul Hasan Tripti, spoke at the meeting.

BNP chairperson's press secretary Ahmed Nazir briefed newsmen soon after the meeting.

Begum Zia said the organisation would have to be strengthened by inducting active and useful people in the party.

"Without a strong organisation it is not possible to win elections," she told her followers and instructed them to constitute powerful committees in respective areas to guard the polling centres.

The former prime minister told her party activists that this was not the time to think who would get nomination for the next elections.

Popularity will have to be

See page 11 Col 8

5 held while committing dacoity

By Staff Correspondent

Five people were arrested while they attempted to commit a dacoity at a house at Mirpur in the city yesterday evening.

The arrested were identified as Jannul, 22, Ruhul, 25, Salam, 20, Hannan 24, and Alauddin, 20. Police also recovered a firearm from one of them.

A team of Detective Branch police along with Mirpur thana police, after being informed that a gang of dacoits was preparing to commit a robbery at a residence at Housing Street at Mirpur Section-2, lay an ambush near the house.

At about 5pm, when the gang entered the house, police swooped on the gang. The dacoits retaliated by exploding several crackers, leaving two sub-inspectors Kasem and Firoz injured, police said.

Hearing the explosion, local people rushed to the spot and caught five of the gang while seven others managed to escape. Reinforcement from Police Control Room rushed to the spot and rescued the five from the mob, police added. The injured dacoits were sent to a city hospital, police added.



Bitter truth

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, flanked by former chief adviser of caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman (right), breaks the silence over political financing at the BIBM, yesterday. — PID photo

President

From Page 1
other banks, some having over Tk 1,000 crore each overdue loans, are getting shelter from political parties.

Former chief adviser in the caretaker government Muhammad Habibur Rahman delivered the second Nurul Matin Memorial Lecture on 'Ethics in Banking' at the function.

Rahman called for having a code of ethics in the banking sector and compliance with a circular issued by the central bank in 1996 which specified the responsibilities, powers and facilities of chairmen, directors and chief executive officers of banks.

He said code of ethics is a code of conscience based on fairness, honesty, courtesy, self-restraint and consideration for others. It is based on a collective sense of right and wrong which is influenced by the time frame and by the cultural background of a society.

"As a first step, the banks are to set their homes in proper order. Without a dependable work-ethics, their conflicting goals of solvency, liquidity and profits cannot be successfully reconciled," Rahman said.

Regarding delay in judicial process, the former chief justice called for a survey of a hundred or more cases that had already been disposed of.

He said that the records, particularly the order sheets, should be examined to find out who were actually responsible for the delay — the banks' executives, employees, their lawyers, functionaries of the courts or the presiding judges.

The former chief justice also said when a number of similar cases were going before the courts, the judgement in one case could cut short proceedings in other cases.

He said that an ethical banker is expected to apply values wider than his exclusive attention to economic values.

Rahman suggested enactment of relevant laws meticulously setting checks and balance. Select committees in parliament should examine more minutely the working of the banks and an ombudsman should be appointed, he felt.

He, however, cautioned that all these steps would not be of much help without having leaders with high ethical standard. (See Business Page for related story)

'Abductors' held

BANDARBAN, July 11: Bandarban police arrested three people in connection with the abduction of contractor Nazrul Islam from Napitukuria under Rangunia thana, in the early hours of today, reports BSS.

The arrested were identified as Ali Akbar, Sayed Baker and Abul Kashem.

India goes to polls Sept 4-Oct 1

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, July 11: India's election commission today announced a five-phased schedule for parliamentary elections with balloting taking place on September 4, 11, 17, 24 and October one in one of the most staggered polling to be held in recent history.

The counting of ballots will be held on October 5 and 6, said the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Manohar Singh Gill who released the election schedule at a news conference here.

Gill said the coming elections would be held in the extraordinary situation in the context of the Kargil stand-off with Pakistan. It is for the first time that the exercise would be held in September-October.

The election schedule was released two months after the dissolution of Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) following the fall of Vajpayee government in a confidence vote and the opposition parties failure to cobble an alternative.

Main opposition Congress welcomed the election schedule saying it was the best possible looking at the present constraints and circumstances.

Ruling BJP hailed the an-

nouncement of the schedule but said it was unable to understand the rationale behind what it termed 'early announcement'. Gill said he had held meetings with all recognise parties on May 3 and a subsequent meeting of national parties on July 3 to get an assessment of the current situation.

He said there was complete unanimity in the perception of all the parties to hold elections as planned.

Ctg BCL observes hunger strike

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 11: Some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League city unit, observed a token hunger strike in front of Chittagong press club today demanding release of Awami League leader AZM Nasir.

Nasir was arrested in Dhaka on July 6 in connection with several criminal cases including murder. The BCL activists belonging to Nasir faction joined the hunger strike for about six hours from 11-am.

Planned transport strike in Ctg Divn postponed

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 11: Greater Chittagong Truck Owners Coordination Council today postponed its 48-hour transport strike scheduled to begin in Chittagong Division from Tuesday.

The postponement of the strike came in a meeting held between the mayor of Chittagong City Corporation Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Council leaders at the corporation office this afternoon, meeting sources said.

City Corporation sources said the leaders of transport owners agreed to postpone their programme till July 25 following assurance given by the mayor of CCC to take up their demands with the government.

The meeting continued for over two hours from 1-30 pm, corporation sources said.

The council called the transport strike to press its various demands.

The demands include withdrawal of additional tax in the national budget, 25 per cent extra charge for registration of vehicles and VAT imposed on the retail price of tubes.

4 more outlaws surrender

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 11: A regional leader of outlawed Purbia Banglar Communist Party today surrendered to the Superintendent of Police, Jessore along with his three accomplices.

Police said, Zafar Sheikh, a regional leader of the party in north-east zone of the district surrendered to the SP in his office with arms and ammunition.

The three others who surrendered along with Zafar are Kismat, Azgar and Harun. They also deposited their arms and ammunition.

College student stabbed to death at Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, July 11: A college student was stabbed to death allegedly by a local youth at Kalibari in the town Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said Monjurul Alam Liton, 20, a student of Lalmonirhat Government College, was stabbed by one Masum while playing chess with his friends in a shop.



BENSON & HEDGES

Lights

NEW LIGHTS WITH WHITE TIPPING
NOW AVAILABLE IN BANGLADESH.

LIGHT & WHITE.

BE GOLD. BENSON & HEDGES LIGHTS.