



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, 724923, CEPZ 740108 Narayanganj (880-2) 9714336, Khulna (880-41) 725008

JS body detects irregularities in tea, insurance sectors

Separate sub-committees of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce found many an irregularity in the country's tea and insurance sectors, official sources said, reports UNB.

However, both the bodies need another three months' time to finalise their reports with suggestions for bringing back discipline in the areas.

The sub-committees were allowed the extended time at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with its chairman Razuddin Ahmed Raju presiding.

Sources said the meeting was informed that the sub-committee on insurance already had detected many irregularities and corruption in the sector.

"Massive corruption is taking place in case of reinsurance while there are huge irregulari-

ties in insurance claims and in process of giving permission to new companies," the parliamentarians were learnt to have been told.

Irregularities were also found even in the big companies. In case of claim settlement, the big companies take recourse to dilly-dallying procedure, sources added.

The meeting extended the time for submission of the final report by another three months as the sub-committee couldn't complete the task as its convener, Mir Sarafat Ali Daru, MP, had stayed abroad for long.

It also granted same period of time to the sub-committee on tea after it also failed to prepare the report again due to problems with its convener, Mahibur Rahman Manik, MP.

Manik is facing some legal problems due to bomb explosions at his home that killed two people.

However, the meeting was informed that the sub-committee already had found many irregularities in tea industry, specially relating to land leased for tea gardens but used as housing plots.

The sub-committee members informed that they also detected the problems prevailing in the sector and were preparing to find out solutions to boost tea

production.

Apart from time extension for the sub-committee, the Standing Committee also took stock of tea production, export process, cause of price fall in international market and land leasing for tea garden.

Among the members present were Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Minister Mahibur Rahman Manik, Minister Majibur Rahman, Biren Sikder, Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, Sarwar Jamal Nizam and Prof Shahidul Islam.

US to provide funds for feasibility study on arsenic water treatment

The United States will provide US dollar 267,500 to Bangladesh for a feasibility study on arsenic water treatment as per an agreement signed here yesterday, reports BSS.

Charge d'Affairs of the US Embassy in Bangladesh Ted Nist and Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) Dr Mashur Rahman signed the agreement on behalf of the two sides, a USIS press release said.

The contractor, Tetrahdron Inc, will conduct the study project to be funded by the US Trade and Development Agency for the arsenic water treatment.

The study will be conducted to develop a cost-effective system for treating arsenic-contaminated water, making it both technically and socially acceptable for the people of Bangladesh.

Decision of Registrar of Trade Union on BRSL stayed

By SC Correspondent

A High Court division bench on Sunday ordered stay of the decision of the Registrar of Trade Unions declaring Mohammad Serajullah and Habibur Rahman Akand as president and general secretary of the Bangladesh Railway Sramik League (BRSL) respectively.

A division bench of the HC comprising Justice KM Hasan and Justice MA Quddus by the order dated July 18 also directed the registrar and deputy registrar of trade unions, Mohammad Serajullah and Habibur Rahman Akand to explain why the decision should not be declared without lawful authority and is of no legal effect.

The order was passed upon a writ petition filed by Alhaj Rahammatullah Chowdhury claiming himself as the duly elected president of the organisation.

The petitioner submitted that the committee of BRSL was formed at its conference on November 26 and 27 of 1997 with Rahammatullah Chowdhury and Habibur Rahman Akand as its president and general secretary respectively. The petitioner said that the new committee was communicated to the Registrar of Trade Unions by joint signature of its president and general secretary on November 29, 1997. But on December 21 1997 the deputy registrar informed the DG railway that his office received two committees of the organisation and told them to explain the matter on January 8 1998 which they did. Later on April 15 1999 the registrar of trade unions by a letter to the DG Railway informed that the committee led by Serajullah and Habibur Rahman Akand as president and general secretary of the organisation was functioning.

The writ was moved by Dr Kamal Hossain.

Gheor thana OC closed

MANIKGANJ, July 20: The officer-in-charge of Gheor thana has been closed as his activities came under severe criticism in the press, reports UNB.

A section of the press had reported that Belayet Hussain harassed residents of Gheor, implicated innocent people in false cases and took bribes by abusing his official powers. A group of people of Fulihara village recently observed hunger strike to protest his misdeeds, including rape.

Case against Chetia

Two witnesses cross-examined

By Court Correspondent

Two witnesses of a case, filed against ULFA leader Anup Chetia and two others on charge of possessing an illegal satellite phone set, were cross-examined yesterday at the First Assistant Metropolitan Sessions' Judge Court.

The ULFA leader along with two accomplices — Babul Surma and Laxmi Prasad Goswami — were arrested on December 21, 1997 with an unauthorised satellite phone set and some foreign currency at city's Mogaonpura.

The three accused were produced before the court at about 11 am. Abdul Hasib Mia, one of the lawyers for the accused, cross-examined witnesses, Inspector Mujibul Huq and constable Khorshed Alam, for about an hour.

The Judge, AKM Arifur Rahman, fixed August 30 for cross-examination of the rest of the witnesses in the case.

BNP blasts decision to enhance power tariff

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has blasted government decision for enhancing electricity tariff and demanded its immediate cancellation.

In a statement yesterday, he said the government has enhanced the electricity price five times in last three years and said the latest decision will paralyse normal life of common people, destroy industries and the irrigation system.

Bhuiyan said the price hike came at a time when the economy is on the verge of destruction, when income of common people is at the lowest level, when mills, factories and industries are being closed one after another and when prices of essentials are rising gradually.

Though the government failed to ensure supply of necessary electricity, it didn't hesitate to increase the price of electricity," he added.



Suharto admitted to hospital

JAKARTA, July 20: Former Indonesian president Suharto was admitted to Jakarta's Pertamina hospital today, reports AFP.

"He came here for a check-up, without any (health) complaints," hospital spokesman Sajbir Muhammad said.

Suharto was believed to have been admitted to the VIP ward on the sixth floor. It was tightly guarded with access restricted to authorised staff members and immediate relatives.

A cameraman, one of scores of journalists at the hospital, said he saw Suharto carried out of his car by two of his private security guards.

Suharto's grandson Arie Sigit was seen entering the hospital.

Another witness said he saw at least two of Suharto's children at the hospital, youngest daughter Siti "Mamiek" Hutami Endang Adiningtih, and his second eldest son Bambang Trihatmojo.

Juan Felix Tampubolon, one of the lawyers of the 78-year-old former strongman, said Suharto "is not sick."

"He has only gone for one of his regular medical checkups," Tampubolon told AFP. He said Suharto was undergoing medical checkups every three weeks or so for urinary tract and blood problems.

Task force to rehabilitate sex workers

A high-level inter-ministerial meeting on rehabilitation of the prostitutes of Tanbaraz yesterday decided to form a task force to complete the rehabilitation process smoothly, reported BSS.

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim presided over the meeting held at the home ministry, said a press release.

The meeting discussed in detail the immediate launching of the rehabilitation programme for those prostitutes who are interested to be included in the programme.

Floods hit 57 dists in Assam

KATHMANDU, July 20: Heavy downpours by mudslides and floods caused by heavy rainfall have left 85 people dead and affected 57 districts over the last five weeks, Nepal Home Minister Prabhu Bahadur Khadka said today, reports AFP.

Briefing parliament on the situation he said mudslides and floods caused by heavy rainfall had washed away several houses as well as bridges.

An official of the Meteorological Department said the monsoon rains, which started about six weeks ago, would last until the end of August, warning heavy rain before them could lead to "heavy losses of life and property."

This year the rains have hit all 57 districts in the kingdom which had helped the cultivation of paddy.

The writ was moved by Dr Kamal Hossain.

Narsingdi liquor tragedy: 19 likely to be charged

NARSINGDI, July 20: After two-and-a-half months of inquiry, the charge sheet in liquor tragedy case was submitted to the Public Prosecutor here on Monday, reports UNB.

The charge sheet is expected to be placed before the court by two weeks after completion of some necessary formalities.

Nineteen people, accused in the case, are likely to be charged. Of them, 11 are absconding.

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 address: dstar@bangla.net

Task force to rehabilitate sex workers

A high-level inter-ministerial meeting on rehabilitation of the prostitutes of Tanbaraz yesterday decided to form a task force to complete the rehabilitation process smoothly, reported BSS.

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim presided over the meeting held at the home ministry, said a press release.

The meeting discussed in detail the immediate launching of the rehabilitation programme for those prostitutes who are interested to be included in the programme.

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, 724923, CEPZ 740108 Narayanganj (880-2) 9714336, Khulna (880-41) 725008



Raging deluge

The currents from the River Gumti's breach have flooded away most houses in Buriachang thana, Comilla.

Star photo by Anisur Rahman



Let's make things better

PHILIPS

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



MP allegedly leads vandals into garment factory

By Staff Correspondent

Armed goons allegedly led by a ruling party member of parliament vandalised a garment factory in the city yesterday noon, witnesses said.

Witnesses said HBM Iqbal MP along with a few dozen followers carrying sophisticated firearms arrived at Eskaton at around 5:00 in the afternoon and ordered all workers and staff to leave.

The owner of the factory, BGMEA vice president Nurul Haq Sikder, also alleged that the ruling party MP personally led the attack and had been present for more than two hours at the spot.

He complained that the Ramma police reached the spot after the MP had left and picked up factory general manager Abdul Mukin Chowdhury.

They smashed valuable furniture of the factory, the factory owner alleged.

The armed terrorists also locked the factory gate and took away the keys. According to sources, the vandalism was a sequel to an earlier incident in which a person was injured when corrugated iron sheets fell from the roof top of the factory building. A case was filed against the owner of the building after the incident.

When contacted, the Ramma police expressed total ignorance about the incident. The duty officer could not say whether any one was arrested or picked up from the Dhaka Dyeing factory.

The MP could not be reached by telephone despite repeated attempts.

Sikder told the Daily Star last night that garments products worth as much as US\$ 10 lakh were ready for export inside the factory which he could not enter after the incident.

The BGMEA was holding a meeting over the incident till writing of this report last night. No case was filed with police till then.

Sectt employees threaten 'tiffin carrier' demonstration

By Special Correspondent

Low paid government employees staged demonstrations for the second day yesterday at the Secretariat, pressing their various demands including change in office hours and introduction of dearness allowance.

Their leaders asked the government to accept their demands by August 3. They announced at a rally at the Secretariat yesterday that they would hold "tiffin carrier" demonstration on August 3 to highlight their demand for change in office hours.

Lower class government employees had been opposing the new office hours which replaced the previous work schedule in the Secretariat of 8:30am to 2:30 pm with 9 am-5 pm with two day weekend introduced by the government in 1996.

They say the new schedule had prevented many of them from doing extra work after office to supplement their income.

They also rejected recent staggered rise in pay under new scales describing them as inadequate to cope with spiralling prices.

Employee leaders also demanded removal of the finance and establishment secretaries before August 5.

Nurul Alam, Shah Alam, Mahe Alam, Abdul Khaleque were among the employee leaders who addressed the gathering.

Hartal called at Rajbari today

RAJBARI, July 20: A citizens' committee has called an eight-hour hartal here tomorrow demanding restoration of rail links in two routes in the district and construction of a bridge over the river Padma, reported BSS.

The "Rajbari Rail Protection and Padma Bridge Implementation Sangram Committee" called the hartal from 6 am demanding restoration