13 dacoits held

in Sitakunda

From Our Correspondent

teen dacoits were arrested with

arms at Panthochhila in

about 25 dacoits were travelling

in a Chittagong bound bus from

Ramganj of Noakhali in the

Nunachhara, the dacoits

swooped on the passengers and looted their belongings at gun-

They got down from the bus

at Panthochhila and tried to

flee in a microbus, but the bus

passengers with the help of lo-

cal people intercepted their ve-

hicle and caught eight of them

while the rest managed to flee.

Two LGs were recovered from

The bus passengers and local

people beat up the dacoits and

later handed over to the police.

The arrested dacoits were iden-

tified as Abu Musa, Nurul

Karim, Imam Ali, Jamal Uddin,

Alauddin, Towhid Islam,

Suman Majumder, Akram Hos-

sain Mintu, Taslimuddin, Abu

Zafar Champa, Saiful Islam

alias Shahidul, Kutub Uddin

Hoax: Emirates

When the bus reached near

Police and witnesses said,

Sitakunda thana today.

guise of passengers.

their possession.

and Sajol Roy.

point.

CHITTAGONG, Oct 2: Thir-

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Hib infection kills a large number of children

By Staff Correspondent

Bacterial infection by Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) which causes pneumonia and meningitis is a major factor behind child mortality in the country.

Incidence of diseases caused by Hib infection has increased by 712 per cent in the country in the last one decade while it has been eradicated in most of the developed countries, according to research findings presented at a symposium in the city yesterday.

Dr Samir Kumar Shaha of Microbiology Department at the Dhaka Shishu Hospital did the research at the hospital.

The three-year research conducted on 242 Hib infected children revealed that 39 per cent of them died and 30 per cent developed neurological disability. The rest were treated

The symposium on "Burden of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) infection in children of Bangladesh and the need for vaccine", sponsored by Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd. was held at a local hotel

Ninety per cent of Hib cases are babies aged between two months and one year. Most of the cases were from poor families living in an overcrowded environment, DR. Samir said.

Hib infection can be prevented with Hiberix vaccine, which should be included in the Extended Programme for Immunisation (EPI) a foreign scientist said at the symposium. Eminent child specialist Prof. M R Khan said, "There is no doubt that we need to vaccinate our children. But the question is what vaccine should be

M S Akbar MP said, "We have the 'weapon' to fight the disease. So why should we not go for eradicating it like polio?" Dr. Tahsin Yasin of SmithKline Beecham also presented a paper. The discussants included Prof. Nazmunnahar of

given priority."

Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Prof. Manzoor Hussain of Dhaka Shishu

One killed as BCL factions clash in Swandip

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Oct 2: One person was killed and two others were injured in a clash between two rival factions of BCL at Senerhut in Swandip thana vesterday evening.

The clash erupted at around 7:30 pm and continued for an hour, leaving BCL activist Mohiuddin dead.

The injured Sohrab, 22, and Yousuf, 20, were admitted to Swandip Thana Health

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US, Russia sign N-safeguard accord

MOSCOW, Oct 2: The United States and Russia today signed an agreement on cooperation in the monitoring and safeguard-ing of nuclear materials, reports AP.

The agreement was signed by visiting US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and his Russian counterpart. Yevgeny Adamov, after the unveiling of a crisis situation center at the Russian Nuclear Power Ministry, the ITAR-Tass news

agency said. The agreement envisaged a Russian national program of registration, monitoring and protection of nuclear materials, including their transportation. ITAR-Tass said.

It also called for the equipping of Russian factories working with nuclear materials with updated systems and special devices for the registration and control of nuclear materials, the report said.

On Friday, Richardson inaugurated a civilian computer center that would incorporate high-performance IBM computers, ending a long-standing conflict over their sale to Russia. Russia bought the 16 com-

puters in 1996 for nuclear weapons research, bypassing US export regulations. Under US policy, the computers required licenses for export to military and nuclear.

Housewife murdered in Siddirganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Oct-2: Decomposed body of a housewife was recovered from a pond near her house at North Jalkuri village in Siddirganj thana area this afternoon.

The dead was identified as Afsana, 29, wife of Alam alias Nabin of North Jalkuri Village in Siddirgani thana.

Police quoting local people said the body of Afsana was found floating in the nearby pond at about 2 pm today. Police later recovered the body from the pond

Police suspected that Afsana was stabbed to death allegedly. by her husband. She was then thrown into the pond tying her legs with a heavy stone.

The body bore several stab injuries. Hospital sources said that she was pregnant.

Police arrested two persons. Altaf Hossain and Kamal Hossain, brothers of the accused, for their alleged in-volvement with the killing. A case was lodged with Siddirgani thana.

Two minor girls injured in blast

Two minor girls were in jured yesterday when a homemade bomb exploded at Zahuri Mohalla at Mohammadpur in the city, reports UNB.

 The girls — Fatima, 8, daughter of Dului Gazi and Lima, 7, daughter of Shamsul Amin - were playing with the abandoned bomb when it exploded.

They were admitted to Medical College Hospital.

President tells Janakantha function

-The Daily Star___

Geniuses never back out despite political chaos

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said the geniuses never retreated from discharging their responsibilities de-spite political chaos and social disorder, reports UNB.

"Political instability, social chaos, economic crisis or social degradation often created hindrance, but the geniuses did never back out," President said while addressing the distribution of 'Janakantha Celebrities' and "Janakantha Talents' awards '98 at a local hotel in the city yesterday morning.

He said there are many talented personalities who are working relentlessly for awakening the people from their respective positions. But various social odds, especially the economic hardship, create obstacles to their endeavour

Shahabuddin said if the conscious and judicious individuals are not evaluated properly, then there could be no expectation of creativity and freethinking.

The financial arrangement made by the Janakantha man-

GOPALGANJ, Oct 2: Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina today

said all-out measures would be

taken to free the country from

the menace of arsenic contami-

nation in groundwater, reports

The prime minister directed

the authorities concerned to

evolve cost-effective and sus-

tainable technology for ensur-

ing arsenic mitigation and pure

water supply and sanitation

formally inaugurating the

National Emergency Screening

Programme for successful im-

plementation of Bangladesh

Supply Project (BAMWSP) at

Uttar Gobra Village under

up the comprehensive project

with the assistance of the World

Bank and Swiss Development

Corporation to address the ar-

senic problem which has al-

ready contaminated 211 thanas

of 69 districts covering more

were simultaneously inaugu-

rated at five different places of

five other divisions of the coun-

function was also addressed, by LGRD and Cooperatives Minis-

ter Zillur Rahman, Health and

Family Welfare Minister

Salahuddin Yusuf, Chairman of

the Parliamentary Standing

Committee on the Ministry of

Communications Sheikh

Fazlul Karim Selim, General

Secretary of Gopalganj District

Awami League Sheikh

Mohammad Abdullah, Acting

Country Director of the World

Bank Mohsin Ali Khan and

Acting Resident Coordinator of

Mintoo

From mage 1

leading but also unwanted, un-

expected and ill-motive',

crisis will be created if the Chief

Election Commissioner re-

signs", the BNP secretary gen-

eral said there is no possibility of any crisis if the CEC quits

showing respect to the demand

of political parties representing

two-third of the total popula-

In the past, there was no cri-

On Mintoo's 'campaign

against hartal', Bhuiyan said

the business leader had sup-

ported hartals when Awami

League 'enforced 173 days of

hartals and resorted to destruc-

tive activities' during BNP rule. "It would be wise for FBCCI to

raise voice against failures of

this government at a time when

national interests are being

is working as a tool in the con-

spiracy hatched by the govern-ment to confront BNP and the

Computer

From page !

Bhuiyan went on. "Mintoo

sis after the resignation of CECs

Justice ATM Masud, Justice Abdur Rouf and Justice ASK

Referring to Mintoo's reported comment that "a serious

UNDP Andre Klap.

Bhuiyan said.

Sadeq, he said.

threatened.

businessmen."

Besides, such programmes

Held at the Neeler Math, the

The government has taken

Gopalganj Sadar Thana.

than two crore people.

Arsenic Mitigation Water

The prime minister was

services.

agement for the award winners would help them lead a sound life and encourage them in creative activity, the President hoped, and congratulated the recipients of the awards.

Blender with Chopper & Mi

The President expressed the hope that other established, able and profit earning enterprises would come forward with similar initiative and thus inspire the talented persons.

The Janakantha introduced the award in 1998. Ten eminent personalities selected for the awards for 1998 are: Barin Majumder (Music), Abdul Matin (Language Movement) Binod Bihari Chowdhury (Teaching) Late Ataur Rahman (Poetry) Shafiuddin

Ahmad(Journalism), Emdad Hossain(Fine Arts), Rani Sarker (Acting), Kakon Bibi (Freedom Fighting). Sukumar Barua (Rhyme Literature) and Abdur Rashid Sinha (Litera-

Editor of the Daily Janakantha, Mohammad Atiqullah Khan Masud also spoke at the

flight delayed By Staff Correspondent A faxed message containing hijack threat delayed an Emirates flight for Dubai for

Steps being taken to make about an hour at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday, according to official country arsenic-free: PM sources. The faxed message received by the security wing of the Civil Aviation authority yesterday The prime minister said the

morning threatened that two Pakistani citizens, Taleban members, with firearms and bombs would hijack the EK-611 Emirates flight and that they

would take it to Kabul in Afghanistan, sources added. Security men at ZIA and police were yet to identify the origin of the faxed message till the filing of this report last night.

The Emirates flight was scheduled to leave Dhaka at 11:30 am yesterday with about two hundred passengers for

Babu holds board meeting at home!

Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu yesterday claimed to have chaired a Board meeting of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) at his residence yester-Babu said that he could not

hold the meeting at the UCBL headquarters earlier as he was busy with other businesses. Babu told The Daily Star

yesterday evening that six other directors attended the meeting. There who attended the meeting were: Mrs Nurun Nahar Zaman, Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, Hazi MA Kalam. Nuruddin Zaved, Mamun Salam and Anisuzzaman, Babu

Failure to deliver DC 10-30

Biman will scrap its contract with GIA

By Shehab Ahmed

cided to cancel its contract with a US company, GIA, for supplying a DC-10-30 aircraft on a long 'dry lease' as it failed to provide the aeroplane at the scheduled time.

Biman sources said that the decision followed the failure of the company to provide the air-craft by May, following a number of extensions of the delivery schedule.

It sought 90 days time last week to deliver the aircraft, after the Biman authorities gave it a 'final one week's notice' to

But Biman authorities decided against extension of time. It also decided to start negotiations with two other companies who participated in bidding for the supply of aircraft in March

Nine months ago, it offered to deliver the aircraft within 45

Clash over land: one killed, 10 hurt in Banshkhali From Our Correspondent

Syed Ahmed, 60. The clash took place at around 11.30 am over a 27year-old land dispute. Both the groups used fire arms during the

Bangladesh Biman has de-

deliver the aircraft at Dhaka.

last year.

CHITTAGONG, Oct 2: One

person was killed and ten others were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash over land dispute at Saral village under Banshkhali thana in the district this morning The dead was identified as

days of opening of the letter of The back street US company ran into trouble in opening the letter of credit for the supply of

the aircraft. The delay in the procurement of the aircraft had cost Biman huge losses in terms of lost schedules and difficulties in operating its long haul

routes. Biman decided to increase strength of its current fleet of four 'DC-10-30' to serve its transcontinental routes includ-

ing the New York route. Absence of the fifth aircraft, however, had upset its expansion programme, opening new routes and increasing frequencies in the lucrative Gulf sector. knowledgeable sources said.

AL leader held in Rupganj

By Staff Correspondent Police arrested yesterday Altaf Hossain, a local Awami

League leader and the main accused in the attack on City Vegetable Oil factory at Tarabo in Rupganj under Narayanganj recently. A team of Rupganj police led

by SP of Narayanganj Sanaullah arrested him. He was sent to court yester-

Local people alleged that Altaf created trouble in the industrial belt. He and his group used to force to compell the management of the vegetable oil factory to recruit men of his

আমরা শোকাহত

কনফিডেন্স সিমেন্ট লিমিটেডের ব্যবস্থাপণা পরিচালক ইঞ্জিঃ রেজাউল করিম ও পরিচালক বিপণন গ্রুপ ক্যাপটেন (অবঃ) সামসুল আলম, বীর উত্তম, এর পিতা আলহাজ আবুল ওয়াহেদ তালুকদার (অবঃ সহকারী পুলিশ সুপার) গত ০২/১০/৯৯ইং তারিখে সকাল ০৯.০০ ঘটিকার সময় ক্লিনিকে (रेन्नानिल्लारि. ল্লাহি..... রাজেউন)। মৃত্যু কালে তাঁর বয়স रसिष्टिन ৮৫ বছর। তিনি স্ত্রী, ৪ ছেলে ও ২ মেয়ে সহ অসংখ্য গুণগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন।

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tors were on September 24, a public holiday. As many as 40,000 people thronged the show on that day.

"We were compelled to stop sale of tickets and allowed several thousand visitors without tickets on that day," Hasan As many as 160 IT firms,

both vendors and soft were de-

velopers, participated in the

annual fair. Tickets worth over Taka 17 lakh were sold during the fair. The fair has been turned into a 'computer market' which will remain open on six days a week from 10 am to 8 pm except on

Tuesday, the sources said.

arsenic contamination in tubewell water was first detected in the country's northern region in 1993. But the then government did not take any action to contain the menace which today has taken an alarming shape. She said her government has

taken up the matter seriously and succeeded in creating public awareness and drawing the attention of the donor agencies and development partners. Considering the gravity of the problem, organisations like World Bank and Swiss Development Corporation have come forward with helping hands and the concerned ministry has finally drawn up the BAMWSP to combat the men-

Justice Anwarul Haque Chy dead

Anwarul Haque Chowdhury, retired Judge of the High Court division of the Supreme Court. died of a heart attack at his residence here yesterday morning. He was 72, reports BSS. He was the chairman of the

Fifth Wage Board for newspapers and news agencies. The Namaz-e-janaza for Justice Haque was held at the Baitul Mukarram national mosque after Asr prayers yesterday and later he was buried

at Banani Graveyard. He left behind his wife, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers. President Shahabuddin

Ahmed yesterday visited the residence of Anwarul Haque Chowdhury and expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. He prayed for eternal peace of the departed In a message of condolence, the Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina expressed her deep sympathy to the bereaved family members of late Chowdhury and prayed for salvation of the BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Khaleda Zia has expressed pro-

found shock at the death of Justice Anwarul Haq. Qulkhwani of Anwarul Haque Chowdhury will be held at his residence at 1/14 lqbal Road, Mohammadpur in the city on October 5, after Magreb

prayers.

AL-BCL clash in Mymensingh: 15 injured

MYMENSINGH, Oct 2: At least 15 people, including five policemen were injured when the activists of the ruling Awami League and its student front BCL clashed at Gouripur thana headquarters here today. reports UNB.

at about 2 pm as BCL leader Abul Kalam was assaulted in a factional fight. Police came under attack when they tried to control the

Police said the clash erupted

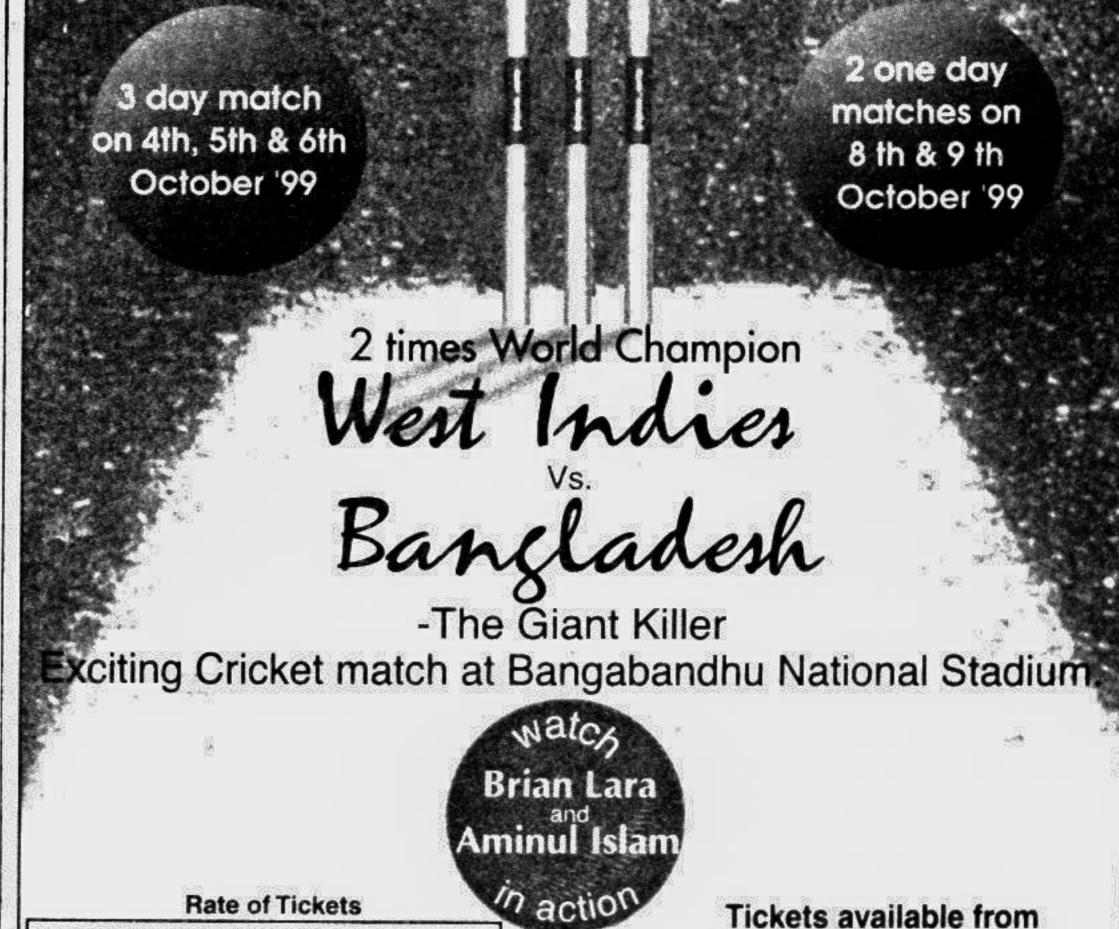
Sub-Inspector Ayub Hossain and businessman Nurul Islam were admitted to MMCH in a critical condition. The angry BCL activists chased local AL general secre-

tary Bidhu Chandra Sarker who took shelter in the police station. They laid a siege to the thana, and chanted slogans demanding handing over Bidhu

Awami League leaders held an emergency meeting inside the police station which was under siege by angry BCL ac-tivists till late tonight.

By Staff Correspondent

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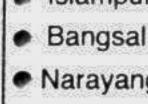
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