

**BUY NOW... PAY LATER**

**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES  
Refrigerator  
Transcom Electronics Limited  
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

# The Daily Star

**LEASE FINANCING**  
Are You Looking For Financial Assistance In

- Capital Machinery
- Heavy Construction Equipment
- Medical Equipment
- Marine Transport
- Generator & Boiler
- Vehicle like Luxury Buses, Microbuses, Trucks, Tractors
- Cargo Carriers, Pick-Up, Cars
- Lifts/Elevators
- Air Conditioning Plants

**PHOENIX LEASING COMPANY LTD.**  
Shadhinata Bhaban (1st fl.) 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka  
Phone: 9569007 (Auto Hunting) Fax: 9567787  
\*Grabbed Branch, R.M. House, 31 Agrabad C/A, Ctg. Ph: 710088, Fax: 710086

VOL. IX NO. 256 REGD. NO. DA 781 www.dailystarnews.com DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 11, 1999 81 days to the 3rd Millennium ASHWIN 26, 1406 BS JAMADUS SANI 30, 1420 HJRI 16 PAGES, PRICE: TAKA 6.00

## Military police return to city streets to fight traffic chaos

By Staff Correspondent  
Members of the armed forces will keep helping the traffic department 'as long as the traffic problems at some intersections are not solved', official sources said.  
The decision comes following a meeting held at Dhaka Cantonment on September 30, attended by officials of police, Rajuk, DCC, Railway and the armed forces.  
Deployment of military police began yesterday at Gabtoli, Aminbazar, Jatabari, Syedabad and on Kamal Ataturk Avenue. Traffic policemen were present alongside the army men to help smooth flow of traffic.  
Sources said the army officials suggested the railway to bring changes in the train time tables at peak hours to ease traffic at different crossings in the city. The railway authorities would 'get back' to the army 'within 15 days' to report what measures they had taken.  
The government has also  
See Page 11 Col 7

## Opposition observes 'anti-aggression day' today

By Staff Correspondent  
The BNP-led four party opposition alliance will observe 'Anti-aggression Day' across the country today to protest recent killings and atrocities by the Indian BSF.  
The BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote said they were protesting recent killings of innocent people and BDR personnel by the BSF, intrusion of Indian forces into the Bangladesh territory, occupation of lands, violation of border rules, frequent attacks and looting of properties, push-in and massing troops along the border.  
The opposition parties said the programme is also aimed to protest the government's reluctance and failure in taking steps against the border incidents and the Indian aggression.  
As parts of the programme, announced on October 3, the  
See Page 12 Col 6

## Foundation of Rangunia EPZ laid

By Staff Correspondent  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday laid the foundation of an Export Processing Zone at Rangunia in Chittagong, the first private sector EPZ owned by a Bangladeshi company.  
A Korean company earlier set up an EPZ in Chittagong.  
The Rangunia EPZ, 30 km from Chittagong city, will initially cover 171 acres of land on the northern side of river Karnaphuli. The area will be increased to over 1000 acres in three phases.  
The EPZ will be set up at a cost of 40 million US dollars and is expected draw investments worth 500 million dollars to create 50,000 employment opportunities, sources said.  
It will accommodate 80 small and medium size industries and 20 large scale industries. Sixty per cent of the industries will be agro-based.  
An earth satellite station will be set up at the EPZ to transmit data through satellite for the advantages of entrepreneurs, the sources said.  
(See details in Business page)

## Inside Today

### Article

## Nuclear nightmare in Japan

## Saying No to Poisoned Power

Pratul Bidwai writes from New Delhi  
Page 4

### Focus

The Net: An opportunity Bangladesh can't miss  
Page 5

## Prayer Timings

October 11		
Fajr	4:30	5:00
Zohr	12:45	1:20
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:50	5:55
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

# BNP behind bomb planting incidents

PM tells public meeting in Chittagong

RANGUNIA, Chittagong, Oct 10: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today accused the Opposition of being involved in bomb planting incidents and other subversive activities and said by rejecting her proposal for dialogue the Leader of the Opposition proved that they do not believe in democracy, report agencies.  
Rejecting the proposal for talks BNP has proved that they do not have faith in democracy. Their (its) only target is to capture power with the help of evil forces," she told a huge public meeting at Rangunia College ground after inaugurating a private EPZ here.  
Her allegation came soon after the explosion in a mosque in Khulna city in which six people were killed and recovery of powerful bombs from sensitive places like mosques and

newspaper office in the capital that created panic in public life.  
Hasina suspected a direct political link with the bomb planting incidents and said all this substantiated the statements of the BNP leader who wanted to know what were the signals behind the bomb blast in Khulna and recovery of bombs at Mirpur and the Daily Janakantha office on Friday.  
The prime minister squarely blamed the main opposition party of former premier Khaleda Zia for harbouring the terrorists.  
Hasina said BNP was day-dreaming of capturing power with the help of terrorists by snatching the voting rights of the people.  
She reaffirmed that her party would relinquish power before the general elections and the elections would be held under a neutral caretaker government.  
About the one-point demand of the Opposition, she said BNP was sometimes speaking of one point, then four points and also of two points. "How can people who cannot even fix their mind can advance forward?" she questioned.  
Responding to local demands she said the government would take emergency steps to stop erosion by river Karnaphuli, and install a sluice gate at Shilak and Zebaghhat for the development of agriculture.  
She assured that the Rangunia thana headquarters would be upgraded to a municipality and the local hospital expanded to a 100-bed one in phases.  
Presided over by Rangunia thana Awami League president  
See Page 11 Col 7

der a neutral caretaker government.  
About the one-point demand of the Opposition, she said BNP was sometimes speaking of one point, then four points and also of two points. "How can people who cannot even fix their mind can advance forward?" she questioned.  
Responding to local demands she said the government would take emergency steps to stop erosion by river Karnaphuli, and install a sluice gate at Shilak and Zebaghhat for the development of agriculture.  
She assured that the Rangunia thana headquarters would be upgraded to a municipality and the local hospital expanded to a 100-bed one in phases.  
Presided over by Rangunia thana Awami League president  
See Page 11 Col 7

## Repetition of August 26 incident

# Babu 'visits' UCBL again

By Staff Correspondent

Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu again 'visited' the United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) allegedly accompanied by 'a posse of musclemen in presence of police', eye witnesses said.  
At 10:45pm, Babu accompanied by 10 men entered the UCBL office, while some 50 others suspected to be carrying arms were seen stationed on the other side of the street. Babu stayed at the UCBL head office located in Motijheel till 4:10 pm.  
Speaking to The Daily Star later, Babu also admitted he stayed inside the office all day. Bank insiders said Babu

tried to persuade the top management to convene a board meeting but that the officials refused to do so asking Babu to get a court order for that purpose.  
Upon entering the office, Babu's musclemen 'drove away' some 'outsiders' allegedly hired by Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury. He then entered the chairman's room and allegedly seized certain 'official files' of the bank.  
Babu's accomplices were reported to have beaten up some Board Secretariat staff and forced them out.  
The 10 men who accompa-

nied Babu to the bank headquarters were later seen coming out, leaving Babu inside.  
During the incident, the MD and additional MD of the bank were at Bangladesh Bank to discuss the latest situation. When they came to know about Babu's presence in the office, they rushed back to the bank.  
Babu showed them the High Court order claiming to be the chairman of the bank. The bank insiders quoted the MD to have replied that if the court and the Bangladesh Bank recognised him as the chairman, they would not have any  
See Page 12 Col 4



Akhteruzzaman Babu coming out of the UCBL head office at Motijheel in the city yesterday. —Star photo

# Five acres of lakeside land in Dhanmandi illegally occupied

Probe body proposes demolition drive

By Staff correspondent

A committee probing the Dhanmandi Lake Development Project has proposed demolition of all illegal structures on the lakeside to help complete the project within the specified time, officials said yesterday.  
Works ministry officials said that 28 people have illegally occupied five acres of land beside the lake. The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), however, said that the number of illegal occupants is 42, who grabbed about two acres of land.  
The value of the land occupied by these people would exceed Tk 25 crore, which is almost three times more than the worth of the Dhanmandi Lake Development Project itself, sources noted.  
The Tk 9.69 crore

Dhanmandi Lake Development Project was taken up in April 1997 and is likely to be completed by December 99 with an extension of the project time by six months, the sources said.  
The government had recently formed a committee to find out causes of delay of the Dhanmandi Lake Development Project. The committee headed by Karar Mahmudul Hasan, Joint Secretary Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, was formed following an ECNEC meeting with the Prime Minister in the chair on August 8, officials said.  
Walkway along 40 per cent of the lake area, as per the project proposal, could not be constructed as yet due to illegal oc-

cupation of land along the lakeside.  
The committee suggested demolition of all structures on the encroached land along the lakeside, sources said.  
The development project provides for fresh water in the lake and removal of impurities from there. There are about 17,000 feet of walkway along the lake area with sufficient parking facilities for vehicles.  
All the islands along the lake area would be connected with the lakeside by foot-bridge, the project proposal said.  
A permanent podium for cultural activities, boating club, swimming club, children's park, five snack spots and em-  
See Page 11 Col 8

## Countrywide security alert

By Special Correspondent

The authorities yesterday ordered a nationwide alert asking police to gear up vigilance at shopping centres, bus and ferry terminals, rail stations, courts and places of worship in the wake of Friday's bombing at an Ahmadiya mosque in Khulna that killed six people and wounded over 40 people.  
No one has been arrested so far, and no group or individual has claimed responsibility for the bombing.  
Police geared up its vigilance after recovering two bombs from a mosque of the Ahmadiya sect's headquarters in Bakshibazar in Dhaka yesterday which had been under guard since Friday's bombing in southwestern Khulna.  
The law enforcing agencies were alerted after a high-level meeting chaired by Additional Inspector General of Police Abdur Rahim Khan that reviewed the security situation  
See Page 11 Col 6

## Alleged conspiracy to kill Prime Minister: One held

Special Branch police arrested Salahuddin Shoaib Chowdhury, managing director of now defunct ATV, from his Uttara residence last night, reports UNB.  
Police said Shoaib was taken into custody in connection with a case in Motijheel thana about alleged conspiracy to kill the Prime Minister and her close relatives.  
After an intensive investigation, police found that an e-mail with false code was sent to newspaper offices few months back. The message announced awards of different amounts for killing the Prime Minister and some of his close relatives.  
Shoaib was under interrogation by SB police till late last night, informed sources said.  
Earlier, his younger brother Sohail Chowdhury was arrested.  
See Page 11 Col 6

## BSF firing Two injured Bangladeshis die in Indian hospital

JESSORE, Oct 10: The death toll in Friday's BSF firing in Sharsha border rose to three as two Bangladeshis nationals who were undergoing treatment in an Indian hospital succumbed to their bullet injuries on Saturday night, reports UNB.  
Informed sources said Babar Ali, 28, of village Dighirpar and Master Ali, 30, of Fultola thana in Khulna district died at Banganag Hospital at midnight.  
Another Bangladesh national, Abdus Samad, 24, of Dighirpar, died on the spot at 10 pm on Friday.  
After the firing, BSF personnel had taken away the body and the injured Bangladeshis.  
A flag meeting between BDR and BSF officials will be held tomorrow. The meeting will discuss return of the bodies of three Bangladeshis, sources said.  
See Page 12 Col 5

## Dhaka protests 'push-in' bid

The Foreign Ministry yesterday summoned the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka to protest recent attempts by the Indian Border Security Forces to push-in so-called Bangladeshis through Rangpur and Dinajpur borders, report agencies.  
According to a foreign office release, Indian High Commissioner Deb Mukharjee was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.  
Additional Foreign Secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed conveyed Dhaka's concern and protest against the recent BSF attempts.  
Mohiuddin particularly drew attention of the Indian High Commissioner to the recent increase in such BSF attempts in this region. He said such people have not been accepted in the past and will not be accepted in future either by Bangladesh.  
He requested the Indian High Commissioner to urge his government to follow the modal-  
See Page 12 Col 5

# None arrested: Panic grips Bakshibazar Two more bombs found at Ahmadiya mosque in city



Army explosive experts keeping the two recovered bombs in a drum filled with sand and water at the Aliya Madrassah field yesterday. —Star photo

Star Report

Two bombs similar to that found in a mosque at Mirpur on Friday were recovered from the heavily guarded mosque of the Ahmadiya Muslim Jamaat (Kadiani) at Bakshibazar in the city after Fazr prayers yesterday, police said.  
The bombs, wired to pencil batteries, were kept in two travel bags left beside two pillars on the first floor of the mosque.  
A 'volunteer committee' formed with some members of the community just after the Fazr prayers to keep vigil on the complex found the two bags, Tarek Saiful Islam, one of their leaders told newsmen who visited the mosque after the incident.  
The volunteers immediately informed police, deployed at the complex after a bomb blast at a Kadiani mosque in Khulna killed six persons on Friday. The on-duty policemen called Lalbagh police who informed the army.  
Army explosive experts went there at around 11 a.m. They took the bags to nearby Aliya Madrassah field, recovered the bombs and kept those in a drum filled with sand and water. The bombs were kept there till wiring the report last night.  
An ISPR press release said last night, "Steps for demolishing the bombs will be taken after 24 hours observation."  
Detective police searched the Bakshibazar mosque and its compound later but found no destructive materials, police said.  
None has been arrested in connection with the two incidents at the mosques and another such incident at the daily office of Janakantha on Friday.  
A top official of DMP when asked about the incident said, "The bombs inside the (Bakshibazar) mosque must  
See Page 11 Col 6

# Another Khulna blast victim dies 'Security passes' seized from mosque complex

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 10: The death toll in Friday's bomb blast in the mosque complex of Ahmadiya community at Nirala residential area here rose to seven as another person, who was one of the five severely injured during the blast, died on way to Dhaka yesterday.  
The victim is Gazi Omar Faruque, 30, The four others — Imam Imdadur Rahman, Abdur Razzak, Momtazul Islam and Abdul Wadud — were hospitalised in Dhaka.  
Meanwhile, two of the three persons detained on Friday night for interrogation were released from Khulna thana today. But an activist of Ahmadiya community, Monsur Ahmed Nadir, was arrested on suspicion of his involvement in the blast. Nadir is the lone accused in the FIR recorded by the

OC of Khulna thana as complainant.  
ASI Ibrahim lodged another case with the same thana mid-night Saturday night accusing six persons of operating an arms training centre in the mosque complex. Earlier, five of the six accused, all belonging to the Ahmadiya community, were arrested. They are Abul Kalam, Korban Shaikh, Raju Ahmed, Chunnun and Aslam.  
The Khulna thana OC has prayed to the CMM's Court here for taking them on a 10-day remand for interrogation. However, hearing on this matter will be held tomorrow, police said.  
Police today recovered more evidences including a blood-soaked full-shirt from the complex.  
See Page 11 Col 7

# Ahmadiyas hold Khatme Nabuwat responsible for Khulna bombing

By Staff Correspondent  
Ahmadiya Muslim Jamaat has held the Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat responsible for Friday's explosion of bomb at its Khulna mosque, and planting bombs at the Dhaka mosque.  
The Ahmadiya Muslim sect in a statement yesterday said that the bomb attack at the Khulna mosque was nothing surprising and that it was done under a well-planned design.  
"The culprits left bombs in two bags at 4, Bakshibazar Road Ahmadiya mosque after Fazr prayers on Sunday... The Lalbagh police later took the bombs outside Tahaffuz Khatme Nabuwat was established with the objective of eliminating the Ahmadiyas in Pakistan and its local chapter is carrying out similar activities in Bangladesh."  
The statement recalled that  
See Page 11 Col 6

# 10 Bangladeshis kidnapped by BSF in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent  
SYLHET, Oct 10: Ten Bangladeshis kidnapped by Indian BSF from Kanaighat border yesterday are yet to be returned, an official said this afternoon.  
BSF has not responded to an official protest by the BDR. A company level meeting between the BDR and BSF today ended without any result. It is the third kidnap incident in the Sylhet borders in the last five days.  
Of those kidnapped yesterday, eight from village Kaliganj went to collect wood from the hill areas near the border.  
They are, Harun-Ul-Rashid, Joyal Miah, Abdullah, Foyez Ahmed, Shamsuddin, Foyez Ahmed, Safar Ali and Abdur Rab. The two others, Abdur Rahim and Harun Miah of village Aitram.  
With this, the number of Bangladeshis nationals kidnapped by BSF from Sylhet borders during the last 15 days rose to 23.  
Akhter Hameed Khan dead  
KARACHI, Oct 10: Noted Pakistani scientist Akhter Hameed Khan died of kidney failure in the United States today, his family here said, reports AFP.  
The 85-year-old Khan, who was decorated in Pakistan and abroad for his services in social development, died in a hospital in Indiana where he had gone to meet his relatives, they said.  
A former bureaucrat during the British rule in India, Khan served in education institutions in India, the then East Pakistan, and Karachi.

# Tk 50 lakh power theft a month at Chittagong

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 10: About 25 lakh units of electricity remain 'untraced' every month in this port city of the total supply of 1.15 crore units, causing a revenue loss of over Tk 50 lakh per month to PDB, sources concerned said.  
Unbridled corruption allegedly by a section of PDB staff including metre inspectors, pilferage through illegal power

connection and other forms of theft could be the reasons, behind this, they added.  
But the 'missing' electricity is shown by metre inspectors and other employees of PDB as 'system losses' at the time of billing.  
Metre inspectors hardly go for metre reading. Rather, they engage 'outsiders' to do the job.

Each inspector hires 10 to 12 men for metre reading and distribution of bills among the subscribers, the sources said.  
As a result, proper metre reading and billing are hampered. Subscribers having no 'secret link' with those 'outsiders' have to face either over billing or average billing, it is alleged.

A section of subscribers including business houses, mills and factories allegedly have illegal power connection, in collusion with those 'outsiders' and metre inspectors.  
When contacted, PDB Chief Engineer M Barua told this correspondent that punitive measures were being taken against those officials and employees of PDB found responsible for pil-

ferage of electricity, increase of system loss and other acts against the interest of the organisation.  
Some of them were already transferred outside this zone, he mentioned.  
Besides, steps were taken to check hiring of 'outsiders' for metre reading and subscribers were advised to hand over to

police such persons having no identity cards.  
Metre readers were issued identity cards signed by the chief engineer and the director, security.  
The chief engineer further said a task force has been formed for random metre checking and a monitoring cell is operating for supervision.