



The Daily Star

Captain, crew of stranded foreign ship held near Mongla port

KHULNA, Oct 15: Police arrested the captain and 23 crew of the stranded ship 'MV Ocean Wave' Thursday night near Mongla Port while they were fleeing in a launch, reports UNB.

The Panamanian ship, carrying some 14,000 tonnes of imported cement for 'A Hossain and Company,' ran aground on the outer bar of Hiron Point on October 8. Its bottom developed a leak in the accident.

Police said in a bid to salvage the ship from vulnerable conditions, Mongla Port officials rushed to the spot on Oct 9, but the captain didn't allow them in.

"After six days, when it was on the verge of sinking, the Russian captain of the ship declared his vessel abandoned and left it along with his 23 crewmen," said police. He informed local agent Zerin Shipping Lines about the situation but did not inform the port authorities or port customs as per international maritime rules.

Their names and identity could not be known immediately.

Meanwhile, the cement importer 'A Hossain and Company' claimed Tk 2.95 crore in damages from Rupali Insurance Company. "Earlier, this very company took Tk 18 crore from four other insurance companies as compensation in similar cases," said one source.

However, the local agent of the ship, Zerin Shipping Lines, claimed Tk 10 lakh from 'A Hossain and Company' in freight for the ship.

Tangail by-polls

Shawkat Momen Shahjahan AL nominee

By Staff Correspondent

Ruling Awami League has nominated Shawkat Momen Shahjahan as party candidate for Tangail-8 parliamentary by-election scheduled to be held on November 15.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Board yesterday evening with party President Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, said a press release.

The parliamentary seat (Shakhipur-Bashali) fell vacant following resignation of AL MP Kader Siddique.

Kader Siddique is also contesting the by-election as an independent candidate and will submit nomination paper tomorrow.

Attack on Kadianis in Natore: 10 injured

NATORE, Oct 15: At least 10 Kadianis were injured, two of them seriously, in an attack by their rivals near the town today, reports UNB.

Elahe Alameen, 18, and Hazrat Ali, 25, of Teberia village were admitted to the Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Abdur Rahman, Shamsul Alam, Bacchu and Hazera Khatun of the same village were given first aid in the hospital.

Police and witnesses said the Kadianis came under attack while they were returning home from Ahmediya Jamaat Mosque at village Janglee in Sadar thana after Jum'a prayers.

Police were deployed in the area to avert further clash.

A case was filed with Sadar thana. None was, however, arrested till writing of the report tonight.

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A Gallant Initiative

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Prayer Timings

October 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	5:00
Jorh	12:45	1:20
Asr	4:15	4:30
Magrib	5:40	5:43
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation



By M Anwarul Haq

Trade, aid and investment issues are expected to dominate the official talks between Prime Minister John Howard and Sheikh Hasina during the latter's forthcoming trip to Australia.

Signing of an MOU on aid will also take place during the visit.

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert K Flynn said in an interview with The Daily Star on Thursday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit Australia from October 18 to 21. She will lead a 53-member entourage including a 22-member business team.

The envoy spoke on Bangladesh-Australia ties and

gave his opinion on a number of issues. He expressed his satisfaction that a head of government from Bangladesh is visiting Australia for the first time and incidentally, it is taking place soon after his appointment as High Commissioner to Australia.

He mentioned that Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam had visited Bangladesh in 1974 and that there were trips by Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fisher and the foreign minister.

The visit by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Australia would be the first state visit by a head of government since independence of your country. The

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Pak army chief takes charge

Emergency declared: Constitution suspended: Parliament dissolved: Accounts of lawmakers frozen



Pakistani troops stand guard in front of the Parliament building in Islamabad yesterday. Army Chief Gen Pervez Musharraf dismissed Sharif's government in a bloodless military coup Tuesday and declared himself the supreme ruler yesterday. — AFP photo

ISLAMABAD, Oct 15: Army Chief Gen Pervez Musharraf declared himself Pakistan's supreme leader today, and promised to soon establish an efficient and impartial interim setup, reports AP.

At a meeting with his senior military commanders today, Musharraf said the final touches were being given to an efficient and impartial interim setup, which would ensure stability, credibility, transparency and accountability in running the affairs of state, according to an army statement.

This followed an earlier announcement by the army chief declaring a state of emergency and giving himself sweeping powers. He also suspended the constitution, dissolved the legislatures and ended hope of an early return to democratic rule in Pakistan.

His promise of an interim setup indicated that the army general would appoint a civilian administration to run the affairs of state, while he remained the supreme leader.

The top priority of this "interim setup" according to the army statement would be, "economic revival, ensuring national integration and good governance."

When the final makeup of this interim government is de-

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Loadshedding: No early solution in sight

PDB has no good news for city dwellers

By Staff Correspondent

The miseries caused by load-shedding have to be borne by the city dwellers for an indefinite period until some malfunctioning units at Ghorashal and Rouzan power plants are repaired, PDB sources said.

But they could not say how long it would take to repair the units.

There is around 100-150 mw loadshedding in the 17 divisions of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) due to shortage of power generation," said an official who preferred anonymity.

The neighbouring districts including Narayanganj, Narasingdi, Gazipur and Manikganj also experienced similar power supply disruptions as DESA failed to supply power to those areas.

Mills and factories at Tongi, Demra, Shiddhirganj and Savar areas were deprived of

power supply for hours together which hampered production. Many big factories managed to continue their production securing power from their own generators, while others, particularly small and medium range industries, had to shut down machines during the period of load shedding.

DESA sources said that as against their requirement of 1,000 megawatt, the PDB allocated 850 megawatt of power for distribution in DESA areas. They had to adjust the deficit keeping many areas in the dark for several hours.

The DESA also had to keep power supply off to a number of 33 cable lines due to power shortage.

Two power generating units at Ghorashal and one unit at

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Medecins Sans Frontieres wins Nobel Peace Prize



A file photo shows nurses of the Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) taking care of a baby wounded by a rocket in the Rwandan capital Kigali in May, 1994.

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Hasina awaits a high profile reception: HC

Trade & investment issues to dominate talks with Howard

By M Anwarul Haq

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IT can double per capita income by 2010: Yunus

By Staff Correspondent

Tk. 15 billion by the year 2010," Yunus said.

He underscored the need for a mindset to achieve these targets and said, "We need to establish the image of Bangladesh as a country of software industry before the international community.

To build this image, we have to prove our abilities in every sphere of our life. We have

to make all necessary arrangements to turn Bangladesh into a 'cyber country'. We have to open up.

The first thing, he said, the government has to believe that the country has potential to export software worth Tk. 15 billion.

What the government needs to do, Prof. Yunus went on, is to open the closed windows. The government should play a supportive role and create an environment so that the private sector can do business with foreign companies.

The government should enact the Intellectual Property Right (IPR) Act and some other laws which are necessary to do business with foreign companies, he said.

I guess the number of Internet connections in the country is now 30,000. It can easily be one million by 2003, and what we need to do is to increase the number of telephones and reduce internet fees significantly.

The main instrument of IT is telephone. Expansion of IT will be hindered unless the problem of telephone in the country is solved, he said.

The number of telephones in the country is now half a million.

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Row over tariff claims

QC Shipping barred from using its equipment

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 15: Chittagong Port authority (CPA) has suspended operation of private equipment owned by a shipping agency here following a row over huge amount of charges claimed for handling its vessels against the backdrop of equipment crisis at Chittagong port.

The dispute arose after QC Shipping Agency claimed charges of about Tk 20 crore from CPA for the use of its equipment.

Use of the equipment was suspended on October 1, the sources added.

Besides, the two sides are now locked in a legal battle.

The shipping agency filed a case after CPA refused to settle its claim.

Port sources said the agency made the claim violating a contract between the two sides when those equipment were put into operation in July 1997

only to handle QC vessels.

As per the contract, the shipping agency could not claim any charges because the equipment were brought only for handling its vessels against the backdrop of equipment crisis at Chittagong port.

But after using the equipment for about two years, the shipping agency started claiming charges in violation of the contract, the sources said.

When contacted, an official of the shipping agency said, "The claim of tariff against those equipment procured at a cost of Taka 13 crore was justified as per provisions of port gazette."

"We cannot sustain