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## Captain, crew of stranded foreign ship held near Mongla port

KHULNA, Oct 15: Police arrested the captain and 23 crew of the stranded ship 'MY 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 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 Shahjahan AL nominee

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

"The decision was taken at 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 (Shahjahan-Bashail) 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.

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

Abdur Rahman, Shamsul Alam, Bacchu and Hazara Khan 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.

## Inside Today Article

### A Gallant Initiative

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by Abdul Bayes  
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Book review: Of state and nationalism, Reflection: Emerson at the millennium, and Poems  
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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
Maghrib	5:40	5:43
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

# 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 legislature 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 administrator 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 decided, Page 11 Col 7

# IT can double per capita income by 2010: Yunus

By Staff Correspondent

The per capita income in the country can be doubled by the year 2010 if the opportunities provided by Information Technology (IT) are properly utilised, said Prof Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director of Grameen Bank.

"We can reduce the number of the poor living below poverty line from half of the population to one fourth by 2010 if we properly utilise the vast opportunities created by IT," he said.

Both the targets are realistic, he said, pointing out that when other countries have done it, we also can do. "Attaining both the targets has become easier with the evolution of new technologies. We have no option but to take this opportunity," he added.

Prof Yunus was delivering 'Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Trust Fund Lecture, 1999' on 'Bangladesh 2010' at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) auditorium in the city yesterday.

He expressed the view that the country would earn Tk 100 crore from soft ware export in the current fiscal year. "It is possible to earn Tk. 500 crore next year if we make necessary arrangements."

"We should prepare ourselves to export software worth

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



Prof Yunus

to make all necessary arrangements to turn Bangladesh into a 'cyber country'. We have no option but to do this."

The first thing, he said, the government has to believe that the country has potential to export software worth Tk. 15 billion 2010.

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. Page 11 Col 6

# Loadshedding: No early solution in sight

PDB has no good news for city dwellers

By Staff Correspondent

The miseries caused by loadshedding 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.

Frequent power disruption is greatly affecting operation of mills and factories, supply of water and studies of the students particularly examinees.

Many areas of the city and neighbouring districts experienced severe load shedding yesterday as the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) had a power shortage of 150 megawatt.

A number of busy areas and markets of the capital plunged into darkness for several hours last night. The worst disruption in power supply took place at Dhamondi, Gulshan, Kamalapur, Khilgaon, Maghbazar, Malibagh, Badda, Uttara, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, New Market, Azampur, Bakshibazar and old Dhaka areas.

The neighbouring districts including Narayanganj, Narsingdi, 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

See Page 12 Col 4

## Bomb blast or fire incident?

By Staff Correspondent

Controversy continued over the incident of bomb blast inside the Proctor's office of the Dhaka University Thursday night.

Dhaka University authorities claimed on Thursday night that a powerful bomb had exploded inside the Proctor's Office of Dhaka University, burnt important documents and left cracks on the walls of the office building.

But Abdul Wahed, a security guard of Dhaka University, who filed a case with Ramna police yesterday, did not mention anything about an explosion in the FIR. Rather in the FIR he alleged that he saw smoke coming out of the Proctor's office assistant's room from upstairs at 8:45 pm Thursday.

He along with other security guards rushed to the scene and found that a fire had engulfed the furniture and a two-in-one inside the room. They doused off the fire.

Vice Chancellor AK Azad Chowdhury admitted that a bomb blast had actually taken place inside the Proctor's office, he told The Daily Star Thursday night. "It appears to be a part of

## DU clarifies

6 out of 7 exams held normally

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities have termed the newspaper reports on the turn out of the examinees at Thursday's examinations "incorrect".

In a clarification yesterday, the DU claimed six, out of the scheduled seven examinations of various departments of the university were held normally.

The turn out of the examinees was as follows: Islamic History and Culture 98 per cent, Islamic Studies 75 per cent, Linguistics 70 per cent, Information and Library Science 43 per cent, Political Science 37 per cent and Chemistry cent per cent, it said.

Only the examination of the Department of Economics could not be held, it said, adding, "The reasons behind the thin attendance of the examinees at one or two departments was due to creation of obstruction to intending examinees from entering the examination halls."

The attempt to hold the examinations was aimed only at reducing sessions jam at the university for the welfare of the students, the clarification added.

## Fake notes seized: 3 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

A special squad of the Detective Branch of police recovered a large number of fake Tk. 500 and Tk. 100 currency notes and arrested three persons from the city's Mohammadpur and Jigatola areas in this connection Thursday night, police said.

The DB squad also recovered machines and materials used in preparing fake Bangladesh and Indian currency notes during the operation.

Police identified the arrested as Jamil, Helal and Zaman.

Zaman told police that they had already produced fake notes worth about Tk 20 lakh and delivered them for circulation in the market last month. Zaman also admitted that his gang was supplying fake Indian currency to India.

Acting on a tip-off, the DB See Page 12 Col 3

# 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 the use of those, sources concerned said.

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 operation of our expensive equipment free of charges and that is why we are battling for our claim."

See Page 12 Col 6

## New graveyard at Rayerbazar proposed

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has taken up a project to set up a graveyard near the martyred intellectuals' monument at Rayerbazar by acquiring 100 acres of low-lying land, sources said.

The area for the proposed graveyard is beside the Haikar Khal (canal) and remains submerged by water most of the year. The canal meets the river Buriganga about half a mile north.

Last year, DCC blocked the flow of the Haikar khal at the Turag river-end by constructing the Bosila road. The DCC engineers did not leave any provision for the canal water to flow.

The five graveyards in the city have reached saturation point. "The population has increased manifold but the space for burial is not enough," Chief Estate Officer, Ehsanul Fatah told The Daily Star.

He said the entire 100 acres of land will be earth-filled by dredging the canals in the area.

The graveyard will also prevent construction of high-rise buildings in the area," he said.

See Page 11 Col 6

# 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.

OSLO, Oct 15: Medecins Sans Frontieres won the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of the organisation's "pioneering humanitarian work on several continents," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said, reports AP.

"Since its foundation in the early 1970s, Medecins Sans Frontieres has adhered to the fundamental principle that all disaster victims, whether the disaster is natural or human in origin, have a right to professional assistance given as quickly and as efficiently as possible," the committee said.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) was founded in Paris in 1971 by a small group of idealistic French doctors disillusioned with the neutral policies of the Red Cross. The group quickly became known as 'the French

See Page 11 Col 4

Hasina awaits a high profile reception: HC

# Trade & investment issues to dominate talks with Howard

By M Anwarul Haq



Rober K Flynn

"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-Australian 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 Dhaka.

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

See Page 11 Col 7

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