



Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
License of Federal Express Corporation
Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

NEW DOHS

184/A, Eastern Road, Lane # 2
Mohakhali, Dhaka
Tel # 9884851, 603798

GULSHAN

OPEN 24 HOURS
Bilquis Tower
Gulshan Circle-2, Dhaka
Tel # 9883927, 887771

UTTARA

Backed by
Guarantee
Baly Complex, Sector-3
Airport Road, Uttara, Dhaka
Tel # 894213

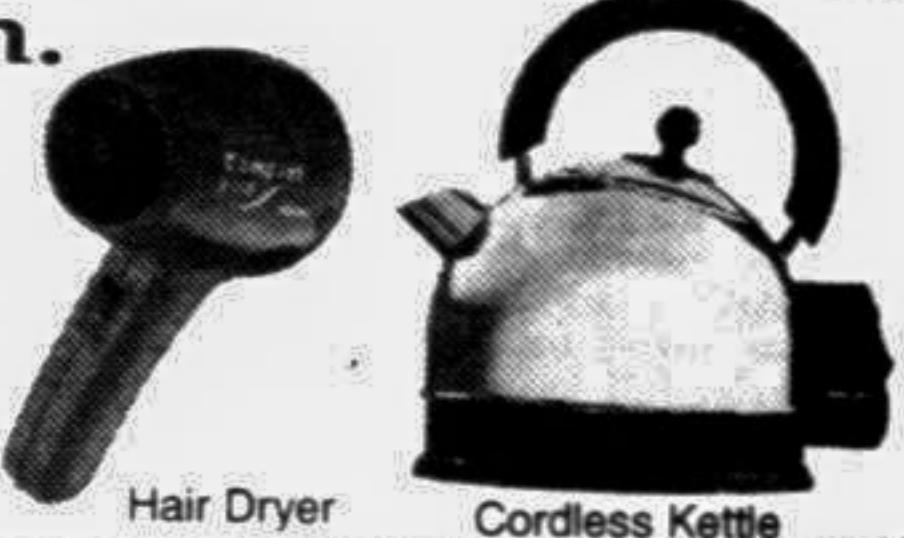
Let's make things better
PHILIPS

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 Clg.: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215
Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today

**2 killed as rival groups clash at Gandaria**

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed when rival groups clashed at Gandaria Ghuntighar Rail crossing on Duhkhola Road in the city yesterday morning.

Of the deceased, one was identified as Ramzan, 25, an alleged muscleman of the area and a gang leader, while the other was a hawker, Kutub Ali, who died in the cross fire, police said.

When Ramzan and Kutub were brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital the attending doctors declared them dead, according to our medical correspondent.

The two groups used to clash quite frequently, with the latest taking place only two weeks ago, police said, adding, yesterday's clash ensued over trading of illegal alcohol.

Ramzan and Sajju were both wanted by police. Both of them were accused in more than six cases, including a murder case, police said.

Ramzan's father claimed to have received a letter from Narinda Begumganj under Suprattha thana lodges a FIR accusing his rival Sajju and his accomplices for the murder of

his son.

None was arrested in this connection, police said.

Sajju group attacked Ramzan and his associates when they reached the Ghuntighar rail crossing at about 10:30 am yesterday. GRP police said quoting the FIR.

A bullet hit Ramzan on his chest, while Kutub was hit in his abdomen during crossfire, witnesses said.

The rival groups clashed with each other blasting crackers and firing gun shots, which lasted for about an hour. During the clashes tension mounted in the area and the road became deserted, witnesses said.

The area, in which clashes took place, falls under the jurisdiction of GRP. Police reached the spot hours after the incident when normally had already been restored in the area, witnesses alleged.

Ramzan's father claimed to have received a letter from Narinda Begumganj under Suprattha thana lodges a FIR accusing his rival Sajju and his accomplices for the murder of



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia placing wreaths at mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman yesterday on the occasion of 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day.'

—Star photo

'Action plan' to end political stalemate

FBCCI's call to chambers trade bodies goes unheeded

The initiative taken by FBCCI to formulate an 'action plan' seeking an end to political stalemate resulting in frequent hartals has virtually failed in the absence of adequate response from its members, reports UNB.

On September 28, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) decided to formulate an action plan for consideration of all concerned within next seven days.

But the Federation could not yet come out with its action plan as major chambers and trade associations, who attended the September 28 meeting that floated the idea of the action plan, practically stayed away from subsequent efforts.

Sources close to FBCCI said the committee formed to draft the plan could not sit for a single full-dress meeting since the announcement five weeks ago.

Its call to chambers and

trade associations to send their suggestions regarding the action plan went unheeded.

FBCCI vice-president M A Mumun, however, said at least six meetings were held on the action plan and series of 'group wise' meetings were taking place frequently with various trade associations and chambers.

"We are collecting their suggestions and consulting them," he said and hoped that a draft declaration might be finalised within a couple of days.

An executive of the Metropolitan Chamber said they did not receive any invitation to join any meeting of the committee regarding the action plan.

"You better ask the FBCCI about the fate of the action plan," he said.

Another executive of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) said they are out of the process

and left it with the local chambers and trade bodies.

The September 28 meeting also urged the opposition parties to withdraw the October 3 hartal and refrain from calling hartal for the sake of country's economy, specially for export business.

Earlier on September 23, five chambers and trade associations in a joint statement urged the government to respond positively to the opposition's two basic demands — resignation of Chief Election Commissioner and reorganisation of Election Commission — to ensure a hartal-free healthy political situation.

The joint appeal of DCCI, FICCI, BCI, MCCI and BGMEA came following a meeting of BGMEA delegation with Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia on September 17 when she assured that they would refrain from enforcing hartal if the two demands were met.

Police yesterday warned that stern action would be taken against vandalism during hartal.

"Vandalism and rowdyism will be dealt with strongly to protect public and private property," a senior police official told UNB yesterday.

Police Commissioner A K M Shamsuddin briefed field officials at Rajarbagh Police Lines on the strategy to deal with opposition activities on streets.

The police superintendents in all districts have also been advised to take steps to tackle any situation during the hartal.

In Dhaka City, more than five thousand police and BDR personnel will be deployed to ensure peace.

Police will be deployed at some market places to safeguard normal business, said the officials.

BNP alleges police raids, arrest of many leaders

By Staff Correspondent

Police raided residences of a number of leaders and activists of opposition parties late Friday night, BNP leader Anwar Zahid said yesterday evening during a briefing on today's hartal.

Abdul Latif, DCC Commissioner of ward no 51 and convener of Dhanmondi thana BNP and another leader of Mirpur thana BNP Kawser Ahmed were detained by plainclothes police during such raids, he said.

Police also raided houses of BNP leader Major (Rtd) Manjur Qader, city BNP joint convener Abdul Malek, Jatiya Party president Kazi Firoz Rashid and Jappan president Shahul Alam Proshan, he said, adding that police also raided his own residence Friday night.

The liaison Committee of the BNP-led opposition alliance at a meeting yesterday evening expressed deep concern saying the raids were conducted with a 'motive' to foil the hartal.

Stern action against

vandalism during hartal, warn police

Police yesterday warned that stern action would be taken against vandalism during hartal.

"Vandalism and rowdyism will be dealt with strongly to protect public and private property," a senior police official told UNB yesterday.

Police Commissioner A K M Shamsuddin briefed field officials at Rajarbagh Police Lines on the strategy to deal with opposition activities on streets.

The police superintendents in all districts have also been advised to take steps to tackle any situation during the hartal.

In Dhaka City, more than five thousand police and BDR personnel will be deployed to ensure peace.

Police will be deployed at some market places to safeguard normal business, said the officials.

4 of a family burnt alive in Cox's Bazar

COXS BAZAR, Nov 6: One woman and her three daughters were burnt alive and another suffered serious injuries in a fire that broke out in a house at Lambaripara in Ramu thana under Cox's Bazar district here last night, reports BSS.

Police and local people said the fire incident claimed the lives of four people of a same family when they fell asleep.

The fire originated from a kitchen of the house of one Ali Hussain soon engulfed the house.

The injured was admitted to Dhulajara Christian Memorial Hospital.

The fire continued for an hour and the house was burned to ashes.

The dead were identified as Masuda Begum, 50, her daughters Hosney Ara, 16, Shamsunnahar, 8, and Reshma Akhter, 6.

Supporting the ideas of exporting power instead of gas, a

professional imposter.

Another reliable source said that he had joined an outlawed party after being expelled from jubo league. The source said that he was awarded seven years RI by Bagerhat court in 1994 on charge of extortion.

Since then he came in contact with Shikdar's underworld to evade arrest as a convict. He is now in police remand for six days for interrogation.

His wife Parveen is also on police remand. She was arrested while raising fund from Khulna bazar for release of Ershad. Both of them have disclosed the names of some other persons in the city who took share of the exported money.

KMP have, however, urged the people to come forward with definite information about victims of extortion committed by Jahangir.

**Another accomplice held
Shikdar's house at Uttara raided**

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 6: Plainclothes policemen raided another residence of Ershad Shikdar, at Uttara, Dhaka on Friday where none but a maid servant was found.

Police searched the entire house, but failed to get anything.

Police arrested another accomplice Altaf from Bhandaria in Pirojpur district the same night.

Khulna Citizens' Committee has filed a case with the court against beneficiaries of Ershad Shikdar. Both of them have disclosed the names of some other persons in the city who took share of the exported money.

Police said that Jahangir Mahmud Liton, an activist of an outlawed party arrested from Shapur under Dumuria thana on Wednesday last, is a

Export of power

From page 1

gas expert said that pipeline export of gas might be profitable but it would not create substantial employment opportunities in the country. But setting up of gas-based power plants will create long-term employment opportunities for thousands of people and help expansion and development of the gas sector.

This will create enough opportunities for oil companies to continue gas exploration in the country, he said.

In late 1996, the government had sent a team to India to see prospects of importing power from there and also made a study on the issue. At that time, India had proposed to sell 200 MW power to Bangladesh from West Bengal and purchase 100 MW from Bangladesh through Agartala point. These proposals were later shelved.

Power tariff in West Bengal is similar to that in Bangladesh, but it is much higher in western part of India.

7100 bombs

From page 1

bombs. Besides, five kg of sulphur, one kg of aluminium powder and two kg of explosive, 15 kg of smashed glass and brick chips and a large number of empty cans were recovered from the house, police said.

Those arrested from the house, sealed off by police later, are Omar Faruk, his brother Ziaur Rahman and their accomplice Shamsu Huq.

In another incident, two persons identified as Shawkat and Munir were arrested on charge of carrying 18 home-made bombs in Nayatola area under Raman thana yesterday, police station.

Separate cases have been filed with Mirpur and Raman thanas and the arrested would be produced before court today.

Police is conducting a drive in different areas of the city for recovery of explosives. Launched on Friday night, the drive is aimed at averting violence during the Opposition-called hartal on November 7 and 8, sources concerned said.



LUCKY ESCAPE! A man helps a child come out of a 'school coach,' a cage-like flat-bed rickshaw, at Rajarbagh in the city yesterday. The van was hit by a bus and its gate had to be pried open to let children out.

—Star photo by Sheikh Enamul Huq

Police interrogate Mammi's maid

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 6: Police today interrogated Reshma, a 10-year-old maid of murdered housewife Mahmuda Sultan Mammi, to ascertain whether anybody else other than her husband was involved in the killing.

The interrogation followed the judicial statement of Mammi's husband Abul Kalam Ripon that he killed his wife.

Police told The Daily Star that charge sheet in the murder case would be submitted in next two weeks.

A separate case will be filed against Ripon's father, mother, sister and two brothers for trying to conceal information regarding the murder, police said.

Meanwhile, jail authorities said that they were taking special care of Ripon as he became very despondent following his confessional statement on Friday. Mammi was murdered in the small hours on October 30.

SC rejects

From page 1

tion schedule for the three city corporations and "notifications on delimitation" of Khulna and Rajshahi cities "shall not be declared to have been made without any lawful authority."

Attorney General Mahmudul Amin and Assistant Attorney General Bazlur Rahman Chhanna appeared on behalf of the Election Commission while BNP leader Barrister Maudud Ahmed and Dr. Rafiqul Islam appeared on behalf of the ward commissioners during the single-bench Appellate Division hearing.

The independent election commission in a statement earlier said "as per the existing laws, the last date for holding elections to the Khulna, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Dhaka City Corporations would be December 28, 1999, December 30, 1999, January 4, 2000 and January 27, 2000 respectively."

The schedule for the polls for the three cities were announced "due to legal bindings," while the one for Dhaka could not be announced "due to (court) injunctions imposed due to boundary disputes of the corporations," the statement said.

Jahpa held a rally at Bijoy Nagar and brought out a torch procession. PNP brought out torch processions at Mirpur and Demra and NDA in Paltan area in the evening.

The opposition parties also held rallies and brought out processions in other parts of the country in support of hartal, sources said.

11 Shibir men arrested in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 6: Police arrested 11 Shibir activists here today in connection with an armed attack on police and setting fire to a city corporation van on October 21, reports UNB.

They were picked up from a mess in the city's Dibphara area, locally known as Shibir Mess at about 4 am.

On Tuesday, 14 Shibir activists were arrested from three messes in Chawkbazar area in the city.

The independent election commission in a statement earlier said "as per the existing laws, the last date for holding elections to the Khulna, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Dhaka City Corporations would be December 28, 1999, December 30, 1999, January 4, 2000 and January 27, 2000 respectively."

The schedule for the polls for the three cities were announced "due to legal bindings," while the one for Dhaka could not be announced "due to (court) injunctions imposed due to boundary disputes of the corporations," the statement said.

Jahpa held a rally at Bijoy Nagar and brought out a torch procession. PNP brought out torch processions at Mirpur and Demra and NDA in Paltan area in the evening.

The opposition parties also held rallies and brought out processions in other