



Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd. Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

MOUCHAK

108, D.I.T. Road Malibagh, Dhaka Tel # 9345261

KAWRANBAZAR

33, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Kawranbazar, Dhaka Tel # 91306... 9130906

DEPZ

Dhaka Export Processing Zone Service Building Ganakbari, Savar Tel # 9338931



Upright Freezer

Chest Freezer

Installation facility available



TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS LTD. Authorized Distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA Dhaka: 8115307-10 CTG: 716353, 723576 Khulna: 725304 Bogra: 9215

IT Park may be launched next month

By M Shamsur Rahman

The country's first IT Park is expected to be launched next month with facilities for high speed data transmission and proper bandwidth.

The much needed park, styled Grameen IT Park, is going to be opened at the Grameen Bank Bhaban in the city in collaboration with the IPDC (Industrial Promotion and Development).

This is the first practical move to initiate software export and the Park will act more like an export processing zone for software exporters.

"It is just the beginning. A lot more is coming in the future," its Project Director, Sobel Sharif told The Daily Star yesterday. "We are already getting huge response. The park space will be rented out on first-come first-serve basis. We feel there is need for a number of IT parks in the country."

He expects business worth 50 million US dollars in the Park in the first three years. This may reach 100 million dollars by the seventh year, he said.

The Park will have 1.20 lakh square feet space on the 11 floors at Grameen Bank Bhaban.

To enable fast data transfer, a must for software export, the park will have V-SAT facility with internal fibre optic structure. This will eliminate the need for T&T lines and ensure proper bandwidth and speed of 128 kilo bytes per second (kbps). (Detailed story in business page)

BCS viva-voce exam deferred

The viva-voce of 20th BCS Examination scheduled for April 13 has been deferred due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

The examination will now be held on April 27. The venue and time, however, will remain unchanged and no letter will be issued further in this regard, said a press release.

PM tells expatriates Clinton to consider regularisation of Bangladeshis

WASHINGTON, Apr 10: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said US President Bill Clinton's first visit to Bangladesh strengthened Dhaka-Washington relations and that her talks with Clinton were very productive, reports UNB.

"We discussed many issues in a cordial atmosphere, and the talks were very fruitful," she told Bangladesh expatriates at the new Bangladesh Embassy building, which she opened Sunday.

Hasina said issues like regularisation of Bangladeshi nationals in the United States, natural gas, the arsenic problem and disaster management were discussed.

Hasina said Clinton assured her he would consider the case of regularisation of Bangladeshi nationals.

About the export of natural gas, Hasina said Bangladesh would consider the matter after ensuring it has gas reserves for the next 50 years to satisfy domestic consumption and the fu-

ture generations. "We can consider exporting natural gas after meeting our domestic requirement and a reserve for the next 50 years," said Hasina. "I think this is our moral obligation to the people, and all planning is being based on this conception."

Hasina said Clinton's South Asian visit was just the beginning. More such visits will take place in near future, cementing the excellent relationship between the two countries.

"Whoever comes (to power), none can ignore Bangladesh in the future," she said.

Hasina said the Bengali nation that fought for its independence must stand with its head held high. "The time is not far away when Bangladesh will emerge as a developed nation, raising its head in the world."

She said Bangladesh no longer wants to roam about with a basket for alms and does not want to live on aid. "We want to build a self-reliant

See page 11 col 8

BNP tells protest rally Planned attempt on Khaleda's life

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders blamed the "terrorists" of the ruling Awami League yesterday for the attack on the motorcade of Khaleda Zia.

They said it was a planned attempt on her life, which was nothing new. The "hired goons and paid agents" of the government had made an attempt on the life of the leader of the opposition in parliament several times being jealous of her popularity.

Khaleda Zia's motorcade came under attack on Sunday when she was driving to Chokoria from Cox's Bazar to attend a party programme.

They were addressing a public rally organised by the city BNP at Muktangan to protest the attack. City BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka MP chaired the rally.

The leaders threatened to cripple the country if there was any such attempt on the BNP chairperson or any other party man again. The ruling Awami League being fearful of its "bleak future" in the upcoming general elections has resorted to terrorism, they contended.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan claimed that more than 20 cars were damaged during the attack.

He said the miscreants put up road barricade on the road before the attack but the local administration and police didn't take any action against them and the security of the opposition leader was vulnerable. Bhuiyan said the government has reduced the size of the security personnel of the former prime minister and is yet to enhance her security force despite requests.

He said the prevailing law and order situation in the country suggests that there is no government in the country.

The rally was addressed by Jatiyatabadi Sraniak Dal general secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal general secretary Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Selima Rahman, party MPs Amanullah Aman, Zainal Abedin Faruq, Shamuzzaman Dudu and Nazimuddin Alam.

Later, the BNP activists brought out a procession in the city



Students of fine arts of the University of Dhaka paint masks for the traditional colourful procession to celebrate Pehela Baishakh, the Bengali New Year's Day, on April 14. - Star photo by Sk. Enamul Haq

Young man gunned down in city

By Staff Correspondent

The bullet-ridden body of a young man was found on a staircase in a building at a housing estate on Nurjahan Road in the city's Mohaminadpur area yesterday.

The body was identified as Mahmudul Hasan, alias Poulash, the 26-year-old son of Sheikh Akram Hossain, who lives in Shantibagh.

Mohaminadpur police said Hasan was shot at least 13 times. They said they suspected the killing was linked to the murder of Sujon, who had been accused in several cases.

Sujon was killed, allegedly by Munna, a notorious criminal, and his accomplices on March 25 on Salimullah Road, which is adjacent to Nurjahan Road.

See page 11 col 7

'Big labour market in India, Pakistan'

By Staff Correspondent

Prof Rehman Sobhan, a leading researcher-scholar, said yesterday that Bangladesh and Nepal are the two largest exporters of labour to India and Pakistan.

At a roundtable on SAARC and Regional Cooperation in South Asia at the BISS, he said the country was earning nearly two and a half billion taka from the labour class of these countries.

He said he did not know how the money was being remitted but added it was definitely "coming in", otherwise the country's economy would have been affected.

Wheat allocation scam LGED chief engineer asked to submit report by Thursday

By Staff Correspondent

The government has asked the chief engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) to submit a report by April 13 on the alleged corruption in wheat allocation, report agencies.

The investigation was ordered in the public interest by local government minister Zilur Rahman at a meeting yesterday, said a press release.

Meanwhile, the ministry has started investigating the matter, it said.

Reports were published in the press during the last few

weeks on alleged misuse and corruption in allocation of wheat and sale of drawing order (DO's) of work through which development of rural infrastructure is carried out, the release added.

From the newspaper reports it seemed to the ministry that indiscipline was prevailing in the LGED Bhaban in Dhaka for the last few weeks centring allocation of wheat under rural infrastructure development programme, the release said.

It further said that a section of officials were involved in the process directly or indirectly, which was damaging the image of LGED, the local government ministry and the government.

However, some officials said no inquiry committee was formed to investigate the wheat scandal. "An inquiry committee is expected to be formed tomorrow (Tuesday)," said a spokesman for the local government ministry.

A personal staff of the local government minister said Zilur Rahman didn't turn up to his office yesterday. Rahman was not available for comment.

Officials said deputy minister for local government Sabur Hossain Chowdhury, who looks after the LGED and who was ultimately blamed for wheat scandal, was not present in the meeting.

Saber Chowdhury said he was very much aware of the decision and categorically denied

See page 11 col 8

US team in city discusses visa forgery

Star Report

The visiting US Customs Department team held a meeting with Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) officials yesterday and discussed visa forgery in garments export from Bangladesh.

The five-member team came on Sunday to investigate visa forgery in garments export to US. They have collected some forged documents and identified several dozen garments factories which are involved in visa forgery in exporting apparels to US, sources in the Ministry of Commerce said.

Before coming to Bangladesh, the team took

See page 11 col 6



Students of the University of Chittagong living in Dhaka brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding re-opening of the institution. - Star photo

BCL, Shibir trade gunshots during hartal in Ctg: 2 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 10: A young man and a minor boy were injured when supporters of the ruling party's Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir traded gunshots during today's dawn to dusk hartal at Satkania.

The BNP's Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Jamaat-e-Islami's Shibir supported the hartal which was enforced by the All Party Students Alliance (APSA), police said.

The injured, identified as Iqbal, 18, and Azad, 9, both pedestrians, were admitted to hospital at Satkania with bullet wounds.

Police said both the pedestrians were caught in crossfire during the clash at 11 a.m. today.

The clash ensued when BCL supporters tried to bring out an anti-hartal procession at Satkania, witnesses said adding the pickets damaged two trucks at Alanker crossing at about 10 a.m. during hartal.

Police arrested 10 pickets from different places of the city

during the shutdown. APSA called the hartal protesting the killing of a Shibir leader at Satkania on Thursday.

However, a large number of rickshaws plied the roads during hartal in the city although most of the vehicles stayed off the roads and highways.

Most of the shops and markets were closed while private and public offices functioned with thin attendance.

Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong port remained suspended although cargo handling went as usual, port sources said.

Mills and factories at the industrial belts at Nasirabad, Kalurghat, Patenga and Sitakundu suffered production loss due to thin attendance of workers.

Train service to and from Chittagong was as usual, railway sources said.

Paramilitary BDR and police were posted at important points of the city.

Road barricade in old city to protest looting

By Staff Correspondent

Traders barricaded four busy roads in the old city yesterday to protest the theft of Tk 15 lakh in cash from a steel mill owner near Tantibazar crossing.

The three-hour protest on North South Road, English Road, Nawabpur Road and Tantibazar Crossing created a massive traffic jam in Old Dhaka.

At least five people, including a traffic police surgeon, were injured when the muggers exploded crackers to cover their escape.

Two of the injured were identified as S.I. Shamsul Islam and Zakir Hossain. The police personnel was admitted to Rajarajgh Police Line Hospital, Zakir, a rickshaw puller, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police said the incident oc-

curred when Haji Jahir, the owner of the mill, and his assistant, Abdul, were getting into his car.

A gang of about five grabbed the briefcase from Abdul. Locals chased the thieves after they heard Jahir's call for help. Jahir fainted following the theft. He was rushed to a nearby private clinic.

As soon as news of the theft spread, traders closed their shops and marched through the streets. They set up the barricades at about 1 p.m.

The traders removed the barricades at about 5 p.m. at the request of senior police officials. No one has been arrested for the theft.

A case was filed with Kotwali thana in connection with the theft.

NOTICE: We hereby confirm that Nationwide Communications Limited is our Authorized Distributor in Bangladesh, and that their Chairman Mr. Abul Khair Litu and Managing Director Mr. Ravi Charanji are fully empowered to discuss on our behalf with all concerned.

পুতালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড: সম্পত্তি বিক্রয়ের বিজ্ঞপ্তি. Includes details of property sale and a table of assets.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Chittagong logo and address.