

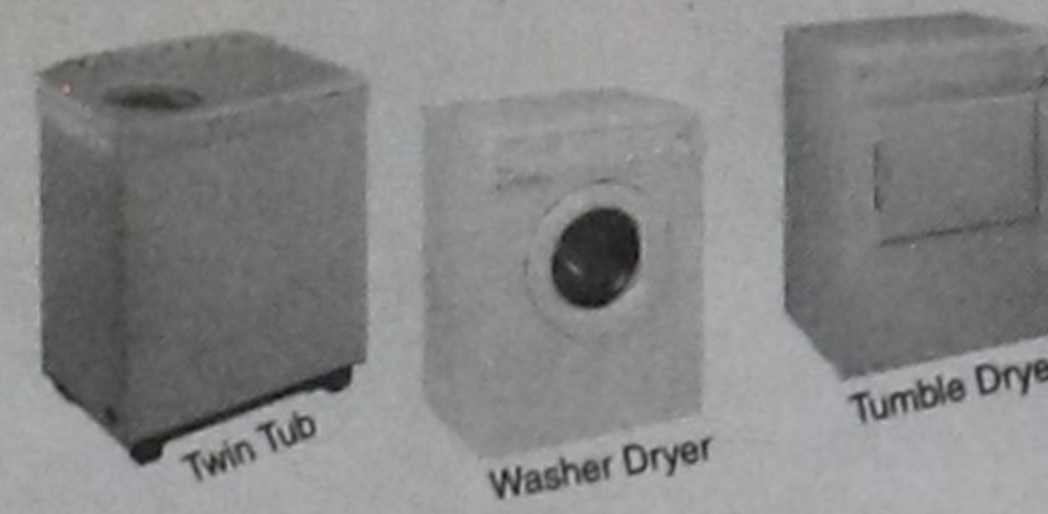
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## Saiful Alam Dilal released

By Staff Correspondent

Saiful Alam Dilal, a Journalist of Daily Prothom Alo, was freed from Presidency Jail in Calcutta yesterday, ten days after he was mistakenly arrested in a case.

He was detained by Calcutta police who were looking for Shaiful, a fugitive in Shipu murder case in Dhaka, reports from Calcutta said. Dilal went to Calcutta for treatment on June 14.

## Looting of Tk 16 lakh at CEPZ: ROK co staff held

CHITTAGONG, June 23: An employee of a Korean company at CEPZ has been arrested from Bhola for his alleged involvement in the snatching of Tk 16 lakh of the company, reports UNB.

City detective police said a gang of miscreants snatched the money during disbursement of salaries of workers of M/s Lims, a Korean company at CEPZ, on June 7.

Morshed Alam, an employee of the company, who had allegedly cooperated with the snatchers was arrested from Hashem Nagar Bazar in Borhan Uddin upazila of Bhola district on Wednesday. He was produced before the court here today and placed a three-day police remand.

Earlier, one Habib Ullah in a confessional statement to the court said that Morshed Alam had led the snatching incident.

Police have so far arrested seven people including a security man of the Korean company in connection with the incident.

## Jewellery shop looted at Feni

From Our Correspondent  
FENI, June 23: Gunmen took away over 100 tolas of gold and Tk 50 thousand in cash from a Jewellery shop in the town at about 10 pm last night, police said.

According to shop owner, a gang of six equipped with arms entered the shop. Sorna Shova and looted over 100 tolas of gold and Tk 50 thousand at gun-point.

## Keeping neighbourhood clean

Prodipan, an NGO in Khulna, sets an example by freeing many areas from kitchen garbage

By Naimul Haq, back from Khulna

Not too long ago, people in some residential areas of Khulna city had to cover their nose to avoid foul odour from almost every corner of the houses.

That changed about a year ago. The smell was gone and the people were happy to walk along cleaner pavements. And it all happened at local initiative with a local NGO.

About a year from now I remember I'd to cover my nose even when I was at home. The pungent smell from decomposed garbage was disgusting and the entire neighbourhood was in the same mess," said Mujibur Rahman of Dolkhola locality in the heart of Khulna city, once one of the dirtiest residential

areas in the port city. In ward 27 in Khulna the local people formed a committee headed by Ruhul Amin, a respected old man. The local initiative to collect garbage from door to door got good response and as more and more response came the committee decided to get rid of the municipal garbage

See page 11 col 7



**Clean choice:** A community garbage collector empties a trash can into a rubbish bin at Dolkhola in Khulna. Prodipan, a local NGO, took the initiative that has gone a long way to help keep the neighbourhood clean. — Star photo

## Export of perishable items

## No subsidy on airfreight or cash incentive yet

By Mustak Hossain

The government is yet to offer cash incentives and subsidy on airfreight for export of vegetables and fruits.

"The government agreed in principle to subsidise the export of vegetables and fruit and there was a clear-cut directive in the last budget," one exporter said.

"We hoped that the government would give a directive in this regard to boost the country's export of agricultural products. But there has been nothing of this sort in the proposed budget for fiscal 2000-2001 budget."

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## Dakhil exams results on June 26

Results of Dakhil examinations under the Madrassah Education Board will be published on June 26, an official handout said here yesterday, reports UNB.

The examinees have been advised to collect their results from their respective institutions.

Results will not be available at the Board, Education Ministry or newspaper offices, the handout said.

## 58 stowaways died from carbon dioxide poisoning

LONDON, June 23: The 58 Chinese illegal immigrants found dead in the back of a sealed truck died from carbon dioxide poisoning after frantically banging on the sides of the vehicle to ask for release, a British coroner said today, reports AP.

Coroner Graham Perrin told an inquest in the southern port of Dover that the immigrants used their shoes to raise the alarm as the temperature soared inside the truck during its five-hour crossing from the Belgian port of Zeebrugge. But no action was taken, he said.

An air vent on the truck was closed for the whole journey, Perrin added.

He told the inquest that he believed the group were killed between an hour and a half and five hours after the vent was closed on the truck. Only two people survived the journey.

Perrin said the immigrants had been loaded into the truck at some point last Sunday. Boxes containing tomatoes and a false barrier, created with planks of wood, were placed in the truck to conceal the Chinese passengers.

Earlier today, the truck's Dutch driver appeared in court charged with 58 counts of manslaughter.

Perry Wacker, 32, from the Dutch city of Rotterdam, appeared briefly before magistrates in Folkestone, near the Dover port. Wacker, the first person to be charged in the case, was remanded in police custody until June 30.

## Chief Whip's son

From page 1  
home at about nine in the evening on June 17.

A group led by Ashik Abdullah, who is not a student of the institution, kidnapped my son at gun point," Rahman said. Asked about any motive behind the kidnapping he said "They gave no reason. They demanded Tk 15,000 and asked Shams to come with the money the following day."

"We did not pay any ransom," he said, adding that he did not hear of Ashik Abdullah before the incident.

We reported the incident to the principal the following day, who later lodged a complaint with Dhanmondi police station."

Rahman said they are happy to get their son back and are not thinking of pursuing the case.

Mohammad Yasin, the principal, however, could not be reached yesterday.

## Road accident kills two children

MYMENSINGH, June 23: Two children were crushed under the wheels of a bus at Beltali suburb here on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Soma, 7, died on the spot and Enamul, 5, was injured seriously when a Dhaka-bound bus from Mymensingh hit them while overtaking another bus at about 1 pm. Enamul died on way to hospital.



**For sale?** A mango tree lies at the inner lawn of Salimullah Hall of Dhaka University yesterday after it was sawed-off on Thursday night. But the reason for the felling could not be known immediately. Earlier, certain student leaders sold a number of trees of the hall. — Star photo

## Kailashtila plant

## Lack of petrol storage facility hampers LPG production

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET JUNE 23: Production of liquefied petroleum gas at Kailashtila LPG Fractionation Plant is being seriously hampered due to lack of storage facility for petrol, a by-product.

The plant is kept shut for almost half of its daily operation period for lack of storage facility although the 700 ton capacity MS Storage Tank, installed two years ago, is yet to be used, sources at the plant said.

This causes a daily production loss of Tk 2 lakh to the Fractionation Plant and keeps the Tk 20 crore LPG bottling plant idle, an official admitted. The bottling plant is dependent on the fractionation plant.

## Port: Hunger strike

From page 1  
can company SSA.

An alliance of 22 trade union bodies of Chittagong port representing some 20,000 dock workers has launched fresh agitation programme against government's move for allowing installation of the private container port. The alliance leaders have threatened to halt all activities at the port if any agreement is signed with SSA.

The programmes include exchange of views with different professional groups, mass contacts, rally of workers on June 27 in port area and demonstration at Chittagong port at 10 am on June 28.

Fresh action programmes will be announced from June 28 rally, leaders said.

The Tk 24 crore fractionation plant of Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited (RPGCL), a concern of Petrobangla, has been operating at far below its capacity since its installation due to technical faults and negligence by officials, the sources claimed.

It remained shut for months together several times and the monthly target of LPG production could never be achieved.

The situation became worse since the beginning of this year. Production was suspended for several months only for some spares of a generator. Production resumed on April 19 after spares were brought from Singapore.

The plant produced 100 tons of LPG in January, 60 tons in February, 50 tons in March, 150 tons in May and 100 tons so far this month against the monthly target of 425 tons, the sources said.

## CEPZ: US co

From page 1  
1993 circular which was kept in abeyance by BEPZA, CEPZ sources said. The workers are now paid as per the 1989 circular, the sources added.

The situation became volatile following termination of 15 workers from the three factories on June 11.

Security has been beefed up in the CEPZ area as the workers continued their agitation.

## 3-day-hartal at Jokiganj from June 25

SYLHET, June 23: All political and social organisations in Jokiganj upazila have called for a three-day hartal here from June 25 to press for their demands, reports UNB.

The demands include introduction of luxury coach on Jokiganj-Dhaka route and stopping harassment of passengers on the Sylhet-Jokiganj road.

The hartal programme was announced at a meeting of All-party Committee on Thursday.

## N'ganj clash

From page 1  
dents from different areas joined supporters of Charnomai peer and clashed with the police. They pelted stones at the police and attacked them with long sticks, leaving 25 policemen injured.

The seriously injured policemen — Si Masud, constables Sattar, Sarif, Mujibur, Upendra and Guddus — were admitted to Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital in the capital.

Police arrested 65 followers of Charnomai peer who assembled at DIT Avenue under the banner of Iman O Akida Preservation Committee after Juma prayers and chanted slogans demanding arrest of Dewanbagh peer. They also tried to block the main road.

District administration deployed a large number of police along with eight platoons of BDR in different parts of the city to avoid any untoward incidents.

A case was filed with Narayanganj police station in this regard. Earlier on December 4, two people were killed and over 200 injured in clashes involving police and followers of two 'peers' at Madanpur in Bandar police station in Narayanganj.

## উন্নয়নে বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি



## তেইশতম জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সপ্তাহ

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প্রদর্শনীর তারিখ ও সময়ঃ

২৫ জুন, ২০০০

সন্ধ্যা ৬-৩০ টা - রাত ৮-০০ টা

২৬ জুন - ২৭ জুন, ২০০০

সকাল ৯.০০ টা - বেলা ১.০০ টা ও বিকাল ৩.০০ টা - সন্ধ্যা ৬-৩০ টা

২৮ জুন, ২০০০

সকাল ৯.০০ টা - বেলা ১.০০ টা

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সিম্পোজিয়ামঃ

উন্নয়নে তথ্য প্রযুক্তিঃ বাংলাদেশ প্রেক্ষিত

বেলা ১-০০ টা থেকে ১১-০০ টা

আধুনিক চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানে ডেভলপ উদ্ভিদের ব্যবহার ও উন্নয়ন

বেলা ১১-১৫ টা থেকে ১-০০ টা

তারিখঃ ২৬ জুন, ২০০০

স্থানঃ ওসমানী স্মৃতি মিলনায়তন, ঢাকা

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সদস্য-সচিব

তেইশতম জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সপ্তাহ উদযাপন কমিটি

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জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর



Prof Mobarak Ali addressing the seminar on 'Why Not Phako' yesterday. Standing beside is Prof A R Vasavada from India. — Star photo

## Removing cataract in a few minutes

New non-surgical method is risk-free and cheaper

By Staff Correspondent

More than 15 lakh people, mostly old, develop cataract on their eyes every year in the country, which lead to blindness.

But there are very few surgeons who can perform cataract operation.

A recently developed technique --Phaco-- has made cataract operation very easy, completely risk-free and less costly. The cataract is removed through a very simple and non-invasive method within a few minutes and the patient can walk out of the hospital and join work immediately.

These were revealed by ophthalmologists at a seminar in the city yesterday, where cataract was removed from the eye of a patient to demonstrate the technique.

But its application in the country is yet to be widespread as there are few trained surgeons. The equipment is costly.

The seminar on 'Why Not Phako' was organised by the Retina Foundation and Eye Centre at the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management.

About 250 ophthalmologists and surgeons from medical colleges across the country attended the day-long seminar. The main speaker was Dr Abhoy R Vasavada, a special guest from India.

Several scientific papers on various aspects of eye surgeries

like lens implantation, wound construction and management of complications was presented. The participants shared practical knowledge about phacoemulsification (sutureless cataract surgery) through demonstrations and exchange of ideas.

"The aim of the seminar is to share knowledge on eye and eye surgery through discussions because cataract is number one cause of blindness in old age in the country," said Dr Niaz Rahman, Director of the foundation.

Earlier in the morning, Prof A Q M Harun, Prof Syed Modasser Ali and Prof M Mostafizur Rahman discussed the past, present and future of Phaco in Bangladesh.

## Flash flood in Rangpur

RANGPUR, June 23: Onrush of water from the hill areas caused flash flood in eight upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

Standing crops and seedbeds in the low-lying areas of the upazilas went under water with swelling of the rivers Teesta, Dharala and Brahmaputra.

Water Development Board sources said the rivers except Dharala are still flowing under their respective danger mark.

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## BRANCH SHIFTING

Janata Bank, Mirpur Section - 1 Branch, will be shifted tomorrow on the 25th June 2000, Sunday from the old address to new premises.

## New Address

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Dist. Dhaka-1216.

All patrons and well wishers are requested to transact Banking functions with the newly shifted premises.


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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailynews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net