

# The Daily Star

Canon camera

THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE CAMERA

RANGS GROUP

BUY NOW ... PAY LATER



**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES  
USA

Refrigerator

Transcom Electronics Limited  
Authorized Distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

VOL. X NO. 176 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2000

3rd Millennium

SRABAN 1, 1407 BS

RABIUS SAANI 13, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

## Foundation of Comilla EPZ laid

COMILLA, July 15: Laying the foundation of a new Export Processing Zone here today, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called for maintaining peaceful industrial relations for increasing investment and export, reports UNB.

"Uninterrupted peace and stability are the prerequisites for development and investment, she said adding that welfare of workers cannot be ensured without unhindered production.

The country's fourth EPZ under public sector is being established on 258 acres of land on the outskirts of the town with 208 industrial plots in which 60 export-oriented industries are expected to be set up.

On completion, Comilla EPZ will create job opportunities for an estimated 40,000 workers and produce exportable goods worth Tk 600 crore annually.

Various industries, including textiles, garments, electronics, information technology and backward linkage industries for feeding garment sector, will be set up in the new exclusive industrial zone.

See page 11 col 6

## Inside Today

### Article

#### In the Name of Autonomy

Column: Between the Lines  
by Kuldip Nayyar  
Page 4

### Business

Expatriates prefer to remit money through hundi  
Miami jury orders big tobacco firms to pay \$145b in damages  
DSE, CSE price quotations  
Pages 6, 7 & 8

### Supplement

One page supplement on 'National Jackfruit Exhibition 2000' on Page 9

July	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 16		6.49 pm
July 17	5-21 am	

### Prayer Timings

July 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-30
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## 92 serious encroachments on the Buriganga



A brick kiln in the middle of the Buriganga near Basila at Mohammadpur (left) and an industrial unit stretched right onto the river bank at Kamrangirchar testify to the long arm of the encroachers.

By Staff Correspondent

The BIWTA has identified 92 'serious encroachments' on the river Buriganga between Dharmaganj under Fatullah thana and Barishur under Keraniganj and warned that if these obstacles are not removed the river is 'sure to die'.

The list of encroachers include Sena Kalyan Sangstha and many other big organisations and influential people. The Sangstha has a project at Shyampur Bazar.

BIWTA Officials said only a firm government policy could clear the river of these 'deadly obstacles'. "If the government prioritises election and vote instead of the life-line, the river will not survive this sort of onslaught", one of them said.

The BIWTA is now planning to dredge the Buriganga from Dharmaganj to Kholamura hoping that depth of the river would demarcate its area well and discourage further

encroachment.

They showed this correspondent an official map and said the shore, foreshore and channel of the river were clearly demarcated through a joint survey by the Deputy Commissioner's office and the BIWTA in 1992. But after mapping, the authorities failed to demarcate the river with any signboard or large vandal proof pillars, they said.

See page 11 col 7

## BDR chief suggests ring roads along borders

By M Anwarul Haq

The chief of Bangladesh Rifles feels that plans should be immediately initiated to build 'ring roads' along the borders, which would beef up national security, increase vigilance and curb smuggling drastically.

In an interview with the Daily Star, Major General Fazlur Rahman said, along with plans to double the strength of BDR, a scheme should also be taken up to build arterial ring roads all along the 4156 kilometre border with India and another 300 kilometre border with Myanmar.

The 37,000 member paramilitary border force lost at least six of its personnel in fir-

ing incidents that also claimed lives of 100 innocent Bangladeshi civilians in the last four and half years.

"The ring roads would bolster effectiveness of the BDR, beef up security and check smuggling," Rahman said.

He said the ring roads would provide day and night communication facilities, connecting more than 500 Border Outposts (BOPs).

BOPs are now at an average distance of 10 kilometres from one another. "If we can build the ring roads, it would be possible to keep a continuous vigil on the entire border."

Explaining, he said, BDR foot patrol has to guard the frontiers now. On an average, it takes three to six hours to walk from one BOP to another to check "all types of intrusion and smuggling".

If ring roads are built, it will be possible for BDR vehicles to keep a continuous vigil. If two patrol teams move in opposite directions with vehicles, they would be crossing at the midpoint between five to 10 minutes. "It will be impossible for intruders and smugglers to cross the border," he said.

Besides, plans are there to add an air wing to the BDR to

See page 11 col 7

## Privatisation won't lead to job cuts, Biman MD says

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman is going ahead with a restructuring plan to offload its 49 per cent share but the privatisation will not lead to job cuts, rather protect employees' interests, its managing director says.

There is no need for apprehension among Biman officials and employees regarding the restructuring. After conversion into a company, the airline will be run profitably and they will be paid as per international

standard", Air Commodore Rafiqul Islam said at a press briefing yesterday.

The Biman is being privatised under a two million dollar World Bank aided programme.

If there is any problem with any one in future due to privatisation, the employees or officials concerned will be absorbed in Biman's subsidiary organisations, he said.

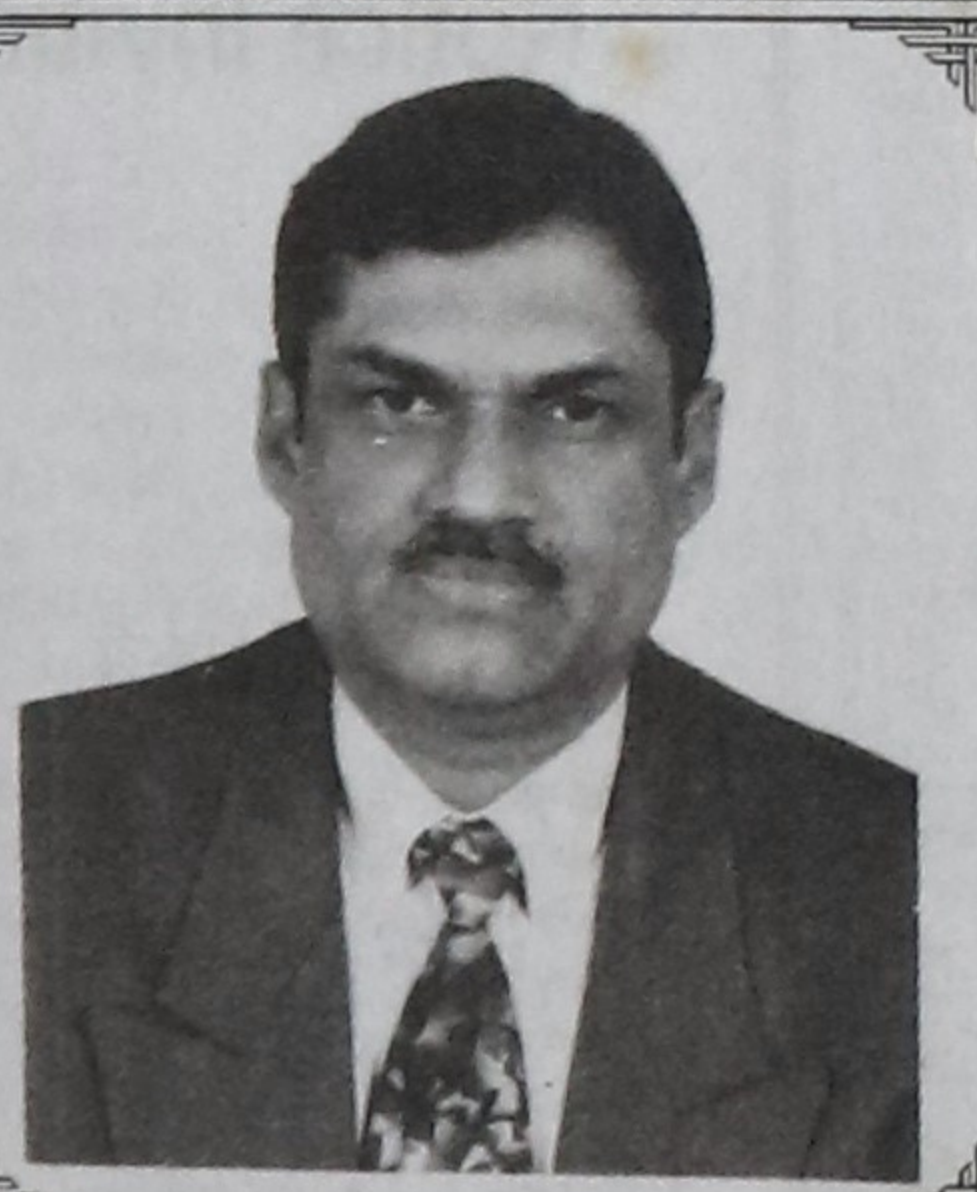
His comments came amid concerns voiced by trade unions

in the national airline. Meanwhile, the International Air Transport Consultancy, appointed for offloading its shares, made a preliminary assessment of the airline at a meeting with its management board on July 13. Uli Bauer, Vice-president of the organisation also spoke at the press briefing.

Bauer said, "Privatisation will mean job security and profitability as it happened in the case of Sri Lankan Airlines where head counting increased after takeover of the management by the Emirates".

Bauer's organisation prepared the Sri Lankan Airlines' privatisation programme and its partnership with Emirates airline. After takeover of the management, Emirates changed the airlines from a loss

See page 11 col 8



## FELICITATION

Members of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association [BTMA] have the pleasure to felicitate **MR. MOHAMMED SHAJAHAN**, an eminent industrialist of the country, who represent **Shah Fatehullah Textile Mills Ltd.**, as Managing Director, a Commercially Important Person [CIP], and former chairman of BTMA on his appointment as the **Honorary Consul of The Republic of Moldova in Bangladesh.**

BTMA is confident that the existing cordial relationship between Bangladesh and Moldova will further deepen under his dynamic and able leadership during his tenure as Honorary consul.

**Bangladesh Textile Mills Association [BTMA]**  
Moon Mansion [6th Floor] 12 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

## Docs, employees of NICVD start token strike

By Staff Correspondent

The doctors and employees of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) yesterday observed token strike from 10 am to 12 noon.

They will continue the programme until the punitive measures taken against three physicians of the NICVD are withdrawn, said a press release issued by the Teachers Association of the Institute.

The emergency services will continue during the period and there will be a general meeting everyday at 9 am, the press release added.

The decision was taken at a general meeting of the doctors and employees yesterday with acting director of the institute in the chair.

The next programme will be taken at a general meeting called by the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) at the NICVD at 11 am today.

## Exxon-Mobil to withdraw

By Sharier Khan

Global oil giants Exxon and Mobil have recently decided to wind up their investment in Bangladesh, sources said.

The two companies who merged in last October were pursuing two LPG bottling plants with one lubricating oil blending unit for the last four years.

The top management of Exxon and Mobil decided to cancel the LPG projects following a series of complicated developments regarding the feasibility of pursuing two LPG projects against the backdrop of the merger, bureaucratic bottlenecks in Bangladesh and detection of some irregularities by their own executives, insiders said.

Later, the Exxon-Mobil

headquarters also decided to wind up its lubrication project.

"Their withdrawal from Bangladesh would certainly shake foreign investors' confidence in Bangladesh," said a representative of these two companies, requesting anonymity.

The government is yet to be officially notified about the decision, said a source in the Energy Ministry.

Exxon was pursuing a joint venture project to set up a LPG bottling plant with Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) in Mongla. Mobil was pursuing a LPG project and lubricating oil project with Jamuna Oil in Chittagong.

The government approved

See page 11 col 7



Onlookers and traders watch anxiously while firefighters douse the blaze at Azizur Rahim Watch Market at Patuatuli in the city yesterday afternoon. Huge electronic goods are believed to have been damaged in the inferno.

—Star photo

## Shibir hide outs raided in Ctg: None arrested

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 15: A combing operation was launched at 12 noon today in the city and its surrounding areas to arrest the killers of eight people including six BCL activists, official sources said.

The operation was launched jointly by Chittagong metropolitan and district police aided by paramilitary BDR and armed battalion police. The operation was also aimed at arresting other terrorists and seizure of illegal arms in Chittagong, sources added.

The combing operation was launched here at the directive of the Home Minister who visited the port city yesterday.

As part of the combing operation police raided Chittagong Government College hostels known as a stronghold of Shibir activists, police and witnesses said.

Police also raided other hide-outs of Shibir activists at Gani Bakery Crossing, Chan-

See page 11 col 6

## 34 Shibir activists held from RU campus

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 15: Police arrested 34 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir from RU campus last night. Police said the Shibir activists were arrested on charge of terrorist activities on the campus in 1999.

Of them, 16 were arrested under section 54, Matihar thana duty officer confirmed today.

Police raided Sher-e-Bangla Hall, Shah Makhdom Hall, Syed Amir Ali Hall, Nawab Abdul Latif Hall, Shahid Shamsuzzoha Hall, Suhrawardy Hall, Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hall and Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall at midnight last night and arrested the Shibir men. They also raided a students' mess near the campus.

Shibir brought out a procession on the campus today protesting arrest of their activists.

## Police raid Khulna Jamaat, Shibir offices

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 15: Police raided city Jamaat and Shibir offices this afternoon to arrest an accused in a case filed recently under PSA.


Khulna thana OC Chandra Bhusan Majumdar led the two-hour raid.

Meanwhile, police have been deployed in front of all mosques in the city.

Jamaat and Shibir offices have also been put under watch by plain-clothes policemen.

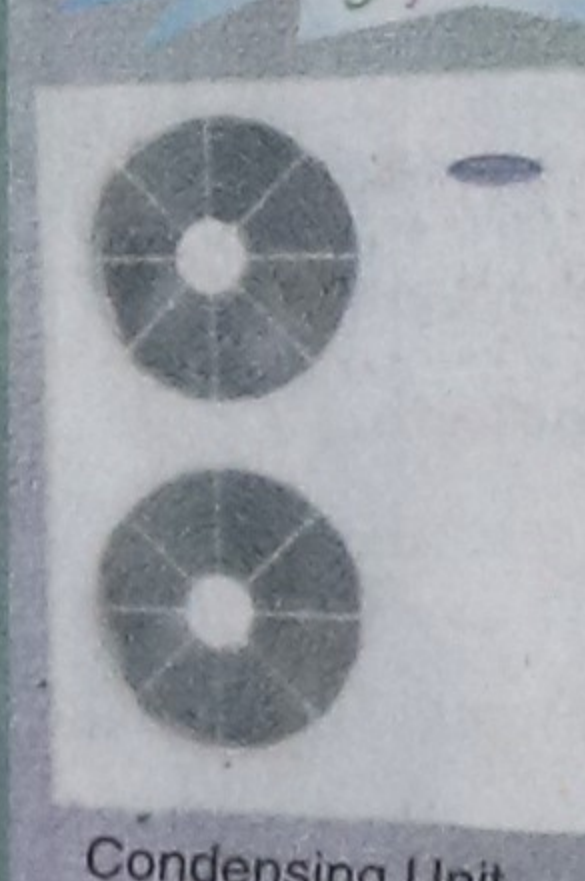
Jamaat and Shibir activists are yet to resume their activities suspended after murder of BCL activists in Chittagong. Most of the senior leaders of the party have gone into hiding fearing attacks.

Meanwhile, Khulna city BCL has declared Chhatra Shibir 'undesirable' at Majid Memorial City College. The BCL has decided not to allow Shibir activists on the college campus. Shibir captured all the posts of the students' union in the election held early this year.

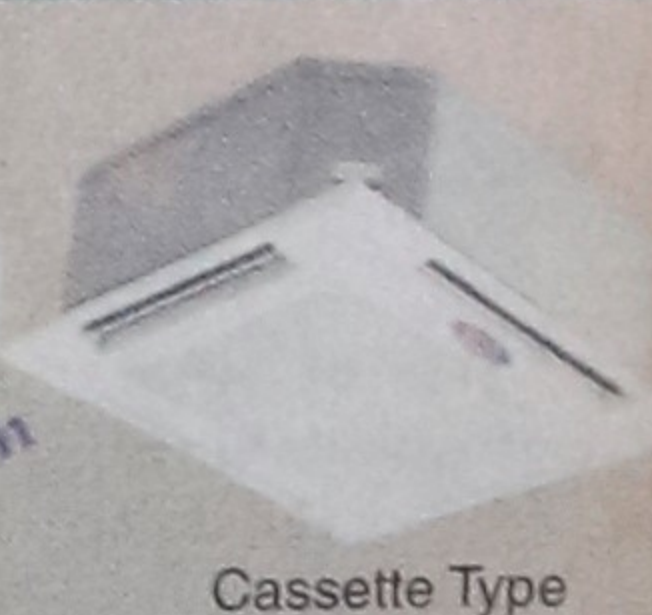


**UNITECH**

The first air-conditioner manufacturer in Bangladesh



Condensing Unit




Cassette Type

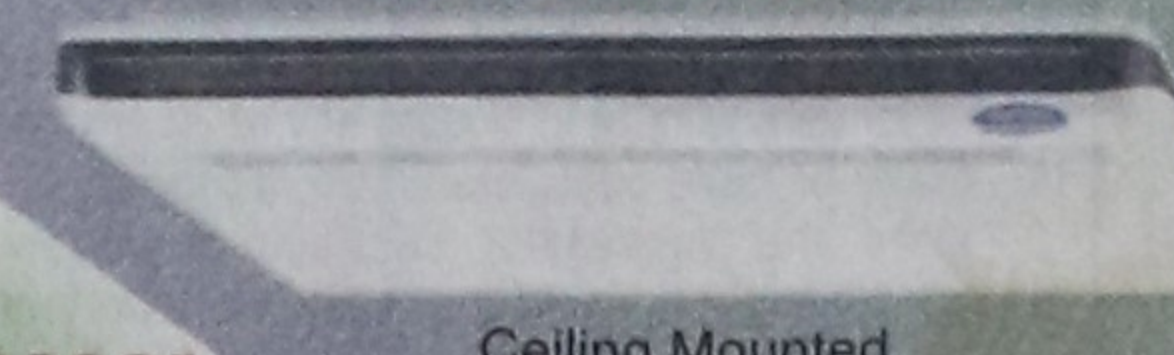
**UNITECH CHALLENGE !!!**

Who else can match unitech?

- ☛ In Reliability
- ☛ In Customer Service
- ☛ In availability of spare parts
- ☛ In Guarantee



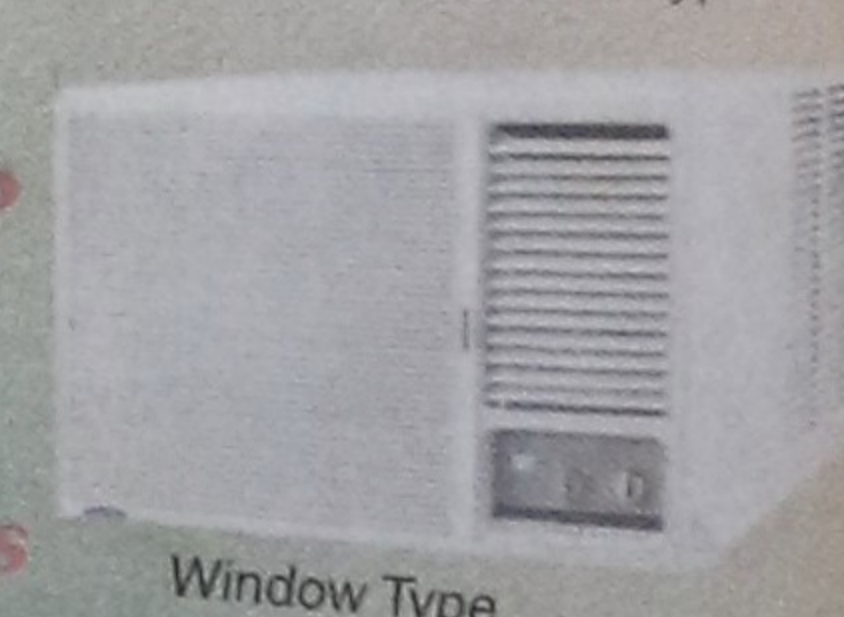
Compressor  
Made in U.S.A



Ceiling Mounted



Remote



Wall Mounted

**UNITECH PRODUCTS (BD) Ltd.**

(A SINGAPORE BANGLADESH JOINT VENTURE PROJECT)

23, Paribagh (3rd Fl), Sonargaon Road, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh.  
PHONE : 8613421, 8618598 Fax: 880-2-8615309 E-mail: penguin@bdonline.com