



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

**MOTIJHEEL**

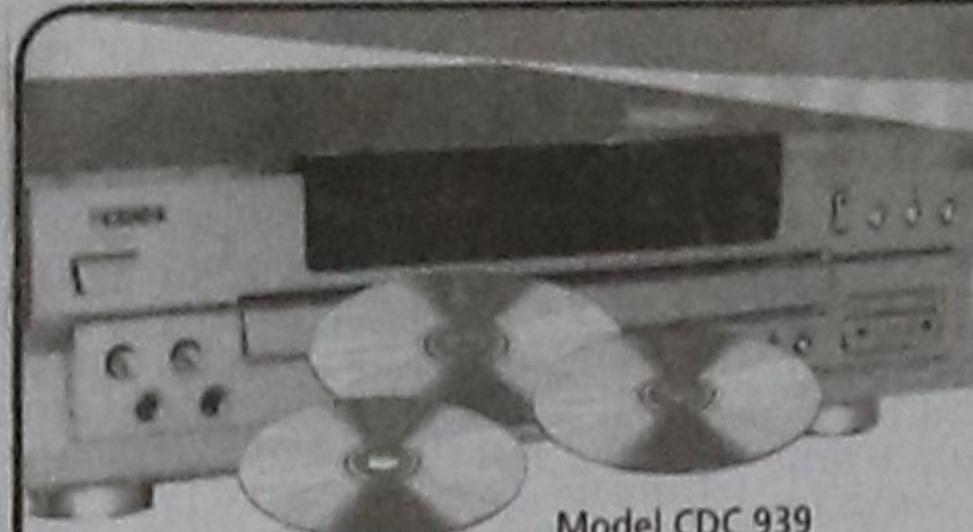
**IBRAHIM CHAMBER**  
95, Motijheel C.A., Dhaka  
Tel # 9565114, Fax : 9565112

**BANGSHAL**

Majed Court, 16/1 Siddique Bazar  
North South Road, Dhaka  
Tel # 965462

**NARAYANGANJ**

7, Sirajuddowla Road, Khanpur  
Narayanganj  
Tel # 9714336



Video CD Player

- Mp3 Compatible
- 3 Video CD Changer
- Fast Forward X4
- Full Karaoke Function
- Slow Motion & Zoom
- Remote Control & More

Tk. 9900  
Available On  
INSTALLMENT

**PHILIPS**  
Let's make things better  
Transcom Electronics Ltd.  
Official Licensee of Philips Electronics N.V.  
for lighting products, radio & TV sets

## Rear escape hatch of sunken Russian sub intact

OSLO, Aug 20: Norwegian deep-sea divers investigating the hull of a stricken Russian submarine have found the rear escape hatch intact, a Norwegian military spokesman said today, reports AFP.

"We have confirmed that the rear hatch is okay. There is also air pressure in the hatch, which is positive. That means that it is not filled with water," a spokesman for the Norwegian military command in North Norway, John Espen Lien, told the news agency.

The Norwegian and British rescue teams were discussing with Russian experts "to find the best way to open the hatch," he said.

Lien's comments contradict earlier reports on Russian state television that a massive crack was found on the hatch that would have prevented a vacuum seal with the British rescue submersible.

Lien also denied reports

claiming that the divers believed one sailor to be trapped directly underneath the hatch door.

"No, our divers have not found any man," he said.

The 12 divers were working in four teams consisting of three people each. Lowered down to the Kursk submarine in a diving bell, each team is able to stay down for about six hours at a time before being replaced by another team.

The Kursk is lying at a depth of 108 meters in the Barents Sea, after suffering a catastrophic accident on August 12.

The divers were moving slowly because of the depth and difficult conditions around the Kursk, Russian Navy officials said. Each dive was taking several hours, they said, reports AP.

It appeared to be the first time divers had descended to the Kursk since rescue efforts began a week ago. Russian es-

cape capsules tried to reach the Kursk repeatedly, but the Russian navy reportedly had no skilled divers.

A Norwegian video camera was first lowered to check the hull and the water was checked for possible radiation leaks from the Kursk's two nuclear reactors, officials said.

Russian officials said the rescue operations would continue at least through today, but indicated the emphasis was shifting to what caused the tragedy on the Kursk, one of the navy's newest and most powerful submarines.

Vice Adm Mikhail Motsak said yesterday that any survivors likely drowned as the submarine filled with water.

"The absolute majority of the crew died in the first two minutes of the disaster ... including those who were responsible for the command of the ship," Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov told reporters

Saturday.

Many Russians said the Western aid was too late to make any difference, and expressed anger about the way President Vladimir Putin's government handled the rescue effort and took so long to ask for foreign help. Moscow for days declined offers of Western help.

"They should have accepted help as soon as they learned that the vessel was in distress," said Tikhon Bagryantsev, a Navy retiree whose son, Capt. Vladimir Bagryantsev, was feared among the dead. "Every minute counts there."

Moscow's announcement that the crew was almost certainly dead, just as the British rescue team arrived on Saturday, could be seen as an attempt by some Russian officials to show that the Western squads could do nothing.

Russian efforts to reach the Kursk were frustrated by powerful currents and almost zero visibility on the sea floor.

## Mori calls on Shahabuddin

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori yesterday made a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban, reports UNB.

Welcoming Mori, the President recalled Tokyo's "generous assistance for economic development of Bangladesh since Japan's recognition of our independence in February 1972."

He referred to the spectacular economic achievement of Japan since the days of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

The president also recognised Japan's economic assistance to her neighbours, especially the developing Asian countries, including Bangladesh.

He eulogised their commitment for peace, recalling that its intention for peace is clearly reflected in her constitution, which is called "peace constitution."

The Japanese prime minister appreciated the signing of CTBT by Bangladesh terming it as "a great effort for ensuring peace in the world."

Yoshiro Mori also recalled the peace initiative taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina immediately after the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan in 1998.

He expressed his happiness over the existing bilateral relations between Japan and Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Sami, Secretary to President Muhammad Ismail Hossain, members of the Japanese delegation, Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan and Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka were among others present on the occasion.

## Two students die in Ashulia boat capsiz

GAZIPUR, Aug 20: The bodies of two students, who were missing after a boat capsized in Ashulia Beel, were recovered this afternoon, reports UNB.

They were identified as Ariful Islam, 23, son of Shariful Islam and Jewel, 22, son of Abdul Rahim of Madarganj upazila of Jamalpur district.

Arif was a student of Wilson University in Canada and Jewel, a second year student of Statistics Department of Dhaka University.

Arif came to Bangladesh on vacation and was supposed to go back on August 24.

The two young men went for boating along with other friends on Saturday.

## Pvt jute, textile mills strike called off

Trade union leaders of private jute, yarn and textile mills withdrew today's strike called to press their various demands, reports UNB.

They said that they had shifted to a fourth floor flat only two months back, fearing attack on him (Mondal) from his political rivals.

Police, however, think the killing was not a political one.

"This is not a political murder," DC of Detective Branch Abdul Hannan Khan told a group of newsmen at the DB office in the city yesterday afternoon.

He also expressed his interest in handling the case.

The DB official suspected that Mondal was killed in connection with the triple murder in the city's Dayaganj area. He (Mondal) was defending the accused in the case. Hired goons probably gunned him down, the official said but he could not say who might have hired them.

The triple murder took place when a bus carrying supporters of the Commissioner of Ward No 83, Sadiqul Rahman Shahid, was attacked on Dayaganj bridge in Sutrapur thana on May 11.

Eight persons were accused in the case filed in this regard.



Lawyers carrying the coffin of Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal brought out a mourning procession after namaj-e-janaza on the Supreme Court premises yesterday. Mondal was gunned down by unidentified assailants near his residence at Banagram in Old Dhaka earlier in the day.

— Star photo

## Election to 19 pourasavas on Sept 18

Election to Tongi, Comilla and 17 newly constituted pourasavas will be held on September 18, reports UNB.

The new pourasavas are Bagha in Rajshahi district, Sirakandi and Dupchanchia in Bogra, Nozipur in Naogaon, Bhangura in Pabna, Badarganj in Rangpur, Gopalpur in Natore, Domar in Nilphamari, Gaffargaon in Mymensingh, Kularchar in Kishoreganj, Madarganj in Jamalpur, Dohar in Dhaka, Muksudpur in Gopalganj, and Dherai and Jagannathpur in Sunamganj.

According to election schedule announced by the Election Commission yesterday, nomination papers are to be filed on August 23, the date of scrutiny is August 24 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is August 31.

Additional District Magistrate will act as Returning Officer.

## Bomb explosion: 15 injured in Munshiganj

MUNSHIGANJ, Aug 20: A bomb explosion at a fair in the town on Saturday night left at least 15 people injured, seven of them critically, reports UNB.

Police said a group of extortionists exploded a homemade bomb at Manasa mela, a traditional fair, at 9.15 pm after they were refused toll by the organisers of the fair.

Of the critically injured, six were admitted to the Sadar Hospital while the rest was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## 11th NID on Nov 14 & Dec 18

The government has decided to observe the eighth National Immunization Day on November 14 and December 18 this year, reports BSS.

It was decided at a meeting of the steering committee of National Immunization Day yesterday with Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim in the chair.

## Ctg Bar members condemn PM's comment on judiciary

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 20: Two hundred and ninety four lawyers of Chittagong District Bar Council in joint press statement today sharply criticised the Prime Minister's comment on the judiciary and said that the Prime Minister didn't have any right to undermine or tease the judiciary including law, court, judges and lawyers with her personal thinking in the name of people's say.

The lawyers alleged that to conceal the failure of the prosecution, the PM blamed the judiciary speaking highly of the police department.

They said that the court was the only dependable place for protecting the lives and property of the people and alleged that the PM was trying to destroy the judiciary and turn the country a police-state.

The lawyers called upon the Prime Minister to remove the failure of the prosecution resolving the court and judges' crisis and introducing alternative probe agencies instead of police probe.

The signatures include Barrister Salimul Haq Khan Milky, former ambassador Advocate Md Foyez, Advocate Ad-haj Bodul Alam.



## Appeal to PM to get back house

By Staff Correspondent

Oli Ahmed Patwari, evicted from his Mirpur residence in the city by local youths 11 days ago, has appealed to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to get his house back and for the safety of his family.

Patwari, accompanied by two of his daughters, made the appeal at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

A gang comprising four young men broke into the Patwari's residence brandishing firearms and weapons around 2 am on August 10. They beat up the female members of the family and asked the family to vacate the house immediately, Patwari's daughter Mariam Ahmed Pinu said.

The four men, all brothers - Shafiq, Toufik, Taju and Maju - lived in the house just adjacent to theirs and are backed by the local commissioner, Pinu said.

The men who have been threatening them for the last four months to vacate the house, earlier attempted to set up a gate on their land, she added.

Patwari filed a case with the Chief Metropolitan's Court Dhaka on May 15 which issued a show cause notice upon the de-

endants as to why a legal action would not be taken against them. The defendants refused to attend the court and began to put pressure on Patwari to withdraw the case.

Then in the night of August 10 they broke into the house, smashed down two rooms and removed the tin fence that separated their house from that of the men. They also looted valuable items.

Police, however, think the killing was not a political one.

"This is not a political murder," DC of Detective Branch Abdul Hannan Khan told a group of newsmen at the DB office in the city yesterday afternoon.

He also expressed his interest in handling the case.

The DB official suspected that Mondal was killed in connection with the triple murder in the city's Dayaganj area. He (Mondal) was defending the accused in the case. Hired goons probably gunned him down, the official said but he could not say who might have hired them.

The triple murder took place when a bus carrying supporters of the Commissioner of Ward No 83, Sadiqul Rahman Shahid, was attacked on Dayaganj bridge in Sutrapur thana on May 11.

Eight persons were accused in the case filed in this regard.

See page 11 col 6



## Rab murder: 2 more arrested in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 20: Police arrested another "professional killer" at midnight on Saturday.

He was identified as Motaleb, 32, of CSD godown area under Khalishpur thana.

Motaleb was arrested following confessional statement made by Rangul Biswas on August 17 in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Sabir Ahmed.

Rangul named Motaleb as one of the six killers of SMA Rob.

Two witnesses, Homeopath Abdur Rashid and his 10-year-old son Kader - today identified Motaleb as one of the three persons who fired at SMA Rob.

Police said Motaleb is involved in some other murders committed in the past. He has been taken on a four-day remand today.

Riaz was taken to KMP headquarters for questioning.

James Chatterjee, another suspect in Rob murder case also gave confessional statement under 164 CrPC in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Sabir Ahmed today. After judicial confession, he was sent to district jail in the afternoon.

Rangul has again been taken on a two-day remand today.

In another development, police today arrested another activist of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) suspecting his involvement in the conspiracy for killing AL mayoral candidate Rab. The arrested was identified as Riaz, 30, younger brother of the Chairman of Batpara Union Parishad under Bagerhat Sadar thana.

Riaz was taken to KMP headquarters for questioning.

The joint meeting decided to form a sub-committee to

5 textile-related assocs to conduct study on impact of new GSP rules

By Staff Correspondent

Five textile-related associations in a joint meeting agreed yesterday to conduct a study on the impact of new GSP rule for apparel export to the European Union countries on the country's textile sector.

The textile-related associations are making contradictory observations regarding the impact of SAARC cumulation rules on the country's textile sector.

The textile producing associations observed that the new rule allowing GSP facility to the apparel produced by raw materials originated from any SAARC country would destroy the textile industry, while the apparel manufacturers said that the new rule would help increase garment export and expand the market abroad.

The joint meeting decided to

form a sub-committee to

See page 11 col 3

## 12 hurt as BCL factions clash at Kabi Nazrul College in city

By Staff Correspondent

At least 12 people were injured in a clash between two rival factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League at Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam College in the city yesterday, witnesses said.

</div