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GSP: High level | team to visit Washington next month

By Staff Correspondent A high level delegation led by a minister will visit Washington in the middle of next month to explain Dhaka's position on the rights of the workers at the Export Processing Zones (EPZs).

The delegation will comprise representatives from private sectors and government offi-

Prime Minister's Office vester day observed that a delegation | den, court sources said. should go to Washington for pursuing the US officials before any final decision is made regarding the Generalized System prosecutors (APPs) pursue crimal cases while government given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing of 70 to 80 of the planned 'Prosecution given day, hearing provided to Bangladeshi goods.

The US government plans to cut by fifty per cent the GSP facilities to Bangladeshi goods on the ground that workers at EPZs in Bangladesh do not enjoy trade union rights.

The meeting also sought sug gestions from private sector as to what the government could do to ensure workers rights at the EPZs instead of allowing trade union there.

Major investors at the EPZs. mainly from South Korea and Japan, threatened to withdraw See page 11 col 4

Inside Today

Article

The Godfathers Column: Heart of the Matter

By Mansoor Mamoon

Supplementary Report of Hamoodur Rahman Commission: Some Relevant Extracts

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Business

Leading US firms against scrapping GSP facilities for Bangladesh

> DSE, CSE price quotations Pages 6 & 7

August	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 29		6-19 pm
Aug 30	5-39 am	

Prayer Timings

August	29
A	

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-30
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

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Govt lawyers overburdened Domestic air fares may go with cases in lower courts

A former PP says he had to handle over 3000 cases

By Reaz Ahmad

Government pleaders and public prosecutors are overburdened with cases in different lower courts in the country.

Lawyers employed by the government to defend the state in civil and criminal cases can A high level meeting at the | not be equally persuasive in all cases because of the huge bur-

Public prosecutors (PPs), special public prosecutors (SPPs) and assistant public

pleaders (GPs) and assistant government pleaders (AGPs) pursue civil cases. A Special Public Prosecutor

who resigned recently told The Daily Star yesterday he had as many as 3,000 arms cases to pursue when he gave up the job. His case list included sensational criminal cases involving alleged notorious criminals Sweden Aslam and Bikash

"I had a team of 20 APPs to assist me in these cases. On any

cases used to take place and we Cadre', political appointees had to pursue those," he said who have been working as PPs,

preferring anonymity. When contacted on the issue, ally dropped. Law, Justice and Parliamentary Khasru said as many as eight lakh criminal cases are pend-

ing with courts in the country. The minister said the government is thinking of creating a separate cadre service with

Sources said after creation better option.

SPPs and APPs will be gradu-

Appreciating the idea, a legal Affairs Minister Abdul Matin expert said, "Political governments employ lawyers having allegiance to ruling parties. Obviously, they are not the most talented ones in the profession. So recruitment of prosecutors through Public Service Commission would be a much

See page 11 col 6

up by 10pc from Sept 1

By Shehab Ahmed

Airlines operating domestic flights are planning to raise fares due to recent increase in aviation fuel price for domestic services, sources concerned

"We will have no option but to raise fares by at least 10 per cent from September 1 unless the authorities pay heed to our plea for reducing fuel price". Shahab Sattar, Managing Director of GMG Airlines told The Daily Star yesterday.

Bangladesh Biman is also contemplating increasing its

management is expected to discuss the impact of fuel price hike at a meeting today, Biman sources said.

The Energy Ministry on August 17 raised the aviation fuel price for domestic flights by 15 per cent to Tk 19.05 a litre from Tk 16 and reduced it for international flights by 35 per cent to 31 US cents a litre from 48

Fuel price for domestic flights was already abnormally high in the country and another enhancement in the wake of a domestic fare by 15 to 20 per massive six per cent devaluacent from October 1. Biman tion of Taka against US dollar

has surprised domestic operators. Sattar said. It is 22 US cents a litre in India he added. Sattar said repeated appeals

sion have fallen on the deaf ears of the authorities. GMG started operation on

for reconsideration of the deci-

April 6, 1998 with two 37-seater Dash-8 aircraft, leased from a

Canadian operator, for which it has to pay in dollars. The hike in fuel price is a big blow to the company and has

forced it to reduce daily flights to 20 from 28, Sattar said. The company was planning

See page 11 col 6

Islamabad asked to return killers of Bangabandhu

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Dhaka has made a request to Islamabad to send back the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami said yes -Speaking at a news briefing

yesterday, he said it was learnt that Major (retd) Shariful Huq Dalim, a self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu, is now staying in Pakistan. Another killer, Colonel (dismissed) Khandaker Abdur Rashid made frequent trips to that country.

The foreign secretary said the government had made a request to the Pakistan government to find out their whereabouts and send them back. "Pakistan's actions about

the killers will have a salutary effect on our relations," said Sami who has just returned ending a four-day trip to Islamabad to deliver a letter to Pakistan's military ruler General Parvez Musharrai as personal envoy of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He said Bangladesh had re-

quested Pakistan to provide full text of the recently leaked Justice Hamoodur Rahman

Commission Report related to the events of the Liberation War. "The question of comment will arise once we have received the report and studied it."

Sami informed that the prime minister will have meetings with both Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistan's Chief Executive General Parvez Musharraf, who had asked for a meeting with the Bangladesh premier. Both the meetings would

take place on September 8 on the sidelines of the forthcoming Millenium Summit of the UN to be held in New York between September 6 and 8. The Foreign Secretary who

had embarked on a similar trip to New Delhi earlier this month and delivered Hasina's letter to Premier Vajpayee said, "We are encouraged by the responses of both capitals. Asked if there was a change

in attitude of the two acrimonious neighbours towards each other and if there was a realisa tion about the need for reducing tension in the region following See page 11 col 6

Diarrhoea cases increasing

in city By Staff Correspondent

Diarrhoea cases are increasing in Dhaka city and its neigh bouring areas for the last two

More than 300 patients, mostly children, were admitted to International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research. Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), at Mahakhali yesterday.

A doctor at the ICDDR, B said the number of case began to in crease about two weeks ago. Most of the patients are from low-lying areas of the city's

Manda, Bashabo, Badda, Shabujbagh and Mughdapara. People from Narayanganj. Tongi and Keraniganj are also coming to the capital for treatment, he said. When contacted, an official

informed, 365 people were admitted on Sunday and most or them were released within twelve hours. High humidity and drying up

of water bodies might be the reason for spreading of the water-borne disease, he said. However, he said, there were

no reports of death till the seasonal disease' broke out about a fortnight ago. Over 7,300 patients were treated in last July. he informed.

Fuel price hike could be avoided by adjusting import duties

Star Report

Instead of increasing the prices of petroleum products to cover the losses of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), the government could easily do that by adjusting duties on fuel import as per a BPC proposal, sources concerned said.

Against an age-old duty structure that pushes petroleum prices up. BPC was pursuing a proposal to readjust the duty structure so that the prices at consumer level remain unchanged without causing any year.

The proposal was discussed at Cabinet meetings several times but the finance ministry rejected it all along. "It is because the government's revenue earning till June was very frustrating," one source said. The government sharply

raised petroleum prices this month on the plea that oil prices in the international market had greatly increased and BPC had incurred a loss of Tk 1300 crore in the last one But during the same period,

BPC paid Tk 2600 crore to the national exchequer as import duty and in the last seven years. it paid over Tk 12, 630 crore as The country usually spent

around Tk 2500 crore a year for these imports till '97-'98. This year, because of massive devaluation of taka against dollar and increased demand for petroleum products, it will have to spend around Tk 3600 crore. BPC had steadily made huge

net profits up to a maximum of See page 11 col 4

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue 🔲 প্রদেয় আয়কর পরিশোধ করুন

vesterday. Abahani won the match 2-1. (Story on page 8)

body recovered

From Staff Correspondent

Diamond Cement Factory's silo tion with the incident, was re-

The death toll from the dis- would appear for interrogation

One platoon from Army's installed there, factory owners

Troops joined Fire Brigade and done today.

aster rose to 12 with recovery of when required.

police personnel today to re-

cover bodies from rubbles at

one more body this afternoon.

engineering corps, headed by a

Major, joined the operation

with a crane and bulldozers at

about 5 pm today on request

from the district administra-

Police said autopsy of the 11

police said. More bodies are

that collapsed yesterday.

feared trapped, they said.

CHITTAGONG. Aug 28: bodies recovered yesterday was

The Chinese designer -- Gong

Two Chinese designers were

But two other Bangladeshi

engineers -- Samir Barua and

Ajoy Paul -- arrested yesterday

were sent to jail this afternoon

after they were produced before

court, court sources said.

National Board of Revenue

-- arrested yesterday in connec-

leased today on a bond that he

engaged at the factory by the

supplier of Chinese machines

া দেশের অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকান্তে আপনার অবদান রাখুন

tion, sources said.

Notice Regarding Spot Assessment This is for information of all concerned that the spot assessment activities in the areas under

jurisdiction of circle concerned is going on as per the provision introduced to realise income tax in Finance Act, 1999. The salient features of this are:-* This provision is a simplified method for payment of tax liability and settle on the spot

tax case for those individuals who have no income tax file (excepting company) although they have income from business.

* Tax officials will help tax-payers to fill up return.

If the concerned tax payer deposits the tax in Bangladesh Bank/Sonali Bank complying of no use in an accident as an with paying tax at the specific rate, then that deposit receipt will be treated as the evidence of completion of assessment of tax.

The tax so fixed will remain unchanged for next two tax years for the concerned tax pavers. Tax rate in case of snot assessment

Serial No	Location of business establishment	Amount of capital (In taka)	Amount of tax (In taka)
(1)	Within City Corporation area	Maximum up to 5,00,000/-	2,500/-
(1)	Within City Corporation area	More than 5,00,000/- Maximum up to 10,00,000/-	3,500/-
(3)	Divisional or municipal area within district town	Maximum up to 5,00,000/-	1,500/-
(4)	Divisional or municipal area with- in district town	More than 5,00,000/- Maximum upto 10,00,000/-	2,500/-

spot assessment activities, then the fixation of his tax will be completed in the possible shortest time as per normal law. * Deputy Commissioner of Taxes will intimate the office-bearers of traders association about it before going to spot assessment in business establishments and he will conduct the spot

assessment in presence of their nominated representatives. Overall cooperation of concerned traders' association in the spot assessment activities is solicited.

Ctg tragedy: One more | Most garment factories lack safety measures

Star Report

Working condition in most of the garments factories in the city is highly hazardous as these lack adequate space, wide staircase and emergency exit. In addition, most of the garments worker do not have

CAPTAINS TO THE FORE: Abahani skipper Iqbal (R) rushing in to intercept his Mohammedan counterpart Alfaz

any training on fire safety. At least 104 garments employees were killed in fire- related incidents in garment fac-

tories in the city in the last ten Twelve employees including ten females were killed due to suffocation in a fire incident at Globe Knitting Ltd at Banani in

the early hours of Sunday. A team from BGMEA Safety Cell yesterday visited Globe Knitting and some others gar ments factories in Banani area. A member of the team preferring anonymity said most of the factories they visited did not have the required number

ers trained on fire safety. As per law at least 18 per cent of the total workers of a garment factory must have training on fire safety. At Globe Knitting, only one of the trapped employees had training on fire safety, he said.

of fire extinguishers and work-

Besides, garments factories are supposed to conduct evacuation rehearsal once a month, but most of those do not do it. "Even if there are adequate fire extinguishers, those will be untrained employee will not know how to use those" said a Fire Brigade official. An em ployee not trained on fire safety will not able to escape in such a situation. A large number of employees were killed in stampede in the last ten years, he This correspondent yester-

- Star photo

day visited a number of gar ments factories in Hatirpool and Green Road areas. Most of the officials at of those factories refused to talk to this correspondent. Talking with the staff and employees, it was gathered that only a few of those had emergency exit. Most of the workers said they never heard of training on fire safety.

Windmill Sweaters Ltd. at Green Road does not have any emergency exit. Its Managing Director Zahid Hossain said he will arrange an emergency exit as the Fire Brigade and Civil Defence Department has issued a notice in this regard.

Officials of another factory at Hatirpool said they do not conduct evacuation rehearsal as it hampers work.

BGMEA's Safety Cell and Fire Brigade conduct training on fire safety. The Safety Cell official said, during visits they prepare lists of workers for training but most of the listed workers do not attend the fiveday program conducted by See page 11 col 6

Boral murder: Alamgir's father held

Court orders attachment of 10 suspects' property

From Staff Correspondent from Chitalmari thana.

KHULNA, Aug 28: The court of first class magistrate A.K.M. Masudur Rahman today ordered attachment of property of 10 suspects in Kalidas Boral Murder Case,

The P&A orders were sent to the office of the SP at this noon for taking necessary action against the 10 suspects including Alamgir Siddiqui, expelled from Jubo League on charge of master-minding the murder. Angry people of Chitalmari

torched the house of local AL

leader Chand Molla on Sunday

night, police said. The house is

situated half-a-kilometre away

Chand Molla is not only a suspect in the murder case, but custodian of some arms used in the killing of Boral, police said. He was declared unwanted person at a rally at Chitalmari

Meanwhile, Bagerhat Sadar

police have taken Alamgir's father into custody today for interrogation. Alamgir's father is keeping secret contact with his absconding son, police added. Another report says Bagerhat Sadar thana OC Hemayetuddin Ahmed has been

See page 11 col 3



Bashundhara City Development Co. Ltd. signed a contract on 25th August 2000 with Creative Engineers Ltd. (Commercial Distributor of Schindler Management Ltd. Switzerland) for supply & installation of 59 Nos. Escalator, 1 Moving Walk & 21 Nos. Elevator for their most modern & largest Shopping Mall under construction at Panthapath. Mr. Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam, Chairman of Bashundhara Group and Mr. Md. Tabibul Huq, Managing Director, Creative Engineers Ltd. signed the contract on behalf of the respective companies. Dr. Rupert Fischer, Export Sales Manager & Mr. H Pelzmann of Schindler Austria and Mr. Mustafa Haider, Sales Engineer, Schindler Lifts Ltd. Switzerland witnessed the contract. Mr. Sadat Sobhan Tanbir, 1st Vice Chairman, Mr. Shafiat Sobhan Sunvir, 2nd Vice Chairman, Mr. M. A Sattar, Executive Director, Bashndhara Group & Mr. Mahbub M Talukder, Director, Creative Engineers Ltd. were also present on the occasion.