

**BUY NOW — PAY LATER**

**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES USA  
Refrigerator  
Transcom Electronics Limited  
Authorized distributor for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

# The Daily Star

**USA PROFESSIONAL**  
TRINITY COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY  
**60 CREDIT MBA**  
Center for International Studies (CIS)  
Call for Information : 8822729

VOL. X NO. 224 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2000

Wishing the  
BEST  
for the  
3rd Millennium

BHADRA 19, 1407 BS

JAMADIA SAANI 3, 1421 HIJRI

12 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

## PM leaves for New York tonight

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves for New York at midnight tonight to attend the UN Millennium Summit beginning September 6, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr SA Samad, Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Sami and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Jawadul Karim will accompany the Prime Minister.

The delegation of the Prime Minister also includes Siddique Hossain, ANM Shafiqul Haq, Golam Quddus, Liakat Ali Laki, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullal, Mohammad Salman, Tariq, Sajid Wazed, KM Hossain, Sayma Hossain and Miss Mahbub Ara Begum Giny.

The largest-ever gathering of leaders at the UN headquarters is designed to chart new course of activity for the 188-member United Nations to meet the challenges of 21 century. The

See page 11 col 4

## Inside Today

### Article

**Buck Stops with RSS Chief**  
Column: Between the Lines  
by Kuldeep Nayar  
**Supplementary Report of Hamoodur Rahman Commission: Some relevant extracts**  
Ninth installment  
Page 4

### Business

**Cement manufacturers ask govt not to allow new factories**  
DSE, CSE price quotations  
Pages 6 & 7

Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 3 5:41 am	6:14 pm
Sept 4 5:41 am	6:14 pm

### Prayer Timings

September 3		
	Azani	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	5:05
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	4:45	5:00
Maghrib	6:25	6:30
Esha	8:00	8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation



## সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্প্রতি লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, দেশের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে কিছু অননুমোদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তি অবাস্তব, অস্বাভাবিক উচ্চহারে সুদ, মুনাফা বা অন্যবিধ লাভের প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়ে জমা/আমানত/বিনিয়োগ ইত্যাদি নামে জনগণ থেকে অর্থ সংগ্রহ করছে। উচ্চহারে মুনাফার প্রত্যাশায় প্রলুব্ধ অর্থ জমাদানকারীরা এদের দ্বারা প্রতারিত/ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হওয়ার বেশ কিছু দৃষ্টান্ত সম্প্রতি সংবাদ মাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। এ ধরনের অননুমোদিত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের কাছে টাকা জমা না রাখার জন্য সর্বসাধারণকে সতর্কতা অবলম্বনের পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

ব্যাংক বা আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক থেকে লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ ব্যতিরেকে আমানত/জমা গ্রহণকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলোর বিরুদ্ধে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক থেকে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হচ্ছে।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ

সংস্করণ: ৪৮/২০০০-২২৭৪  
তারিখ: ৩-৯-২০০০

GD - 815



Udyan in sorry state: Weeds have taken over Osmany Udyan, one of the few parks in the city of millions, due to lack of proper care and attention. Will the city fathers, please, come to its rescue? — Star photo by AKM Mohsin

## Laying of fibre optic at pvt EPZ

# BTTB asked to explain its mysterious silence

By M Shamsur Rahman

The Private Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Cell under the Prime Minister's Office has asked Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) to explain within seven days why it 'ignored' a proposal from a private EPZ to lay a fibre optic cable.

Chittagong Industrial Park Ltd, sponsor of Rangunia private EPZ, gave the proposal to lay a 'dedicated' submarine fibre optic cable to link the zone with international market to help investors in IT avail competitive prices.

The Cell had referred the proposal to BTTB about four

months back for its opinion. Getting no response, the Cell sent a letter to BTTB on Monday seeking explanation, sources said.

The Rangunia Private Export Processing Zone (REPZ) is being developed on the northern side of Karnaphuli river, about 30 km from Chittagong city. Forty per cent of the units to be set up there will be high-tech industries and 60 per cent agro-based.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation of the private EPZ in October last year with a call to foreign and local entrepreneurs to take ad-

vantages of Bangladesh's geographical location and the incentives provided by her government.

Setting up of industries, particularly in the IT sector, is being hampered due to lack of connection with the international fibre optic backbone, sources concerned said.

In the proposal, it was stated that no financial support from the government would be required to lay the fibre optic cable. All financial and technical assistance have been arranged from USA and UK, it said.

The sponsor told this corre-

## College girl found dead at Uttara

By Staff Correspondent

A college girl was found dead at the residence of her maternal aunt in Uttara yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

Police recovered the body at about 1.30 pm from the residence and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The victim, identified as Khurshida Akhtar Liza, 21, is suspected to have been poisoned to death by close relatives following dispute over a land owned by Liza, hospital sources said.

The victim is the daughter of government officer stationed outside the capital, sources said adding that Liza was residing with one of her relatives at Uttara area under Uttara police station.

The Uttara police said that the inmates of the house misbehaved with them when they went to the place of occurrence.

## WB unhappy at WASA's performance

# Sayedabad water project may be stalled again

By Raziur Rahman

The World Bank, dissatisfied at the performance of Dhaka WASA, has warned that it would stop financing the 4th Dhaka Water Supply Project, of which Sayedabad water treatment project is a major component.

A WB team that visited Bangladesh recently left Dhaka dissatisfied as WASA could not fulfil two major conditions of the loan agreement — realisation of overdue bills and administrative reforms in the organisation.

About 40 per cent work of the Tk 750 crore Sayedabad project has been done and the project is likely to be completed by December next year, about five months behind schedule.

The plant would add 225 core litres of water to WASA's daily supply of about 120 crore litres against a maximum demand for 145 crore litres in the city now.

The project is being jointly

financed by WB and governments of France, Japan and Bangladesh. As per the agreement, WB is supposed to provide Tk 336.45 crore, French government Tk 137.83 crore, Japanese government Tk 5.45 crore and Bangladesh government Tk 270.7 crore including the cost of land.

WASA has Tk 25 crore arrears bills due from the government organisations and Tk four crore bills from autonomous bodies. As per the loan agreement, WASA was to reduce the dues from government organisations by June 30 and its board was to hand over power to the management.

During talks with the Finance Secretary, Local Government Division Secretary and top WASA officials, the WB team expressed deep dissatisfaction that none of the conditions were fulfilled, the sources said.

After the team left Dhaka in the third week of July, Local Government Division Secretary

Badiur Rahman in a letter to WB said that the government would take steps to fulfil the conditions by August.

Badiur Rahman and WASA Managing Director Dr Khandakar Azharul Haque held a meeting with the Finance Secretary on August 20 and discussed realisation of the arrears. Other officials concerned also held several meetings on fulfilling the WB conditions immediately.

WASA sources said the finance ministry is planning to ask the defaulting government organisations and departments to pay their arrears within a fixed period. The ministry may also ask those to make budgetary provisions for payment of bills to different agencies like WASA, they added.

The sources however said if WB decides to stop further disbursement of funds, it will give one month's time to fulfil its

See page 12 col 4

## Ctg Board HSC Exams 1998 Results of 2 students securing first, 18th positions cancelled

CHITTAGONG, Sept 2: HSC results of two students who stood first and 18th in combined merit list of Commerce Group under Chittagong Board in 1998, have been cancelled on charges of forgery and corruption, reports UNB.

The authorities of Chittagong Board in a meeting today also decided to take stern action against three staff of the education board including a deputy controller and an assistant controller of examinations, and a college teacher on the same charges.

The results of Ashikul Kabir Mahmud and Ruhul Haq of Chittagong Cantonment Public

School and College who stood first and 18th respectively at the exams, were cancelled as per recommendations of a probe committee.

"Stern action", which is yet to be decided, would be taken against Deputy Controller of examination Mujibur Rahman, assistant controller of examinations Abul Kalam Siddiqui and Assistant Zahid Hossain and Professor Saidul Hasan Khan of Cantonment Public School and College.

With Prof Ahmad Hossain, a teacher of Economics of Mohsin College, as chief, the committee was formed in December 1998

See page 11 col 6

## Non-govt pry teachers on strike

By Staff Correspondent

Teachers of 23,000 non-government primary schools went for an indefinite strike yesterday demanding nationalisation of their institutions.

Bangladesh non-government Primary School Teachers Association called the strike as the government did not respond to their demand despite repeated request to the Prime Minister and the Education Minister, said a press release of the association.

The agitating teachers will lay a siege to the UNO offices at thana headquarters on Tuesday and submit memorandum.

The association will also hold a grand rally at Taltan Maidan on September 10 where Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia will be the chief guest. Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Prof. Golam Azam and Chairman of Islami Oikya Jote Moulana Azizul Huque will attend the rally as special guests.

## What caused the tidal surge

By Special Correspondent

A well-marked low coinciding with the 'Amabashya' last day of dark fortnight in the Bay of Bengal along with high winds and heavy rains, causing extensive damage along the coast and in the offshore islands on Thursday, meteorologists said yesterday.

The tidal surge up to 5.7 metres ripped embankments, flooding low lying coastal areas and offshore islands. Sandwip was the worst affected, where 12,000 people became homeless.

An Indonesian ship, MV Accord, carrying 7,000 tonnes of cement was swept into Sandwip channel when swift current tore it off the anchor at outer anchorage of Chittagong port. The ship was left stranded 14 miles west of Patenga and four miles of east of Sandwip.

A number of fishermen who ignored Met Office warning signal number three went missing

See page 11 col 6

## Tidal wave sweeps Sandwip again

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 2: Tidal wave sweeping eight unions out of 14 in Sandwip marked a further rise this afternoon due to high tide in the sea.

Of the eight unions, Musapur is worst affected. This union located near the Bay of Bengal went under 7 to 8 feet water, Red Crescent and administration sources said.

A 12-year-old boy drowned in tidal water in Musapur union today, according to unconfirmed sources.

Red Crescent sources said, 4,000 families were affected by the tidal water in Sandwip island.

Besides, the tidal water damaged 4,000 dwelling houses, 15 km embankment and 20 km roads in Sandwip, sources added.

Scarcity of drinking water became acute in the affected areas as at least 20 tubewells went out of order and most of the ponds were inundated with saline water.

Sources said two to three feet

tidal water remained stagnant in Sandwip town even during low tide, disrupting the normal life.

About 12,000 people who took refuge at the cyclone centres in Sandwip following onslaught of tidal water from Bay of Bengal, were staying there while many others shifted to higher places in the neighbouring villages, Red Crescent sources further said.

District administration here has yet to take adequate measures for the people affected by the tidal water.

District administration sources said Taka 20,000/- in cash and 10 tons of rice were sent to Sandwip for the affected people.

Meanwhile, Met office today recorded the height of the tide at 4.97 meter.

Height of tide increased for the past few days due to strong monsoon wind in the sea, inundating coastal areas, Met office said.

## One must learn to read & write in Sirajganj or go to jail!

By Morshed Ali Khan with Akhtaruzzaman Bablu in Sirajganj

If you know someone aged between 11 and 45 and he does not now how to read and write, you better advise him not to go to Sirajganj these days.

Because, there he runs the risk of being stopped on the road by one of the mobile teams of magistrates and asked to prove that he knows how to read and write. Failure would land him in embarrassment.

In the district town, an illiterate person is first assigned to join one of the 550 literacy centres. And on the second occasion, if he has not learnt his lesson, magistrates might impose a fine and finally, if he has not availed the facilities to learn to read and write, he faces up to three months' imprisonment.

This is being done as part of a Tk 18.9 crore government project to eradicate illiteracy from the district where an estimated six lakh people are illiterate.

The project launched in May will continue till October.

As soon as it is eight in the evening, all businesses except restaurants and pharmacies in Sirajganj town are closed. The teams of magistrates and other officials move in the town to make sure the directive is implemented.

Hundreds of shop employees, rickshawpullers and others of the target groups turn up at the literacy centres everyday for an hour. At 8 pm, the town with a population of about 1.5 lakh suddenly looks deserted. Female participants attend classes in the afternoon.

Shafiqul Islam, 20, is a rickshawpuller from Shoyagovinda area of the town. Born in a poor peasant family, he was illiterate.

"I learnt to write my name and address within five days of joining a centre and I want to complete the course with my

friends. I am sure it is going to help us in the future," said Shafiqul.

Deputy Commissioner of Sirajganj A F M Saiful Islam, who is in overall charge of the project, told The Daily Star the project is called Prodipta Sirajganj and it is part of the government's scheme to eradicate illiteracy from all parts of the country with such crash programmes.

"Of course we have problems, but we are hopeful of a success rate of 80 per cent. In all the 19,674 centres in the district, female participants are particularly serious about the course. But we have problems regarding male participants."

The DC said Union Parishad chairmen have been given the responsibility of employing teachers for the centres. Ninety-six teams have been formed in the district — comprising jour-

See page 12 col 3

## UN Millennium Summit to see 91 'peaceful' protests

NEW YORK, Sept 2: Although there's no evidence to indicate that the United Nations Millennium Summit being held here next week will attract the kind of protesters that marred the World Trade Organisation meeting last year in Seattle, there are already 91 planned protests, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said, reports AP.

"Although the intelligence now is that they will all be relatively peaceful, you can't depend on that," the mayor said. "But we're ready."

The Sept 6-8 summit is expected to attract more than 150 heads of state and government — the largest number of dignitaries ever gathered in one city in history, said Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik. Cuban President Fidel Castro, on his first trip to the United States since 1995, is among the dignitaries planning to attend. Castro is one of 18 digni-

taries who are deemed "high risk" by police and will get extra security coverage, said Deputy Chief Daniel Oates, head of the NYPD's Intelligence Division. He declined to name the other 17.

Anti-Castro demonstrations are among the protests planned, but Giuliani and police officials stressed that they believe the gatherings will not be violent. The largest demonstration known to the NYPD is scheduled for Sept. 5, when 5,000 to 10,000 people are expected at an anti-Iranian government protests, Oates said.

Police officials are confident the 41,000-strong department — the largest in the nation — can handle any situation, and there will not be a repeat of last November's WTO gathering in Seattle. Police there were overwhelmed when marches by several groups converged on the

downtown area, clogging streets and hampering the WTO gatherings.

The NYPD is used to handling enormous crowds and has had to deal with two large events this past year — the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square and OpSail 2000 in July.

For the summit, extra police officers will work 12-hour shifts at the city's 76 precincts to make sure the rest of the city is being served, but officers will be dispatched to summit duty if needed, said First Deputy Commissioner Joseph Dummie.

To protect the dignitaries, the NYPD will dispatch up to 6,000 officers for security and traffic patrols, which will cost an estimated 8 million dollar in overtime, Giuliani said. Police will coordinate security measures with the Secret Service and the State Department.