

BUY NOW... PAY LATER

Whirlpool
HOME APPLIANCES USA
Gas Cooker

Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

The Daily Star

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

VOL. X NO. 231 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2000

3rd Millennium

BHADRA 26, 1407 BS

JAMADIA SAANI 10, 1421 HIJRI

12 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

SKOP to enforce 48-hr rail-road barricade from tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) will enforce a 48-hour rail-road barricade programme from tomorrow demanding implementation of the agreement signed with the government.

The agreement includes announcement of minimum wages, cancellation of privatisation process and reopening of all closed mills.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday expressed solidarity with the SKOP-called barricade programme.

Bhuiyan criticised the government for not implementing the agreement.

He urged the government to accept the demands of the SKOP without further delay.

Haroon's election now a mere formality

Star Report
The government's intention to have its 'own man' Yusuf Abdullah Haroon elected unopposed president of FBCCI has succeeded at last as the Election Board found the nomination paper of his lone contender invalid.

Now, it is a mere formality to declare Haroon President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) for the next two years.

The FBCCI Election Board yesterday declared the nomination paper of Aminul Haq, the lone contender of Haroon, invalid on the ground that it carried a wrong voter number of the candidate and the post he wanted to vie for was not mentioned correctly.

However, Aminul Haq alleged that it was 'pre-planned'.

See page 11 col 7

Inside Today

Article

Judiciary on Trial!

By Ali Ahmed Ziauddin

Supplementary Report of Hamoodur Rahman Commission: Some Relevant Extracts
Sixteenth Instalment
Page 4

Supplement

One page supplement on 'The Role of Financial Oversight Functions in Bangladesh' on Page 10

Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 10 5:44 am	6:07 pm
Sept 11 5:44 am	6:07 pm

Prayer Timings	
September 10	
Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4:30	5:05
Zohr 12:45	1:15
Asr 4:45	5:00
Maghrib 6:12	6:17
Esha 8:00	8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Musharraf didn't turn up to meet Hasina

PM's speech at UN hurts Pak military ruler?

NEW YORK, Sept 9: A scheduled meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Pakistan chief executive General Pervez Musharraf did not take place as the military ruler did not turn up at the venue in the UN headquarters yesterday, reports UNB.

Briefing newsmen at the UN Plaza Hotel in the evening, Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Sami said Pakistan sought rescheduling of the meeting from Bangladesh side. But that was difficult as Prime Minister Hasina was constrained by her tight schedule.

Responding to a volley of questions regarding possible reasons behind the cancellation of the meeting by Pakistan, Sami said Pakistan side

did not cancel it, but Bangladesh's permanent representative to the UN Anwarul Karim Chowdhury took it as a surprise development.

"We are not sure what the reasons are but it came as a surprise," Chowdhury told reporters.

Asked whether the Prime Minister's hard-hitting remarks on illegal capture of power and war crimes in her address to the UN Security Council prompted General Musharraf to stay away from the meeting, the Foreign Secretary said her speech was not directed against any particular country.

In her speech at the UNSC on Sept 7, Hasina called for action against unconstitutional capture of power by military

regimes. Diplomatic sources hinted that Prime Minister Hasina's harsh word against military takeover in any member state of the UN might have offended the Pak military ruler.

Hasina-Musharraf meeting was set at the request of the Pakistani military ruler who took over power last year overthrowing the elected government of Nawaz Sharif.

Shafi Sami was not sure about the possibility of this forsaken meeting to take place in the near future.

When asked if Bangladesh's efforts to defuse tension in South Asia suffered a jolt following this, Sami could not give any specific answer.

See page 11 col 7

BNP threatens to paralyse country Withdraw 'false' case against Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders yesterday warned that they would 'paralyse the country' if the 'false and conspiratorial' case against party Chairperson Khaleda Zia and other leaders is not withdrawn immediately.

The case relating to purchase of two Airbus aircraft for Biman is 'false, fabricated and politically motivated' and has been filed to mislead the people as the out-governments movement got momentum, they said at a public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city.

The city BNP organised the rally with its president Sadek Hossain Khoka MP in the chair to protest filing of the case.

Scared by Khaleda Zia's popularity and unity of opposition parties, the Awami League government filed the case to tarnish her image, create a rift

in the alliance and cover up the 'misdeeds and corruption' of its leaders and activists, they alleged. But their conspiracy will not succeed, they said.

They said that the then prime minister and the finance minister gave their consent for purchase of the aircraft after the committees and sub-committees concerned completed the whole process lawfully.

BNP Standing Committee member Abdul Matin Chowdhury claimed the government of Sheikh Hasina filed the case after it became sure that it would not get more than 20 seats in the next parliamentary polls.

"They have been hatching conspiracies and will continue to do so to cling to power. But

See page 11 col 7

Test series against Pakistan if India pull out

By Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will play their first ever Test and one-day series against Pakistan early next year if India refuse to tour Pakistan in December.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board has agreed in principle to play a home and away series at a meeting with General Taqir Zia, the president of Pakistan Cricket Board, in Sharjah. Board General-Secretary Syed Ashraf Hui, who attended the Asian Cricket Foundation meeting on September 6 and 7 along with the PCB boss, revealed this to the press on his arrival from the Gulf state.

"We're still hopeful that India will go to Pakistan for the sake of cricket. But if they don't, Bangladesh and Pakistan will

See page 11 col 3



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (L) meets with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in New York on the sidelines of the UN Millennium Summit on Friday. — AFP photo

BB probe finds SABINCO flouting regulations

By M Shamsur Rahman

Bangladesh Bank has found gross anomalies, including extending loans in foreign currencies in the operation of Saudi-Bangladesh Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company Limited (SABINCO).

A special central bank investigation in April this year revealed that almost 65 per cent of the loans disbursed by the company have been defaulted. Terming such a huge amount of default 'critical' for the future of the company, the central bank inspectors suggested formulation of a recovery action plan to salvage the company.

The chairman of the company is currently in the city to chair a board meeting today and is expected to approve a statement for the Bangladesh Bank (BB) clarifying the position of the company.

The investment company was established on July 16, 1985 as a joint venture between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia with equal stakes. The paid-up capital of the bank was 600 million US dollars. Three Saudi nationals, of whom one is the chairman, sit in the six-member board of directors while the other three including the vice-chairman are Bangladeshis.

The company has also been found to have flouted five clauses of Financial Institution Act of 1993.

Section 9 of the act says that a financial institution prior to declaring dividend should transfer 20 per cent of its net profit to reserve if reserve fall short of its paid-up capital. But the company did not comply

with this provision. Its balance sheet shows that in 1999 SABINCO transferred Tk 1.37 crore to reserves instead of Tk 4.59 crore as required.

The probe also found the company to have extended and realised loans in foreign currency in violation of the act.

The act allows SABINCO only to finance businesses and restricted it from getting involved in any import-export or retail-wholesale businesses. But the company was found to be directly managing two projects namely Bangladesh Cat Fish and Saudi-Bangla Fish Feed.

The report further said that the company had exceeded the permissible limit in investing in shares of other companies in violation of Section 16 of the act.

See page 11 col 4

Frequent strikes worry foreign investors, traders in Ctg

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Sept 9: Foreign investors and local businessmen here have become worried due to frequent strikes and labour agitation.

"We are concerned as production and export hampered due to frequent strikes when rates of absenteeism were high in our factories," CS Sohn Managing Director of Korean company Youngone Corporation at CEPZ said while talking to this correspondent.

"During strike we face problem in documentation and shipment of consignments as banks, customs, port and other offices concerned do not operate. Our employees and workers face trouble to reach factories," Sohn said. "I apprehend that unrest would rise as election is nearing," he commented.

Youngone has nine industries in Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) with a total investment of over 80 million US dollars. It has employed about 17,000 employees and workers. It produces shoes, sports wear and leather goods.

CEPZ sources said that the recent labour unrest in 11 towel factories there forced the owners to incur huge losses. Over 7,000 workers of towel factories at CEPZ, staged agitation recently demanding higher wages and reinstatement of 15 workers.

Former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kamal Uddin Ahmed said, "The unrest prevailing here due to strikes and labour agitation is posing a threat to inflow of foreign investment."

"Frequent work stoppage at Chittagong port due to labour unrest affects export-import and discourages our foreign buyers. Local politics and rivalry were behind most of the strikes," Kamal said. The government should come forward to improve the situation, he added.

Chairman of the Shipping Agents Association Tarek Anis Ahmed said ships calling at Chittagong port incur 3000-10,000 US dollars demurrage

per day for overstay due to strike.

Chairman of Chittagong port Commodore Golam Rabbani said, "We are apprehending a severe congestion at the port if the spree of strikes and labour unrest continue."

The latest strike in the port city was on Thursday. It was called by the local unit of All Party Action Council (APAC) demanding release of Mufti Ezzharul Islam, Convenor of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), Chittagong unit.

On August 24, a day-long strike was enforced in the city by SKOP demanding reopening of the towel factories at CEPZ and reinstatement of 15 workers.

On August 23, a half-day hartal was observed as part of a countrywide programme called by the opposition alliance protesting killing of a pro-BNP lawyer in Dhaka.

On August 21 Chittagong port was totally paralysed by a dockers' strike. On the day before, transport owners and workers observed a day-long transport strike here to protest price hike of fuel.

On August 7, a half-day hartal was enforced here protesting attack by terrorists on Jatiya Party city unit president Jahangir Alam.

A gang of three intercepted

See page 11 col 7

Straw, Nasim hold talks today

British Secretary of State for Home Affairs (Home Minister) Jack Straw MP arrived in Dhaka yesterday, evening on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim received the British Minister at Zia International Airport.

Jack Straw is a senior cabinet minister in Tony Blair's government.

Official talks between the British Minister and his Bangladesh counterpart Nasim will be held at the Secretariat today.

Straw will call on Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, Chief Justice Latifur Rahman and exchange views with the representatives of civil society and other prominent figures of the country.

Besides, he will also briefly attend a Human Rights and Prison Management Course, to be jointly organised by Penal Reform International (PRI) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST).

Officials of the Home, Foreign and Commonwealth offices in the United Kingdom are accompanying Straw.

Soon after his arrival, straw met a group of elite from Sylhet and attended a reception at the residence of British High Commissioner David Carter.

The British minister will address a press conference prior to his departure for London this evening.

Rab murder

Shanu's brother Chhoton held

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Sept 9: Police arrested Azizur Rahman Chhoton at Khalishpur yesterday afternoon in connection with the killing of S M A Rab.

Chhoton was named by Rangu as one of the killers. He is the younger brother of terrorist Golam Mowla Shanu, the main accused in Jubo League activist Shaidul Islam Liton murder case. Shanu was charged with the case.

Liton was gunned down in police custody near the judge's court, Khulna last year.

Chhoton was taken to remand for five days today for interrogation. With Chhoton, the number of arrests in Rab Murder Case stands at six. Five others are Rangu, James, Motaleb, Javed and Sentu.

Javed and Sentu are yet to disclose the names of godfather involved in the conspiracy to kill Rab.

One of the 13-member special team of KMP officials today said, Chhoton is also one of the chargesheeted accused in Liton Murder Case.

Meanwhile, Rab Smriti Parishad and a whip faction of Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League will jointly bring out a procession to be followed by a rally tomorrow to press home their demands for arresting killers and masterminds of the murder.

Dacoits loot Tk 4 lakh

By Staff Correspondent
Armed robbers took away cash and valuables worth about Tk 4 lakh from a house at Rampura under Khilgaon thana in the city in the early hours of today, police said.

According to the FIR lodged with police, dacoits entered the residence of one Alamgir Hossain at about 3:30 am breaking a window.

The miscreants confined the inmates in a room and took away the cash and valuables at gun point.

However, none was arrested till writing of this report last night.

Boral's relatives feel insecure Masked armed men pull down black flags in Chitalmari

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Sept 9: Masked men entered into villages of Mollahat and Chitalmari thanas and pulled down black flags hoisted in protest of killing of Kalidas Boral and banners demanding arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers.

Terming the act as one in total disregard for the will of the people, supporters of Boral have renewed their pledge to face the challenge of those opposing the movement against the murder of whom they termed as the undisputed leader of Bagerhat-1 constituency.

A group of armed men have created a riotous situation at

Mollahat and Chitalmari by attacking the houses of the sympathizers of Boral who raised slogans against Sheikh Helal MP, the prime minister's cousin, and hurled not only insolent remarks at him, but also shoes and rubbish, in presence of the Home Minister at the condolence meeting attended by thousands of men and women. The fiasco compelled Sheikh Helal to quit the podium.

Minorities of Chitalmari are allegedly being targeted by terrorists after the incident. Kalpada Mondal Tarakanath and a former member of Chitalmari UP were roughed up

See page 11 col 6

400 ml. of DENGUE DESTRUCTION



PROTECTS YOUR FAMILY