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Wishing the
BEST
for the
3rd Millennium

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Police and local people watch ruins of the truck (right) after angry people set fire to it (left) in Tikatuli area in the city. The truck knocked down a rickshaw on the road in front of Rajdhani Super Market killing a child and its mother yesterday. — Star photo

Who is in charge?

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Who is in charge at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

This question is frequently asked by different quarters as most of the time, most of the months, most of the persons who can dictate policy and implement decisions are on trips abroad.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdus Samad Azad and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury are out of the country for more than a week now.

Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami and Dr Toufik Ali, who fills in as Acting Foreign Secretary during Shafi Sami's absence, are also on foreign trips now.

Among the two Additional Foreign Secretaries Ruhul Amin and Sarjil Hasan, the former is working as the Acting Foreign Secretary.

A senior foreign ministry official when asked if they were facing any difficulty in functioning, replied, "We are untouched."

But when it came to speaking on behalf of the foreign ministry, no senior official wanted to say anything.

The ready reply was, "The foreign minister or the foreign secretary knows".

"He who knows can only tell," quipped another senior official.

Khaleda returns home today

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia is expected to return home today concluding her 8-day tour of Saudi Arabia, reports UNB.

The opposition leader, who visited the kingdom at the invitation of King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz from September 13, will arrive at Zia International Airport at 9.30 am, said a party press release yesterday.

During her stay in the KSA, Khaleda performed Umrah and also offered Fataha at Holy Rawza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM).

Inside Today

Article

Clinton end NMD: Why Pass on the Buck to Successor?

By A M M Shahabuddin

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Supplements

A 4-page supplement on The National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on pages 17 to 20 and one page supplement on 'Grameen Star Education' On page 8

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 23		5.54 pm
Sept 24	5-47 am	

Prayer Timings

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-08
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

NAM Summit deferred

Foreign Ministry tightlipped about reason

By M Anwarul Haq

The 13th NAM Summit scheduled to be held in Dhaka next September has been deferred.

The NAM Coordination Council at its meeting in New York on September 17 endorsed Bangladesh's request to defer the 14-nation Summit by at least six months, sources here said.

Foreign Ministry officials are tightlipped about the reason for the request. The Foreign Minister, State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Secretary are all outside the country now.

Dhaka indicated that February or March of 2002 would be "a more suitable time" for

Bangladesh to host the Summit. Citing September as a "month of monsoon and floods" and October as a period of "unfavourable natural conditions", Dhaka proposed that a six-month deferment would be "more convenient" to host the mega-event, the first of its kind being ventured by Bangladesh.

However, observers claimed that the reason why Dhaka requested for deferral of the Summit was that the present government would complete its term on July 13, after which a caretaker government would take over to hold national polls.

In September, the scheduled time for Summit, the country

would be under a caretaker government.

Another reason for the deferral may be to have more time to complete the infra-structural facilities including flats for accommodation and logistics for an estimated 5000 foreign dignitaries including heads of state and heads of government, they said.

Sources concerned however said work on the Bangladesh International Conference Centre where the Summit is to be held is going on as per schedule. The centre, the only major infrastructure being built for the Summit, is being constructed

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Mob sets killer truck afire

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons including a mother and her one-year-old child died under the wheels of vehicles in two incidents in the city yesterday.

The mother and her child died on the spot when a loaded truck knocked their rickshaw and ran over them near the Tikatuli traffic check post at about 11-55 am. Their identities could not be known.

Witnesses said the truck was speeding away bypassing a traffic police to avoid checking.

Angry people stopped the truck, caught its driver Mohammad Shahjahan and beat him. They also torched the truck and handed over the driver to police. Police seized the truck after fire fighters put out the fire.

The people also damaged several vehicles and put up a barricade on the road, disrupting traffic for about an hour. The barricade was withdrawn later, the witnesses said.

Bodies of the victims were sent to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy, police said.

In another incident, Bithi, 15, a garment employee, died as she was run over by a truck at Tilpapa crossing at Khilgaon at about 2 pm. Bithi, daughter of one Bishnu Mollah, was returning home after work.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Police arrested the driver, Mohammed Hossain and seized the truck.

Another murder at a club in Jurain

By Staff Correspondent

Another person has been beaten to death at a club in Old Dhaka.

Idris Mollah, 45, a vendor and resident of East Jurain was taken to Janata Club in the area at about 8:00 pm yesterday and beaten. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, hospital sources said.

Quoting the victim's family, he was the son of Berek Molla.

Abdur Razzak, OC of Shyampur thana when asked said they got an information in this regard and were investigating it.

Idris was also a cardiac patient, said his wife Kulsum Begum.

came forward to help; after all, Sunon and his gang were their 'own' people.

The parents fell to the feet of Sunon and begged for the lives of their sons, who were being beaten up with iron rods. The 'judge and ruler' was unmoved.

The next 24 hours the families of the two hapless young men shuttled between the police station and the Rifle Club. They begged for help, cried for mercy. Next morning, decapitated bodies of Sayem and Mohsin were recovered from a manhole near the club. Sunon remains at large.

We spoke to numerous people in the area to understand how such a crime could occur here. People in Sutrapur, the most densely-populated urban area in the world, appear resigned to the reign of terror. They have lost their collective

See page 11 col 7

Sumon is Ershad Shikder of Sutrapur, locals allege

By Staff Correspondent

Monowara Begum looked pale and distressed. Loss of her 18-year-old son, Mohsin, in the most brutal way has devastated the middle-aged resident of Sutrapur, where lawlessness reigns supreme.

"They tortured my boy to death. They tortured him so much; they pulled out his teeth and nails, they poured boiling water and severed his head, hands and legs. Allah, please do justice," Monowara wailed, slowly slapping her own cheeks, as she talked to The Daily Star at her brother's house.

While Monowara murmured, Mahtab Uddin, the father of Sayem, the other victim of gruesome Sutrapur double murder, stared blankly at the ceiling. Mahtab, in his late 50s, an undertaker by profession, lost his only son.

"I have buried many dead bodies in my life. Never have I

Traders take over roads, parks in Karwan Bazar

By Staff Correspondent

Some traders have taken over six major thoroughfares and two public parks in Karwan Bazar under the patronage of Estate Department officials of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

Traders and leaders of different business bodies of authorised markets in Karwan Bazar said although they have to do business paying taxes and DCC rents, a large number of illegal traders, who do not have to pay taxes, are cutting off their profit line. Such unlicensed traders are doing brisk business taking over streets, footpaths and public parks, they said.

The six thoroughfares taken over by these traders are two roads on the northern and southern sides of DCC Wholesale Market, the road running from north to south on the western side of the railway track, two roads on the northern and southern sides of the WASA Bhaban and the road in front of Janata Tower.

These DCC administrative officers have thrashed out ways for these traders to take over a public park and a thoroughfare by obtaining a court injunction, sources in Karwan Bazar said. The monthly income from these



Karwan Bazar, located in one of the most expensive areas of Dhaka, is now under siege from illegal occupants. Powerful criminal groups enjoying blessings of the ruling party have constructed illegal structures in all the vacant spaces, including areas designated for parks. Recently, six roads have been completely taken over by them making movement inside the area almost impossible. Immediate action by the police and the DCC is needed to save Karwan Bazar. Photo shows an illegal market on the road on the northern side of Karwan Bazar wholesale market (left) and the office of Ward 39 of Dhaka City Awami League that reportedly dictates market activities in the area. — Star photo



Donovan Bailey crashes out in second heat

SYDNEY, Sept 22: Poland and Finland took the opening golds today while US world record holders Maurice Greene, Michael Johnson and Marion Jones went untested through their tracks heats in an explosive first day of Olympic track and field, reports AFP.

But it was the end of the road for Donovan Bailey's hopes of defending his sprint title as he crashed out in his second heat.

The seemingly uncatchable Dutch swimmer Inge de Bruijn set her third world record here, and super-heavyweight lifter Ding Meiyuan of China and Poland's Agata Wrobel of Poland broke eight world records in a fascinating duel as the Olympic's ended their first week.

At the track a record-breaking 200,000 people packed into Stadium Australia for the

opening two sessions of track and field.

Greene and Ato Boldon stormed triumphantly into the semi-finals of the blue-riband

100m, but Greene who has talked himself up as unbeatable, cautioned that Obadele Thompson loomed as a danger. See page 11 col 3

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Donovan Bailey of Canada runs in heat 7 of the men's 100m Round 1 of the Sydney Olympic Games yesterday. Bailey was placed third clocking 10.39. — AFP photo

Govt may introduce grading system in SSC, HSC exams

By Mustak Hossain

The government is considering introduction of grading system replacing the numeric marking system in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations.

Grading system will allow real judgement of merit in public examinations. Education Secretary Kazi Rakiuddin Ahmed told the Daily Star.

"But we are yet to decide whether to introduce it in the next SSC or HSC examination. It will be introduced as early as possible, but after careful evaluation, he said.

There will be no merit list in examination results once the grading system is introduced, he said.

It is difficult to judge the

merit of two students who score 65 and 67 marks because judgement and marking differ from teacher to teacher, he explained. Merit of students would be judged better in grading system in which examinees will be categorised in different grades, he said.

Chairmen of the six education boards are working to prepare a grading system, he said.

Grading system is already there in some subjects at university level. There should be one system at all levels, he added.

The grading system will eliminate the rat race for positions in the merit list, which sometimes creates irregularities in the examination process, the education secretary said.

Fouzia fades

SYDNEY, Sept 22: Bangladesh's star sprinter Fouzia Huda Jui was placed in the 72nd position among the 84 competitors in the first round of the women's 100-metre sprint, worsening her previous best timing, reports UNB.

Fouzia, who took part in the heat number five with BIB (Chest) number 1183 at the Sydney Olympic Stadium today, finished 8th among the nine sprinters to be eliminated from the mega meet. She clocked 12.75 seconds against her previous best timing of 12.10.

She made a slow and poor beginning on the lane number nine to run behind all athletes. Later, Fouzia recovered the gap among the tail-enders crossing about seven metres but was narrowly beaten by Nepalese sprinter Maya Devi Paneru in the photo finish and placed third among three South Asian participants.

Bangladesh athletes and swimmers, who gathered at the big bowl to watch the athletics. See page 11 col 2

Opposition's grand rally: Tension mounts at Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Sept 22: Tension heightened in the town as Mukti Juddha Sangsad intensified their move to resist Golam Azam's participation in Opposition's grand rally here on Monday, reports UNB.

"We can't think of a grand rally here without participation of our party chief Golam Azam," said Jamaat leaders.

They expressed it today while exchanging views with the local journalists following a declaration by Mukti Juddha Sangsad to prevent Golam Azam from visiting Mymensingh at any cost.

The chiefs of four opposition parties will address the grand rally.

"There is no need to hold the grand rally here if the government resigns before Monday. But if the government does not resign, we will hold the rally where Golam Azam will obviously speak," said Jamaat leaders.

Jamaat central leader Abdul Kader Molla, former president of Islami Chhatra Shibir Mathur Rahman Akhand, AKM Mosarrat Hossain, MP, Manjurul Haq Manju and Adv Anwarul Azim Tattul of BNP and Mansurul Haq Khan of Islami Oikya Jote were present at the meeting.