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The Daily Star

VOL. X NO. 245 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DAKA SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2000

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ASWIN 9, 1407 BS

JAMADIUS SAANI 24, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00



Supersonic: US speed merchants Maurice Greene (right) and Marion Jones react to thunderous applause from a capacity crowd at Stadium Australia after winning the finals of men's and women's 100m sprints respectively in the Sydney Olympic Games yesterday. Greene powered across the finish line in 9.87 seconds while Jones clocked a time of 10.75 seconds to take gold medals.

— AFP photo

ITCL staff missing with Tk 10 crore

LAJMONIRHAT, Sept 23: The employees of the local branch of Islamic Trading Company Limited (ITCL) have been missing with over Tk 10 crore since Thursday last, reports UNB.

Sources said the employees of ITCL, including the manager, put the office under lock and key and left the place in a fitful consecutive gold.

Earlier, the depositors had created pressure on the employees to return money after they learnt irregularities in the organisation.

Sources said the local branch collected Tk 10 lakh from 36 people and Tk 10 crore from 2,013 people through credit cards.

Election in 13 municipalities from tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
The authorities have completed preparations for holding election in 13 municipalities tomorrow and the day after.

Election in Chaudpur municipality will be held tomorrow and in the rest 12 on Tuesday.

The 12 are Bagha in Rajsahai district, Naogaon in Naogaon, Bhangura in Pabna, Badarganj in Rangpur, Sarakandi in Bogra, Gopalpur in Natore, Dohar in Dhaka, Kuliarchar in Kishoreganj, Tongi in Gazipur, Mokshundpur in Gopalganj, Jagannathpur in Sunamganj district and Comilla.

The Election Commission has planned to deploy army in five municipalities -- Dohar, Tongi, Comilla, Chaudpur and

See page 11 col 8

PM to visit US, Kuwait

By Diplomatic Correspondent
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would be embarking on two official visits shortly, both of which are seen as crucial in furthering diplomatic relations.

She would be visiting the United States at the invitation of President Bill Clinton in the middle of October and Kuwait at the end of next month at the

See page 11 col 8

Inside Today

Article

Saddled with
Divisive Politics
By A R Shamsul Islam
Page 4

Supplement

A two-page supplement on 'South Asia Peace Keeping Operation Gaming Seminar' on
Pages 9 & 10

Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 24	5-53 pm
Sept 25	5-48 am

Prayer Timings

September 24

Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
4-30	5-05	
12-45	1-15	
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-12	6-17
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Greene, Jones fastest on track

SYDNEY, Sept 23: Maurice Greene and Marion Jones demolished the opposition to win the Blue Riband Olympic sprint titles today, while the US dominated the final swimming session with two sparkling world relay records, reports AFP.

Dutch swimmer Inge de Bruin ended her Games with a perfect three starts, three golds and three world records, and British rower Steve Redgrave took his place in history with a fifth consecutive gold.

But the super Saturday was dominated by the four gold medal burst by the United States on the track and in the pool.

On a chilly Sydney evening Greene and Jones turned up the heat as they were crowned the king and queen of sprinting.

The usually brash Greene dropped his emotional guard after delivering on the promise to be the fastest man at the Games.

He didn't lower his 100m

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Govt finally going to allow TU activities in EPZs?

By Rafiq Hasan

Bowing to US pressure, the government is likely to allow trade union activities in the export processing zones, according to sources.

A government delegation which included the son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had talks with officials at the US Trade Representative's Office (USTRO) in Washington recently and assured them of doing everything according to US advice regarding trade union issues in the country's EPZs, the sources said.

The Prime Minister's son Saif Wazed Joy along with the delegation met Chairman of the GSP (Generalized System of Preference) sub-committee John Rosenbaum at USTRO on September 13. He reportedly played

a very active role in the negotiation, in spite of having no official position.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury was kept out of the delegation for the meeting though he was present in Washington at that time.

The other members of the team included MAB Siddique Talukder, Chairman of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and Gholam Hossain, Commercial Counsellor at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington.

The US Ambassador designate to Bangladesh was also present during the discussion, the sources mentioned.

The government had earlier appointed a lobbyist firm to

take up the issue with the US administration. The firm is represented by George C. Wortley, a former member of the Congress. It is alleged that the PM's son who lives in US played a decisive role in the selection and appointment of this lobbyist firm.

A senior official at the Prime Minister's Office, who deals with EPZ issues, however denied having any knowledge about the development in this regard. "We do not know anything about it because the members of the delegation are yet to return."

He confirmed that a delegation went to Washington but could not say whether the PM's

See page 11 col 7

Over 200 killed, 15m marooned in West Bengal

CALCUTTA, Sept 23: At least 200 villages of the frontier district were flooded displacing some 50,000 people from their homesteads, report agencies.

Local people said sluices gates of the rivers Jalangi, Bhagirathi, Mahananda and Kharda in Indian territory were opened and a bordering flood protection road was cut to make way for flow of water downstream.

Vast areas of six unions of Meherpur-Mujibnagar went under water as Kharda river in

bordering Indian district of Nadia overflowed and water rolled down from Friday afternoon.

District administration said onrush of water continued flooding Bagoan, Darikapur, Sonakali, Andali, Pirojpur and Buripota unions and affecting standing crops on about 10,000 hectares of land.

Rural infrastructures, including kuchcha roads connecting the district town with Mujibnagar, Chaudanga and Ku-

shtha were badly damaged by the surging waters that also marooned the historic Mujibnagar mausoleum and Amrakona.

In the absence of any rescue drive from the administration so far, affected people themselves moved to safer places with their belongings and pets.

Reports from Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi said flood situation deteriorated further with partial collapse of two em-

See page 11 col 6



Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman (middle) shares a light moment with rookies Bikash Ranjan Saha (right) and Ehsanul Haq at the Bangladesh Cricket Board office prior to the official photo session. The Bangladesh team leaves the city today to take part in the ICC Knockout Tournament in Kenya followed by a tour of South Africa.

Cricketers leave for Kenya today

Sports Reporter

A 17-member Bangladesh cricket team leaves Dhaka today to take part in the ICC Knockout Tournament in Kenya followed by a tour of South Africa.

Naimur Rahman, who took over from Aminul Islam as captain after the Asia Cup, will lead the Test babes in the Nairobi event where they will face England on October 5.

A win, which is a highly unlikely proposition, against England will enable Bangladesh to play their next match against holders South Africa on October 10.

Bangladesh, who are making their first overseas tour after being granted Full Member status in June ICC meeting, will also play a couple of warm-up matches against Kenya and Sri Lanka before the Nairobi spectacle kicks off on October 3.

Although the final of the gala event is billed for October 15, Bangladesh will not be around at the time.

See page 11 col 8

30 villages flooded in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, Sept 23: At least 30 villages of the frontier district were flooded displacing some 50,000 people from their homesteads, report agencies.

Local people said sluices gates of the rivers Jalangi, Bhagirathi, Mahananda and Kharda in Indian territory were opened and a bordering flood protection road was cut to make way for flow of water downstream.

Vast areas of six unions of Meherpur-Mujibnagar went under water as Kharda river in

Public Notice

This is for information of all concerned that Malaysian Airlines Systems (MAS) appointed Vantage Aviation Services Ltd. (Vantage) its Exclusive Passenger Sales Agent (PSA) and Cargo Sales Agent (CSA) in terms of two written agreements dated 02nd May'00 and 04 August '99 on express condition that MAS will not appoint any General Sales Agent (GSA) or any other PSA/CSA/Agent until execution of a fresh agreement with Vantage.

MAS acting in violation of the said written agreements issued letters dated 23rd and 25th August '00 purporting to terminate the aforesaid written agreements with Vantage.

Vantage instituted on 03rd September '00 Title Suit No. 259 of 2000 in the 1st Court of Subordinate Judge, Dhaka to protect its own right, title and interest acquired under the written Agreements with MAS. The Learned Court passed an order on the 03rd September '00 directing MAS to maintain Status Quo in the matter until further order while asking MAS to show cause as to why MAS shall not be restrained from giving effect to its letters dated 23rd and 25th August '00 terminating the written agreements with Vantage and appointing any other person in place as its GSA/PSA/CSA/Agent and issuing any Tickets and Airway bills without VALIDATION of Vantage and encashing its Bank Guarantee.

In the circumstances, in view of the aforesaid Court Order, MAS CANNOT sell any Passenger Tickets/Airway Bills either by itself or through any other Person/Agent without VALIDATION of Vantage. Should MAS be so selling the Passenger Tickets/Airway Bills without the VALIDATION of Vantage, it will be so doing in violation of the Court Order which will be a Gross Contempt of Court.

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Hand over '71 Generals to Dhaka for trial

Former Pak defence minister & PPP leader demands

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has suggested that the generals who led the country to defeat and surrender in 1971, should be handed over to Bangladesh to face trial for the allegations against them, reported BSS.

These coward generals have no right to the protection given to them by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto if

they believe that they are innocent of the serious charges which led to the demand of war crime tribunal against them," Atta Shabana Mirani, a former defence minister and PPP leader said, according to leading Pakistani English daily The Frontier Post.

He condemned the remarks by Chief Executive General Per-

vez Musharraf at a New York press conference defending the "generals of 1971 who committed corruption, rape, loot, plunder and led the country to defeat."

It is a disgrace that the cow-

ard generals are unrepentant, Mirani said. He asked the "coward" generals who surrendered at Dhaka Race Course to apologise and repent publicly for their crimes against humanity.

See page 11 col 5