

FedEx
Federal Express

 Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation
Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

NEW DOHS

 184/A, Eastern Road, Lane # 2
Mohakhali, Dhaka
Tel # 9884851, 603798

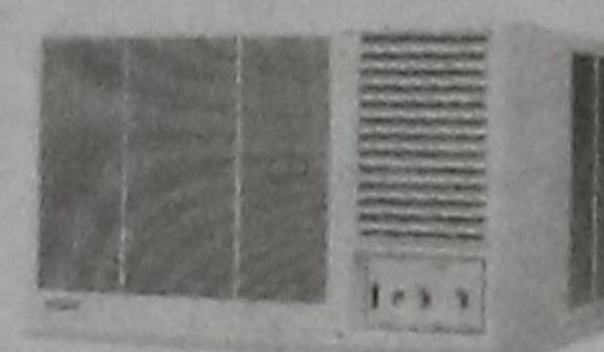
GULSHAN

 OPEN 24 HOURS
Bilquis Tower
Gulshan Circle-2, Dhaka
Tel # 9883927, 887771

UTTARA

 Baly Complex, Sector-3
Airport Road, Uttara, Dhaka
Tel # 894213

Air Conditioner (Window type)



Air Conditioner (Split type)

SANYO

Air Conditioner (Split type)

Air Conditioner (Split type)

TRANSFIN TRADING LIMITED

(Sole Distributor in Bangladesh for Sanyo Products-A Transcom Company)

Dhaka: 8115307-10, 9882192, 9009044, 9332325, 9130204, 9130206 (144), 9663870, 019 386101

Chittagong: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215, 6074, Comilla: 4671, Mymensingh: 53444, 017522682, Sylhet: 723612, 723672 (2123), Habiganj: 52203; Rangpur: 6188

Indian water minister due tomorrow

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Indian State Minister for Water Resources Bijaya Chakravarty arrives here on Monday on a five-day visit to Bangladesh.

She would be coming on a good will trip at the invitation of Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak.

She is expected to visit the confluence of Padma and Meghna rivers near Chandpur, the Bangabandhu Bridge and the Brahmaputra river bank protection project.

The Indian State Minister will also pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

However, a likely date for the next ministerial level meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission may be discussed with the visiting State Minister, it was learnt.

The 34th ministerial level meeting of JRC is due to be held in Dhaka this year. The last meeting was held in April last year in Delhi.

Bus strike on 18 routes in greater Ctg

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 23: Bus Owners' Association began an indefinite strike on 18 routes, including Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway, causing suffering to hundreds of commuters, reports UNB.

The association leaders said they have compelled to enforce the strike as some passengers assaulted a number of transport workers at different places on the routes during the last few days over bus fares.

The routes on which bus service remained stopped included Lama-Ali, Kadam, Kanungopara, Banishkhali, Anwara, Satkania, Patia, Barkal, Lohagara and Dohazari.

A good number of tourists who came to the district headquarters remained stranded due to bus strike.

Kotalipara incident

CID verifying statements of three accused

The CID investigators are verifying the statements of Gazi Khan, Anisul Haque and Marfat Ali, now on a ten-day remand, regarding the case of Kotalipara bomb planting incident, reports BSS.

Two CID officers, Munshi Atiqur Rahman and Abdul Karim Akand separately interrogated them yesterday at its office in the city, according to official sources.

ASP Munshi Atiqur, the investigating officer (IO) of the case, recorded the statement of Gazi Khan under Section 161 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) yesterday.

Earlier, Akand, the IO of the treason charge, recorded their confessional statements.

7 injured, 8 houses looted as rival groups clash over land in Gournadi

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Sept 23: At least seven people were injured and eight houses looted during a clash between two rival groups at village Kamalapur in Gournadi upazila this morning.

According to police and witnesses, two rival groups - one led by Razzak Howlader and Siddique Munshi and the other by Abul Mridha and Sattar - clashed over possession of a land left by one Jaga Mitra who migrated to India some years ago.

Guns were fired and bombs exploded during the clash that continued for three hours.

The injured identified as Khalid, 30, Mostafa, 28, Jahangir, 32, Sattar, 40, Rahim, 42, Sohail 10 and Forman, 14, were admitted to Gournadi hospital.

The armed men belonging to

See page 11 col 6

US to tap 30m barrels of oil from reserve in Oct

WASHINGTON, Sept 23: The White House decided yesterday to tap the nation's emergency oil reserve to prevent heating oil supply disruptions this winter, reports Reuters.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson announced 30 million barrels of oil would be removed from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during October. It was the first release for a national emergency since the 1991 Gulf War, when a much smaller 17.5 million barrels of crude was used.

The United States consumes about 20 million barrels of oil and refined petroleum products each day.

"We are prepared to take further action if necessary," Richardson told a hastily convened news conference after meeting with administration officials earlier in the day.

US oil prices tumbled for the second straight day on Friday even though Richardson's announcement came after mar-

kets closed. Futures prices fell in anticipation of the move, with crude closing at \$32.68 a barrel, bringing losses in the past two days to more than \$2.50.

The announcement followed an intense and unusually public debate by administration officials in recent days.

Republican Presidential nominee George W. Bush accused the White House of trying to help Democratic Vice President Gore win the Nov 7 election by ensuring that heating oil prices did not soar in the approaching winter.

The debate intensified after Gore urged President Bill Clinton on Thursday to release between 30 million and 35 million barrels of oil from the reserve in batches of 5 million barrels.

Gore's call, made within weeks of the November election, was criticised by Bush as a "bad policy" that put the nation's security at risk and which

was motivated by the need to assure Gore's election victory.

"It's a bad idea because the Strategic Petroleum Reserve needs to be used in case of war or a major disruption," Bush told reporters in response to Richardson's announcement, at a campaign stop in Tampa, Florida.

"I believe that the vice president has made this decision with the president's support to achieve short term political gain," he added.

But Richardson denied that the Clinton administration was motivated by politics or by the aim of trying to manipulate the price of oil to a lower level, even though the plan for the release of oil was similar to that proposed earlier by Gore.

"This is not political. The president wants the American people to get home heating oil and have enough heat in their homes," Richardson said.

"We have extremely low

See page 11 col 4

Gazipur declared illiteracy-free

Foil conspiracy to undo upcoming polls: Hasina

GAZIPUR, Sept 23: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today alerted people against 'conspiracy' to foil upcoming national elections, reports UNB.

Power must be changed through ballot, not by bullet, she said.

"Government must be formed through election, not by wielding arms or promulgating martial law," she told a crowded public function at Rajbari ground here this afternoon marking the formal declaration of Gazipur as 'illiteracy-free' district.

There are multi-faceted conspiracies, there is a threat

against government and there is a conspiracy so that election can't be held," she said.

Earlier, amidst cheers from the rain-drenched audience, the Prime Minister formally declared Gazipur illiteracy-free district under a programme called 'Arunajal Gazipur'.

Thousands of people from different upazilas of the district assembled at the historic Rajbari playground braving rain and rough weather to listen to Hasina.

Some 325,647 men, women and children were lettered to free the district from the darkness of illiteracy under the

mass literacy project.

With the declaration Gazipur joined the list of illiteracy-free districts. Previously, Magura, Lalmonirhat, Chuadanga, Rajshahi and Joypurhat have been under the government's own resource funded project titled Total Literacy Movement.

Prime Minister Hasina also launched government's primary school stipend project by distributing stipends among 15 poor students.

The Prime Minister renewed her ambitious plan to drive out illiteracy completely by 2002 and elevate Bangladesh to the

See page 11 col 7

Boiling oil sprinkled on thirsty girl

A city hotel employee yesterday sprinkled boiling oil on a minor girl as she took water from its glass to quench her thirst, inflicting burn injury on her throat, reports UNB.

Police said Parveen, 9, who lives in 'Joyner Basti' in Ram-pura area, went to nearby hotel Surma at about 11 am and sought water from waiter Jamaluddin.

The waiter refused. But the thirsty girl took water defying him that angered the waiter. He threw boiling oil on her.

Hearing the girl's scream local people rushed to the spot and beat Jamal. Later, police arrested Jamal. Parveen was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Eve teasing: 22 KU students punished

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Sept 23: Khulna university authorities have punished 22 students including four females on charge of creating a law and order situation on the campus and in the halls on July this year.

Two groups of students of the university clashed on the day over eve teasing. Both groups chased each other and ransacked some rooms in the dormitories.

The authorities took the decision at a meeting yesterday on the basis of the recommendations of the disciplinary committee.

The committee submitted its report to the Vice-Chancellor on September 13 recommending actions against the students.

According to the recommendation,

Killing at Jurain club: None arrested yet

By Staff Correspondent
None of the FIR-listed accused in Friday's murder of one person at Janata Club at East Jurain in the city was arrested till yesterday.

The victim, Idris Molla, 45, a vendor, died while being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after he was beaten at the club.

The accused are Mahbub Akhter Ratan, Mokbul, Tutul and Hatkata Chandu, according to the FIR lodged with Shyam-pur thana by Kulsom Begum, wife of Molla.

Instead, police have taken

See page 11 col 6

People are now united to topple this govt, says Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has said the Awami League government, after "completely failing" to run the country, has intensified repressive measures on people and resorted to killing, kidnapping and anarchy to cling to power.

The people are now united under nationalist forces to topple this "repressive" government, she said and hoped that the Almighty would soon free the nation from their hand.

Khaleda Zia was briefly addressing a huge gathering at Zia International Airport on her return from Saudi Arabia yesterday morning. She went to KSA on September 13 at the

invitation of King Fahd to perform Umrah and for medical check-up.

She said people of all walks of life, particularly professional bodies, have already launched movement against the government as it betrayed with them.

She called for building united resistance against the government.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said Laxmipur district BNP leader Advocate Nurul Islam was kidnapped four days ago but the district administration is yet to take any effective step to rescue him.

A massive movement will be

See page 11 col 4

Four terrorists sent to jail Political leaders in Khulna on hit list

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 23: Four alleged terrorists arrested on Friday at Mirpur in the city were sent to district jail this noon.

The prayer for seven days' remand will be heard tomorrow in the CMM's court, said investigation officer SI Shahabuddin Azad of Khulna thana.

Quoting statements of the alleged terrorists, a top KMP official requesting anonymity said the accused came to Khulna on September 13 to kill some top political leaders. A

non-political figure, already being suspected as mastermind in the conspiracy to kill AL mayoral candidate SMA Rab, hired the killers, he said.

Tk 3 lakh was paid in advance in Dhaka in this regard while the rest was supposed to be paid in Khulna. But the murder of city AL leader, first target on the hit list, was delayed due to non-payment of money, the terrorists said during interrogation.

Two former MPs Abul Hosain or JP and Abdul Gaffar Biswas of BNP, former Mayor Kazi Amin of AL and vice president of city BNP Shahruzzaman Martuza filed general diaries with Khulna and Khalishpur thanas fearing attempts on their lives by the terrorists.

Police also said that the four

See page 11 col 1

\$1.5 lakh found at ZIA toilet

Customs officials recovered 1.5 lakh US dollar equivalent to Tk. 82.29 lakh from a toilet of Zia International Airport on Friday night, reports BSS.

The dollar was found wrapped in a black polythene in five bundles inside the ceiling of a toilet of the airport just before the departure on Dubai-London flight BG 003 at 11:45 pm, said a press release.

Nigerian govt trying to curb int'l fraud Bangladesh Bank informed

By Staff Correspondent

The Nigerian High Commission in Dhaka has informed the Bangladesh Bank regarding the efforts taken by its government to curb the menace of 'Advance Fee Fraud' in that country.

The High Commission recently forwarded a press statement of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to the Governor of Bangladesh Bank and requested for its circulation.

The practice of fraudulence, known as '419', was there since early 1990s, said CBN.

The Daily Star published a report on the issue late last month.

Referring to The Daily Star report, a letter of the Nigerian High Commission said that the first resident High Commis-

sioner of Nigeria in Bangladesh, Abdullahi Madaki Bage, had advised some Bangladeshi businessmen not to try to reap where they had not sown.

According to CBN, the '419' scam starts with a letter of solicitation, followed by telefax or telex messages. Such letters often offer transfer of huge amounts of money, usually in US dollars, to the bank accounts of their recipients.

A favourable response to a letter is followed by excuses why the funds can not be remitted readily, and subsequently by demands for proportionate share of payment of various taxes to facilitate processing and remittance of the

See page 11 col 4

Cargo handling at Ctg Port disrupted for over 7 hours

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 23: Container handling at Chittagong Port was disrupted for over seven hours from 10 am today following assault on a trolley operator allegedly by a stevedore in front of MPB gate at 9 am, police and port sources said.

The trailer and trolley operators stopped container handling protesting assault on one of their colleagues.

The container handling was, however, restored at 5.30 pm after amicable settlement of the issue at a meeting organised by Chittagong Port Authority, port sources said.

The trouble started at 9 am when a trolley hit a rickshaw carrying the stevedore. The stevedore allegedly assaulted the operator of the trolley, resulting in disruption of port activities.

A large number of police have been deployed on port premises following the incident.

Police raid AL leader's house: Hartal called in Laxmipur today

LAXMIPUR, Sept 23: The ruling party dominated Nagorik Committee here called for a half-day hartal tomorrow protesting police raid in the house of district Awami League Leader and harassment of its inmates, reports UNB.

More than 100 police led by Additional Police Super and two Magistrates raided the thana road residence of Laxmipur District Awami League General Secretary and Poursava Chairman M A Taher on Friday night. Police said that they could not recover anything from his house.

Police ransacked and damaged valuables in the house and 'misbehaved' with the inmates, Taher said.

Protesting the incident, a

See page 11 col 8

BNP protest rally today

BNP will hold a rally at 4 pm today at Muktangan in the city to protest kidnapping of Laxmipur BNP leader Advocate Nurul Islam, killing of BNP leader Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal, deteriorating law and order situation and price hike of essentials, reports BSS.

Mannan Bhuiyan operated upon

By Staff Correspondent

Doctors at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore yesterday successfully set up stints on two minor blocs on the artery of BNP Secretary-General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's heart.

Earlier on Friday, the physicians detected two minor blocs in the heart of Bhuiyan through angiogram. He is quite healthy, said a press release.

Doctors have suggested Bhuiyan to stay at the hospital for a few days under their supervision. He is expected to return home in the middle of this week.

Hepatitis-B is a deadly virus
Have you procted your family?

Vaccination can now prevent it.
For details consult your doctor

Issued in the public interest

 SB
SmithKline Beecham, Belgium
Global Leaders in Vaccines

 SIF
Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd.
Tel: 958170

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

See page 11 col 3