

FedEx
Federal Express
The World On Time

**PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS
AND FREIGHT WORLDWIDE**

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation
95, Motijheel C.A, Dhaka; Tel : 9565114; Fax : 9565112



PHILIPS
Let's make things better.

Ideal gift for any occasion

TRANSOM ELECTRONICS LTD.
Official licensee of Philips Domestic Appliances
Dhaka : 8115307-10 CTG : 716353, 723578 Khulna : 720304 Bogra : 6215



PM opens 5 bridges on Dhaka-Ctg highway

GAZARIA, Munshiganj, Oct 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is seeking a second term, today called upon the people to uphold her government-initiated development drive for building a self-reliant and prosperous country, reports UNB.

"To achieve this goal we have been implementing coordinated development and welfare programmes," she said while addressing a function at the Comilla-end of Meghna Bridge here.

The function was organised to inaugurate five newly constructed bridges on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Monju, State Minister for Communications Mohammad Anisul Huq Chowdhury, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Kazuyoshi Urabe also addressed the function.

Earlier, the Prime Minister unveiled the plaque of one of the small and medium bridges at Bhatir Char.

A new chapter opened in See page 11 col 2

Corruption Barisal Poura Chairman, 6 others sued

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 12: Anti Corruption Bureau in Barisal has filed a case against seven people including Md Ahsan Habib Kamal, city president of BNP and Barisal Pourasava Chairman, for alleged misappropriation of Tk 27.50 lakh with Kotwali thana yesterday.

The accused are Md Isahaq, Executive Engineer of LGED, Madaripur, Md Siddique Rahman, Senior Assistant Secretary, Establishment Department, Khan Md Nurul Islam, Executive Engineer of Barisal Pourasava, Md Abdus Sattar and Md Lutfor Rahman, Sub Assistant Engineers of Barisal Pourasava and Zakir Hossain, a resident of Kalibari road in the town.

Md Abdul Baset, an officer of District Anti Corruption Bureau, filed the case under section 409/468/471/420 of BPC and section 5 (2) of Corruption Prevention Act 1947.

It is alleged that at the end of the BNP regime in 1995 some roads in the pourasava were damaged due to installation of telephone lines. Later, to repair the damaged roads TSS paid Tk 45 lakh in three cheques to Barisal Pourasava. The then Pourasava Chairman Md Ahsan Habib Kamal, who is also the current chairman, gave work order to a firm M/S High Yarn Enterprise of Dhaka, for the work without floating any tender and after completion of the work paid Tk 39,50,000 illegally from January to June in 1996 in four cheques.

Later it was revealed that all the documents in this regard, even opening of a bank account with UCLB branch here were forged.

Abdur Rab Nakib, the then Anti Corruption officer here, seized the related papers and documents of the works from the Pourasava on November 3, 1996, and filed a case. Then it was revealed that only Tk 1,19,937 was spent for the works and the rest of the total 45 lakh taka was misappropriated.

Now, after about five years, the case has been revived.

Rao gets three years

Special court slaps Buta Singh with same sentence

NEW DELHI, Oct 12: Former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao was sentenced today to three years in prison for bribing lawmakers to back his government on a crucial confidence vote that saved his government in July 1993, reports AP.

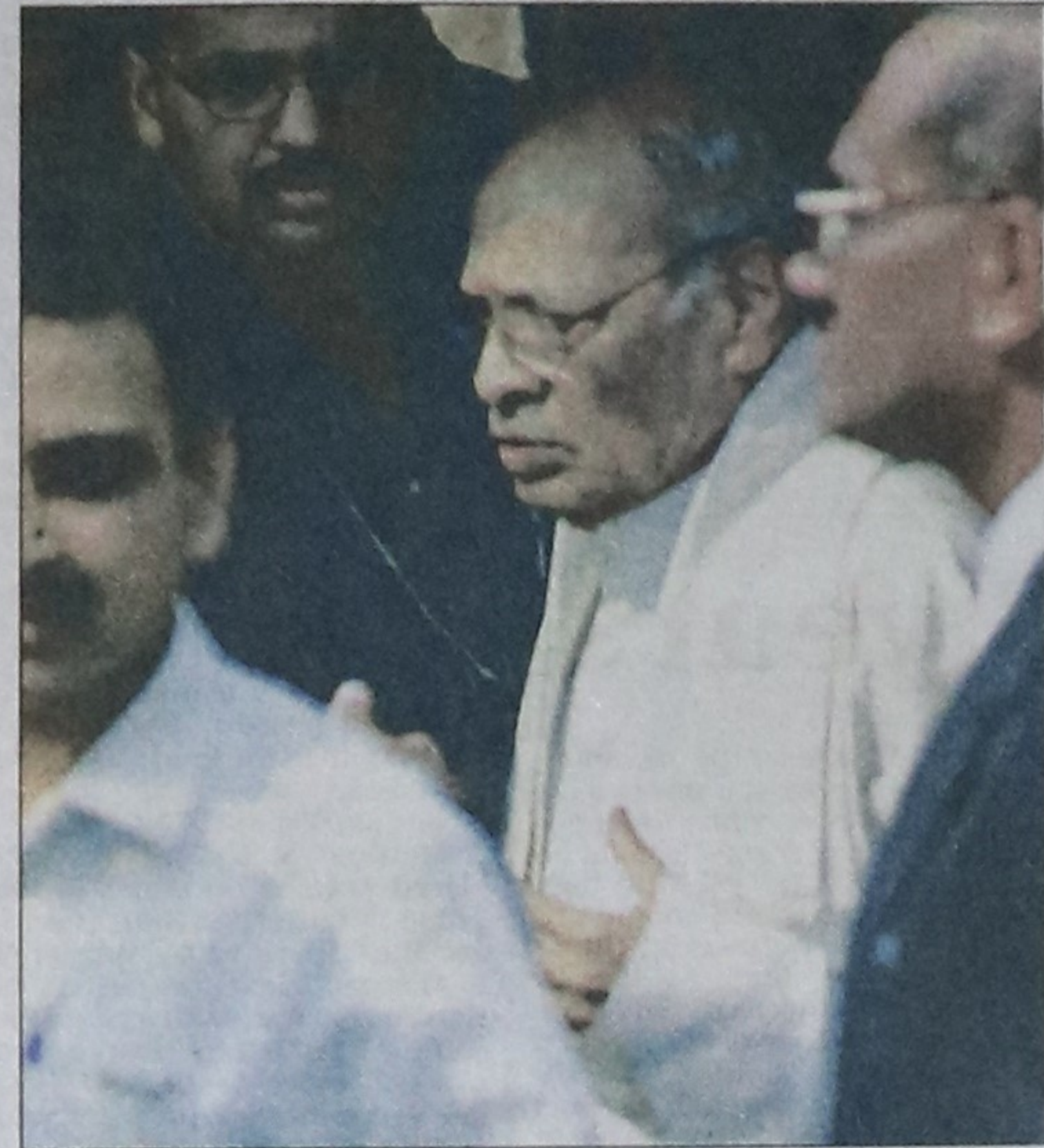
Rao, 79, who held office from 1991-96, was convicted September 29 of criminal conspiracy, bribery and corruption, becoming the first Indian prime minister to be found guilty in a criminal case.

Buta Singh, who served as his home minister, received the same sentence.

India's court system, notorious for years of delays, has begun dealing with serious cases against politicians. Also this year a popular southern politician has been convicted in a series of corruption cases dating back to 1991 and a powerful Bombay kingmaker and party president was brought to court on six-year-old charges of inciting riots.

Judge Aft Bharihoke sentenced Rao and Singh to a total of three years "rigorous imprisonment."

See page 11 col 3



Former Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao comes out of the court room yesterday after being sentenced to three years in prison on charges of bribing opposition MPs in 1993. -- Star photo

Kulsoom under house arrest

100 PML workers detained

ISLAMABAD, Oct 12: The ruling military put the wife of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif under house arrest and detained scores of his party faithful to stifle protests that were to be held Thursday to mark the one-year anniversary of army rule in Pakistan, reports agencies.

Kulsoom Sharif was arrested late Wednesday and on Thursday her spokesman, Rashid Latif, said army soldiers and police had confined her to the home of a party official in neighboring Rawalpindi.

Police surrounded the offices of

Sharif's party in Karachi on Thursday after detaining 100 party workers to prevent protests on the first anniversary of military rule.

Witnesses said dozens of policemen and a large van blocked intersections near the Pakistan Muslim League's regional office to prevent party supporters from gathering.

Party vice-president Ejaz Shafi told Reuters that the police had detained about 100 party supporters from Karachi late on Wednesday.

"They have arrested 90 to 100

people last night and have detained them at various police stations. They (police) have assured us that all our workers will be released tonight," he said.

Shafi was speaking by telephone from the party offices in the eastern part of Karachi. Party supporters were there chanting slogans in favour of Sharif.

"They are not allowing any of us to go out," Shafi said. "They went to stop us from our right to a peaceful protest because they are afraid of the people," said Rashid Latif, a

See page 11 col 2

Dissident Chinese wins Nobel for literature

STOCKHOLM, Oct 12: Dissident novelist and playwright Gao Xingjian, who fled his native China after his play was banned, won the Nobel Prize in literature



Gao Xingjian

today for writings about the struggle for individuality in mass culture, reports AP.

The Swedish Academy cited Gao, 60, for his "bitter insights and linguistic ingenuity."

Gao survived the upheaval of Mao Tse-tung's 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. He became a leading cultural figure in China but had to leave in 1987. He settled in Paris the following year as a political refugee.

He was the first Chinese writer to receive the prestigious literature prize in its 100-year history.

"In the writing of Gao Xingjian literature is born anew from the struggle of the individual to survive the history of the masses," the academy said in its citation.

"He is a perspicacious skeptic

who makes no claim to be able to explain the world. He asserts that he has found freedom only in writing."

The writer and playwright, born in eastern China, went on a 10-month walking tour in the central Sichuan province to avoid harassment after his play "The Other Shore" was banned in 1986 and left China the next year.

His novel "Soul Mountain" reflected that journey with several narratives by different protagonists. "With his unrestrained use of personal pronouns Gao creates lightning shifts of perspective and compels the reader to question all confidences," the academy said of the novel.

Gao joined the dissident chorus when he quit the Chinese Communist Party after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre and published the play "Fugitives" that took place against the background of the slayings in Beijing. The Communist regime declared him "persona non grata" and banned all his works.

Chen Maoping, who teaches Chinese at the University of Stockholm and is a friend of Gao's, said he was anxious to phone him.

"I'm going to congratulate him and tell him to take it easy. He's shy and doesn't handle media very well," Chen told reporters. "He has a good sense of humour and can tell many funny stories."

The prize this year is worth 9 million kronor (915,000 dollar).

The literature award usually the first was the fifth and last Nobel prize unveiled in Stockholm this week. The Nobel Peace

See page 11 col 7

UN agencies plan post-flood rehabilitation

The United Nations Disaster Management Team in Bangladesh is reviewing the latest flood situation in the frontier districts and planned post-flood rehabilitation programme to be undertaken by UN agencies, reports UNB.

The UNDMT agreed that the concerned UN agencies in the country would continue to monitor the situation closely and field within the coming two weeks an inter-agency mission for identifying in detail the type of assistance and the geographical areas where the UN agencies are best equipped to support government efforts during the post-flood rehabilitation phase.

The UN agencies will concentrate on those areas where they have comparative advantage, and where their respective interventions are mutually supportive, particularly in support of the most vulnerable groups such as women and children.

"Special attention will also be paid to the need for rehabilitation of common facilities such as rural clinics and schools along with the need to jumpstart agricultural production in the affected areas, as soon as the flood waters recede," said the UN office in Dhaka.

Concerned UN agencies are currently distributing relief supplies in the flood-affected regions with UNICEF providing blended food for children and bleaching

Fire at textile mill in N'ganj: 20 injured

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Oct 12: A textile mill was gutted in a fire at Kancharpur in Sonargaon thana in the early hours today.

Sources said that the fire broke out in the weaving store of Sinha Textile Mills at 2-30 am and soon engulfed other section of the mill and gutted finished goods and machinery.

The workers of the mill tried to extinguish the blaze on their own. But panic spread over the Kancharpur industrial area as the fire became furious.

A fire fighting unit from Demra rushed to the spot at 3-30 am. Later three other units from Ramna and Hajiganj and Mondalpara of Narayanganj joined them. The four units brought the fire under control after six hours of frantic efforts. At least 20 people were injured while extinguishing the fire. They were given first aid.

Fire Brigade sources said that the fire originated from an electric short circuit but police said that there was no electric connection in the weaving section of the mill. So the fire might not originate from short circuit.

Meanwhile, the General Manager of the mill Col (Retd) Delwar Hossain lodged a GD with Sonargaon thana but he didn't mention the extent of damage or the cause of the fire.

GrameenPhone clarification

GrameenPhone has issued a clarification on a news item headlined 'Two killed in GrameenPhone tower collapse', published in The Daily Star yesterday.

The clarification said, "GrameenPhone was not involved in the piling work for installation of the tower at the time of the tragic accident. The piling work at the site at village Falita under Fakirhat Thana of Bagerhat district was being done by Libra Construction. We regret the loss of lives in the tragic accident."

Move to resolve block 9 PSC problem falls flat

By Sharier Khan

The government's latest attempt to resolve the problems related to the signing of a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for exploration of oil and gas in block 9 failed once again yesterday.

Recently pressurised by US energy official Calvin Humphrey to immediately resolve the block 9 issue, the government had invited US oil companies Chevron and Texaco, Irish oil company Tullow and Bangladeshi company BAPEX to hold a final round of talks yesterday over a partnership.

During yesterday's talk, the government proposed a solution to the three international oil companies (IOCs) concerned. The proposal was however rejected by Tullow, a well-placed source in Petrobangla said.

Since June last, the block 9 negotiations remained shelved as Chevron-Texaco and Tullow could not agree with each other over equity sharing.

Earlier this year, the three companies agreed on an equity share of 30 percent each with a 10 percent carried over interest reserved for BAPEX. They were on the verge of initialising a PSC for block 9 during US President Bill Clinton's visit to Dhaka in March when suddenly Texaco backed out hinting that it would transfer its share to Chevron. At that time, Tullow refused this proposal and the block negotiations were shelved till June.

The June negotiations over the equity issue also failed. But negotiations then resolved another vital

issue as to which company would be the operator in the block. Chevron-Texaco and Tullow agreed that Tullow would be the operator during the gas exploration phase while Chevron during the gas field development phase.

However, the government re-opened the negotiations yesterday at the pressure of US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of US Department of Energy Calvin Humphrey, who surprised everyone by returning to Dhaka on Sunday only 72 hours after a six-day visit. Humphrey indicated that Bangladesh's decisions over US oil companies' related issues would help make Sheikh Hasina's forthcoming visit to US 'more productive' for expansion of trade and investment.

At yesterday's negotiations, government officials, instructed by the Prime Minister's office, told representatives of Chevron and Tullow that the equity sharing for the three IOCs would be 30-30-30. However, Texaco, which was not represented at yesterday's negotiations will not ultimately work in Bangladesh as its 30 per cent equity would be transferred to Chevron after the signing of the PSC.

Tullow instantly said that this proposal was not acceptable and that if any of the partners withdrew from the PSC, the remaining 'active' partners should equally share its equity.

The negotiations closed immediately for an indefinite period. See page 11 col 2

Probarona Purnima



Two young Buddhist women light candles at the altar inside the Kamalapur Buddha Bihar in the city yesterday in observance of the Probarona Purnima. -- Star photo

Fresh areas in Satkhira town, 3 upazilas flooded

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Oct 12: Flood situation in Satkhira town and three upazilas Sadar, Tala and Assasuni further deteriorated today with inundation of fresh areas.

Gushing flood waters entered Sundarbans Textile Mills, customs godown, bus terminal and several other government and private offices in the western part of the town, paralysing normal activities.

Water level on the premises of BDR headquarters, customs house, central bus terminal and District Judge's Court has further increased.

Activities at the Magistrate's Courts remained suspended for the fourth day today.

Road links between Satkhira-Khulna and Satkhira-Jessore via Navaran remained snapped.

Thirteen more villages in Sadar, Tala and Assasuni upazilas have been submerged today as waters are rolling down to the south.

Of the affected new villages, six are under Sadar upazila, five under Tala upazila and the rest are under Assasuni upazila.

About 12 thousand people in affected villages have been marooned. The flood situation, however, improved slightly in Kalaroa and Debbaha upazilas with recession of water.

Meanwhile, the flood victims who have taken shelter at Bharakhali camp in Ghona union in Sadar upazila today brought out a procession in Satkhira town protesting 'misappropriation' of relief goods by Fazlur Rahman Mosha, Chairman of Ghona union Parishad.

They submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commission demanding punishment to the Chairman.

Ershad's benefit: JS sectt seeks court's decision

The parliament secretariat has sought decision of the higher court about payment of salary and allowances to HM Ershad MP following stay of operation of the gazette notification regarding cancellation of his membership for two months, reports UNB.

It is not true that salary and allowances of Ershad has been stopped on orders of the Speaker as reported in a section of the press, parliament secretariat said in a clarification issued yesterday.

It said the membership of Ershad had been cancelled by the parliament secretariat on the basis of the High Court verdict against him in the Janata Tower case.

On advice of legal experts, initiative has been taken to seek opinion of the higher court about payment of salary and allowances to Ershad. The matter is under process and steps will be taken in accordance with the advice of the higher court, the clarification said.

Swiss FM arrives today

Joseph Deiss, Foreign Minister of Switzerland, will arrive in the city today on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh. This will be the first ever visit by any Swiss minister to Bangladesh. He arrives here on the last leg of his tour to the Far-East and South-East Asia, says a press release.

During his visit, Deiss will meet President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed and other high officials.

Deiss will sign an agreement on Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments with Bangladesh and will visit some Swiss-funded development projects in Dhaka.

Switzerland is an important partner of Bangladesh. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been active in Bangladesh for the past thirty years. The Swiss government provides funds to various development projects in Bangladesh through SDC.

Deiss will address a press conference at the Sonargaon Hotel at 5:30 PM tomorrow.

He will leave the city on October 15.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 13	4:45	5:35 pm
Oct 14	5:55 am	

Prayer Timings		
October 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Dhuhr	12-15	1-30
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-45
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

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.dailystartarnet.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

Amit isn't the only one

From page 1 Control (CDC) in Atlanta, USA. Dr Muktar Ali, one of 30 Surveillance Medical Officers under the programme, told the Daily Star yesterday. "In 1999 I myself detected 56 suspected cases and sent stool for examination at the two laboratories (CDC and IPH). Out of them, six were found infected with wild poliovirus Type One, exactly the same one that infected and paralysed Amit."

In 1999 alone 29 out of 723 suspected cases were found carrying wild poliovirus. Of them, only two had poliovirus type three (P3W) while the rest had P1W.

The infected persons are in 18 districts across the country, namely Brahminbaria (1), Chandpur (1), Chittagong (2), Comilla (5), Laxmipur (2), Noakhali (1), Dhaka (3 all in city corporation area), Faridpur (2), Kishoreganj (1), Madaripur (3), Mymensingh (1), Narshingdi (1), Shariatpur (1), Magura (1), Moulvibazar (1), Chapainawabganj (1), Gaibandha (1) and Barguna (1).

The surveillance report also said the timeliness of monthly reporting of cases from hospitals is rather poor. In 1998 only 15 per cent were achieved against a target of at least 80 per cent. In 1999 it was 44 per cent while it increased to 58 per cent this year.

The case detection of AFP with two stool specimens collected within 14 days since onset of the paralysis is still below the target 68 per cent against a target of 80 per cent.

The paralytic poliomyelitis virus enters a child through mouth and reproduces in the intestine. The virus incubates between four and 30 days before it attacks its victim.

Only one per cent of the infected become paralysed while the rest would not even realise that they have had the virus. It attacks and destroys motor nerve cells in spinal cord causing paralysis. The virus mostly gets out of the body through stool.

The wild poliovirus that has a global mortality rate of about 12 per cent is of three types. Type one is most likely to cause paral-

ysis and most typically causes outbreaks. Dr Snidack said, "Success to eradicate polio from Bangladesh depends on developing good networking and reporting system even by parents who see slightest symptoms of paralysis."

"Unfortunately, many parents in the rural areas still take their sick children to traditional healers instead of hospitals and that is where lies the setback of the programme. So, currently we are addressing at changing behaviours of the parents and others."

Researchers still have not yet been able to identify the reasons why polio leads to paralysis. However, immune deficiency, pregnancy, tonsillectomy, intramuscular injections and strenuous exercise may cause paralysis.

CEPHALON

Excel In Education
Excel In Life

ADMISSION GOING ON !!

CEPHALON INTERNATIONAL is opening admission for 2001 of English medium students from class V - class XII. At Cephalon we provide full laboratory facilities (Physics & Chemistry) for A' level students which are approved by THE BRITISH COUNCIL. In addition, to develop a students mind, we provide extracurricular activities like sports, excursion, study tours, science fair, picnics, movie shows, cultural programs, scouting, debate. All students of class V - class VIII must take computer classes so as to keep up with the modern world.

JOIN CEPHALON TODAY I
EXCEL IN EDUCATION EXCEL IN LIFE

TEACHERS WANTED

CEPHALON INTERNATIONAL already has well experienced teachers for O' level and A' level in all subjects. We are further looking for more teachers in all subjects for class V - class VIII (morning session) and class IX - class XII (afternoon session). Interested applicants are requested to drop or mail their CV's to :

CEPHALON INTERNATIONAL

Hs # 50, Rd # 8/A, DHANMONDI, DHAKA. PHONE : 8127203, 9125119, 018 2205993

CEPHALON INTERNATIONAL : OVERALL GUIDANCE BY PROF. A.M. MOMINUL HUQ.