



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

CHITTAGONG

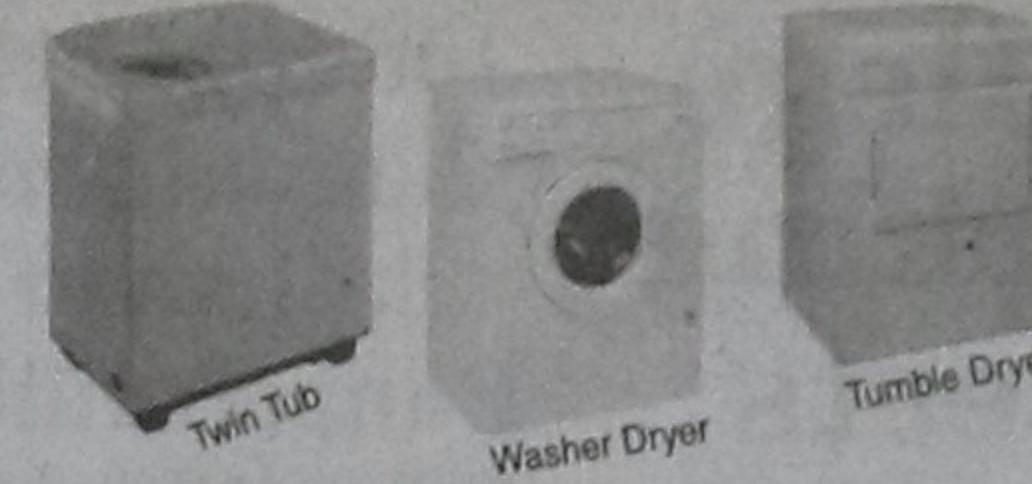
Hotel Hawaii Building
39, Agrabad C.A., Chittagong
Tel # 712127 Fax# 710106

CEPZ

Ctg. Export Processing Zone
Old Admin Building
Halishahar, Chittagong
Tel # 740108 Fax# 710106

KHULNA

K.D.A Building
Khan A. Sabur Road, Khulna
Tel # 725008 Fax# 731932



Instalment
facility
available

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS LTD.
Authorized Distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA
Dhaka: 8115307-10 CTG: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215



Remembering Laloni

The two-day *Baul Utsav* (folk festival), organised by the Laloni Smriti Sangsod, began yesterday at the Public Library auditorium.

--Star photo

Rob murder: 4 PBCP men on fresh remand

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 1: Four armed cadres of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were taken on a three-day fresh remand in connection with AL Mayoral Candidate SMA Rob murder case.

They are Bitu, Moyeen, Saeed and Mehed.

CID police took them into custody on October 31 after they received positive report on ballistic test of two arms recovered from the four.

Police recovered two guns, one pistol and ten bullet, from the possession of the four armed cadres of PBCP during a combing operation in September.

CID police said the arms were used for killing SMA Rob as it appears from the positive report of ballistic test.

One of the interrogators said the four members of outlawed PBCP are used on hire for committing murders.

Businessman kidnapped in city

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman was kidnapped from the city's Mohammadpur area allegedly by his business partner on Monday.

Police quoting the FIR said Nazrul Islam alias Masud Rana and his gang abducted Khairul Alam, 35, while he was walking down Nororjan Road at about 10 a.m.

The gang took him to some unknown place and demanded a ransom of Tk 1.95 crore from his family. They also threatened to kill Alam if the police was informed, family sources said.

Mohammed Nazrul Islam, brother of the kidnapper victim, lodged a case with Mohammadpur police in this regard.

The whereabouts of the businessman could not be found till writing of this report late last night.

Police suspect that the abduction may be a sequel to some business feud.

Decision to ban Rickshaws was not in plan!

By Staff Correspondent

The decision of DMP's traffic department to ban rickshaws from Mirpur Road from yesterday was not in the plan of Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP), according to sources.

The decision to ban the three-wheelers from Mirpur Road by declaring it a VIP Road sparked off clashes between police and rickshaw pullers at different points on the road on Monday, leaving at least 50 people injured.

According to sources, the authorities concerned have decided to postpone the ban to the middle of this month in the wake of Monday's clash. But neither DUTP officials nor DMP's traffic department could confirm till last night as to when the ban would go into effect.

Preferring anonymity, a DUTP official told The Daily Star yesterday that the actual DUTP plan was not to ban plying of rickshaws on Mirpur road, but rather to create rickshaw lanes on both sides of the road.

See page 11 col 6

Sugar smuggling deprives govt of Tk 20 lakh revenue a year

By Raziur Rahman

The government is deprived of a revenue earning of about Tk 20 lakh a year as a huge quantity of poor quality sugar is smuggled from India, hindering the marketing of locally produced and imported quality sugar.

Sources concerned said at least one third of the requirement of sugar in the country was being met with the smuggled sugar, often containing inedible and toxic elements. Besides, smuggled sugar is transported and stored in very unhygienic condition.

According to an estimate of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC), the quantity of smuggled sugar is around 60 tonnes a year on an average. This causes a revenue loss of about Tk 20 lakh to the government.

Sugar traders however claim that at least three lakh tonnes of sugar are smuggled every year.

Poor quality sugar is smuggled through the bordering areas of Rajshahi, Kushtia, Chapai Nawabganj, Dinajpur, Rangpur and some other districts through-

out the year, they said.

Price of imported sugar is around Tk 25 thousand per tonne on an average which includes Tk 5,000 as import duty.

People of bordering areas and some other parts of the country buy smuggled sugar as its price is around Tk 23 per kg, at least Tk 10 less than the price of imported sugar.

Smuggled sugar is sent to Narayanganj, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Narsingdi, Dhaka and other parts of the country by road.

The demand for sugar in the country is about 3.9 lakh tonnes a year, BSFIC officials said quoting a government estimate.

But sugar traders said the demand is much higher than that. The 15 sugar mills in the country produce around 1.5 lakh tonnes a year and usually 1.5 lakh to two lakh tonnes are imported per year.

A leader of Bangladesh Whole-Sale Sugar Merchant Association said that more import of sugar is necessary to stop smuggling.

BSFIC officials however said

low price of smuggled sugar is a major reason behind smuggling of it.

Sources said smuggling of sugar increases when local sugar mills are out of production from the end of March to mid-October.

Price of local sugar and imported sugar was Tk 32 to 33 for the last few years. It soared up to Tk 40 in the last two months.

Import of sugar stood at 1.25 tonnes last year. This year, production target of the sugar mills is 1.3 lakh tonnes and the import target is two lakh tonnes.

Following the price hike of sugar recently, the government decided to import another 50 thousand tonnes to meet the increased demand during the month of Ramadan.

When contacted, a top official of BSFIC said the local production and the imported sugar are usually adequate to meet the demand for sugar.

He, however, said sometimes there may be temporary shortage and this might be a reason behind smuggling.

BSFIC officials however said

Withdrawal of cut-off time by CPA angers port users

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 1: Withdrawal of cut-off time from today for container vessels by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) angered some port users including shipping agents and stevedores.

The shipping agents and stevedores lodged protests to port authority in this regard.

Cut-off time system in case of loading export cargo into container vessels was withdrawn in line with the decision of the Ministry of Port and Shipping in the backdrop of appeal from BGMEA, port sources said.

Chairman of Stevedores Asso

See page 11 col 6

Rape of four aborigines protested

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Adivas(aborigines) Jatiya Samannay Committee and Bangladesh Adhivesi Chatra Sangram Parishad yesterday staged a demonstration at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla at Dhaka University protesting the recent incidents of rape of four hill women by Bengali settlers at Mirsara and Lama of Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Leader of Jana Samhati Samity (JSS) Sudhasindhu Khisa, Assistant Professor of History at Dhaka

See page 11 col 7

S'pore Boeing crash kills 79

TAIPEI, Nov 1: Emergency workers today pulled the last bodies from the wreckage of a Singapore Airlines plane which crashed on takeoff at Taipei's airport, leaving 79 dead, 85 injured and 16 unhurt, reports Reuters.

The Los Angeles-bound Boeing 747-400 airliner, flight SQ 006, was carrying 179 people, including 20 crew, when it crashed during a typhoon at 11.18 pm (1518 GMT) on Tuesday.

There are 79 dead, 16 escaped injury, and 85 were hospitalised, an official with the Civil Aeronautics Administration of Taiwan told reporters.

The toll could rise since many of the injured suffered serious burns. One foreign passenger burned over 100 per cent of the body had little hope for survival, a doctor at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital said.

AP adds: Singapore Airlines defended its pilot's decision to take off in heavy wind and rain, saying today he did not endanger the lives of the passengers.

Early speculation pointed to gusting winds from an approaching typhoon as a possible factor in the Los Angeles-bound Boeing

See page 11 col 7

Angolan plane explodes after take-off: All 48 killed

LUANDA, Angola, Nov 1: A Russian-built plane exploded shortly after takeoff in northern Angola, killing all 42 passengers and six crew members, reports said today, reports AP.

The Antonov 26 aircraft burst into flames Tuesday at about 7.30 pm, minutes after it left the town of Saurimo, 800 kilometers east of the Angolan capital, Luanda. Angola's Civil Aviation Authority confirmed the crash in a statement Wednesday.

Saurimo is located in an area of thick jungle in one of Angola's main diamond-mining regions.

The area has been a focus of fierce fighting between the army and the UNITA rebel group, which have been engaged in a two-decade civil war.

Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said the crew were

team of civil aviation investigators was on its way to the crash site.

They were Russian.

The names of the crew were not immediately available and the identities of the passengers were not released.

The plane reportedly was on a domestic route in the southwest African nation, which is a former Portuguese colony. It left Luanda on Tuesday morning and was flying between rural cities before heading back to the capital at the end of the day, according to Lusa.

It was unclear whether the plane was chartered or commercial outside Saurimo, Lusa said, citing officials. The name of the company that owns the plane was not known.

The Civil Aviation Authority

statement said it was unclear

what caused the crash. It said a

Israeli army kills 3 more

Peres to hold talks with Arafat

days of fighting that has left 151 people dead, the majority Palestinians.

Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Arafat both attended a US-sponsored Mideast summit in Egypt on Oct. 17, but refused to meet face-to-face.

Peres, who as architect of Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking has spent many hours negotiating with Arafat, said he did not have high expectations for his meeting with the Palestinian leader. Nonetheless, "I just think that, even when there is shooting, we need to talk," Peres told Israel army radio.

He said he expected Arafat to give a clear commitment to a truce agreement arranged at the Mideast summit by US President Bill Clinton.

Israel's top peace negotiator, Gilead Sher, will also participate in the talks, expected to be held in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, just south of Jerusalem.

Arafat met today with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Gaza City, saying he was grateful to the visit "at a time when we are subjected to military attacks."

The thieves also made abortive attempt to commit theft in Manashia Jewellery Shop.

According to Sonadana police, a gang of six thieves entered the Western Plaza area making two night guards unconscious by serving sweatmeats mixed with sedatives.

The thieves broke locks of the shops with the help of crowbars. Two persons, Sohrab and Zakir were taken to custody for interrogation in this regard.

Three separate cases were recorded in this connection.

'280 murdered, 85 raped last month'

By Staff Correspondent

At least 280 people were murdered and 85 women and children raped last month in the country, according to a survey-report by the Institute of Democratic Rights (IDR).

On average nine people were killed a day. Of 85 rape incidents, 40 were gangraped and nine killed after rape. Thirty-four minor girls were raped.

Sixty-five people were abducted and 87 committed suicide. Five died in jail while three in police custody.

At least 242 people died in road, railway and waterway accidents.

Theft at Khulna jewellery shops

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 1: Gold ornaments worth over Tk 20 lakh were stolen from Padma Jewellers and Ritu Gold Corner near KDA New Market on Tuesday night.

The thieves also took Tk 20,000 in cash from a garment shop the same night.

They also made abortive attempt to commit theft in Manashia Jewellery Shop.

According to Sonadana police, a gang of six thieves entered the Western Plaza area making two night guards unconscious by serving sweatmeats mixed with sedatives.

The thieves broke locks of the shops with the help of crowbars. Two persons, Sohrab and Zakir were taken to custody for interrogation in this regard.

Three separate cases were recorded in this connection.

EC to print new voter list for Khulna-5

Star Report

The Election Commission is going to print a new voters' list of the Khulna-5 constituency for conducting by-election in this seat that fell vacant on October 6 due to the death of Minister Salauddin Yusuf.

But the EC is yet to fix the date of the by-election, said an official, adding that the schedule will be announced after Chief Election Commissioner MA Sayed returns from the United States. The CEC is now in the USA on an official visit. He is likely to return home

See page 11 col 5

10 more villages in Satkhira inundated

From Staff Correspondent

BAGERHAT, Nov 1: The overall flood situation in Satkhira district deteriorated further with inundation of 10 more villages in Shreula and Khajura unions under Assasuni upazila today, reports UNB.

Some 14,936 people of 3110 families were affected as the floodwater entered the area through damaged Koraikhal cross-dam.