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Reserved JS

seats destined

for doom

Long-pending bill to

be submitted soon

By Nazmul Ashraf

months for a crucial support from

the opposition, ruling Awami

League is going to place the long-

pending bill for retaining reserved

seats for women in parliament

Awami League is going to bring

the bill back to the House along

with suggestions drawn from

various quarters, including the

nearly five months, the Parlia-

mentary Standing Committee on

Law Ministry is likely to submit it

before the House shortly. 'Yes,

I'm going to submit the scruti-

nised bill in a day or two," com-

mittee chairman Suranjit

Sengupta told the Daily Star last

The AL move will have no other

option but to let the long-pending

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Truckers go on

wildcat strike

at Ctg port

From Staff Correspondent

ery of goods to and from

Chittagong port was suspended as truckers went on wildeat strike

from 8 am today protesting a

restriction on easy entry of trucks

inside the port area, police and

The entry of trucks without any

requisition from C&F agents was

restricted in the port protected

area to keep it free from traffic

jam for smooth handling of car-

taken to check pilferage of goods

from port protected area.

from port, sources said.

Besides, the measure was

Only the trucks holding requi-

sition and slip from C&F agents

were allowed to enter the port

protected area. But the move

angered the truckers and truck

owners who stopped to operate

trucks for carrying goods to and

trying to negotiate the problem

with the truck owners this eve-

Cricket stars

visit polio

booths today

Cricket stars will visit different

polio booths in the city on the

occasion of the first round of

National Immunisation Day

National cricket team captain

Naimur Rahman Durjoy, vice

captain Khaled Masud Pilot,

former captains Aminul Islam

Bulbul and Akram Khan and

today, reports UNB.

However, C&F agents were

port sources said.

CHITTAGONG, Nov 14: Deliv-

After sitting on the bill for

women rights organisations.

With an obstinate opposition,

Having waited for nearly five

Nat'l Health Policy likely to be placed in JS today

Prevention was given the highest priority in the National Health Policy, which is likely to be placed before the parliament today, Health Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said, reports BSS.

The main objective of the health policy is to create mass awareness about preventive measures against diabetes than that of curative steps," he said while speaking as chief guest a discussion on World Diabetes Day-2000 here in the city yester-

Held at the National Press Club, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Social Welfare, Dr Mozammel See page 11 col 5

Interim bail for Inqilab editor

By Special Correspondent

Police sealed every entrance to the Supreme Court and dozens of plainclothes policemen took up position in and around the court premises after AMM Bahauddin. editor of the Daily Ingilab, sought refuge inside a chamber of a lawyer at the Supreme Court Bar Association building last

AMM Bahauddin, editor of the daily Inqilab, was granted anticipatory bail until November 20.

The bail was granted by a High Court Division Bench at 11-40 last night.

He was waiting there for a decision on his bail petition at a Special Bench constituted by the See page 12 col 6

PM returns today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returns home this morning from Doha. Qatar after attending the 9th OIC Summit, reports BSS.

During her stay in Doha Sheikh Hasina addressed the OIC Summit and a Special Session of the Summit on The Palestine Situation. She also met other heads of government and state attending the Summit.

The Prime Minister also attended a reception accorded to her by the Bangladeshi community living there.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 15		5.13 pm
Nov 15	6-15 am	
D	T':	

Prayer Timings November 15

	Azan	Jamaa
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-24
Esha	7-15	7-45
THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE		



Huge quantities of wood and tyres have been piled up to ignite the furnace of a brick kiln at Basila -- Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq under Mohammadpur thana.

Brick fields ready again to spew toxic gas

Authorities sit idle while DoE struggles with poor staff

By Morshed Ali Khan

As floodwater recedes and winter sets in, thousands of brick kilns around the city amass used the most rudimentary way.

From Sonargaon and Kanchpur to and Gazipur, about 5,000 of these kilns will be burnround-the-clock until the rainy season sets in.

will blanket the city and its peripheral area with a such as used tyres. They also do not care about the thin cloud of toxic gas for the next few months. Millions of people, livestock and arable lands, trees and enough to disperse the waste beyond human conwater bodies in these areas will be exposed to a high tact. level of air pollution, giving rise to serious health

nightmare. The DoE is already struggling with a needed to dry the ovens. handful number of inspectors to look into thousands of other cases related to issuance of environ- obtained a clearance from the DoE," Munshi said. mental clearance to industrial units.

The DoE officials say as per law of the land the police can also clamp down on such practices, but tyres, fuel wood and coal to light their furnaces in due to lack of initiative the law-enforcing authorities are completely indifferent to the problem.

Easily licensed by the respective district Deputy Kamrangirchar, and from Hazaribagh, Commissioner's office, over 99 per cent of these Mohammadpur and Keranigani to Savar, Konabari brick fields run without any environmental clearance whatsoever. The brick-field owners not only ing millions of tonnes of these highly toxic 'fuels' brush aside the legal requirement of installing filters in the chimneys, but also openly defy the govern-As in previous years, exhausts from these kilns ment ban on burning wood and toxic substance legal requirement of having exhaust chimneys high

Abdul Malek Munshi, manager of a brick field in Monammadpur area, said they were burning wood Neither the district administrations nor the and tyres because coal was too expensive and tomshall. Department of Environment (DoE) has any scarce. He said for the last five months the furnaces programme in hand to look at this environmental remained in the water and therefore a 'good fire' is

> 'We have license for the brick field and we also See page 11 col 7

OIC summit ends a day early

Declaration calls members to sever links with Israel

From Staff Correspondent

here midnight Tuesday, a day ahead of schedule, economic relations, and put an end to all forms of amidst, with a call upon all member-states to sever normalisation with Israel until it sincerely and relations with Israel.

Desptie strong opposition from radical members - the issue of Palestine, Al-Quds Al-Sharif. Iraq and Sudan to name the obvious two -- the

Radicals had earlier lobbied hard to convince Arabs charascter of Jerusalem. others to agree to a jihad or holy war against Israel. Moderates led by Egypt and Turkey argued that the the next OIC summit in 2003. Doha Declaration should exclude jihad.

urged the Muslim states which had established relations with Israel and those which had started taking measures towards the establishment of relations with Israel within the framework of the to protect the Palestinians. peace process to break those relations, including

DOHA, Nov 14: The ninth OIC Summit concluded closing down of representations and bureaus and accuratedly implements UN Resolution relevant to

The leaders of the 1.2 billion Muslims represent-Doha Declaration called for cessation of ties with ing 56 member countries of the OIC urged in their Israel as a non-binding resolution for the member non-binding resolution to cut ties with Israel for what they said the latter's attempt to eradicate the

The Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur will host

In another summit resolution the leaders of the The final communiqué said. The conference Muslim Ummah denounced Israel for using helicopter gun-ships and tanks to quell a seven-week Palestinian uprising costing 217 lives, almost all of whom Palestinians, and called for UN peacekeeping force

See page 11 col 3

West Bank sealed off

Palestinian gunmen kill four Israelis

JERUSALEM, Nov 14: Israeli soldiers erected obstacles to blockade Palestinian-ruled towns in the West Bank today after Palestinian gunmen killed four people in one of the bloodiest days of violence since a Palestinian uprising began, reports Reuters.

The Israeli army said it was cordoning off Palestinian-ruled areas in the West Bank for security reasons after a 41-year-old mother of five, two Israeli soldiers and a 26-year-old truck driver were killed in drive-by shooting attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Monday.

The army clampdown came after almost seven weeks of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed in which 214 people have been killed, mostly Palestinians.

Four Palestinians also died on Monday -- two teenagers shot in Gaza, a policeman in the West Bank and a youth critically wounded during clashes on Saturday.

The Israeli deaths prompted Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, in Chicago for meetings with Jewish leaders, to consult military and political advisers at home by telephone.

"He (Barak) has instructed them all on what steps to take," a senior Barak aide, Gilad Sher told reporters in Chicago. The move was a return to the widespread sanc-

tions against Palestinians that Israel lifted in mid-October after committing to a ceasefire accord brokered by the United States at the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh.

The head of the Israeli forces in the West Bank,

Major-General Yitzhak Eitan, said the closure would be more stringent than in the past.

"Now we are closing most Palestinian towns and areas, with limits on free movement between cities and main roads. Palestinians won't be stuck, but

their movements will be limited," the general said. In effect, only vehicles transporting food, medicine or humanitarian aid will be able to enter or leave cordoned zones, he said.

"Following the gunfire incidents in which civilians and soldiers were killed, the Israel Defence Force encircled all towns in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and imposed a closure on Gaza," the army said in a statement.

Gunshots echoed in the West Bank and Gaza late on Monday as Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen exchanged fire near the West Bank towns of Qalqilya, Bethlehem and Nablus, the army said.

A massive gun battle was also being fought near the Kfar Darom Jewish settlement in Gaza, Palestinian witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Israeli forces and Palestinian gunmen traded fire at a familiar flash-point on the outskirts of Jerusalem on Monday.

Soldiers fired anti-tank rockets at the West Bank town of Beit Jala after gunmen there opened fire at Israeli apartment buildings in the Jewish settlement of Gilo, a neighbourhood on the fringes of Jerusa-

See page 11 col 6

Gold worth Tk 1.68cr seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Customs authorities at the Zia International Airport yesterday seized 30 kilograms of gold bars and 7.94 grams of gold ornaments, worth about Tk 1.68 crore from three passengers, who arrived on a Kuwait Airways flight (KU 281) at about 8:20 in the morning, said officials. According to officials, on

arrival at ZIA, Sangram Acharya Chowdhury and Sathi Acharya Chowdhury tried to hand over the gold to unidentified people at the boarding bridge. On the other hand, Samrat Ahmed Chowdhury tried to hand over the gold to some people at the cus-

The three were carrying at least 10 kilograms of gold each, officials said, adding that the ornaments were recovered when their luggage was searched.

Any passengers coming in are allowed to carry ten kilograms of gold each on payment of tax.

They were carrying the gold without any declaration, officials claimed. The gold items as well as their passports were confiscated.

The passengers later left the customs hall saying that they would get back the gold bars and ornaments after paying tax.

A departmental case was lodged in this regard.



gold bars and ornaments worth about Tk 1.68 crore from three passengers who arrived on a Kuwait Airways flight. -Star photo

Public call centres not yet

More than a year lost on dispute over discount

By Mustak Hossain

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunication from telephone service sector. Introduction of the (MOPT) is delaying announcement of the introduction of public call centres (PCCs) with a special discount for calls for nearly a year now.

The ministry had agreed to waive 30 per cent revenue earned from NWD and ISD calls from a PCC. But later it changed the decision and told the telecom businessmen that it was unable to award any discount, leaders of Telecom Babosayee Samity

(businessmen's association) alleged. The government decided last year to introduce public call offices (PCOs) to facilitate people who do not have access to phone, and increase revenue

PCCs was also aimed to stop misappropriation of telephone bills and employ a huge number of unemployed educated youths.

This happened due to a tussle between the Telecom Ministry (MOPT) and the Finance Ministry.

"Why would the public and telecom businessmen suffer for an inter-ministerial feud?" asked a telecom businessman, who requested anonymity.

'This would encourage an unscrupulous section of businessmen to evade call charges and overbur See page 11 col 3

batsman Habibul Bashar Sumon will join the programme to encourage the cricket fans and their families to immunise their children under five. Durjoy will visit the booths in Khilgaon area with BCB President, UNICEF and WHO representatives while vice captain Pilot in Mirpur area with a WHO offi-

Former captain Bulbul will visit the booths in Lalbagh area, Akram Khan in Kathalbagan and Sumon in Mohakhali and Tejgaon area, said a UNICEF press release

vesterday.

Four chargesheeted in Shamsi Murder Case

By Court Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magis- against four youths to the CMM's Shamsi Murder Case yesterday.

Later, the CMM's court sent the case to the Tribunal for preven- are Ziaur Rahman Zia. tion of Public Safety Disturbance Salauddin, Mostafa Almas and and Crime, Dhaka for trial. Detective Branch of police (DB)

submitted the charge sheet

trate's Court, Dhaka accepted the courts, Dhaka at 8 pm on Novemcharge sheet in the Ammar ber 13 after 18 days of investiga-

The charge sheeted accused Alamgir.

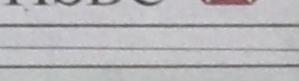
The investigation officer inter See page 11 col 4



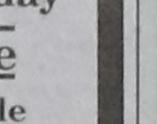
No penalties or loss of interest earned - no matter the amount or number of withdrawals.

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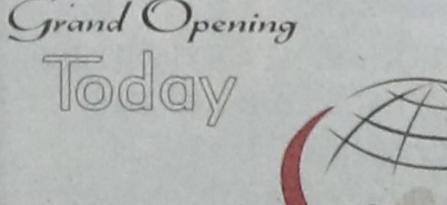


Put People before Self

Column: Between the Lines By Kuldip Nayar

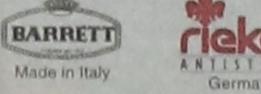
Focus Letter from America

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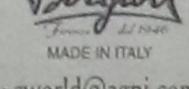












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ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

নগর ভবন, ঢাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন রাখুন আপনার শিন্তকে টিকা দিন

৮ম জाতীয় िका मिवन ১৫ नट्डियत, २००० देश

প্রিয় নগরবাসী

আসসালামু আলাইক্ম

আজ ১৫ নভেম্বর, ২০০০ ইং রোজ বুধবার ৮ম জাতীয় টিকা দিবসে পুনরায় ০-৫ বছর বয়সী সকল শিশুকে দু'ফোটা "পোলিও টিকা" এবং ১-৫ বছর বয়সী সকল শিশুকে একটি উচ্চ ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন ভিটামিন-'এ' ক্যাপসুল খাওয়ানো হবে।

ঢাকা মহানগরীতে "পোলিও" রোগে আক্রান্ত একটি শিশু সনাক্ত করা হয়েছে। অর্থাৎ ঢাকা মহানগরীতে এ রোগের জীবাণু বিদ্যমান রয়েছে। এ কারণে পোলিও রোগে আর একটি শিশুও যেন আক্রান্ত হতে না পারে সে লক্ষ্যে অদ্য সকল শিশুকে "পোলিও টিকা" এবং ভিটামিন-'এ' ক্যাপসুল খাওয়াতে এগিয়ে আসার জন্য পিতা-মাতা, অভিভাবকসহ সকল সচেতন নগরবাসীকে আমি বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছ।

এর আগে শিশুকে "পোলিও টিকা" খাওয়ানো হলেও পুনরায় এ টিকা খাওয়ানোর প্রয়োজন সম্মানিত ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারগণের দপ্তর ও কমিউনিটি সেন্টারে আপনার এলাকার টিকাদান

কেন্দ্রের তালিকা পাওয়া যাবে। আল্লাহ আমাদের সহায় হউন।

ডিসিসি/পিআরডি/১৯২/০০-০১ জিডি-১০৪৮

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

মোহাম্মদ হানিফ

BNP, allies get Paltan for Nov 23 rally National Sports Council (NSC) has given permission to BNP to

use Paltan Maidan (Outer Stadium) on November 23 for holding the planned rally of the combined opposition, reports UNB. Party sources said the NSC yesterday sent the permission

letter to BNP central office follow-

ing an application submitted on

November 8 on behalf of city BNP President and All-Party Action Council convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka. Earlier, the NSC denied BNP to use the same venue for holding a joint rally of the combined opposi

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'Unpresidented'

election divides America down Page 5