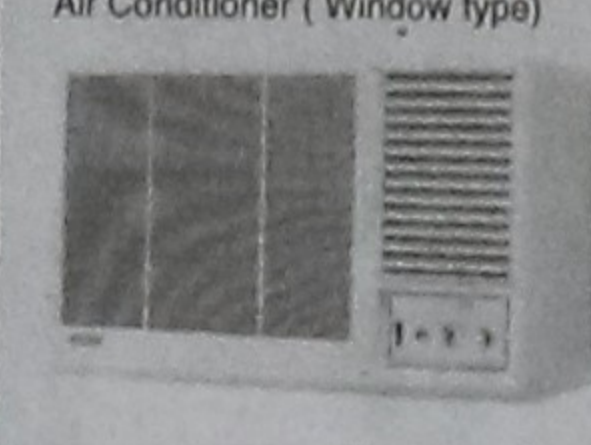
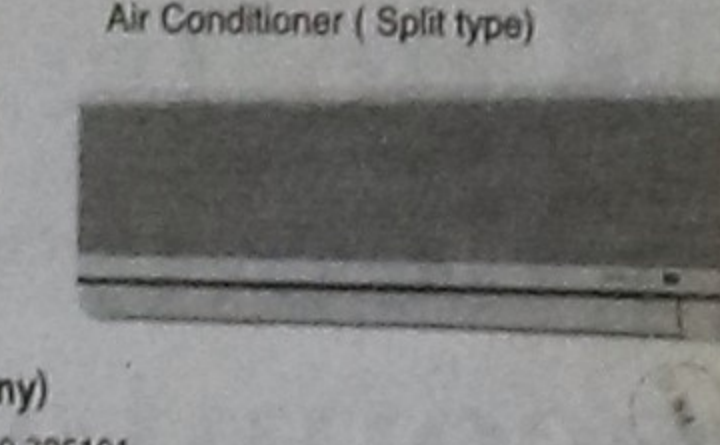
 <p>FedEx Federal Express</p> <p>Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd. Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112</p>	<p>DHANMONDI</p> <p>House # 53 (New) Rd. # 3A (New) Dhanmondi R.A., Dhaka Tel # 863896</p>	<p>KALYANPUR</p> <p>Khawja Super Market Kalyanpur, Dhaka Tel # 808803</p>	<p>MIRPUR</p> <p>House # 96, Section # 10 Senpara Parbata Mirpur, Dhaka Tel # 9010493</p>	<p>Air Conditioner (Window type)</p> 	<p>SANYO</p> <p>WARRANTY</p> <p>TRANSFIN TRADING LIMITED (Sole Distributor in Bangladesh for Sanyo Products-A Transcom Company)</p> <p>Dhaka: 8115307-10, 9882192, 909044, 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</p> <p>Air Conditioner (Split type)</p> 
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Flora's flight to uncertainty

By Staff Correspondent

Ten-year-old Flora has said she arrived at Zia International Airport (ZIA) from London with her father in an evening flight and the air hostesses were wearing red dress. After official formalities, she followed her father Riyadh and came out on the road but did not find him any more. Within 10 minutes, two young men approached her and offered to take her to her father.

The two strangers then took her to a 'nearby place,' gave her a skirt, a blouse and a pair of sandals and asked her to change her dress, she said.

Then they hired an autorickshaw to take her to her father. On the way, she could not find her camera, a gold chain and a watch.

This correspondent talked with Flora at Narayanganj Vagrants Centre yesterday. She was brought to Dhaka on October 24.

Before abandoning her in front of a house at Road-6 at Dhanmondi in the city, the two men told her she could find her father inside a house. The helpless girls then started to cry for help and a teacher named Tapash took her to Dhanmondi Thana. The OC sent her to Mirpur Vagrants Centre.

Flora said her ordeal did not end there. Controller of the centre Lutfur took her to a room and said she could go to her father only if she 'satisfied him'. The traumatised girl said Lutfur 'harassed' her several times.

She further said she lived in London with her father, a 'white mother' and a brother. She had gone to school only for five days and was never allowed to step out of the house. She could not even

See page 11 col 1



Rickshawpullers took to streets in the city yesterday protesting a government decision to ban rickshaws on Mirpur road. —Star photo

Ban on rickshaws on Mirpur Rd unlikely to take effect today

Rickshawpullers threaten to go for tougher movement

By Staff Correspondent

The government decision to slap a ban on plying of rickshaws on Mirpur Road is unlikely to take effect today, sources said.

A meeting of Greater Dhaka Transport and Planning Coordination Committee will take a decision today on the date of imposing the ban, concerned officials said.

Sources, however, hinted that there is a possibility of implementing the decision by the end of this month.

Officials of Traffic Department of DMP last night said that they were yet to get any instruction to stop movement of rickshaws on the road today.

Earlier, agencies concerned took an attempt to stop plying of rickshaws on Mirpur Road from November 1 which sparked off clashes between police and rickshawpullers at different points on the road on October 30, leaving at least 50 people injured.

According to sources, following the clashes the authorities concerned decided to impose the ban

from today.

But this time authorities are not going to implement the decision today following requests from schools located on both sides of the road as most of the schools are now holding examinations.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Rickshawpullers-Owners' (Chalak-Malik) Unity Council yesterday threatened to go for tougher movement if the ban is imposed on plying of rickshaws on city's Mirpur Road from today.

Leaders of the council during its rally at the Mukhtang yesterday also demanded proper rehabilitation of city's rickshawpullers prior to implementation of any government decision to impose a ban on rickshaws.

Earlier on Monday Rickshaw Peshajibi Sangram Parishad, a platform of rickshawpullers, announced that it would impose a hartal on November 16 if the authorities obstruct plying of rickshaws on Gabtali-Azimpur Road today.

700 die every day from "persistent hunger"

655 of them children, says Hunger Project report

By Staff Correspondent

Around 700 people die from "chronic persistent hunger" in the country every day and 655 of them are children, according to The Hunger Project, Bangladesh.

Fifty-five per cent of babies are underweight at birth because Bangladeshi mothers 'eat last and least' in the family, its Country Director Dr. Badrul Alam Majumder said at a press conference at its Dhanmondi office here yesterday.

In economic terms, this deficiency will cost the country 23 billion US dollars in the next 10 years, he said. This means an annual loss of Tk 13,000 crore (approximately US 2.3 billion), a figure roughly equivalent to Bangladesh's development budget for 1998-99 financial year, he added.

"Despite continued flow of foreign aid in the last 29 years, Bangladesh could not eradicate hunger and malnutrition. This led The Hunger Project to think twice about the prevailing development practices in the country," he said.

"We do not believe that the problem of hunger can be resolved by giving alms. So we set our goals to motivate village people with the spirit of self-reliance and create animators from among students, Union

Parishad chairmen and members and women to help them solve their problems," he explained.

Founded in 1991, The Hunger Project, Bangladesh launched a two-pronged strategy in 1993 to mobilise grass-roots people and link them with resources with the help of "committed" leaders of society to make them self-reliant.

Now, the Project has 4,000 trained animators who are mobilising people.

Citing some examples, Majumder said people of 20 areas of Gaibandha are now cultivating fish in derelict swamps, which is benefiting 2,100 families. Besides, volunteers are motivating villagers in three thanas in the district to use lodised soil.

One thousand people of Hossainpur Thana in Kishoreganj district have started cultivating fish in swamps, which will earn them at least Tk 15 lakh in eight months. Residents at Rayer Bazar in the city are moving door to door and collecting waste to use those as organic fertiliser, Majumder said.

The Project has trained 7614 young men and women in various income-generation activities. Thirty such trained women in Shidharkhila village

See page 11 col 6

BCL factions clash at Shariatpur: 50 hurt

SHARIATPUR, Nov 14: At least 50 people were injured, 20 by bullet, in a gunfight between two factions of Chhatra League at Mulfatganj Bazar in Naria upazila today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said internal feud led to the gunfight between two BCL factions.

One faction led by Jakir, nephew of Col (Retd) Shawkat Ali, MP, and another by Babu clashed for about three hours.

Three shops were looted while the office of Russel Smrity Sangsad was damaged during the clash.

Of the bullet injured ten were identified as Mizanur Rahman Alam, 25, Elias, 20, Rubel, 25, Azizul, 28, and Palash, Akhter Hossain, 22, Monir Hossain, 19, Uzzal, 19, Rashed, 17, and Azgar Ali, 22.

The injured were admitted to

Mulfatganj Hospital and Shariatpur Sadar Hospital. Of them, Mizanur and Rubel were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Over a hundred gunshots were fired and huge bombs exploded during the melee which turned the entire area into a battlefield," a shop owner told UNB correspondent visiting the spot after the clash.

On information, police rushed to the spot from the thana headquarters and fired teargas shells and charged baton on the rioters to bring the situation under control.

Traffic on Chandipur-Shariatpur road, adjacent to the bazar halted for over three hours from 10 am.

Riot police were deployed at the bazar to ward off further clash.

Immunisation Day today

The first round of National Immunisation Day (NID) will be held today with a pledge to eradicate Polio from the country, reports BSS.

Children under five years old will be administered with two drops of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV).

One lakh twenty thousand vaccination centres will remain open from 8 am to 4 pm throughout the country to cover around two crore children.

Health workers, teachers, students, NGO workers, community leaders, Boys Scout, Girl Guides as well as personnel of the UNICEF, WHO, IOCH, JICA and Rotary International will work to make this event a success.

Saidi's Tafsir begins in Ctg today

CHITTAGONG, Nov 14: A 3-day Tafsirul Quran Mahfil organised by Islami Samaj Kallyan Parishad begins at the Outer Stadium here tomorrow, reports UNB.

Pro-government BCL, at a press briefing, today said the mahfil to be addressed by Maulana Delwar Hossain Saidi, MP, of Jamaat-e-Islami would be resisted if any of the speakers resorts to make adverse comment on the independence and the liberation war.

Ashik granted bail on mother's bond

By Staff Correspondent

The wife of Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah signed the conditional bail bond for her son Ashik Abdullah yesterday, seven days after he was sent to jail on charges of extortion, attempt to murder, abduction and assault and ransacking a house at Dhanmondi in the city.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shahidul Islam granted bail to Ashik Abdullah on Monday with two sureties on condition that either his father or mother and a lawyer would sign the bail bond.

Ashik's lawyer, Syed Rezaur Rahman submitted a bail prayer before the court saying that the allegations against Ashik and two others -- Waheedul Haq Razon and Wasim Islam -- were fabricated and baseless. He pleaded that they were falsely implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy.

Police Inspector Kanan Kumer Debnath opposed the bail petition saying that the three were involved in the incidents and that there were specific charges against them.

After hearing both the sides, the Magistrate granted them bail. Earlier on November 8, the

Loharpool road to be repaired in 15 days

By Staff Correspondent

Loharpool road in Sutrapur will be repaired in the next 15 days, acting Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Commissioner of Ward-82 Shahidullah Minu said yesterday.

The road has been in a dilapidated condition for the last two years causing immense suffering to residents of Sutrapur, the most densely populated urban area in the world.

Roads in the entire area were dug up to implement the Tk 33 crore Dholaikhal Improvement Project (DIP), which is part of the DCC's Environment Improvement Project. As a component of DIP, a box culvert will be built over Dholaikhal, one of the remaining canals in the city and now an outlet for waste water flowing into the river Buriganga.

People of Sutrapur recently staged demonstrations against delay in repair of the roads and also threatened to go on strike if authorities fail to take steps for this.

The acting Mayor told this correspondent that repair of the roads was delayed due to complications arising from relocation of WASA. See page 11 col 3

Inqilab editor granted bail

From page 1

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman late in the evening after a Judge of the Division Bench of the High Court felt embarrassed to hear the petition for bail amidst a noisy argument between lawyers of the defendant and the state.

Bahauddin went to the High Court seeking bail after a Magistrate issued warrants of arrests against him, Baqui Billah, the publisher of the newspaper and AS Mosharaf on sedition charges for a parody mimicking the national anthem which was published in the newspaper on October 20.

The sedition charges were brought against them by an official of the Home Ministry on Monday.

Barrister Maudud Ahmed prayed for bail on behalf of Bahauddin and his brother at a Division Bench comprising Justice Nurul Islam and Justice Momenuzzuddin.

During the hearing Justice Momenuzzuddin felt embarrassed to hear the petition amidst arguments between Barrister Maudud Ahmed and Deputy Attorney General M Faruq and lawyers of both sides. Justice Nurul Islam then referred the petition to the

Chief Justice.

At this stage, Maudud Ahmed sought an interim order from the court that his client should not be harassed or arrested until the constitution of a new bench and hearing of the petition.

Justice Nurul Islam agreed but Justice Momenuzzuddin differed with it.

After the order to refer it to the Chief Justice, Bahauddin's lawyers rushed to the residence of the Chief Justice. But he was not at home in the late afternoon. When he returned in the evening Maudud Ahmed and others moved there.

Late in the evening, the Chief Justice ordered constitution of the new bench comprising Justice MM Ruhul Amin and Justice Zainal Abedin.

The judges came to the High Court and started hearing the petition at about 10 pm at a closed door court room.

As his lawyers shuffled from the residence of the Chief Justice and the court police took position around it, Bahauddin moved to the chamber of Barrister Rafiqul Huq Mia. He was there until 11:30pm.

Reserved JS seats destined

From page 1

Sbill lapse unless there is any dramatic change in opposition politics. Unwilling to support the bill sponsored by its arch-rival Awami League, the main opposition BNP plans to move a similar bill once it emerges as the majority party in the parliament, party sources said.

Sengupta regretted that though his party performed its duties by introducing the bill of constitutional importance, the opposition is still indifferent.

"We cannot keep on sitting on such a crucial bill just because the opposition's continuing non-cooperation. How can we allow a constitutional vacuum?" asked Sengupta.

Introduced in the parliament on June 17 this year, the bill provides for continuation of constitutional provision of 30 reserved seats for women for another 10 years. Validity of the existing seats expires in April

2001.

The bill requires an amendment to the constitution for passage which, in turn, needs support from at least two-thirds members in the House. But the required support cannot be obtained with the mainstream opposition lawmakers boycotting the parliament proceedings for more than a year now.

On expiry of the present bill, there are scopes for bringing another bill on the same issue. "If the second one also lapses, an intervention from the Supreme Court can be sought on the constitutional vacuum to be created out of non-extension of the provision," said a Constitution expert.

The Supreme Court can exercise its Advisory Jurisdiction on such constitutional vacuum if the parliament refers the issue to it, he explained.

Various quarters, including leading women's rights bodies have meanwhile demanded an

increase in the number of reserved seats for women and a provision for direct election to such seats. So long, women from the reserved seats picked up the ruling party for the provision of their election by directly elected MPs.

Mainstream opposition parties, including BNP had also endorsed the new arrangements. But the parties neither submitted their suggestions to the standing committee nor are they ready to attend the parliament session to do so, let alone supporting the bill.

"The opposition party is free to suggest any change, and the House can adopt those if deemed fit," Suranjit Sengupta said, adding that the government and the opposition were equally responsible for protection of the rights of women who constitute half of the population.

Lever Brothers supports the polio eradication program in Bangladesh

Even if one child is left out from immunization, would you want it to be yours...?

National Immunization Day
1st Round on 15th November, 2000