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Pele



Maradona

**Pele, Maradona 'footballers of the century'**

ROME, Dec 11: French midfield wizard Zinedine Zidane was named FIFA world footballer of the year here today as a row over who should be "Player of the Century" ended with Brazilian Pele and Argentina's Diego Maradona both receiving awards, report agencies. Zidane scooped his second world footballer of the year crown in three years ahead of the most expensive footballer on the planet, Portugal's Luis Figo, and last year's winner Rivaldo. Elsewhere red-faced FIFA officials got themselves off the hook in the 'Player of the Century' row by handing awards to both the legendary Pele and Argentina's enfant terrible Diego Maradona. FIFA originally planned to name only one 'Player of the Century' at today's dinner, with the winner being decided from a combination of votes from FIFA's website, the body's magazine and a grand jury. But with Maradona reportedly way ahead the awards were split up into an "Internet Player of the Century" and a FIFA Jury Player of the Century, paving the way for both men to get an award. (Details on Page 13)

**Mongla incident Port chairman, 17 others sued**

BAGERHAT, Dec 11: Aggrieved workers have sued 18 persons, including the Mongla Port Authority Chairman, on charge of killing four people during labour unrest on December 5, reports UNB. Labour leader M Moazzem Hossain filed a complaint with the Mongla police station on Sunday on behalf of their colleagues. The four, including the port workers, were killed in riot police firing while the striking labourers agitating. They went on strike to realise their one-point demand. The accused in the case include Port Authority Chairman Commodore M. Ahmed, Director (Administration) M. Talyebur Rahman, Vice-Chairman of Dock Workers Managing Board Sayeed-ul-Islam, Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, CBA leader Shahjahan Shikari, General Secretary Mostafizur Rahman, Subedar Nazrul Islam, Constables Zahir and Marmar. See page 11 col 2

**Asian nations warned The cost of corruption may become insurmountable**

SEOUL, Dec 11: The cost of corruption may become insurmountable in the globalised economy unless action is taken, Asian nations were warned today at the start of an anti-corruption conference here, reports AFP. "The region has to build up credibility, within the context of globalisation, and transparent and well-functioning institutions with diverse Asian characteristics but based on the rule of law," said vice president of the Asian Development Bank John Lintjer. He told participants at the Conference on Combating Corruption in the Asia-Pacific Region: "The costs of corruption are high and will become insurmountable, I am afraid, in a globalised world." Alleviating the "disproportionate burden" on the poor resulting from corruption was already a major challenge for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as it advises on the economy and administration, he said. "But nowadays, in addition, the effect of globalisation if not properly addressed, stands to threaten prospects for economic development and to affect the structure of the economy in the countries of our region." "The easiness with which foreign direct and port-



Sailors of Romanian vessel (inset) M/N Ardeal which carried 6500 tonnes of 'rotten' rice from Bombay last year holding press conference in the city yesterday.

**We only carried consignment, let us leave for home Sailors of Romanian vessel Ardeal urge govt**

The twelve sailors of Romanian vessel M/N Ardeal, held at Mongla port under a court order, yesterday urged the government to allow them to leave the country on humanitarian ground. "Please, let us go as we are passing days in starvation," its Captain Chiriac Costel told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club here. The ship anchored at Mongla port on March 15 last year with 6,500 tonnes of rice from Bombay, India. It was held under a court order after the rice, supplied by an Indian company, Navicom, was found rotten. The rice was purchased by the government through a Bangladeshi company, Sea Coast. Costel said they are not responsible for the quality of the rice, over which the Bangladesh Ministry of Food and the supplier are now locked in a legal battle. "We have only carried the consignment to the country. We should not suffer in the dispute," he said. Costel said the ship belonged to a Romanian company, Scmm Romline, with which the Sea Coast had signed the contract for carrying the consignment. He said they can not contact Scmm Romline now as the company has gone bankrupt. "We could not place our request through official channel as Romania has no embassy in Bangladesh," he said. "We are run out of ration and the ship has become inoperative due to lack of fuel and maintenance," he said. The Romanian government sent a parliamentary Dorel Constantin Onaca to Bangladesh in September this year to settle the matter. But he could not meet any high official despite repeated attempts. Md. Rafiqul Islam, a Bangladeshi who works as a Counsellor to Dorel in Romania, alleged at the press conference. Islam said has been sent by the Romanian government to settle the matter. Islam said he had also accompanied Dorel in September. Progress in settlement of the issue has been very slow as Romanian has no embassy in Dhaka, he said. Earlier, three crew of the ship were allowed to leave the country on medical ground. Most of the crew are now suffering from various diseases, he said. Carstea Gorghe, First Engineer of the ship, has been suffering from chronic renal problem. Doctors detected two stones in his kidney and advised surgery, but the treatment can not be done due to lack of money, he said. They claimed that the ship was held after the Sea Coast took delivery of 2,500 tonnes of the rice. The court order followed a complaint by the food ministry, they said. Other sources claimed that the Sea Coast, in connivance with some corrupt officials of the food ministry, managed to get 95 per cent. See page 11 col 4

**PM returns home**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday ending her 9-day official visit to Italy, Germany and Switzerland, reports UNB. National flag carrier Biman Airlines, carrying Hasina, arrived at Zia International Airport at about 10:45 am. The Prime Minister was received at the airport by senior cabinet members, including Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Education Minister ASHK Sadique, Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Civil Aviation Minister Engr Mosharraf Hossain, and Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif. Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Mohammad Shahta Zarab, chiefs of the three services, and high civil and military officials.

**Opposition to demonstrate today**

By Staff Correspondent The BNP-led opposition alliance will stage countrywide demonstration today to press its various demands including resignation of the government and holding of early parliamentary polls. As part of the programme, the BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islamic Oikya Jote and some other rightwing smaller parties will hold joint rallies and processions in all city, district and thana headquarters. In Dhaka, the alliance will hold a joint public rally at Mukhtangon at 2pm and bring out a procession. The rally will also demand. See page 11 col 6

**Feni Jubo League activist beaten to death**

From Our Correspondent FENI, Dec 11: A Jubo League activist was beaten to death by some shopkeepers over a trifle matter at Santirhat under Chhagalnaiya upazila here this morning. The dead was identified as Md Shahjahan, 22, son of Abul Khair of village West Modhugram under Chhagalnaiya upazila. Shahjahan was beaten by some shopkeepers led by one Abul Kalam at Santirhat in Modhugram village reportedly for quarrelling with a tempo driver. Local people took him to Chhagalnaiya Health Complex. He was sent to Dhaka when his condition deteriorated. But Shahjahan died on way to Dhaka at 4 am today. Police handed over his body to his family members after post mortem.

**Rape incident Two army men terminated**

Lance Corporal Mohammad Tajul Islam has been terminated and put to one year rigorous imprisonment for his conduct and behaviour contrary to military discipline with Nargis Parvin, reports BSS. An Army headquarters press release yesterday said that the military court terminated sergeant Mohammad Zakkar Ali for his failure to bring Tajul Islam under his command. However, it said, the complaint of rape of Nargis Parvin was not proved as no proof could be found in her medical test.

**Goods train derails**

By Staff Correspondent A train carrying containers derailed yesterday in Karwan Bazar area in the city causing serious traffic jams. The accident took place at about 11.30 am. Railway sources claimed that it was due to high speed of the train, garbage dumping and sewer leakage from Karwan Bazar wholesale market and slumps on two sides of the tracks. The train dragged on for about half a kilometre before coming to a halt. Its engine stopped at Mogbazar rail crossing, blocking the road. The road remained blocked for nearly 45 minutes. The engine was detached from the boggies and the road was cleared. Tejgaon Station Master Fazlul Huq Talukder termed the accident a "minor" one and said it occurred due to garbage dumping and sewer leakage from Karwanbazar wholesale market and slums. Bangladesh Railway's Division Engineer 1, Dhaka, SM Liakat Ali said it was a minor "D-class accident". He said that the train was running at a very high speed. "Goods trains are not supposed to have a speed of 32 kms per hour in and around the Dhaka City. But this train was running at about 80 kms per hour."



Curious crowd gather around the container train that derailed near Karwan Bazar yesterday.



An exhibition of photographs on the injured freedom fighters by Abir Abdullah began at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. A group of injured freedom fighters inaugurated the week-long show.

**EC verdict on JS seat of Maj Akhter Jan 10**

By Staff Correspondent The Election Commission (EC), after a three-hour hearing, yesterday set January 10 for a decision whether the parliamentary seat of Major (Retd) Akhteruzzaman would be declared vacant or not. The hearing was held at the EC conference room with Chief Election Commissioner M A Syed in the chair. The three Election Commissioners - Abdur Rahman, Moshataq Ahmed Chowdhury and Shafur Rahman - also heard the proceedings. Akhteruzzaman, who was elected from Kishoreganj-2 constituency on a BNP ticket in 1996 general election, joined the 19th session of the seventh parliament on September 10 this year, defying a party decision. He was expelled from the party on September 20. Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain had filed a petition with the Speaker, seeking vacation of Akhteruzzaman's seat for joining parliament sitting violating the party decision. The Speaker referred the matter to the Election Commission for disposal. During the hearing, Akhteruzzaman defended himself quoting from different Articles of the Constitution. Appearing for the petitioner, Barrister Aminul Haq explained constitutional provisions and argued for vacation of the seat. Haq is a lawmaker from opposition BNP. "I didn't violate any Article of the Constitution by joining the proceedings. I did not violate the main spirit of Article 70 of the Constitution. Therefore, there is no controversy over my parliamentary seat," Akhteruzzaman told the Commission. "I joined parliament proceedings in the greater interest of the nation as my party believes that the nation is greater than the party and the party is greater than individuals. I have to consider the interest of the nation more than that of the party," he said. He claimed that he was very much with BNP though the party expelled him. "BNP expelled me but I did not resign from the party. Expulsion can not be considered as resignation," he said. Akhteruzzaman blamed several party leaders for making the parliament "ineffective". He also suggested enactment of a new law to bar "polluted" politicians from coming to national politics. See page 11 col 8

**Biman extends deadline for RFP by foreign airlines**

By Shehab Ahmed Bangladesh Biman has extended till January 7 the deadline for submission of Request for Proposal (RFP) by foreign airlines to buy its 40 per cent shares under a World Bank aided restructuring programme. The deadline expired on December 2. Biman sources said yesterday that the Biman Management Board extended the deadline after reviewing the situation. Only two airlines - Gulf Air and Qatar Airways - have so far submitted RFP to Biman and confirmed their interest to take the 40 per cent share and become a 'strategic partner' of the airline. At least half a dozen others have shown interest, making queries with Biman's consultant Citibank Group of New York, the sources said. Quoting Biman sources, The Daily Star published a report on December 4 that Singapore Airlines and Air New Zealand showed interest in Biman. But the two airlines denied this yesterday. Paul Dorai Raj, General Manager, Bangladesh of Singapore Airlines yesterday said the airline "did not express its interest to take a stake in Biman either individually or jointly with any other partner". Other airlines which made queries with the Citibank Group include Malaysian Airlines, American Airlines, Kenyan Air, and Nippon Air Cargo. Under the restructuring plan, the government will retain 51 per cent of Biman's shares. Nine per cent will be kept for its employees. Biman with 14 aircraft and 5500 employees flies to 25 international destinations. Biman regained its lost market share of passengers and cargo in last one year and a half. It has 48 per cent market share of passengers flying to international destinations from Dhaka.

**Ctg mayor sees ISI link with SSA**

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Dec 11: Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said Pakistani intelligence agency ISI has a link with American company Stevedoring Services of America (SSA) that proposed a private container terminal at Patenga. Addressing a press conference at CCC office this afternoon Mohiuddin said ISI in collusion with some bureaucrats including former and incumbent secretaries concerned were hatching a conspiracy to destroy Chittagong Port through installation of a private container port at the mouth of Karnaphuli. See page 11 col 5

**Discord over SEMP issue drags on UNDP refuses to accept ERD agreed minutes**

By Special Correspondent The discord between the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) over lifting of suspension on the Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP) continues over the agreed minutes of a meeting in this regard on December 3. Sources concerned said UNDP has declined to accept agreed minutes circulated by the External Relations Division (ERD) following a meeting among the MOEF, UNDP and ERD. ERD convened the meeting to resolve the issue following suspension of the SEMP by MOEF on September 14 and subsequent threat by UNDP to withdraw the remaining 22 million dollars from the 26 million dollar programme. It also decided that it would not finance any more programme in the environment sector. The minutes were circulated by ERD last week but UNDP declined to accept that saying, its observations were not incorporated nor those were circulated along with the minutes separately despite an assurance. See page 11 col 3

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Savar Public Works Division  
Dhaka  
**Notice**  
This is for information of all concerned that in observance of great Victory Day on 16th December/2000 for cleanliness work of the National Martyred Memorial at Savar the visitor by the members of the public will remain restricted from 13.12.2000 to 15.12.2000. The inconvenience for the time being caused to valued visitors is regretted.  
**Executive Engineer**  
DFP-29782-7/12 Savar Public Works Division  
G-2168 Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

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