

PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS AND FREIGHT WORLDWIDE

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

AZ1007 Bass Reflex Speaker System Dynamic Bass Boost 60w pmpo music output Repeat & shuffle for CD Synchro Start Recording

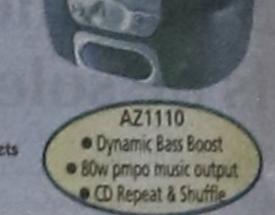


All Philips Products are Available on Instalments

and are backed by Countrywide Warranty.

VE V CD RADIO CASSETTE PLAYERS From

Transcom Electronics Ltd. DHAKA: Tel: 8115307-10. 9882192, 601024. 9009044. 8011442. Chittagong : Tel: 720385, 653758





Police escort a rally (top), led by Dr HBM Iqbal MP, following the shooting incident at Malibagh in the city yesterday. One of the four victims lies lifeless (bottom) as skirmishes continue in the background.

# Sajeda, her ministry officials won't join Sundarbans confce?

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

The 3-day first national conference on Sundarbans and fair-2001 will Environment and Forest.

According to a highly placed source in local administration. minister of the ministry concerned Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will not attend the conference expected to

Savings account

•

be inaugurated by President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Ziahall.

No high official of Sundarbans Forest Division and the conservator in the conference "Save Sundarbans." The conference aims at creating mass awareness to save resources of world's largest man-

Local officials of the Forest

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

For details, please call our Contact

Centre at 7113717-8 in Dhaka and

711154 ext.777 or 018 319436 in Chittagong. Call today!



Department apparently expressed their indignation for using the slogan "Save Sundarbans." But organisers of the conference begin here today without 'active of forest could be contacted for attached great importance to this participation' of the Ministry of confirmation of their participation slogan keeping in view that its resources must be saved from being looted in the name of conservation

> The distance between the organisers of the conference and the Forest officials widened further just after introduction of the logo which bears picture of a Royal Bengal Tiger and contains slogan 'Save Sundarbans.'

Swapan Guha, joint convenor of the conference committee said that efforts were made to convince Forest officials to support such a move for greater national interest. But the officials of the Forest Department have so far failed to extend their support on different pretexts, he said.

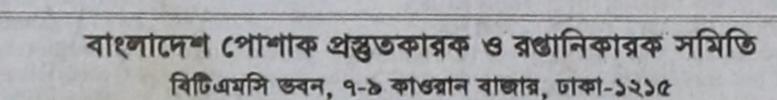
The high officials of Sundarbans Forest Division (SFD) and the Conservator of Forest said that they SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

#### Cancellation of Asian Gateway Launch

We regret to announce the cancellation of the launching ceremony of Asian Gateway on Wednesday, 14 February 2001 at the Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel due to unavoidable circumstances.

-Management

#### Standard & Chartered



#### युक्त काणा २००১ विषयक विष्वि

বিজিএমইএ'র সকল সম্মানিত সদস্যের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে ২০০১ইং কোটা বর্ষের মুক্ত কোটা বরাদ্দের জন্য আবেদন পত্র আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

বিজিএমইএ'র সদস্যভূক্ত সকল ইউনিট সমূহকে আগামী ২৫ ফেব্রুয়ারীর মধ্যে বিজিএমইএ'র ঢাকা ও চট্টগ্রামস্থ কার্যালয় হতে মুক্ত কোটা বরান্দের নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণপূর্বক চাহিদা মোতাবেক কাগজপত্র/দলিল দস্তাবেজসহ আগামী ৮ মার্চ ২০০১ইং এর মধ্যে তা বিজিএমইএ'র কার্যালয়ে জমা দেয়ার অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

উল্লেখ্য যে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনসমূহ বিজিএমইএ'র কার্যালয়ে বাছাইপূর্বক মনোনীত সদস্যবৃদ্দের সুপারিশসহ ইপিবিতে জমা করা হবে। অতএব বিজিএমইএ এর মাধ্যম ব্যতীত ও সুপারিশ বিহীন অবস্থায় যারা ইপিবিতে দরখাস্ত জমা করবেন তাদের আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

সচিব

# Offer prayers at mosques and protect sanctity, PM asks partymen

NAZMUL ASHRAF, from Natore

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the pious Muslims including leaders of the community to rise

"Islam is the best religion. But some terrorists are killing people in the mosques which they use for terrorist activities. They keep arms and bomb inside mosques scaring the devotees," she told a public meeting at Burirbhag School ground prior to holding a cabinet

meeting at the Uttara Ganabhaban yesterday (Tuesday). Hasina, also the president of ruling Awami League, asked the party activists to offer prayers at the mosques

and thus protect sanctity of the holy places.

"It's the responsibility of every Muslim to protect the mosques from the hands of those who are smearing the best religion. I also urge the pious Islamic leaders to act against those who let loose terrorism in the name of against the terrorists," she said in an oblique reference to the recent killing by the Islamic zealots at a mosque in

> The prime minister ridiculed opposition leader Khaleda Zia for her threat to topple the government as what she said the next election is only four to five months

"We'll hand over power to the caretaker government that will hold the election ... contest the election and

#### Gazipur rape: Polce yet fired gunshots, to nab culprit claims Iqbal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly two weeks have gone by since eleven-year-old Zeba (not her real name) was raped by a middle-aged man in Matichara village under Palash upazila in Gazipur district on February 1.

However, no step has been taken yet to arrest the culprit. In fact, police have so far refused to have the case registered against Saiful, the alleged criminal who is said to be an influential person.

Saiful has gone into hiding after the incident. His men, on the other hand, regularly threaten Zeba's family not to file any case against Meanwhile, Zeba was discharged

from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday after receiving treatment. She required

five stitches. Also, blood transfusion was needed to get her haemoglobin count back to normal.

Zeba talked to this correspondent about the incident while she was still under treatment on

Saiful took her to a pump-house with the promise of a job and twice raped her, she said.

Sonu Mian, a neighbour, rescued an unconscious Zeba and took her home. As she bled profusely through the night her father, a rickshawpuller, along with Sonu Mian took her to the DMCH the next day.

A distant cousin of Zeba, Mosharaf Hossain went to file a general diary (GD) with the Palash police station in Gazipur on the same day but the on-duty officer suggested that he file a case against the accused not a GD.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

#### KU convocation today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The second convocation of Khulna

University will be held today. Chancellor of the University President Shahabuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the convocation. He will give away certificates to 411 gradu-

Three brilliant students will be given gold medals at the convoca SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

#### Draft of safe blood transfusion bill approved

UNB, Natore

The cabinet meeting at Uttara Gonobhaban yesterday approved in principle the draft of Safe Blood Transfusion Bill.

The weekly meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also approved a Memorandum of SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



A familiar sight of young women in yellow saris and floral ornaments on the Pahela Falgun (the first day of spring) yesterday.

### ঈদ পুনর্মিলনী ও নৈশ ভোজের আমন্ত্রণ

জোন-১ (মালিবাগ, রামপুরা, মগবাজার, ইস্কাটন, বাসাবো, কমলাপুর, মতিঝিল প্রভৃতি এলাকা) ও পুরনো ঢাকার সম্মানিত পোশাক শিল্প মালিকদের এক ঈদ পুনর্মিলনী অনুষ্ঠান ও নৈশভোজে আমন্ত্রণ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

তারিখ : ফেব্রুয়ারী ১৫, ২০০১

: ০৭: ০০ ঘটিকা

: হোয়াইট হাউজ হোটেল ১৫৫ শান্তিনগর, ঢাকা।

शक. রিয়াজ উদ্দিন আহমেদ গোলাম সরোয়ার কামাল আহমেদ

খন্দকার জাহিদ হোসেন এম. ভ্যায়ুন মাহমুদ

নওসের হায়াত খান

# SEE PAGE 11 COL 6 **BNP** processionists

STAR REPORT

Dr H B M Iqbal MP at a hurriedly called press conference yesterday claimed that armed men from a BNP procession indiscriminately fired gunshots on 'a peaceful procession' of the ruling party which resulted in deaths of his three activists and one police constable.

In the face of questions from journalists at the press conference at the National Press Club last evening, the ruling party lawmaker could not disclose their identities. However, he insisted that the three were in the procession led by him. BNP on the other hand claimed that these three belonged to BNP and identified

"We've visited the hospital to see the dead and the injured admitted there and I hope we will be able to know their identities soon", Iqbal SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

#### Case under PSA in Ctg Arrest warrants against Morshed Khan, his son & four others

UNB, CIR

The CMM's Court yesterday issued arrest warrants against BNP leader Morshed Khan MP, his son Faisal Morshed Khan and four others accused in a case under the Public Safety Act.

The court also issued an order for attachment of moveable and immovable property of Morshed Khan, Faisal Morshed Khan and their car driver Mizanur Rahman by

They were sued for allegedly ransacking Misfallah Hotel in the port city's Nasirabad area on December 26. Earlier, the High Court had

granted them ad-interim bail till January 7 and it was not extended after expiry of the date.



US spacecraft NEAR Shoemaker's image of asteroid 433 Eros, taken from a range of 250 metres yesterday.

## Spacecraft makes historic touchdown on Eros

AFP, Washington

The US spacecraft NEAR Shoemaker on Monday made a historic unmanned touchdown on the surface of asteroid 433 Eros, mission director and Johns Hopkins University scientist Robert Farquhar said.

Just two days before Valentine's Day, NEAR finally had a date with the asteroid it had long been watching from afar.

Named after the Greek god of love, asteroid 433 Eros is 33 kilometres long and 13 kilometres in diameter and lies 316 million kilometres from SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

#### Some gangsters were seen in AL procession

STAR REPORT

A number of common faces of Dhaka's underworld gangs were seen in the 'peace procession' of the ruling Awami League led by Dr H B M Iqbal MP during hartal hours

- Liakat Hossain, a Jubo League leader, his younger brother Shawkat Hossain Nannu and Arman and Nisan -- members of Liakat-Hannan group -- were seen in the procession when gunshots were fired at Malibagh crossing.

former Jubo League leaders, SEE PAGE 11 COL 6 hartal yesterday.

leader Mirza Abbas were sued under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in connection with explosion of crackers and firing of shots near Malibagh intersection during hartal hours vesterday. Kabir Ahmed, a local Awami

Abbas, 17 others

sued under PSA

Eighteen people, including BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

League activist, filed a case with Ramna thana against Mirza Abbas, Chowdhury Alam and 16 others,

In the FIR, Kabir claimed that Mirza Abbas and his people opened Liakat along with other two fire and exploded crackers near Malibagh intersection during the



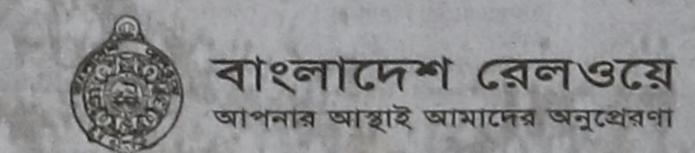
Publication of the special page of PEPSI Valentine Kothamala has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. You are not ditched! Your messages to your beloved ones will be published tomorrow! Please wait for a day!

### এই নৃশংসতা রোধে এগিয়ে আসুন

৭ ফব্রুয়ারী ভোর রাতে ফেণী রেল স্টেশনের অদূরে গুণবতি ও শর্শদীর মধ্যবর্তি রেল সেতৃতে সংঘটিত হয়েছে একটি ভয়াবহ ট্রেন দুর্ঘটনা। এতে নিহত হয়েছেন ২ জন। আহত হয়েছেন বেশ কয়েকজন। এই মর্মান্তিক ঘটনায় আমরা দু:খিত, শোকসন্তপ্ত। রেলের ফিশপ্লেট খুলে লাইন সরিয়ে রাখা জনিত নাশকতামূলক কাজের জন্যই সংঘটিত হয় এই দুর্ঘটনাটি। একটি যাত্রিবাহী ট্রেন, শত শত যাত্রী যাতে ভ্রমণ করেন, সেটি কোন অতভ শক্তির অপতংপরতায় লাইনচ্যুত হয়ে কতো অসংখ্য লোকের প্রাণহানি ঘটতে পারত তা ভাবলেও আতঙ্কিত হতে হয়। আল্লাহর অশেষ রহমতে এই দুর্ঘটনায় প্রাণহানি কম হলেও রেল সম্পদের বিপুল ক্ষয়ক্ষতি হয়েছে।

রেলওয়ে একটি জাতীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান। এর প্রতিটি সম্পদ জনগণের অর্থে কেনা। তাই এই সম্পদের হেফাজতের পবিত্র দায়িত্বও আমাদের সবার। যারা তাদের ঘৃণ্য স্বার্থে রেল সম্পদ ও যাত্রীসাধারণের জানমালের ক্ষতি করার ষড়যন্ত্র করে, তারা আপনার আমার বন্ধু হতে পারে না। তারা আমাদের সবার শক্ত। জাতির এই শক্রদের ষড়যন্ত্র রুখতে এদেরকে প্রতিহত করুন। রেল সম্পদের ধ্বংস রোধে তথা সৃষ্ঠ রেল পরিচালনায় কর্তৃপক্ষকে সহায়তা করুন। রেল কর্মচারীদের পাশাপাশি আপনারা স্থানীয়ভাবে সংঘবদ্ধ হয়ে রেল সম্পদ সংরক্ষণে এগিয়ে আসুন।

এই দুর্ঘটনায় নিহতদের স্বজনদের জানাই আমাদের গভীর সমবেদনা। আল্লাহ তাদেরকে এই অপরণীয় ক্ষতি সহ্য করার শক্তি দিন। যারা আহত হয়ে চিকিৎসাধীন আছেন, তারা দ্রুত আরোগ্য লাভ করুন, এই আমাদের প্রার্থনা।



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-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208, Rev. & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208, Rev. & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1208, Rev. & Commercial Offices: