

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



STAR REPORT

Transcom Electronics Ltd.

Official Licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio & TV sets DHAKA: Tel: 8115307-10. 9882192, 601024. 9009044. 8011442. Chittagong: Tel: 720385, 653758



Shilpi not yet out of danger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shilpi is not out of danger.

The condition of Amena Akhtar Shilpi, injured in Saturday's bomb explosion at Ramna Batamul, did

not improve. Still unconscious, 18-year old

Surgeons yesterday morning performed tracheostomy (formation of a small opening in the windpipe) to enable her breathe directly through the device known as venti-

"Tracheostomy was done to help Shilpi breathe directly through the ventilator. Shilpi was breathing through an air-tube inserted into her mouth, which was a bit difficult for a patient like her," said Dr Luthful Aziz, who is in charge of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

CT scan, an advanced stage of brain imaging, shows that Shilpi does not have any blood clot in her brain. "There is no need for surgical intervention for the time being," said Dr Aziz.

Shilpi will stay at the hospital until her condition improves. She is being treated free of cost, and all costs are borne by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Meanwhile, six of the injured in Saturday's Ramna Batamul bomb explosion are still in the intensive care unit (ICU) while two others are in separate wards of Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

"All six patients in their early twenties are doing fine and their condition have improved since their SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Property worth Tk 5 lakh of cotton mills gutted in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, CIR

Property worth Tk 5 lakh of lbrahim Cotton Mills was gutted at Natunpara under Bayezid thana in the city yesterday. The fire originated from an

electric short circuit at around 7.40 in the morning.

A ring machine and other machinery were damaged in the fire. BSS adds: In another fire, at least 60 thatched houses were burnt at Labour Colony of A K Khan Match Factory at Kalurghat.

One person was critically injured when he came in touch with a live electric wire. The fire originated from a kitchen in the colony.

The injured was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Over 300 labourers became homeless in the two-hour fire, sources said.

In another fire incident at Maizpara, Rubi Gate in Panchlaish thana 12 dwelling houses were gutted.

The fire originated from a burning cigarette and rendered more than a hundred people homeless.



Luminaries of the country's cultural arena lead a silent procession in the city yesterday. Organised by Chhayanaut, the procession protested the Ramna Batamul carnage that left nine people killed and 20 injured on Pahela Baishakh.

Resist conspiracy against Bangalee culture'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural luminaries at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday called upon all sections of the public to build up a "firm and massive" resistance against the religious

forgive them for their inhuman and by Chhayanaut to protest the barbaric act of bomb attack at Ramna Batamul during Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

They felt that a fresh, vigorous people in. movement should be initiated across the country against the forces who opposed the country's inde-

destroy Bangalee culture.

The cultural personalities also demanded that the motives behind the bomb explosion be unearthed, and the attackers and their patrons immediately arrested and punished.

Several hundred people, mostly cultural activists gathered at the They said modern society cannot Central Shaheed Minar, wearing black badge and carrying black flag. heinous act. The rally was organised A large contingent of police was has left everyone in utter shock. stationed in the area.

Police also scanned some areas on the Shaheed Minar premises and used metal detector while checking he said and demanded exemplary

The protest rally began with the song Eki Aparoop Roope Ma Tomai Herinu Palli Janani which was renpendence and were plotting to dered at the Ramna Batamul during

the Chhayanaut's function on Saturday morning when a bomb explosion killed nine people and injured 20 others.

Dr. Anisuzzaman told the rally that unnatural deaths and incidents of bomb explosion in the country were nothing new, but the bomb blast at the Chhayanaut function was different from the others and it

"The attack is not against any person, rather it's against our ageold Bangalee culture and tradition, punishment to the killers.

Terming the incident as a big blow to the Bengali culture, Dr. Anisuzzaman said the attack proved SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Govt appoints 2 Haripur plant needs fine-tuning ECs keeping Opposition in dark: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the government again proved its dishonesty by appointing two election commissioners afresh without consulting any opposition political party.

Giving his instant reaction to the reporters at the 29 Minto Road yesterday evening, Bhuiyan said, "Personally, I don't know the two retired judges appointed election commissioners (ECs) unilaterally by the Awami League government."

Bhuiyan also said the government on the eve of its departure from power appointed the ECs without consulting any political afterinauguration. party, which is completely unwise. The government did the same thing at the time of giving important SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

The 360MW Haripur power plant, installed by AES and inaugurated by from January 28, 2003.

the prime minister on April 15, would take two to three more weeks to reliably supply power to the national grid, sources said. The plant started test operations

from April 9 and supplied 15MW power to the national grid on April 15. However, it was shut down Monday as Titas stopped gas supply to install some valves at the local station and calibrate its equipment. "In the next few weeks, the plant AES, the government differed from

would run and be stopped as there is a lot of tests which AES should undertake," said a source explaining why the plant stopped functioning

With election drawing near, the government decided to push AES to begin operation much ahead of the schedule.

Development, AES was scheduled to

However, the US company declared last year that it would begin commercial operation using combined cycle technology from 2.72 cents. October 31 this year.

Ironically, while floating the power project, the government outlined a schedule of October 2001 as the Haripur private power plant's commercial operation deadline. Due to delays in negotiations with its original schedule by about two

However now, at the request of the government, AES agreed to supply 240MW from April 15 using simple cycle technology.

As this power supply has been arranged outside the actual contract, its tariff would be higher than

for reliable power supply As per its contract with the Power the contractual pricing of 2.72 US cents per kilowatt hour, a rate that is begin commercial power generation considered one of the lowest in the world. Sources said it would be around 5.5 cents per unit (or Tk 3.00). However, from October 31, PDB would purchase the power at

> PDB has initialled a short-term power purchase contract with AES for power supply using simple cycle technology. The final agreement is yet to be signed.

> Right now, whatever power AES would be producing as part of the plant test would be free.

"It is yet to begin operation commercially. The government is paying for the gas being provided by Titas, but AES is not charging anything until it is ready to provide power commercially," said a source adding AES would undertake a lot of tests this month.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Bus service suspended as extortionists demand toll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BRTC bus service on the Dhaka-Gazipur route has remained suspended for more than two weeks after the bus operators refused to pay an unspecified amount of tolls demanded by a group of extortionists.

BRTC sources said the services have been suspended since April 1 fearing reprisal from the extortionists. The sources, however, declined to disclose the amount.

They said a gang of local mastaans in Shimultali area in Joydevpur recently demanded 'a hefty sum' in exchange for a 'safe passage' of the commuter buses. The same gang in Shimultali and Joydevpur town has long been

demanding toll from the BRTC bus operators. On several occasions, the gang resorted to violence and snatched money from the bus operators. Following the latest demand, the company that runs the service on

lease from the BRTC decided to stop the buses from plying the route Twenty-six big buses operate on the route everyday commuting thousands of people. BRTC Chairman Azmal Chowdhry admitted that the bus service

remained suspended following toll demand by the local mastaans. He said the BRTC tried to start a new route from Konabari area follow

SEE PAGE11 COL 8

Hartal suicidal but unavoidable

Saifur tells AmCham meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Finance Minister M Saifur omy, Rahman has said the country is now going through a volatile situation has to be called. It is completely but hoped it would ultimately lead the politicians to show a compromising attitude and address the Rahman said. needs of the people.

members of American Chamber of many as 173 days of hartal," he said Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) at its monthly luncheon lag behind them." meeting at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday. US Ambassador Mary are leaving behind a fragile econ-Ann Peters was also present.

About hartal, the BNP stalwart

said 'personally I am not a fan of hartal' as it is suicidal for the econ-

"But it is unfortunate that hartal circumstantial. We don't have any other option as we have to survive" "We inherited the practice from

Rahman was addressing the our predecessors who enforced as .In a lighter vein, he added." We still

Rahman said the present rolers omy which would be very difficult

SEE PAGE11 COL 7

Bangabandhu Murder Case

Hearing on split verdict ends in Third Judge's Court

BSS, Dhaka

বিস্মিলারির রার্মানির রার্ম

অবিলম্বে ব্যর্থ, অযোগ্য, তাঁবেদার, ফ্যাসিস্ট, দূর্নীতিবাজ

আওয়ামী সরকারের পদত্যাগ এবং

অকার্যকর সংসদ ভেঙ্গে তত্তাবধায়ক সরকারের কাছে

ক্ষমতা হস্তান্তরের দাবীতে

••••• ঃ নেতৃত্ব দেবেন ঃ ••••••

দেশনেত্রী বেগম খালেদা জিয়া

মাওলানা মতিউর রহমান নিজামী

ডাঃ এম.এ.মতিন

মাওলানা মহিউদ্দিন খান

দলে দলে যোগ দিন

সর্বদলীয় সংগ্রাম পরিষদ, ঢাকা মহানগরী

১৯ এপ্রিল, বৃহস্পতিবার, বিকেল ৪টায়

পল্টন ময়দান থেকে

The hearing of Bangabandhu Murder Trial yesterday ended at the High Court with the prosecution reply to defence claims demanding acquittal of six of the 15 accused after 24 days of arguments on the split verdict of the previous bench.

"The case is adjourned for verdict (CAB)," Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim told the prosecution and defence lawyers when chief prosecution counsel Serajul Haq ended his submission before the third

He added that both the sides would be asked to appear on the day

he would pass the judgement on the

Earlier, replying to the defence claim questioning the legal basis of the trial of "army officers" in civil court, the chief prosecution counsel said the army authorities gave their clearance to try their personnel in line with the legal provisions.

Haq said according to the law both the civil and military courts could try the convicts. The army authority gave their approval to try them in civil court when Dhaka Sessions and District Judge in 1996

sent a letter to the army seeking their opinion on the matter before initiating the trial process.

On the claim of Khan Saifur Rahman, lawyer for convicted Lieutenant Cofonels Syed Farook Rahman and Muhiuddin Ahmed (artillery), that the August 15, 1975 carnage was part of an "army mutiny" therefore it should be tried in a military court, the prosecution said the legal definition did not apply in the case.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Opposition calls Ershad a 'collaborator' of AL govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led opposition alliance yesterday formally disowned Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, calling him a collaborator of the Awami League government. "The desertion of Ershad will not

do any harm to the opposition movement," a meeting of the Central Liaison Committee (CLC) Held at the BNP central office

yesterday with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair, the meeting said those betraying the current movement SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Former president and chairman of his faction of Jatiya Party HM Ershad addresses an extended meeting of the party at the Institution of Engineers in the city yesterday.

Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?



The Baily Star- aux sign **Tipu Treatment Fund**

Donate generously to this Fund Save Tipu from Disability

Send donations to: Savings Account No. 25002111 Dhaka Bank Ltd. Karwan Bazar Branch, Dhaka



Export Promotion Bureau

122-124, Motijheel C/A Dhaka

Notice

All concerned are hereby informed that due to unavoidable circumstances the 33rd meeting of the Export Promotion Council will now be held on the 29th April, 2001 at Sonargaon Hotel at 10:00 am instead of the 18th April, 2001 as was notified earlier. Letters have already been sent to all concerned in this regard. EPB is extremely sorry for the inconveniences caused.

GD-344

Director (P & P) Export Promotion Bureau

Dhaka

UNIQUE HOTEL & RESORTS LTD



Unique Hotel & Resorts Ltd., a concern of Unique Group has started its operation with a view to constructing a five-star business hotel in Dhaka. The company has signed partnership agreement/ten-year management contract (renewable), with world famous American business hotel chain Starwood Hotel & Resorts World Wide Inc.

Unique Hotel & Resorts Ltd. is implementing an investment program that includes such activities as 'The Westin Dhaka', a five-star business hotel. The project is to build and operate a 242- room 5 star hotel with Heavenly bed, of a standard that international business visitors would expect, in an area of Dhaka known as Gulshan, approximately midway between the Increasingly congested city center and Dhaka's international airport

An Environmental Review Summary Report for the project has been prepared by International Finance Corporation as part of Its environmental and social due diligence. The Environmental Review Summary Report will be available for public review starting 18/04/2001 at the following places.

Unique Group of Companies Ltd. 51/B, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213

Plot No. 1, CWN (B), Road No. 45, Gulshan -2, Dhaka -1212

Members of the public can view the Environmental Review Summary Report until 18/05/2001. Questions may be directed to:

Lokman Hossain Project Management Team

51/B, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka -1213 Tel: 9885116-23 Ext: 118, Fax: (880-2) 8823392, 8824107 E-mail: <bre@bdcom.com>

FINTOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd., 229 Tojgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motifheel C.A., Dhak