



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Haphazardly parked rickshaws create chaos in front of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital every day causing extreme inconvenience to the staff and the patients alike.

## EC decision on SME investment by Dec

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Commission (EC) yesterday said it would adopt necessary decisions by year end to launch the second phase of the Asia Invest Programme for Bangladesh to help the country better integrate with the global economy.

"Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) will be provided to Bangladesh to ensure that Bangladesh gets the best advances out of WTO negotiations, the Doha Development Agenda," said Charge d'Affaires of the delegation of the EC to Bangladesh Anne Marchal.

The European Union (EU) diplomat disclosed the plans at the

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 23		5-54 pm
Sept 24	5-48 am	

### Prayer Timings

Sept 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-01	6-05
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

inaugural session of a five-day international training workshop titled 'Asia into the Market' that began at the BRAC Centre, Mohakhali in the city. Tradecraft Exchange of UK and Business Advisory Service Centre (BASC) are co-organisers of the workshop.

She said the EC, which has already enveloped 49 million euros for 2002-2006, would focus specially on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector of Bangladesh to develop.

She said the EC developed a series of programmes that provide technical assistance to stakeholders in Asia in general and Bangladesh in particular.

Promoting Euro-Asian business co-operation, helping European and Asian SMEs in their internationalisation process and increasing opportunities for mutual trade and investment are the key objectives of the second phase.

She said particular efforts should be concentrated on increasing the participation of the private sector of the less developed Asian countries in collaborative projects. This would cause to promote trade and investment, as well as improve their business framework conditions and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# Pentagon gives Bush Iraq war plan

AP, Washington

The Pentagon has delivered to President Bush a detailed set of options for using military force to remove Saddam Hussein from Iraq's presidency and neutralise his most dangerous weapons, a senior defence official said.

The highly classified plan was delivered to the White House in early September by Gen. Tommy Franks, the Central Command chief, who would run any military operation against Iraq. The plan will undergo additional refinements in the weeks ahead, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bush has made no decision on

Iraq, White House spokesman Sean McCormack said. "He has options before him, and he is reviewing his options."

On a visit to American troops in Kuwait, Franks said his forces are ready if called upon.

"We are prepared to undertake whatever activities and whatever actions we may be directed to take by our nation," he told a news conference Saturday. He also noted: "Our president has not made a decision to go to war."

Kuwait would be a likely launching pad for an attack against Iraq. Thousands of American and Kuwaiti forces are preparing to begin a large-scale training exercise in several days. Called "Eager Mace,"

it will use amphibious, ground, air and naval forces, including Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The exercise has not been publicly announced.

Also Saturday, Iraq said it would reject any new UN resolutions that Saddam's government believes are unfavourable. "The American officials are trying ... to issue new, bad resolutions from the Security Council," Iraq's state-run radio said.

McCormack said the White House found it "very disappointing that Iraq says it will not abide by future resolutions."

"We are working very hard within the international community, and specifically in the United States," he said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Drive against outlawed parties yields no result

ROVING CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The special police drive launched in the six trouble-prone northern districts on September 13 to arrest outlaws has produced virtually no result so far.

The drive in Natore, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Bogra, Pabna and Shirajganj districts followed several killings by members of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist party (PBCP), locally known as Sarbahara Party.

Police sources said that besides lack of logistic support, they are facing a serious problem of information leakage.

"Due to leakage of information just prior to a drive, many of our sleepless nights in the remote villages went in vain", Sayed Nazrul Islam, Superintendent of Police of Natore told this correspondent.

A senior police official in

Rajshahi seeking anonymity said, "Police are working with a list of over 1200 outlaws, which is more than three years' old".

When contacted, DIG of Rajshahi Police Range Shahidur Rahman Bhuiyan however said, "We have been facing the outlaws for quite a long time and we have specific lists of the miscreants".

Police are now on 'red alert' in the six districts following the killing of four policemen and looting of nine firearms from Radhuni Bari police camp in Sirajganj and slaughter of former Union Parishad chairman and Awami League leader A T M Hamidul Haq alias Shiraj Master in the same district on September 16.

After the two incidents, the drive got intensified with BDR joining police but none of the killers could be arrested and the looted arms and ammunition recovered.

Rather, panic gripped Shirajganj villages following random arrests in police-BDR joint raids. People of many villages fled homes to avoid random arrest, local people said.

Police however claim that the 50 or so outlaws who attacked the Radhuni Bari police camp are among the over 500 people arrested from the six districts in connection with the incident. But no clue to the attack on the police camp could be found by interrogating the arrested people, sources said.

Outlaws killed BNP leader and former UP chairman Abdus Subhan Master in Atrai in Naogaon district on August 30. They killed Cheukhali UP member Amjad Hossain Chowdhury Babul in Bagmara in Rajshahi on September 5.

The special drive was launched at

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## 'Nine-shooter' on four-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Notorious criminal Babul alias 'Ziku' Babul alias 'Nine shooter' Liton' yesterday was placed on a four-day remand for interrogation.

Kotwali police produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday afternoon and sought a 10-day remand. In its forwarding report, police said he is involved in different criminal activities and facing several criminal charges including that of murder, extortion and possession of automatic firearms. Police also said they want to remand him for interrogation to recover the firearms.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Kotwali police led by its Officer in charge ABM Sultan arrested Babul from Islampur Road Saturday morning.

Babul was also a bodyguard of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Outlaws active again in three districts of Barisal divn

25 killed in last 6 months

AROOP TALUKDAR, Barisal

Outlaws belonging to Sarbahara Party have become active again in several areas of Barisal division, committing robberies and murders and extorting money from people by giving death threats.

In the last six months, at least 25 killings took place in Gournadi, Babuganj, Muladi and Uzirpur upazilas in Barisal; Galachipa and Dashnina upazilas in Patuakhali and Swarupkathi and Nazirpur upazila in Pirojpur.

Incidents of robbery and extortion have increased alarmingly, creating panic among the people, sources in the areas said.

Some sources claimed that the outlaws are now trying to return to their respective 'areas' with the help of local influential leaders of different political parties, particularly the ruling party.

Besides crimes by them, several clashes took place between the rival Sarbahara Party groups led by Kamrul and Zia in different areas.

The outlaws normally become active during harvesting season and election when candidates hire them to influence voting, particularly in rural areas.

Sources close to outlaws said now they have no political ideology, they

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visits a stall at the Asia-Pacific Consultation Workshop on Water and Poverty at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre yesterday.

## Khaleda, Hasina condemn Israeli attack on Arafat HQ

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has strongly condemned the recent Israeli attack on the Palestinian Headquarters in Ramallah that threatened the life of President Yasser Arafat.

"The prime minister is gravely concerned about the personal security and safety of President Arafat," said a communiqué from the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

She cautioned that "Israel will be solely responsible for any harm that may come to President Arafat from this act of aggression by Israeli forces".

Bangladesh, said the PM, calls upon Israel to put an end to the attacks forthwith and strongly demands that Israel should withdraw all its forces from the Headquarters of Palestine and from

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Regional cooperation needed to develop water resources: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said unilateral intervention at the upper riparian region in the flows of common rivers worsens poverty situation of lower-riparian country like Bangladesh because water is very important for an agrarian economy.

Water is also an important component of poverty alleviation plan, she said as a donor-sponsored international meet began here to work out an appropriate water-management strategy.

Khaleda Zia told the opening session that a National Water Management Plan is under consideration for approval by her government for proper development of water resources.

But, the PM noted, as a lower-riparian country Bangladesh alone

cannot develop its water resources. "So we always attach importance to regional co-operation."

She said Bangladesh had been afflicted by poverty for some centuries. "The definition of poverty has now changed. Only having two square meals a day doesn't mean poverty alleviation," she said inaugurating the international workshop.

In her opening speech at the Asia-Pacific Consultation Workshop on Water and Poverty, the prime minister explained that matters like education, health and supply of safe drinking water are now getting equal importance along with ensuring two meals.

Hope that experiences to be gained through interaction between local and foreign water experts in the workshop would help in devel

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## BUET may reopen next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), which was shut down indefinitely on September 8 amidst a volatile campus situation, might be reopened at the end of this month.

BUET vice chancellor Prof. Alee Murtuza hinted at the possibility at a meeting yesterday with editors of different national dailies. The two-hour meeting from 12:00 noon was held at the BUET Council Building and was also attended by senior teachers of the university.

Prof. Murtuza sought cooperation of the media in establishing a congenial and favourable atmosphere at the country's lone public engineering university.

Meanwhile, BUET sources said the university's Academic Review

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6