

The Daily Star

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XII No. 223

DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2002

BHADRA 18, 1409 BS

ZAMADUS SANI 23, 1423 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE: TK 7.00



Fake notes fan out

MONJUR MAHMUD

Watch out, or you may find your purse filled with counterfeit banknotes. Or you may be circulating them unawares. At worst, you may land in jail.

Transacting 500 and 100 taka banknotes has become extremely risky as fake notes have been widely circulated in the market.

Neatly printed in high-quality paper, the counterfeit notes with close resemblance to the genuine ones dupe the human eye.

Worse still, even the central bank does not have adequate information about the counterfeit notes. The Bangladesh Bank officials admitted that 500 and 100 taka banknotes, especially those having the portrait (of Bangabandhu) had been widely circulated. Even the watermark and holographic thread are similar to those in the genuine ones.

But the officials could not say anything about the 500 taka fake notes bearing the signature of former BB governor Lutfur Rahman Sarker. What the BB officials can do is help people identify such counterfeit notes, they said.

"Law enforcers should find out the sources of counterfeit notes and take necessary actions," said a BB official preferring anonymity.

On the other hand, sources with close links to the racketeers say some organised groups are selling every one lakh fake notes at Tk 40,000.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Encroacher fills up big chunk of Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An encroacher has allegedly changed the course of the river Buriganga at Kamrangirchar, threatening several villages on the other side of the river with severe erosion.

The encroacher, Haji Enayetullah, a businessman from the city's Moulavibazar, has taken up an area, the size of two football fields, from the river Buriganga and filled it up recently with earth. He intends to set up an industry for producing 'edible oil' and has obtained the clearance from the Board of Investment. He further said he had to pay Tk one crore of his 'white money' for this purpose. He claimed he had bought the 'land', which originally belonged to the Raja of Bhawal.

BIWTA officials said the encroacher should be 'arrested' for blocking the passage of the river. The BIWTA officials, however, did not know what to do with the encroachment. There are about a dozen sites, including

the site of the Senakalyan Sangstha near Pagla, where encroachers have earth filled the river and occupied it. But so far there has been no move to stop the illegal business and free the river of encroachment. The official are enthusiastic about the prospect of setting up 'trade centers' on these sites. They seem to believe the costs of removing the earth would be high, so why not use the sites for 'income generating' purposes?

According to the experts of the BIWTA, the blatant encroachment obstructs the river flow and diverts its course towards the other bank where villages like Kholamura, Khagail, Patkajur and Barishur are situated.

BIWTA officials said that the encroachment by Haji Enayetullah is more 'aggressive and damaging' than that of Senakalyan Sangstha in the downstream. They termed the encroachment a 'sort of river dam' and said the offender should be prosecuted.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Sedition Charge Saleem Samad held, placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freelance journalist Saleem Samad was arrested yesterday on sedition charge for helping two foreign journalists in their "anti-state activities".

He was placed on a five-day remand for interrogation.

Plainclothes Detective Branch (DB) police raided a house at Uttara in the city at about 4:30am and arrested him.

He was taken to the DB headquarters at Mintoo Road and interrogated till he was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court at about 12:30pm.

Police said Samad was absconding since the two foreign journalists and their another local guide was arrested on Monday.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Arrested on a sedition charge, Saleem Samad, a journalist, is being taken to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

Rain spoils first ODI

HASAN MASOOD, from Chittagong

Heavy afternoon shower ruined what was turning out to be an exciting first one-day international between hosts Bangladesh and the West Indies at the MA Aziz Stadium here yesterday.

The home team were 90 for four at the end of the 17th over chasing a commanding Windies total of 275-7 when rain forced the players off the field.

Both teams are scheduled to leave the port city for Dhaka today morning to play the next two matches of the three-match series which will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on December 2 and 3.

Although the showers, courtesy of a depression in the Bay of Bengal, stopped briefly after half an hour, it came down again in full force just as the groundsmen were about to remove the covers leaving match referee Ranjan Madugalle with little option but to call the game off.

The rain spoiled the party for a boisterous 22 thousand-strong home crowd, who were bubbling in anticipation of a close finish.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

TAKE THAT: Bangladesh's young batsman Mohammad Ashraf hooks West Indian fast bowler Jermaine Lawson for six at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Khaleda arrives in Makkah to perform umrah

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday offered Jumatul Wida prayers, the last Juma prayer of the holy month of Ramadan, at the Masjid-e-Nababi.

She offered munajat seeking peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh and Muslim Ummah.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Press freedom in times of crisis

AFSAN CHOWDHURY

In these troubling times when the media and state relations have become closely entwined, one hopes that the media's right to report facts

govern properly is threatened if media feels threatened. Freedom of media is not a negotiable right and no state survives by curbing press freedom.

NEWS ANALYSIS

reporting by international media has cre doesn't become a casualty. Irresponsible and unprofessional reporting doesn't qualify as media but any governments' ability to

Unfortunately, reporting by international media has created political problems within. International media -- both western and Indian -- have reported that Al-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3