

**DIGITAL SIGN & Banner Maker**  
ADVANCE AD  
POWER

# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION  
TODAY'S ISSUE 20 PAGES

**PHILIPS**  
VCD Player MP3  
SV 989  
Price: Tk. 8,990  
Transcom Electronics Limited

REGD. NO. DA 781 VOL. XIII No. 184 DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 23, 2003 SRABAN 8, 1410 BS ZAMADUL-AWAL 22, 1424 HIRI 20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 7.00

COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

## Saddam sons dead



FOX NEWS/REUTERS, Mosul  
The US military said yesterday it had confirmed that the two sons of Saddam Hussein, Qusay and Uday, had been killed in a fierce gun-battle in northern Iraq.  
"We're certain that Uday and Qusay were killed," Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez told a news conference in Baghdad. "We've used multiple sources to identify the individuals."  
Sanchez said the US military had been given a "walk-in" tip that Qusay and Uday were in the villa in Mosul that was raided by US forces earlier.  
He said it was a six-hour operation that involved various military units including special forces.  
"We had a walk-in last night that came in and gave us the informa-  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Container depot Tongi bound

RAFIQ HASAN  
The government has decided to move the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Kamalapur to Tongi in a bid to take the traffic pressure off the capital.  
The decision was taken last week at an inter-ministerial meeting with Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui in the chair. The meeting also formed a five-member committee headed by Secretary for Shipping Zulfiqar Haider Chowdhury.  
The committee will recommend suitable places for the ICD after visiting Tongi, according to sources.  
The committee which also includes chairman of the Chittagong port, director general of the Bangladesh railway, a representative of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the deputy  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## 40,000 job cuts this yr, 75,000 by FY06

\$300m WB loan to foot the bill  
REJAUUL KAJIR BYRON  
A large portion of the World Bank's \$300 million development support loans will be spent on shedding excess manpower from the state sector, and this year alone, Tk 1,490 crore will be spent on this.  
Some 40,000 staff from different state corporations and manufacturing units will be seen off this year with the support of the bank's loan, according to Privatisation Commission sources.  
The commission has targeted 32 industrial units for privatisation this year, 17 of them already closed.  
The government has also sent a list of 96 state-owned manufacturing units to the bank for privatisation by FY06. Some 75,000 to 100,000 staff of these units will be used before being sold off.  
The Privatisation Commission and ministries concerned are drawing lists of the staff. These units have some 200,000 staff.  
Chairman of the commission Enam Ahmed Chowdhury said the SoE restructuring is required not only to save government spending, but also to increase industrial output and create new jobs.  
"Those who will lose jobs will be adequately compensated for," he said, adding that the employees are not opposed to privatisation. Rather, the vested interest groups within the corporations are trying to hinder the process.  
The cabinet committee on economic affairs has recently decided to shed 5,500 staff of three corporations the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation and Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation.  
Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in a letter to President of  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



The Dhaka City Corporation bulldozes illegal billboards on Road No. 27 in Dhanmondi yesterday in a drive against widespread outdoor advertisement that adds to vision pollution.

## Dhaka-Agartala bus fare fixed at \$10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The two-way fare for Dhaka-Agartala bus service has been fixed at \$10 (about Tk 590), but it may not start in the second week of August.  
Both Dhaka and Agartala will operate two buses a day each one at 7am and another at 2pm Bangladesh time. The route for the four-hour journey will be Dhaka-Agartala via Bhairab Bazar, Brahmanbaria and Akhaura.  
This was decided at a review meeting between Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTC) and Tripura Road Transport Authority (TRTC) in Dhaka yesterday.  
But, sources said, a row between the foreign ministry and the communications ministry over who should propose the agreement cast uncertainty over the fate of the bus service. The cabinet meeting ended on Monday without a decision.  
Bangladesh team at the meeting was led by BRTC Chairman Taimur  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## Body of an abducted boy found in a ditch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Police yesterday recovered a badly decomposed body from a ditch at Rasulbagh in the city, claiming a headway in their probe into the abduction and killing of school boy Tanjirul Islam Mishi, 14, recently.  
Son of Saiful Islam, Mishi was abducted on July 5 from near his residence at Dania. The abductors demanded a ransom of Tk 3 lakh from his father.  
Mishi was a student of class four at Dania Sunrise Kindergarten.  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



The crisis of safe drinking water is intensely felt in the flood-affected districts like Munshiganj, where village girls struggle to collect water from a tubewell surrounded by floodwaters.

## Dhaka's four conditions for FTA talks

UNB, Dhaka  
The commerce minister yesterday said India would need to fulfil four prerequisites, including special and preferential treatment to Bangladesh goods, to obtain positive results in the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations in October.  
At the July 14-16 foreign minister-level Indo-Bangla Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting in Dhaka, both the countries agreed to initiate FTA talks in mid-October.  
At a press briefing with members of the Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (OCAB), Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said Bangladesh wants to have some "early harvests" by way of resolving trade disputes with India before going into the proposed free-trade talks.  
The FTA negotiations have to start on the basis of already-due special and differential treatment to  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Joint forces comb Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna  
A 170-member contingent of the joint forces led by two BDR captains and equipped with four motor launches started combing the Sundarbans on the third day of the Operation Spider Web yesterday.  
Besides, a helicopter carrying a joint forces team was hovering over Dumuria and Rupsha upazila of Khulna yesterday as part of the drive by police, BDR, Coast Guard and ansars to flush out outlaws, criminals and their godfathers in the south-western districts.  
The border areas are also under strict surveillance by the joint forces to prevent the wanted ones from fleeing the country.  
Twenty-two listed criminals were nabbed from different upazila of  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Govt to form Gram Sarkar on Aug 2 despite HC rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Despite a High Court showcause on formation of Gram Sarkar, the government will go ahead with its plan of forming units of the local government body from August 2.  
Some 40,392 Gram Sarkar units will be formed in 45 days beginning August 2. One Gram Sarkar unit will be constituted in each of 40,392 wards under 4,488 Union Parishads (UPs).  
The President assented to the  
Gram Sarkar Act on February 27 after it was passed by parliament. On June 6, eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain filed a writ petition challenging the legality of Gram Sarkar.  
Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the ministry has completed training of some 7,000 trainers, who are government officials at the upazila level, to familiarise them with different aspects of Gram  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Flood fury ebbs but erosion goes on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The overall flood situation in terms of water recession is improving, but life in the affected areas has come to a standstill, with large numbers of dwellings and vast tracts of cropland washed away.  
Receding floodwaters are causing severe erosion in several north-western districts, rendering hundreds of families homeless, according to reports received.  
Erosion is taking place in fresh areas in Shibaboy and Harirampur upazila of Manikganj and Loubhajang upazila of Munshiganj.  
The month-long floods, triggered by heavy rain and an onrush of waters from upstream, have affected around 900 units in 135 upazila of 26 districts, leaving about 40 lakh people marooned.  
The water level in both Brahmaputra and the Ganges continue to fall, according to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).  
Although the rivers around Dhaka city are still flowing close to danger level, the flood situation in  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Barapukuria Coal Mine Govt dumps costly Chinese company

UNB, Dhaka  
The government has rejected a proposal of the China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC) to continue operation of Barapukuria Coal Mine due to the high operational cost quoted by the Chinese company.  
Officials said the CMC, with which state-run Petrobangla is now constructing the mine, quoted 30 dollars for producing each ton of coal.  
But, according to State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain, the government found that the project would not be viable unless the per ton production cost is about 22-23 dollars.  
Officials at Petrobangla and some experts, however, said the operational production cost should be even much less, around 10-15 dollars.  
They said per ton production cost should be lower as the government has offered to bear the power cost.  
The state minister for energy told journalists yesterday that some international companies have shown interest in response to the government tender for management and operation of Barapukuria Coal Mine.  
"We are optimistic about getting a very good price, which will make the project viable," he said.  
Petrobangla officials said per ton production cost of 20 dollars for the contractor could make the project viable. They said their target is to sell coal from Barapukuria at slightly above 60 dollars per ton with government expenditure of 40 dollars.  
"At 40 dollars, we'll not be able to make the project viable if we've to pay the production and management contractor more than 20  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Amu's residence damaged by JCD, Jubo Dal men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal  
Unruly activists of the front organisations of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) damaged the houses and shop of four Awami League leaders including Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu in Jhalakathi town last night.  
Police and witnesses said the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal also assaulted district Krishak League President Abdul Mannan during the vandalism.  
The activists raided the house and chamber of AL district unit president Shahjahan Ashraf, the shop of Municipality Chairman Belayet Hossain and the residence of Mannan.  
Locals and police said the activists on 10 to 12 motorcycles attacked the home of Amu at about 8:30pm and tore down its boundary fence, doors and windowpanes.  
Earlier, the activists of district BNP and its front organisations under the banner of the 'Nagarik Parishad' submitted a memorandum to the local deputy commissioner, demanding immediate action against Belayet for what they termed his corruption in awarding tenders.  
The JCD and Jubo Dal leaders and workers also brought out a procession in support of their demand and the procession soon turned violent.

ঝিমুনি লাগছে?  
নিমেষেই চাঙ্গা হয়ে উঠুন আপনার ফিনলে চায়ে চুমুক দিয়ে।  
ফিনলে চা-MOOD বদলে যাবে  
Finlays

**We Provide Housing Solutions**  
We are a Professional Team  
2,5,15 Katha plots available for sale  
BRAC CONCORD Lands Limited  
Phone: 8819772, 8819786, 9880302, 8827673, 9353736, 8354353  
Mobile: 0171 853900, 018-285264, 019-349107