



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIII No. 294

DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2003

www.thedailystar.net

KARTIK 27, 1410 BS

RAMADAN 15, 1424 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE TK 10.00

Internet telephony finally legalised

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The government has finally legalised internet telephony, technically termed the voice over internet protocol (VoIP).

The move will reduce international call charges substantially and is expected to boom IT-enabled services. It will also allow the mobile-to-mobile phone users to

receive overseas calls.

A cabinet meeting presided over by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday however set some conditions like paying licence fees and security deposit for obtaining licence for the internet-based technology.

The operators will also have to generate and terminate calls through the Bangladesh Telegraph

and Telephone Board (BTB) international gateway.

Earlier, the Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Centre (IIFC) recommended licence fee ranging between Tk 30 lakh and Tk 40 lakh. But sources said the cabinet yesterday has asked Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to set a higher licence fee to discourage shady

firms.

The BTRC will award licences and oversee the operation of the VoIP operators.

The delayed approval of the VoIP has already cost the country crores in revenue as illegal operators having close links with the government are still doing a brisk business in call termination. The proposal to legalise

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

US warns of more al-Qaeda attacks

Saudi vows no rest in killer capture

AGENCIES, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia yesterday vowed not to rest until the capture of suspected al-Qaeda militants who blew up a housing compound killing at least 17 people and wounding about 120 more, as the US warned of more al-Qaeda attacks to topple the Saudi government and royal family.

"It is quite clear to me that al-Qaeda wants to take down the royal family and the government of Saudi Arabia," US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told Al Arabiya television, excerpts of which were broadcast yesterday.

The world's biggest oil exporter, battling a surge in Islamist violence,

said it would hunt down those behind the attack on a housing compound in Riyadh and, along with Washington, blamed al-Qaeda.

"We will get the perpetrators... who claim to be Muslim," Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz said, insisting the kingdom would not be destabilised as US President George W. Bush offered full support.

"We will get to them, God willing, no matter how long it takes," Nayef pledged after inspecting the devastated al-Muhaya residential compound west of Riyadh.

"This will be the job of all the sons of this homeland, chiefly security

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

IGP faces contempt charge, asked to appear in HC

SC CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahudul Haque to appear in court on Saturday to explain why proceedings on contempt of court should not be drawn against him.

The court issued a *suo moto* rule on the police chief asking him to explain why he would not face contempt charges for his use of language in a clarification sent to the registrar of the Supreme Court on queries in regard to a contempt case against five police sergeants in August.

The HC Division Bench of Justice

MA Aziz and Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed -- set to conduct contempt proceedings -- issued the rule on and the directive to the IGP.

On a query from the court, the IGP sent a clarification containing some contemptuous statements degrading the status of a judge of the High Court, the court observed while issuing the rule and the directive.

On August 20, an HC Division Bench of Justice Md Tafazzul Islam and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman issued a notice of query on the IGP to explain whether they teach the warrant of precedence

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Wayside sellers do brisk business near the Baitul Mukarram Mosque yesterday, as Eid shopping picks up steam in Dhaka.

Eid shoppers reel under high-priced clothes

M ABDUR RAHIM

Eid shoppers are forced to fork out extra bucks on clothes this year as yarn price shoots up on the international market that pushes up the fabric production cost at home significantly.

Shopkeepers in city markets are now charging higher price on garments made of cotton yarn, prices of which have increased by 50 percent in the last two months.

At the city's busiest Gausia market, shopkeepers are charging Tk 50 to Tk 80 in excess for Tangail saree. Punjabi, pajama, three-piece, baby wears, shirt, lungi and other products of locally knitted cotton fabrics became costlier than last year.

"Prices of garment products swing upward before every Eid but this year we aren't increasing prices for extra profit. We had to pay high price on the wholesale market to procure cotton fabrics this year," said Mozammel Hossain, a shopkeeper at Gausia

yesterday.

He however said the price hike did not dampen the spirit of Eid shoppers. "Our last week's sale experience tells that the higher price hardly had a negative impact on shopping this year. The sale of Tangail sarees is so far so good," he said.

The excesses and export rejects from export-oriented garment factories that occupy a major portion of Eid market also become dearer this year because of the yarn price hike.

Mohammad Jamil, a shop owner at the Eastern Plaza, admitted of the rise but said they have little control over the price hike.

"Usually prices of garment products come down after Eid but this year it would not happen. Unless the prices drop at the international market the garment price will not come down," he said.

President of the Bangladesh Yarn Merchants Association Mohammad

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

England clinch ODI series

SPORTS REPORTER

The nightmares of Chittagong haunted Bangladesh again in Dhaka as they crashed to an identical seven-wicket defeat against England yesterday in the second of the three-match one-day series.

The tourists have now clinched the series 2-0 and are odds-on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

TOSHIBA
FLAT BOBA
DYNAMIC BOMBA SOUND SYSTEM
Colour TV
RANGS GROUP

ADB to lend \$530m next fiscal year

UNB, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank will lend \$530 million to Bangladesh as development assistance, mainly for infrastructures and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), in the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Combed & Carded in 20's, 24's, 26's, 28's, & 30's



Now available at **CHOWDHARY COTTON & YARN TRADERS.**

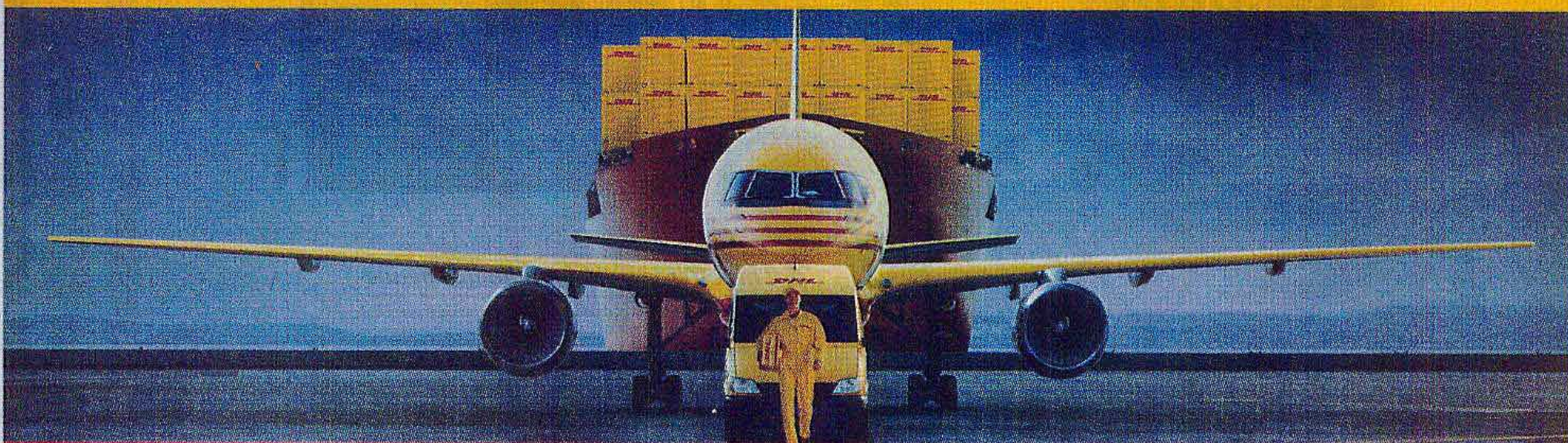
Super Quality 100% Cotton, Knit, Woven & Yarn!!

- * Made from Excellent Quality Cotton
- * State of the art New European Machinery
- * Autoconed & Electronically Spliced
- * Superior Quality Control devices with Uster equipments.
- * Foreign Experts in Production, Quality and Supervision Line.
- * Timely shipment & after sale service ensured

Please Contact to: **CHOWDHARY COTTON & YARN TRADERS**

Suite # 6 (1st Floor)
Chowdhary Complex
15, Purana Palton
Dhaka - 1000, Bangladesh
Tel : 88-(02) 955-9845
88-(02) 716-8991
Fax : 88-(02) 716-9518
e-mail : ccl@bol-online.com

Deutsche Post World Net
MAIL EXPRESS LOGISTICS FINANCE



More power.

There's a new global standard in express delivery, freight and logistics. DHL Worldwide Express, global leader in air express, Danzas, global leader in air and ocean freight, and Deutsche Post Euro Express, European leader in parcel delivery, have joined together under the name DHL to offer an even better all-round service. We can now offer you more performance, more service and more options in more than 220 countries. So whatever your needs, we can meet them. Call us on 9881703 (Dhaka)/812571-4 (Chittagong) or visit us at www.dhl.com to get the power of DHL behind your business.

WE MOVE THE WORLD **DHL**