



BUSINESS LAUNCHING

# Bangladesh costliest in South Asia

Reports World Bank Group

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cost of setting up business in Bangladesh is the highest in the South Asia, a region that itself lags far behind the rich economies in this case, said a World Bank (WB) Group report released yesterday.

The cost of launching a new business in Bangladesh is 91 percent of the gross national income per capita (GNIPC), compared to the regional average of 45.4 percent and the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) average of 8 percent.

For registration in Bangladesh, a company needs \$352.86 including \$100 for lawyer's verification of memorandum and article of associ-

ation, \$127.59 for filing documents with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and \$85.06 for obtaining a trade licence.

The costs are 74.1 percent in Nepal, 49.5 percent in India, 36 percent in Pakistan, 11 percent in Bhutan and 10.7 percent in Sri Lanka.

The report titled 'Doing Business in 2005: Removing Obstacles to Growth' however found Bangladesh in a much better position among the regional countries in terms of time needed to start a new venture, behind only Pakistan.

An entrepreneur needs 35 days to start business in Bangladesh, which is 89 days in India, 62 days in Bhutan, 50 days in Sri Lanka and 24 days in Pakistan.

The WB and the WB Group's private sector lending arm International Finance Corporation (IFC) compiled the report using information up to January last on 145 countries.

The cumbersome procedure of starting new business makes way for corruption, especially in the developing countries, the report observed.

It said, "Empirical analysis shows that burdensome entry regulations do not increase the quality of products, make work safer or reduce pollution. They hold back private investment, push more people into the informal economy, increase consumer prices and fuel corruption."

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## Buddhadev survives killing attempt

SAKYASEN MITTRA, from Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya yesterday escaped an assassination attempt, as the police removed landmines an hour before he was to address a gathering of bidi workers in Purulia district.

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## Outlaw leader lynched, 5 others hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A leader of an outlawed party was killed and five other activists were injured in mob beating at village Bamandanga in Assasuni upazila of the district on Wednesday night.

The dead, Damodar Mondal, 32, was the regional leader of Dakshin Bangla Chhinnamul Party. He hailed from village Hadda in Koira upazila of Khulna.

The injured outlaws are Haripada Mondal, Monotosh Mondal, Buddha Dev Sana of v i l l a g e

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## 40 killed in US-led raids on militants

Italian minister flying in to free kidnapped women in Iraq

AFP, Fallujah

At least 40 people were killed when US-led forces spearheaded overnight assaults on Iraq's northern trouble spot of Tall Afar and the notorious insurgent bastion of Fallujah, officials said yesterday.

Faced with its second Iraq hostage crisis in weeks, Rome's junior

foreign minister was to fly to the Middle East, desperate to save two kidnapped Italian women aid workers after Islamic captors killed an Italian journalist.

US warplanes hammered Tall Afar from night until afternoon as ground clashes dragged on for 12 hours between coalition forces and

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## Bangladesh loses a friend

Blood passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Archer K Blood, a selfless well-wisher of Bangladesh, who had supported the birth of the country through his writings, died of cardiac failure in the early hours of September 3 in Fort Collins, Colorado, USA, family sources said. He was 81.

Blood, American consul general in the then East Pakistan in 1971 and author of *The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh*, left behind his wife, two daughters, two sons, many friends and well-wishers to mourn his death.

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PHOTO: ANSUR RAHMAN

ORANGE ORCHESTRA! Mohammad Sujan (L) sparks off the Brothers Union celebration after netting the winning penalty in the shoot-out of the National Football League final against Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

## Jalil hints at crippling Ctg port, rail, road links

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday hinted the mainstream opposition parties' fresh agitation programme to dislodge the government might include paralysing the operation of Chittagong port and indefinite snapping of rail and road communications between the port city and the rest of the country.

"The port city had always played a pivotal role in all successful demo-

cratic and anti-autocracy movements in the country in the past and we like to launch such a movement against this government from here," Jalil said.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Laldighi Maidan here yesterday, he said "We (opposition parties) will hold separate party meetings tomorrow (Friday) evening in Dhaka and simultaneously announce programmes for a greater movement to oust the BNP-Jamaat

The meeting was jointly organised by Chittagong city and north and south district AL units, 11-party alliance, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and National Awami Party (NAP-Mozaffar) to protest the August 21 grenade attack on AL rally in Dhaka.

The authorities here tightened security centring the meeting. Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) and Armed Police Battalion (APBN) personnel were deployed in

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## EMAIL THREAT TO PM Charges pressed against two

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dhanmondi police yesterday pressed charges against two young men, arrested for threatening by email to blow up the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The accused are Khondaker Hasan Shahriar Dipu, 22, and Shafayet Wahid Sohel, 29.

The two mailed the office of the inspector general of police and Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) on August 25, threatening to raze the PMO to the ground if it did not pay Tk 3 crore to one Ahsan Habib Selim Reza of

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## BNPPP to witness lawmakers' anguish

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The upcoming parliamentary party meeting of the ruling BNP is likely to witness party lawmakers' dissatisfaction over a set of issues including law and order downslide and poor performance of some ministries.

Talking to The Daily Star some BNP lawmakers said they would again demand downsizing of the jumbo cabinet when the adjourned meeting of the parliamentary party will resume on September 13, a day after the 13th session of the Jatiya Sangsad opens.

Leader of the House Khaleda Zia, who will chair the meeting, will give some directives to her party lawmakers against the backdrop of the political scenario after the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League (AL) rally.

The attack that killed 19 people and injured over 200 others prompted the main opposition to launch a one-point movement for the ouster of the government.

The third parliamentary party meeting of the key ruling party BNP since 2001 ballot was adjourned in

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## Khulna education institutions on bomb alert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The heads of all academic institutions in Khulna Metropolitan City have been asked to remain on high alert following a bomb hoax at Khulna Zilla School yesterday.

A student first noticed a can wrapped up in tape and black and red wire and attached to a clock in a ground-floor toilet, said Headmaster Abu Sayeed Ahmed.

As it looked like a time bomb, panicked teachers, students and other staff left the school in a hurry and gathered in the school ground, he added.

Police and officials of different

intelligence agencies rushed to the school at 12:45pm and recovered the

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Prayer Timing		
September 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-17
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: AP

Nasa scientists examine and pick pieces of dirt from the Genesis capsule after it crashed Wednesday in Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.

## Space capsule carrying solar dust crashes

AP, Dugway Proving Ground

Scientists with tweezers picked through the twisted wreckage of a space capsule that crash-landed on Earth, hoping that microscopic clues to the evolution of the solar system weren't completely lost in Utah's salt flats.

Nasa engineers were stunned Wednesday when neither parachute deployed aboard the Genesis capsule and the craft plummeted to the ground at 193 mph, breaking open like a clamshell and exposing its collection of solar atoms to contamination.

"There was a big pit in my stomach," said physicist

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