

International packaging materials provided free of charge !!

For every shipment...



FedEx Express

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

we live to deliver

PHILIPS

Domestic Appliances

With 1 Year Warranty Card

Tel: Dhaka: 0110163, 9882142, 9886216, 9555903

Sylhet: 06215, Khulna: 722094, 7224995

Chittagong: 037659, 032759

Also available with Authorized Dealers

See the Sticker before you Purchase

Marketed by TRANSFORM ELECTRONICS

On the carton

On the Product

Baby sold for Tk 300 returned to mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathika

The one-month-old baby, who was sold for Tk 300 in Sathika Tuesday, was returned to her mother today at a simple ceremony held at the office of the Sathika deputy commissioner (DC).

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed the Sathika DC to return the baby to her mother after knowing of the incident reported by The Daily Star and other dailies.

Parvin Akhtar, the baby, is the daughter of late Abdur Razzak, a day-labourer from Benlia village in Assamupur upazila who died five days ago, leaving behind his wife and three daughters.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Dhaka to attend energy co-op talks in Myanmar

Minister refutes report on pipeline agreement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will sit with India and Myanmar in Yangon in January to discuss cooperation in energy sector but exact agenda for the tripartite dialogue is not yet finalised.

"But it is likely that we will discuss a pipeline network through which Myanmar plans to export gas

to India via Tripura, Bangladesh and West Bengal," State Minister for Energy Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday. "The Myanmar energy minister had earlier expressed his interest in this regard."

Quoting foreign ministry, Hossain said the Indian energy minister has also expressed interest in using Bangladesh as transit corridor for the gas pipeline.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Outlaw killed in 'crossfire' with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party (PBCPML) was killed in 'crossfire' with police in Chaudanga early yesterday.

Police arrested Mosharraf Hossain alias Moshai, 35, from village Rasulpur in Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

Following his statement, police went to village Kalpart in Sadar upazila to seize Janajuddho's hidden firearms at about 4:00am.

As police reached the village, the Janajuddho men opened fire on police, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

Moshai, trying to escape from police van, was caught in crossfire and died on the spot, police said.

Police seized one shotgun and four bullets from the spot.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

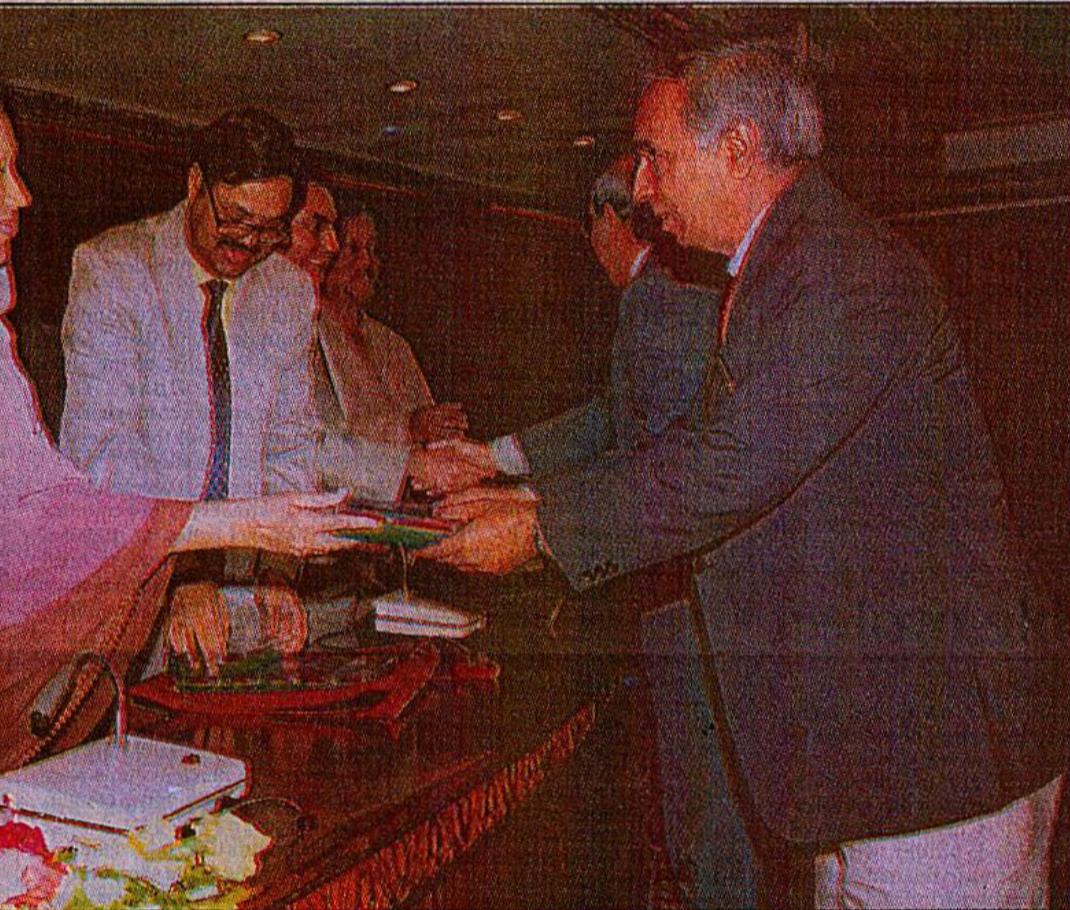


PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday handed over the keys of apartments allotted to government officials and documents of plots to the members of SAFF champion national football team at a function at International Conference Centre in Dhaka.

One to die for trafficking children to Dubai

UNB, Chandpur

The District Judge's Court here yesterday awarded death penalty to a young man in absentia and life imprisonment to his wife for trafficking two children to Dubai to work as camel jockey a decade ago.

According to prosecution, Mansoor and Monwara of Putia village in Paridganj upazila sent Mohsin of West Borai village and Emran of Santoshpur village, both aged about 5, to Dubai on March 24, 1994. They promised the poor parents employment of their sons.

In Dubai, the children were used as camel jockey for seven years. Bangladesh mission there rescued Mohsin and Emran in November 2001 and sent them back home.

The judge pronounced the verdict in a jam-packed court.

BISWA IJTEMA
Special trains arranged for devotees

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Railway has arranged special trains on different routes to facilitate the movement of devotees intending to join Biswa Ijtema.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Peace with India hinges on Kashmir

Pakistan PM says after talks with Manmohan

AFP, New Delhi

Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said yesterday he held "cordial and friendly" talks with his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh but insisted that Kashmir remains the core issue between the two nations.

Aziz, on his first official visit to India, told reporters he and Singh had covered bilateral and regional topics, including a proposed natural gas pipeline from Iran to India via Pakistan.

"The core issue between our two countries is the issue of Jammu and Kashmir," Aziz said.

India maintains that Kashmir is just one of many points of dispute

between the archrivals and has said all issues should be addressed simultaneously.

India's foreign secretary Shyam Saran was upbeat about the talks, which lasted 45 minutes before delegations began a working lunch.

"There was satisfaction that the dialogue process was moving forward... including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir," Saran told reporters.

"There was a very wide-ranging exchange of views and this took place in a very friendly and very constructive atmosphere."

Aziz earlier told Indian newspaper editors that the two countries must come up with "out-of-box solutions" to their decades-old

dispute over Kashmir and both sides had to discard their stated positions.

India and Pakistan both hold Kashmir in part but claim it in its entirety. The Himalayan region has been the cause of two of the three wars they have fought since independence from Britain in 1947.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf last month suggested that Kashmir could be divided into seven regions -- any one of which could be demilitarised and either placed under United Nations mandate, joint control or given independence.

Singh had promptly rejected the proposals, saying any redrawing of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Mongla port faces govt neglect

Top and important posts lying vacant for months

RAFIQ HASAN

The country's second seaport Mongla has been subject to negligence by the authorities concerned with its top post lying vacant for the last four months and many other important positions handled by non-professionals.

After the contractual job of MK Alam, chairman of the Mongla Port Authority (MPA), ended on July 19 this year, Mosharraf Hossain, member (finance) of MPA, was made

US Congress to probe polls irregularities

AFP, Washington

The Government Accountability Office, the investigating arm of the US Congress, will probe allegations of irregularities in the November 2 US presidential vote, lawmakers said Tuesday.

"We are pleased that the GAO has reviewed the concerns expressed in our letters and has found them of sufficient merit to warrant further investigation. On its own authority, the GAO will examine the security and accuracy of voting technologies, distribution and allocation of voting machines, and counting of provisional ballots," five Democratic lawmakers, who requested the inquiry, said in a statement.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

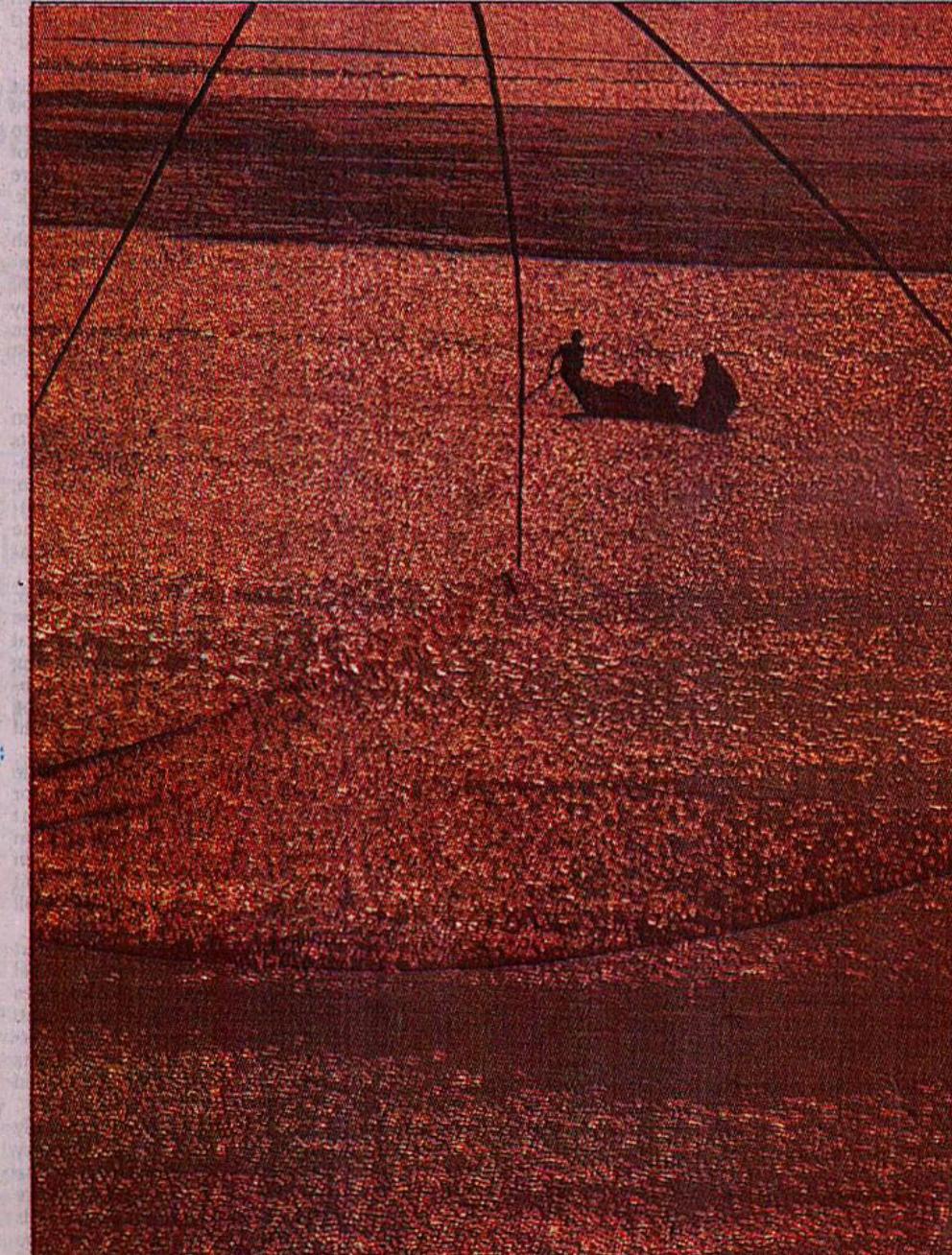
Source: Islamic Foundation

chairman in-charge of the port authority.

On October 21, Mosharraf went on leave preparatory to retirement (LPR) and the charge of acting chairman was then given to Nepal Chandra Sarker, a joint secretary of the Ministry of Shipping stationed in Dhaka.

But Sarker left for Sweden on October 30 to participate in a month-long training programme leaving the key position vacant.

FISHING AT SUNSET



During winter, fishermen net plenty of fish in the rivers. The photo shows two fishermen in a boat busy fishing in a creek at Basila on the outskirts of Dhaka yesterday.

10-yr-old girl raped, killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Criminals have raped, acid-burnt and strangled a 10-year-old schoolgirl in Hejuli in the town.

Juthi, daughter of Nowab Ali of Gorakul village in Jagin Union Parishad and a student of class four at Brac school, was abducted on her way to Hejuli Bazar Monday, family sources said.

On information, police yesterday recovered her body from Char Hejuli village in the town.

Locals suspect some addicts are the culprits who abducted her for her gold chain.

Benazir demands right to end exile

BBC ONLINE

Former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto has demanded the right to end her exile, a day after her husband was freed on bail after eight years in jail.

Benazir went into self-imposed exile in 1999 to avoid corruption charges, which are still outstanding.

She says it will be "good for Pakistan" if she is allowed to return.

Her husband, Asif Zardari, who had faced corruption and conspiracy to murder charges, said after being bailed he hoped to "galvanise democracy".

The BBC's Paul Anderson in Islamabad says the charges against Zardari and his wife have not gone away, but from the government's side, and Zardari's, the talk now is of reconciliation.

In another conciliatory act a day after Zardari's release, President

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2