**ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY** 

# Thais eager to help resolve traffic jam

Envoy suggests Dhaka to go for donors' soft loan



Suphat Chitranukroh

RAFIQ HASAN

Thailand is eager to help resolve traffic congestion in Dhaka with its Bangkok experience but Bangladesh should turn to donor countries for soft loans for the scheme, said Thailand

Ambassador Suphat Chitranukroh Thursday. "We can share the experience and help each other, but we are not a donor country to provide you loan at a low interest rate," he

said referring to the first talks between SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## 60,000 manpower may be sent to Qatar: FM

Bangladesh expects to send 50,000-60,000 skilled and semiskilled manpower to Qatar as an outcome of the prime minister's visit to the Gulf state.

The expectation is firmly founded on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's meeting with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani on the sidelines of the second South Summit in Doha.

The prime minister's meeting with the emir was a breakthrough in

recruiting manpower, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan told reporters at Zia International Airport on his return from Doha on Thursday night.

He said the emir has agreed to take "a large number" of Bangladeshi skilled and semiskilled manpower shortly. Although he would not say officially the exact number, but indications are that around 50,000-60,000 people will be recruited within months

The foreign minister said SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

### Hartal called in Khulna city today protesting proposed budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT. Khulna

The Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee (GKDACC) enforces a

dawn-to-dusk hartal in the metropolitan city today in protest against non-allocation of funds in SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

### Hasina leaves for Europe today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka today for an 11-day

She will visit the United Kingdom, France and Russia.

Hasina will leave Dhaka for London today at 8:00am by a British Airways flight. She will go to France SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Prayer Timing		
June 18		
	Azan	Jamaa
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

**Firefighters** and garment workers try to douse fire after a textile mill at the Savar EPZ (Export Processing Zone-Dhaka) burst into flames yester-

day morning.



# CID raids slum, fails to nab Mukul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CID men yesterday carried out a raid on city's Sat Tala slum in Mohakhali, taking George Mian, a suspect in the August 21 grenade blasts, with them but it did not yield anything.

Sources in the CID (criminal investigation department) said they raided the slum to arrest Mukul, another suspect in the August 21

George was a close aide to Mukul and involved in at least three murders

in Maghbazar and Mohakhali areas, added the source quoting Arman, one of the 23 top police-listed criminals, now detained under Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) custody.

Members of the intelligence agencies were on a manhunt for Mukul and George Mian since identifying the two in the television footages of the August 21 carnage which left 22 Awami League (AL) leaders and activists killed and over

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### breaks at DEPZ textile mill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out yesterday morning at a textile mill at the Savar EPZ (Export Processing Zone-Dhaka) damaging huge valuables of the

The factory authorities said the fire originated from a short circuit and claimed that properties worth around Tk 1 crore were damaged in

The firefighters, however, are yet to determine the reason behind

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TEACHERS RECRUITMENT AT DU

# Political links the best qualification

**HASAN JAHID TUSHER** 

Political affiliation seems to have become the main eligibility to become a teacher at Dhaka University (DU) since the authorities often allegedly recruit less qualified candidates depriving the brilliant

There are allegations that the DU authorities have appointed about a dozen teachers on political grounds in several departments including chemistry, soil, water and environment, law, geography, marketing,

pharmaceutical chemistry, computer science, English, population science, and the Institute of Fine Arts in recent times.

Besides, it has become a common practice with the selection committees to expedite the appointment procedure when there are 'chosen" candidates and, otherwise, delay it. Also the authorities often appoint their candidates without the recommendation of the Coordination and Development (C&D) committee, while insist for

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#### MEHERPUR ROBBERY

## 8 policemen sued, **OC** closed

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia** 

A case was lodged yesterday against eight policemen under speedy trial act for involvement in Wednesday's robbery in Gangni upazila of Meherpur while another police officer was disciplined for his alleged negligence.

Idrish Ali, a cow trader of Bamundi, yesterday filed the case in a magistrate's court. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gangni Police Station was closed in Khulna

The eight policemen allegedly committed a robbery at Idrish Ali's house at Bamundi in Gangni upazila at about midnight on Wednesday. Locals caught seven of them while one managed to flee. High officials of Meherpur police rescued the seven from the locals and arrested them in connection with the robbery.

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