

**SYLHET ARREST**  
**4 Indians yet to give any details**

**IQBAL SIDDIQUE, Sylhet**  
 The joint forces yesterday quizzed the four Indians arrested on suspicion of having involvement with Indian insurgent group, but failed to bring out any details about their group and activities.  
 The four Indians admitted to having experience of using the sophisticated firearms and Chinese

**Two int'l experts suggest overhaul of Niko relief well design**

**UNB, Dhaka**  
 Two international experts have suggested an overhaul of the drilling design of the Niko Resources for a relief well at a point 325 metres off the present relief well at Tengratila gas field that has erupted into flames.

**Hasina reaches ZIA half an hour before hartal**

**AGENCIES, Dhaka**  
 Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina arrived at Zia International Airport (ZIA) at 5:30am yesterday, two and half hours before the hartal enforced by the industrial workers from 6:00am.

Prayer Timing July 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-46	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Disqualified firm may get power contract**

**SHARIER KHAN**  
 The Power Development Board (PDB) is once again likely to award a power project to a disqualified company.  
 The PDB may award the 150megawatt (MW) combined cycle Chandpur power project to Chinese company Harbin although its bid submission stands invalid, sources said.  
 In the June 28 bid, Harbin filed a very attractive price offer of \$41 million, beating its nearest Chinese competitor CMEC by \$11 million and Indian company Bhel by \$24 million. But, Harbin did not submit any technical bid as required, which made its offer invalid. However, the PDB accepted the offer, much to the surprise of the other bidders.  
 This triggered CMEC to protest saying if Harbin's bid is not disqualified, it will be compelled to consider legal measures.  
 Bidders said besides lacking the

legal basis, the Harbin offer is also so tricky that the PDB will eventually lose more money for purchasing extra spare parts for the power plant if Harbin builds it.  
 Following CMEC's complaint, the PDB formed a technical evaluation subcommittee to scrutinise the bid proposals but the subcommittee has not yet received any documents related to the bids.  
 Instead of disqualifying Harbin, Project Director of the Chandpur scheme Tulsi Das Saha in a letter on July 9 sought a "revised technical proposal" from Harbin without any approval of the PDB's Technical Evaluation Committee, violating the Public Procurement Regulation 2003 that strictly prohibits receiving tender documents after submission date.  
 This letter was oddly captioned "Clarification on Proposal" although it actually sought the technical proposal after the bid had closed last month.

**Govt to import 200 AC buses from S Korea**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 The government has decided to import 200 CNG-run air-conditioned buses from South Korea in a bid to speed up the road communications in the city.  
 The decision came at a high-powered meeting on the performance of state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC). Communications Minister Nazmul Huda chaired the meeting held at his ministry yesterday.  
 A South Korean private company has proposed to provide 200 single-decker AC coaches on easy terms and conditions.  
 The Korean company would provide 85 percent money as soft loan, while the BRTC would provide the rest from its own fund, the meeting was told.  
 The meeting also decided to formulate a law to better conductors' manner towards passengers in private and public transport sectors.  
 Proposals to increase the number of the BRTC-run vehicles, introduce highway ambulance services,



Workers at Latif Bawani Jute Mills in Demra keep the wheels on defying the dawn-to-dusk hartal and 24-hour strike enforced by jute, cotton and textile workers yesterday.

**Down and out at Rohingya camps**

**MIZANUR KHAN, back from Cox's Bazar**  
 It was a pale afternoon when they came out of their canopies set up at the roadside three kilometres away from Teknaf. Men and children gathered on the wayside with gloomy faces while women were keeping their eyes with blank looks on the crowds, sitting at the entrances of the camp or working inside.  
 Arafat Begum, 21, who entered into Bangladesh with her parents around ten years back from Myanmar was breast feeding her 27-day-old daughter. Stagnant water in the area was spreading stink.  
 "I can spend days without food but what I will do if my son falls sick. There is no doctor, and nobody to save our lives," frustrated Arifa said while her 4-year-old son was standing beside.  
 "I do not have enough milk to feed my infant. There is no food, no



Arafat Begum, an unlisted Rohingya refugee, with her newborn daughter at a makeshift camp at Domdomia, three kilometres off Teknaf.

**Flood tightens grip in northern districts**

**STAR REPORT**  
 Flood situation has further worsened in the northern districts and some other parts of the country, aggravating people's suffering in those areas.  
 The flooding caused huge damage to crops and marooned thousands of people in the affected areas. Waterborne diseases have broken out in some areas.  
 As floodwater continued to inundate fresh areas across the country, more and more people are falling sick every day due to a lack of pure drinking water.  
 At least 15 people died of diarrhoeal and waterborne diseases, which also affected 62,894 people in the flood-hit areas in the last 16 days, official sources said.  
 Nonstop and heavy downpour and onrush of water from upstream India have caused the flash flood in a number of upazilas, specially the low-lying ones in Nilphamari,

**No test needed for college admission**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Colleges will enrol students into class XI for the academic year 2005-06 fully on the basis of GPA (grade point average) obtained in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination.  
 The decision was taken yesterday at an education ministry meeting with the minister Dr Osman Faruk in the chair.  
 Colleges are to complete the admission procedures within August 25 (without late fees), and start new classes from August 30, meeting sources said.  
 Although no admission test will be required, a college may arrange viva voce to select from the vying students if more than one student obtaining the same GPA compete for a seat.  
 Education Minister Osman Faruk has directed the board authorities to send transcripts within this month so that college admission procedures can start shortly.  
 Meanwhile, some colleges will enrol students even before getting transcripts to start admission procedure early.  
 Admission seekers will have to apply on prescribed forms and the colleges would not charge more than Tk 50 that includes Tk 10 for admission form and Tk 40 as admission processing fee.  
 Students of the Humanities group will be allowed to enrol in the Commerce group and Commerce students in Humanities if they want but students of Humanities and Commerce groups will not be allowed to enrol in Science group.  
 Science students can enrol in any other group if they want.  
 A record number of 15,631 students got GPA 5, the highest possible score in this year's SSC examination. The pass percentage rose to 52.57 percent from 48.03 percent in 2004.