

More flights ex DAC connect your shipment just-in-time.

FedEx Express
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

Call 9565114 (24 hour Call Center)

Whirlpool Refrigerator within your Budget.

Features:
● Frost/No Frost ● Multi-Airflow
● 25-30 Kg Capacity Freezer
● 360 Degree Cool
● Ice Twister ● Folding Wire Racks
● Humidity Control Larger Vegetable Crisper
● Anti Rust Lock ● Free Stand
● 1 Year Warranty

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS
Tel: Dhaka - 8110163, 9882192, Khulna - 720304
Chittagong - 637669, Bogra - 66215

Hasina criticises appointment of JCD men in EC

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday blasted the chief election commissioner (CEC) as well as the BNP-Jamaat alliance government for the reported appointment of Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres as upazila election officers.

"The chief election commissioner has proved his loyalty towards the ruling alliance by appointing the upazila election officers as per the list of the government. He lost his neutrality and transparency," Hasina said in a statement.

Hasina, also the president of the Awami League (AL), demanded immediate cancellation of the appointments to the posts of upazila election officers and resignation of the "partisan" CEC.

She said, "When the people, including the opposition parties, have become united for reforms in the caretaker government system and the Election Commission, the BNP-Jamaat alliance has cleared its way to rig the polls by appointing party cadres as upazila election officers".

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Market size, gas make Tata eye \$3b investment

RAFIQ HASAN
back from Jamshedpur, India

It is a very relevant question why India's industrial giant Tata is interested to come to Bangladesh for such a huge investment -- over \$3 billion -- the highest ever in the country from a single group.

According to its investment proposal, Tata will set up three basic industries and a coal mining project in Bangladesh. These include a steel plant producing 2.4 million tonnes hot rolled coil a year, a urea fertiliser factory with a production capacity of 10 lakh tonnes, a 1,000 MW plant and a project for extracting around 5-6 million tonnes of coal annually.

Tata high officials at Jamshedpur told Bangladesh journalists that the company found three advantages of investing in the country. First, Bangladesh is India's close neighbour, second, two basic raw materials -- gas and coal -- are available in the country and third, it has a big consumer market.

The company made the investment proposal when the Board of Investment of Bangladesh (BoI) approached it for setting up gas-based industries, they said.

The Bangladesh government also requested Tata group to consider using coal as fuel for power generation. The company then planned to explore the feasibility of developing an open cast coal mining project, the officials pointed out.

"If we set up a steel plant in Bangladesh, we will be able to take raw materials from our main plant in Jamshedpur," said one official.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Iron ore, the basic raw material for producing steel, could be taken from here by rail wagons, he added.

This will however require improving the railway system in Bangladesh. It will however enable the railway to earn around \$30 million a year from Tata by carrying its raw materials. The communications ministry has already been requested to improve rail tracks in its western zone, Tata officials mentioned.

The main problem of Bangladesh's railway is its old signal system, they said.

According to them, although the basic industries would not generate massive employment in Bangladesh, these would help growth of other industries. Lot of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

JS session prorogued

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The eighteenth session of parliament prorogued last night amid boycott by the main opposition Awami League (AL).

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar read out the prorogation order of the president at 10:20pm.

The nine-day brief session witnessed relatively a vibrant look than the previous ones with participation of 36 new women legislators.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, in his winding up speech, urged the main opposition Awami League to join the next session and assured them of all cooperation in the House.

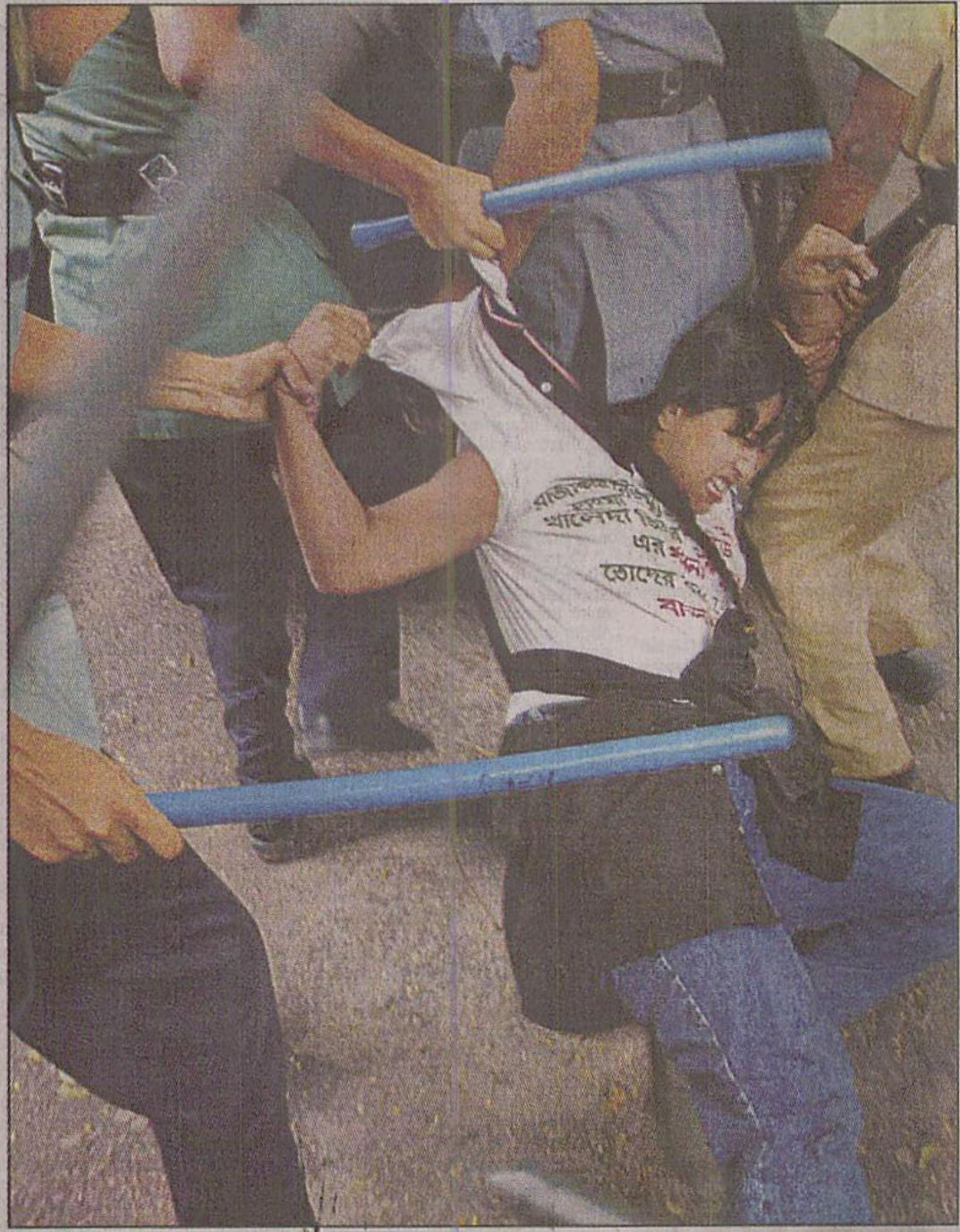
"Join the session and tell whatever you like," he said, adding that boycott of session will not help the AL, rather the main opposition party will get isolated from the people if it does not change its negative outlook.

Jatiya Party (Ershad) parliamentary leader Roushan Ershad spoke on behalf of the opposition.

During the session, the parliament passed nine bills including the Pure Food (Amendment) Bill 2005 and the Jagannath University Bill 2005.

Six other bills increasing the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



Police drag a Jubo Mahila League activist to a prison van at Dhanmondi in the capital yesterday during the hartal hours.

Housewife burned to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was burnt to death allegedly by her husband at Azimpur in the capital Tuesday afternoon while an angry mob beat up six robbers at Shyampur yesterday.

Besides, a mason was shot in Gulshan and an infant was rescued from the sunshade of a house in the city yesterday.

Rokeya Begum, 26, wife of Mohammad Babul, had a feud over her husband's extra marital affair on Tuesday around 2:00pm, her mother Rupban Begum told the press.

Babul, owner of an embroidery shop, and two of his employees poured kerosene on Rokeya and set fire, Rupban alleged. Babul had earlier demanded Tk 1 lakh as dowry from her family, she added.

Ripon, one of Babul's employees,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Indian Water Resources Minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

AL won't take part in any farcical polls

Jalil says

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat alliance is conspiring to hold a farcical election ignoring the opposition's demand for reforms to the Election Commission and the caretaker government system.

"Participation in any such one-sided, farcical election will be suicidal for us," Jalil said in an interview with the news agency.

"If there is any February 15-type election, there will be another election in the country," the AL general secretary said.

He said the political scenario will undergo positive changes in the wake of the massive political movement Awami League and its allies launch across the country.

Jalil said during the month of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

180 fishermen still untraced

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 180 fishermen with 15 fishing trawlers remained missing since Saturday as the vessels sailing from Kuakata are believed to have capsized in the rough sea under the influence of a depression.

Several hundred people, including relatives of the missing fishermen, are still waiting on the sea beach for their near and dear ones.

Fish Traders' Association on Monday sent three trawlers to the deep sea in search of the missing fishermen, but they did not return as of 3:00pm yesterday.

Abdus Salam Howlader and Nimai Chandra Das, president and secretary of Mohipur Fish Traders Association told this correspondent yesterday that 147 fishing boats of

the association with 800 fishermen aboard went to the deep sea on Friday. Of them, 120 boats with 500 fishermen on board returned on Tuesday night.

They said the fate of the remaining 300 fishermen is still uncertain.

However, the private news agency, BDNEWS, reported that over 5,000 fishermen, who went missing in the Bay of Bengal during inclement weather on Saturday night, returned to Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola and Cox's Bazar coasts yesterday.

Around one thousand trawlers of different areas with the fishermen from Cox's Bazar, Bhola, Chittagong, Noakhali, Patuakhali and other sea adjoining districts were driven away by the storm

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Hurricane Rita roars with new fury

Aims at Gulf of Mexico after pounding Cuba, Florida Keys

AP, Texas

Hospital and nursing home patients were evacuated and as many as 1 million other people were ordered to clear out along the Gulf Coast yesterday as Hurricane Rita turned into a 150-mph monster that could pummel Texas and bring more misery to New Orleans by week's end.

All of Galveston, vulnerable sections of Houston and Corpus Christi, and a mostly emptied-out New Orleans were under mandatory evacuation orders, one day after Rita sideswiped the Florida Keys as a far weaker storm and caused minor damage.

Having seen what 145-mph Hurricane Katrina did three weeks ago, many people were taking no chances as Rita swirled its way across the Gulf of Mexico.

"After this killer in New Orleans, Katrina, I just cannot fathom staying," 59-year-old Ldyyan Jean Jocque said before sunrise as she waited for an evacuation bus outside the Galveston Community Center. She had packed her Bible, some music and clothes into plastic bags and loaded her dog into a pet carrier.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Criminal killed in 'shootout'

A CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A listed criminal was killed and two policemen were injured during a shootout between the police and a gang of criminals in Sirajganj early yesterday.

Acting on secret information, police raided Somespur village in Belkuchi upazila of the district around 3:00am as members of an outlawed party were holding a meeting at a graveyard in the village. They arrested Lutfar Rahman, 38, from the spot while others managed to escape.

When the policemen were returning to Belkuchi an hour later, Lutfar's accomplices made a gun attack on them in a bid to snatch him away. Police opened fire in retaliation and at one point Lutfar was caught in 'crossfire' during the gunfight. He died on the spot, police said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

9 govt agencies owe Tk 858cr gas bill to Titas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of Tk 858.02 crore gas bill is pending with nine government organisations, Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, in charge of the energy and mineral resources ministry in parliament, told the House yesterday.

The outstanding amount to Petrobangla by Bangladesh Power Development Board is Tk 488.31 crore, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation Tk 144.37 crore, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation Tk 188.80 crore,

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation Tk 20.68 crore, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation Tk 6.57 crore, Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation Tk 6.96 crore, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Tk 0.71 crore, Dhaka Wasa Tk 0.36 crore, and Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation Tk 1.26 crore, the ministers said.

Meanwhile, against the backdrop of the country's worst power crisis in eight years, lawmakers yesterday in parliament demanded that the government ensure

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Mufti Hannan's brother remanded

BDNEWS, Gopalganj

Harkatul Jihad leader Mufti Hannan Munshi's brother Anisuzzaman Munshi Sagor, an accused in the case of planting bomb at the meeting venue of former prime minister and Awami League President Sheikh

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Prayer Timing

September 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Now Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd. is open on Saturdays

Considering the requirement of our valued customers the following 14 Authorised Dealer (AD) Branches of Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited will remain open from 9 a.m. till 1.00 p.m. on every Saturday and transaction hours will be from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Name of the Authorised Dealer Branches :

Dhaka: Motijheel Branch, Motijheel Corporate Branch, Moulvi Bazar Branch, VIP Road Branch, Banani Branch. **Chittagong:** Agrabad Branch, Khatungonj Branch, Jubilee Road Branch. **Rajshahi:** Rajshahi Branch. **Khulna:** Sir Iqbal Road Branch. **Bogra:** Bogra Branch. **Saidpur:** Saidpur Branch. **Sylhet:** Laldighir Par Branch.

AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK LIMITED

A rare combination of Shariah & Modern Banking

Head Office: 161 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. PABX: 9567885, 7123255-7
Fax: 880-2-9569351, E-mail: alarafah@bangla.net/www.al-arafah.com

Tigers in deep trouble

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo

Shahriar Nafees scored his maiden Test half-century in Bangladesh's feeble fightback to avoid another innings defeat at the hands of Sri Lanka in the second Test at the P Sara Stadium here on Wednesday.

No less than 16 wickets tumbled on the second day as the Tigers, skittled out for 191 in their first

innings in reply to the home side's 457-9 declared, were left struggling at 131 for four at stumps after forced to follow on. Bangladesh will need a further 135 runs to force Sri Lanka bat again.

Mohammad Ashraf, who made a cameo 42 off 41 balls in Bangladesh's first innings, was at crease on 21 with nightwatchman

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BANGLADESH'S TOUR TO SRILANKA

Dial 2002 from your GP Mobile and listen to the latest cricket related information

GrameenPhone
Proud Sponsor of Bangladesh National Cricket Team

YES, ON SATURDAYS TOO

To help you to carry on foreign trade without interruption the following of our branches will remain open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and transact business up to 12 noon

Dhaka Principal Office Gulshan Branch New Market Branch Foreign Exchange Branch Karwan Bazar Branch B. B. Avenue Branch Mouchak Branch	Narayanganj Tanbazar Branch	Khulna Khulna Branch
Chittagong Agrabad Branch Jubilee Road Branch	Jessore Benapole Branch	

The City Bank Limited
for relationship banking