

**Faster delivery**  
to the USA & Canada  
Call 9565114 (24 hour Call Center)

**FedEx**  
Express  
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.  
Largest of National Express Corporation



LCD Color Television

\* LCD WXGA Active Matrix TFT  
\* Screen Resolution (1280 x 768)  
\* Panel life : 60,000hrs  
\* Active Control Plus \* Integrated Tuner

Price : 30" , Model No : 30PF9946 - Tk. 199,000.00

**PHILIPS**  
sense and simplicity

Selected Showrooms For Philips Product

Dharmad: 0177046404, Kawan Bazar: 8110163, Gulshan: 9882192, Gulshan: 9896285, 9895825, Uttara: 0176748646, Moulana Bhasani Stadium: 956913, Badda: 0177372615, Savar: 0175-053387, Sholoshahar: 653758, Dampara: 637669, Khulna: 720304, 723695, Jessore: 62291, Bogra: 66215.

# Fraud grips security printing press

*It owns no hot stamping machine, but pays for it every year*

REAZ AHMAD

The state-run Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd (SPCBL) has been trapped in fraudulent practices in the supply of holographic cigarette stamps, the single largest source of government revenue earning.

Since the introduction of holographic foils in cigarette stamps in 2000-01, government's revenue from tobacco sector rose to Tk 3,300 crore a year from Tk 700 crore. But instead of procuring two hot stamp-

ing machines required for the job, the SPCBL is spending crores of taka on these machines every year to get the job done by private parties.

Officials said the SPCBL pays the machines' costs each time to private parties who supply the holographic foils. Each year the tender winners bring brand new hot stamping machines on 'import and re-export' basis.

But on receipt of the work order in the latest case, Ahead Optoelectronics of Taiwan and its local agent Hologram Bangladesh

Ltd (HBL) virtually held the SPCBL hostage by not importing new machines as required by the tender. They rather forced the SPCBL to allow them to reuse the old machines in February this year when any supply crises of holographic foils would have caused a huge revenue loss to the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Instead of importing and installing new machines on the SPCBL compound in Gazipur, Ahead and HBL made a cunning move and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## JCD men assault 5 ex-provosts of Jagannath Hall

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists of Dhaka University (DU) Jagannath Hall unit assaulted five former provosts of the hall yesterday.

Led by JCD Jagannath Hall unit Vice-President Kirit Majumder and Organising Secretary Mintu Basu, the JCD men ransacked the hall's TV rooms and assaulted employees and the guests attending a reception programme at the hall as the JCD men were not invited to the programme.

The reception was accorded by the Employees' Welfare Association of the hall to former hall provosts Dr Hiranmoy Sengupta, Dr Ajoy Kumar Roy, Dr Lalit Mohan Nath, Dr Paresh Chandra Mandal and Prof Jagadish Chandra Majumder and the employees who have retired recently.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## HURRICANE LOSES STEAM AFTER HITTING LAND

# Rita pounds Gulf Coast, triggers floods, fires

AFF, Beaumont

Hurricane Rita gave the US Gulf Coast its second pounding in four weeks yesterday, felling power lines and triggering fires and floods, but apparently sparing the region a feared knockout blow after Hurricane Katrina.

Yet as Rita lost steam after hitting land before dawn, a storm of criticism gathered over the messy evacuation of nearly three million people that highlighted lingering weaknesses in the US response to disasters.

Rita rammed the coasts of Texas and Louisiana bristling with vital oil

and chemical installations at 3:39 am (0739 GMT), unleashing a fearsome torrent of rain and winds howling at 195 kilometers per hour.

But within seven hours it had faded from a dangerous category three to a minimal category one on the Saffir-Simpson scale, leaving the cities of Houston and battered New Orleans largely unscathed and other communities counting their blessings.

"I expected the storm to be a heck of a lot worse," Brandon Allen, 32, a realtor in Port Arthur, said after surveying the damage in this coastal inlet city in an all-terrain vehicle.

Louisiana officials reported no

deaths or injuries from Rita. No new casualties were reported in Texas beyond 24 elderly people killed in an explosion aboard a fleeing bus Friday and an aged woman who succumbed to heat exhaustion.

But Rita still produced scenes of mayhem along a stretch of the southern US coast weary and bloodied by Katrina's fury last month that left at least 1,075 people dead and hundreds of thousands homeless.

Street signs, roofing, and other debris careened through the air and windows were smashed. Deluged streets were littered with downed powerlines and traffic lights and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Bhuiyan suggests death penalty for loan defaulters

BDNEWS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the loan defaulters who plunder people's money and resort to money laundering should be punished with death penalty.

The minister, also secretary general of the ruling BNP, advocated enactment of tough laws to deal with such elements.

Bhuiyan said this while addressing the installation ceremony of the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) of Janata Bank in the capital.

The minister favoured state-owned banking system, saying that despite all limitations, the state-owned banking system continued to contribute to the development of the agriculture and industrial sectors.

He, however, agreed with the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Dinajpur BNP leader dies in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A BNP leader of Ghoraghat upazila unit was lynched by a mob at Guagachhi village early yesterday.

Witnesses said 15 to 20 armed youths came to Guagachhi village of the upazila at about 1:30am. They claimed themselves as members of the BNP Ghoraghat unit and stormed into some houses.

As they started looting valuables from the houses, some of the inmates tactfully came out of their houses and cried for help.

At this, other villagers rushed to the spot and surrounded the youths. They caught three of the gang, including Sarwar Hossain and Shah Alam, president and secretary of BNP Ghoraghat unit.

They (villagers) beat up the three severely, resulting in the death of Shah Alam on the spot. Later, the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Rain paralyses Ctg, lightning kills 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least eight people were killed by lightning while torrential rain accompanied by gusty winds yesterday paralysed the port city with many of its areas including the city centre reeling under water.

Rain poured down on the city and adjoining areas incessantly for about six hours, starting from 4:30am. During the time, three people were injured in a wall collapse.

The unrelenting downpour inundated almost half of the city area and caused severe waterlogging, sending the city streets, in some cases, under waist-deep water.

Patenga Met office recorded a rainfall of 172 mm in the last 24 hours ending at 3:00pm yesterday. But the downpour resulting from monsoon and the full-moon tide

went on till 10:30pm, sources said.

Four people including a woman died when they were struck by lightning at two fishermen's villages under the coastal upazila of Sitakunda yesterday morning.

Of them, Sonabanshi Jalodas, 58, and Nepal Jalodas, 30, were killed by Dakshin Silimpur while Nepal Jalodas, 40, of Patiya upazila, and Arati Bala, in Bhatary area.

One youth identified as Abdul Mannan, 30, was killed in lightning while working in his yard at Hazipara under the city's Bayezid thana the same morning.

Three others were killed by lightning as they were crossing the river Karnaphuli between Char Patharghata under Karnaphuli thana and Bridgeghata under Kotwali thana in the city.

However, the reason for death of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Rickshaws slog through water as the road leading to Prabartak Intersection in Chittagong lies under knee-deep water yesterday, right, the rubble of an under-construction building's wall that collapsed during six hours of downpour yesterday in the port city.



PHOTO: STAR

## Where Asian workers face harsh realities

AFF, Dubai

Under a blistering sun, a Pakistani worker covered in dust peers at a luxurious tower block rising from the desert sands of Dubai, an eldorado for expatriates which can turn into a life of misery for Asian laborers.

The man was among hundreds of Asian workers who demonstrated on Monday to protest over months of unpaid wages, highlighting the plight of low-paid expatriate laborers in the oil-rich Gulf region.

Hundreds of thousands of Asians work on scores of mega projects across the wealthy emirate of Dubai, often living in dire conditions and toiling long hours in temperatures as high as 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit).

"I haven't even been able to earn

half of what I paid to come here," said the bearded man in blue worker's overalls who asked not to give his name.

"The agency which hired me lied -- like all of them operating in Asian countries. They advertised Dubai as a place with high salaries and ideal living conditions," he said bitterly.

The worker said he paid 13,000 dirhams (3,500 dollars) to the agency which hired him for his current job in Dubai. "I even had to sell some of my belongings and the jewelry of my mother."

He earns 750 dirhams (about 200 dollars) a month and works 11 hours per day fixing air-conditioning systems in ultra-humid Dubai, one of seven emirates making up the United Arab Emirates.

The Pakistani lives with several other roommates in a small, pre-

fabricated shack in a camp housing thousands of Asian workers with similar stories.

With its sights set on becoming the region's main business and tourism hub, Dubai is in the throes of a construction frenzy, with resorts, malls, sports installations and residential complexes sprouting up across its sands.

Expatriates are widely believed to make up about 80 percent of the emirate's population which exceeded one million residents earlier this year, with Asians making up the majority of foreigners.

Hundreds of Asian workers -- mostly from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh -- marched out of the site of the huge Palm Island project for the protest, in a street action which is highly unusual in the region.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## MILI RAPE, MURDER Fresh agitation in Rajshahi, hartal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A fresh agitation programme was launched in Rajshahi city yesterday demanding fair trial of nine-year-old schoolgirl Milli rape and murder case.

The residents of the city, led by the newly formed movement council for justice to murders, staged demonstrations and formed a human chain at zero point in the afternoon, blocking the road for an hour.

They will enforce a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city today and student strike at all educational institutions tomorrow.

The agitating people also held a rally at the zero point. Chaired by Milli's mother Hasina Begum, the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Thousands join anti-war march in US, Europe

AP, Washington

Opponents of the war in Iraq rallied by the thousands yesterday to demand the return of US troops, staging a day of protest, song and remembrance of the dead in marches through Washington and other cities in the US and Europe.

More than 2,000 people gathered on the Ellipse hours before the showcase demonstration past the White House, the first wave of what organizers said would be the largest Washington rally since the war began. President Bush himself was out of town, monitoring hurricane recovery efforts from Colorado and Texas.

"We have to get involved," said Erika McCroskey, 27, who came

from Des Moines, Iowa, with her younger sister and mother for her first demonstration, travelling in just one of the buses that poured into the capital from far-flung places.

"Bush Lied, Thousands Died," said one sign. "End the Occupation," said another.

While united against the war, political beliefs varied in the Washington crowd. Paul Rutherford, 60, of Vandalia, Mich., said he is a Republican who supported Bush in the last election and still does except for the war.

"President Bush needs to admit he made a mistake in the war and bring the troops home, and let's move on," he said. His wife, Judy, 58, called the removal of Saddam

Hussein "a noble mission" but said US troops should have left when claims that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction proved unfounded.

"We found that there were none and yet we still stay there and innocent people are dying daily," she said.

A crowd in London, estimated by police at 10,000, marched in support of withdrawing British troops from Iraq. Violent clashes between insurgents and British troops in the southern Iraq city of Basra in recent days highlighted the need to get out, protesters said.

"Enough is enough," said Lindsey German, an official of the Stop the War Coalition, which orga

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## Elderly man murdered after torture

Mugger dies in custody

DMCH CORRESPONDENT

Criminals gouged out the eyes and cut private parts of an elderly man before killing him while a mugger died, allegedly of torture, in police custody in the capital yesterday.

Locals found the body of a 75-year-old unknown man near a rickshaw garage at Balurmath area in Pallabi yesterday morning.

A policeman of Pallabi Police Station who recovered the body said the man was stabbed indiscriminately and excessive bleeding might have caused his death.

"The unknown killers gouged one of his eyes out and pierced the other, they also cut his private parts," the policeman said.

Locals said the killers dumped the body in the area on Friday night after killing him somewhere else.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

The street approaching Mouchak intersection in the capital is clogged with traffic even on the weekend after heavy rain yesterday morning caused severe waterlogging.

## POLICE REPORT Closed OC, family of Momin had property dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police report on Friday admitted dispute between the closed officer-in-charge (OC) of Motijheel Police Station and the family of the slain Mirpur Commerce College student Kamrul Islam Momin.

The one-member probe body in its report submitted to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner however says the feud over property does not clarify the OC was involved in the killing.

Kamrul was gunned down in front of their Ibrahimpur house on September 13. His family rejected the report terming it 'confusing' and 'intentionally made to save the OC'.

DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman on September 16 asked Additional Commissioner Faruq Ahmed to report on the OC's alleged link to the murder. The report shows four probable

reasons behind the killing. It has admitted the feud, but said further investigation is required in this regard.

The report also mentioned local Taaj group was furious at the family for refusing to give them a toll of Tk 5 lakh.

The family had turned Panu Howladar, Taaj's accomplice, in to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) that led

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

### Prayer Timing

September 25

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:35	5:10
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	6:00	6:05
Esha	7:30	8:00

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Know Your HSC Result over CITYCELL SMS, Instantly!**

Follow the steps below to get your result:

hsc.xxxxxx.dhaka

send

2525

send

Roll: xxxxxx  
Name: Raya  
Board: Dhaka  
GPA: 5.00

Type hsc.roll number.board  
You have to put the Dot (.) after each word.

The Board Names are:  
Dhaka, Jessore, Comilla, Chittagong, Barishal, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Madrasa

Send the SMS to 2525.

You will get the result in return SMS.

• SMS charges applicable • Result will be available after it is published on the internet • Content Liability: Inforev Limited

Powered By: **INFOREV LIMITED**

**Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited, Pacific Centre, 14 Mahatma C/A, Dhaka-1212**  
Phone: \*121 (from CityCell Mobile), 011-121121 (from any phone), website: www.citycell.com