

Low turns into land depression

UNB, Dhaka

The well marked low over the north-west Bay off Oriss-West Bengal coast moved north-northeastwards and turned into a land depression, triggering rain and squalls.

According to the met office, the land depression lay over West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh yesterday afternoon.

"It is likely to move in a northeasterly direction and weaken gradually by giving precipitation," said a special weather bulletin of the met office.

Its associated steep pressure gradient persists over the north Bay.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

# China company lodges complaint against PDB

Accuses it of 'foul play' in bid evaluation of Chandpur plant

SHARIER KHAN

For the first time, a Chinese company has lodged a formal complaint against the Power Development Board (PDB) under the Public Procurement Regulation (PPR) 2003 for "illegal practices" in the bid evaluation of Chandpur 150 megawatt combined cycle power project.

The company-- CMEC-- filed the complaint with the Complaint Review Panel under the Central Procurement Technical Unit of the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) on Thursday, sources said.

The IMED is likely to ask the power ministry within this week as per the PPR to halt the process of awarding the contract for Chandpur project to

Harbin till disposal of the complaint.

The CMEC had earlier complained to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the PDB itself accusing it (PDB) of favouring a disqualified Chinese company, Harbin, in the Chandpur bid.

In the June 28 bid, Harbin filed a bid beating its nearest competitor CMEC by 11 million dollars and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Hasina holds govt responsible for blasts

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the bomb blasts during proceedings of court in country's three districts amidst round the clock police guard cannot take place without "clear instigation and planning" by a section of the government.

"BNP-Jamaat alliance government is solely responsible for the blasts," She said in a statement and expressed grave concern over the series of bomb blasts in Laxmipur, Chittagong and Chandpur.

She cited the August 17 nationwide bomb blasts, saying that Islamist militant outfits, instigated

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# Civil Society Forum seeks market access for LDCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day International Civil Society Forum 2005-- For Advancing LDC Interests in the Sixth WTO Ministerial kicked off in the capital yesterday with a call for providing market access to the LDC products in the developed and developing countries.

"There remains much to be done to reverse the continued marginalisation of the least developed countries (LDCs). Our hopes and aspirations have been shattered by a sense of

frustration and disappointment," Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury said as chief guest at the inaugural session of the forum.

Around 50 representatives from 26 countries are participating in the forum organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) at Sheraton Hotel.

Pascal Lamy, director general (DG) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi, secretary general of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

India concerned at BDR chief's comment

UNB, Dhaka

The Indian High Commission yesterday expressed deep concern at the reported comment of the director general of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) to the effect that New Delhi did not protest the alleged involvement of Indian criminals in the August 17 bombings in Bangladesh.

The high commission in a press release issued in Dhaka took exception also to the reported comments made by the director general of external publicity on Sunday defending the BDR chief's statements.

"This is totally inaccurate and grossly misleading. The director

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

Garment workers slosh through stagnant rainwater in front of Mirpur Section-10 roundabout in the capital yesterday after a downpour.

## Rise of a terrorist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mufti Hannan, prime accused in a plot to assassinate the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina in July 2000, was reportedly trained in Peshawar in Pakistan and sent to Afghanistan to fight the former Soviet army.

Hannan had started education at Gohardanga Madrasa in Tungipara in Gopalganj and went to Indian Deoband Madrasa where he studied for six years. He however slipped to Karachi in Pakistan for further madrasa study.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Ramadan from tomorrow if moon sighted today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The holy month of Ramadan will begin in Bangladesh tomorrow if the Ramadan moon is sighted today.

The National Moon sighting Committee meets at the Islamic Foundation auditorium at 6:00pm today to take decision on the sighting of the moon, according to a press release.

State Minister for Religious Affairs and President of the National Moon sighting Committee Mosharref Hossain Shajahan will preside.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
October 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-53	5-56
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Aussie duo wins Nobel prize in medicine for ulcer research

AFP, Stockholm

Australian research duo Barry J. Marshall and J. Robin Warren were on Monday awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine for their breakthrough research on how to treat stomach ulcers, the Nobel jury said.

They "made the remarkable and unexpected discovery" that gastritis as well as peptic ulcer disease is the result of a stomach infection caused by the bacterium Helicobacter pylori, it said.

Marshall, 54, is from Kalgoorlie, Western Australia and researches at the QEII Medical Centre in Nedlands. Warren, 68, was born in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Tour boat capsizes in NY lake: 21 die

REUTERS, Glens Falls

Twenty-one people from a senior citizens' tour group were killed on Sunday when a small tour boat capsized after it hit the wake from a larger boat on Lake George in upstate New York, police said.

The 40-foot-long, glass-enclosed Ethan Allen, operated by Shoreline Cruises, was carrying 50 passengers and crew when it capsized on Lake George, a resort area 200 miles north of New York City at about 3 p.m. EDT, Warren County Sheriff Larry Cleveland told a news conference.

The passengers were from Michigan on a tour run by a Canadian company of several Northeastern

states. No identities were released.

Witnesses and authorities said the boat was making a left turn when it hit the wake of a larger boat, the Mohican, operated by Lake George Steamboat Co., which swamped and flipped the Ethan Allen sending the elderly passengers, who were on the upper deck and not wearing life jackets, into the water.

Twenty-seven people, ages 55 to 90, were taken to a local hospital, some with cardiac distress, broken ribs and shortness of breath, said Jayson White, a spokesman for Glens Falls hospital. Seven of those were admitted. The rest were released on Sunday.

Cleveland said all 29 people who

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# 26,000 depositors conned by swindler

Clash with police as they desperately want the fraud back

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least 26 people including a journalist were injured yesterday when Barisal police baton-charged hundreds of people who were demanding the release of the chief of a racketeering company in an effort to realise their deposits.

Allegedly instigated by agents of the

company, Bangali Shikkhito Samaj, which promised to double deposits in only three months, a large number of clients marched towards Barisal Kotwali Police Station for the release of Mehdi Hassan Doha, owner of the company.

Finding it hard to stymie the desperate clients, police started to club the

demonstrators, injuring many and causing unprecedented chaos and long traffic jams at the Bogura Road, Parara Road and Kotwali road crossing. The demonstrators pelted brickbats at police and damaged vehicles, turning

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2