



bangalalink™

An ISDN/ISDN Company CABLE



Blender with Mill & Chopper

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

Customer Inquiry 0 0172-6654623

Dealer Inquiry 0 0171-404591

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XV NO. 343

DHAKA MONDAY JANUARY 2, 2006

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

POUSH 19, 1412 BS

JILHAJ 1, 1426 HIRI

20 PAGES PRICE: TK 7.00

Eid-ul-Azha
on Jan 11

UNB, Dhaka

The Eid-ul-Azha will be celebrated in Bangladesh on January 11. It was officially announced yesterday following sighting of Jilhaj moon.

The National Moon Sighting Committee announced the date after a meeting held at the Islamic Foundation conference room yesterday evening.

State Minister for Religious Affairs and Chairman of the committee Mosharref Hossain Shahjahan presided over the meeting where Religious Affairs Secretary Rafiqul Islam and Acting Director of Islamic Foundation AM Badruddoza were present.

DCC cattle markets set to go to BNP men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will issue work orders today to the highest bidders in a controversial tender process for its 14 Eid cattle markets in the city.

A section of ruling BNP activists and some ward commissioners' men allegedly occupied the city corporation office in Nagar Bhaban on December 14 and 15, the dates for sale and submission of tender forms, so that the contracts go mainly to the ruling alliance men.

In absence of City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, who was abroad for treatment at that time, they virtually took control of the tender box.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

HEARING ON WRITS AGAINST FRESH VOTER LIST TODAY
Enumeration starts amid agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Work for the controversial fresh voter list by the manpower appointed mostly on political consideration began yesterday amid demonstrations by the main opposition Awami League (AL).

Over two lakh enumerators started collecting information about the prospective voters across the country yesterday while in the capital at least 25 people were

injured in a clash between police and the activists of AL's youth front trying to lay siege to the Election Commission (EC) secretariat.

According to our correspondents from across the country, the first day's business was marked by confusion and lack of coordination among the enumerators. People showed little interest to be on the list of would-be voters while there were hardly any campaign by the commission to generate

public awareness to this end.

In some places, up to 40 percent of voters were reported to be enlisted while in many other areas no enumeration staff was found to be in the field. Especially the uncertainty stemming from two writ petitions pending over the preparation of a new list seems to have dampened the enthusiasm of the enumerators. Allegations of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

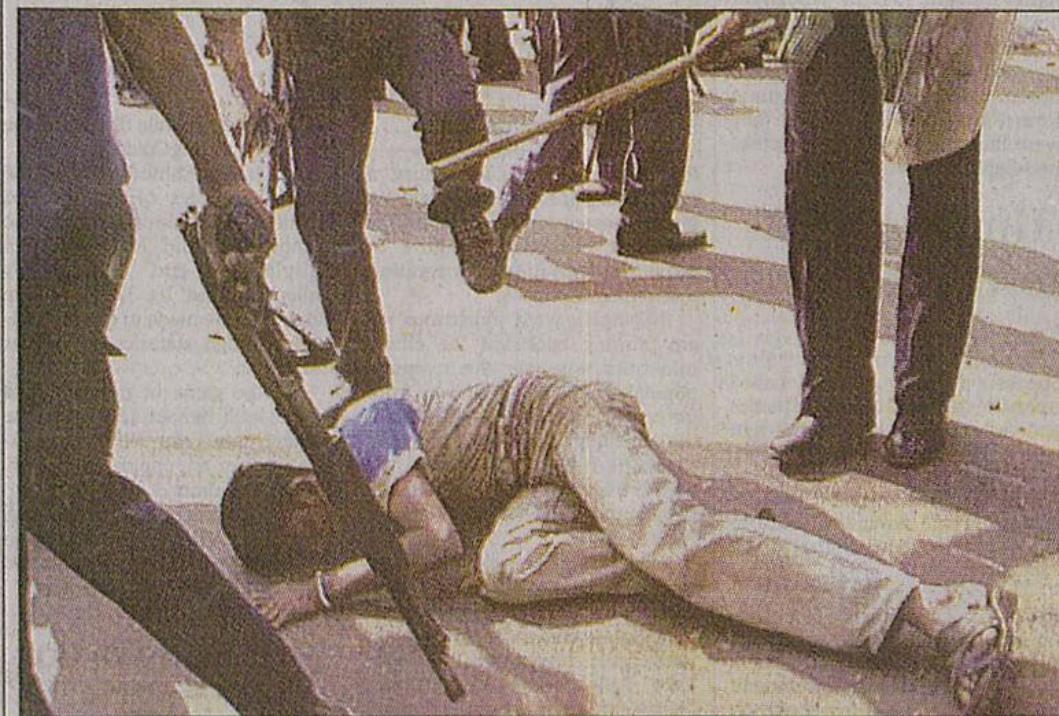
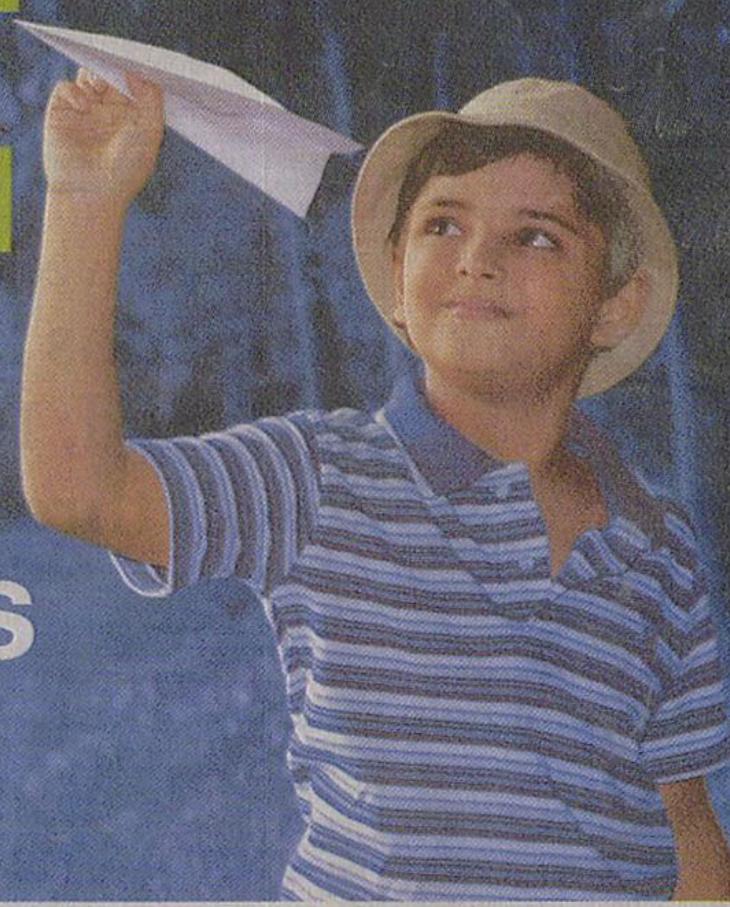


PHOTO: STAR

Police assault an activist of Juba League while dispersing a procession that tried to proceed towards the EC secretariat in the capital yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

You want
to see
the world
we'll
give you
the wings



Standard Chartered Prepaid US Dollar Travel Card - the best way to carry your money abroad!

Remember those carefree days, when traveling used to be just fun and without any uncertainties? With our Prepaid US Dollar Visa Travel Card, you can re-live those days while leaving the worries related to money matters with us.

- Load it up with the amount of your choice within the annual Personal Travel Quota*
- Accepted at over 13 Million Visa Merchants worldwide
- Cash withdrawal facility from over 850,000 ATMs across the world

For more information, please contact our 24-hour Call Centre at 8961151, 0173 041400-19.



I Travel Card I

Standard Chartered

Robber killed
in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

An alleged leader of inter-district robbers' syndicate was killed in "crossfire" during a shootout between his accomplices and the police at Araihazar in Narayanganj early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Motiar Rahman Moti, 38.

Araihazar police arrested Moti at Madanpur area Saturday night.

Following his confessional statement the police took him to Mardasadi village to recover illegal firearms and looted valuables. According to police sources when they reached the area, Moti's accomplices opened fire on them, against which police retaliated.

Moti fell in the line of fire and received bullets, the sources said, adding he succumbed to his injuries on the way to Araihazar Thana

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

RIGID STANCES ON REFORMS

Caretaker govt to find polls too hot to handle

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The next caretaker government may face an uphill task to conduct the parliamentary election in the wake of the looming political confrontation over electoral reforms.

Hopes of any dialogue to narrow the gap between the ruling coalition and the mainstream opposition have practically faded away due to their rigid stances over the reforms and moves to take control of street politics.

The opposition parties have declared their intention to resist

any election without electoral reforms while the ruling coalition has outright rejected their demand.

And the Election Commission (EC) remains silent on the reform issue.

If the situation remains unchanged and the reform issue is left for the interim government to handle, many believe a three-month turmoil is awaiting the caretaker government that will take over late next year.

They said even the formation of the caretaker government may not be easy as the opposition parties are

demanding reform in the system.

"The caretaker government will face difficulties conducting the general election by resolving the political crisis over the issue of electoral reforms," former adviser to the caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan told The Daily Star.

The interim government does not have much time to settle such disputes. So the issue of reforms should be resolved before handing over power to the caretaker government that runs the country for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

48-hr transport
strike in 21 dists
from today

UNB, Rajbari

Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation has called a 48-hour transport strike in 21 districts of southwestern region from today to press home their five-point demand.

The demands include withdrawal of false case against the transport workers and putting a halt to highway robbery and police harassment.

General secretary of Rajbari Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation Abdul Rashid said that they would continue their strike until their demands are met.

The organisation also demanded legal action against the law enforcers responsible for torturing three transport workers, including Rajbari Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union President Abdul Kuddus.

The young man while escaping from the violence was run over by a bus and died on the spot.

JP President HM Ershad along with his men went to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue and identified the person as Kabir Hossain of ward No

27 under Demira thana. The JP men also claimed him as a JP activist.

But police said he was a passer-by and did not belong to any of the two political parties.

Several members of the CPB central committee, including CPB President Manzur Ahsan Khan, and a number of JP central committee members, including a female member, received minor injuries during the incident.

The JP activists damaged at least a dozen vehicles and set fire to several book stalls. They also ransacked a mobile phone shop and a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**JP, CPB men lock
in violent clash**

*One run over by bus; 25
activists injured*

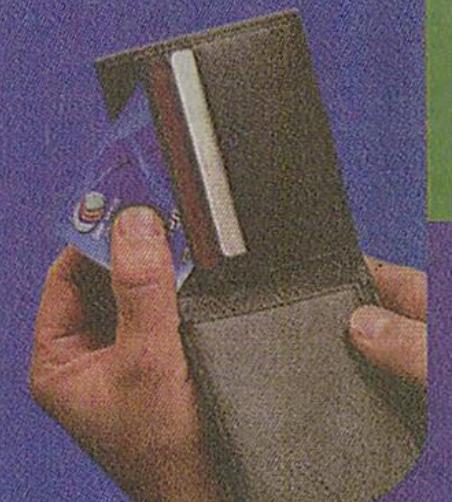
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was killed in a road accident during a clash between the Jatiya Party (Ershad) and the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at Paltan in the capital yesterday, leaving at least 25 activists of both the parties injured.

The young man while escaping from the violence was run over by a bus and died on the spot.

JP President HM Ershad along with his men went to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue and identified the person as Kabir Hossain of ward No

First ATM Booth in **BARISAL**
Opened by
Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited



The ATM Network of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited has been extended to Barisal city to make available modern banking facilities at the door-steps of the valued clients. It is **Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited** which has, **for the first time**, installed an exclusive ATM Booth in Barisal city for the advantage of the people of South Bengal.

With its ATM & POS Terminal network throughout the country and Internet banking facilities- on-line services of Dutch-Bangla Bank have many conveniences.

Respected clients are requested to avail opportunities of on-line services of Dutch-Bangla Bank.

Freedom of Movement



Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited

YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER