



FedEx OBC Service to India
with faster Transit Time

direct On Board Courier (OBC) service by air → delivery within 1-2* business days to all metropolitan cities → reduced rates

* Service availability may vary according to place of collection and destination. Please contact our Sales Office or 24 hour Call Center at 8555114 for exact details.

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

Every Package Matters



50PF9531/42PF9531 Pixel Plus 2HD & Ambilight (Plasma TV)

- High-definition plasma WXGA display
- HD Ready, Progressive scan, 3D Comblifier
- Pixel Plus 2 HD
- 2-channel active Ambilight
- Virtual Dolby Digital surround
- Matching stand with elegant design
- HDMI connectivity
- 1200 page Hypertext



PHILIPS
sense and simplicity

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

Sader Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Tel: 8855371-80, www.transcombd.com, Customer Service Center: 8855366-8, 01712-665463, Enquiry: 01713-041243-8, 01713-082479

Barge-mount power plant at Khulna shut down after fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

One of the two 28-megawatt barge-mount power plants at Khulna's Goalpara Power Station (GPS) was shut down early yesterday due to a fire.

Fire brigade officials blamed the fire on the negligence of those who were on duty at the time, saying an oil pipeline of the plant was found open from which the flame originated at about 12:45am.

Three fire brigade units brought the blaze under control at about 2:10am.

The executive engineer at the power station, Rezaul Karim, said two committees would be formed to probe the cause of fire in the oil pipeline.

Installed in 1980, the shuttered plant could not generate more than 10 megawatt of electricity since 2004 due to frequent technical glitches and was operational only between 6:00pm and 10:00pm since then.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

FBCCI asks traders not to make extra profit during Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday urged the businessmen to refrain from making extra profit during the month of Ramadan out of their social responsibility.

FBCCI called upon the traders to import more essentials. It also urged the government to import food items on emergency basis to ensure stability in the market and the supply chain.

The apex business body made the calls at a press briefing at the FBCCI Bhaban following an emergency meeting of its board of directors.

"Unnecessary questions during opening Letter of Credit (LC) and

depositing or withdrawing money from the banks create fear among the clients causing negative impacts on the business and the supply chain," said FBCCI President Mir Nasir Hossain.

Such obstacles must be removed immediately to free the traders from all sorts of fears and threats, he said. He requested the government to take realistic measures on reserves and ensure that no businessman is harassed.

FBCCI said country's land ports should remain open seven days a week to speed up unloading and maintain the supply chain.

It observed that the overall market management should be reviewed to allow the marginal farmers and small traders market their products easily.

"We are requesting business firms and industries to ensure supply of food items for their own institutions. They might open outlets for their labour force to allow them buy products at a fair price during Ramadan," Mir Nasir Hossain told the journalists.

Lauding the government's instructions about reducing bank interest rate to 12 percent on import loans, he said if the interest rate were reduced to 10 percent, it would bring better results.

"Such reduced rates will have positive implications for small importers," the FBCCI president said. He requested the banks to keep LC margin and commission at minimal level.

Appreciating the withdrawal of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

UK clarifies position on recent unrest

UNB, Dhaka

A British High Commission spokesman yesterday issued a statement clarifying the UK's position regarding the recent unrest in Bangladesh.

In the statement, the spokesman said: "We're pleased that a situation has been reached in which the curfew could be lifted. We understand that the caretaker government will not allow these events to deflect from its desire to prepare credible elections, as per the election roadmap. We welcome this."

He said, "We're aware of concerns over reported incidents of harassment and beating of journalists and students. The UK had urged restraint and has publicly condemned these reported incidents. We recognise the important role of the media. We call on the government to investigate reported incidents thoroughly and to take appropriate actions against those responsible."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

A rickshaw puller taking lunch at a mobile food van on a city street yesterday. Earlier each meal used to cost Tk 12 but now it has risen to Tk 20 due to price hike of essentials.

Judgment today in tax evasion cases against Shajahan family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An anti-graft court will deliver judgment in three separate tax evasion cases against former justice minister Shajahan Siraj, his wife Rabeya Haider and son Rajib Siraj today.

The Special Court-4, set up at the MP hostel at national parliament complex, yesterday also fixed September 5 for delivering verdict of four other tax evasion cases against Rajib Siraj.

Another special court fixed today for hearing on argument in a tax evasion case against Afroza Abbas, wife of former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas. Charges were framed against

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

BOMB ATTACK CASE Charges framed against 5 Ctg JMB men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A Chittagong court yesterday framed charges against five Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) activists in two cases filed for bomb attacks and possession of illegal explosives.

Judge Md Enamul Haque Bhuiyan of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court framed charges against four JMB men for their alleged role in masterminding bomb attacks on Chittagong Court Building premises on October 3, 2005.

The case against Javed Iqbal alias Mohammad, Chittagong divisional chief of the JMB, Jahid Hossain alias Bomb Mijan, an explosives expert, Shahadat Hossain

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

30 killed in fierce Afghan fighting

3 Nato soldiers die in suicide attack

AFP, Kabul

Fierce fighting and roadside bomb blasts in Afghanistan killed six Afghan soldiers and more than 20 Taliban rebels, officials said Tuesday, as the Islamist insurgency raged unabated.

The six troops from the US-sponsored Afghan National Army were killed in two separate bomb explosions near the country's eastern border with Pakistan, the defence ministry said in a statement.

Elsewhere, Nato troops and Afghan soldiers killed 15 militants near the major Taliban stronghold of Musa Qala in the opium-producing southern province of Helmand on Monday, the alliance said.

The insurgents ambushed them with machine guns and rocket propelled grenades and a dozen were killed in the immediate exchange of fire, the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) said in a statement.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

FLOOD RELIEF, REHABILITATION Tk 500cr foreign funds pledged so far

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has so far received commitments of Tk 500 crore from foreign countries for the country's flood relief and rehabilitation.

Of the total commitments, a substantial quantity of relief goods has already reached the country, said a Foreign Ministry source yesterday.

Saudi Arabia remains on the top of the list of donors by providing relief goods worth US\$ 50 million, the source said adding that Bangladesh did not make any formal appeal for international help. The help came through bilateral contacts and coordination.

Meanwhile, the Foreign

Ministry has initiated steps for import of food grains so that the country does not face any food shortage due to the floods.

Foreign ministers of some countries, including Canada and Iran, talked to Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury over phone and expressed their sympathy for the flood victims. They also gave assurance of their support for relief and rehabilitation work.

The resident representative of the UNDP and heads of other international agencies based in Bangladesh had separate meetings with the foreign adviser on post-flood rehabilitation.

The FAO of the UN has assured

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

41 Iraq rebels die in US assaults

27 pilgrims slain as Shias flood Iraqi city

AFP, Baghdad/Karbala

A series of US-led air and ground assaults in Iraqi flashpoints has killed at least 41 suspected rebels while 27 Iraqi pilgrims were killed in clashes in Karbala, the American military said yesterday.

Eight militants were killed and 11 detained in separate ground and air assaults in Iraq's northern province of Kirkuk and central province of Salaheddin, it said, adding that both operations were aimed at al-Qaeda.

The military also said it had

arrested an alleged weapons smuggler known to distribute guns brought from Iran to Iraqi extremist groups, in a raid on Tuesday in Baghdad.

On Monday, in a major operation in the town of Gobia in the province of Diyala northeast of Baghdad, US and Iraqi troops killed 33 militants.

"The pre-dawn assault, involving several hundred Iraqi and coalition forces, defeated numerous small-arms attacks throughout the day resulting in a combined 17

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

STUDENT UNREST Report on teachers' link baseless, say DU authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities in a press release yesterday rejected the media reports that pointed finger at DU authorities for promoting student unrest on and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Barkat Ullah Bulu, family sued for land grab

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A case was filed against former commerce adviser Barkat Ullah Bulu, his wife Shameema Barkat and son Omar Sharif for allegedly cultivating fish by grabbing 24 acres of khas land in the district.

Assistant land officer at Char Clarke union land office Shaheed Ullah filed the case on Tuesday night, accusing the Bulu family of digging up ponds and constructing embankment on the grabbed government land for fish cultivation.

The case followed an investigation by the anti-crime taskforce which got proof of financial losses the government incurred by the action of the former adviser to the BNP government and his family.

Locals said Bulu occupied the land by using his clout during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

Prayer Timing

August 29

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

3 detained RU teachers sent to Dhaka for quizzing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The three detained Rajshahi University (RU) teachers were sent to Dhaka yesterday evening for placing them before the Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI).

Sub-inspector Mukhtar Hossain, investigation officer of one of the four cases filed against them, confirmed the matter to The Daily Star over telephone.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested former RU vice-chancellor Prof Dr Saidur Rahman, RU Progressive Teachers' Alliance Convener Prof Abdus Sobhan and Prof Moly Kumar Bhowmik early Friday on charges of fuelling campus violence.

Earlier, the detained teachers

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

BANGLA-PAK FOREIGN SECY LEVEL TALKS FTA, shipping links high on agenda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh-Pakistan annual foreign secretary-level consultations start in Dhaka today, with free trade agreement (FTA) and re-establishing direct shipping links between Chittagong and Karachi figuring high on the agenda.

Dhaka would also bring up the sensitive issue of stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh at the talks taking place after a two-year hiatus, foreign ministry sources said.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Reaz Mohammad Khan will lead the Pakistan delegation in the fourth round of the talks. The last meeting was held in Islamabad in 2005.

Acting Foreign Secretary Tuhid

Hossain will lead the home side in the meeting.

Both Dhaka and Islamabad have been keen on signing a FTA to reinvigorate the flagging bilateral trade, which was \$210 million last fiscal year, with Bangladesh suffering a trade deficit of around \$100 million.

The BNP-led four-party alliance government had agreed to sign the FTA by September 2006, which aimed to raise the bilateral trade to \$1 billion annually. However, the failure to meet over the past two years has prevented any meaningful progress on the deal.

The meeting would discuss the selection of the commodities under the trade pact, as well as eliminating existing non-tariff barriers (NTBs)

between the two countries, foreign ministry officials said.

Bangladesh-Pakistan trade is dwarfed by Dhaka's trade with Delhi, which currently stands at over \$2 billion.

The two sides will also look to re-establish direct shipping links between the ports of Karachi and Chittagong, which were cut off in 1987, foreign ministry officials added.

The officials and business communities of both the countries have been complaining for a long time that the absence of direct shipping between Karachi and Chittagong is one of the biggest obstacles to boosting bilateral trade.

No plans to let Benazir, Sharif become PM again

AGENCIES, Islamabad

Pakistan's prime minister called for reconciliation between the country's main political parties as President Gen Pervez Musharraf prepares to seek reelection.

But he said the government had no plans to allow two banned opposition leaders to become premiers again.

In a television interview aired

late Monday, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said Musharraf's government had been in touch with all major political parties.

"This will improve the political atmosphere, and we have always said that we want national political reconciliation in the interest of Pakistan," he said on Geo television.

Musharraf, who seized power in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



International Trade Fair on Water & Waste Water Treatment Technology 2007
September 11-13, 2007 | BCFCC, Dhaka

for stall booking & program details:
voice: +880-2-9893773, 9892949, 01712112681
fax: +880-2-9891253
e-mail: info@windmillbd.com
samiul@windmillbd.com

IIFC

International Finance Corporation

seef

Saudi Environmental Engineering Firm

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর
Department of Environment

