



## OBC Service to India

with attractive introductory rate

direct  
On Board Courier (OBC)  
service by air

delivery  
within 1-2\* business days  
to all metropolitan cities

attractive  
introductory  
rate

FedEx  
Express

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.  
a member of Federal Express Corporation

Every Package Matters

\* Service availability may vary according to place of collection and destination.  
Please contact our Sales Office or 24-hour Call Center on 9565114 for exact details.



## 37PF9531/32PF9531 Pixel Plus 2HD & Ambilight LCD TV

- High-definition plasma WXGA display
- HD Ready, Progressive scan, 3D CombiFilter
- 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

TRANSFORMER ELECTRONICS

Sadar Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Tel: 8855371-80, www.transcombd.com, Customer Service Center: 8855386-8, 01712-665463, Enquiry: 01713-041243-8, 01713-082479

## Iftekhar talks to Boucher at UNHQ

UNB, New York

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury had a bilateral meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher at the UN headquarters on Monday.

During the 40-minute meeting, they discussed the bilateral relations and pledged to expand economic and political cooperation.

Talking to journalists after the meeting, Iftekhar said: "We see the US as a friend and partner in development. I explained to him (Boucher) the Election Commission roadmap and the caretaker government's determination to support it, and other reforms which he appreciated."

"I also informed him that we have offered peacekeepers for Darfur, and he praised our peace-keeping role in general."

Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ismat Jahan, Deputy Permanent Representative Muhammad Ali Sarcar and Director (UN) of the Foreign Ministry Hamid Rashid were present.

## 231 DU teachers for release of detained DU, RU teachers

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 231 teachers of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday demanded release of the detained teachers and students of DU and Rajshahi University (RU) on humanitarian grounds keeping in mind the upcoming Eid and Durga Puja.

In a statement, they urged the government to withdraw the cases against them. "We expect cooperation and sympathy from the people concerned," they added.

Four DU and eight RU teachers along with five university students were arrested after violent incidents occurred on university campuses from August 20 to 22.

## 2 cleaners die of toxic gas in water tank

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two people died of inhaling poisonous gas as they climbed down an underground water tank to clean it at Konabari in Gazipur yesterday.

The cleaners were identified as Ziaur Rahman, 32, and Harunur Rashid, 28, both hailing from Pabna's Ataikola area.

Locals said the two men met the tragic fate in the morning as Harun went down the tank at the house of one Abdul Khalil at Horinachala to rescue Ziaur, who fell sick inside the cistern while cleaning it.

Locals later pulled them out of the tank dead after getting no response from them.

The bodies were sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

## Cab driver strangled to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Assailants strangled a taxi cab driver at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital early yesterday and also gunned down a Jubo League leader at Pallabi on Monday night.

The victims are Humayun Kabir Talukder, the cabbie, and Kamruzzaman alias Mintu Khan, Jubo League president of Ward No 2.

Locals found the taxi cab driver in a critical condition on the driving seat near Election Commission Secretariat at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar at around 1:00am yesterday.

They rushed him to Suhrawardy Hospital with a mark of strangulation and a stab injury in his chest. He was declared dead after being taken to the hospital.

The body of the cabbie, hailed from Bordeshi at Aminbazar in Savar near the capital, was later sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said he was strangled to death.

Police suspected that car lifters might attempt to snatch his cab but left the place without completing job sensing people's presence.

Meanwhile, members of the Jubo League leader's family said a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS

# Most schools dodge registration, VAT

SURANJITH DEARNATH

The government is being deprived of huge revenue income from thousands of unregistered English medium schools, which are collecting additional fees from students under VAT (value added tax) imposed in this fiscal year.

According to the education ministry, there are around 18,000 English medium schools across the country with more to be launched. But only 625 such institutions have been registered under seven secondary and higher secondary education boards, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), and Directorate of

Primary Education (DPE).

Taking the opportunity of authorities' apparent indifference and lack of specific rules, three types of English medium schools -- kindergartens or nurseries, junior Cambridge, and Cambridge or senior Cambridge -- are rapidly growing in urban areas throughout the country. The industry is mushrooming especially in the capital.

The government has several times tasked the school authorities to get registered, but most of them did not pay any heed to it. Many schools even did not bother to apply for registration.

However, no schools have ever been handed down any kinds of

penalty.

Pijush Kanti Nath, first VAT secretary of National Board of Revenue (NBR), said it will be easy for them to collect VAT from English medium schools if the ministry and other authorities concerned send them a list of such institutions.

The education ministry, seven education boards, DSHE and DPE, however, are yet to prepare a list as a large number of schools did not register willingly to avoid different types of restrictions.

"Most of the schools don't want to register even after receiving letters to that end several times."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## AL demand for keeping war criminals off polls only to satisfy its allies

Says Hannan Shah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) is raising the demand to keep war criminals and religion-based political parties off polls only to satisfy its alliance partners, BNP chairperson's adviser Hannan Shah said yesterday.

Asked about his reaction to the AL demand, he said, "The party does not believe in what it says as it didn't take any measures in this regard while in power." He was talking to reporters at his Mohakhali residence in the capital.

However, Hannan admitted that BNP cannot utilise the partial relaxation of ban on indoor politics

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR

A Rapid Action Battalion member scans passengers' luggage on a coach at Sayedabad bus terminal in Dhaka yesterday as part of efforts to prevent highway robbery ahead of the Eid.

# UN envoy talks with junta chief, Suu Kyi

## Curfew in Yangon eased

AFP, Yangon

A UN special envoy yesterday met with Myanmar's top general Than Shwe and pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, wrapping up a mission aimed at halting a bloody crackdown on anti-government protests.

Ibrahim Gambari had waited for days to see the reclusive military supreme in order to express global outrage after his regime put down demonstrations led by Buddhist monks, leaving at least 13 dead and more than 1,000 arrested.

After meeting Than Shwe in the remote capital Naypyidaw, Gambari made a brief surprise visit to Aung San Suu Kyi, whom he also saw on Sunday, in the main city of Yangon before heading to Singapore, UN officials said.

The talks came as activists struggled to assess the scope of the crackdown -- for which the junta said it was not to blame -- and to find hundreds of dissidents, monks

and ordinary civilians who were arrested or are missing.

Myanmar's military junta eased a curfew on the main city of Yangon yesterday, as the suffocating security presence was scaled back slightly following the suppression of mass anti-government protests.

Loudspeakers mounted on trucks drove through downtown Yangon and residential townships, announcing that the curfew would run from 10:00 pm to 4:00 am, two hours shorter than the 9:00 pm to 5:00 am period announced a week ago.

The restrictions, which included the designation of Yangon as a "restricted area", were announced last Tuesday just before the government launched a bloody crackdown on the protests, leaving at least 13 dead and 1,000 in detention.

UN and junta officials told AFP that at least 1,000 people have been detained at the Government Technical Institute campus in

Yangon.

Tony Banbury, Asia regional director for the UN World Food Programme, said he was concerned at reports that the detainees, including some 500 monks, were now being moved to another location, heightening fears for their wellbeing.

A Myanmar official talking on condition of anonymity said that up to 1,700 people had been detained at the campus, including about 200 women and at least one child, a novice monk believed to be 10 years old.

They were being kept inside a windowless warehouse, where the monks have been disrobed and many of them were refusing to eat, he added.

Some have simply refused to accept food from the military, or rejected it because the food arrives in the afternoon when monks are barred by religious oath from eating, the official said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

Cars are haphazardly parked in front of a shopping arcade on Malibagh-Kakrail road in the capital yesterday causing heavy traffic jam.

# Nearly 1cr children in hazardous work

## Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around one crore children, six percent of the total population, are engaged in hazardous work, according to a two-year-long study conducted by Prof Dr Abul Barakat.

All of these children are engaged in 54 categories of hazardous work identified by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), he said yesterday while speaking at a discussion on "Code of Conduct Towards Working Children in the Informal Sector" organised by Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD) and Together With Working Children (TWC) at LGED auditorium.

Former adviser Dr Akbar Ali Khan was the chief guest of the discussion that was preceded by

launching ceremony of a video documentary titled "Sromojibi Shishuder Shathe Amra", advocating a code of conduct for humane treatment of child workers.

Dr Barakat during his speech said the rate of children engaged in hazardous work is increasing faster than the growth rate of population.

Referring to lack of commitment of earlier governments in eradicating child labour, he said the existence of child labour in the country suggests that farsightedness is absent in the policymaking.

He also criticised the government for failing to produce updated statistics on child labour.

Chief guest Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker gov-

ernment, said development of children would not be possible until their rights of access to education and proper nutrition is ensured.

"The children should be removed from hazardous jobs. But the reality is, it is not possible to eradicate child labour in Bangladesh's perspective," he added.

He suggested enactment of necessary laws along with a code of conduct and implementation of the laws to prevent repression of child labourers and to ensure their well-being.

He also called on the consumers for initiating a "consumer resistance" campaign to curb the engagement of children in hazardous jobs.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## GATCO CASE ACC to quiz 2 detained ministers today

UNB, Dhaka

A three-member investigation team of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will quiz detained former health minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain today in connection with the container handling case against Khaleda Zia.

Sources said the team will quiz both the former ministers separately at Dhaka Central Jail gate.

Members of the investigation team include investigation officer of the case ACC Deputy Director Jahurul Huda, officer of the Taskforce-23 Major Mostafa Kamal and CID Inspector of Taskforce-23 Nurul Islam.

The two former ministers were the members of the purchase committee that approved the awarding of a contract to GATCO, a private company.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has already questioned former five ministers, six retired secretaries and one serving additional secretary of the communications ministry.

## 2 outlaws killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two members of banned Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) were killed yesterday in "shootout" between police and outlaws at Shrirampur village in Chuadanga.

The dead are Iddar Ali, 26, son of Abdul Borek and Nasir Uddin, 27, son of Rozdar Ali of Zagannathpur in Alamdanga upazila.

Police said acting on a tip-off, they cordoned off Shrirampur graveyard in Alamdanga upazila where members of the banned outfit were holding a meeting at about 1:30am.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

# 575 BRTC buses to help ease Eid rush

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) is to run 575 single and double-decker buses on different long-distance routes as special Eid service, starting from tomorrow and ending eight days after Eid.

Meanwhile, the communications ministry formed a committee to ensure passenger safety and hassle-free journeys of homebound people during the Eid rush.

The BRTC would sell advance tickets at their bus depots and ticket counters from tomorrow, a BRTC press release yesterday said. The bus fares remain the same, which were fixed by the government.

The press release said advanced tickets for trips on October 9 would be sold from BRTC ticket counters and depots tomorrow. Tickets for October 10 would be sold on

Friday, October-11 tickets on Saturday, October-12 tickets on Sunday and October-13 tickets would be sold on Monday.

The buses would run from BRTC bus depots, Sayedabad, Mohakhali, Gabtoli bus terminals and from outside the terminals.

Meanwhile, the communications ministry formed a five-member monitoring committee to ensure passenger safety, quality of services and hassle-free journeys of homebound passengers. A joint-secretary (administration) of the communications ministry heads the committee.

The committee is entrusted with controlling malpractices like charging extra for tickets, black-marketing of tickets, service operators' rude behaviour towards passengers and monitoring of arrival and departure schedules of vehicles and vessels. The committee

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Extortion charges pressed against Aminul Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police pressed charges against former post and telecommunications minister Barrister Aminul Haque and two other BNP leaders yesterday in a Tk 1.50 lakh extortion case in Rajshahi's Tanore upazila.

The other accused are secretary general of the BNP's Rajshahi district unit and Mundumala municipality chairman Shis Mohammad and Talara Union Parishad chairman Mafizuddin.

Investigating Officer and Officer-in-Charge at Tanore Police Station Nurul Amin placed the charge sheet before an upazila magistrate court in the evening.

One Golam Mostafa of Belgharia village of Chauduria Union filed the case on May 20, alleging that Shis and Mafiz took Tk 1.5 lakh from him on September 29, 2004 to hand in the money to the former minister who would help the plaintiff land a job.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

# Korean leaders hold historic summit

AP, Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il welcomed South Korea's president to Pyongyang displaying scant enthusiasm yesterday while orchestrated crowds cheered the start of the second-ever summit between the divided Koreas since World War II.

The greeting was a stark contrast to the first North-South summit in 2000, when Kim greeted then-South Korean President Kim Dae-jung with smiles and clasped both his hands tightly in an emotional moment that softened the North Korean strongman's image to South Koreans and the world.

This time, Kim appeared reserved and unemotional, walking slowly and occasionally clapping lightly to encourage the crowd of thousands at the outdoor welcome ceremony, who waved red and pink paper flowers. South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun appeared to revel in the moment, waving and smiling broadly before reviewing a goose-stepping North Korean military honor guard wielding rifles with bayonets.

Roh has said his goal at the summit is fostering peace between the North and South, which remain technically at war since a 1953 cease-fire halted the Korean War.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Paturia-Doulatdia ferry route in the Padma is losing its navigability but dredging of the river is going on at a snail's pace. Ferry service in the route is being impeded due to falling depth of water resulting in long queues of vehicles on both sides of the river.