



## OBC Service to India

with attractive introductory rate

direct delivery attractive introductory rate

On Board Courier (OBC) service by air within 1-2\* business days to all metropolitan cities

FedEx Express

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.

Member of FedEx 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 9555114 for exact details.



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

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

Iftekhar talks to Boucher at UN HQ  
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 development. I explained to him [Boucher] the Election Commission's 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 peacekeeping 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 Harun Rashid, 28, both hailing from Faridpur'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 Juba League leader at Pallabi on Monday night.

The victims are Humayun Kabir Talukder, the cabbie, and Kamruzzaman alias Mintu Khan, Juba 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 peoples' presence.

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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS Most schools dodge registration, VAT

SURAJNATH DEBNATH

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

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.

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

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



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

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.

Ibrahim Gambari

had waited for

days

to

see

the

reclusive

military

supremo

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

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

to

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