

Stress free shipping to the USA

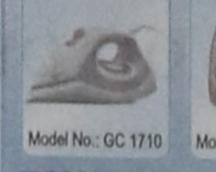
FedEx delivers your International express shipments to over 40,000 zip codes across the USA within 2-3" business days. Please call our Customer Service on 9565114 for pick-up request and more details.

Service availability may vary according to place of collection and destination



Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd. Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

Every Package Matters

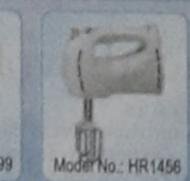




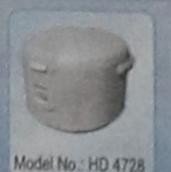


Philips Domestic Appliances

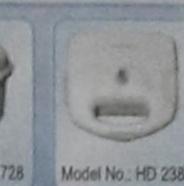
See the "Hologram" on the product before you purchase

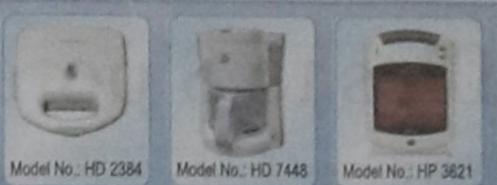






r Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1208, Customer Service Center: 8855366-8, 01712-665463





For Philips DAP Items - Conditions Apply



## Crackdown launched on unfit launches

BIWTA vows not to let any vessels leave terminal without proper papers

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The customary practice of clamping down on owners of unfit vessels following every major fatal accident commenced again yesterday.

against owners of launches that do not have valid fitness certificates or registration or plying unfit vessels through the nexus between unscrupulous officials of BIWTA 47. (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority) posted at launch terminals.

launch owners yesterday, the BIWTA informed the owners that no launch would be allowed to

documents including fitness certificates and registration documents are presented to the authorities before departure.

The latest steps came hard on The authorities will take action the heels of the capsize of MV evening, the authorities, however, : rescue operation. Shourav in the River Buriganga on Thursday. With one more body retrieved yesterday, the death toll of the launch disaster climbed to

Speaking with The Daily Star yesterday, BIWTA Chairman Abdul Moreover, in a meeting with instructed my officials not to let any launch out of the terminals without proper documents."

Asked whether the instruction

leave a terminal unless all valid came following the launch capsize: the death toll to 47. on Thursday, he said though the standing order remained in force, it ; Sunday and one on Saturday with is sometimes enforced in a slack- : the help of anchors and other tools

> could neither detect nor take: Relatives of the victims have action against any launch plying : meanwhile blamed the governwithout valid documents.

said sources at BIWTA.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

### Private rescue efforts go on

One more body found STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Relatives of the missing passengers of the launch MV Sourav-1 that capsized in the River Buriganga on Thursday continued rescue efforts on their own and recovered another body yesterday, bringing

They dragged out six bodies on they had made themselves, after Till filing of this report yesterday: the government abandoned its

ment authorities for negligence in Fearing a crackdown following: their rescue efforts. They also the Thursday's launch accident, a : alleged that the bodies of nine large number of unauthorised; victims were handed over to launches that used to operate from : Anjuman Mufidul Islam as uniden-Mannan Howlader said, "I've Sadarghat Launch Terminal with : tified bodies in a hurry, before the connivance of BIWTA traffic : relatives could claim them, to avoid inspectors have gone into hiding, ; paying a compensation of Tk 20,000 to each victim.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A roadside restaurant keeps large bowls of rice on a drain to wash them before cooking at Neemtoli near Bangabazar in the capital, posing serious health risks to customers.

## Proteas take series 2-0

BISHWAJIT ROY from Chittagong

There was no storm from series hero Dale Steyn on the fourth morning but it was left-arm spinner Robin Peterson who spun South Africa to complete yet another whitewash of Bangladesh by winning the second Test by an innings and 205 runs at the yesterday.

The innings defeat was inevitable when the home team resumed the day on 54 for five and it took only a little more than an hour for antibiotic course. the Proteas to wrap up the match to clinch the series 2-0 after their fivewicket success in the first Test in Dhaka.

Peterson captured three more wickets yesterday to return figures

of five for 33, his career-best in six Tests, to speed up the victory. Paceman Morne Morkel completed the job when Neil McKenzie took a spectacular flying catch at slip to send back Bangladesh's last

batsman Mashrafe Mortaza. Bangladesh were bundled out for 119 runs in 39.5 overs as injured Aftab Ahmed didn't turn up to bat Chittagong Divisional Stadium as the local boy was yet to be released from the Combined Military Hospital. But he is expected to join the team within short time on completion of his

Earlier the South Africans piled up a huge 583 for seven in their first knock and then shot out the hosts for 259 in the first innings.

Wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# Fortune seekers' yet another tragic mission

3 Bangladeshis killed, 21 rescued in Lanka after boat sank in sea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three Bangladeshi migrant workers died on the high seas of dehydration and starvation, in their desperate dash to foreign coasts in search of sustainable jobs.

A boat carrying 21 surviving compatriots of the ill fated workers and 50 Mayanmarese was rescued in critical condition off the Sri Lankan coast yesterday, after being marooned in the sea for almost a fortnight.

Seventeen Myanmarese job seekers also had died of starvation and dehydration on the boat, before it was rescued.

The 71 survivors were taken into

custody by the Sri Lankan navy after the boat had been towed from Tamil Tigers held Mullaitivvu

Media reports said quoting Sri Lankan navy spokesmen that the survivors had thrown the 20 dead bodies overboard into the sea and they are unlikely to be recovered.

"All the victims are in serious conditions due to prolonged dehydration and starvation. Navy medical teams are presently attending to the victims," a Sri Lankan navy spokesman said.

The Sri Lankan navy also identified the rescued 71 people as 'illegal foreign job seekers'.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

#### Government asks Bangladeshi workers to abide by Saudi laws

UNB, Dhaka

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has again asked the Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia to abide by local laws.

"Time and again we've appealed to all members of the SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

BRAC BANK HEIST

#### 2 more held, 2kg gold recovered STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two persons from Narayanganj with two kilograms of gold ornaments in their possession. DB officials said the recovered

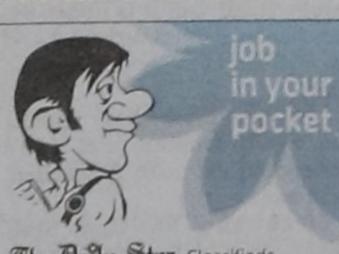
The Detective Branch (DB) of

ornaments were part of the heist of the Dhanmondi branch of Brac Bank in the capital in January.

With yesterday's arrest, police have so far held 15 people in connection with the heist and seized about six kilograms of looted gold ornaments from them.

Robbers made off with gold ornaments and valuables worth several crores of taka breaking open 75 lockers in the bank.

March 4		
	Azan	Jamaa
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-07	6-11
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source:	Islamic Fou	indation



The Baily Star Classifieds On Mobile or Computer

cellbazaar.com

Help: 01713238381-

The Dally Star of greensore cell frances



Industrial waste released from factories built on the Shitalakhya in Narayanganj makes the water of the river murky but the authorities keep on ignoring the pollution.

# UNSC approves new sanctions on Iran

BBC ONLINE

in favour of new sanctions against Iran over its nuclear programme. Fourteen of the council's 15

members voted in favour of meatravel bans for Iranian officials. Indonesia abstained.

Western powers suspect Iran The five permanent, veto-wielding programme is for peaceful power all supported the resolution. generation only.

ing uranium.

power generation, but may also be necessity of the sanctions. a precursor to building an atomic

formally submitted by France and four members - Indonesia, Libya, nuclear materials.

Britain - adds to resolutions South Africa and Vietnam - who

adopted in 2006 and 2007.

It calls for the foreign assets of 13 The UN Security Council has voted Iranian companies to be frozen, Iran's envoy to the UN, Ali Asghar and imposes travel bans on five Iranian officials.

It imposes a ban on the sale to illegitimate. Iran of so-called dual-use items sures including asset freezes and which can have either a military or civilian purpose. **IRANIAN ANGER** 

may be developing nuclear weap- members of the council - France, ons, but Iran says its nuclear Britain, China, the US and Russia -

The non-permanent members -Tehran has refused to comply none of whom possesses the power with demands that it stop enrich- of veto - all backed it, except Indonesia, which abstained, saying This can be undertaken for it remained to be convinced of the

had expressed doubts. In a statement before the vote,

Soltanieh, described the resolution as politically motivated, illegal, and He insisted Iran's nuclear

programme "has been, is, and will remain, absolutely peaceful". He said Iran would ignore the sanctions.

'FORGED' The UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, reported in February that Iran had cleared up most of the outstanding questions regarding

its past nuclear activities. But the IAEA has criticised Iran for refusing to clarify remaining The vote had been planned for questions about intelligence sug-Saturday, but was delayed to give gesting Tehran may have been This third sanctions resolution - the sponsors time to try to win over exploring ways to "weaponise"

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

#### GMG plane Israeli troops pull out of Gaza Dubai returns

A GMG aircraft, stranded at Duba International Airport for about 31 hours due to engine problems, reached Zia International Airport (ZIA) safely with all passengers at 4:00 pm yesterday. The Dhaka-Dubai-Dhaka flight

had been originally scheduled to reach Dhaka at 9:00 am local time on Sunday, GMG sources told The Daily Star. The Boeing-747 aircraft, carrying about 160 passengers, had to

stranded in

after 31 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

return to the Dubai airport shortly after take-off on Saturday night due to problems in the engine. The passengers had to wait in the airport for long hours awaiting their

departure, before all but 20 passengers were taken to a local hotel. GMG Executive Director, Virendra Nautiyal told Khaleej Times it was difficult to move about 70 of the passengers from the airport to hotel accommodation, because of their immigration

Some had expired or cancelled visas because they had overstayed in the country or had been in jail and were being deported. The authorities, however, agreed to allow all but 20 passengers to leave the airport until their flight.

## DU prof Arefin Siddique gets death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) president Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday received another death threat a month after crude bombs were hurled into his residence compound in the capital on February 2.

He received the death threat in a letter wrapped in a piece of white cloth while attending a meeting of the academic committee of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University in the morning. The letter, signed by Sohel

Rahman in the city's Badda area, reads: "You're one of those teachers who are involved in a conspiracy to SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Abbas ready to seek truce

AP, AFP, Jebalyal Ramallah

Israeli ground troops pulled out of northern Gaza before daybreak yesterday, following the first extended sweep in an offensive against Palestinian rocket squads that has left more than 110 dead and led the Palestinian president to call off peace talks.

Israeli infantry started withdrawing from the town of Jebalya after midnight following several days of fighting, the military said, but the government vowed it would continue its offensive against rocket squads. Overnight airstrikes targeting weapons manufacturing and storage facilities, a Hamas headquarters and groups of gunmen killed five Palestinians, all of them Hamas militants, Hamas

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas on Monday reiterated his willingness to seek truce with Israel after the army's deadly operation in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip.

"President Mahmud Abbas has again said today he is willing to work for the conclusion of a total truce with the Israeli side to spare our people more victims and suffering," his office said in a state-

Yet despite days of fierce Israeli rocket, and two Israeli soldiers assaults, Gaza militants continued were killed in the Jebalya fighting. launching rocket barrages at areas in southern Israel, including Ashkelon, a city of 120,000. Three

rockets hit Ashkelon on Monday morning, Israeli rescue services said, with one scoring a direct hit on an apartment building. No casualties were reported.

Palestinian medical teams found three more bodies in Jebalya after the Israeli troops left. At least one of them was a militant, they said. Residents who had been trapped in their houses for days began emerging, and some collected equipment left behind by the Israelis: ammunition clips, food cans, two bloody stretchers and a helmet with a bullet hole in it.

Dardouna said he and his nine children had been confined to one room of their house by soldiers who occupied it for three days. "We couldn't distinguish day from night," he said. "The sounds of shooting and explosions, mixed

with the screaming of soldiers and

the screaming of my children who

Jebalya resident Ahmed

were asking to go to bathroom and for food is still in my ears." In all, 117 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the fighting erupted last Wednesday, according to militants and medical officials. Roughly half the dead were civilians, the officials said. One Israeli civilian was killed by a

The moderate Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, put peace

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

### Pro-Khaleda BNP won't accept local govt polls first

Delwar off to S'pore STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Khaleda faction of BNP will not accept the government plans to hold local government elections

before the parliamentary elections. Party leader said it is uncertain whether the faction would take part in the dialogue with the interim administration whilst its chairperson Khaleda Zia is in jail.

"There will be no election before the national election," Rizvi Ahmed. acting office secretary of the faction yesterday said while talking to reporters at Khandaker Delwar Hossain's Nam flat in the capital.

Demanding immediate release of Khaleda Zia, he said the party wants to sit with the government under the leadership of the party chairperson.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

#### LOCAL GOVT POLLS Gono Forum, BDB support EC move

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) and Gono Forum yesterday jointly expressed their support to the Election Commission's (EC) initiative to hold local government polls, including City corporation elections, before the parliamentary

be held before holding the national election, there is nothing wrong in it," BDB secretary general Maj (retd) MA Mannan and Gono Forum presidium member Pankaj Bhattachariya told reporters yesterday.

"The City corporation polls can

They were facing reporters after an hour-long meeting at Gono Forum's central office at Motijheel in the city.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

#### Edible oil export banned for six months

UNB, Dhaka The government has banned export of edible oil for six months to ensure its "sufficient supply on the domestic market".

vesterday said the ban came into effect from February 28, 2008. Prices of Soya bean and palm oils have shot up on the local market in recent times alongside the

An official announcement

#### price hike of other essentials. IO appointed for Barapukuria graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday appointed an investigation officer to probe into the Barapukuria coal mine corruption case against former premier Khaleda Zia and 15 others.

Col Hanif Iqbal disclosed it at a press conference at the commission headquarters in the capital. "Deputy Director Monirul

ACC Director General (Admin)

Haque has been appointed as the 10 of the Barapukuria graft case," Hanifsaid. The ACC filed the case against

Khaleda and 15 others including

ten former ministers on February 16 for corruption in awarding Barapukuria coal mine operation contract to a Chinese company

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd., 229 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of