



We avail 56 flights (weekly)
for outbound shipments.

FedEx
Express
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation
Every Package Matters

Call: 9565114 (24-hour Call Center)

TRANSTEC
Refrigerator & Freezer



TRANSCOM
ELECTRONICS

Sadar Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Customer Service Center: 8855366-8, 01712-665463

AL threatens agitation if Hasina not released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Key leaders of Awami League (AL) yesterday threatened to go on a massive agitation programme if party chief Sheikh Hasina is not released immediately.

The AL leaders directed party leaders and workers at all levels to remain prepared for such a programme.

AL Presidium member Abdur Razzak warned that if Sheikh Hasina is not released then the party will be compelled to declare such a programme that will make it impossible for the caretaker government to remain in power.

Razzak was speaking at a mass hunger strike programme organised by Jubo Mohila League (JML) on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital.

The hunger strike, from 10:00

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

ADP to be cut by 15 percent

Tk 15cr to be spent on livelihoods in 10 districts

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to slash its annual development expenditure by 15 percent, while allocating an additional Tk 15 crore for programmes to develop the livelihoods of the people of 10 districts, identified as lagging behind in reducing the rate of poverty.

With a reduction of Tk 4,000 crore in the annual development programme (ADP) fund, the revised allocation for it will stand at Tk 22,500 crore.

The revised ADP and the new allocation for the 10 lagging behind districts' development are scheduled to be placed at a general meeting of the National Economic

Council for approval today.

Sources in the planning ministry said based on a survey on household expenditures carried out by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the government selected the districts of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Khulna, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Bandarban for its district development programme.

Through implementing the programme, the government intends to minimize developmental discrimination based on geographical locations, said ministry sources adding that allocations for the programme is likely to increase more in the next budget.

Under the Tk 15 crore development programme for the 10 districts, the government plans to generate employment opportunities for the poor, especially the ultra poor, the sources said.

The rate of ADP project implementation in the current fiscal has been the most dismal ever, with only 25 percent of the projects been implemented in the first seven months of the fiscal 2007-08.

The low implementation rate forced the government to cut the ADP budget down to Tk 22,500 crore from its original allocation of Tk 26,500 crore.

The government will cut Tk 3,150 crore from the local currency

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

DU int'l hall cuts down tree without permission

A CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of the PG Hurton International Hall of Dhaka University yesterday felled down a banyan tree and a branch of a Krishna Chura (flamboyant tree) without informing the Arboriculture Department of the university.

Director of Arboriculture Department Prof Sayed Hadiuzzaman said, "According to the regulation of the DU syndicate, it is a must to inform the Arboriculture Department before felling any trees within the university compound, as it is the property of the university."

"I heard the matter from one of the security officers of the university, but the hall administration did not inform me anything," he added. DU Vice chancellor Prof SMA

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Christians gather at a special service on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises in the capital yesterday on the occasion of Easter Sunday.

Hundreds evicted from Paribagh, Begunbari slums

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) authorities yesterday retrieved 2.14 acres of its land by evicting over 900 families from the encroached land known as Paribagh slum.

Meanwhile, the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) demolished over 600 shanties at the Begunbari slum.

Around 100 forth class employees of BSMMU illegally constructed about 450 shanties on the land and had been collecting rentals from the 900 families.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Moeen calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

During the meeting Gen Moeen informed the president about various ongoing development programmes of Bangladesh Army as well as its relief and rehabilitation activities in cyclone Sitr-hit coastal districts.

The army chief briefed the president about the progress in preparing voter enrolment with

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

A banyan tree being chopped down at the PG Hurton International Hall of Dhaka University yesterday without notifying the authorities concerned.

St Martin's not safe for turtles

BSS, St Martin's Island

Due to the uncontrolled human activities along the sandy beaches of St Martin's Island, the yearly arrival of turtles on the island for laying eggs has reduced significantly.

Besides, pariah dogs that roam the beaches in search of turtle eggs are also contributing to diminishing the turtles' visits on the island.

Just a few years back, locals and tourists used to see hundreds of turtles laying eggs during the breeding season but now their

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Emon remanded for 3 more days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed dreading criminal Sanjiddul Islam Emon, recently deported from India, on a fresh three-day remand and Ishaq Ali, another deportee, on a four-day remand.

The Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate placed them on remand after Criminal Investigation Department (CID) produced them before it on completion of their eight-day remand. Taskforce for Interrogation was quizzing them.

The CID prayed for the remand to interrogate them in connection

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

SUMMIT BID FOR POWER PROJECTS Power Cell finally explains rejection

SHARIER KHAN

After dilly-dallying for three weeks, the Power Cell yesterday verbally explained to representatives of Summit Industrial and Mercantile Corporation why its bids in Bibiyana and Sirajganj 450 megawatt (MW) power projects were rejected.

The Power Cell, under the power ministry, in a letter informed Summit of its disqualification to participate in the Sirajganj power project on January 10 without giving any explicit reasons. On February 14, the cell in another letter disqualified Summit in the Bibiyana project citing reasons that Summit thought were wrong and unjust.

This rejection reduced competition in these two major power bids. As Summit previously qualified for the 2003-04 Sirajganj 450MW power project and had arranged financing from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), many raised questions about the cell's fairness in bid evaluation.

As Summit had been formally asking the cell to explain, the power ministry on March 3 asked the Power Cell to have a meeting with Summit and explain the matter so

that Summit can also explain its position. But, the Power Cell did not have the meeting.

Instead of holding the meeting, the cell wrote to the projects' consultant International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private financing body of the World Bank group, to send its representatives to explain why Summit was disqualified. "The IFC naturally did not send anyone for the meeting," said a ministry source.

The cell then turned to its own bid evaluation committee asking its members to prepare an explanation for Summit as to why they disqualified its bid. The members of the committee did not fully agree to the idea.

This prompted the ministry to write again to the cell on March 17 and point out the cell's dilly-dallying on the matter and urged it to take immediate measures.

Meanwhile, the IFC, which disqualified Summit's bid during financial evaluation of the two projects, had objected to holding of any meeting and asked the cell to send Summit a detailed written response.

The IFC held the view that such a meeting is "extremely unusual and not in line with standard

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

85 more killed in fresh Lankan fighting

AFP, Colombo

At least 80 Tamil rebels and five government soldiers were killed in fresh fighting as Sri Lankan security forces tried to break into rebel-held territory, the defence ministry said yesterday. Fierce battles raged in the north of the island as the military smashed through a bunker line of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) inflicting heavy casualties on the rebels, the ministry said.

It raised the number of guerrillas killed in fighting since Saturday morning to 80 from the earlier figure of 22. The ministry added that the number of its troops killed had also risen to five.

But the guerrillas said they resisted the military push and inflicted heavy losses on government forces.

The pro-rebel Puthinam.com website said the Tigers had killed 55 troops and wounded another 120 in Saturday's fighting. The website

did not give rebel casualties.

Saturday's heavy fighting erupted hours after the Tigers sank a navy fast attack craft off the island's northeastern coast, leaving 10 sailors missing believed dead.

Sri Lankan war planes bombed suspected LTTE facilities Saturday inside the area they control in the north of the island, the defence ministry said, adding that there were no immediate reports of casualties.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Musharraf vows to support new govt

Pak parliament elects PM today

AFP, Islamabad

President Pervez Musharraf yesterday pledged his full support to Pakistan's new coalition government led by his political opponents, who have vowed to take on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

GRAFT, BRIBERY CASES Manju, his wife, Quader charged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, his wife Tasmina Hossain and detained Awami League (AL) Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader in graft and bribery cases.

Investigation officer (IO) ACC Deputy Director Rezaul Hassan Tarafdar submitted the charge sheet against Manju and his wife in the case filed against them for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information in their wealth statement.

The IO prayed for issuance of

arrest warrants against the couple and the order to attach their properties as they have been absconding since the case was filed.

On October 7 last year, ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Faiyaz Alam filed the case against Manju and Tasmina with Dhanmondi police station.

In the case statement, the complainant mentioned that in an investigation it was found that Manju owns property worth Tk 17.1 crore which was disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Manju also concealed information of wealth worth Tk 4.22 crore

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Citycell One
It's Simple.

Songs of freedom
to rouse your spirits once again

Free Registration for Hello Tunes

Get 1 Free Hello Tune for every 2 downloads

See details in page 2



Hello
Tunes