

More than
1,40,000 people...

we do,
whatever it takes to
connect you
to the world!"



FedEx
Express

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

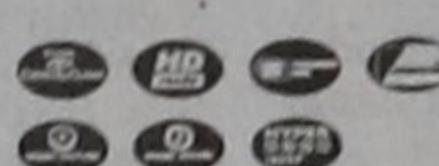
Every Package Matters

Turn Up Your Viewing Experience

PHILIPS
sense and simplicity

42TA2800/37TA2800
32TA2800/26TA2800

- High-definition LCD WXGA display, 1366 x 768p
- HD Ready, HDMI
- Digital Signal Clear
- Progressive Scan
- Virtual Surround Sound
- Smart Picture and Smart Sound
- 1000 page Hyperdrive
- Brightness 500cd/m²
- Contrast 3000:1



TRANSOCOM
ELECTRONICS

TARIQUE'S CASE
SC rejects ACC
plea for stay
extension

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday refused to entertain the Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) appeal for clearing the way for trial of BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman in a graft case.

The seven-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin, rejected the ACC petition in which the watchdog sought to extend the stay on a High Court (HC) order that had stalled the case proceedings against Tarique.

The Appellate Division, however, fixed April 28 to hear leave to appeal petition against the HC orders.

Earlier on October 4 last year, the apex court stalled for three weeks the HC stay order on the proceedings of the graft case following an ACC appeal to that end and directed the ACC to file a regular leave petition in the meantime.

The HC on October 1 issued a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

MAITREE EXPRESS
On-board visa
checking being
considered

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, Kolkata

On-board visa checking facility is among the steps India and Bangladesh are considering to make travel by Maitree Express train service between Kolkata and Dhaka easier.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty informed the media about this on Tuesday after a meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya.

Chakravarty said officials of the two countries are discussing how to make the train journey smoother for passengers and easing immigration and other procedures regarding the travel is on top of the agenda.

As part of these procedures, it is being considered if passengers' visa could be checked aboard the train, he added.

The diplomat's remarks came a day after the inaugural run of a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

UAE group guns for EPZ, tourism township

Seeks land in Ctg, Cox's Bazar

JASIM UDDIN KHAN



Dr Khater Massaad

Ras Al Khaima Investment Authority (Rakia) on Tuesday sought from the Bangladesh government large chunks of land in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar to establish an economic zone and a tourism township.

Visiting Chief Executive Officer of Rakia Dr Khater Massaad in an interview with The Daily Star yesterday in a capital hotel talked about the multi-billion dollar investment proposal.

"We will set up all types of industrial components our group has to offer at the proposed Chittagong Special Economic Zone, as the country has tremendous business opportunities and a huge ready market," said Massaad, chief executive officer (CEO) of the investment arm of the government of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK), an emirate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

About the size of the proposed

investment, Massaad who is also an adviser to the crown prince of RAK, said, "Right now I don't want to mention any specific figure for the investment, but I can say, the group might pour unlimited investments into its proposed Bangladesh projects, which could reach as high as multi-billion dollars."

Rakia is eyeing to lure in Far

Eastern and European tourists to its proposed township in Cox's Bazar where it wants to establish ultra-modern tourism facilities.

"We will introduce the first ever chartered plane service to and from Cox's Bazar and Far Eastern countries, as well as Europe, to attract mostly outbound tourists of the world," Massaad said.

Rakia's development wing Rakeen plans to build in the proposed world class tourism township a luxurious five star hotel, several exclusive villas, a golf course, a large shopping mall, and a sophisticated theme park. The proposed golf course will be the first ever private golf course in the country. The group also plans to build another five star hotel in the capital.

About the timeline of the investment Massaad said, "I can assure you that the group can start its work as soon as the government will give its approval."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

MAITREE EXPRESS

On-board visa
checking being
considered

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, Kolkata

On-board visa checking facility is among the steps India and Bangladesh are considering to make travel by Maitree Express train service between Kolkata and Dhaka easier.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty informed the media about this on Tuesday after a meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya.

Chakravarty said officials of the two countries are discussing how to make the train journey smoother for passengers and easing immigration and other procedures regarding the travel is on top of the agenda.

As part of these procedures, it is being considered if passengers' visa could be checked aboard the train, he added.

The diplomat's remarks came a day after the inaugural run of a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers thresh sheaves of Boro paddy at Mugrapara in Savar yesterday.

44 children drown in India bus crash

AFP, Bamroli

At least 44 people, nearly all children heading to school for final exams, drowned yesterday when their bus plunged off a bridge into a canal in western India, police said.

Distraught parents rushed to the scene of the disaster in Gujarat state as rescue workers struggled to find survivors in the water and a huge crane was used to haul the smashed vehicle out of the Narmada canal.

The accident in Bodeli, 170 kilometres (105 miles) from Ahmedabad, the state's main commercial city, was Gujarat's worst-ever road accident, local media reports said, as police said the death toll could rise.

Thirty-two girls, nine boys, the driver and the bus conductor, besides an unidentified woman passenger died in the early morning accident which occurred when the

bus veered off the road and smashed through a concrete barrier.

The children - aged 13 to 15 - were travelling to school to take final exams, Gujarat state transport official G.M. Aloriya told NDTV news channel.

Wailing parents of 15 of the dead - all girls from the same village of Bamroli close to the accident site - carried their children's bodies to the cremation ground late on Wednesday for one of several mass funerals for the victims.

Parents emerged from their houses carrying their daughters on wooden biers as the funeral procession wound slowly through Bamroli village to the cremation ground and stores downed their shutters as a mark of respect.

The dead girls were dressed in red and pink saris to signify their unmarried status.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

SUNAMGANJ BLAST

Mufti Hannan,
brother placed
on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sunamganj court yesterday placed chief of the outlawed Harkat-ul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) Mufti Abdul Hannan and his brother on a two-day remand in a case for blasting bombs at an Awami League rally in Sunamganj on June 21, 2004.

The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Hasanul Islam passed the order after Criminal Investigation Department CID Inspector Shafiqul Islam prayed for their seven-day remand for grilling producing the Huji chief and his brother Muhibullah before the court.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



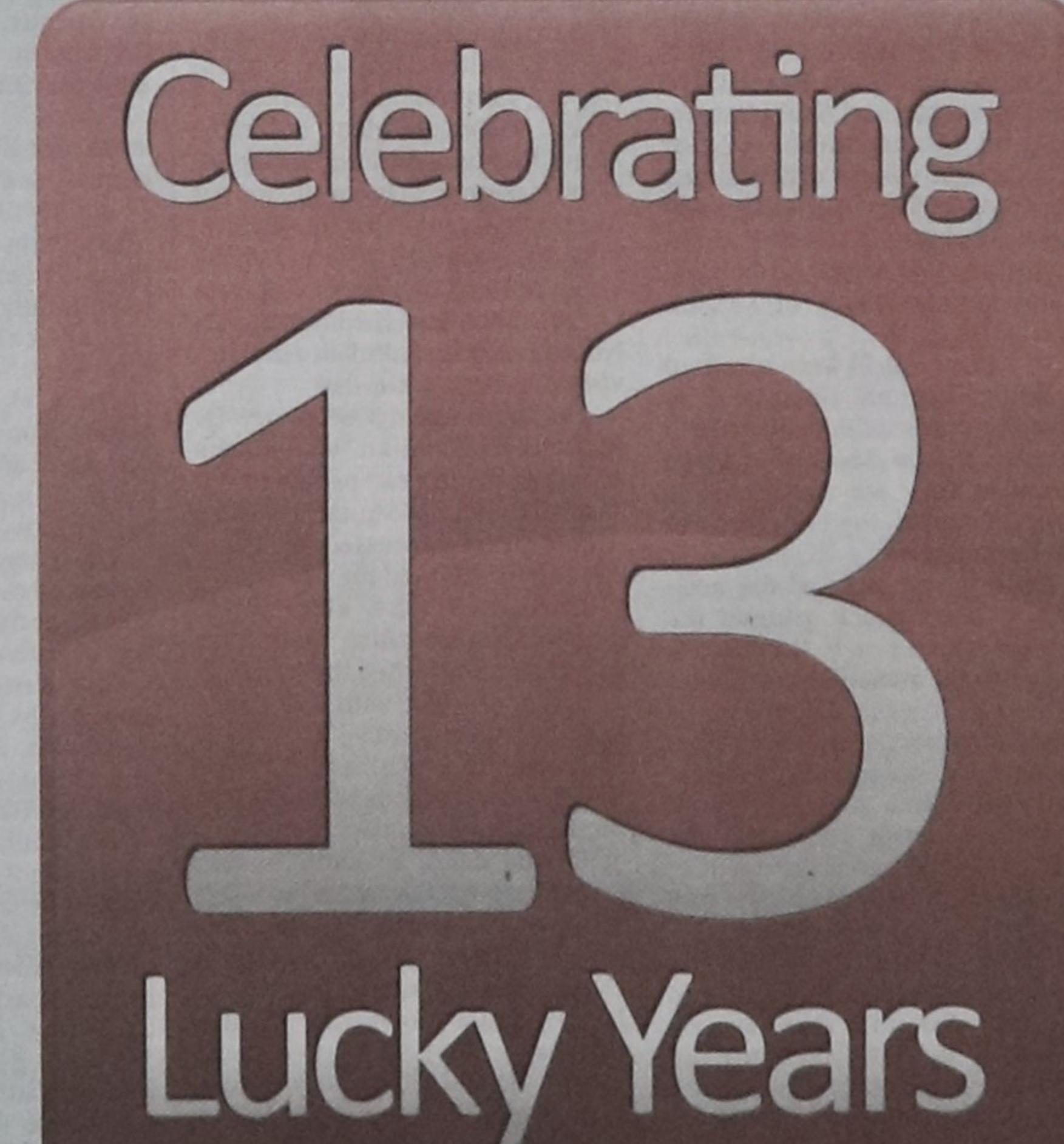
The Daily Star Classifieds

On Mobile or Computer

cellbazaar.com

Help: 01712383815

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



13 years of great banking service!

Luck has nothing to do with numbers. We believe, superior service and dedication are the key towards success and that's why we had devoted ourselves in your service over the last 13 years. Thank you for staying with us throughout this journey.



Prime Bank Limited
a bank with a difference