



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



FedEx
Express

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

Every Package Matters



Turn Up Your Viewing Experience

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

42TA2800/37TA2800
32TA2800/26TA2800

Sadar Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206

PHILIPS

sense and simplicity



Odhikar wants intimidation of intelligence agencies to stop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern about the alleged interference of intelligence agencies in the judicial process, human rights watchdog Odhikar yesterday demanded the government put a leash on the agencies and stop their intimidations.

Odhikar also expressed doubts about the holding of the parliamentary elections as per the Election Commission (EC) roadmap.

"Odhikar is concerned about serious accusations against intelligence agencies' alleged interference in judicial process," says an Odhikar report on the 16 months of emergency rule.

Referring to barrister Shafiqe Ahmed, senior lawyer of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, the report said the lawyer complained to the court on April 21 that

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

HC RULE Govt, EC asked to explain JS seat demarcation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule asking the government and the Election Commission (EC) to explain why the move to redo demarcation of parliamentary constituencies should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The rule issued by an HC bench comprising Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Farid Ahmed is returnable within two weeks.

The chief election commissioner (CEC) and two election commissioners, secretary at the EC Secretariat and principal secretary to the chief adviser were asked to return the rule.

The HC Order followed two writ petitions filed by former BNP state minister Abdul Mannan and ABM Nurul Islam, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court. Hearing on the two petitions was held simultaneously.

Abdul Mannan's counsel Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed submitted before the court that as per the constitution, demarcation of constituencies has to be done before voter list is made.

"The EC has redrawn

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Rice prices rise on wholesale markets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The price of different varieties of rice has risen in the wholesale markets in the capital over the last two days since the government's rice procurement programme began across the country.

Some wholesalers are saying that the price hike is a result of farmer holding back stock to avoid selling at lower prices to the government while the procurement continues.

The price of rice rose by Tk 20 to Tk 40 per maund (37.32kg) in the wholesale market in the city, selling now from Tk 1,100 to Tk 1,400 per maund compared to prices between Tk 1,070 to Tk 1,360 only two days ago.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Nepal sets May 28 as date for abolition of monarchy

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's government announced yesterday that its new constitution-drafting body would meet for the first time on May 28 when it is due to formally abolish the monarchy and declare the country a republic.

The Maoists, who scored a surprise victory in landmark elections last month, have vowed that

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Prayer Timing		
May 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Special team to probe graft in edn sector

ACC okays charge sheet against Moudud for amassing wealth illegally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday said that it has formed a special team to probe into institutional corruption in various levels of the education sector.

Besides, the ACC yesterday approved a charge sheet against detained former law minister Moudud Ahmed for concealing information about wealth worth over Tk 4.50 crore and amassing wealth worth over Tk 9.04 crore beyond known sources of income.

The charge sheet will be submitted under sections 26 (2) and 27 (1) of ACC act 2004, and section 15 of Emergency Power Rules, 2007.

The commission also approved filing two FIRs (first information report) against Dr Firoz Mahmud Iqbal, assignment officer of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, on charges of abuse of power with the connivance of others and taking bribe.

As part of the commission's ongoing crusade against institutional corruption, the ACC investigators will look into alleged graft and illegal activities in education ministry, education directorate and educational institutions.

The four-member team, headed by ACC Deputy Director Syed Iqbal Hossain, will investigate corruption in the process of bring-

ing educational institutions under MPO (monthly pay order), in admission process, and different financial irregularities.

The commission has already sent a letter to the education secretary asking it to extend cooperation to the team, providing logistic support and necessary documents and files. It has also asked the ministry to assign an official to the ACC team as a liaison officer during the investigation.

Other members of the team are ACC Assistant Director SM Manjur Ahmed, ACC Deputy Assistant Director Jahangir Alam and ACC Assistant Inspector Ataul Kabir.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

4 drown in launch capsized, many missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Four people died and many went missing as a passenger launch capsized in Ghorautra river under Nikli upazila of the district yesterday.

When contacted, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Md Asaduzzaman said bodies of four passengers were recovered soon after the accident. He, however, could not give identity of the four, and the number of passengers in the launch.

Search for the missing passengers was going on as of filing of this report at 7:00pm yesterday.

Police and locals said the Methmoim-bound launch from Kuliarchar was caught in a nor'wester at around 5:00pm and sank in the river.

According to UNB, the launch with over 150 passengers on board

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Renu Begum pushes the rickshaw-van driven by her son in midday on the Second Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge on the Buriganga yesterday. They carry lunch for office staff and factory workers in Keraniganj.

BARGE MOUNT PLANT Court to rule on May 18 if charges to be framed against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Special Court-1 will rule on May 18 if graft charges would be framed against detained Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina and seven others in the barge-mounted power plant case.

Meanwhile, Hasina, also a former prime minister, yet again said she would participate in the national election and win it if it is held in a free and fair manner.

She made the comment to her lawyers after Judge Mohammad Firoz Alam of the Special Court-1 yesterday fixed the date for ruling on the charge framing hearing.

Earlier, the counsel for former energy secretary Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, an accused in the graft case, completed submissions on the discharge petition.

As the court sat at 9:30am, Tawfiq's lawyer resumed argument that began on May 6 after counsels for Hasina completed theirs.

At one stage, the judge criticised

the lawyer for 'speaking on the points that the court had heard more than once. He asked him to come up with fresh points if he had.

The defence contended that his client Tawfiq had only carried out orders as a public official. He had not done anything beyond floating tender for setting up barge-mounted power plant.

Mahbubey Alam, Hasina's lawyer, argued over delay in filing the first information report. He said neither the FIR nor the charge sheet stated the reasons clearly.

The defence wrapped up their arguments at 4:00pm, and shortly afterwards, Kamrul Islam, another counsel for the AL chief, asked the court to fix the date for delivering order today (Tuesday). Angered, the judge replied, "You cannot dictate a court."

Coming out of the court, the lawyers told journalists that they are positive that Hasina would be cleared as there is no evidence or

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

POWER PLANT CASE HC asks govt why Hasina's trial not illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule asking the authorities to explain within eight days why continuation of trial proceedings of the barge-mounted power plant corruption case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina should not be declared illegal.

After hearing a writ petition filed by Hasina, an HC bench

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Another bid to reunite BNP foils for Delwar opposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A scheduled meeting between the leaders of the two factions of BNP to reunite the party could not be held yesterday afternoon following opposition from BNP chairperson-appointed Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

Party insiders said a top pro-Saifur faction leader was supposed to visit the home of a pro-Khaleda faction leader yesterday afternoon to discuss the party's unification issue. The pro-Khaleda leader asked some of his colleagues to attend the meeting but they refused following instructions from Delwar.

BNP standing committee member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, known as a pro-Saifur faction leader, told The Daily Star last evening that the meeting might not be held yesterday.

He, however, refused to give any details saying that the task of unifying the party is going on at different stages.

Party leaders said Delwar had an argument with Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah, adviser to detained

SEE PAGE 14 COL 5

CPB RALLY BLAST Huji man Sumon denies his involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Harkatul Jihad (Huji) leader Arif Hasan Sumon has denied his involvement in the bomb attack on a CPB rally on July 20, 2001.

However, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is convinced that the Huji leader was involved in the blast that killed seven people and injured several others.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Bangladesh Navy successfully test fires long range missile

UNB, Ctg

Bangladesh Navy yesterday successfully test fired C-802 missile in the Bay of Bengal, following an upgrade to the missile system with the assistance of a Chinese technical team, officials said.

"BNS Osman could attain this glorious level of achievement after two months of laborious

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

Reckless driving and poor parking of buses often cause traffic jams at Gulistan in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

Skilled workers' job abroad marks a dip

Lack of govt initiative blamed

PORIMOL PALMA

Lack of government initiatives to impart quality training, introduce certifying agencies and research of overseas labour markets have led to the decrease of the percentage of skilled and professional workers going abroad.

In many cases, the recruiting agencies also do not care about giving a worker the job they are trained in and often give non-technical workers jobs requiring technical skills, industry insiders

said.

Experts say Bangladesh could have earned more foreign exchanges than what it earns now from expatriate workers if the workers were properly trained. Skilled workers usually get better salaries and are less exposed to exploitation, they added.

Only three to six percent of workers who went abroad between 1998 and 2003 were under professional category. The percentage dropped below one between 2004 and 2007, according to the statis-

tics of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET).

However, 47 to 57 percent workers who went abroad between 1998 and 2000 were of either skilled or semi-skilled categories. The percentage dropped to 32 to 44 between 2001 and 2007, apart from 2005 when it reached 51 percent.

The percentage of unskilled workers going abroad ranged between 39 and 49 between 1998 and 2000. The percentage went high ranging between 53 and 67

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

WARI-BATESHWAR Prime Bank gives Tk 20 lakh for excavation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Bank Limited yesterday donated Tk 20 lakh to Oitihya Onneswan to help the excavation work at Wari-Bateshwar site in Narsingdi.

Prof Sufi Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of Oitihya Onneswan, which is running the Wari-Bateshwar Research Project, accepted the cheque from the bank's managing director, Shahjahan Bhuiyan, at a press conference at the National Press Club.

"Since Prime Bank values the need to uphold the country's tradition and culture, it has decided to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

CAMPUS RALLY Charge sheet given against 7 BCL men

CU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday submitted a charge sheet accusing seven leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chittagong University (CU) unit for violating the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) by bringing out a procession on the campus on April 30.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the Hathajari Police Station Mohammad Alamgir confirmed that they have submitted the charge sheet to the court of chief judicial magistrate.

"The charge sheet was submitted against the seven as their involvement in the incident were proved in the investigation," the OC said.

Sub Inspector (SI) Wali Ullah of the same police station accused 50 to 60 BCL men identifying nine in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

Leaders and workers of Awami League welcome their leader Khairuzzaman Liton to the party's Rajshahi city unit office after the chief adviser announced relaxation of ban on indoor politics in his address to the nation last night.