

Access. At FedEx, we believe you should have fast easy access to global business opportunities. With a worldwide delivery network, including 290,000 team members in over 220 countries and territories, we are committed to providing you with the best shipping experience possible. From the moment we receive your call to the moment we deliver to your customer.

To see how FedEx will work behind the scenes to help your company succeed, visit our website at www.fedex.com or call 855.951.6

FedEx
Express

Member of the FedEx Corporation
100 South College Blvd., Littleton, CO 80120
© 2008 FedEx Corporation

TRANSTEC
৩ডি-ফ্রি-টেকনোলজি

১৯১১৬৬-৮
০১৭১২-৬৬৫৬৩

TRANSCOM
ELECTRONICS

Colour Television, DVD Player & DVD Mini Home Theatre System

**BARISAL CITY CORP
63 out of 91
polling centres
'vulnerable'**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

More than two thirds of the Barisal City Corporation (BCC) election centres are vulnerable, Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP) concluded.

Sixty-three out of the 91 polling centres are "vulnerable" and 13 of them are "most vulnerable", officials said.

The most vulnerable centres are Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) office in Kawania, Sayeda Majidunnesa Secondary School-1, Sayeda Majidunnesa Secondary School-2, Alhaj Dalil Uddin Primary School-1, Alhaj Dalil Uddin Primary School-2, Khawja Moinuddin Chisti Senior Madrasa, Nuria Kindergarten, Nuria High School, Mathura Nath Public School-1, Mathura Nath Public School-2, Sagardi Union

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

**Govt may raise
income tax ceiling**

REJIAUL KARIM BYRON

The government may bring a few changes in the proposed budget including raising the income tax ceiling and withdrawing tax on the profit of deposit pension schemes.

The proposed budget for the fiscal year 2008-09 is likely to be placed before the advisory council today for approval. The budget will be passed through an ordinance after the council approves it.

Earlier on June 9, Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam proposed the Tk 99,962 crore budget.

Since there is no parliament to debate the proposed budget, the government invited different quarters to post their recommendations and suggestions regarding

the budget on the government website within June 16.

The government also took into consideration recommendations and reactions of different chambers and trade bodies, economists and individuals.

Sources said the government may withdraw the 10 percent tax on the profit of deposit pension scheme, which was not imposed in the proposed budget but had already been there for the last few years, to increase deposits in the banks.

In the budget to be submitted for advisory council's approval, the limit for tax-free income may be increased to Tk 1,65,000 from the existing Tk 1,50,000.

For female taxpayers and taxpayers aged over 70 years, the limit

may be raised to Tk 1,80,000 from the proposed Tk 1,65,000.

People from different quarters had, however, urged the government to increase the limit of tax-free income to Tk 2,00,000 since expenditure of the middle class people has increased significantly following food price hike and inflation.

In the proposed budget, the government raised the duty on printed paper to 25 percent from the existing 15 percent. But following criticisms, it might keep the existing duty unchanged.

The government may also keep the existing 15 percent customs duty on pictorial and drawing books used as educational material for children. Mirza Aziz had

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**TRAFFICKING BID
21 rescued from
Rajshahi border**

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Friday rescued 21 people including women and children while they were being trafficked to India through Charmadjar border across the Padma in Rajshahi.

The border guards, acting on a tip-off, challenged and apprehended the 21 individuals who had gathered on the border on Friday evening.

BDR sources quoting one of the rescued women said an unidentified man lured them, claiming to be members of a joint family in Narail and Jessore, with good jobs in India.

The man, however, escaped arrest by the time the BDR reached the scene.

The rescued are Asma, 27, her daughter Reshma, 5, and son Al-Mamun, 3; Razia, 24, and her son Alim, 2; Sufia, 26, her daughter Dipa, 5, and son Habibur, 7; Delwar Hossain, 35, Labu, 32, Yead Ali, 38, Shukuran, 22, Kakoli, 20, Tayeb Sheikh, 38, Abdul Bashar, 25, Hosne Ara, 20, Bachchu Mollah, 40, Wahid, 35, Nazma, 25, Rahima, 20, and Salma, 21.

BDR authorities in Rajshahi confirmed the rescue, saying that a case was filed on Friday night with Rajpara Police Station in connection with the crime.

Earlier, on May 13, the BDR rescued 28 people on the Godagari border in Rajshahi, en route to the neighbouring country.

**Nasim's condition
stable, say
doctors**

Family for release of
his medical report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors yesterday stated that former minister Mohammad Nasim's condition remains stable as his family said that delay in getting his medical reports is causing setbacks in arranging his treatment abroad.

"We still have not had any word about his condition officially and complications following the brain haemorrhage are already visible," the Awami League leader's son Tamir Shakil told reporters at the LabAid Hospital yesterday.

"We have already contacted Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore and they have asked us to send them his hospital reports as early as possible, to make arrangements for the type of treatment he needs," Tamir said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**One killed as
boiler explodes
at rice mill**

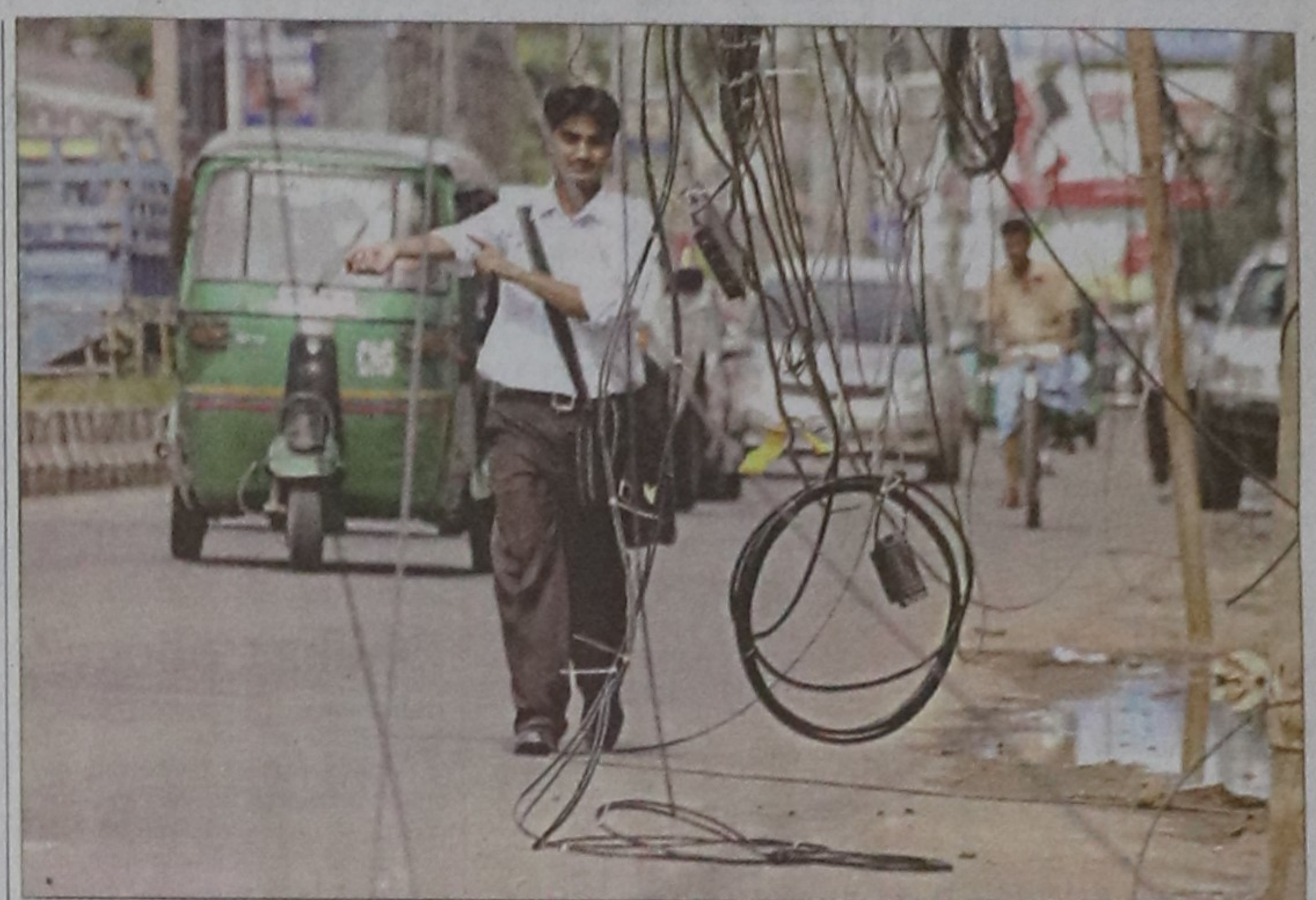
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

One person was killed and seven others suffered burns when the boiler of a rice mill exploded at Dhanghora bazaar in Sirajganj's Raiganj upazila yesterday, police said.

The dead was identified as Abdul Mannan, 32.

The injured were whisked to hospitals in Raiganj, Sirajganj and Bogra. The condition of one of them was stated to be critical.

The cause of the explosion could not be known.



The photo taken yesterday shows Internet and cable-TV wires hanging on Tejgaon-Gulshan-1 link road in Tejgaon in the capital as many service providers do not fasten their cables to electric poles properly.

**Call for making NGOs
transparent, accountable**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury and Prof Muzaffer Ahmad were scathing about the country's non-government organisations (NGOs) activities yesterday while urging them to become transparent, accountable and well governed.

Primary and Mass Education, Women and Children, and Cultural Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury, and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad were addressing a convention titled 'Institutional Good Governance of NGOs'.

The convention was organised by Sushasoner Jonny Procharavizan (SUPRO -- Campaign for Good Governance) and was held in the LGED auditorium in the capital.

Representatives from about 400 NGOs across the country attended the convention.

The convention adopted a 10-point 'accountability charter' which includes promises to bring transparency and accountability in NGO management and financial policies.

"We should ensure accountability and transparency in our work -- many questions are being raised about the governance and transparency of NGOs," Rasheda K Chowdhury said while addressing the closing session of the convention as the chief guest.

She said there is a lack of government monitoring of NGO activities. She hoped that the government will take measure to increase its NGO monitoring activities.

Rasheda urged all NGOs to bring professionalism in their

activities, saying some NGOs are run by family members.

Criticising different NGOs, Rasheda questioned how many of those have administrative structures based on gender equality.

There are NGOs which do not have transparency in disbursement of the development fund they get from donors.

"If we are campaigning and working against superstitions, then how extremists and militants crop up in our country?" Rasheda threw a question at the delegates adding that the time has come to assess NGO activities.

There are NGOs which show the same project to as many as five donors to get funds from all of them.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad at the inaugural session said NGOs do

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**JAGANNATH HALL
Bapa for change
in bldg design
to save trees**

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolan (Bapa) yesterday again said that a large number of old trees could be saved by slightly deviating the design of the proposed dormitory for Jagannath Hall at Dhaka University (DU).

A Bapa team headed by Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin, general secretary of the organisation, conveyed its observation to Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, the pro-vice chancellor of DU, during a meeting with him at 11:00am.

The DU authorities are to fell quite a good number of full-grown trees standing between Jagannath Hall pond and Udayan High School

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**Outlaw killed
in 'shootout'**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) was killed yesterday in a shootout between police and his cohorts at Houspur village in Kushtia.

The dead was identified as Anwar Hossain Selim, 35, son of Asan Ali of Katdah.

Two policemen were also injured in the incident.

Sources said acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Kamruzzaman, the officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, raided the Houspur brickfield where a group of BCP members were holding a meeting at about 2:30am.

When the law enforcers asked the outlaws to surrender, they opened fire on the policemen prompting them to retaliate.

Selim was killed on the spot while his accomplices managed to escape.

Two police constables Salam and Jahid were also injured during the shootout. They were admitted to Mirpur Upazila Health Complex.

Police recovered a shutter gun and 22 rounds of bullet from the scene.

Selim had been accused in at least 15 cases on different charges including murder, police said.

**Four killed in
city road
accidents**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people were killed in separate road accidents within 24 hours in city's Khilgaon, Motijheel, Airport and Gulshan areas yesterday.

Beauty Begum, a 21-year-old woman, was killed and her five-year-old son injured when a covered van hit the rickshaw she was travelling in from behind in the city's Khilgaon area.

Her sister Shamsunnahar said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
June 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-57
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Alok Kapali lofts the ball over extra cover during his maiden ODI hundred against India during their Asia Cup match in Karachi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

**Pakistan bombards
Taliban hideouts**

Pak militant chief suspends talks

AP, AFP, Khyber Agency

Pakistani forces bombarded suspected militant hideouts with mortar shells yesterday as the government launched a major offensive against Taliban fighters threatening the main city in the country's volatile northwest, officials said.

The offensive in the Khyber tribal region marked the first major military action Pakistan's newly elected government has taken against the militants operating in the tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan.

The government had said it preferred to try to defuse tension with the groups through negotiations, but with threats by Islamic militants to the city of Peshawar growing in recent weeks, the mili-

tary decided to take action. Khyber also is a key route for moving US military supplies into neighbouring Afghanistan.

By Saturday afternoon, the paramilitary Frontier Corps began shelling suspected militant hideouts in the mountains in Khyber, said local official Muhammad Siddiq Khan.

The leader of the Taliban in Pakistan said Saturday he is suspending peace talks with the government because of the offensive. Baitullah Mehsud said he is freezing the talks until a final decision is made by his movement's executive council.

"We are suspending peace talks with the government because the government is constantly using force against us," he told AFP from

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**Bush orders
sanctions against
'illegitimate'
Zimbabwe govt**

AFP, Washington

US President George W Bush said yesterday he had directed that sanctions be drawn up against the "illegitimate" government of Zimbabwe after a run-off vote boycotted by the opposition.

"Given the Mugabe regime's blatant disregard for the Zimbabwean people's democratic will and human rights, I am instructing the Secretaries of State and Treasury to develop sanctions against this illegitimate government of Zimbabwe and those who support it," Bush said in a statement.

The president said the United States would also be pressing for "strong action" at the United Nations, including an arms embargo on Zimbabwe and travel ban on regime officials, following

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



This road leading to Sikder Medical College Hospital at Rayer Bazar in the capital has been in this state for the last two months as Dhaka Wasais installing sewer lines.

PHOTO: STAR

**Hasina spends
time with
sister, daughter**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday spent time with her family members including her younger sister Sheikh Rehana and daughter Saima Wazed Putul at Putul's residence in Canada.

AL leader Abdus Sobhan Golap said apart from receiving medical treatment, the former premier is passing time with her grandchildren Aliza Amreen and Jarif, reported New York-based news agency ANA.

Meanwhile, Canada Chapter AL President Sarwar Hossain said Sheikh Hasina's visit to Canada would inspire the party leaders and activists who are looking forward to meet her.

**ASP found guilty
of stealing
mobile at ZIA**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Assistant superintendent of police (ASP) Mahiuddin Faruq yesterday was found guilty of stealing a mobile phone set from a Thai national at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on Friday.

Meanwhile, the Police Headquarters (PHQ) yesterday made recommendations to the home ministry for suspending the ASP for the offence.

Sources said Uttara Zone Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khondoker Rafiqul Islam with the help of the airport police, conducted the investigation and sent a note to the PHQ through the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

"We talked to the witnesses at ZIA and found the allegations of the Thai woman against the ASP true in the probe," Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star.

"We have sent a note containing the findings to the PHQ through the DMP", he added.

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed said, "I have forwarded the note to the PHQ which made recommendations to the ministry for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4