

Access. At FedEx, we believe you should have fast easy access to global business opportunities. With a worldwide delivery network, including 230,000 team members in over 220 countries and territories, we are committed to providing you with the best shipping experience possible - from the moment we answer your call to the moment we deliver to your customer.

To see how FedEx will work behind the scenes to help your company access the opportunities of the global market, visit experience.fedex.com or call 9585114.

FedEx Express
Singapore Express Co. Ltd.
Behind a great experience

Turn Up Your Viewing Experience

PHILIPS
sense and simplicity

- 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
26TA2800

TRANS-COM ELECTRONICS

LABOUR RECRUITMENT

Experts put proposed Gulf, Saudi steps under microscope

PORIMOL PALMA

Labour migration experts and recruiting agencies in Bangladesh laud Gulf countries' move to scrap sponsorship system but have reservations about Saudi Arabia's move to form companies to hire, supply and manage foreign workers, saying this will create another tier in the existing system to intensify labour exploitation.

They however prefer Saudi Arabia's National Society for Human Rights (NSHR) proposal for formation of a government commission to look after the affairs of foreign workers, and introduction of a mandatory insurance scheme to protect the rights of both employers and foreign workers.

Under sponsorship system, employers retain passports of foreign workers and can take advantage of it to deport them if any disputes arise, notes a study by NSHR.

There is no provision to prevent the sponsors from illegally realising money from the employees for renewal or transfer of residency permits and even for allowing them to go back home on vacation.

The Gulf labour ministers reached a broad-based consensus at a conference in Abu Dhabi in January to repeal the much debated 'sponsorship system', and look for alternatives, reported Arab News.

The proposed steps by the Gulf countries are significant for Bangladesh because most of the \$7 billion annual remittance come from around 30 lakh Bangladeshis working in the Middle East countries.

"In case of any dispute between the two parties, the employee normally resorts to the labour offices, which in turn fail to solve the problems in most cases. Then the cases reach labour courts where they take years awaiting a final verdict," said Dr Muflih Al Qah'tani, deputy president of



People wade through knee-deep water at Kalmakanda Union in Netrakona where flooding worsened yesterday and, right, rain aggravates flood situation snapping communication on Bhajandanga-Sadirpur-Guchha Gram road in Faridpur suburbs. Around 300 families of Alibad in Faridpur had to take refuge on an embankment due to flooding in the area.



Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in association with Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jaiica) yesterday brings out a procession in DCC Ward-36 as part of a campaign to keep the city clean.

Saarc summit to focus on 4 core issues

UNB, Dhaka

The forthcoming Saarc summit in Colombo will focus on four core issues of the present times such as food and energy security, climate change, and trade.

A senior foreign ministry official told UNB that the South Asian leaders, who will meet in the Sri Lankan capital between August 2 and August 3, would discuss how to make the dormant regional food bank operational as some member-states have not yet ratified it.

It was earlier decided that a Saarc food bank would be set up with an initial reserve of 241,000 tonnes of food grains to meet exigencies in any of the member-countries.

The official, requesting anonymity, said the summit leaders would also concentrate on how to meet the growing demand for energy for sustainable

Serial bomb blasts rock Indian IT hub: 2 dead

AFP, Bangalore

India's high-technology capital Bangalore was rocked by a string of seven bomb blasts yesterday with at least two people killed and a dozen more wounded, police said.

Police said the southern city had been put on high alert, with bomb disposal teams and forensic experts rushed into action as authorities tried to determine who was responsible and IT companies closed early.

"A woman and a man have died and around a dozen others received shrapnel injuries in the blasts," Bangalore police commissioner Shankar Bidri told reporters.

Two blasts occurred close to police facilities while another bomb went in an upmarket city-centre business district, he said, adding a fourth explosion targeted Koramangla district, which houses several computer software firms.

The other blasts were reported from the southern suburbs of the religiously mixed and cosmopolitan city, the capital of Karnataka state, police said.

Police chief Bidri said the total amount of explosive used in the bombs was "equivalent to one or two hand grenades."

"We suspect that timer devices were used in two or three explosive devices, while the others could have been set off using mobile phones," Bidri said.

"We are investigating the blasts. Bomb disposal squads and forensic experts have reached the spot. Bangalore police is on high alert."

So far none of India's various Islamic guerrilla groups or outlawed Maoist insurgents have claimed responsibility for the attacks, Bidri added.

Indian Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta said the blasts

POLICE-STUDENT CLASH 50 including UNO hurt in Begumganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

At least 50 people, including upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), policemen and teachers, were injured in a clash between police and students of Begumganj Agriculture Training Institute (BATI) over a rumour of death of a student of the institute on Thursday night.

Campus sources said the authorities yesterday declared the institute closed for an indefinite period and asked the students to vacate their dormitories.

Police said a student of BATI was injured after being hit by a speeding bus on Begumganj-Majdee road at around 9:00pm. But a rumour spread on the campus that

Brown suffers another by-polls blow

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown suffered another serious blow to his leadership Friday after his governing Labour Party lost one of its safest seats in a by-election in his native Scotland.

The Scottish National Party (SNP) reversed a majority of 13,500 in Glasgow East to snatch Labour's 25th safest seat in Britain, prompting more questions about how long Brown can remain in Downing Street.

The premier insisted he was "getting on with the job" following the result and would focus on steering Britain through tough economic times.

Breakthrough brings hope of WTO deal

AFP, Geneva

Despair turned to hope at WTO talks on yesterday as an apparent breakthrough in deadlocked negotiations raised the possibility of a new global free-trade pact being agreed after seven years of stalemate.

Ministers from 35 leading economies have been meeting here all week to discuss reductions in subsidies and import tariffs with the aim of mapping out a new deal to bring down barriers to international trade.

After more than four days of nearly fruitless talks and gathering gloom, a source told AFP that key partners the United States, the

Moscow keen to expand ties with Dhaka

Russian FM says UNB, Singapore

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who had a meeting with Foreign Adviser Iftokhar Ahmed Chowdhury Thursday evening in Singapore, said Russia views Bangladesh as a close friend and is keen to expand cooperation with Dhaka.

They held the meeting on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Regional Forum currently being held in Singapore.

Iftokhar thanked the Russian foreign minister for the very warm reception that was accorded to him

Wife of witness to Aug 17 blasts in Satkhira found dead

UNB, Satkhira

The wife of lone witness to August 17, 2005 serial bomb blasts here was found dead at Bakal checkpoint under Sadar upazila on Thursday night.

The body of Hajera Bibi, 40, wife of Raushan Ali of Bakal Islampur village in local pourasava, was found hanging from a tree. On information, police recovered the body at about 11:00pm.

Hajera went missing on Thursday afternoon.

Raushan, who witnessed the August 17 bomb blasts here, alleged that outlawed JMB men strangled his wife and hanged the body from the tree.

Local journalists said police declined to talk to them about the killing.

Local sources said JMB member Nasiruddin, neighbour of Raushan, was arrested as per information given by him following the serial blasts. JMB members have been threatening his family members since the arrest of Nasiruddin.

SYLHET MAYORAL POLLS Internal feuds dog AL, BNP candidates

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Former Sylhet unit BNP president MA Haque, who ran for mayor in the 2003 election and lost, is contesting the polls this time again. Ilyas Ali faithful have streamed into his campaign even though the two have long been on the opposite side in district BNP politics.

Party leaders believe that Haque, who had largely been inactive in politics since his 2003 defeat, and Ilyas, a former lawmaker and now the convener of district unit



Once a children's playground, the land next to Buriganga Bridge in Postagola area is now occupied by transport operators who turned it into a parking lot for buses. The encroachers took control of the open space right under the noses of the law enforcers.

Malaysia returnee beaten up by manpower agent

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A worker recently returned from Malaysia was seriously injured after being beaten allegedly by a manpower agent and his sons at Gopalpur upazila in Tangail yesterday.

Injured Mohammad Abdur Razzak, 31, son of farmer Rehan Ali of Banaijan village, was admitted to Gopalpur Upazila Health Complex.

Razzak said he went to Malaysia two years ago through Jilani Travels at Fakirerpool in Dhaka after paying manpower agent Abul Kalam Azad of Gopalpur Tk 220,000.

Prayer Timing

July 26

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

tutor in your pocket

The Daily Star Classifieds
On Mobile or Computer
cellbazaar.com
Help: 017132381-5

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views.

Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents.

Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students.

Star Campus helps link young minds together.