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Bill Gates tops US rich list again

AFP, New York

Microsoft founder Bill Gates has recovered his spot at the top of the US money heap, displacing investor Warren Buffett as America's richest person, Forbes magazine's latest list reveals.

With 57 billion dollars net worth Gates again leads the list of 400 richest individuals in the world's wealthiest country.

He displaced Buffett who

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Policy summit a move to control political system Says Menon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB) President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said the caretaker government plans to hold the policy summit as part of its efforts to establish a "controlled political system" in the country.

"The army-backed caretaker government continues to apply various techniques for establishing a controlled political system. They have made a proposal for the policy summit to frame a policy to run the country," Menon said at the inauguration of WPB central committee's extended meeting at Colonel Taher Auditorium in the capital.

Menon said such a policy can only be formulated in parliament not in a summit of political parties or a meeting of the two political leaders of two major political parties, according to a press release yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Comilla Medical interns on strike

UNB, Comilla

Interns at Comilla Medical College Hospital started work abstention yesterday demanding punishment to those responsible for Thursday's incident on the campus.

At least 10 CMC students were injured in a clash with local people when the students were agitating against reopening of Medical Assistant Training School on the campus.

The resident students of the medical college left their dormitories by yesterday noon as per the decision of the college academic council.

The medical college was declared closed for an indefinite period on Thursday following the clash. A three-member committee has been formed to probe the incident.

Lanka lifts ban on five 'rebel' ICL players

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka will re-admit players aligned with the unauthorised Indian Cricket League into domestic cricket, officials said yesterday, in a move that defies the world cricket establishment.

"Players will be allowed to play for their respective clubs and share their expertise, but cannot represent the country," Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) media manager Shane Fernando told AFP.

The SLC had last year banned its five ICL players -- Marvan Atapattu, Russel Arnold, Upul Chandana, Avishka Gunawardena and Saman Jayanthi -- from playing any official cricket matches.

The decision comes two days after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) joined its counterparts from other countries in banning 13 players, including former captain Habibur Bashir, who has signed up with the ICL.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Fierce police-militants clash in Delhi

Two bombing suspects gunned down

AFP, New Delhi

Indian police shot dead two alleged militants during a fierce gun battle in a Muslim area of New Delhi yesterday, including a leader of a shadowy group behind a spate of deadly bombings.

The fighting erupted around a house in Jamia Nagar, in the south of the capital, when police acting on a tip-off discovered a group of around five armed men holed up in a building in a maze of narrow streets.

The ensuing hour-long battle came less than a week after the city was hit by coordinated bomb attacks claimed by the group of one of the slain men.

"In this operation, Atif alias Bashir, who was one of main leaders of the Indian Mujahideen, was killed. He is linked with the blasts

all over the country," New Delhi police commissioner Y.S. Dhadwal told reporters.

Over the past five months, serial bombings claimed by the Indian Mujahideen have hit the cities of Jaipur, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and New Delhi -- leaving at least 130 dead and many more wounded.

The police official said the operation ended with two militants dead and one in custody. Two others managed to flee.

New Delhi was rocked by blasts in busy shopping areas last Saturday that left 22 dead and around 100 wounded.

The wave of nationwide attacks have forced the government to confront the emergence of an indigenous Muslim militancy.

The dramatic shoot-out in India's capital came a day after the government unveiled new security

measures designed to tackle what Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said were "vast gaps" in intelligence gathering on militants.

The cabinet approved proposals to hire 7,000 additional policemen in New Delhi, install surveillance cameras in busy areas and create a research wing in its intelligence agency.

Singh said India had to face up to the growing involvement of home-grown militants in attacks.

In the past, India has focused its limited counter-terrorist and intelligence resources on neighbouring Pakistan, which it accuses of orchestrating militant attacks.

Hindu-majority India has around 140 million Muslims. While tensions have always existed, India's Muslims have in the past largely resisted organised militancy.

CA leaves for NY tonight to join UNGA session

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed leaves for New York tonight to attend the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

He will be accompanied by his wife Neena Ahmed.

The other members of the dele-

Another UNB report says, before leaving for New York, the chief adviser is likely to address the nation today. He is expected to make some announcements against the backdrop of fast changing political scenario.

gation include Foreign Affairs Adviser Ittekhah Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary of the CA's Office Kazi M Aminul Islam and CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim.

The CA will deliver the country

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

4 arrested in connection with robbery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police has detained four people in connection with the Tk 46 lakh-robbery committed on ACI Group officials at Gulshan on September 14 and seized Tk 1.17 lakh from them.

The arrestees are Hazrat Ali, a microbus driver of ACI Group, Piar Ali, Khokan Mia and Mohammad Ilias alias Sekul.

A microbus and two motorbikes used for committing the robbery were also seized.

Deputy Commissioner of DB (North) Moinul Hasan said at least 10 to 12 criminals were involved in the robbery, adding that all of them have been identified.

He said microbus driver Hazrat Ali was the mastermind behind the robbery.

The DB official said they first detained Piar Ali. On his confession

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Severe traffic jam near Eid markets

KAILASH SARKAR

Most roads in front of the city shopping malls, markets and restaurants were crowded yesterday with thousands of Eid shoppers and vehicles, which created severe traffic congestions although it was a holiday with no office rush hours.

Hundreds of people could not reach their homes after completing shopping and were seen having iftar at markets and on the roads.

Many said shopping for the upcoming Durga Puja also intensified the daylong jams and crowds in front of Mouchak Market, Banga Bazar, New Market, Gausia, Bashundhara City Complex, Eastern Plaza, Rapa Plaza, Rifle Square, Ramna Bhaban and Hotel Star. Similar scenes were presented at Farmgate, Elephant Road, Karwan Bazar and Gulistan.

According to witnesses, traffic jams were severe mainly in Mouchak, Banga Bazar, New

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Zardari to address NA amid concern over US strikes

Meets Bush in New York Tuesday

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's newly elected President Asif Ali Zardari will address parliament for the first time this weekend, officials said, amid mounting concerns over direct US strikes in its tribal areas.

Zardari, who was sworn into office on September 9 and succeeds Pervez Musharraf, has summoned both houses of parliament to meet at 3:00pm (0900 GMT) Saturday for his address, a government statement said.

The widower of slain ex-premier Benazir Bhutto and co-chairman of her Pakistan People's Party, Zardari sailed into presidency smoothly despite a controversial past.

Musharraf resigned on August

19 after the coalition government threatened to impeach him over constitutional violations including his failure to address the parliament annually.

Musharraf addressed the parliament only once during his eight-year rule, when opposition politicians booed and chanted hostile slogans.

Officials did not reveal what Zardari planned to say in his address.

"It is an important event and the president is addressing the parliament in less than 15 days after taking the oath," senior presidential aide Farhatullah Babar told AFP.

"It is normally a speech prepared by the government in which

the president reviews the entire working of the government and enunciates its domestic and foreign policies."

His address comes as Pakistan faces incursions and missile strikes against alleged al-Qaeda linked militants in its tribal areas by US-led forces based in Afghanistan.

Zardari is due to meet US President George W. Bush for the first time on Tuesday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly to be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Bush and Zardari, who was sworn into office on September 9 to take over from Pervez Musharraf, will meet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly to be held at the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

Pavements occupied by hawkers, haphazardly parked cars, absence of necessary traffic control and a vast crowd of Eid shoppers on the weekend make this road near Gausia Market very difficult to use.

Transformer glitch shuts down biggest atom smasher

AP, Geneva

The world's largest particle collider malfunctioned within hours of its launch to great fanfare, but its operator didn't report the problem for a week.

In a statement Thursday, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research reported for the first time that a 30-ton transformer that cools part of the collider broke, forcing physicists to stop using the atom smasher just a day after starting it up last week.

The faulty transformer has been replaced and the ring in the 17-mile circular tunnel under the Swiss-French border has been cooled back down to near zero on the Kelvin scale minus 459.67 degrees

Fahrenheit the most efficient operating temperature, said a statement by CERN, as the organization is known.

When the transformer malfunctioned, operating temperatures rose from below 2 Kelvin to 4.5 Kelvin extraordinarily cold by most standards, but warmer than the normal operating temperature.

CERN had not reported any problems with the project since its launch Sept. 10, but issued its statement shortly after The Associated Press called asking about rumours of troubles.

Physicists said it wasn't surprising problems would occur in getting a huge and immensely complicated collection of equipment like the Large Hadron Collider up and

running smoothly.

"This is arguably the largest machine built by humankind, is incredibly complex, and involves components of varying ages and origins, so I'm not at all surprised to hear of some glitches," Steve Giddings, physics professor at University of California, Santa Barbara. "It's a real challenge requiring incredible talent, brain power and coordination to get it running."

Judith Jackson, spokesman for the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Ill., echoed that view.

"We know how complex and extraordinary it is to start up one of these machines. No one's built one

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BSTI to conduct test on imported powdered milk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) will conduct a test on all imported powdered milk from today.

BSTI has already taken samples of all brands of the powdered milk available in the markets. It will take at least seven days to complete the test, sources said.

The chemistry department of Dhaka University will assist BSTI in conducting the test.

BSTI, however, urged the people not to consume the imported powdered milk until further advice.

BSTI took the measure following the international media reports that said six children died and several thousand fell sick after having the milk in China.



PHOTO: STAR

Rickshaws move cautiously around the edges of enormous potholes on Shyampur Thana Road in Postagola. Accidents occur there almost every day.

Potholes cause frequent mishaps at Postagola

ROADS UNCARED FOR 9 YEARS

HILEMUL ALAM

Rickshaw-van puller Rabiul Islam was carrying sandals to Chawk Bazar from Shyampur around noon Monday when one of the wheels collapsed in the middle of a road near Shyampur Police Station. It took him two hours to hire another van and get the goods moving again.

Everything happened just because of the road. The heavily damaged road brought the suffering upon him.

"It will take Tk 800 to repair the van... I was hired for Tk 200. I have to deal with a Tk 600 loss," said Rabiul, who earns between Tk 150 and Tk 300 a day.

Break-down and accidents of vehicles especially rickshaws, rickshaw-vans and CNG-run three wheelers in the potholes of Shyampur Thana Road are almost a regular phenomenon. Buses, minibuses and trucks also break

down on the road.

"A few days ago I saw a rickshaw flip on its side with a woman and a six-year-old boy in it. The two were returning from a physiotherapy centre near the police station. They returned with more injuries than they had gone in with," said Azizur Rahman, a staff of a bus ticket counter.

Wasim, a cart pusher, said it took him about 20-30 minutes just to get past a pothole on the road taking help from three helpers.

About 100 pushcarts move on the road carrying heavy items like iron rods and the pushers suffer the most, said Abdus Samad, a pusher of a cart.

The roads in front of the first Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge at Postagola, the underpass of the bridge and nearby roads are also in a very bad condition as there are many potholes on them.

The roads get waterlogged even after a light shower which damages the roads fast, said an

official of Roads and Highways Department of Keraniganj branch-2.

Two open manholes pose threats to pedestrians and vehicles just 15 yards away from Shyampur Police Station on Postagola Thana Road.

"I have seen wheels of many vehicles fall into the manholes, especially after rain as the road gets waterlogged," the official said.

The official said rainwater of Jurain area gets stuck on the road as there is no way for the water to recede. He claimed the road was repaired three years ago and it was spoilt quickly due to waterlogging.

"We do temporary repair work on regular basis to keep the road usable," he said.

Firoz Alam, sub-assistant engineer of the Keraniganj branch-2, said they submitted a Tk 10-lakh estimate to repair the potholes to the Munshiganj division 15 days ago. "We will start repairing after the tender

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Sep	Sehri	Iftar
19	20		6-00
20	21	4-27	5-59
21	22	4-28	5-58

Prayer Timing

September 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-27	4-33
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-00	6-10
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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.

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Star Campus helps link young minds together.

