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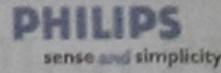
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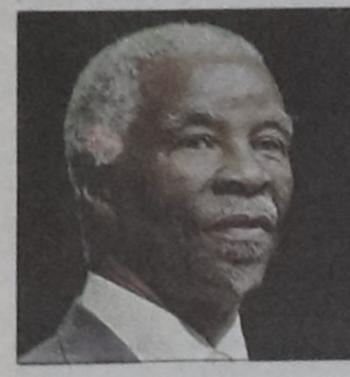
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TRANSCOM



SA President Mbeki set to step down Says ruling party ANC

AP, Johannesburg

South Africa's ruling party said yesterday that President Thabo Mbeki had agreed to resign after being asked to step down, a move that could heighten turmoil in Africa's economic powerhouse.

Mbeki was due to stand down next year after two terms in office, but faced growing pressure from SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Hasina to seek bail in Noor Ali case today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A petition is likely to be filed today on behalf of Awami League president Sheikh Hasina, now abroad on parole for treatment, with the High Court (HC) for bail in an extortion case filed against her by businessman Noor Ali.

"We will submit the petition on behalf of Sheikh Hasina with the HC on Sunday for her bail in the case. We will file two more petitions with the HC on Monday for her bail in Niko and barge-mounted power plant corruption cases filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC)," said barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, filing lawyer for Sheikh Hasina.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, he said that they would seek bail for Hasina in the cases on health ground.

Barrister Taposh said the HC had recently issued a rule upon the SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

TAHRIR LEADERS' ARREST NO 'SURPRISE'

Govt probing militant links for sometime

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Investigators are now probing Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh's suspected involvement or link with militancy at home and abroad following Thursday's arrest of 10 of its leaders and activists in Rajshahi.

were not unexpected and that the agencies were looking for Tahrir men after a few of them distributed leaflets at Baro Masjid in Rajshahi around 10 days before the arrests.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) Commissioner Mahbub Mohsin yesterday said the arrest of Tahrir leaders on Thursday was not surprising. "We had been looking for the organisation's leaders and

activists for distributing leaflets at Baro Masjid," he told The Daily

Law enforcement and intelligence agencies suspected Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh as a militant organisation and kept it under watch for quite a long time although it is not officially declared ers" Sources in the law enforcement a militant outfit, said a top official agencies yesterday said the arrests of a law enforcement agency in

yesterday received a fax dated September 18 sent in the name of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) that apparently acknowledged Hizb ut-Tahrir as its 'front organisation' and asked the government and all law enforcement agencies to refrain from harassing its leaders and activists.

The message also reiterates Tahrir Chief Coordinator Mahiuddin Ahmed's demand for releasing the 10 arrested leaders and activists within 48 hours and threatened that otherwise "Bangladesh will be stained with the blood of law enforcers and all the advis-

Trear Warranty

Although Hizb ut-Tahrir has been campaigning in the country for several years by distributing Meanwhile, The Daily Star leaflets and putting up posters, its activities came to the notice of law enforcers after the grenade attack on the then British high commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury at Hazrat Shah Jalal Shrine in Sylhet on May 21, 2004.

Tahrir men had put up anti-British and anti-US posters around SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Global turmoil threatens RMG

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Exporters fear fallout from the global financial turbulence on the local garment industry as the country's major export destinations are hit hard by the economic turmoil stemming mainly from the US subprime crisis.

Economists and trade analysts suggested efforts to improve productivity, and diversify products and export markets to weather the financial storm.

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Fazlul Hoque said the local readymade garment export would suffer in the wake of the global financial crisis as major economies are facing meltdown.

More than 72 percent (\$3.50 billion) of the total export earnings from knitwear come from European countries and more than 20 percent (\$8.50 million) from the USA. The other major destinations of knitwear products are Canada, Japan and Poland, Hoque added.

READ MORE IN STAR BUSINESS

Subrata Bain, Jisan groups behind killing

Confess 2 suspects in murder of Yolk Group partner

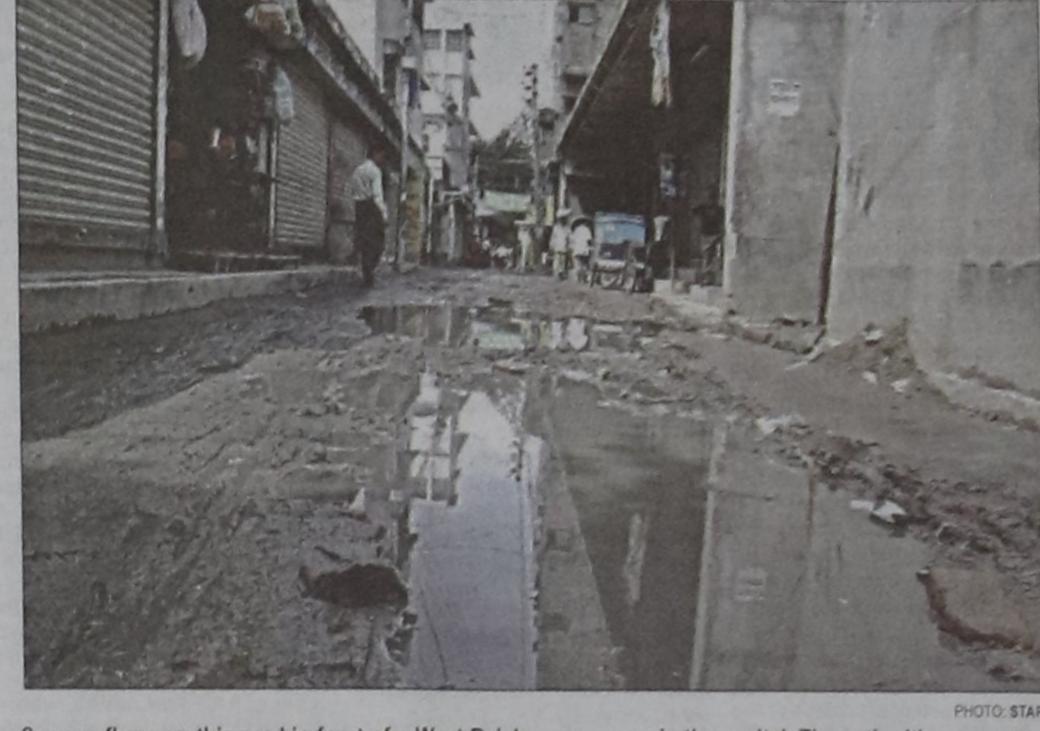
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective police in a predawn raid vesterday arrested two suspected killers of garment factory owner Abdus Salam Babu from a house in Kafrul area of the capital.

Police said they arrested Salam, 35, and Jewel, 35, on charge of killing Abdus Salam, a director and owner of Yolk Group, in front of his factory at Kakrail on September 15.

When placed before the reporters at Detective Branch office vesterday afternoon, detained Salam disclosed that four cadres of dreaded Subrata Bain and Jisan groups took part in the killing mission with him.

Salam said he planned to kill Abdus Salam as he was supplying SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Sewage flows on this road in front of a West Rajabazar mosque in the capital. The authorities are yet to address the problem persisting for around two years.

Rajabazar roads lack repair, full of sewage

ROADS UNCARED FOR 10

HELEMUL ALAM

Rehana Akter was waiting with her two children in front of their due to overflowing of the sewer. house in West Rajabazar, hoping to be lucky enough to get a rickshaw on a road named Ahmed Khaner Goli, a part of which always remains inundated by sewage.

Her son Sadman Sakib and daughter Sadia Islam Promi, students of Mastermind School, were being late for classes as no rickshaw-puller was wanting to cross the malodorous germ infested inundated part of the road.

late for school due to the problem of getting a rickshaw here," said Rehana, who has been going through the same frustrating morning ritual everyday for Pharmacy Road in the same area

the last seven years. Some of the older residents of

"Rickshaw-pullers demand 5 condition of the road is very bad.

to 10 takas to cross the 10 yards come out of the sewer," said she said.

dirty water, I have to beg them area. for a ride on top of paying extra," she added.

West Rajabazar Mosque to "My children are quite often Panthapath near Square big portion of which gets inundated by overflowing sewage.

is very bad too.

Rozina, a resident of Indira the area have been facing the Road also a student of class nine, problem for the last 10 years, she who gets on Panthapath said adding, Ahmed Khaner Goli through West Rajabazar to go to stays submerged under a foot or her coaching centre, said walka foot and a half of sludgy sewage ing through the neighbourhood is almost impossible as the

"Most of the time, I am forced of waterlogged area as the water to walk as rickshaw-pullers are on the road is very dirty which reluctant to get on that road,"

The road was repaired three "Rickshaw-pullers most of years ago, but the work was the time don't want to come to shoddy, said Mostafizur my house pulling through the Rahman, another resident of the

Sewage is overflowing from two manholes round the clock in The road stretching from front of Shantir Neer at 58/8/Ga and in front of a bedding store at 58 West Rajabazar, inundating Hospital is also in a bad state, a the street.

Sumon, a resident of the area, said shop owners threw rubbish The condition of Ranada on the road to fill in the potholes,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

TOXIC CHINESE MILK POWDER

BSTI moves to test all registered brands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) yester- las. day collected samples of powdermilk brands available on the local market to test for melamine, officials said.

in a week, they said.

Meantime, officials in market. Chittagong seized 32 cans of Chinese Yashili brand dry milk recently blacklisted by the health directorate.

testing three powder milk brands--Yashili 1, Yashili 2 and Sweet Baby 2, produced in China where international media reported three babies require us to test for melamine, we

recent weeks after drinking melamine-contaminated baby formu-

The institution asked the chemistry department at Dhaka adding that they will go to different University for chemical agents necessary to detect melamine in The findings will be published milk as they are not available at their laboratory or on the local

moisture, acidity, solubility, fat contents and a few other things in ogy wing of the BSTI, said. milk powder, but never thought of The BSTI will give priority to testing for melamine," BSTI Director General Azmal Hossain they are not available even at the

"Now that circumstances

died and thousands fell sick in have to look for chemical agents like diethylmine and pyridine," he

Fishermen preserve Hilsa with salt at Halishahar in Chittagong at the peak of the Hilsa season. They are utilising their

time doing this since they could not fish for the last few days due to a depression over the Bay.

His office also asked the Dhaka University to send experts, he said, laboratories and repeat the tests several times for accuracy. "We're not sure of getting all the

necessary chemical agents at the Dhaka University," Dr Ashish Ratan "The BSTI usually tests for Sen, chief scientist and deputy director at the food and bacteriol-He said the BSTI will bring in

chemical agents from abroad if Dhaka University.

Azmal, the BSTI director SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Money took them to Indian rebel cricket The Baily Star roundtable told

SPORTS REPORTER

careers on international and Indian Cricket League (ICL).

They were speaking at a roundtable titled 'Bangladesh Cricket: Steps Forward' organised by The Daily Star at its office yester-

but the cricketers should have had the courage to admit that money was the primary thing that tempted them," told former national captain and ex-chief selector Faruque

cricketers who joined the ICL under the banner of Dhaka

Government soldiers and Tamil

Tiger rebels fought a series of bat-

tles across Sri Lanka's war-ravaged

northern region, killing 26 rebels

island has escalated in recent

weeks with government forces

sweeping deep into rebel-held

territory, capturing insurgent

capital at Kilinochchi.

and one soldier, the military said

AP, Colombo

Saturday.

Lankan battles

kill 26 rebels

"Some of them have even said

"There was also talks of players

they had problems with the board

or the coach. But they should have

materialise. I think the BCB [Ban-

gladesh cricket Board) officials,

should have handled the situation

Worriers last week.

raised these issues earlier.

Cricketers and cricket officials observed that money lured some Bangladeshi players to risk their domestic circuits for the banned joining the ICL last year when the

"They have made many excuses

bomb Rajshahi police stations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

IMB threatens to

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) yesterday threatened to bomb police stations and checkpoints in the city.

In a fax to the Rajshahi

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Metropolitan Police (RMP) headquarters at around 6:00pm, the banned Islamist outfit said it would rebel league began. But it did not launch attacks in retaliation for arrest and harassment of its cadres. Confirming the threat from the who had hints of that also this time, militants, Mahfujur Rahman, did not take it seriously. They

back to chaos

better," added Faruque. Bangladesh Ex-national skipper and currently BCB's chairman of cricket operations Gazi Ashraf Hossain, in not going reply, admitted that they knew 'something was going to happen'. "But we kept in touch with the

Faruque was referring to the 13 players and it never came to my Asserts Adviser Zillur mind that they would be joining SEE PAGE 15 COL 6 in Washington

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman has said the caretaker government has not moved away from its goal to establish a sustainable democracy through holding a free, fair and credible election before the end of 2008.

"The caretaker government is only pursuing a pragmatic strategy keeping the goal intact," he said while delivering a lecture on "Bangladesh Transition to Democracy" SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Sep	Sehri	Iftar
20	21		5-59
21	22	4-28	5-58
22	23	4-28	5-57
Prayer Timing			

September 21 Jamaat Azan 4-27 4-33 1-15 12-45 5-00 4-45 6-09 5-59 Maghrib 7-45

Esha

FINANCIAL MARKET CRISIS

Bush offers \$700b in 2-yr rescue plan

AFP, Washington

President George W. Bush's administration has proposed a 700billion-dollar bailout of the troubled financial sector over a twoyear period, according to a draft proposal sent to Congress and released Saturday.

The unprecedented plan would give Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson sweeping authority to buy up to 700 billion dollars of tainted mortgage-related assets to stem a grave financial crisis, said the draft text, posted on The New York Times website.

"The Secretary's authority to purchase mortgage-related assets payer. under this Act shall be limited to 700,000,000,000 dollars outstanding at any one time," the draft proposal states.

The plan also allows for an increase in the public debt limit, to 11.3 trillion dollars, and grants the treasury secretary powers to buy, sell and hold residential and commercial mortgages as well as securities based on those mortgages.

The extraordinary authority would expire in two years but would permit the government to hold the assets purchased for as long as the Treasury Department believes is necessary, it said.

The rescue calls for the purchase of assets only from US-based firms and grants the Treasury

Department legal immunity from any lawsuits as part of the bailout

It remained unclear how the government would manage the assets it buys. But under the plan Paulson would have authority to turn to private financial institutions to carry out the operation or create other bodies to purchase

mortgage assets and issue debt.

According to the text, in carry-

ing out his new authority, the Treasury secretary is to take into account ways for "providing stability or preventing disruption to the financial markets or banking system" and for "protecting the tax-

News of the proposed rescue plan fueled a powerful market rebound on Friday.

President George W. Bush defended the plan on Saturday, telling reporters: "This is a big package because it was a big prob-

Speaking after after a week of crisis in financial markets, Bush said outside the White House decisive action was needed and that the government would eventually make back the money used

for the rescue. "I will tell our citizens and continue to remind them that the risk of doing nothing far outweighs the

risk of the package. SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



School children avail a free ride behind a rickshaw on Lane-5 of Shahidnagar, Lalbagh, in Dhaka as the lane has been under stagnant sewage and rainwater for the last four months. EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft 1 rd., 729 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dha

three separate clashes in Vavuniya,

place Friday along the front lines in Vavuniya, Kilinochchi, Welioya and Jaffna districts, a military statement said.

while in Kilinochchi nine rebels

were killed, it said.

Troops destroyed a rebel bunker in Welioya after a clash that killed three insurgents and wounded 22 more, the military said. A rebel mortar attack and booby

trap explosions in Welioya killed

one soldier and wounded five

Fighting on the Indian Ocean more. Another rebel was killed in the northern Jaffna peninsula, the statement said.

With most communication with bases and threatening to overrun the northern areas cut, rebel milithe Tamil Tigers' administrative tary spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan could not be reached The latest infantry clashes took for comment. Independent verification of the

fighting and casualties was not possible because most journalists are banned from the war zone. Soldiers killed 13 guerrillas in Both sides have been accused of exaggerating enemy casualties and SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

