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Bangladesh won't let its land used for terrorism

Asserts PM BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh would not allow anyone to use its territory as a springboard for terrorist activities, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday while addressing a function at Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters marking the BDRWeek-2009.

"We believe in maintaining good relations with our neighbours to portrait Bangladesh a peaceful country in South Asia, but we would resist any kind of unfair steps against us with courage and boldness," Sheikh Hasina said.

Highlighting the need for stopping smuggling at any cost for the interest of national economy, the prime minister

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Uttara torn up

Traffic system collapses as Wasa digs up roads for 25km underground drain without alternative planning for commuters

WASIM BIN HABIB

All hell seems to break loose in city's largest residential area Uttara every morning as school goers and commuters begin their daily journey to their destinations.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), to set up a 25km long underground drain, is digging the already dilapidated streets here again without offering commuters any alternative routes for travel.

All streets in Uttara -- the constituency from which Home Minister Sahara Khatun was elected -- also experience tremendous traffic chaos due to absence of proper traffic control.

To worsen this situation, trucks and heavy vehicles ply on all Uttara streets round the clock. Though trucks and heavy vehicles are allowed only between 8pm to 6am elsewhere in the city, there are no such restrictions in place in Uttara.

Heavy vehicles become a nuisance to

everyone especially in the rush hours as these block even the narrowest lanes that commuters take to avoid traffic jams on the main roads.

Gridlocks are common scenario especially in sectors 3, 11, 13, and Azampur areas.

The condition of roads in areas where several busy schools are located, especially in sectors 10, 11 and 13, is very poor as these have not been repaired for years.

The recent situation has been worsened by the second round of road works under a Wasa project to set up an underground drain to stop waterlogging in the area.

Wasa has placed dozens of large concrete sewer pipes on the main roads as well as some connecting roads at random, blocking traffic movement. Wasa in this round is digging the ground to install a six km long drainage line, sources said.

In January last year, Wasa started the storm sewerage work in the Uttara Model

Town in the first phase and completed only seven km of the total work. At that time, Uttara dwellers experienced difficulties in movement in the area due to slow progress of the road works.

This work is being implemented for Garib-e-Newaz Avenue, Rabindra Sarani and different parts of sector No 7, 9, 13 and 14 in the second phase under a project titled 'Removal of Waterlogging in Dhaka'.

When completed, waterlogging in Uttara area will reduce significantly though the residents will have to wait over a year to enjoy its benefits, Wasa officials said.

Local people, however, say they want the drainage system but they don't want any unnecessary delay in completing the work like in the past.

"This is indeed a good initiative and we want Uttara to be freed from waterlogging but Wasa should complete the work

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Don't fell trees to set up ship breaking yards

HC asks yard owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon five owners of ship-breaking yard and the concerned government authorities to show cause why the construction of the yards, causing deforestation in the country's coastal areas, should not be declared illegal.

An HC bench of Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal also directed the owners of ship-breaking yards not to cut down the trees in the coastal areas of Sonaichhari Mouza at Sitakunda for constructing the yards until disposal of the ruling.

Some 20 persons, including the secretaries to the ministries of land, environment and industries and the five owners have been asked to reply within 10 days.

The order came upon a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) praying for taking steps to stop the construction of ship-breaking yards, causing deforestation in the coastal areas of Sonaichhari Mouza.

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HC judges' petition reflects political intention: AG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General (AG) Mahbubey Alam yesterday told the Supreme Court (SC) that contents of the leave to appeal petition filed by 29 sitting judges of the High Court (HC) against the HC verdict concerning 10

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

SHADY TRANSACTION Ex-Prime Bank high-ups asked to show cause

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) issued a show-cause notice on Thursday to former high-ups of Prime Bank Limited asking clarification about the bank's involvement in mysterious

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Dhaka Wasa in its bid to install storm-water drainage system rendered this street in Uttara Sector-7 almost unusable for city dwellers. Inset, the long trench it dug in the street to install pipes.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Thaksin supporters surround PM office, demand snap polls

AFP, Bangkok

Thousands of anti-government protesters besieged the Thai prime minister's office yesterday to demand snap elections, unleashing fresh political turmoil days before the kingdom hosts a key summit.

Red-shirted demonstrators loyal to ousted former premier Thaksin Shinawatra called on new Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to dissolve his two-month-old government and said they would hold a three-day sit-in at Government House.

Demonstrators shouting "We don't want this government" broke through barbed wire barricades manned by hundreds of police and soldiers and took control of the roads around Government House, an AFP correspondent said.

The so-called "Red Shirts" have campaigned against the government since a court dissolved the pro-Thaksin former ruling party in December, paving the way for British-born Democrat Party leader Abhisit to take power.

One of the protest leaders, Shinawat Haboonpad, said they would stay at Government House "at least until Thursday", and supporters began constructing tents, food stalls and a stage outside the gates of the compound.

The rally has already forced Abhisit to move his weekly

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Dictionary sales top Bangla Academy this year

AMENA KHATUN

Bangla Academy has made sales over Tk 51 lakh at the Ekushey Boi Mela so far this year with dictionaries topping their sales list.

Azizul Haque, sales promotion officer of the academy, said, "Around 10,000 copies of our English to Bengali dictionary and 7,000 copies of our Bengali to English dictionary were sold at the fair till yesterday."

"Books on research and folklore collections come next in terms of sales this year," he added.

Ibrahim, Milan and Reazaul waited in the long queues at Bangla Academy's

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Price spiral pushed 40 lakh people into poverty

Says RDRS study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost 40 lakh people have been pushed into poverty due to price hike of essentials during last two years when half the total population, including 36 percent hardcore poor, was already under poverty line, a study said.

The study was presented in a seminar titled "Basic Social Security System as part of social protection: The case of Bangladesh" organised by Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Services (RDRS) Bangladesh at IDB Bhaban yesterday morning.

In the seminar speakers also emphasised the need for assigning a special team of Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) to monitor the safety net programme since the study revealed that the poorest are often deprived as nepotism and political affiliation frequently determine the selection procedure for the underprivileged.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Plan taken to build subway in Dhaka

Minister tells JS

BSS, Sangsad Bhaban

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain informed the House yesterday that the government has undertaken a plan to construct subway in Dhaka city to help ease traffic congestion.

"There is a recommendation for constructing metro railway as a mass rapid transport in the final report of Strategic Transport Plan conducted by Dhaka Transport Coordination Board to ease the traffic jam of Dhaka City," he said replying to a question from treasury bench member

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

WB to fund power plants, distribution

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank has assured the government of providing funds for setting up new power plants, renovation and enhancing capacity of old ones and development of distribution system in rural areas.

The assurance came when a five-member World Bank delegation led by its country director Xian Zhu called on Prime Minister's Adviser Dr Toufique-e-Elahi Chowdhury at his secretariat office yesterday.

According to an official press release, Toufique requested the delegation to finance for setting up new power plants, enhancing the capacity of sub-stations of Rural Electrification Board (REB) and its network expansion.

He also requested the delegation to finance for setting up Independent Power Plants (IPP) in the public sector if financing is not possible to the private sector.

Xian Zhu assured him of providing all kinds of assistance for development of the power sector.

World Bank will work for arranging finance for new power

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Fake milk factory unearthed

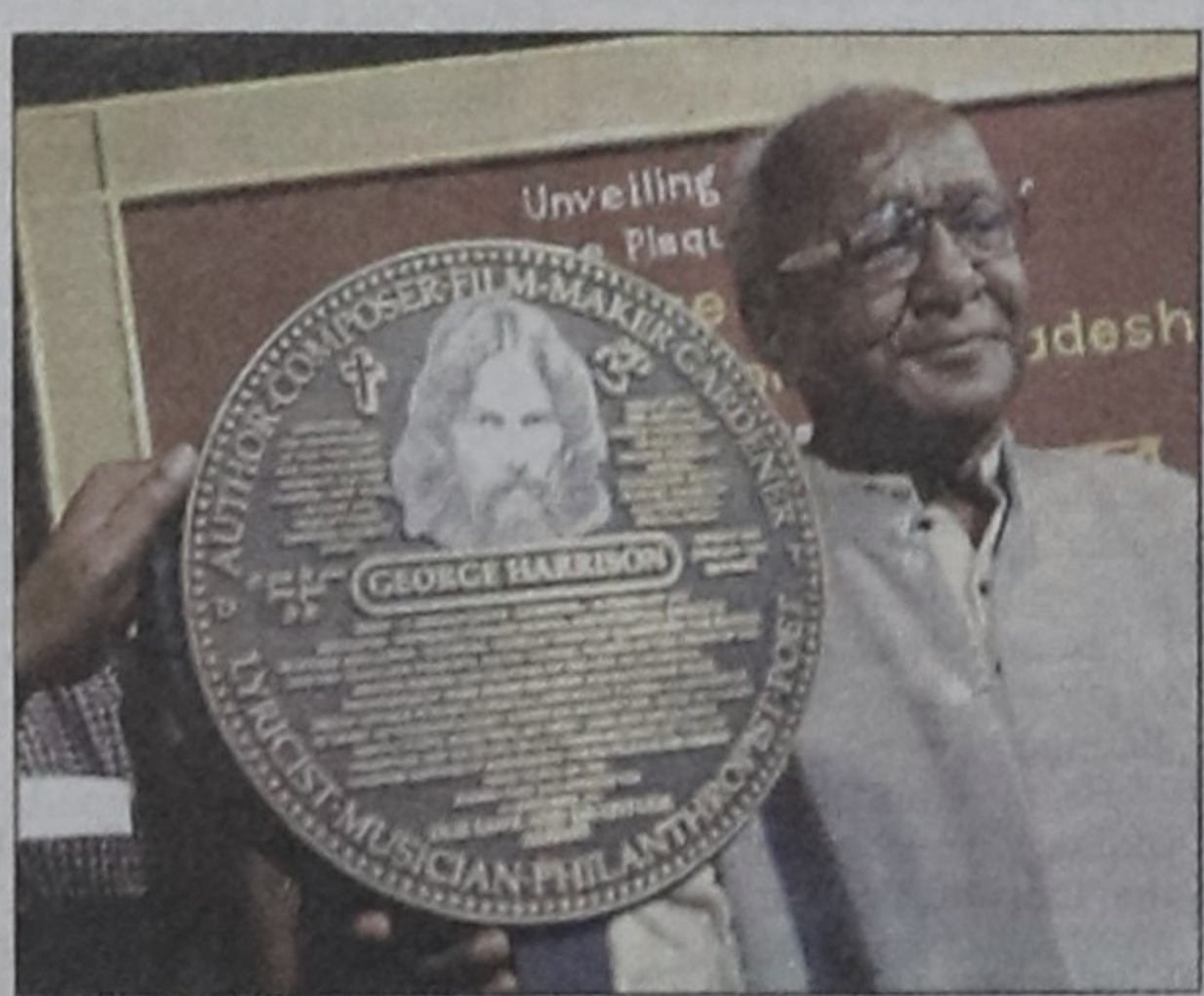
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pheniadah

A factory producing adulterated ghee and milk was unearthed yesterday at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
February 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation



George Harrison returns to who he sang for

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is more than a song. It is testimony to a great soul empathising with a nation fighting for independence.

Back in 1971, George Harrison's 'Bangladesh' was a clarion call for the world community to stand by the millions of Bangalees who had been displaced by the Pakistan occupation army.

The song he wrote and the concert he organised in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Satellite to monitor CO2 crashes into ocean

Says Nasa

AFP, Washington

A US satellite to monitor global carbon dioxide emissions failed to reach orbit early yesterday and crashed into the ocean near Antarctica, an official said at a Nasa press conference.

"It appears that there were problems separating" and the satellite "did not achieve

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বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৯৭৪(১৪)/২৩-২-০৯

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