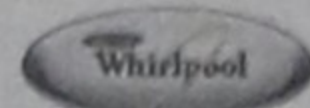


PRAN
HOT Line
for any PRAN products at your IFTAR party
Call: 0192 4357 780
& get the products at door step

The Daily Star

Plus Star Campus

PHILIPS TRANSTEC



think electronics... think DIGITAL

TRANSCOM

Your Trusted Electronics Retailer
Customer Care Center: 8855388-8, 01715 895483

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIX No. 232

DHAKA SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

BHADRA 22, 1416 BS • RAMADAN 15, 1430 HJRI • 24 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE: Tk 10.00

Depression gathers pace Rain, wind batter coasts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A monsoon depression in the northwest Bay and adjoining areas might trigger a heavy rainfall and 3-5 feet high wind-driven surge inundating low-lying areas of 14 coastal districts, offshore inlands and chars.

A special bulletin of the Met Office at 1:00 pm yesterday said the depression originated from a well-marked low and was centred at about 415 km west-southwest of Chittagong port, 410 km west-southwest of Cox's Bazar port and 210 km south of Mongla port. "It is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Saifur dies in car crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

The BNP leader, 77, died on the spot after a jeep carrying him fell into a roadside ditch at Khairala in Ashuganj at 2:30pm as its driver lost control over the steering while trying to save a stray cow.

Country's longest-serving finance minister Saifur was on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

ECONOMISTS MOURN SAIFUR ON B1, SAIFUR'S LAST SYLHET VISIT ON PAGE 15, CONDOLENCES AND STORY ON BNP'S MOURNING ON PAGE 2

The reform man

STAR REPORT

An assiduous person that he was, Bangladesh's longest serving finance minister M Saifur Rahman was loved by the audience for his serious remarks laced with humour, often in his own Sylheti dialect. Wherever he was, he always carried an air of freshness in ideas, vigorous conviction and straightforwardness. And through decades of his political career and wisdom, Saifur almost became a true statesman, often criticising his own party stances on issues such as hartal and anti-privatisation sabre-rattling. Inside his party, he was one of the few saner heads respected across the file and rank.

Saifur Rahman's political mindset was moulded while he was a student and he actively engaged himself in different progressive organisations and movements. He participated in the Language Movement in 1952 when he

SEE PAGE 12 COL 7

1932-2009

M Saifur Rahman was born in Baharmardan village of Moulvibazar in 1932.

He graduated from Dhaka University in 1953 and became a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in 1958.

He participated in the Language Movement in 1952 as vice-president of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Safety still missing

5 burnt at ship-breaking yard; HC order stuck in legal tangle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Five workers sustained severe burns at a ship-breaking yard in Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

The victims--Hossain, 35, Ashek, 20, Md Kuddus, 32, Jahangir, 28 and Khokon, 22-- were rushed to the burn unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Fire broke out at Kabir Steel Yard in Baro Aulia while the workers were cutting a Korean ship with gas cutters around 9:00am, police said.

Assistant Registrar of the burn unit Dr Khalid said the condition of Hossain and Ashek were critical.

The workers very often become victims of such incidents due

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



As people throng New Market and Science Lab areas for Eid shopping, hawkers occupy the pavements of Mirpur Road and parked cars narrow the road down triggering nagging traffic jam. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

PM tells of threats 2 years back

UNB, Geneva

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the expatriate Bangladeshis to extend their wholehearted support to her government in building a modern digital Bangladesh by 2021 through salvaging the country from what she said the ruins left over by past rulers.

She made the call at a reception accorded to her by All European Awami League (AL) in the ballroom of Grand Hotel Kempinski on Friday evening, with its president Anil Das Gupta presiding over the function.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Screening slackens at land ports

STAR REPORT

Health screening at land ports has been sloth against the wide-spread occurrence of swine flu infection in the country.

Every day thousands of people are checking in and out through the country's 16 land ports for business and other purposes. But the heedless health screening at the ports is making people more vulnerable and exposed to the infectious flu.

At Benapole, no screening is done on the trucks and their helpers although around 1,000 of them check in and out through the port. It leads to put some 20,000 people of that area at risk of catching the pandemic flu.

Though two medical assistants were recruited for health screening of thousands of people at the port, no medical equipment was provided for them. The medical officers are just asking people about their health. In a situation when the swine flu epidemic is worsening in India, the Bangladesh government is not taking enough precaution to prevent entry of infected people through the land ports.

Against such a backdrop, no awareness campaign is taking

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Govt moves to ensure uniform medicare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to providing a uniform treatment management of swine flu across the country an 18-member national technical committee was formed yesterday to prepare a guideline on clinical management of the pandemic influenza A/H1N1.

The committee headed by Prof MA Faiz of Sir Salimullah Medical College and Hospital, in association with Bangladesh Society of Medicine, has already prepared a draft guideline, said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

3 killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Three suspected criminals were killed in separate incidents of 'shootout' in Khulna, Kushtia and Pabna Friday night and early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Arifur Alam Akkas, 45, a pirate active in the Sundarbans, Murad Hossain alias Bhola, 40, a leader of outlawed Gano Bahini, and Hasan Ali alias Hasan Kosai, 32, a cadre of Janajuddha.

Police said Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel arrested Akkas, accused in a number of cases, from his Khalishpur residence in Khulna city Friday evening.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Procurement rules finally amended

Donors' objection overlooked

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has finally amended public procurement rules despite donors' objection, keeping the provision for limited qualification for development project purchases worth up to Tk 2 crore and dropping reintroduction of the lottery system.

Considering recent inflation, it has increased purchase limits for "exceptional" cases and reduced the tender period in a few instances "for hassle-free, quick implementation of ADP".

After coming to power, the Awami League government tried to introduce the provision for

getting procurement orders up to Tk 2 crore without any qualification and tried to reintroduce the lottery system for such purchase.

The World Bank and Asian Development Bank raised serious objections to this.

The amended public procurement rules (PPR) now relax several qualification criteria for a contractor bidding for a job worth less than Tk 2 crore.

Sources said the amendments were brought in the standard tender document already placed in the website of the Central Procurement Technical Unit.

At present, when a contractor bids for a job

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের সাবেক অর্থমন্ত্রী

জনাব এম. সাইফুর রহমান' এর

মৃত্যুতে পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং সকল স্তরের নির্বাহী, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ গভীরভাবে মর্ষাহত ও শোকাহত।

আমরা মহান আল্লাহ তায়ালা'র কাছে মরহুমের বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং মরহুমের শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবার পরিজনদের প্রতি সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।



পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

www.pubalibangla.com



more people around the world go with Visa. | VISA

Introducing EBL REWARD POINTS

Earn Reward Points for every BDT 50 or \$2 you spend on EBL SIMPLE CREDIT CARD.

Shop, dine and travel anywhere and get points that you can redeem for great gifts like consumables, dining at a restaurant of your choice, air tickets for a foreign trip and what not!

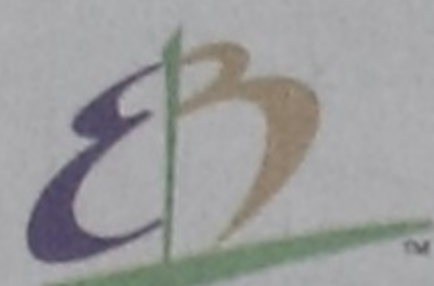
To make things even better, we are offering 50% discount on our regular issuance fee till September 30, 2009.

Just call our 24-hour Cards Center at 044 7670-1031-4 and ask for a Sales Representative.

Redemption Vouchers and Catalogues shall be available from November 30, 2009 | Conditions Apply



- > Zero Renewal Fee
- > Free Card Cheque
- > Triple Benefit Insurance
- > 45-Day Interest Free - In True Sense
- > Balance Transfer @ 8% Less



Eastern Bank Ltd.
Simple Math™

Eastern Bank Ltd.