



The Daily Star

Plus Rising Stars



COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIX No. 261

DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 8, 2009

ASHWIN 23, 1416 BS

SHAWAL 18, 1430 HJRI

24 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

PM presses for regional food security
Tells Pinak of transit UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty discussed the much-talked-about transit issue during a meeting when the envoy paid a courtesy call on her at her office yesterday.

The PM told the high commissioner, "Bangladesh wants transit facilities with India, Nepal and Bhutan for boosting

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



2 years changed Hasina

States int'l journal BSS, Dhaka

Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER) has said the past two years of emergency rule had a "drastic" impact on Sheikh Hasina.

The international fortnightly lauded her attitude as she said the experience made her more desperate and determined to work for people.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Govt to go after jam in a big way

PM says coordinated communication network to ease traffic jam, 4 adjacent districts to be incorporated; vows to explore Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament the government is working out plans for an extensive and coordinated communications network to ease traffic congestions in the capital.

"We are now drawing routes for the elevated expressway in the capital. We also have plans to construct underground railway and monorail to cut tailbacks," she said during the question-answer hour.

The prime minister said the communications plans being mapped out for the city will incorporate the adjacent districts - Gazipur, Narayanganj, Munshiganj and Manikganj.

She said the construction of a four-lane Dhaka-Chittagong highway may begin in December and end by December 2012.

The tenders submitted for the work to upgrade the two-lane Dhaka-Chittagong highway into a four-laner are now awaiting evaluation.

"The highway will be made a six-lane thruway once the country joins the proposed Asian Highway," she said.

In response to some lawmakers voicing concern over the worsening traffic situation in the city, the prime minister also spoke of plans to construct car parks and more roads.

The other measures under consideration include increasing the number of traffic police and introducing staggered

timetables for private, autonomous and semi-autonomous organisations and educational institutions.

She urged the private schools to run enough bus services for their students to obviate the need for using private cars.

Hasina called on the drivers to abide by the traffic rules.

Stressing the need for constructing car parks, she said the city streets are wide, but that does not mean they have space enough to allow on-road parking.

Talking about reasons for the dismal traffic situation, the prime minister said, "It's quite natural that population and the number of vehicles will rise with time. The problem lies with unplanned

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Traffic grinds to a halt on both sides of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. The photo was taken at Bangla Motor.

Dhaka-Ctg highway project gets momentum

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The project to upgrade the narrow but crucial Dhaka-Chittagong highway to a dual carriageway has finally got momentum as the officials concerned expect to complete all procedures by December.

A seven-member evaluation committee is now scrutinising 111 tender documents submitted by 18 local and international firms for the Tk 2,404 crore project.

"Evaluation of the documents will be completed in a week and a report with the names of successful bidders will be sent to the communications ministry for approval," said Project Director Md Sabbir Hossain Khan, who is an executive engineer of Roads and Highways.

A notification of award is likely to be announced next

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Turag grabbing goes unabated

Petition filed with HC to stop encroachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court directives and government's tough warnings against encroachment on the Turag go unheeded as land grabbers continue filling the river with earth.

A petition was filed yesterday with the HC, seeking a directive on the government to take actions against Turag encroachers and stop illegal earth filling there.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Govt plans for experts body to assess Tipai

Stresses talks with neighbours to solve problems

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Formation of an expert committee to assess the possible impact of the proposed Tipaimukh Dam on Bangladesh is under consideration, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday in parliament.

In its report to the parliament yesterday, the parliamentary delegation, which visited the controversial Tipaimukh Dam site, suggested

the formation of the expert team to conduct a survey and assess the advantages and the overall impact of the dam on Bangladesh.

However, the prime minister said the expert team would be formed after examining the information and data already available on Tipaimukh Dam and those to be available in future.

During the question-answer hour in the Parliament, Hasina said, "The government is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Huda, Noor shot Bangabandhu

Says statement of witness Quddus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A witness of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case has said in his statement that convicts Bazlul Huda and Noor Chowdhury shot Bangabandhu with Stenguns on August 15, 1975.

Barrister Abdullah-al Mamun, counsel for convicts Bazlul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin, yesterday placed the statement of witness Abdul Quddus before the Supreme Court while delivering his submission on the third day's hearing on appeals of five convicts who challenged their death sentences in the case.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Blindness blurs all the bits and colors of life

Two thirds of the world's blind population is women- who can see **nothing but darkness**. This could have easily been cured with timely and proper intervention. Hence, with a mission to combat blindness, in partnership with Sightsavers International, Grameenphone so far organized **18** free eye camps providing free eye care support to **27,418** people, of whom **47%** are women.

On **World Sight Day**, Grameenphone promises to stay close to your journey of health and happiness.

sightsavers INTERNATIONAL

World Sight Day 2009

Right to Sight

grameenphone

Now flying from CHITTAGONG

Exciting destinations are now just a SURF away.

The Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea have never been closer. Kuwait Airways starts flights from Chittagong from 30th October to 38 major destinations TWICE a week. Choose your destination with us and ride the waves of our trusted skies.



Jafar Alam
Award Winning Bangladeshi Surfer

KUWAIT AIRWAYS
www.kuwaitairways.com
Since 1954

Please call your nearest travel agent or Kuwait Airways

Dhaka: 8833840 - 47 (8 Lines)
Chittagong: 031 - 723340
Sylhet: 0821 - 712231