

**Automated Deposit Machine**  
**MIRPUR Dhaka**  
**Chalibandar Sylhet**  
**now!**  
 Deposit Cash or Cheque at any time.  
 You can also play your Atm & InternetPhone Bank.  
**COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC**

# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Today's issue 24 pages

**PHILIPS 21" Ultra Slim TV**  
 Philips Crystal Clear Technology  
 AV Stereo with Surround Sound  
 Digital Noise Reduction  
 Component Video Input  
 Ultra Slim TV With Stylish Look  
 5 Years Picture Tube Warranty  
 2 Years Free Parts & Service  
**RSP: Tk. 19,500/-**  
 Customer Service Department: 8855366-8, 01712 665463  
**TRANSKOM DIGITAL**

REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XX No. 19 • DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2010 • MAGH 19, 1416 BS • SAFAR 15, 1431 HIJRI • 24 PAGES PRICE: Tk 10.00

COMMITTED TO  
**People's Right to Know**  
 www.thedailystar.net

## Botanical Garden at stake

Developer to run dredging pipe through greenery; environment ministry happy with Tk 7,500 a day rent for month

**SHAKHAWAT LITON**  
 The state minister for environment has given a developer permission to set up a 3,500-foot dredge pipe through the national botanical garden to fill land for housing projects on its eastern side.  
 By doing so, he has ignored his predecessor's decision.  
 In July last year, the then state minister Mostafizur Rahman decided not to allow any dredge pipe to cut across the garden, considering the area's importance in harbouring rare and near-extinct botanical species, said officials.  
 But the incumbent, Hasan Mahmud, has

given private firm Masud Construction the go-ahead to lay a pipeline through the garden.  
 On his instructions, the environment and forest ministry issued a letter to that effect on January 25.  
 Masud Construction will set up the pipe to carry sand dredged from the Turag river to fill 8.69 acres of land adjacent to Roop Nagar residential area.  
 The minister reasons that the houses to be built there will help ease housing problems that the city dwellers face.  
 Relatives of some ruling Awami League leaders had lobbied to win the ministry's



SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## C'wealth move to better govt relations with opposition

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 In a bid to improve relations between Bangladesh's ruling and opposition parties, the Commonwealth Secretariat has proposed a seminar in Dhaka aimed to enhance cooperation between the two sides.  
 Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba met with Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni at the foreign ministry in Dhaka yesterday to discuss the seminar.  
 Sources in the Commonwealth said the seminar will discuss the roles of the ruling and opposition parties and will seek to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## BANGABANDHU KILLER House of Aziz Pasha's brother torched

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj**  
 Leaders and workers of Awami League ransacked and set fire to the house of the brother of Bangabandhu's self-confessed killer Aziz Pasha in Ghior upazila of Manikganj yesterday afternoon.  
 The agitated AL leaders and workers also showed their anger at Aziz Pasha, who died in Zimbabwe in 2001, and at a rally hanged an effigy of the killer in a token execution.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## MACHINE-READABLE PASSPORT, VISA PM approves contract

Final go given 2 months away from international deadline

**M ABUL KALAM AZAD**  
 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday approved awarding the contract for the long-awaited project of introducing machine readable passports (MRP) and visas (MRV) to a Malaysia based company.  
 But the approval came at a time when it will be very difficult for Bangladesh to start the switch over by the international deadline of April 1 this year.  
 On January 14, the cabinet committee on purchase gave consent to a home ministry summary proposing to award the contract for the multi-million dollar project to Malaysia

based IRIS Corporation Berhad.  
 There however had been some allegations about the company's shortcomings regarding its technical abilities, which the company denied.  
 "The prime minister has given the final approval for the project, our next important task is to issue a letter to the Malaysia based company about awarding the contract to it," Project Director Brig Gen Md Refayet Ullah told The Daily Star last night.  
 Bangladesh was not able to finalise the important project earlier, due to frequent changes of decisions by government authorities concerned.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Murder convict becomes lawyer!

**MUKHLESUR RAHMAN**  
 Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested a fugitive sentenced in 1997 to life imprisonment in a murder case who has been practising as a lawyer at Dhaka Judge's Court for the last 14 years.  
 The Rab-4 arrested Mohammad Sirajul Islam alias Siraj Matbar on the court premises yesterday afternoon.  
 In Rab custody Siraj said he

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## BNP to complete pending district councils by Feb

Accuses govt of using admin, intelligence agencies against opposition

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Main opposition BNP has decided to complete district-level conferences by this month and send its central leaders to all districts and upazilas to attend party rallies.  
 BNP also assigned its organising secretaries to resolve internal conflicts in units and submit reports within a week after settling the disputes.  
 Meanwhile, BNP alleged that the Awami League-led government is using the administration and an intelligence agency in a smear campaign against opposition leaders and activists.  
 The party decided to collect reports from district committees to prepare a database on party members for the central body. These committees will try to achieve their target of collecting new members.  
 "Councils are yet to be held in 19 districts. We have decided to hold them by February," Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, BNP

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## PM hopes for BNP's return to JS soon

**UNB, Dhaka**  
 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hoped that the opposition BNP would return to parliament very shortly to make it more vibrant and effective.  
 She voiced her optimism when Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat Masire Mwamba called on the prime minister at her office.  
 Hasina said that her government is trying hard to bring the opposition back in Parliament.  
 Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, who was present during the meeting, later briefed the reporters.  
 The prime minister said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## UK suspends student visa

Aspirants from Bangladesh, Nepal, North India not to be entertained for application glut

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 The United Kingdom has temporarily stopped accepting student visa applications from Bangladesh, Nepal and North India due to unexpectedly high numbers of applications from these areas.  
 The suspension takes effect from today and will be reviewed in a month's time.  
 "The agency will temporarily stop accepting student visa applications under Tier 4 of the Points Based System at visa

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

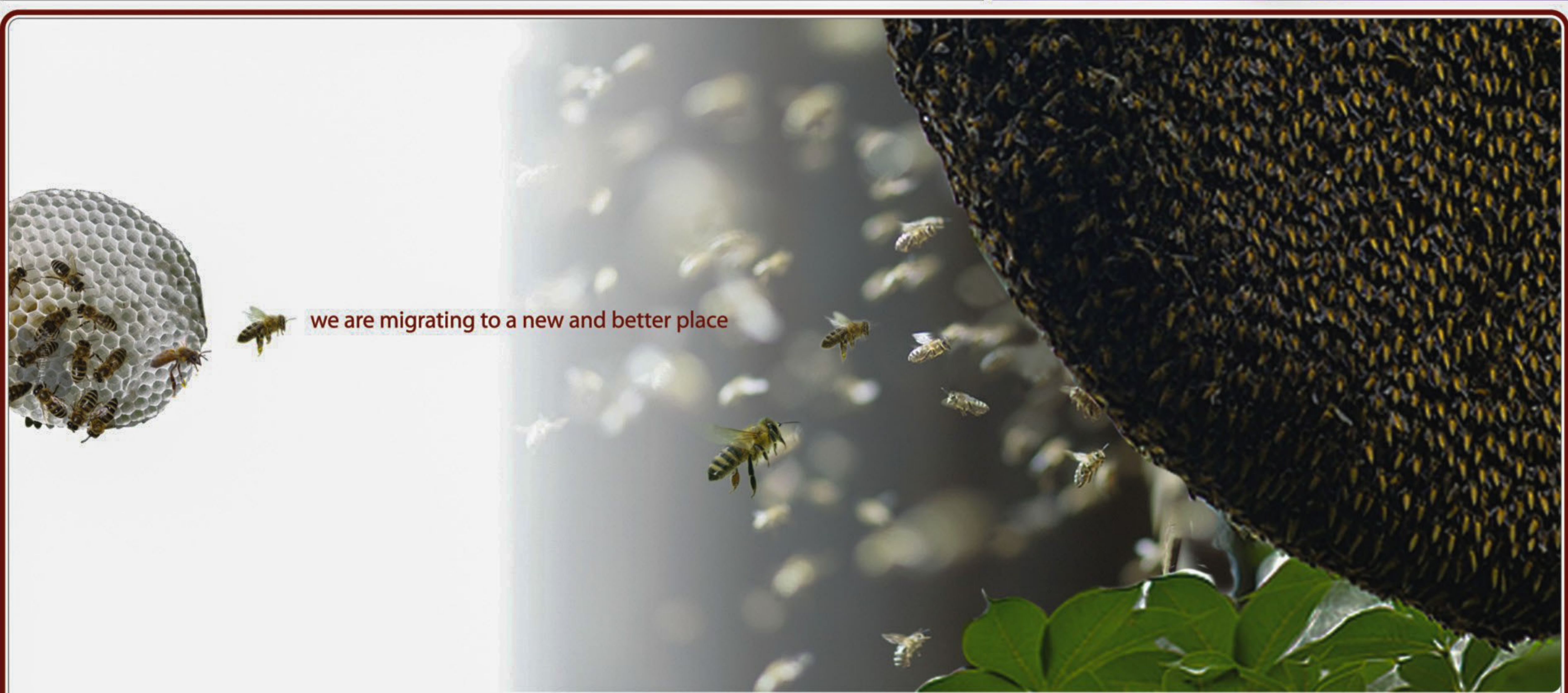
## Teenage gang loots jeweller's at gunpoint

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 A band of teenagers shot the cashier and allegedly looted gold ornaments from a jeweller's at Goal Nagar in the city's Kotwali area yesterday afternoon.  
 Injured Suman Karmakar, 28, son of Ratan Karmakar, owner of Ratan Swarna Bitan, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wound in his mouth and later shifted to Apollo Hospitals.  
 Employee Dayal Karmakar said about 10 robbers aged between 16 and 18 entered the shop as customers and kept them hostage at

gunpoint around 2:00pm.  
 "One of the robbers pointed a gun at my head, while another snatched an ornament I was working with. Other robbers opened the vault which was not locked that time," he said.  
 As Suman tried to resist them, the robbers fired two shots in his mouth point blank, he added. They ran off as locals were rushing to the scene hearing gunshots, he continued.  
 Locals said they saw some teenagers disappearing in a lane in the area.  
 Owner Ratan Karmakar said he was at a court during the robbery. He could not say

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

**Apollo Hospitals Dhaka**  
**NEW APPOINTMENT NUMBER**  
**8845242**  
**(02)-8845242**  
 Existing Appointment Number : (02)-8401680 (effective till 15 February). Other numbers will remain unchanged.  
 Effective from 15 January  
 Apollo Hospitals Dhaka  
 Touching Lives



Being an inspiring bank, we never give a second thought when it comes to getting bigger and better. As we are moving to our new corporate Head Office at Gulshan, we are not just making our mark in the new corporate hub of Dhaka, this new state-of-the-art campus will give our people a wonderful ergonomic work environment. And better work environment means better productivity which means creation of greater values for our customers. Our new address:  
**CWS (A)-1, Road-34, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212 Phone:02-8852500**

