

PM off to New York

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday left for New York on a ten-day overseas tour to attend the 65th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that begins on September 23.

On her way to New York, Hasina will make a 20-hour stopover in Brussels. She will reach New York on Sept 19.

The premier will also attend the high level plenary meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on Sept 20.

The PM will attend a reception in the evening of Sept 20 in honour of women who will be representing their respective countries at the 65th UNGA.

Hasina will attend the heads of LDCs breakfast meeting on MDGs on Sept 21, where Nepal will chair the session.

The same day, Saarc heads of state will gather for a meeting on 'Climate vulnerability and its impact on MDGs'. Bangladesh is the lead sponsor of the event and the PM is expected to chair it.

The premier along with her younger sister, Sheikh Rehana, will also attend a reception to be hosted by US first lady Michelle Obama.

Hasina will visit the new chancery of Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Promila and her four-month-old cubs in Dhaka Zoo. All the tigers in the zoo are her offspring. The authorities are yet to name the male and female cubs in the frame.

ALLOWANCE FOR ATTENDING SANGSAD Boycotters pocket it, see no wrong

BNP-led opposition skips 3 sessions, continues the culture

SHAKHAWAT LITON

According to Members of Parliament (remuneration and allowances) Order 1973, lawmakers are entitled to the allowances when the House is in session.

They get those also for three days before parliament goes into session and two days after a session is prorogued.

The second session began on June 4 last year and continued till July 9; the third one began on September 7 and ended on November 5 that year; and the fifth session began on June 2 this year and lasted till July 22.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

2 Bogra labour leaders killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two leaders of Jatiya Sramik League were killed in Bogra early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Hasanuzzaman Nasim, 35, Sramik League president of Satgram Bandar Committee unit, and his close associate Israfil Hossain Ranju, 35.

Khalequzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said a gang of criminals stormed Nasim's office near his house at Naruli around 2:00am.

The intruders opened fire on Ranju, Nasim and his brother Alam. They made sure Nasim and Ranju's death by stabbing them indiscriminately after the shooting and left the spot. Alam managed to escape unhurt, he added.

Police are yet to find out the reason behind the killing. However, the killing might have resulted from internal feud among party leaders, said Khalequzzaman.

He suspects Swechchhasebak League leader Jashimuddin Shuvo for leading the gang.

Asadur Rahman Dulu, unit chief of Bogra Swechchhasebak

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

6TH JS SESSION BNP to miss first day for sure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mainstream opposition BNP will not join the 6th session of the 9th parliament on the opening day tomorrow as its national standing committee is set to discuss the issue on Tuesday.

"We will discuss the issue [joining the parliament session] at the party's standing committee meeting. However, the parliamentary party will take the final decision," party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said at a press briefing at its central office yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Yield high yet rice pricey

Prices double in a year; hike of food grains in int'l market seen as reason

PORIMOL PALMA

Prices of rice have increased up to 50 percent than that of last year's despite a bumper boro production of 1.83 crore metric tonnes this season.

According to Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), medium quality rice now sells at Tk 34-37 a kilogram, which was Tk 24-26 last year while fine rice varieties at Tk 34-47 against last year's Tk 25-42 per kg.

Prices of coarse rice varieties now range between Tk 31 and 32 a kg, up from last year's Tk 20-22, added the TCB survey till September.

Economists say it is because of the price hike of food grains in international market.

Some also think that rice millers and traders are controlling the domestic market, as the government has only achieved half the procurement target of 12-lakh metric tonnes of rice this season.

Brac Executive Director Mahabub Hossain said rice prices in international market are around \$500 per metric tonne, which was \$450-\$460 in June-July. "This is affecting the local market," he added.

Quazi Shahabuddin, former director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said the government had previously fixed Tk 25 to procure per kg of boro rice, but on July 1, it increased the price to Tk 28 a kg in the face of the mounting pressure from millers.

"That decision actually contributed to recent hikes in rice price in the local market," he observed.

According to KM Layek Ali, convener of Bangladesh Auto, Major and Husking Mill Owners' Association, the rice prices spiralled this season, as the total boro production was around 5-10 lakh metric tonnes less than the reported 1.83 crore metric tonnes.

"The government estimated 39 kg of rice from every 60 kg of hybrid paddy but actually it got 38 kg," said Layek Ali, adding that this season boro was cultivated on 7-lakh hectares of land across the country.

In a year, price of flour (atta) has increased from Tk 24-26 to Tk 28-31 while refined flour (maida) witnessed a price hike by 16 percent, said the TCB survey.

Importers and officials said wheat price in the international market is now around \$350 per metric tonne, which was \$220 in June.

The drought in Russia might have caused the rise in rice price, said economists, adding that Bangladesh is affected by the hike as it imports 30 lakh metric tonnes of wheat against a demand of 40 lakh metric tonnes.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4
RELATED STORY ON STAR BUSINESS

Gold shop found looted after Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Seven hundred tolas of gold and Tk 5.35 lakh in cash were reportedly stolen from a jewelry shop at Golden Plaza of Reazuddin Bazar under Kotwali Police Station sometime during the weeklong Eid vacation.

"We stored 700 tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 5.35 lakh in the vault before locking the shop on September 10," claimed Ejaharul Islam, one of the proprietors of Universal Jewellery.

He reopened the shop at around 1:30pm yesterday after a week only to find the vault broken and empty.

The owners suspect Babul, 35, the on-duty security guard of the building, to have been involved in the burglary as he remains missing since Saturday morning.

Ejaharul said they would be filing a case soon in this connection.

Shakhawat Hossain, officer in-charge (OC) of Kotwali

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Flooding betters in 12 districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flood situation continued to improve in 12 districts yesterday while it deteriorated in Sylhet with many fresh areas going under water.

Thousands of flood-hit people were still living in the open on embankments and highways while only a small number of them could be accommodated in different flood shelters.

Shortage of food, pure drinking water and fodder, and poor supply of relief materials have added to the sufferings of the affected.

The districts where flood situation improved further include Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Rajbari, Faridpur, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Munshiganj and Manikganj, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said yesterday.

But the situation might worsen further in Sylhet.

FFWC Executive Engineer Amirul Hosain said almost all the rivers across the country will continue to fall today.

A bulletin issued by the FFWC yesterday said water level was above the danger level at 10 observation points out of the 73 and it was nearing the red mark at 26 points.

The Jamuna was flowing 31 cm above the danger level at Sirajganj point and the Padma 67cm and 55cm above that level at Bhagyakul and Goulundo points.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports: Although flood situation in the district slightly improved yesterday, sufferings of affected people continues.

Dairy farm owners are in severe trouble due to shortage of cattle food as vast areas have been inundated.

The district administration has distributed Tk 3 lakh and 132 tonnes of rice among 10, 000 affected people. But many claimed that they were yet to get any relief materials.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

IBRAHIM MURDER CID to take over case in a day or two

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police headquarters yesterday asked detectives to hand over the Awami League activist Ibrahim Ahmed "murder" case to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Moniruzzaman of Detective Branch told The Daily Star CID has yet to appoint an investigation officer to receive the case dockets from them.

He said the case dockets might be handed over to CID today or tomorrow.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun took the decision at a meeting of the AL presidium, the highest policymaking body of the ruling party, upon directives from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, sources say.

The meeting was held at the premier's official residence Gono Bhaban on Friday night.

Meeting sources say the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

GENPOWER GENERATOR

www.genpower.com.tr

NEED A GENERATOR ? TODAY ??
WHY PAY IN ADVANCE & WAIT FOR DELIVERY ?
WE HAVE WHAT YOU NEED !
NO PRE-PAYMENT. NO HASSLE.
GUARANTEED LOW PRICES.

OVER 1000 GENERATORS IN STOCK NOW
FINANCING AVAILABLE. LOCAL LC/PDC OK.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| VOLVO PENTA 94-700 KVA | Perkins 10-2500 KVA | Cummins 30-1100 KVA |
| NAVISTAR 13-275 KVA | DOOSAN 345-775 KVA | GENPOWER GENERATOR 0.9-14 KVA |

WORLD'S BIGGEST GENERATOR FACTORY

2 YEARS WARRANTY. MADE IN EUROPE.

RENTALS
LOW MONTHLY PRICES AVAILABLE NOW
CALL : 01713489636 01713489637

IN JOINT VENTURE WITH
Priceclub.ae
www.priceclub.com.bd Low Prices! Always!!
ORCHARD POINT HOUSE 17 ROAD 7 DHANMONDI DHAKA 1205
PHONE 9677101 FAX 8613251 EMAIL INFO@PRICECLUB.COM.BD

967 7101
0172 907 6608 0172 907 6606
0171 348 9630 0172 907 6604
0191 103 6038 0173 183 8496
0172 907 6609 0171 348 9631