

PRAN
Largest grower & processors of agricultural produce in Bangladesh

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Plus Rising Stars

SAMSUNG **6** FULL HD 1080p
40" at BDT 220,000/-
46" at BDT 315,000/-
Customer Service Department: 8855366-8, 01712-665463
TRANSKOM DIGITAL

REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XX No. 259 • DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 7, 2010 • www.thedailystar.net • ASHWIN 22, 1417 BS • SHAWAL 27, 1431 HIJRI • 28 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: TK 10.00

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

FIRE AT CHEMICAL FACTORY 7 burnt alive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Seven workers of a chemical factory were incinerated while four others, including three women, severely burned as a fire broke out at the factory in the capital's Dakkhin (South) Jatrabari yesterday. Injured Sheuli, 21, Rimu Begum, 26, Aminur Begum, 25, and Md Bishu Miah, 20, were rushed to the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Doctors said the women suffered 60 to 90 percent burns while Bishu 38 percent. The injured women are in the Intensive Care Unit. Victim Bishu Miah told The Daily Star that the fire originated from a heating machine used for packaging. 11 workers were in that section of the factory when the fire broke out. Kohinur and injured Rimu were operating the machine, he added. Fire fighters, however, suspect that the fire might have originated from one of the boilers. According to them, there were several kinds of combustible chemicals stored in the factory. Sabina Nilufar, who lives opposite to the factory, Lily Chemical Company, said a

wall of the factory collapsed with a bang around 4:40pm. She heard horrible screams from the factory and saw the inferno gulping the factory. She said following the incident a terrible wave of heat melted the windowpanes of her first floor flat. Scared, she moved her family members and some valuables in no time, added Nilufar. Locals said huge smoke and heat engulfed the area causing suffocation. Had the stocked items in the factory caught fire the whole area would have witnessed a disaster similar to the Nimtoli tragedy, thanks to the rapid action from the firemen, added the locals. Abdur Rashid, deputy director (DD) of Fire Brigade, told The Daily Star that the bodies found inside the factory burned beyond recognition. Charred body parts were found here and there on the floor. The DD said six fire-fighting units rushed to the spot and doused the blaze in an hour. Meanwhile, relatives of the workers thronged Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue around 8:00pm. A heart racking



Firefighters are searching for sources of the fire at a chemical factory in the city's Jatrabari yesterday. The blaze claimed seven lives and wounded four other workers.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Don't try to save war criminals

PM asks Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday, in the parliament, blasted Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia for criticising the ongoing process of trying war criminals. Khaleda, also the BNP chief, on Tuesday said a conspiracy is on to throw the nation into chaos in the name of war crimes trials four decades after a general amnesty was accorded to the collaborators of invading Pakistani army. "I urge the opposition leader not to throw the country into chaos by opposing the trials of war criminals. The entire nation wants the trials, and the international community is also extending support for the trials," Hasina said. Hasina, also the leader of the House, was delivering her concluding speech to the sixth session of the parliament. Referring to a recent opinion poll conducted by The Daily Star and Neilsen, the premier said only 12 percent people are against the war crimes trials. "So, I urge the opposition leader not to try to save the war



SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

RECRUITMENT PM says no to nepotism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday again warned her party deputies of actions if they are found involved in influencing recruitment tarnishing government image. "All recruitments shall be conducted in a transparent way. No nepotism will be tolerated," AL lawmaker Shahiduzzaman Sarker quoted the premier as saying. Hasina, also the Awami League (AL) president, was speaking at the AL Parliamentary Party meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. The premier's warning came in the wake of recent controversy over recruitment of field level health assistants across the country. There are widespread allegations that some AL lawmakers have been influencing the recruitment process.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

No bail for 29 Pabna AL men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna
A Pabna court yesterday rejected bail petitions of 29 Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League leaders and activists accused of attacking administration officials and vandalising their cars during a recruitment test last month. Md Parvez Shahriar, senior judicial magistrate of Pabna, turned down the petitions and ordered to send them to jail, court sources said. Twenty-five accused were produced before the speedy trial tribunal around 11:00am while four other accused appeared before it upon surrender earlier in the morning. Jubo League activists Faruk and Firoz Hossain, who are also accused in the case, are absconding since the attack on September 17 foiling the recruitment test of class-III government employees. Arguing for the bail petitions, Md Abdul Ahad, counsel of the accused, said the place and time of the occurrence mentioned in the charge sheet are questionable. "How could the same accused persons attack two examination centres within a few minutes?" he asked the court, adding

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Govt given 6 months more to remove jetties from Dhaka rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court (HC) yesterday extended for six months its earlier order that had directed the government to remove all structures including the jetties from four rivers around the capital Dhaka. The rivers are Buriganga, Balu, Turag and Shitalakkhya. Following the extension order, the government has got time till May 30 next year to remove the structures. Earlier, the deadline was November 30 this year. The court also directed the government to submit progress reports on implementation of its directive in every three months to this court. An HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Gobinda Chandra

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

BANGABANDHU AIRPORT From Trishal to Faridpur

Govt shifts the proposed site mainly for 2 reasons
HASAN JAHID TUSHER
The government plans to shift the proposed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib International Airport to greater Faridpur district from Trishal in Mymensingh. Against the backdrop of divided opinions among the ruling Awami League rank and file over construction of the airport at Trishal, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave go-ahead with the plan. The government policymakers, who are favouring its construction either in Madaripur or Shariatpur districts, gave reasons that Faridpur is the birthplace of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur, giving the Mongla seaport importance, according to highly placed government sources. Primarily they preferred Rajoir in Madaripur, sources added. The influential legislators approached Hasina over the last couple of months and convinced her in this regard. The premier gave them go-ahead signal and entitled one of her close aides to look into the matter.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Setting Trends for Others to Follow.

Leading the market is what we do best.

We introduced EBL VISA Platinum with full global features and benefits in Bangladesh. Our valued customers appreciated this and now we are the largest Platinum Card issuer in the country.

Thank you for making it happen.

Following the success, we have introduced EBL VISA Corporate Platinum Card, first ever of its kind in Bangladesh. Supported by the World's largest payment network, VISA, with incomparable acceptance at over 29 Million locations worldwide - EBL VISA Corporate Platinum is the ultimate solution for your Company's Business Travel & Entertainment Expense Management. Because, you know - at the end of the day, it is the acceptability that matters.

Now others can only follow, not copy.

more people around the world go with Visa. **VISA**

Expense Management Program
EBL VISA CORPORATE PLATINUM

- > Flexible Spending Limit > Expense Tracking
- > Global Acceptance > 29 Million Visa Locations
- > 24X7 Customer Care > Triple Insurance Coverage
- > Global Cash Advance > Discounts & Deals
- > 600 Airport Lounge Access through Priority Pass
- > Complimentary Lounge Usage at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka

For Details
01979 325 550-1
corporate.card@ebl.com.bd