

Best Rates for Foreign Currency Deposits.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC
www.combank.net

SAMSUNG

New Galaxy at Tk. 2,606*

0% interest for 12 months

For More Information: 8855366-8, 01712-665463

TRANSKOM DIGITAL

Four killed in RMG flare-up

Over 200 injured; 11 factories vandalised; 5 vehicles burnt, 20 more damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unruly garment workers clashed with law enforcers in Chittagong, Dhaka and Narayanjanj out of grievances over wage yesterday leaving at least four people dead and 200 others injured.

The four including a garment worker and a rickshaw-puller were killed during a five-hour clash in and around Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ). The identity of the other two remained unknown. Labourers of other factories also joined the garment workers.

Police fired 600 rounds of bullet and 150 teargas canisters to disperse the agitating workers in the three places. They picked up at least 65 people including 30 in the port city.

The workers pelted law enforcers with brickbats and stones. They also damaged 11 garment factories and 20 roadside buildings.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Garment workers clash with law enforcers and burn a bus at Chittagong Export Processing Zone gate yesterday. The shock-wave sent ripples through the entire apparel sector forcing many factories to close.

PHOTO: AUNRUP KANTI DAS

Unrest gets on people's nerves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of city dwellers suffered badly yesterday, as garment workers blocked the Airport Road for around three hours.

As several thousand agitating workers began streaming onto the road stretch between Kuril and Joar Sahara around 8:00am, vehicles carrying rush-hour commuters got stuck in demonstrations on either side of the thoroughfare.

Within an hour, queues of vehicles stretched to Tongi Station Road on one side and as far as New Market on the other.

Soon the gridlocks spilled over into Rampura, Malibagh and Asad Gate areas. As the day wore on, traffic clogged almost all the major city streets.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



No wrong done

Says Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus yesterday re-emphasised that there was no wrongdoing in the fund transfer from Grameen

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Govt moves to spot grabbers, allies

Draft of river protection commission act submitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a committee to take action against the river grabbers and the government officials who helped them.

"A five-member committee has been formed to take action against the encroachers and their accomplices," said Shipping Minister

Shajahan Khan after a meeting of the taskforce on river protection at his ministry.

A joint secretary of the land ministry will head the committee. It will submit its investigation report on the river grabbers in three months, and inform the taskforce about its developments every month, said the minister.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Govt pledges pay review

Sahara smells conspiracies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any discrepancy in the newly announced wage structure of the Readymade Garments (RMG) workers would be resolved through reviewing the wage structure and discussion with the stakeholders, said the home and labour ministers yesterday.

They also warned of tough actions against the trouble-makers in the RMG sector.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Pay confusion triggers troubles

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Confusion over the new wage structure appears to be at the heart of the unrest in the garment sector.

Workers claim that they were underpaid but they may be unaware of the fact that the government increased junior workers' pay more than that of senior workers', say workers' union and factory management spokespersons.

Adding to the confusion, some factories decided to withdraw additional benefits their workers had grown accustomed to, while complying with the new pay scale.

Amirul Haque Amin, president of National Garment Workers' Federation, called the new minimum wage structure flawed because the salary of the junior workers has been increased

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4
RELATED STORY ON B1



Outsiders behind it

Says Youngone chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outsiders were behind the workers' agitation in Chittagong in the last two days, Kihak Sung, chief executive

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Lose 4 kilos in just 2 months!!

Ideal for people with: **Diabetes, Obesity/Overweight, Heart Conditions & Busy Lifestyles**

full of: **Antioxidants, Phytonutrients, Dietary Fiber, Vitamins & Minerals**

Made in the USA

Don't risk your health eating out for lunch..

ReJUVOinate Yourself with Alive Food!

- Organic and Raw WholeFood Powder Mix
- Freeze-Dried Living Nutrients, Living Food
- Good Morning Meal Replacement

FREE Home Delivery!!! (not available in stores)

Nazmul 01816 310499 Samir 01678 099606
01841-HERBAL (437225) 880.2.935.7052, 934.8020
www.ModernHerbal.com

Tamim makes it look easy

Tigers lift series 3-1

MOHAMMAD ISAM From Ctg

Tamim Iqbal's six-hitting spree gave Bangladesh a fine finish to the year, the Tigers clinching the five-match one-day series against Zimbabwe 3-1 through a six-wicket win yesterday at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

It was the fourth successive series win -- and seventh overall -- against the African opponents as the home team also won a second consecutive ODI series in the space of three months.

"We have played some good cricket this year. We didn't win games against the big teams in the early part of the year, but our continuous improvement helped in the end," said captain Shakib Al Hasan during the post-match press conference.

"There still are more areas of improvement. From a personal and the team's point of view, the year has really ended on the right note," he added.

After Zimbabwe had stuttered to 188-6 in 50 overs on a slow track, Tamim was the focus of all attention as he eased back among the runs.

Fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza back on song in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

All aboard hijacked ship doing well

Says owner; Crews' families tell of ransom demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The families of two crew of hijacked ship MV Jahan Moni yesterday claimed that the pirates demanded ransoms for their release. But the figures vary wildly.

Mohammad Shahjahan, owner of the hijacked ship, contradicted them saying the pirates had not yet demanded any ransom.

He said the captain of the ship told him over the phone that all 26 Bangladeshis on board the vessel are in good health.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Your dream of sweet home is now a reality with our Home Loan

At Prime Bank, we offer you an easy-to-avail Home Loan with convenient repayment options. With maximum limit on loan amount, you also have unlimited options of choosing your home. Drop in anytime, let us help you realise your long cherished dream.

29 Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01714 088931-2, 01714 133281-2

Prime Bank Limited
a bank with a difference
www.primebank.com.bd

ELECTRO SOLAR

সূর্যালোকে নির্মল শক্তি

Features

- High Efficiency
- All Weather Proof
- Hail Proof Upto 2"
- Anodized Aluminum Frame
- Toughened Tempered Glass
- Reliable Energy Output
- Easy to Install
- Diverse Capacity
- Ranges Available Upto 225 Wp

We Can Supply Solar Panel, Solar Battery, Solar Home System, On Grid and off Grid (Any Size) Solar System From our Ready Stock.

Electro Solar Power Ltd

Tel : 02-9552060, 9550327, 9556785
Mobile : 01713189500, 01713189502, 01713189505, 01713189508, 01714097924, 01714097952, 01714097956, 01714038261
Fax : 880-2-9559346
E-mail : info@emsbd.com
Web : http://www.emsbd.com

Corporate Office : Al Amin Center, 25/A Dilkusha C/A, (2nd Floor) Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
Registered Office : Dilkusha Center, 28 Dilkusha C/A, (19th Floor) Suite : 1901 & 1902, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

First Solar Photovoltaic Module Manufacturing Plant in Bangladesh

International Jewellery Brand

D'damas
Celebrate Always

GRAND OPENING

Franchisee

GITANJALI Jewellers
The Creator of Diamond

Shop No. 22(2nd Floor), PINK CITY, Gulshan 2, Dhaka
Telefax : +88 02 8881759, 8881416
FIRST TIME IGI CERTIFICATION ON ALL DIAMOND JEWELLERY IN BANGLADESH

SPECIAL OFFER
20% Discount on DIAMOND JEWELLERY