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DICEY DIPLOMACY

Chinese president's US visit not expected to bridge deep divide

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SMEs IN FOCUS

Small, medium enterprises flourish on Bangladesh Bank's efforts

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SUPER SHANE

Australia's Shane Watson hammers unbeaten 161 to topple England's 294

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Fast bucks, dangerous

Over 3 lakh innocent lured into investment with promise for hefty returns by unipay2u; central bank raises swindling alert

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

If you open an account with \$65 (Tk 4,500), you will be allowed to purchase up to 75 grams of gold worth Tk 157,000. Once you deposit the money, the purchase is done.

The benefit is "guaranteed" -- 10 percent a month -- and will double in just 10 months. You are entitled to more: if you can convince others to open accounts, 10 percent of their

deposited money will go into your wallet.

Four packages called trading accounts are on offer. They range between \$65, \$120, \$260 and \$520 and you will get an investment opportunity in gold.

This is how unipay2u Bangladesh, a so-called multilevel marketing company, has been luring people and amassing their hard-earned money from across the country. It

claims the investment is safer, easier and better value.

The gold you buy is your personal tangible property, stored "economically" in the world's safest places in London, New York or Zurich.

Wishing anonymity, a senior company official said unipay2u started business here in November 2009 and now has at least 300,000 members.

The official said they give

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PM reaches Abu Dhabi

World Future Energy Summit today

UNB, Abu Dhabi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday to attend the World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2011 today and deliver her keynote speech.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 5

Rebel the trouble

Rivals go into second phase of municipal polls today with nomination discontent

HASAN JAHD TUSHER, RASHIDUL HASAN and SHAKHAWAT LITON

The second phase of the battle of ballots between grassroots leaders of the ruling Awami League and opposition BNP begins with polling in 63 municipalities of Dhaka division taking place today.

Elections to 59 municipalities in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions will be held tomorrow, and the grassroots leaders believe the results of the second phase will end

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2ND PHASE POLLS

AL faces 129 rebels, claims 45 'managed'

BNP tackles 75 rebels, 10 already expelled



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Instead of school kids, ordinary passengers board a school bus yesterday, the first day of the service launched by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority. The photo was taken at Dhanmondi of the capital.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

Some relief, more doubt

HELEMUL ALAM

At 8:30am the special bus stopped at Dhanmondi's Road-27 station. Dola got down with her son who is a grade 3 student at Oxford School in Dhanmondi. Her son was already late for class.

This was yesterday, the first day of the special school bus service run by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority on a trial basis on Pallabi-Azimpur route in the capital.

Dola, who got on the bus at Mirpur-10 station, was already late for her son's class and she blamed it

on too many stoppages. "I think it is a good service, but there are too many stoppages on the route," said the woman before rushing for her son's school. "I think I'll have to start early tomorrow."

Launching the service on

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