

CHILD ABUSE
British national on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
A Sylhet court yesterday granted police to remand a British national for three days, who was arrested Tuesday on charge of abusing a child.
Police will start quizzing him -- Peter Ellison, 55 -- today, said Sub-inspector Kefayet Ullah of Kotwali Police Station, Sylhet.
Peter was detained from a hotel in Sylhet city, where he was staying with a 15-year-old boy since September 3.
Police said he abused the boy for about one year, taking him on short trips to different districts and Nepal. The victim hailing from Shulla upazila in Sunamganj was rescued on the day of Peter's arrest and sent to safe custody, they added.
SI Kefayet, investigation officer of the case, said they prayed for placing Peter on a 10-day remand, but the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Sylhet granted three days.
Peter, who hails from Bow area of Mile End, London, UK, claimed himself a documentary film maker on children.

3 of a family die in mud wall collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Three members of a family were killed and two others injured when a wall of their mud house collapsed on them at Dwipkalar Morol village under Patiya upazila of Chittagong early yesterday.
The deceased are Hasina Begum, 35, her daughter Sathi, 5, and son Sohel, 3, while the injured are Hasina's daughter Sabina, 9, and husband Shahjahan, 55.
Locals said all the five members of the family were asleep at their house on the bank of Shikalbaha canal during the incident.
Due to heavy down-pour on the preceding night, the tidal water of the canal swelled and hit the foundation of the mud house that led to the wall collapse, they alleged.
Injured Shahjahan, a day labourer, said they went to bed at 8:30pm and soon fell asleep as it was raining heavily outside. "Then suddenly I woke up feeling pain in my legs and realised the incident of wall collapse," he said.
Hearing Shahjahan's scream, locals rushed to the spot and found the three dead on the spot. They immediately took the injured to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.
Mamun-ur-Rashid, a local, said that the house was not built on the bank rather the canal came close to it due to erosion. The canal is expanding day by day, damaging the houses and threatening the lives of the people, he added.
Utpal Barua, sub-inspector of Karnaphuli Police Station, told The Daily Star that the dead bodies were buried without autopsies. An unnatural death case was filed, he added.

Wall of mud house collapses at Dwipkalar Morol village under Patiya



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS
Wall of a mud house collapses at Dwipkalar Morol village under Patiya upazila in Chittagong early yesterday, leaving three of a family killed and two others injured.

BOUNDARY WITH MYANMAR
Bangladesh starts submission

UNB, Hamburg
Bangladesh yesterday began submission of its case concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary with Myanmar at International Tribunal for Law of the Sea (ITLOS), arguing for equitable solution of the long running dispute.
Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, as the agent of the case, strongly presented Bangladesh's views on equitable sharing of Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf in Bay of Bengal against Myanmar's method of equidistance.
In her opening statement at the 22-member bench headed by Jesus of Cape Verde, she said Bangladesh and Myanmar engaged in extensive negotiations concerning their maritime boundary since at least 1974.
In 1974, the foreign minister said, the two countries reached agreement concerning the maritime boundary in the territorial sea and that agreement was fully applied and respected by both states for more than three decades.
As a result of the agreement, there has never been any problem regarding the right of passage of ships of Myanmar through Bangladesh's territorial sea around St Martin's island, she said.
Dipu Moni told the tribunal that Myanmar is steadfast in its insistence that the boundary must be determined by reference to the equidistance method.
Referring to the concavity of Bay of Bengal's north coast, she said this shape combined with location of Bangladesh's land boundaries with Myanmar to the east and India to the west makes the equidistance method wholly unsuitable for an equitable solution.
The hearing will resume today at 10:00am.

Woman beaten to death by co-wife
Claims deceased's brother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A pregnant woman, who was beaten by her husband's first wife, succumbed to her injuries after fighting for her life for a week at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Wednesday evening.
The deceased is Sadia Akhter Moni, 35, a worker of Benarasi Saree Weaver and second wife of Siddiqui Rahman, a shoe factory worker.
Police recovered Sadia's body from her Pallabi residence in the city yesterday and arrested her husband Siddiqui in this connection.
The seven-month-old baby in her womb also died after four days of the incident.
Victim's brother Kabir Gazi claimed that first wife of his sister's husband, Nazma Begum, beat her over a trifling matter on August 31. She often beat her on family affairs, he added.
DMC morgue sources said Sadia bore several marks of injury in her hands and body.

Student killed in N'ganj road crash

Locals vandalise 30 vehicles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj
A college student was killed on the spot yesterday when a stone-laden truck hit him while he was talking with his other college friends standing beside Narayanganj-Adamjee road in Siddhirpool area of Sadar upazila.
The deceased is Irfand Ahmed Sifat, 17, son of Jasim Uddin and an HSC first year student of Dr Mahbubur Rahman Mollah College at Jatrabari.
Locals and his classmates put up barricade on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway and Narayanganj-Adamjee-Demra road for nearly one-and-a-half-hour and vandalised at least 30 vehicles protesting the accident, which created a huge tailback.
Kamrul Alam Mollh, officer-in-charge (OC) of Siddhirganj Police Station, said police went to the spot and charged batons to disperse the agitating people.
Police seized the truck but its driver managed to flee the scene, the OC added.

DHAKA TODAY

Protest rally
Gono Sanghati Andolon will organise a protest rally; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:30pm.

Poetry recitation
Bengal Foundation will organise a poetry recitation; Venue: its premises; Time: 7:00pm.

Programme
Konthosher will hold a programme; Venue: Central Public Library auditorium; Time: 6:30pm.

Meeting
Mohanager Sarbojaneen Puja Committee will organise a meeting; Venue: Sri Sri Dhakeswari National Temple; Time: 5:00pm.

Programme
Dhakabashi will hold a programme; Venue: Hazaribagh Park premises; Time: 10:45am.

Graft, irregularities grip Biman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Besides having 'serious' corruption and irregularities, there is no accountability in Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd which might lead the national airliner to nosedive, observed a parliamentary body.
It also said Biman's top officials were involved in irregularities in leasing an aircraft, Boeing 770-400, ignoring the interests of the national flag carrier.
The parliamentary standing committee on civil aviation and tourism ministry formed a three-member sub-committee to probe the alleged irregularities in the leasing procedure.
Headed by Whip Mujibul Haque, the probe body was asked to submit their report within 15 days. Syed Mohsin Ali and Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury are the other members of the sub-committee.
"Biman's top management are running the national airliner on their own. There is no accountability in Biman. If situation goes like that, we fear Biman will nosedive instead of flying in the sky", Mosharraf Hossain, chief of the parliamentary body, told reporters after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.
Moyeen Uddin Khan Badal, a member of the parliamentary body, said we have found that irregularities took place in taking lease of an aircraft. "The top officials of Biman totally ignored the interest of Biman while leasing the aircraft", he said.
Badal, also a Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal lawmaker, said the committee asked the Biman authorities to submit all documents related to the leasing to the parliamentary sub-committee and the ministry within next five days.
Badal said the Biman authorities primarily selected Air Atlanta to

Parliamentary standing committee forms three-member sub-committee to probe the alleged irregularities

lease two 747-400 aircrafts at higher rate, ignoring the lowest bidder Kabo Air of Nigeria. About \$ 309 million will be spent to have these aircrafts, he said. "Biman has to pay an additional amount of at least \$ 300 per hour for leasing the aircraft from the Air Atlanta".
The committee chief said a high-powered team, led by Civil Aviation Minister GM Quader, would leave Dhaka for America on September 10 to inform the Federal Aviation of America (FAA) about the steps taken by the Bangladesh civil aviation to turn it to category "A" civil aviation from category "B". According to the FAA, no flight from category "B" civil aviation will be allowed for landing in the USA.

Protect rights of the elderly
Urges Prof Abu Sayeed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Noted academician Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed yesterday urged all, especially the young generation, to launch a social movement to protect the rights of the country's senior citizens (elderly people).
A mass campaign should be launched to create awareness so that each family takes proper care of its elderly members and brings an end to the deprivation and negligence faced by the elderly, he stressed.
Prof Sayeed was presiding over a discussion titled "Social problems of senior citizens and the way to resolve", jointly organised by Subarta Trust and Ethics Club Bangladesh in the city's Jatiya Press Club.
Criticising the government's "dawdling" role in providing better services and facilities to senior citizens, he said civil society members should raise their voice to press the government for initiating effective measures in this regard.
Talking about the dilapidated condition of the country's roads, he said the govern-

ment appointed a self-declared corrupt official as the chief engineer in the Roads and Highways Department. "How can the situation of roads improve?" he questioned.
About traffic congestion, he said this would be minimised by 50 percent after 12 years. But he did not mention how this would be achieved.
Presenting a keynote paper, the trust General Secretary Shelina Akhter informed that over 1.5 crore elderly people live in the country and placed a 16-point recommendation for their betterment.
The recommendations include -- issuing senior citizen identity cards to those aged 60 years and above, introducing geriatric units in all government hospitals and training nurses in this regard, modernising residential homes for the elderly and reserving 10 percent quota in all housing projects for them.
The ethics club President ME Chowdhury Shamim moderated the discussion, where lawmaker Gazi Golam Dastagir also spoke.



PHOTO: BNP
Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia visits ailing party leader Abdullah Al Noman at United Hospital in the city yesterday.

KOKO'S CASE
Hearing Oct 11

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday deferred a hearing on charge framing of a tax evasion case against Arafat Rahman Koko, the youngest son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia until October 11.
This is the 19th time the court accepted time petition of Koko.
His lawyer had earlier filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the case. The HC is yet to deliver a verdict on the matter.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Chehlum of AKM Fazlul Huque, a former official of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa), will be held at his residence on Iqbal Road in the city after Asr prayers today, a press release said.

Doa mahfil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A doa mahfil, for salvation of the departed soul of Fahimur Rahman Sayem, only son of Jahangir Kabir Nanak, state minister for LGRD and Cooperative Ministry, will be held near the media centre of Jatiya Sangsad after Asr prayer today, says press release.
Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.
Sayem was killed in a road accident at Chakoria's Bendi Bazar in Cox's Bazar on Tuesday.
He was laid to rest in the city's Banani Graveyard on Wednesday following his namaz-e-janaza at Jatiya Sangsad's west ground after Asr prayers.

67.6pc women literate in Bangladesh

Nahid tells Delhi conference
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The literacy rate of women in Bangladesh is 67.6 percent, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.
He said the government has ensured equity in male and female student ratio at primary and secondary levels, yet reducing the drop out rate and ensuring standard education at all levels remain a big challenge, said an official handout.
The minister made the observation when presenting a country paper at the first plenary session of an international conference at Manekshaw Centre's Ashoka Hall at New Delhi in India on the occasion of World Literacy Day.
The conference titled 'Women's literacy for inclusive and sustainable development' was jointly organised by Unesco and the Indian government.
Indian President Pratibha Patil inaugurated the conference.
Nahid said, as per the Dakar Declaration, the government has taken initiative to ensure cent percent enrolment in primary school by 2011 and standard education for all by 2014.
Nigerian Education Minister Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i presided over the session while State Minister for Indian Human Resources Development Dr D Purandeshwari, Minister for Education and Literacy Department of Pakistan Pir Mazhar-ul Haque, Education Minister of Sri Lanka Bandula Gunawardhana, Deputy Education Minister of Indonesia Fasil Jalal also spoke.

12 promoted to secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Superior Selection Board (SSB) at a meeting yesterday promoted 12 additional secretaries to the rank of secretary. They were serving as acting secretary in different ministries and divisions for over a year.
Those promoted are Khondaker Showkat Hossain of public works ministry, M Aslam Alam of Disaster Management and Relief Division, Mesbah Ul Alam of environment and forest ministry and Md Ebadot Ali of railway division.
Others include Suraiya Begum of cultural affairs ministry, Tariqul Islam of women and children affairs ministry, Shafiq Alam Mehedi of labour and employment ministry and Mohammed Golam Qudus of Privatisation Commission.
The remaining four are Md Rafiqul Islam of Information and Communication Technology Division, KH Masud Siddiqui of industries ministry, Muhammed Sadique of Election Commission Secretariat and Ranjit Kumar Biswas of social welfare ministry.
SSB, known as a powerful committee dealing with promotion of cadre officers, also promoted 30 joint secretaries to the post of additional secretary.
The promotion issue was pending with SSB for a long time, causing frustration among the acting secretaries.
Cabinet Secretary M Abul Aziz heads the selection board, which earlier discussed the matter but did not take a decision.
Roads and Highways Division officials SSB is yet to take any decision about promoting Roads and Highways Department officials.
Out of 14 posts of additional chief engineers, 13 are lying vacant for about two years.
This means the department has only one additional secretary while the remaining posts are held by superintendent engineers, either on current or additional charge.
The communications minister sent a list of the potential candidates and the matter was discussed at two SSB meetings so far. Yesterday, the matter was not even put on the agenda of the SSB meeting, said communications ministry officials.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION
Ctg mayor, three sons sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
A case was filed against Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor Md Manjur Alam and nine others including his three sons for alleged corruption charges with Metropolitan Session Judge's court yesterday.
Mir Istekhar Uddin, a businessman of Chittagong city, filed the case accusing the mayor and the others for extorting money from him in June 2007.
In June 7, 2007, Manjur called Istekhar up at his Dewanhat office and claimed Tk 12.54 lakh. The mayor then filed a case against him with Double Mooring police station and got him arrested by police, said the complainant in his statement.
As he was behind bars for eight days, the mayor harassed Istekhar's family and finally Istekhar's brother Mir Ikram Uddin paid the money, added the statement.
The lawyer of the complainant, however, could not say why the complainant filed the case after such a long time.
The court of Metropolitan Session Judge SM Mujibur Rahman asked Anti Corruption Commission to investigate into the matter and submit its report by November 14.