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# The Daily Star

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VOL. II NO. 265 REGD. NO. DA 781 KARTIK 5 1399 BS, DHAKA TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1992 RABIOUS SANI 22 1413 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00


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## Treasury benchers dismiss allegation: Discussion resumes today

# Opposition in JS holds govt responsible for push in

**Star Report**  
 Opposition MPs screamed to shout down the Treasury members.  
 "By incorporating these lines the Prime Minister virtually admitted what Delhi calls illegal infiltration from Bangladesh into India," the MPs most of whom quoted the paragraph alleged.  
 The paragraph reads: "Taking into account problems being caused due to large-scale illegal movement of people across their borders, they (the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India) expressed their determination to stop illegal movement of people across the border by all possible means including the strengthening of existing arrangements and mutual cooperation in this regard." However, the Treasury Bench stalwarts refuted the Opposition point saying the statement did not mean that there was illegal infiltration from Bangladesh.  
 The ruling party MPs insisted that it was all about the short-term two-way illegal infiltrations, a common phenomenon along the borders between the two neighbours these days.  
 All the Opposition MPs who spoke demanded that the paragraph be annulled.  
 They all were critical of the government for not "taking the Opposition into confidence" on such an important national issue.  
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## Nepali protesters shout at Rao

# Scrap unequal treaties with Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, Oct 19: Nepalese police today arrested more than 50 anti-Indian communist demonstrators and three MPs for waving black flags and shouting slogans at Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao arrived here, party sources said, reports AFP.  
 Demonstrations were held at different street corners along the route from the airport to the hotel where the Indian Prime Minister is staying, she said, adding the "arrested parliamentarians were the UPF leader Lila Mani Pokharel, Khadga Bahadur Budha and Sindhu Nath Pyskurel".  
 Witnesses said the protesters shouted slogans including the United People's Front (UPF) and the Nepal Communist Party's Maoist, Marxist and Leninist factions were arrested.  
 Police sources confirmed the arrests of only 15 people, but did not give their identities.  
 Pumphu Bhusal, an activist from the extreme left United People's Front (UPF) said "50 people from the four factions of the communist parties in-

## Cabinet approves proposals on local govt structure

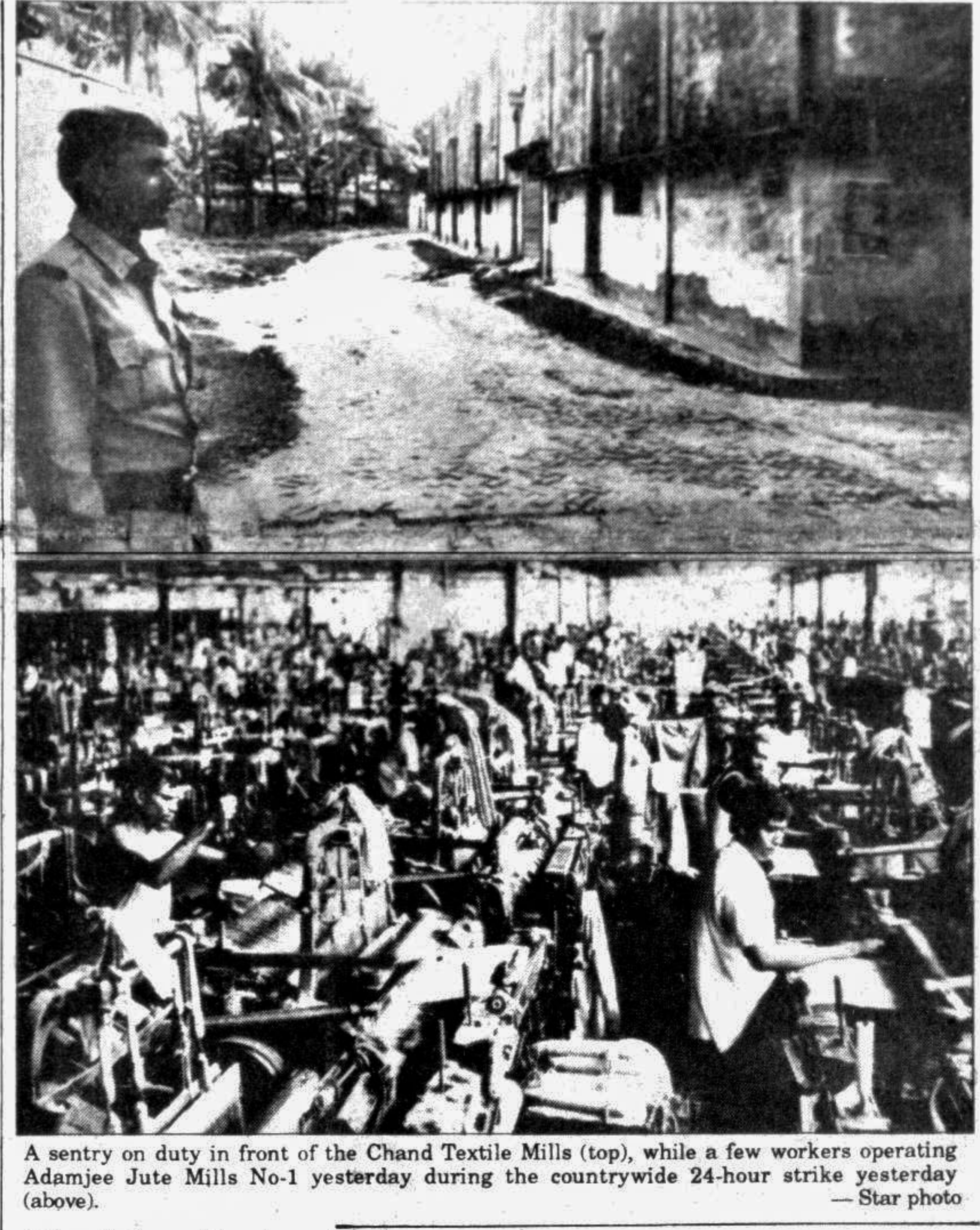
The cabinet has approved in principle the proposals of Ministry of LORD and Cooperative based on the report of the commission for review of local government structure, reports BSS.  
 The approval was given at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban yesterday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.  
 The cabinet also approved the draft of the bill for amendment of some provisions of Industrial Relations Ordinance-1969.  
 Ministers and state ministers-in-charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting.  
 Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries of the concerned ministries and divisions were present.  
**Probe report**  
**Ershad getting Tk 209.97 food daily**  
 Former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad is provided with various food items worth Taka 209.97 everyday in jail whereas a Division-1 prisoner is entitled to food worth Taka 53.11 per day, reports BSS.  
 This was the finding of the three-member commission which yesterday submitted its report before the High Court Division on the living condition of former president Ershad in the Dhaka Central Jail.  
 The commission was earlier appointed by the High Court Division to look into the allegation of the former president Ershad about "solitary confinement" in the central jail.  
 All the three members of the commission in their reports said the former president had been provided with an attendant. There is a co-prisoner with whom the petitioner (Ershad) can freely talk, the reports added.  
 Deputy Attorney General A Y Salehuzzaman, one of the members of the commission, in his report said that ingredients of solitary confinement were not found in the treatment of petitioner (Ershad) by the jail authorities.  
 But two other members, Nasiruddin Ahmed, District Judge, Dhaka and Advocate Md Mohsen Rashid, in their joint report refrained from making any comment on the issue of the solitary confinement.  
 Both Nasiruddin Ahmed and Advocate Md Mohsen Rashid in their report observed, "If after lock-up the former president Ershad has any problem requiring immediate and emergency medical assistance and is unable to leave the bed and shout to draw attention, no assistance, no medical aid will be possible because his difficulty shall go unnoticed. The guard inside the courtyard and outside the red mark will not be able to notice anything due to the height of the room from the ground level."  
 Deputy Attorney General A Y Salehuzzaman in his report, however, held a different view on this matter. He said "in such a situation the guard on duty whether he is outside or inside the red line can report the matter to the jail authorities for necessary action."

## Mostafiz makes statement in JS

# Bengali speaking people pushed into Bangladesh are Indians

**Seen from the Gallery**  
 By Sabir Mustafa

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman today said that the Bengali speaking people being forced into Bangladesh from India under the "Push In" operation were Indian nationals, reports BSS.  
 Making a statement at the Jatiya Sangsad, he said, these people are not Bangladesh nationals because they have been living in different places of India permanently and hence these people can not be called Bangladesh nationals.  
 He said, in the way people of a particular community are being rounded up for despatch to Bangladesh is potentially dangerous to disrupt communal harmony in the two countries leading to communal disturbances.  
 He said, is undesirable and is a threat to peace and harmony in the South Asian region.  
 "It is an established truth that families being pushed into Bangladesh are registered as Indian nationals and under no law Bangladesh can accept them," the Foreign Minister said.  
 Giving a detailed account of the scenario following the "Push In" operations, he said, the tense situation prevailing along the border, however, has now subsided to some extent due to the measures taken by the government of Bangladesh.  
 The Indian authorities have taken back the Bengali speaking Indian nationals inside India from the "zero line" of the border since these steps were taken, the Foreign Minister informed the House.  
 Responding to the concerns being expressed by different quarters in the country over the "Push In" operation, the Foreign Minister told the House that different govern-



A sentry on duty in front of the Chand Textile Mills (top), while a few workers operating Adamjee Jute Mills No-1 yesterday during the countrywide 24-hour strike yesterday (above). — Star photo

## US Presidential debate

# Crucial finale today

EAST LANSING (Mich), Oct 19: President Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot close their debate triphedder Monday night with the pressure squarely on Bush to chop Clinton's lead. But the president faces an accompanying risk that any strident attacks could backfire, reports AP.  
 The three candidates meet for 90 minutes at Michigan State University, their presidential debate finale and the tone-setter for the two-week dash to Election Day.  
 "I'm just going to answer the questions," a confident Clinton said Sunday before staging mock debates with advisers. "I believe if we make the changes that I'm advocating, it will really build this country enormously."  
 As the front-runner, Clinton's goal was little changed from the first two debates: press his case that Bush's economic approach has failed while trying to raise the comfort level of those who reluctantly are backing his candidacy.  
 The stakes were far higher for Bush as he tried to extend the Republican grip on the White House to 16 years. Trailing Clinton in national polls and in most of the big electoral battlegrounds, the president needs to mount a historic comeback if he is to win a second term.  
 "I don't think it is going to take a bombshell," Bush campaign manager Fred Malek said Sunday. "We think this election is very, very winnable."  
 Aides promised Bush would be more aggressive than in the first two debates, but they conceded that the president needed to walk a fine line between drawing contrasts with Clinton and appearing too eager to attack.  
 Perot entered the final debate running a distant third in national polls, conducting his independent campaign through the debates and a series of network television ad buys.  
 See Page 12 Col 6

## Partial strike in jute, textile mills

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 A partial strike was observed yesterday (Monday) at the country's jute and textile mills to press home the demands of the employees and workers of the two sectors.  
 Reports received from the mills across the country said that a 24-hour strike was observed at the jute-textile mills in Khulna and a few in the Chittagong, Narayanganj and Narasingdi belts while the mills in Tongi Industrial Area operated as usual.  
 The Textile Workers-Employees Federation and the Jute Mills Workers-Employees Action Committee jointly called for the countrywide strike demanding implementation of two accords the government had signed with the  
 See Page 12 Col 1

## Two murdered in old city

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Within a span of one hour, a 60-year-old businessman was slaughtered and a college student was shot dead at Tanti-bazar and Armanitola under Kotwali Police Station in the city Monday night.  
 A woman, Jibonessa alias Namuna, 30, a niece of one of the victims was also severely stabbed and admitted to the Sir Salmullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) in critical condition.  
 A group of armed men stormed into the house of Haji Nasiruddin at 55, Proshna Poddar Lane, Tantibazar at 8 pm last night, shot at and slaughtered the house owner and severely stabbed his niece, said the local people who witnessed the armed men escaping.  
 During the incident, only the businessman, Nasiruddin and his niece Namuna were in the house, family sources said.  
 Though the relatives of Nasiruddin termed it as a robbery, they said that the armedmen did not loot anything from the house.  
 Nasiruddin was a owner of a market at Panitola, Tantibazar, and he had a wholesale shop of crockery at Chawkbazar in the city.  
 The victim's relatives also said that Nasiruddin's first wife was dead and his second wife, See Page 12 Col 8

# Riyadh has captured several border posts, charges Doha

RIYADH, Oct 19: Saudi Arabia today rejected Qatar claims it had seized several border posts and built a sand wall along their frontier, reports AFP.  
 The accusations were made Sunday by Qatar Foreign Minister Hamed Ibn Jassem Ibn Jabr al-Thani.  
 A Saudi spokesman called on Qatar to refrain from 'useless statements' which did not serve 'common interests'.  
 Sheikh Hamad in an interview to AFP charged that Saudi troops had occupied several border posts in southern Qatar since September and had built a sand wall along the border in violation of a 1965 accord.  
 Hamad's remarks broadened initial allegations that Saudi Arabia had seized the border post at Al-Khafous on September 30.  
 Last week, Riyadh charged that it was Doha which seized an area of Saudi territory that it named Al-Khafous when world attention was focused on Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.  
 Sheikh Hamad called for an urgent meeting of a joint commission provided for by the 1965 accord in order to discuss the dispute and the work of drawing the boundaries.  
 Qatar will seek international arbitration "in case the meetings of the commission fail", the Foreign Minister said.  
 "Until now we have only protested but we intend to work for the restitution of our rights and the re-establishment of the situation which prevailed before Saudi military intervention on September 30," he said.  
 He said that Qatar's participation in the future activities of the Gulf Cooperation Council 'would depend on the evolution of the situation and the degree of cooperation (from Saudi Arabia) to safeguard the proper functioning' of the regional organization.  
 Besides Qatar and Saudi Arabia, the GCC groups Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait.  
 Informed Qatari sources said that Doha would boycott the next annual GCC summit — due to take place in Abu Dhabi in December — if no process is started to settle the border dispute.  
 Qatar, Sheikh Hamad said, has never ceased to repeat its attachment to the UN Charter which calls on states to settle their differences peacefully.  
 But the minister expressed doubt about Saudi Arabia's willingness to settle the border dispute as soon as possible.  
 "Considering the recent developments, can one say that Saudi Arabia remains faithful to the 1965 accord?" he asked.  
 Sheikh Hamad also said his government wanted to develop ties with Iraq, although he reaffirmed support for UN resolutions against this country.  
 "In our foreign policy, we are always concerned about strengthening inter-Arab relations."

## Travel agents strike work to get exemption from VAT

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 More than 300 travel agents of the country yesterday shuttered their agencies for an indefinite period demanding withdrawal of value added tax (VAT) on their commission from the airlines.  
 The strike is likely to create a 'major breakdown' in the airlines business as more than 70 per cent of the total passengers book tickets through travel agencies, Dhaka based airlines sources said.  
 Some 30 airlines including Bangladesh Biman are operating in Bangladesh.  
 The decision to strike work was taken at a meeting of the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) at its Inner Circular Road office with association president Dr H B M Iqbal in the chair.  
 Meanwhile, Biman Bangladesh Airlines has made necessary arrangement for selling  
 See Page 12 Col 7