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Palestinian  
State..." —  
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Chirac

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## International

Regional conference on  
Afghan crisis begins in  
Tehran today

67,000 illegal  
immigrants deported  
from US during 1996  
fiscal year  
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## Business

British diplomat asks  
local businessmen to  
correct Bangladesh's  
image abroad to lure  
investment

DSE index posts  
136-point rise  
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## DSE MARKET

DSE price index 2464.47  
Market capital Tk 17430.82 cr  
Transactions in volume 741712  
Transactions in value Tk 27.77 cr

## Supplement

Today's issue of The  
Daily Star contains one  
page supplement on  
the National Day  
of Turkey  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

Deputy Speaker  
meets President

Deputy Speaker Advocate  
Abdul Hamid made a courtesy  
call on President Justice Shababuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. The Deputy Speaker stayed with the President for some time, reports BSS.

Hartal observed  
at Hossainpur

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 28: All-Party Student Sangram Committee of Hossainpur Degree College enforced a daylong hartal at Hossainpur thana demanding setting up of an examination centre there. Sources said, the hartal was observed peacefully but vehicular traffic were off the road and shops kept their shutters down during the hartal hours.

Signing of draft policy  
on AIDS tomorrow

The presentation and signing ceremony of the Draft National Policy on HIV/AIDS/STD related issues, have been shifted from 5 pm to 11 am tomorrow at Hotel Purbani due to unavoidable circumstances. Health and Family Welfare Minister Salauddin Youssuf will attend the programme as chief guest, reports UNB.

One killed in  
road accident

An unidentified man aged about 30 was killed when a bus hit him on Airport Road in the city yesterday morning. The Bhuapur bound passenger bus hit the man when the driver of the vehicle lost control of it at about 6:45am. He died on the spot, police said. The bus was seized by the Cantonment police, but the driver fled away, police added. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Kashmir CM's Dy  
security chief killed

SRINAGAR, Oct 28: Kashmiri Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah's deputy security chief was killed and another person critically injured when militants opened fire in this summer capital late today, police said. A police spokesman said, Muslim militants opened fire on the convoy of Shahbaz Ahmed, Deputy Police Chief, responsible for Abdullah's security, killing him and injuring his driver, reports AFP.

Tidal surge inundates south-western coast

## Cyclone hits Sundarbans

By Shehab Ahmed with correspondents Monaem Khan, Aroop Talukder, Amanullah and Nurul Alam

The cyclonic storm that brewed in the North Bay off a deep depression began pounding the south-western coast of the country around mid-night last night. The Sundarbans bore the brunt of the storm that also whipped up surges five to seven feet above the astronomical tide, Meteorological Department said at 12:55 am.

Heavy rains accompanying the storm roaring over the Sundarbans, however, weakened its thrust. But the weathermen were worried about the surges due to the aftereffect of the full moon on Saturday that was likely to raise the surge above the normal astronomical tide of 10-12 feet.

The core of the cyclone had a speed of 65 km per hour, rising to 75 km in gust and under its impact five to seven feet of storm surge, above the normal astronomical tide, was likely to inundate low lying areas of the coastal belt. Storm Warning Centre sources said.

Earlier, the authorities evacuated thousands of people from coastal areas and offshore islands.

As the storm rolled ahead in a north-easterly direction, it triggered heavy rains all over the country yesterday, disrupting normal life.

The cyclone is likely to peter away towards West Bengal after lashing parts of the Sundarbans in Bangladesh and some districts in Khulna region, weathermen said. It will

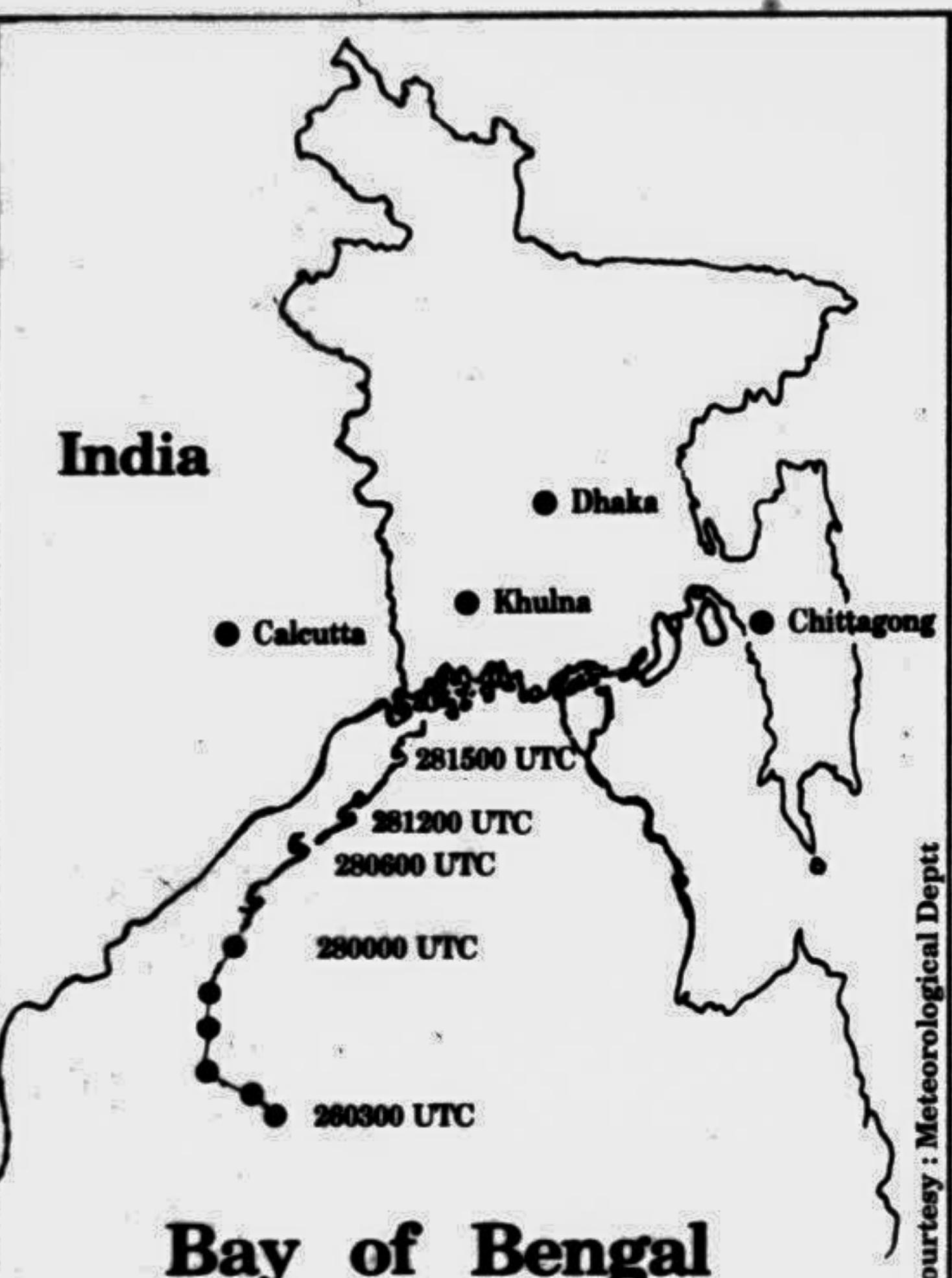
release heavy showers before weakening.

Earlier, Radio and Television had broadcast warning signal number five to alert people in the coastal belt. Authorities in the capital held an emergency meeting with Food Agriculture and Disaster Management Minister Matia Chowdhury in the chair to review preparedness to meet the emergency.

Our Khulna correspondent Amanullah said three children, including a 52-day old baby were buried alive at Nalhati village in Rupsha when their mud-walled house collapsed, melting under heavy rains that pelted the coastal district yesterday. Their mother was seriously wounded, police reported.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent Moneem Khan reported that high winds and a fiery sea surged four feet above-normal tide, and water rushed through Water Development Board's embankment at Haritala and Jaitkhali areas under Dhalghata union of Mohingkhali thana at 6 pm

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Courtesy : Meteorological Deptt

Govt won't internationalise  
Ganges issue : Hasina

NEW YORK, Oct 28: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a press conference here yesterday said that encouraging response was received from the foreign investors for making investment in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

On the Ganges water-sharing with India, Hasina said her government did not want to internationalise the issue when bilateral negotiations were on.

She said progress was being made to resolve the issue through discussion with India and pointed out that in the past, the issue had been raised in international fora but nothing could be achieved in realising the share.

"We will try bilaterally and if that fails, we'll raise the issue at the SAARC forum," she said and mentioned the ministerial level meeting between the two countries on the issue.

Responding to the demands of the expatriates, the Prime Minister said the government would take steps to enrol the

names of the expatriates in the voters' list, to turn the existing Sonali Exchange in New York into a full-fledged bank and to stop harassment of the foreign investors for making investment in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

She informed that an inquiry committee has been formed to probe into the alleged murder of Bangladeshi-born British citizen Suru Mia by Customs people in Dhaka airport.

Earlier, the Prime Minister called upon the non-resident Bangladeshi (NRBs) to come forward to invest in Bangladesh and help in national development.

"After a long struggle, we have achieved the voting rights of the people, now my objective is to work for economic prosperity of the country," she told a mass reception here.

Addressing the reception given in her honour by expatriate Bangladeshi in New York, the Prime Minister urged them to cooperate her government in achieving the goal.

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Hardly any trade  
restriction, PM  
tells investors

NEW YORK, Oct 28: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said here today that her government wanted to be decisive and remove bureaucratic road-blocks and foot-dragging to encourage foreign investment in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Addressing the fund managers and portfolio investors of the United States at a hotel here, she said, "We have in place very liberal trade and investment policies." There are hardly any trade restriction.

Tariff rates are being rationalised and have been declining across the board and are among the lowest in the region.

She explained the very attractive and competitive incentive packages to promote both direct and portfolio investment.

She told the investors that

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Dhaka announces  
candidature for  
UNSC seat

NEW YORK, Oct 28: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her first visit to the United Nations to address the 51st session of UN General Assembly announced here today the candidature of Bangladesh for a non-permanent seat of the Security Council for the term 2000 to 2001, reports BSS.

The election for this will take place at the General Assembly session in 1999.

Sheikh Hasina particularly noted Bangladesh's active role at the United Nations and its various agencies, especially in the area of peace-keeping and development activities.

## Abduction of Kalpana

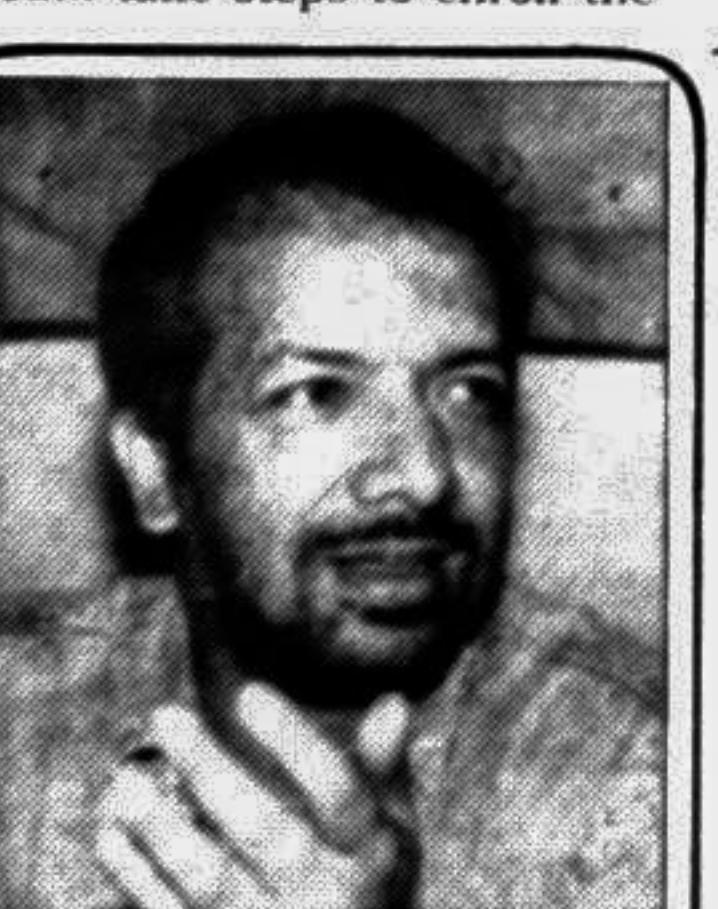
Probe body  
records witnesses'  
statements

From Morshed Ali Khan

RANGAMATI, Oct 28: The three member enquiry committee for probing the abduction of Kalpana Chakma started recording statements of the witnesses and others at Rangamati Circuit House yesterday.

The committee headed by Justice M A Jallil includes Shakhat Hossein, Divisional

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Sumon for joint  
war against  
Hindi culture

Sumon Chattopadhyay, a pioneer of new trend Bangla songs, has vowed to launch a joint war in West Bengal and Bangladesh against what he said the Hindi imperialism, reports UNB.

"Hindi has already tainted the culture of Bangladeshi in India and I am concerned it may also intrude in a heavy way into

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More funds for research  
on wind energy assured

By Staff Correspondent

Energy Minister Lt Gen (retd) Noor Uddin Khan has said the government gives "high priority" to tapping all sources of energy including wind and will encourage private sector participation in the field to meet the power shortfall in the country.

Addressing a seminar on "Wind Energy Study (WEST)" in the city yesterday the minister said that the government would provide more funds for research on wind energy and other renewable sources of energy and their use.

"I shall welcome private sector investors from abroad to come forward in generating wind power and the government will provide all possible incentives to attract them," he said.

Researchers at the seminar highlighted some encouraging

Pragmatic policies sought  
for women's development

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting on "Women and Poverty" in the city yesterday urged the government to frame pragmatic policies for development of the womenfolk of the country.

A resolution adopted at the meeting demanded inclusion of women's development programmes in the government's macroeconomic policies and allocation of fifty per cent of the resources for those, collateral-free loan for poor women, introduction of a 'fair law of inheritance' and an end to representation on women.

Organised by the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), the seminar was addressed by among others British High Commissioner in Bangladesh David C Walker, the Head of Economic Cooperation and Development of German Embassy, AMOD representative

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## Series of charges against govt

BNP threatens  
agitation for  
mid-term polls

Main opposition BNP is planning to announce a shadow cabinet shortly in conformity with the parliamentary system to ensure check and balance of government activities.

"We are already working as a shadow cabinet and a formal announcement is under active consideration," BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told UNB yesterday.

In an exclusive interview at the party central office, Bhuiyan

focused on the country's political scenario, ruling party's "hostile" attitude and failures in domestic and foreign policy and flagged BNP's future strategy.

Bhuiyan brought a series of charges against the Awami League government with a note of warning that if it does not

change its attitude towards the opposition, BNP would be forced to start agitation to oust the government for a mid term election.

He complained that the BNP was not being allowed to play as a responsible opposition in the Parliament because of partisan outlook of the Speaker and obstruction from the Treasury bench in discussing various national issues.

In reply to a question, the BNP Secretary General set several conditions for making Parliament effective and functional — the Speaker must be neutral as custodian of the House, there should be enough scope of discussing all important national issues, proper representation of opposition in the parliamentary standing committees and inclusion of opposition MPs in the committees on consultation with the opposition parties.

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Wrists by Col Farooq &  
Maj Shahriar rejected

A High Court Division bench yesterday rejected two writ petitions filed by Col (retd) Syed Farooq Rahman and Major (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan challenging the proceedings of the cases in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka against the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and against the killing in the Dhaka

Tareq, Eskander & 6 others get anticipatory bail

By SC Correspondent

Tareq Rahman and Syed Eskander, son and brother of former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Majidul Huq, Mahmudul Hasan, former Ministers and Zahidul Huq, former State Minister, have been granted anticipatory bail by the High Court Division In

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The petitioners contended that the allegation of offences made in the First Information Report (FIR) — Lalbagh Police Station case Number 11 (1) 75 dated November 4, 1975, and Dharmonti Police Station Case Number 10 (10) 96 dated October 2, 1996 — against the detainees Col (retd) Syed Farooq Rahman and Major (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan could not be tried by any court as per provisions of the First Proclamation dated August 20, 1975, Indemnity Ordinance dated September 26, 1975, the Second Proclamation dated November 8, 1975, and the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution dated April 6, 1979.

Barrister Muhammad Korban Ali with Advocate Jahangir Alam Khan moved the

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The new system will undoubtedly increase the number of Bangladeshi tourists to Nepal, Shrestha said.

Indo-Bangla  
water talks  
begin today

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak left Dhaka last night for New Delhi to resume talks on sharing of the Ganges water, reports UNB.

Razzak will lead a five-member delegation at the talks beginning today. The Indian side will be led by Indian Water Resource Minister Janeswar Misra.

The three-day meeting will discuss the quantum of the Ganges water to be shared by Bangladesh and India during the lean period as well as prepare ground for an agreement expected to be signed in December.

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India starts issuing  
overland visas to  
Bangladeshis  
for Nepal visit

KATHMANDU, Oct 28: India has for the first time issued two-day overland visas to Bangladeshi tourists or business people travelling overland to Nepal, a foreign ministry sources said today, reports AFP.

The source said the Indian embassy in Dhaka has begun issuing the visas for the crossing at Painganki, the frontier in India's West Bengal state adjoining Kakadhitha in Nepal, 400 kilometers southeast of Kathmandu.

"Hitherto, Bangladeshi tourists had to travel to Nepal only by air via Calcutta in India, but that discouraged low-income and middle class Bangladeshi tourists from visiting Nepal," said Bijen Shrestha, a travel agency general manager.

The new system will undoubtedly increase the number of Bangladeshi tourists to Nepal, Shrestha said.

## Death in custody

Petition case filed  
with CMM

Star Report

A "petition case" has been filed with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) accusing five police men for the murder of Soem Mahmud Tahir in the custody of Motijheel police.

Tahir's elder brother Shahidul Islam filed the case yesterday.

In his petition, Shahidul Islam also alleged that three doctors of Forensic Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), in collusion with police, gave a false and incomplete report describing Tahir's death as suicide, in a bid to conceal the