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# The Daily Star

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**Mills closed**  
**Prime Group owners, employees file cases**  
From Ehsanul Haque  
NARAYANGANJ, Oct 3: Two cases were lodged with Fatullah Thana today in connection with the attack on three industrial units of Prime Group by armed goons on Thursday.  
Of the two cases, one was lodged by the workers and the other by the owners, said Fatullah police.  
Twenty people were injured in the attack on Prime Textile Spinning Mills, Prime Composite Mills and Prime Re-rolling Mills of the group in Narayanganj area under Fatullah Thana. The units employ about 4,000 workers.  
Following the incident, the mills were closed and police were deployed there. None was, however, arrested police said.  
During a visit to the mill area, it was seen that a five-story rest house of Prime Group was damaged and their offices were also ransacked. Vehicles, freeze, television, air-conditioner and furniture were also damaged.  
The FIR lodged on behalf of See Page 12 Col 7

**Indian goods flooded markets during BNP rule, says Zillur**  
General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League and Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday rejected the statement made by Begum Khaleda Zia and said it was her BNP government which had turned Bangladesh into the market of Indian goods during its rule, reports BSS.  
In a statement, Zillur Rahman said that during the BNP rule ruti fish, potatoes, onions, garlies and even rashgollas from India flooded the market of this country. The incident of the biggest arms smuggling in Chittagong took place during their rule while smuggling of gold was a regular feature, he pointed out.  
He said the countrymen are well aware of the fact that the See Page 12 Col 1

**Appointments, transfers**  
Former Defence Secretary Kazi Mohammad Monzor-e-Moula has been appointed Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat on contract basis for three years by cancelling his LPR, said an official handout last night, reports UNB.  
It said Joint Secretary of the Jute Ministry A K M Rezaur Rahman has been made Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.  
Director General of Bangladesh National Museum A Z M Rafique Bhuiyan has been made Director of the Directorate of Archeology while Director of Bangla Academy A K M Shamsuzzaman the DG of the National Museum on contract See Page 12 Col 3

**Announcement**  
Our weekly Entertainment page for Friday appears today, dropping National page. Inconvenience caused to readers is regretted.

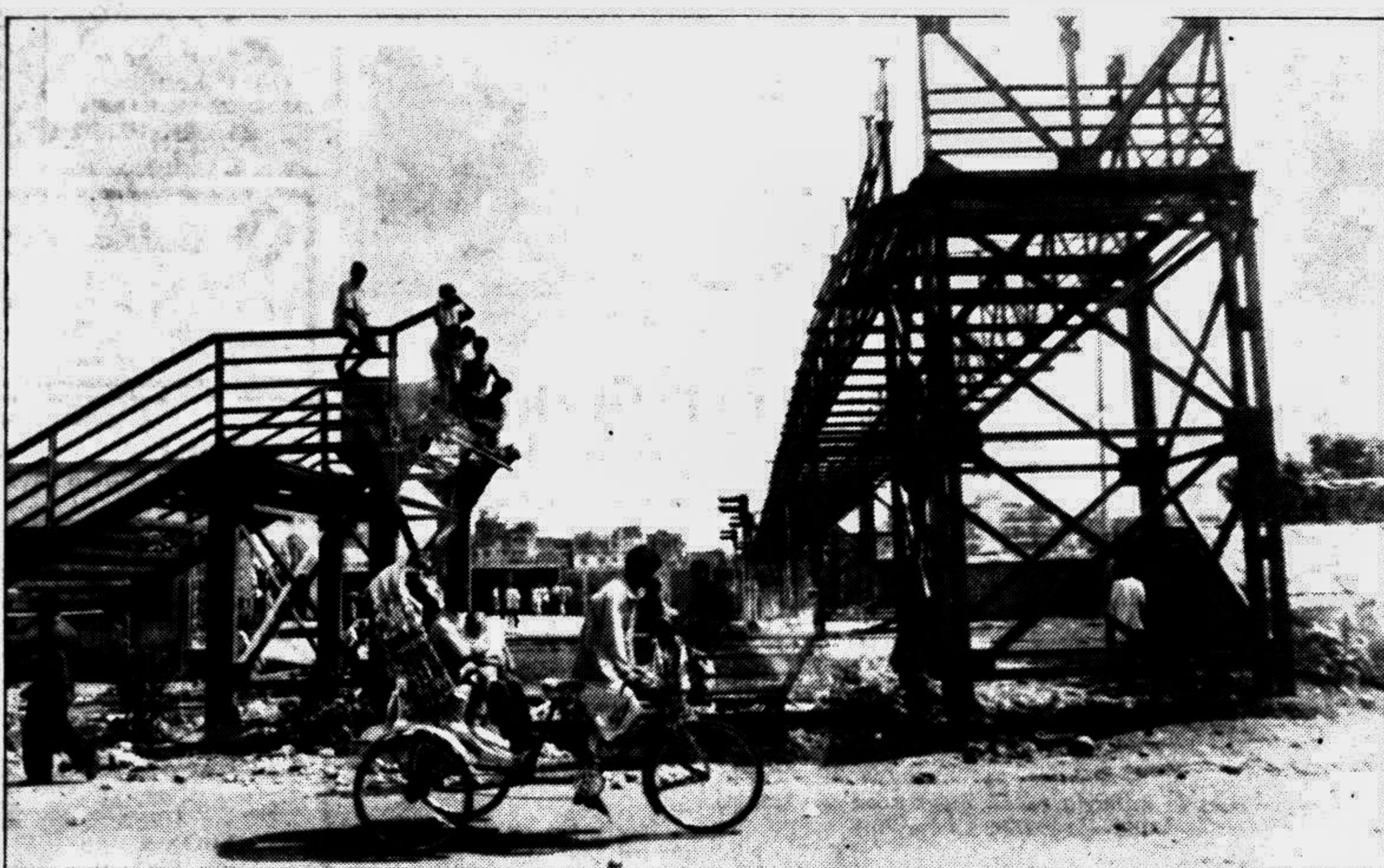
**Inside Today**  
**Article**  
**The Venues and the Vengeance**  
Column: Beneath the Surface  
by Abdul Bayes  
Page 4

**Star Literature**  
A genius lyricist Masud Karim; Gender and development; A joint effort of youth and age; and Oldest Epic Pages 6&7

**International**  
Shelling on Kashmir border ends  
Page 5

**Business**  
Profit-taking pushes share prices down  
Page 8

**The Daily Star**  
on the Internet  
<http://www.dailystarnews.com>



The overbridge at Kamalapur railway station in the city being dismantled yesterday. —Star photo by Sk Enamul Haque

## Eight-hour road-rail barricade tomorrow Govt using media against movement, says Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent  
BNP will enforce an eight-hour road-rail blockade across the country tomorrow as part of its ongoing movement against what it said undemocratic, anti-people and subservient activities of the government.  
The party high command yesterday directed all its front organisations and district and Thana committees for taking massive preparations to make the 6 am to 2 pm programme a complete success.  
The half-day barricade is also backed by Jaliya Party (Z-M), Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote, Jagpa and PNP.  
Sources in opposition camp said that the leaders of the six parties are likely to meet today. They also hinted that barricade will be put up at Rampura, Mahakhali, Jatrabari, Sadarghat, Tongi bridge, Kanchari bridge and Mirpur areas around Dhaka during the programme.  
Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has urged the countrymen to make tomorrow's barricade programme a success, according to UNB.  
The Opposition Leader in a statement yesterday said that BNP is struggling for safeguarding country's independence and sovereignty, continuation of the democratic process, saving economy, protecting public life and property and ensuring people's democratic rights.  
The barricade programme across the country has been called as part of that struggle, she added.  
The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said the government has become isolated from the people due to its total failure to run the country and subservient activities.  
The BNP Chairperson said the country is now facing a serious crisis due to failure and wrong policy of the government.  
She said the government is also using the media against the current movement launched to protect the country and people's rights.  
But, she expressed her confidence that like in the past the present government would not be able to mislead the patriotic and democracy-loving people through false propaganda.  
"We want to categorically say that our movement is to protect the country and its people. Our movement is for the demand to run parliament neutrally and making it the central point of all activities," she said.  
Begum Zia also said that the current movement is also for ensuring fair price of all agricultural products, including jute, rice and sugarcane, and reduction of fuel price, fertiliser, agri-inputs and essential commodities.  
The movement is also to press for cancellation of "undemocratic" Gram Parishad Bill, resolving the existing crisis of water, gas and electricity, full implementation of pay-scale and announcement of See Page 12 Col 7

## Eight ADB-aided projects moving at snail's pace

Eight projects funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are moving at a snail's pace while the government is seeking ways for speedy implementation of the limping projects.  
Official sources said the Economic Relations Division (ERD) has identified the eight slow-moving projects against which disbursements of loan money are trailing far behind the project's elapsed loan period.  
The poor disbursements, compared to the elapsed loan period of the projects, show that they have become almost sick and need special measures for their satisfactory implementation, an official said.  
A review of these eight projects was recently sent to the Prime Minister's Office for necessary action, pinpointing the problems and suggesting their possible redress, he told UNB yesterday.  
The suggestions include designating project directors as early as possible in the project cycle, even though he may not be formally appointed until the loan is made effective.  
Frequent transfer of project directors should be stopped, the ERD suggested, adding that preferably one project director should continue for the entire implementation of the project.  
The projects are Coastal Greenbelt project, Third Natural Gas Development project, Rural Electrification project, Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection project, Second Water Supply and Sanitation project, Higher Secondary Education project, Bangladesh Open University project and Second Health and Family Planning Services project.  
Only 8 per cent of loan amount was disbursed against 30 per cent of elapsed loan period for the Coastal Greenbelt project, where the ADB is providing 21.98 million US dollars.  
For the Third Natural Gas Development project, only 14 per cent of the 107.43 million ADB loan was disbursed against the 57 per cent of the elapsed loan period.  
The ERD commented on the project that the executing agencies need to comply with loan covenants like enactment of gas regulations, establishment of regulatory authority and appointment of private sector directors in their boards.  
The executing agencies must expedite procurement action, it added.  
Only 11 per cent loan amount was disbursed against 50 per cent of elapsed loan period for the Rural Electrification project in which the Bank is giving 44.44 million US dollars.  
For the Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection project, 49 per cent loan amount was disbursed against 99 per cent of the elapsed loan period. The ADB's contribution in the project is 95.45 million dollars.  
The ERD said the PPPs of the project have to be changed to accommodate revised scope and increased cost. The executing agencies should gear up implementation.  
See Page 12 Col 7

## WFDY secy-gen tells The Daily Star Youth bodies should have a say in policy making

By Nurul Kabir  
Youth organisations in Bangladesh should have a more active role in dealing with problems like illiteracy, poverty and unemployment, according to Harchand Singh Bath, secretary general of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).  
"Illiteracy, poverty and unemployment are the major problems Bangladesh's young people have been confronting and the country's youth organisations should play a greater role to remove the problems," Bath, a former general secretary of the All India Student Federation said the democratic youth organisations should also be involved in the policy making process in the country, from grassroots to the national level.  
An Indian national, now based in Budapest, Hungary, Bath was in Dhaka on a three-day visit last week to attend a conference of Bangladesh Jubo Union, which is also WFDY's local unit. As many as 155 youth organisations in 105 countries are under the fold of WFDY, which acts as coordinator of their activities at the global level.  
In an interview with The Daily Star, Bath also gave ideas about how the youth community could make its way into the national policy making mechanism.  
A case has been filed with Doublemooring Thana accusing five persons. None was arrested till filing of this report.



Harchand Singh Bath

## BNP discusses preparations for barricade programme

A joint meeting of BNP and its front organisations yesterday called upon the countrymen to make tomorrow's countrywide road and rail barricade programme a success, reports UNB.  
Held at party central office with BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair, the meeting discussed measures to make barricade programme a success.  
Mannan Bhuiyan told the meeting that the government is using the media, including state-run radio and television against opposition programmes to mislead the people.  
He said government's behaviour clearly proved that it became imbalanced by the mass movement and took recourse to various evil designs to divert the movement in a different way.  
Sounding a note of warning, the BNP secretary general said the government would be held responsible for the consequences if it intensified repressive measures to check people's movement. The current movement, he said, is to protect the country and people's rights.  
See Page 12 Col 8

## Asian Art Biennial from Nov 6

The Eighth Asian Art Biennial Exhibition will be held in Dhaka from November 6 under the auspices of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, reports UNB.  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to open the 25-day exhibition at Osmani Memorial Auditorium on November 6.  
Out of 49 countries of the Asia Pacific region invited to participate in the exhibition, 30 have so far responded positively, said a press release of the academy yesterday.  
The 30 countries which have confirmed their participation are: Australia, Armenia, Bahrain, Bhutan, China, Georgia, India, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, UAE, Yemen, Vietnam, the Philippines and host Bangladesh.  
Art works of the participants will be displayed at the galleries of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Osmani Memorial Hall and Bangladesh National Museum.  
Some 50 artists and art critics from the participating countries are expected to visit Bangladesh on the occasion, the press release said.

## Woman allegedly gangraped in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: Local mastans allegedly gangraped a newly married woman in Agrabad area under Doublemooring Thana of the city last night, police said.  
The victim Fatema Akter is now at Doublemooring Thana custody and doctors will examine her tomorrow, police said.  
Police informed that the mastans had stormed into the house of Fatema at 3 am last night by breaking open the doors and gangraped her after confining her husband, Saidur Rahman at gunpoint in another room.  
A case has been filed with Doublemooring Thana accusing five persons. None was arrested till filing of this report.

## Govt still uncertain about donors' aid pledge

By Inam Ahmed  
The government requires an increased foreign aid inflow to bridge the savings gap for a higher level of investment to achieve the targeted seven per cent growth rate, according to highly placed official sources.  
The changed aid environment marked by trimming of donors' aid budget, however, may not allow for higher external assistance pledge in the November consortium meet to be held for the first time in Dhaka, departing from the earlier practice of meeting in Paris.  
"We would make our case. But we are still uncertain about the donors' pledge this year since some major donors have cut back on their aid budget," said an authoritative source.  
Japan, the largest bilateral donor, is "favourable" to Bangladesh. But it also has trimmed its overall external assistance quantum this year.  
"We still expect a better pledge from them," he said. But how much the donors would agree to give Bangladesh would require an assessment of the lendings they had been making, said a top Finance Ministry official.  
"Donors are moving away from open pledge. This time they are likely to make it an impact-based one," he said.  
This year's budget shows a higher foreign aid component from last year's. It is 1525 million dollars this year against last year's revised amount of 1450 million dollars," he pointed out. "This means we will need more aid commitment to keep our programmes on foot."  
On top of this, a higher growth rate — seven per cent — would require more investment to achieve the target. With the government's revenue collection efforts straining at the moment, a natural recourse would be to net more aid to make the necessary investment for reaching the growth rate, officials noted.  
See Page 12 Col 7

## Delay in registration 10335 pharmacists sit idle for over a yr

By Naimul Haq  
More than 10,000 qualified pharmacists are sitting idle as the Council Committee of the Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh (PCB) is sitting on their applications for registration with the PCB.  
PCB registration is a precondition for pharmacists to start professional work but the PCB Council Committee, the body responsible for giving registration, is not functioning for over one and a half years.  
Sources in the Council said, 10,335 candidates who completed the 'Certificate Course in Pharmacy' and appeared at Pharmacy Certificate Registration Examinations held from November 1993 till March 1997 are waiting for their certificates in category 'B'.  
The sources also said that about 150 graduates from the pharmacology departments of Dhaka and Jahangirnagar universities are also waiting for their registration in category 'A'.  
According to a council member who requested anonymity, the Council could not sit to discuss the registration issue due to 'inactive attitude' of the government and division in the Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society (BPS). Rival factions of the BPS are now fighting a legal battle for legitimacy, he said.  
According to rules, drug stores must sell medicines under the personal supervision of a pharmacist registered with the PCB. "But most of the drug stores are run by simple salesmen," admitted a member of the Chemists and Druggists Association. "A very few of the drug stores have pharmacists," he said.  
When asked, a high official of the Drug Administration acknowledged that the authorities could not ensure proper implementation of the legislation.  
The 15-member Council Committee comprises representatives from the Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society, Chemists and Druggists Association, Drug Administration and the Bangladesh Medical Association. Its tenure expired See Page 12 Col 8

## Focus on CBA in PDB Management keeping us away, alleges TU leader

By Sharier Khan  
Jobs of ledger writers and metre readers in Power Development Board (PDB) are considered very lucrative although they are not well-paid.  
Many of them are allegedly involved in illegal deals with the consumers, depriving the PDB of about Tk 100 crore revenue earning a year.  
A metre reader has a four-storey house in the posh Bailey Road area of the city and is currently constructing another four-storey extension of the building.  
Metre readers and ledger writers like him are said to be mainly responsible for the system loss in PDB. The workers' unions in the PDB are protesting these unscrupulous elements, it is alleged.  
Asked about allegation, General Secretary of the Combined Bargaining Agent (CBA) in PDB Zafarul Hasan said that trade unions did not back such employees.  
"This is where the CBA can play a vital role if the PDB management fully involves it in the development efforts of the organisation. But unfortunately the CBA is being viewed as a villain in the organisation and is left out," he said.  
According to him, during BNP rule from 1991 to '96 the CBA was actively involved in the process of removing indiscipline from the organisations.  
"The CBA played a strong role in the PDB Participatory Committee which used to identify and punish 'indisciplined employees.' Now over the last 10 months, there had not been a single meeting of the Participatory Committee, he added.  
To cut down system loss, the PDB management, in cooperation with the CBA, introduced a reward and punishment system in 1992 and for the first time, 2747 officials and staff were punished last year.  
Following this, system loss had gradually declined. In the See Page 12 Col 3

## গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে গ্যাস কোম্পানীর আওতাভুক্ত সকল এলাকার খেলাপি আবাসিক গ্রাহকদের গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান ৫ই অক্টোবর ১৭ই হইতে পুনরায় শুরু হচ্ছে। সেই সাথে অবৈধ গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন কার্যক্রম যথারীতি চলবে।  
গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ দলের সদস্যগণের নিকট কোম্পানীর পরিচয়পত্র ও সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ আদেশ থাকবে। সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের অবিলম্বে বকেয়া গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকারী দলকে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের স্থান বকেয়া পরিশোধের রশিদ প্রদর্শন করার অনুরোধ জানানো হল। সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত কোন গ্রাহক সকাল ৯.০০ হইতে ৫.০০টার মধ্যে কোম্পানীর সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ জোন/অফিসে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের পূর্বে পরিশোধিত বিলের রশিদ দেখাতে পারলে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে পুনঃ সংযোগ পুনরায় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।  
সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত ৩ (তিন) মাসের মধ্যে পুনঃ সংযোগ না নিলে গ্যাস সংযোগ স্বায়ীভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ সহ গ্যাস সরবরাহ চুক্তি বাতিল করা হবে।  
বকেয়া আদায় এবং গ্যাসের অবৈধ ব্যবহার বা অচয় রোধ করে সকলের সহযোগিতা একান্ত কাম্য।  
তিতাস গ্যাস টানমিনস এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ  
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## Cyclone: 17 more bodies recovered in Patuakhali and Bhola

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, Oct 3: Seventeen more bodies of victims of last Friday's cyclone were recovered in Patuakhali and Bhola in the last three days, according to sources today.  
Many bodies, some decomposed, are still floating in different areas of the coast, according to Mostafa Chowdhury, president of Patharghata Trawler Owners Association in Patuakhali.  
He said that five decomposed bodies of missing fishermen were recovered from Karal-bunia Char, some 6 kilometres away from Kuakata sea beach under Kalapara Thana of Patuakhali district today. One of these bodies could be identified as that of Mir Harun, 30, of South Patharghata of Barguna district.  
He also informed that out of 134 missing fishermen since last Friday, 57 returned so far.  
According to reports from Bhola, bodies of twelve more cyclone victims were recovered from different places under five thanas of the district in the last three days.  
Eight of the bodies were See Page 12 Col 8

## Ousted BCL faction retakes DU halls

By DU Correspondent  
Activists of the Shariatpur-Madaripur faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) who were ousted from the Shahidullah Hall and Fazlul Haq Hall of Dhaka University by the rival Gopalganj faction Thursday evening, "recaptured" the halls at around 12 the some night, according to sources on the campus.  
After being ousted, the activists first demonstrated in front of the residence of the Vice Chancellor and urged him to take action against capture of the halls by 'outsiders'.  
The activists, some of them armed, then 'forced' the resident students of the two halls to participate in a procession and marched towards the halls to recapture the dormitories from the Gopalganj group.  
When the procession reached the Doel Chatter hall near Curzon Hall, the Gopalganj faction fired shots from the Shahidullah and Fazlul Haq Halls. At this stage, police lobbed some 10 rounds of teargas shells to bring the situation under control.  
Sensing danger, activists of See Page 12 Col 2

## Mahathir may visit Bangladesh in December

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Bin Muhammad is expected to visit Bangladesh sometime in December, official sources said yesterday, reports UNB.  
Mahathir, who first visited Bangladesh in 1993, will make the trip to Dhaka at the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina.  
The Malaysian premier's visit here is likely to take place either on his way to Tehran or on way back home from the Iranian capital which will be hosting the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in the second week of December.  
The governments of Bangladesh and Malaysia are now working on the details of the planned visit.  
The parley, which will take place between the two heads of government, is expected to prominently focus on the prospects of increase in Malaysian investment in Bangladesh.  
A number of private companies from Malaysia, an emerging Asian economic power, is already doing business here in joint ventures.