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**Brac Housing** 

Finance Co

International Finance Cor-

poration, the private-sector arm of the World Bank group,

yesterday signed a deal to become an equity partner of a

Bangladeshi housing finance

company, reports UNB. World Bank President James

Wolfensohn signed for the IFC

together with Housing Devel-

opment Finance Corporation

(HDFC) of India to acquire eq-

uity in the Delta Brac Housing

Finance Company (DBH).

Managing Director of Delta

Life Insurance Shafat A

Chowdhury, BRAC Executive

Director Fazle Hasan Abed,

Managing Director of Green

Delta Insurance Nasir A

Chowdhury and HDFC Manag-

ing Director Deepak Sat-

walekar signed on behalf of

See Page 12 Col 3

Bengali settlers

call hartal in

CHT on Oct 29

From Staff Correspondent

battya Sarbadaliya Oikya

Parishad (PSOP), a body of op-

position political parties

CHITTAGONG, Oct 15: Par-

their organisations.

heads normal in concrete structures, says official

BHUAPUR, Oct 15: The Jamuna Bridge Authority ruled out possibility of any damage to the structure of the bridge due to the minor cracks developed in

its pier head units, reports UNB. There is nothing to worry about ... this is normal in any concrete structure," Secretary of Jamuna Bridge Division A Muyeed Chowdhury told reporters who visited the bridge

He said cracks usually de-See Page 12 Col 3

# OMORROW



Read Star Weekend Magazine's cover story this week on a project to revive the dying Dhanmandi lake or the necklace of Dhaka city as it was once said to be.

The Baily Star on the internet http://www.dailystarnews.com

## Inside Today Article

Some random thoughts

The Subcontinent, Britain and the Commonwealth Conference

Column: Frankly Speaking by Faruq Choudhury Page 4

### Business

SOEs need to be energised Page 6

# Cracks in JMB pier Tk 220 crore revenue collection shortfall in first quarter

By Shehab Ahmed

Revenue collection during the first quarter of fiscal 1997-The target for the first quarter was fixed at Tk 3298.80 98 was Tk 220.04 crore behind crore while the collection stood the target, demanding more effort by the National Board of at Tk 3078.76 crore, fulfilling Revenue (NBR) to help the gov-93.33 per cent of the target. ernment attain its projected Tk

KARTIK 1 1404 BS.

In September, 98.02 per cent of the target was achieved but collection during the month fell short of the target by Tk 23.24 crore. The target was Tk 1176.87 crore.

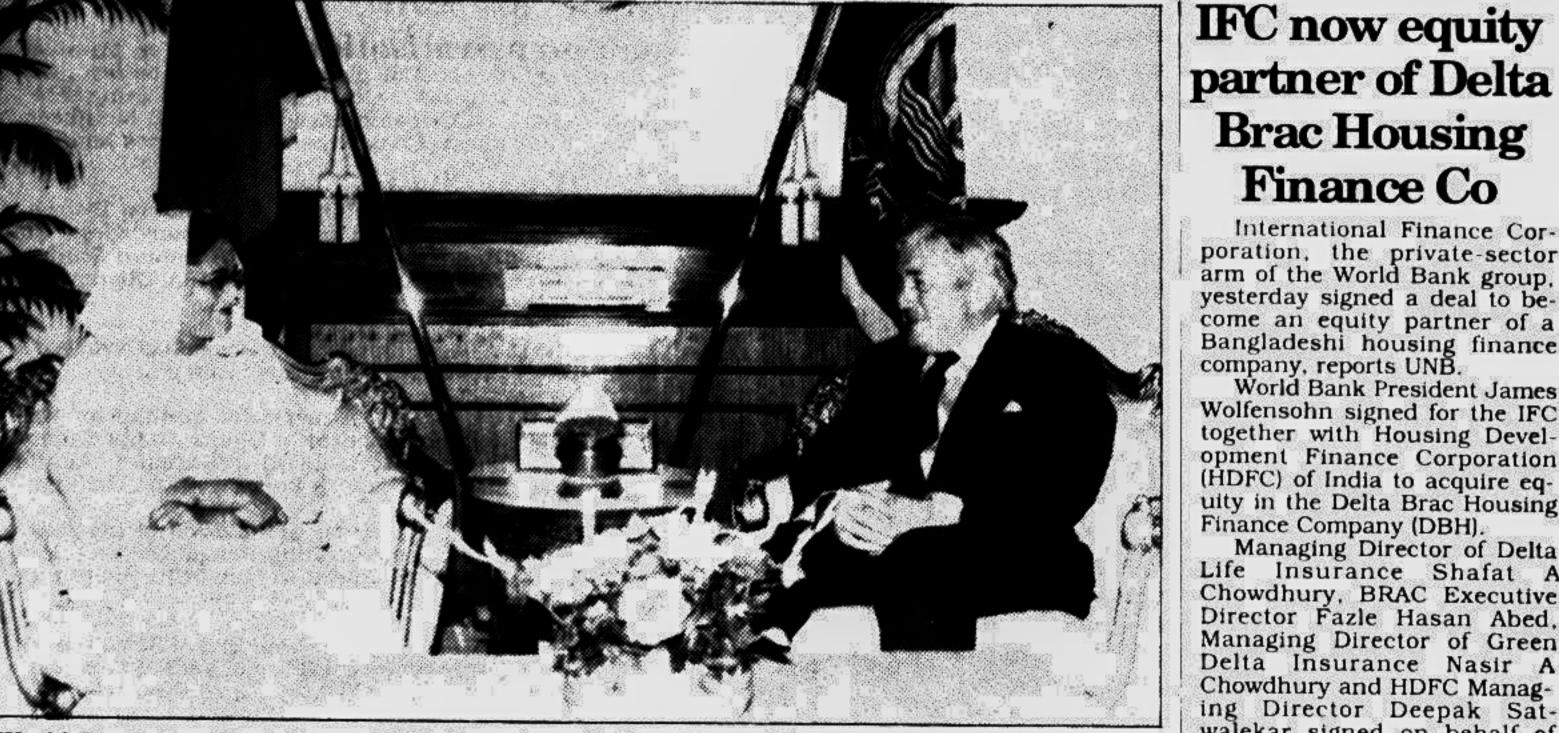
In August, the performance was better when the collection was 103 per cent. But the first two months' collection was

90.97 per cent although it was higher than that of the corresponding period of last fiscal by 13.53 per cent or Tk 230.11

DHAKA THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1997

Although the NBR managed to stem a drastic downward slide during the quarter, it received a big blow when importers of reconditioned cars took it to the courts on a series of writs challenging imposition of duty.

It chipped away at least Tk 200 crore from the governmen-See Page 12 Col 7



JAMADIUS SANI 13 1418 HIJRI

World Bank President James D Wolfensohn called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday. -PID photo

# Powerful loan defaulters got Sonali Bank MD removed

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Powerful loan defaulters successfully lobbied with the highest authorities to remove Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, the maverick managing director of the state-owned Sonali Bank, the man they found difficult to deal with.

15,000 crore revenue collection

quarter (July-September) was.

however, up by 12.27 per cent or

Tk 336.55 crore over that of the

corresponding period of last

fiscal year, according to latest

statistics obtained by The Daily

The collection for the first

for the year.

Khaled, a career commercial banker, was made a deputy governor at the central bank Tuesday, replacing M I Khan, in charge of banking services. Only eight months ago, he had taken over at Sonali Bank. Bangladesh's largest commercial bank, and is due to retire in October next year. Khan, originally an income tax official. will return to government as an additional secretary.

According to documents obtained by The Daily Star and some highly-placed sources, this was one incident that showed how vested interests are protected, and how moneyed businessmen and politicians

TANGAIL, Oct 15: Local peo-

ple and students, agitated over

yesterday's bus plunge at

Baghutia in Kalihati Thana

leaving at least 58 dead, today

stopped vehicular movement on

Tangail-Mymensingh highway

Attributing the worst ever

road accident in the country to

poor condition of the road, the

people of Kalihati demanded its

immediate reconstruction.

for an indefinite period.

work their way through the corridors of power in Bangladesh.

The pressure put by an amazing combination of various interest groups, which included top industrialists, powerful ministers, CBA leaders and a well-known foreign consultant, could not be withstood by the prime minister, who apparently gave up after holding the file for about three weeks.

And it all happened despite the fact that the person concerned enjoyed the trust and confidence of the prime minister, who called him to her office to discuss the situation in the country's banking sector. The prime minister did not discuss his transfer, PMO sources said.

In the past one month, a powerful minister called Khaled thrice to plead for particular businesses. Sources close to Khaled said he failed to

Meanwhile, TNO of Kalihati

Identity of 55 of the 58 dead

Mosharraf Hossain, talking to

local journalist admitted that

has been confirmed till now. Of

the victims, 28 belonged to vil-

Transport owners and work-

ers had called a strike in this

route in August demanding re-

pair of the road. The strike was

See Page 12 Col 6

lages in Kalihati Thana.

the road was in very bad shape.

Tangail-Mymensingh Rd

błocked in Kalihati

From Our Correspondent

respond to ministerial requests because they were not viable proposals.

One of the top porcelain manufacturers, owned by the family of a former chamber leader, was disappointed as the Sonali Bank refused the company a Tk 51 crore project loan against a credit line offered by a German bank.

The managing director said in his memorandum to the Board that another company owned by the sponsors of the loan-seeking enterprise had defaulted in repaying loans worth more than Tk 100 crore with Agrani Bank. Originally sanctioned by the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank, the loan was later purchased by Agrani Bank. On July 13, the amount overdue was Tk 10.66 crore.

The Board accepted the MD's suggestion by rejecting the loan See Page 5

Border confce

begins in city

ference between Bangladesh

and India began in the city yes-

terday to discuss measures for

curbing cross-border crimes

through mutual cooperation.

various issues including smug-

gling, trafficking of women and

children as well as matters re-

lating to border demarcation.

Tin Bigha corridor, and main-

tenance and repair of border

Director General of Indian

See Page 12 Col 4

The meeting is focusing on

reports UNB.

A border coordination con-

## Wolfensohn calls on PM

Visiting World Bank President James D Wolfensohn made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

The meeting was followed by a lunch which was attended by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, Education Minister A S H K Sadik, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain and Mrs Wolfensohn.

World Bank Vice President Mieki Nishimiju, Executive Vice President of the World Bank Syed Ahmed, World Bank Resident Representative in Bangladesh Pierre Lendell-Mills. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr S A Samad and ERD Secretary Dr A K M Moshiur Rahman were also

### BNP seeks EC intervention to end 'repression' ahead of UP polls

By Staff Correspondent BNP has sought the Election

Commission's intervention to end government "repression on the Opposition" ahead of the Union Parishad elections.

The major opposition party has also demanded of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to take appropriate steps to prevent the government from "implementing its blueprint for obstructing the Opposition's participation" in the local government polls.

"Persuade the government to stop taking various repressive See Page 12 Col 7

# Absence of metering valve

# Kailashtila LPG plant idle for 3 months

By Sharier Khan

President's initiative to

end crisis welcome: BNP

BNP secretary general Abdul discussed the prevailing politi-

Absence of a metering valve has left Kailashtila Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) plant of Petrobangla idle for over three months since it was completed on June 30 this year.

While the northern region of the country experiences a severe crisis of cooking fuel, the LPG plant authorities did not take any initiative during the period to install the metering valve, official sources acknowledged.

The situation is adding to the overhead cost of the plant as it fails to market about 40 tons of LPG per day, the sources said adding, the total loss of production in the last three months has been calculated at 3600 tons, equivalent to 2.88 lakh cylinders. The price of each cylinder is fixed at Tk 250 but these sell at Tk 600 to 700 each in black markets in the northern districts.

LPG is considered a very

Mannan Bhuiyan has said his

party would welcome any ini-

tiative by President Shahabud-

din Ahmed to end the current

political standoff between the

ruling Awami League and oppo-

tive from the President ... We'll

sit with him whenever he calls

us. We can discuss all issues," he

BNP central office, Bhuivan

During the interview at the

said in an interview with UNB.

'We will welcome any initia-

sition BNP.

is also quite low. LPG bottling and distribu-

tion will greatly help the energy-hungry northern region where there is no natural gas supply. Although the projected LPG demand is about five lakh tons, currently a very insignificant portion of the demand is met by a very limited supply from Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation's Eastern Refinery in Chittagong which produces around 15,000 tons annually,

See Page 12 Col 8

favouring the non-tribals in clean fuel with minimum envi-Chittagong Hill Tracts, has ronmental impact. Cost of LPG called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the three CHT districts on Octo-

sources pointed out.

Kailashtila LPG plant, supposed to process LPG from steams of natural gas, was built at a cost of Tk 30 crore with ODA assistance. The plant was conceived in 1985 but the contract was awarded in 1993. Construction of the plant was completed on June 30 after

cal situation and his party's

plan to advance the on-going

pointed about this government

and they are convinced about

its incompetence and failure in

running the state affairs and

overcome this situation, its fall

See Page 12 Col 1

"If the government cannot

Asked about BNP's current

resolving people's problems.

may become inevitable.

He said people are disap-

anti-government agitation.

#### The hartal has been called demanding publication of the draft of any accord, before its signing, between the government and the Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity

The call was given at a rally at Khagrachhari today, reports received here said. PSOP also announced a road

barricade programme on October 26 in the three districts demanding equal rights and opportunities for the Bengali and tribals people under any agree-See Page 12 Col 1

#### US co signs accord to set up power plant at Haripur

Smith Cogeneration (Bang-ladesh) Pvt Ltd., a subsidiary of Smith Cogeneration International of USA, has won a 15year deal for power generation in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The accord, the first-ever private sector venture in the country for generation of electricity under the Private Sector Power Policy of Bangladesh. was signed between PDB and the Smith Cogeneration Wednes-

Under the agreement, Smith Cogeneration will install and commission a 100-Megawatt Barge Mounted Power Plant at

Haripur near Dhaka. The agreement will be im-Sec Page 12 Col 5

১৮। কে ডি ঘোষ রোড কর্পোঃ শাখা

১৯। মংলাপোট শাখা

২০। বেনাপোল শাখা

২১। বরিশাল কর্পোঃ শাখা

২২। রাজশাহী কর্পোঃ শাখা

২৩। বগুড়া কর্পোঃ শাখা

২৪। রংপুর কর্পোঃ শাখা

যশোহর

বরিশাল

# यनिवान धार्मको गार्क मार्ग मार्ग साम सामा शामान

সোনानी व्यारकित निम्न-वर्षिण २०ि भाषा श्राष्ट्रकरमत्र विসाव भतिष्ठाननात्र জন্য প্রত্যেক শনিবারে (সরকারী সাধারণ ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) সকাল ৯টা थिक मुभुत्र ১२ हो भर्येख योना थाकर ।

# শাখা সমূহ হলো

- স্থানীয় কার্যালয়, ঢাকা
- আজিমপুর নিউ মার্কেট শাখা, ঢাকা।
- চকবাজার শাখা, ঢাকা মুকিম কাটরা শাখা, ঢাকা
- নবাবপুর রোড শাখা, ঢাকা
- সদরঘাট কর্পোরেট শাখা, ঢাকা
- বি, বি, এভিনিউ কর্পোঃ শাখা, ঢাকা
- ৮। ফার্মগেট শাখা, ঢাকা
- নারায়ণগঞ্জ কর্পোঃ শাখা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
- ১০। টানবাজার শাখা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
- ১১। খুলনা কর্পোরেট লাখা, খুলনা
- ১২। কেডিএ নিউ মার্কেট শাখা, খুলনা
- ১৩। রাজশাহী কর্পোরেট শাখা, রাজশাহী
- **38। जिल्हें नाश, जिल्हें**
- ১৫। বরিশাল কর্পোরেট শাখা, বরিশাল
- ১৬। আগ্রাবাদ কর্পোরেট শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম
- ১৭। কেসিদে রোড কর্পোরেট শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম
- ১৮। খাতুনগঞ্জ শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম
- ১৯। রিয়াজউদ্দিন বাজার শাখা, চটগ্রাম
- ২০। নিউ মার্কেট শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম।

শनिवात्र पित्नत्र এই ब्रह्मकानीन व्यारिकश-अत्र সময়ে সম্মানিত অর্থ জমা দিতে এবং উত্তোলন করতে পারবেন।



## PW-24 tells court

# We were told the govt has to be toppled

By Staff Correspondent

Hours before the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members, troops of the Second Field Artillery and the First Bengal Lancer were told by officers. the government has to be toppled," Havilder (retd) Aminur Rahman 24th prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu murder case told the trial court yes-

In his deposition before the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, Amin also said he was in the Second Field Artillery that had participated in the night training of August 14. 1975 and was later posted at the Radio Station in the early hours of August 15, 1975 when Bangabandhu and his family members were killed.

Earlier in the day's proceedings, cross-examination of PW-23 was also completed. Amin was being cross examined by

the lawyers of the state defence when yesterday's proceedings were adjourned till 9:30 am to-

When Amin was deposing before the court, one of the defence lawyers moved a petition challenging his eligibility as a witness. The petition was recorded and Amin was allowed to continue.

The PW-24 also said that before being posted at the Radio Station he was deployed in front of a house for sometime. He said that he later came to know that it was the official residence of Abdur Rab Serniabat, a cabinet minister in Bangabandhu's government.

"I was told that Maj Rashed Chowdhury along with other officers had killed Abdur Rab Serniabat and his family members opening brush fire." "There was a programme for

See Page 12 Col 4

# Siltation disrupts ferry services at Aricha ghat

By Naimul Haq

Ferry services from Aricha ghat have been seriously disrupted as heavy deposition of silts has made the ferry channels to Natakhola and Daulatdia ghats 'risky,' sources in the BIWTC and BIWTA said.

In addition to disruption in ferry services, two of the five ghats at Aricha and one out of the three ghats at Daulatdia have been abandoned for the time being as silts blocked the channel in front of those making navigation highly risky. Ferry operation from ghats number 4 and 5 at Aricha was suspended on Sunday, leaving three ghats to handle more than 3000 vehicles a day

Officials predict if the process of siltation continues. there may be further disruption

traffic congestion at all the three ferry ghats. Meanwhile, Bangladesh In-

in ferry services creating heavy

land Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) suspended ferry services in Bhuyapur-Sirajganj route on Saturday at 8pm due to lack of the minimum required depth of water - six feet. All vehicles using the route have been diverted to Aricha and Natakhola ferry ghats putting additional burden on those. All the five ferry vessels operating in that route were ordered to join the fleet of 21 ferries now operating from Aricha.

About 300 vehicles, mostly carrying cargo cross the Jamuna river through Bhuyapur a day to reach various destina-See Page 12 Col 1

# শনিবারে ব্যাংকিং সুবিধা

আমাদের সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও তভানুধ্যায়ীদের অধিকতর সেবা ও ব্যবসা বাণিজ্যে সহায়তাকল্পে ইতিপূর্বে জনতা ব্যাংকের ২৫টি শাখা খোলা রাখা সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংবাদপত্রে প্রচার করা হয়। পরবর্তীতে জনসাধারনের চাহিদা ও ব্যবসায়ীদের অনুরোধের প্রেক্ষিতে আরও ৪টি শাখা প্রতি শনিবারে (সরকারী ছুটি ব্যতিরেকে) সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত

লেনদেনের জন্য খোলা রাখার ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে।

### <u>যথা ঃ-</u>

नावायपर्ग अ

ঢাকা মহানগরী স্থানীয় কার্যালয়

- ইমামগঞ্জ কর্পোঃ শাখা নবাবপুর রোড কর্পোঃ শাখা ইসলামপুর শাখা
- নিউমার্কেট শাখা ७। अनमान- जार्कन - २ ৭। পোন্তাগোলা শাখা
- ৮। টানবাজার শাখা नविगरमी **৯। नद्रितरमी वधान नाचा मग्रमन**िरह

১০। ময়মনসিংহ কর্পোঃ শাখা

কিশোরগঞ্জ

১১। ভৈরব বাজার শাখা ফরিদপুর

১২। ফরিদপুর প্রধান শাখা ১৩। লালদীঘি ইক্ট কর্পোঃ শাখা

১৪। পোর্ট কর্পোঃ শাখা কল্পবাজার ১৫। কল্পবাজার প্রধান শাখা

কৃমিল্লা ১৬। কুমিল্লা কর্পোঃ শাখা সিলেট

১৭। সিলেট কর্পোঃ শাখা

# ২৫। সৈয়দপুর শাখা

উত্তরা মডেল টাউন কর্পোঃ শাখা, ঢাকা

সাভার শাখা, ঢাকা

২। সাত্ৰসঞ্জিদ রোড শাখা, ঢাকা

नख्याभाषा भाषा, यत्भाव्य



আরও ৪টি শাখা

**नियावि-अड-०८० (मान # ৯৫৫-७७७৮, ৯৫৬-००३**९-७०, ৯৫৬-००७৯, ৯৫৬-৫०४১, ৯৫৬-७०२०, ৯৫৬-७०२৮-२৯, ৯৫৫-७२8*৫-*৪৯ **मान्न # ४४०-२-४७७०৯९**