

Oct 14 abortive  
Biman flight:  
Probe begins  
today

By Staff Correspondent

A probe committee formed earlier to investigate the alleged negligence in operation of Dhaka-Delhi-New York flight of Biman on October 14, ignoring an urgent message from Delhi, begins functioning today.

Operation of the flight despite the urgent NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) message caused a financial loss of about Tk 75 lakh to Bangladesh Biman, sources said. A Biman official, talking to this correspondent yesterday, admitted that it caused loss but could not confirm the amount.

The committee headed by a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism will question seven officers of Biman's Operation Control at

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## Jamuna Bridge construction equipment looted

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 18: Armed robbers looted some valuable construction equipment from a Korean barge at Sodababu here on Friday evening, police said.

A group of armed men, numbering about 15, swooped on the mixture-concrete barge engaged in the construction of Jamuna Bridge, tied up a guard and looted goods, including wireless set, mixture-machine monitor, machine tools and a charger from the store-room of the barge.

A case was filed with Sadar police. However, none was arrested in this connection.

## Wolfensohn in Pakistan

LAHORE, Oct 18: World Bank President James Wolfensohn arrived in Lahore today on a five-day visit to Pakistan to assess the bank's programmes in this poverty-ridden South Asian nation, reports AP.

The Washington-based lending body is considering some 250 million dollars in loans to Pakistan's cash-strapped government, but has called for sweeping financial reform to take place.

During his visit, Wolfensohn will call on President Farooq Leghari, Prime Minister Newaz Sharif and Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz.

He will also visit World Bank funded development programmes in Punjab Province and the Northwest Frontier Province, according to a World Bank statement.

BSS adds: World Bank President left Dhaka yesterday morning for Islamabad ending

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## SC reopens today

By SC Correspondent  
Both the divisions of the Supreme Court reopen today after Autumn vacation.

The Supreme Court of Bangladesh went on the vacation on September 29.

However, during the vacation two benches of the High Court Division and the Chamber of the Appellate Division were functioning for disposal of urgent cases.

During vacation a good number of Judges of the Supreme Court inspected the functioning and proceedings of the lower judiciary.

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

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Bank siphoning money from villages for few urban rich: BB Gov  
**Tk 5000cr bank loan with 137 defaulters**

Bangladesh Bank Governor Lutfar Rahman Sarkar yesterday blamed the banks for siphoning off money from villages to give that to a few urban rich, creating social disparity and wilful loan defaulters, reports UNB.

Speaking at an open discussion on the banking sector, he said the concentration of money in fewer hands, a result of the disparity between rural and urban areas, is the single most important problem of the sector.

He said the banks collect 22.5 per cent of their total deposit — about Tk 9,000 crore of the total deposit of some Tk 47,000 crore — from the rural

areas while they disburse a very insignificant amount in the villages.

Of the total credit so far disbursed, 60 per cent went to Dhaka region, 20 per cent to Chittagong and the remaining 20 per cent to the entire country, which reflects the disparity, the central bank chief said.

"Not only that, we also hand over the deposits of the small savers in the cities, who comprise 70 per cent of the total urban depositors, to the small richer section of the population," he said.

Society for Development and Cooperation (SODAC), an NGO, arranged the discussion on the Functioning of the Banking

Sector in Bangladesh at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

Sarkar said the banks were 'patronising' the richer section, who are only 5 per cent of the population but command most of the default bank loans, now totalling several thousand crore taka.

Citing an example, he said only 1800 people who have Tk 1 crore or more in default loan, command a total of Tk 9,000 crore of the loans that have already become overdue in different banks and financial institutions.

Some Tk 5,000 crore of the default loan remained stuck

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## AL may contact BNP today

### Star Report

The ruling Awami League is likely to contact the major opposition BNP today for a dialogue in a fresh move to resolve the differences between the two parties over some issues before the Jatiya Sangsads goes into winter session on November 2.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, on his return from a two-day visit to his hometown Sirajganj, said last night that he could not telephone BNP leaders yet but, "will contact them today, hopefully."

Earlier on Thursday, Nasim had told The Daily Star that he would contact BNP leaders on Saturday.

A fresh dialogue is seen as crucial as far as resolving the long-drawn difference between AL and BNP over formation of JS standing committee is concerned.

Nasim affirmed AL's willingness to accommodate all the

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## 3-nation summit to signal climate of change: FM

By Staff Correspondent

noon at the state guest house Padma.

A change has come in all parts of the globe-burying the hatchet of past acrimony — and let us hope that South Asia will now not be left behind either.

The Foreign Minister said that the programme, as it stands now, would be a 'one-day affair.'

Detaileding the programme, he said Prime Minister I.K. Gujral and Prime Minister Newaz Sharif will arrive early in the morning on November 23. There will be an inaugural session in the morning which will be chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and addressed by the two other premiers.

The heads of the apex chamber bodies of the three countries will be invited to speak at the summit session.

with Delhi and Islamabad to finalise the substantive issues and protocol arrangements to make the event "one of great significance."

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## Laws to be enacted to stop child abuse: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said exemplary punishment would have to be meted out to the culprits for child repression, torture and trafficking by enacting stringent laws, reports UNB.

"Neglected children of the country are being subjected to repression and torture.... the culprits should be punished with a strong hand," she said while addressing the 33rd birth anniversary of Sheikh Russel, the youngest brother of the prime minister.

Russel, a ten-year-old son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was killed brutally on August 15, 1975 along with his family members by some discredited armymen.

Russel's Jatiya Shishu Kishore Parishad organised the function at Osmani Memorial Hall.

The Prime Minister said: "It is very sad that I have to observe the birth anniversary of my brother who is no more on earth."

The notorious killers did not even spare child Russel, she

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## PM opens bailey bridge on Khowai today

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 18: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will begin a 2-day visit to the four districts of Sylhet division from tomorrow, said an official of district administration.

She is scheduled to reach Shalstaganj at 9:15 am tomorrow by helicopter and formally open the newly built bailey bridge. She is also expected to address a public meeting there.

The Prime Minister will go to the house of late Sharifuddin Ahmed, MP, at the Baniachang thana headquarters on the same day after addressing a public meeting at the Baniachang thana headquarters at 11:15 am.

She is expected to reach Moulibazar district headquarters in the afternoon by helicopter and will address a public meeting arranged by the district Awami League. She will reach Shalstaganj by road in the evening and will visit the shrines of

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**Rally at Khagrachhari**  
Propaganda being spread to keep CHT problem alive, says Matia

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 18: Hundreds of tribal people joined a peace rally at Khagrachhari town today welcoming the proposed peace treaty between the government and Parbattya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) for ending the two decades-old problem in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The tribal people attended the rally organised by Pahari Peshabji Oikya Parishad in support of the proposed peace accord.

They also brought out a peace procession that paraded Khagrachhari town.

Minister for Food and Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury attended the rally as chief guest.

Matia Chowdhury in her speech said that the government is pledge-bound to restore peace in the CHT to pave the

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## No fear of immediate deportation of Bangladeshi workers from KSA'

By M Anwarul Haq and Reaz Ahmad

Responding to a question if the Bangladeshi would face legal ordeal, the envoy said, "I do not anticipate them to be in jail or face deportation because they have already received their travel documents.

"They have already informed the Saudi authorities that they are going back home, so the question of prosecution as illegal does not arise. There is no chance of crackdown on them, as they followed the rules," he said.

Earlier, some 10,000 Bangladeshi living in far flung areas of the Kingdom turned up at the Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh yesterday and collected passports. Later, they reported to the Saudi office concerned to get exit passes, said Abdul Momin Chowdhury, Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, over telephone last night.

Explaining the situation, the Bangladeshi envoy said only those who have no financial ability, to purchase tickets are reporting voluntarily to the de-

portation centres. All others who have the ability have either purchased air tickets or have been waiting to buy tickets to go back home, he said.

Meanwhile, as the process of collecting travel documents was still on and thousands were waiting for availing home-bound flights, the Labour and Manpower Ministry in Dhaka till yesterday failed to send any message or advice to the country's Embassy and the Consulate.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, State Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan said, "I will contact our Ambassador there tomorrow and discuss the latest development."

He admitted that Saudi government had much earlier informed us of a possible crack-

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## Border conference ends: Agreed minutes signed

A four-day border conference between Bangladesh and India concluded in the city yesterday with signing agreed minutes of the talks that covered a wide range of issues, reports UNB.

Border demarcation, combatting the menace of child and women trafficking, Tinbigha corridor, exchange of enclaves, Muhuri Char, Khowai Char and other frontier-related issues were discussed, said an official announcement.

The coordination conference between Bangladesh Rifles and the Border Security Force of India also discussed in detail cooperation between them in effectively combatting cross-border crimes like smuggling.

A BDR press release said the conference was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere and chiefs of the two border forces signed the agreed

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## Proposed CHT treaty suspicious: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

the Jatiya Sangsads and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia. Begum Zia was in the chair.

The meeting in a resolution said that the people of the country were watching the situation with suspicion and fear as the authorities were "protecting the interests of the outlawed Shantibahini and criticised them for what it called not letting even the CHT people know about the progress in talks, not to speak of the entire nation. That's why the CHT people have launched a vigorous movement against the proposed accord," said a press release, issued while the meeting was continuing last night.

The meeting was held at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in

It appears that the government has joined the deep-rooted conspiracy against the country's integrity. The government has also camouflaged the real situation with jugglery of words and it's not clear if the army camps, containing revolts in the CHT, will remain and if the Bangla-speaking nationals will be allowed to live there," the resolution said.

## Story of a camel jockey

### Titu's nightmarish experience

By Nazmul Ashraf and Ehsanul Haq

For Titu, professional life started at the age of seven. Not at his own village but thousands of miles away from home in the desert of Dubai, as a camel jockey.

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