

## 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 See Page 12 Col 8

## Jamuna Bridge construction equipment looted

**SIRAJGANJ, Oct 18:** Armed robbers looted some valuable construction equipment from a Korean barge at Soyadabad here on Friday evening, police said, reports UNB.  
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 meet with President Farooq Leghari, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Finance Minister Sartaz 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 See Page 12 Col 1

## 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.dailystarnews.com>

## Inside Today

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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 See Page 12 Col 3



National boat race in the river Buriganga yesterday. Results on page 11

## 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 Sangsad 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 committees is concerned.  
Nasim affirmed AL's willingness to accommodate all the See Page 12 Col 8

## 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 after the summit," Samad Azad said.  
The Foreign Minister said the proposal of the three-nation summit was initiated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the Ninth SAARC Summit at Male. It was then mooted that the three Prime Ministers of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan would meet in Dhaka with leading businessmen including top leaders of chamber bodies.  
Samad Azad said that details of the Summit are being continually worked out through diplomatic channels and Dhaka is in constant contact with Delhi and Islamabad to finalise the substantive issues and protocol arrangements to make the event "one of great significance."  
The Foreign Minister said that the programme, as it stands now, would be a 'one-day affair'.  
Detailing the programme, he said Prime Minister IK Gujral and Prime Minister Nawaz 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.  
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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 disgruntled army men.  
Russel 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 said asking in an emotion-choked voice, what was his (Russel's) fault, why the self-confessed killers killed a tiny boy.  
Later the self-proclaimed killers were indemnified against trial and awarded by a president who captured power. That president awarded the killers with jobs in different foreign missions," she told the function.  
Hasina said the killers represented Bangladesh abroad — 'what a shame, what an unfortunate matter for a nation. We have scrapped the black laws that blocked the trial of the killers and taken steps for the trial.'  
The Prime Minister said children should be groomed as ideal citizens as the future leadership of the nation will come from them. "We want to rear the children as ideal citizens and I'll do my best in this regard."  
Hasina said she dedicated her life for establishing rights of the people, the rights of children — and asserted that the See Page 12 Col 6

## 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 Shaistaganj 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 Moulvibazar district headquarters in the afternoon by helicopter and will address a public meeting arranged by the district Awami League. She will reach Sylhet by road in the evening and will visit the shrines of See Page 12 Col 1

## 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 Parbatya Chattagram 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 Peshajibi 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 See Page 12 Col 1

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

**By M Anwarul Haq and Reaz Ahmad**  
Responding to a question if the Bangladeshis 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 Bangladeshis in the Kingdom went through the process over the last couple of days and 3,000 of them are staying in the deportation centres in Jeddah.  
Explaining the situation, the Bangladesh envoy said only those who have no financial ability, to purchase tickets are reporting voluntarily to the deportation 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 in Saudi Arabia.  
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 crackdown.  
See Page 12 Col 4

## Border confce 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, Muhurir 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 See Page 12 Col 5

## Proposed CHT treaty suspicious: BNP

**By Staff Correspondent**  
BNP has alleged that the government was going ahead with 'secret talks' and a suspicious treaty with the 'so-called Shantibahini' on the situation in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).  
An emergency meeting of the BNP Standing Committee yesterday also termed the government negotiators as collaborators 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 the Jatiya Sangsad 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 Shantibahini, who killed thousands of people, and their collaborators."  
"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 juggling 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**  
desert ship, Titu, the only child of his rickshawpuller father had lost his mother when he was even younger. His grandmother used to look after him. The family lived in a slum at Shahidnagar, a remote impoverished suburban part of Narayanganj.  
Titu hardly remembers what left alone and without much care.  
When Titu was about seven, a woman named Shonai Bibi proposed to her to let Titu go to Dubai. The woman assured her a 'good job' and regular remittance for the family.  
"Everyone knew Shonai Bibi in the area. She had taken many children to Dubai. So we immediately accepted her offer," Masuda said alleging that in the eleven months when Titu was in Dubai, the family did not receive a single penny.  
"A month ago, a young man brought Titu back, left him near the house and disappeared. Titu now behaves abnormally most of the time and keeps laughing without any reason whatsoever," Masuda said.  
The entire Shahidnagar area under Narayanganj municipality, is a cluster of slums and run-down dwellings inhabited by about seven thousand people. The area is virtually devoid of almost all civic amenities.  
The population comprise mostly garment workers, rickshawpullers, beggars, and day-labourers. According to various sources in the area, an international gang of child traffickers take advantage of the impoverished situation there and smuggle out scores of children regularly.  
Like Titu, Sagar and Suman, each aged eight, also returned home from Mumbai, India, re- See Page 12 Col 2



Eight-yr-old Titu

## Audit objections on salaries at DU 20pc cut in pension money of teachers, others

**By M M Aminul Islam**  
Twenty per cent of pension money of the teachers, officials and employees of Dhaka University is being cut since October, 1996, following audit objections on payment of salaries and other allowances by the university authorities.  
The university authorities have been making undue payments over the last 20 years violating government rules regarding salaries and other allowances, the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) noted, sources in the university quoting a letter from the CAG's office said.  
The university authorities, however, claimed that there was no irregularity in payments but the authorities would follow the decision to cut 20 per cent of pension money till a final decision was taken in this regard.  
The CAG's office first raised the audit objections in 1996 and informed the Ministry of Education through a letter on April 14.  
The letter, a copy of which was also sent to the Vice Chancellor of the university, urged the ministry to take appropriate measures to stop irregularities in payments.  
As no action followed, a second letter was issued on October 8, 1996 which contained the decision to cut 20 per cent of the pension money with immediate effect.  
The irregularities mentioned in the letter include: Giving two extra increments after implementing the National Pay Scale, one or two increments from the date of passing any public examinations, one or two increments in case of promotion, selection grade or upgradation, appointment or promotion without any vacant post or approved post, changing the names of posts and Pay Scale, 7.5 per cent extra house rent for those teachers, officials and employees who are eligible to get residential facilities, special allowances in various See Page 12 Col 1

আরো উন্নত আধুনিক প্রযুক্তির ফলস্বরূপ

**পদ্মা**  
প্লাস্টিক ওভারহেড ট্যাংক  
পদ্মা ট্যাংক - এ পানি বিতরণ ও স্বচ্ছ থাকে

এই ট্যাংকের বৈশিষ্ট্য:

- পদ্মা প্লাস্টিক ওভারহেড ট্যাংক ট্যাংক এক ডি.এ. অনুমোদিত স্বতন্ত্র প্রকল্প দিয়ে তৈরি, আর এ জন্যই পানি থাকে গরমীয় এবং পানির অন্যান্য গুণাবলি থাকে অক্ষত। দীর্ঘ স্থায়ীকৃত নিত্যতা।
- ভেতরে ব্যবহারে সাদা আবরণের জন্য পানি থাকে পরিষ্কার, ঠান্ডা এবং স্বাচ্ছন্দ্য পূর্ণ।
- পানি ট্যাংকের জন্য ওভারহেড, হাউসিং, হাউসিং বীট এবং বয়েস ডেজ সব জায়গাই উপলব্ধ।
- বাসাবাড়ি, অফিস, বহুতল ভবন ও বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য এক আদর্শ ট্যাংক।
- অত্যধিক চাপে ট্যাংক খালাস, ফাটন এবং লীক প্রভৃতি।
- হাউসিং বিকল্প থেকে পানির বক্ষা করে।

এটি কোনো টিলাই নির্মাণ করা হচ্ছে।  
আমরাই ব্যবসায়ীরা যোগাযোগ করুন।

২০০ লিটার থেকে ১০০০০ লিটার

পরিবেশক: সালাহান এন্টারপ্রাইজ  
২২২, এলিফ্যান্ট রোড, মিরপুর, ঢাকা  
ফোন: ২৩১০৮২, ৯৬৬২৩২৯, ৯৬৬২১২৮, ২৪০৯৪৪, ৯৬৬২১২৯, ৫০৭১৩০