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## Cairn chief due soon to resolve stalemate with Petrobangla

**Star Report**  
Chief executive of Cairn Energy, Bill Gammel is due tomorrow in a bid to resolve differences with Petrobangla over certain issues.  
The visit follows earlier talks between high officials of Cairn, both from the head office and local office, and top government officials that failed to thrash out a solution to the differences.  
Some top executives from its headquarters in Edinburgh are also scheduled to accompany the Cairn chief. The team includes Mike Watts and Peter Fowler.  
Sources said relationship between the state-owned Petrobangla and Cairn strained recently over the British company's latest work programmes, expenditures and other issues including the decision to sell off 50 per cent of its concerns in Bangladesh to global giant Shell Oil without proper approval of the government.  
Differences widened further when Petrobangla refused to approve Cairn's new work programme for drilling an exploratory well in Gailshahi. Cairn is the first foreign oil company in the country to develop an off-shore gasfield in Sangu.

## BNP's threat of agitation not new to us: Nasim

A top leader of ruling Awami League yesterday ridiculed BNP's fresh threat of tougher anti-government agitation, lifting moratorium on movement.  
The party's Standing Committee withdrew the moratorium Thursday night imposed during the flood and decided to launch street movement in view of the recent political development.  
Reacting to BNP's decision, Post, Telecommunications and Works Minister Mohammad Nasim told UNB that "such threats and warning are not new to us, nor does it carry any significance to us."  
He said since the formation of Awami League government in 1996, BNP has been launching so-called movement to oust the government, but people have not realised the futility of their agitation without any issue.  
Nasim, also the Organising Secretary of Awami League, See Page 12 Col 7

## Oli disapproves second trial of Zia killing

The BNP decision makers gave mixed reactions to the Prime Minister's public statement that trial of all killings, including that of former President Ziaur Rahman, General Manzur and Colonel Taher, will be held.  
Giving their personal reaction to UNB yesterday, BNP standing committee member Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed disapproved a second trial of the killing of Ziaur Rahman.  
He said: "President Zia's murder is an act of some misguided army officers. For which, trial took place during the period of President Justice Sattar."  
Oli, a close associate of slain President Zia, said those who were responsible in the army for the killing had been punished. "I don't think there can be a second trial for the same incident."  
Asked about the case pending in a Chittagong court on the killing of Zia, the BNP leader See Page 12 Col 8

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## Business

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## Pak NA passes bill to enforce Sharia Law

ISLAMABAD, Oct 9: Pakistan's National Assembly passed a constitutional amendment today giving wide powers to the government to enforce Islamic Sharia Law, reports AFP.  
Amidst shouts of 'shame, shame' from Opposition MPs, the lower house carried the bill by 151-16.  
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif made changes to the original draft in a bid to secure unanimity... but opponents say it still gives the government sweeping powers.  
Sharif welcomed the vote. He said the 'sole' aim was to ensure social justice, end corruption and wipe out lawlessness, murders, gangraps and banditry.  
The bill, now goes to the 87-

member Senate for endorsement and would become law once signed by President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar.  
But it is likely to face greater opposition in the Senate where the government does not have the two-thirds majority needed to push it through.  
Under the bill, the government must "take steps to enforce" Sharia Law, to establish *sharia*, the practice of praying five times a day, and to administer the Islamic charity tax *zakat*.  
The government will 'prescribe, what is right and forbid what is wrong' under Sharia, promote Muslim morality and act to eradicate corruption and ensure 'substantial' socio-economic justice.

The provisions will override anything contained in the Constitution, any law or judgement of any court.  
Five members of Christian and other minority parties, along with 12 from the Mut-tahidda Qaumi Movement, which is an ally of Sharif, abstained from the voting.  
The Assembly, dominated by Sharif's party, threw out opposition amendments. Opposition members have said the bill was "dangerous" but their shouts during the vote were drowned out by government MPs.  
Khurshid Ali Shah, deputising for opposition leader Benazir Bhutto who is abroad, said the amendment would "destroy" the Constitution and arm See Page 12 Col 1

## Sharif warns of action against partymen for backing Karamat

ISLAMABAD, Oct 9: Nawaz Sharif has warned of action against those of his own party-men who publicly supported the statement of former army chief Gen Jehangir Karamat calling for establishment of a National Security Council, reports PTI.  
The cases of those who had issued press statements endorsing Karamat's views are fit for disqualification under Anti-defection Law, he said addressing a parliamentary party meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) here last night.  
During the meeting, Sharif briefed his party MPs about the vents of the last few days which led to sudden resignation of Gen Karamat and appointment of Gen Parvez Mushraf in his See Page 12 Col 5

## Two incidents in city Alleged mugger beaten to death, 3 hurt

**By Staff Correspondent**  
An alleged mugger was killed and three others were injured in separate incidents of mob beating in the city yesterday.  
Police identified the dead as Shahin, 34, son of Sohbar, a resident of South Jatrabari.  
The incident occurred while he along with three accomplices allegedly tried to mug a rickshaw passenger at 7:30 in the morning at Luxmibazar under Sutrapur thana in the city.  
When the rickshaw passenger shouted for help, the muggers tried to flee the scene. But a section of local people caught Shahin although his three accomplices managed to escape.  
The mob beat up Shahin mercilessly and set the au-

torickshaw of the muggers on fire, police said.  
Police rescued Shahin in a critical condition and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at about 9:30 am.  
The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. None, however, was arrested in connection with the killing till last night.  
A murder case was filed with Sutrapur thana in this regard yesterday.  
Meanwhile, in another incident, three persons were beaten up by a mob when they allegedly tried to get away with snatching See Page 12 Col 6

## ACC Trophy Bangladesh face UAE in first semifinal today

Bangladesh will take on United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the first semi-final of the second ACC Trophy at Kathmandu today, reports APB.  
The match between the reigning champions and runners-up will begin at 9 am (Nepal time) at the Tribhuvan Stadium.  
In the other semi-final tomorrow, Hong Kong, who became champions in Group-B by virtue of better run rate against UAE, will take on Malaysia.  
Bangladesh lost to UAE in the fifth ICC tournament in 1994 in Kenya and beat UAE in the final of the first ACC Trophy in Malaysia in 1996.  
See also page 13

## Extortionists driven off by people

**By Staff Correspondent**  
A gang of extortionists were driven off by the residents of Kataban area in the city yesterday.  
The extortionists went to Kataban to collect toll from a businessman of the area, police and witnesses said.  
The gang, which is allegedly involved in drug peddling and other anti-social activities, has been pressing the businessman for the toll for sometime, the residents complained.  
When the gang members came to collect toll from the businessman, the local people drove them away, witnesses said.  
The extortionists later created panic in the area blasting crackers and home-made bombs, police and witnesses said.  
None, however, was arrested, police added.  
A case in this regard was lodged with the Dhanmandi thana accusing Khaleque, Jahangir, Robin and 12 others.

## Young man found dead in his house

**By Staff Correspondent**  
A young man was found dead in his house at Tajmahal Road under Mohammapur thana in the city yesterday.  
Police said that Munir, 21, was wanted in at least three different cases but they, however, could not confirm the reason behind the incident.  
The body bore mark of bullet injury in the head, police said.  
An FIR was lodged by the victim's mother with the Mohammapur thana.

## Loadshedding at Ctg

**From Staff Correspondent**  
CHITTAGONG, Oct 9: The port city is facing frequent loadshedding for the last three days. Most of the areas remain without power for several hours everyday.  
PDB sources said the loadshedding became acute after a transmission wire of 132 KV Shikabaha-Halishahar line snapped October 6.  
Because of snapping of wire power generated at Shikabaha plants can not be transmitted to most of the city areas through Kulshib sub-station, PDB sources said.  
It may take eight more days to repair the line for restoration of normal power supply. The city is now facing 50 to 60 MW power shortage a day against its normal requirement of 330 MW, PDB sources said.

## Family members allege

## Police, car owner tried to conceal Monir's identity

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Tejgaon police 'in collusion' with a car owner handed over the body of a Dhaka University student to Anjumana Mafidul Islam (AMI) for burial, concealing his identity, the victim's family members have alleged.  
Esmat Monir, 22, a student of Fine Arts Institute of DU, was killed when hit by the car in Farmgate area of the city on September 27 at about 2 pm. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries after a few hours.  
Police handed over the body to AMI after autopsy at DMCH, the next day, saying it was 'unidentified,' the family members told this correspondent.  
AMI later buried it at Azim-pur Graveyard the same day.  
Monir was a third year student of Drawing and Painting Department of the Institute.  
Monir was hit by the recklessly driven car, the FIR lodged with Tejgaon thana said. Police seized the car (Dhaka Metro-Ka-03-6558) but failed to arrest its driver.  
Monir's sister Yash Bhanu, said he had taken money from her to buy slippers and gifts for one of their relatives and left her house. "But we found neither his university identity card nor the money even after See Page 12 Col 6



WHOSE BLINDNESS IS IT? A team of five — all blind beggars — is being led by a woman who can see. This is how they try to earn a living. And what else can they do when the society turns a blind eye to their plight? — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Plans to prop up medical education gather dust

**By Naimul Haq**  
The standard of teaching in some leading medical colleges including Dhaka Medical College is "extremely poor", say recent studies, but still the recommended training programmes for medical teachers remain far from implementation.  
Nothing has been done so far to implement the suggestions by a high-level meeting that followed the study to improve medical education in the country.  
Recognising the need for immediate steps to produce quality doctors, the meeting held in May last year put forward a set of recommendations for reorientation of medical education as well as reorganisation of the existing resources.  
It was strongly recommended that the project for "Further Improvement of Medical Colleges" (FIMC) should continue

as a programme in the Fifth Five Year Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP).  
FIMC, funded by UK's Department for International Development and the British Council, dealt extensively with standard of teaching at medical colleges. The project ended in June. No initiative has since been taken regarding regular overseas training for teachers and evaluation of medical courses.  
"The recommendations are confined within the files. They have very little chance of being used as guides for developing medical education in the country," a senior health ministry official admitted.  
A top official of the Centre for Medical Education (CME) confirmed the lack of initiative. "The need for training on teaching technology has not

been given any importance in HPSP."  
"Medical education is a continuous process. Doctors assigned for healthcare services ought to be acquainted with the modern method of medical practice. Without building capacity in quality health care, how can we expect quality treatment?"  
The government has allocated Tk 1.35 crore for overseas training of the doctors this fiscal while roughly Tk one crore has been allocated for research, surveys and local level training during the same period.  
"The government has completely ignored the need for fundamental requirement of the healthcare system — improving quality of medical education," said the CME official.  
The meeting identified a number of commonly agreed See Page 12 Col 1

## Shantu Larma's allegations

**From Shuvra Jyoti Chakma**  
KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 9: Chief of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Bodhipriya Jyotirindriya Larma alias Shantu Larma has criticised the government's role as regards implementation of the CHT peace accord.  
He alleged that the government is yet to implement fully the peace accord although about 11 months have passed since the accord was signed.  
Talking to this correspondent at his residence this morning, Shantu Larma said no case filed against tribals and former Shantibahinimen was withdrawn till now and none of the arrested guerrillas was released.  
He said 20 guerrillas are still in various jails although the issue of their release was in the peace accord signed on December 2 last year.  
The issue of 'three non-tribals in the interim Regional Council is not a major one, but we expect the government to implement the accord fully according to the written and un-

## Govt, PCJSS meet to iron out differences

**By Special Correspondent**  
A crucial meeting to break the impasse between the government and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) on the formation of Regional Council for the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) was being held at Khagrachhari last night.  
Minister for CHT Affairs Kalpanarjan Chakma and chief of PCJSS and chairman designate of the RC, Jyotirindriya Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma were holding the talks, according to reports received in Dhaka late last night.  
The meeting started at 8:35 pm and was continuing at 11:20 pm, according to Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari Zairul Hasan. He could not give details.  
Shantu Larma was accompanied by close aides Ushatan Talukder, Rupayya Dewan, Suddasindhu Chakma and Gautam Chakma.  
The meeting took place against the backdrop of sharp differences between the two

sides since the government announced formation of an interim RC headed by Shantu Larma on September 6.  
Earlier, Larma had refused to meet the CHT affairs minister on Wednesday. His aides said he was not formally invited.  
Larma's supporters staged demonstrations against the minister on Thursday and hurled rocks at his vehicle, forcing him to take shelter at Panchhari school.  
Police fought the rock throwing demonstrators with batons and tear gas. Ten people including four policemen were wounded.  
But behind the scene negotiations continued and the two sides agreed to meet to narrow the gap between them.  
Larma had earlier declined to accept the interim RC, accusing the government of replacing three nominees out of six Bengalee representatives in the 22-member council.  
See Page 12 Col 4

## Flood-hit farmers in Tangail allege Seeds available but prices high



Chandu Bepari, father of five children, says he is unable to grow vegetables as prices of seeds are too high. — Star photo by Amran Hossain

**By Morshed Ali Khan, back from Tangail**  
Despite constraints and hardships, flood affected farmers in Tangail district have again started all kinds of agricultural activities.  
During a visit to the same villages this correspondent had visited about three weeks ago, the entire landscape was found giving a different look with crop plants and vegetables sprouting.  
At places where the flood has left huge deposits of sand, farmers said, they were not able to cultivate because seeds of the only crop cultivable on the sandy land — ground nut — were selling at an exorbitant price of Tk 2,100 per maund.  
Farmers said they were incurring debts in the process of arranging irrigation and buying seeds and seedlings. They had exhausted all their savings during the long months of flooding. Some women said See Page 12 Col 4

## Gangsters play with the girl 'as police, politicians watch'

**By Staff Correspondent**  
It's been more than two weeks since Akkas Uddin Ahmed rescued his university-going daughter from the clutches of a gang of abductors. But now, his desire to see culprits punished has brought new threats for his traumatised family.  
The victim, Rumu (not her real name), a third year undergraduate student at Dhaka University, fell prey to the lust of a local wayward, who along with some armed hooligans abducted her from her village home at Kachua under Shaikupa thana, Jhenidah on September 21 night.  
Rumu's father complained with local police accusing seven persons. Ashraf Ali, the principal accused, tried to marry the girl against the will of his daughter and the family, he alleged.  
The helpless father said the abduction took place although there was a police camp nearby. There are also allegations that

the abductors frequent the camp.  
And it was not until four hours that the thana police came to know about it although the camp police were told of the incident instantly.  
Some villagers and Rumu's relations rescued her the next morning from one Taleb's residence as the abductors fled seeing a large crowd.  
Odhikar, a Dhaka-based human rights organisation, took up the case and carried out an investigation.  
The inquiry found the abductors had good ties with local police and political leadership, which helped the gang.  
Rumu told Odhikar that Ashraf had been after her for long.  
The family alleged the local politicians and union parishad chairman were acting in favour of the gang and obstructing them in filing a case. Almas, her brother, said that the See Page 12 Col 8