



## Grocer missing with crores of taka

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 19: Thousands of people on Monday ransacked the house of a grocer who is missing with crores of taka invested by thousands of people of Shahidnagar area in Narayanganj Sadar upazila.

The exact amount embezzled by Razzaq Hawladar, the grocer, could not be confirmed immediately. He had been taking money from thousands of people under the banner of 'Shahidnagar Grocers Cooperative Society' against a special rate of interest for the last seven years.

Soon after the news spread, thousands of investors rushed to his residence at Shahidnagar. They staged a demonstration and at one stage ransacked the house.

The agitating investors caught Motahar Hossain, president of another cooperative society in Shahidnagar area, suspecting his links with Razzaq Hawladar. Later he was handed over to police.

A police official said the number of members of the society was at least five thousand while some investors claimed it to be ten thousand.

Advocate Mobarak Hossain Pradhan one of the investors, told The Daily Star that he had deposited Tk 22 thousand to Razzaq. A local business man deposited Tk 22 lakh to Razzaq, he added.

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 20		5.57 pm
Sept 21	5.47 am	

### Prayer Timings

September 20

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4.45	5.15
Zohr	12.45	1.15
Asr	4.30	4.45
Maghrib	6.03	6.08
Esha	7.45	8.15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Dissatisfaction over policy, reforms

# ADB hints at aid squeeze

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh's share of Asian Development Bank (ADB) resources may shrink in future unless it improves performance in policy and institutional reforms.

Moreover, the country's cost of borrowing from the bank will also increase as it has hardened loan terms from its soft lending window -- Asian Development Fund (ADF) -- in view of scarce resource and stiff competition among the member countries.

ADB Resident Representative in Dhaka Phiphit Suphaphiphat yesterday disclosed these at a luncheon meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) in the city yesterday.

Suphaphiphat and former minister AMA Muhith were speaking on "New Dynamics in Aid Operation in Bangladesh". AmCham President Forest E Cookson also spoke on the occasion.

"Increasing or even maintaining the current level of ADF lending to Bangladesh will require satisfactory performance in terms of efforts of the government to strengthen policies and institutions. Aid absorption capacity of the country also needs to be improved through addressing long-standing issues in project implementation and agreed reforms in key sectors," the ADB Resident Representative said.

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## Bangladesh to give two more transit routes to Bhutan

By M Anwarul Haq

Bangladesh has agreed to provide three transit routes to landlocked Bhutan, official sources said yesterday.

There is only one operational transit route now for transportation of goods and movement of people between the two countries. The route is through Burimari point in Lalmonirhat district.

The recently signed Trade and Transit Agreement between the two countries provides for the two new transit routes.

Thimpu and Dhaka would now approach Delhi to permit use of the new routes through Indian territory.

The first Trade and Transit Treaty between Bangladesh and Bhutan was signed in 1980 for a period of 10 years. It was re-

newed for another 10 years which ended on September 7.

A high-powered delegation from Bhutan led by Foreign Secretary Ugyen Tshering visited Dhaka last month to renegotiate the treaty. Following extensive talks, the Bangladeshi side led by Commerce Secretary Golam Rahman and the Bhutanese team agreed on two new trade and transit routes and to renew the treaty for a further period of six years. Then it would have to be renegotiated again.

The decision to renegotiate the treaty would help both the countries to include mutually advantageous changes at that point of time, which cannot be foreseen now," an official involved in the signing of the

treaty said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Bhutanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Lhatu Wangchuk confirmed that the two new transit routes have been agreed on by Dhaka.

Of the two proposed transit routes, one is Dalu-Nakugaon route. Dalu is a Bhutanese town near the Indian border and Nakugaon is in Sherpur district of Bangladesh. The distance between Dalu and Dhalu via Gaspar-Gobrakura in India is 199.76 km.

The other is through Ha- luaghath in Mymensingh district bordering the Indian state of Meghalaya.

A high-powered Bhutanese team came to Bangladesh and

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## Rain likely to continue

By Special Correspondent

A low hanging over the Indian states of Orissa, West Bengal and adjoining areas of Bangladesh triggered rains almost all over the country yesterday, which is likely to continue today. Meteorological Department said.

The rains are likely to aggravate the flood situation in the country as the Ganges-Padma and the Brahmaputra-Jamuna rivers are already flowing above their respective danger levels.

The situation may start improving later today with a decline in the rains. There may be little change in the weather in the next 48 hours beginning at the new front.

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Incessant rain for the better part of the day yesterday put brakes on city life. — Star photo



Svetlana Khorkina of Russia falls off the uneven bars yesterday at the SuperDome, during the gymnastics women's team finals at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. The 21-year-old gymnast is the reigning World, Olympic and European champion

— AFP photo

## Thorpe back to golden lane

Seven world marks broken in a day in Sydney

SYDNEY, Sept 19: Flying

Dutchman Pieter van den Hoogenband and his Australian rivals fired off world records in the Olympic pool today while on land South Korea's women archers notched up the first 1-2-3 of the Games, reports AFP.

Australia's swimming hero Ian Thorpe returned to his golden lane, a day after taking silver behind van den Hoogenband in the 200m final, leading the Australia to a world record victory in the 4x200m relay.

On a day when seven world records were broken, China continued to dominate women's weightlifting. India produced its first ever woman medallist and the normally faultless USA softball team's 112-streak winning run came to an end.

The United States retained its wafer thin lead on the medal

table with seven golds and 18

medals over all, while Australia and China have six golds, and Australia's overall tally at 17.

A bizarre security scare sent

alarm bells ringing when a Ko-

rean team official and three volunteer Korean workers were briefly abducted by two prison escapees who hijacked an Olympic vehicle near the main stadium.

All four, one of them pregn-

ant, were freed within minutes as the prisoners dumped the van and fled on foot.

Dutch dazzler van den Hoogenband was the feature performer in the pool today, staking a claim to freestyle greatness with a stunning 47.84sec in the 100m freestyle semi-finals, adding to the 200m freestyle record he stole from Thorpe two days ago.

This time it was Australian Michael Klim replaced in the record books.

Thorpe, Klim, Todd Pearson and William Kirby extracted a measure of revenge when they crushed the 4x200m free relay world record with a time of 7:07.05.

Just as van den Hoogenband starred in the water, shy high

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## Rain triggers flood in 5 districts

By Staff Correspondent

Incessant rain and onrush of waters from upstream have triggered flood in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Sirajganj, Sathkhira and Manikganj districts.

Most of the low-lying areas in those districts have been inundated, damaging standing Aman crops and kuchip houses.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent reports: Many areas in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts have been submerged by flood water.

The Padma was flowing 65cm above the danger level at Pankha, 51cm at Goalunda while the Mohananda was flowing 60cm above the danger mark at Chapainawabganj at 6pm yesterday.

In Rajshahi city, normal life was disrupted due to incessant rain. All markets have been closed and attendance in both government and non-

government offices was thin.

The charlands along the river Padma have been flooded as the river continued to swell.

The Padma has also de-

voured some areas in Chandan-

shahar, Tangon, Pirojpur, Go-

palpur of Chittagong Upazila and Harfimpur, Alipur, Keshab-

pur, Pakuria of Bagha Upazila.

In Chapainawabganj at least 30 unions of the district

have been inundated by flood water caused by incessant rain and further rise in water level in the river Mohananda.

The worst affected unions

are Shibganj, Sundarpur, Bak-

her Ali, Pankha, Debnagar, Raninagar, Kalinagar, Vingachali and Uzirpur.

Two-third areas in Sibganj

have gone under water. Road

links between Chapainawab-

ganj and Shibganj, Rohaupur

and Sonamasjid have been

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## Five drown as bazar devoured by Padma

SHARIATPUR, Sept 19:

Century-old Shureswar bazar in Naria Upazila today disappeared into the Padma taking five people with it, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the bazar was devoured at about 1 pm while people were shifting their shops and other establishments after sighting cracks in the bank of the river, which is now in a state under the influence of active monsoon.

The whole incident happened so fast that people got little chance to escape, witnesses said.

The cracks around the riverbank bazar were first detected this morning. People managed to shift 19 shops out of 32, when all of a sudden, the rest of the shops were swept into the Padma.

Abub Ali Mridha, 40, Arman Mridha, 12, Mohammad Akhter, 15, Hafez Ali Majhi, 53, and Sumon, 12, were inside the

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