



The World On Time

## 8 Indians arrested at Akhaura

From Our Correspondent  
BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 5: Eight Indian citizens were arrested on Wednesday night by police at Akhaura.

Police arrested them when they were moving suspiciously in the bordering area of the district.

They were produced before a magistrate's court here today. The magistrate sent them to jail here today.

ASP Circle (Nabinagar) said they were arrested as they could not show any valid document for travelling to Bangladesh.

## Minor girl kidnapped

By Staff Correspondent

A three-year old girl was kidnapped from Bara Maghabazar area in the city on Wednesday.

Fariya, daughter of Abdul Hannan was abducted at about 7:30 pm.

Father of the kidnap victim filed a case with Ramma police station accusing two people for their alleged involvement in the kidnapping.

Ali Akbar and Ali Hossain lured the girl away and took her to some unknown place. Ramma police said quoting the FIR.

Police said the alleged kidnappers are employees of a biscuit factory owned by Abdul Hannan. They claimed Tk 10 lakh as ransom from the businessman for the child's release.

Police could not trace the girl till writing of this report last night.

## Businessman mugged at Gulshan

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers snatched away Tk 2 lakh from a businessman in front of Southeast Bank at Gulshan in the city yesterday morning.

Mahmudul Haq, a businessman in Gulshan area and resident of Lichubagan in Badda, drew Tk 3 lakh from a branch of Islami Bank at Gulshan. He was waylaid by four muggers near Southeast Bank at about 11:30 am.

One of the muggers snatched away Tk 2 lakh, which was kept in the right pocket of his trouser and sped away from the area.

A case was filed with Gulshan police in this regard.

## 9 fishermen buried

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 5: The bodies of the nine fishermen found inside the cold storage of a fishing trawler yesterday, were buried in Sandwip today after autopsy.

None of the dead have yet been identified. The autopsy confirmed that the victims were locked inside the cold storage of the trawler 'FV Shafullah'. The autopsy were done at Sandwip.

No mark of injury was found on the bodies. The bodies could not be sent to the relatives of the victims as they had begun to decompose. Sandwip TNO and police sources said.

Local people found the bodies when the trawler beached at Baoria canal of Sandwip after being carried by tidal current. The cold storage door was stuck under the pressure of huge logs of wood from outside, confining the fishermen inside which led to them being frozen to death.

However, police are yet to find the owner of the vessel to know the number of fishermen on board. Such trawlers usually carry 15-16 fishermen and some of them may have jumped off into the sea while trying to escape, police suspect.

Police are continuing investigation.

## PM goes to Benapole today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit flood-hit Benapole land port today, reports BSS.

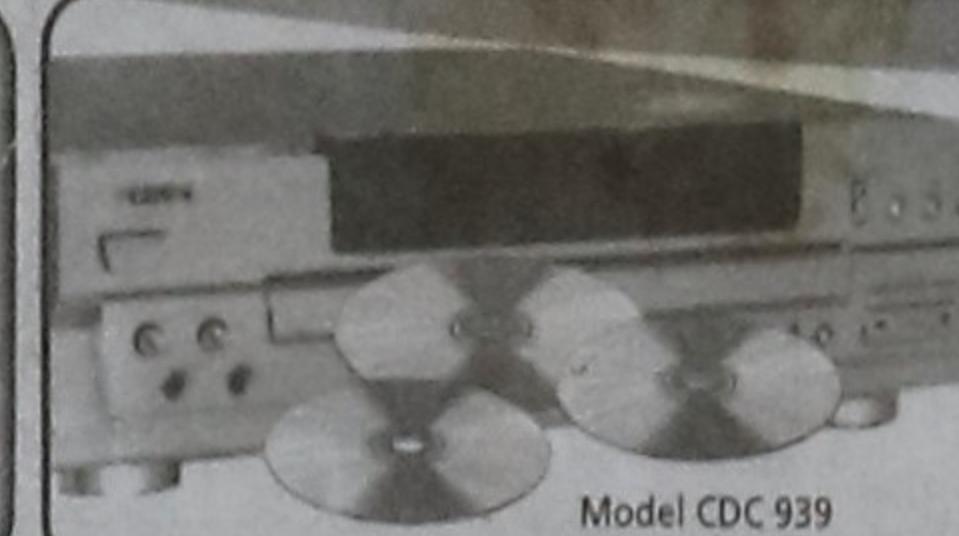
This will be the fourth visit of the Prime Minister to the western flood-affected districts in a week.

Hasina will fly to Benapole from the capital to see the situation there and distribute relief materials among the affected people.

From Benapole, she will go to Putkhali, one of the worst affected areas of Jessore district, by river and distribute relief materials among the flood victims.

## PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS AND FREIGHT WORLDWIDE

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Avast area in the country's southwestern region is under water. As captured in the camera of Hossain Seraj, like many, the disaster has forced this family in Amuria village of Sadar upazila in Magura to move with whatever they could salvage, in search of high land (left) and some of the Bangladeshis stranded in India due to floods are seen braving their way into this side of the border as Bhomra land-port went under water (right).

-- Star photo.

## Over 100 Bangladeshi women trafficked to Pakistan a day!

By Naimul Haq

There are about one million 'undocumented' Bangladeshi women in Pakistan, a significant number of whom are believed to have been trafficked.

One hundred to 150 Bangladeshi women are trafficked to Pakistan every day as 'human cargo', according to a report by the Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid (LHLRA) of Pakistan.

Contents of the report were received from LHLRA President Zia Ahmed through e-mail.

Over 2,000 Bangladeshi women are languishing in jails and government shelters in Pakistan, according to the report.

The Manila based Coalition Against Trafficking in Women- Asia Pacific puts the figure at a much higher rate - 200 to 400 a month.

In a report it said "most of the cage prostitutes" in India come from Bangladesh but did not give any figure on the trafficked women and children.

Trafficking of women and children in South Asian countries, particularly from Bangladesh and Nepal, has increased alarmingly and the traffickers have changed their strategy, women and human rights organisations say.

What is alarming is that a large number of garment factories are now acting as recruiting stations for the traffickers", Farida Akhter, Executive Director of UBINIG told this correspondent.

Farida said, women were trafficked in groups earlier and they had to be approached and motivated by 'agents'. But a recent UBINIG study found that women, mostly victims of violence, are them-

selves coming out of houses and falling prey to traffickers or sexual abuse.

The organised traffickers are using a variety of excuses such as labour migration, entertainment and marriage, another human rights organisation said.

The Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) in a study in 250 villages identified as 'recruiting, transit and collection' areas found that over 7,000 women and children were trafficked to India and Pakistan every year.

The actual number will be much higher", Executive Director of BNWLA advocate Salma Ali told this correspondent.

Salma Ali, who has been working in the field for long with a great deal of success, said, "The number of women and children rescued so far is very insignificant compared to those trafficked."

She said, "In 1999 we rescued only 116 children along with some women from West Bengal where we get very good co-operation from human rights activists.

It is very difficult to work in Pakistan where a large number of Bangla speaking women are trafficked every year. They are 'stateless'. During my recent visit, I met the minister concerned and I was assured of all co-operation. But despite the assurance we are having difficulties in arranging their repatriation."

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### Airbus case

Court. From page 1  
Khaleda along with nine others allegedly misappropriated Tk 175 by abusing power during her tenure.

Harun-or-Rashid, Inspector of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed a case with Motijheel thana on August 30, 1998 accusing 10 people including Khaleda Zia of abusing power during her tenure.

The investigation officer of the case submitted a charge sheet against 10 people including Khaleda Zia before the CMM's court, Dhaka on September 5.

According to police and university sources, a group of terrorists intercepted Nur Alam Siddiqui and Shakil Mahmud on their way to university campus. At a stage of the alteration with them the terrorists attacked them with sharp weapons.

The students received injuries on their head and backs. They were rushed to university medical centre and later referred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Hospital sources said the condition of Nur Alam Siddiqui 2nd year student of Chemistry Department was critical.

The other injured Shakil Mahmud is a third year student of Public Administration Department.

The incident was a sequel to previous quarrel, students of Shahjalal Hall said.

A case was filed with Hathazari thana in this connection.

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