



# The Daily Star



REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XIV NO. 350 • DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 13, 2005 • POUH 30, 1411 BS • ZILHAJ 1, 1425 HJRI • 16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

## Metamorphosis of taka

### Forgers use chemicals to erase designs of Tk 100 notes to turn them into Tk 500 ones

MONJUR MAHMUD

Criminals are now using special chemicals to erase the print on Tk 100 notes and then reprint them as Tk 500 notes. The security thread and water print are kept intact.

This novel way of forgery has made it difficult to detect counterfeit notes not only for members of the public but also for bankers.

Most of the banks in Dhaka

have machines to detect fake notes but these relatively cheap detectors cannot identify the notes now being forged using the new technique.

"We are getting fake Tk 500 notes almost everyday, some of which have security threads and water prints almost identical to that of Tk 100 notes," said Md Masudul Karim, senior staff officer at Karwan Bazar branch of the IFIC Bank Ltd.

The Security thread and its

thickness in both Tk 100 and Tk 500 notes are the same and both notes are of the same size, he pointed out.

Banks are now facing serious problems in receiving money from big clients as banks use machines to count the notes, Masudul said. "It is not possible to check all notes received in big bundles."

In addition many forgery detecting machines - which can

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8



UPROOTED ONCE AGAIN... A child gazes at a future unknown to him and his parents as they lost their home when Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) razed down a few hundred shanties at Banani Amtoll slum in the capital yesterday.

## Biman F28 escapes crash but narrowly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Biman Bangladesh Airlines domestic flight with 62 passengers on board yesterday narrowly escaped an accident due to a faulty landing gear by managing to make a safe emergency touch down at Zia International Airport (ZIA).

The problem in the Fokker F28 aircraft caused by a fault in its hydraulic pressure system was detected as soon as the flight BG692 took off from Saidpur for Dhaka at about 2:45pm.

A Biman official said, "The fault caused only breathing problem for some of the passengers."

He said an emergency drill was called for smooth landing of the aircraft and "it was able to land safely. None was hurt in the incident."

Biman last year bought two 26-year-old F28 aircraft from an Indonesian company for \$2.91

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## TRADE UNION AT EPZs US happy, stops GSP withdrawal process

UNB, Dhaka

The US authorities have cancelled the process of withdrawing GSP (generalised system of preference) facilities for Bangladesh, as the condition for allowing trade union in the export processing zones (EPZs) has been met.

Officials said the decision to retract the notice of withdrawal of GSP was taken in view of the implementation of EPZ Labour Union and

Industrial Relations Act 2004 by Bangladesh.

This was informed at the 22nd meeting of the Board of Governors of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) at the International Conference Center (ICC) with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Bepza Chairman Mohammad Zakir Hossain said a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## SAARC SUMMIT Dhaka pressing Islamabad for fresh dates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has asked Islamabad to speed up its discussions with New Delhi to agree on new dates for the postponed 13th Saarc summit here, as schedules of the leaders for the other four Saarc member states have been put on hold until the fresh dates are fixed.

"We've requested current Saarc chair Pakistan to fix the dates soon... We have to reach a decision on the dates as leaders of other countries

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## 32 army men axed for timber theft

### Rest of the gang - 15 forest men, 35 Ansars - await punishment

REZAUL KARIM

Thirty-two army men including a major have been fired and eight of them awarded with one-year rigorous imprisonment for smuggling timber in collaboration with 15 forest staff and 35 Ansars in the Kaptai region.

The forest men and Ansars are also facing the axe anytime.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## GP donates Tk 1cr as tsunami aid

UNB, Dhaka

GrameenPhone Ltd. yesterday donated Tk 1.08 crore (approximately \$180,000) to Unicef to help tsunami affected children in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Managing Director of GrameenPhone Erik Aas handed over the cheque to Morten Giersing, Unicef representative in Bangladesh, at a simple ceremony at Unicef office in Dhaka.

Congratulating GrameenPhone for its quick and generous response, Giersing assured that this

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

## Govt to sell rice after Eid to check price

RAFIQ HASAN

The government is going to launch an Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice immediately after the Eid-ul-Azha in a bid to check its soaring price.

The government has no alternative to launching the OMS to bring down the price of rice, said a high official of the food and disaster management ministry.

Rice prices have risen by Tk 2-3 a kg in recent weeks. Such a rise is not supposed to take place just after the Aman harvest, he pointed out.

However, Siddiqui Rahman

Chowdhury, secretary of the food ministry, claimed the price of rice is stable in the markets.

"Although prices are a little bit higher compared to that of last year, they are yet to become unstable," he said.

"We're fully prepared to start the OMS anytime if necessary to keep the prices in the market under control," the secretary added.

According to him, rice prices remained stable because of increased import by the private sector. Private importers have

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

**DHAKA BANK**  
LIMITED  
EXCELLENCE IN BANKING

**MEGHNA**  
GROUP  
OF  
INDUSTRIES

### SYNDICATED FINANCING

CONSOLIDATED CREDIT FACILITIES OF

**BDT 2,100,000,000/-**

## UNITED SUGAR MILLS LIMITED

(A UNIT OF MEGHNA GROUP OF INDUSTRIES)

### LEAD BANK

## DHAKA BANK LIMITED

SYNDICATIONS AND STRUCTURED FINANCE UNIT

### PARTICIPATING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

ARAB BANGLADESH BANK LIMITED

BANK ASIA LIMITED

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON LIMITED

DHAKA BANK LIMITED

EASTERN BANK LIMITED

INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED (IPDC)

INTERNATIONAL LEASING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED (ILFSL)

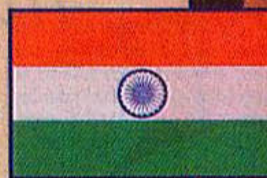
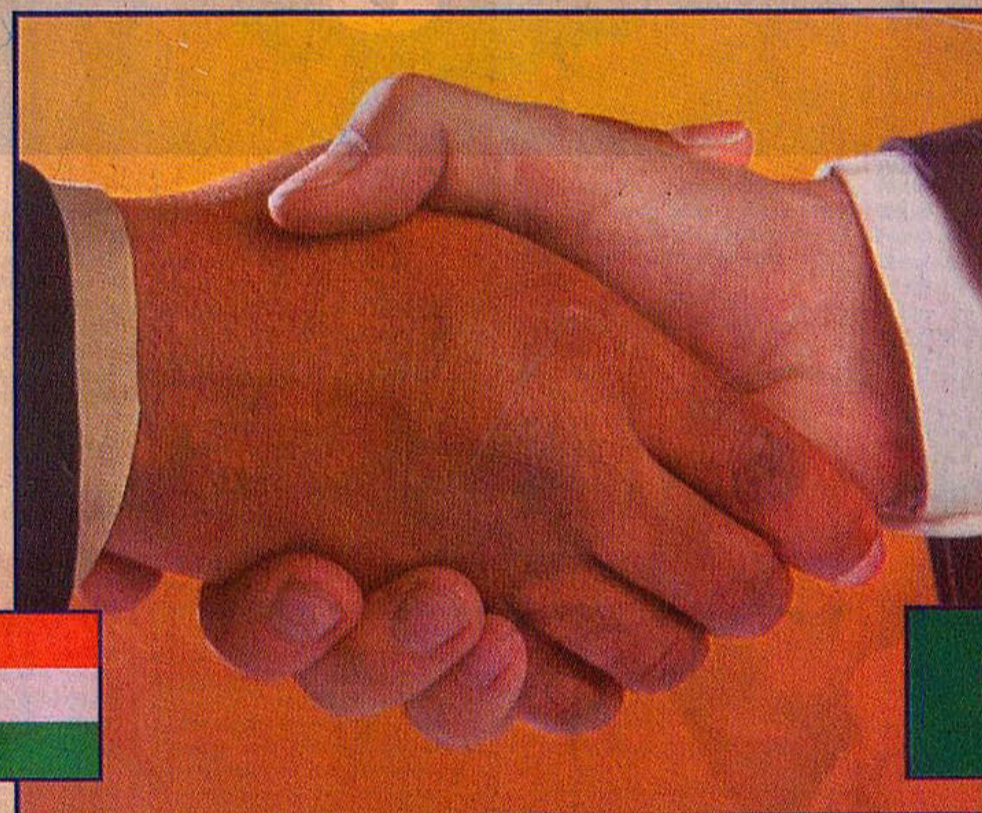
JAMUNA BANK LIMITED

MERCANTILE BANK LIMITED

SOCIAL INVESTMENT BANK LIMITED

### AGENT BANK

## DHAKA BANK LIMITED



## TOGETHER WE MADE IT POSSIBLE

We express our gratitude to The Prime Minister's Office, The Ministry of Commerce, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tariff Commission, Bangladesh Mission in India & Geneva, Indian High Commission in Dhaka, FBCCI, MCCI, DCCI, BCI, Bangladesh Accumulator and Battery Manufacturers Association, Trade Partners, The Press, Stakeholders and all who supported to overcome the Anti Dumping barrier for battery export to India. This has reopened the Indian battery market for Bangladeshi battery manufacturers. Thank you.



**RAHIMAFROOZ**