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NEWS BRIEFS

Islamic Varsity admission begins

JHENIDAH, Aug 25: Admission to first year classes of different departments of Islamic University begins today, official source said. It said selected candidates have been directed to complete their admission formalities from August 25 to 31. The source further said that admission of candidates from the waiting list will be effected from September 13 to 17, reports UNB.

PM again invites CHT insurgents to talks

RANGAMATI, Aug 25: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today reiterated her government's intention for a peaceful solution to the problems of Chittagong Hill Tracts and called upon the tribal insurgents to come into dialogue, reports UNB.

"Arms and terrorism cannot bring solution to any problem," she told a huge rally arranged by the local BNP at the Old Court Building premises here. The rally was also addressed by Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed, Rangamati Local Government Council Chairman Parjati Kusum Chakma and district BNP president Mohammed Nazimuddin.

Expressing government's strong determination to establish peace in the hills, Begum Zia said "we want a political solution to the problem." "There's a democratic government now in the country

which wishes to resolve all problems politically," the Prime Minister said.

The three hilly districts of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari have been experiencing insurgency since 1974.

The Prime Minister mentioned the parliamentary committee formed for an amicable solution to the CHT issue and urged those engaged in insurgency to sit with it for a dialogue.

Begum Zia came here this afternoon on the second leg of her day-long tour to the hill districts of Bandarban and Rangamati.

Earlier Begum Zia addressed the tribal leaders, local elite and politicians in the Tribal Cultural Institute auditorium where she picked up the "ceasefire" issue.

"Ceasefire with whom? We are not at war with anyone," the Prime Minister said refer-

ring to the reported "ceasefire" declared on August 1 by the insurgents based in camps across the border.

About the presence of army in the hill districts, she said they were there to resist those disturbing peace.

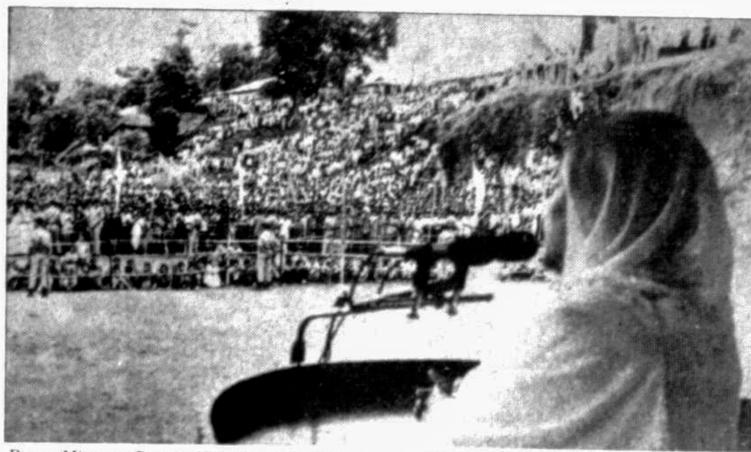
Praising the panoramic landscape of the Hill Tracts, Begum Zia said a huge national income could be generated by promoting tourism in the area, which is now being impeded by the trouble.

Subversive activities by the outlawed Shantibahini have so far left several thousand people dead, besides destruction of property in the region.

She assured overall development of the hilly region in exchange for peace.

Responding to a problem raised by local leaders regarding land acquisition for afforestation, Begum Zia assured nobody's land would be taken

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Rangamati yesterday. —PID photo

Another flag meeting with Yangon today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 25: Bangladesh and Myanmar will hold a high level flag meeting tomorrow at a Teknaf border town in an effort to maintain peace and security along the 110-mile border between the two countries, official sources here said.

A 20-member Myanmar team, comprising border guard officials headed by its local area commander, Col Chit Pe, will attend tomorrow's flag meeting scheduled to start at 10 am at the rest house of Roads and Highways at Teknaf while a 14-member Bangladesh border guard officials will be led by Sector Commander Col Ali Hasan.

Officials here when con-
 See Page 12 Col 7

A mystery police measure

By Nurul Kabir

In a dramatic development yesterday police threw security around the houses of a select group of politicians for few hours.

Police went to the houses of Suranjit Sengupta, MP of Ganatantri Party, Nirmal Sen, Convener of the Five-Party Alliance, Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Acting Secretary, Workers Party and Hassanul Huq Inu, General Secretary of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, at around 3 pm with orders from respective police stations.

The number of arms carrying police constables varying from three to four stayed outside those houses till 11 at night and later withdrew.

Suranjit Sengupta told The Daily Star that the police constables from the Dhanmondi

thana informed him that he was being provided the security being a politically important person.

Nirmal Sen and Rono said that they were taken aback by seeing the police men in front of their residences. Rono quipped, "I thought police had come to arrest me."

Rono further said that the police told him that they would leave when the transport came and left at 11 pm.

When contacted, Duty Officer of the Dhanmondi thana said that the order to provide security was communicated on Tuesday night. But the Duty Officer of Mottijheel thana expressed ignorance about the incident.

When contacted, a top official of the Home Ministry, preferring anonymity, told The

Daily Star that he had no idea about the deployment and added that it could be part of a political decision.

On enquiry it was found that most of the Awami League leaders living in the city were not covered by the short-term protection. Rahmat Ali MP and Shawkat Ali MP confirming the information said that no policeman was posted around their residences. Rahmat Ali, however, complained that he was receiving ghost calls threatening attempt on him. The same complaint came from Shahjahan Straj, MP, who said, "I am receiving calls threatening my life."

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury was however not available till one in the morning for comments.

13-member body to recommend suitable ad policy

By Staff Correspondent

The government has formed a 13-member committee for recommending a frame-work of a suitable advertisement policy for consideration of the government with a view to introducing a well-balanced advertisement policy, reports BSS.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information Khan-dokar Golam Mostafa will be the president of the committee.

The committee will submit its recommendations within three months to the Information Ministry.

Members of the committee are: Director General of Films and Publications Department, President of Bangladesh Sang-

See Page 12 Col 8

Accord on jt Commission with Malaysia

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh and Malaysia yesterday signed the Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement that has provided the setting up of a Joint Commission, chaired by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries.

Visiting Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Bin Haji Ahmad Badawi and his Bangladesh counterpart A S M Mostafizur Rahman signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries at a simple ceremony in Dhaka held at the state guest house 'Meghna'.

The Joint Commission will help expand economic and technical cooperation in the fields of trade, industry, agriculture, education, health, environment, manpower and science.

Prior to the signing of the agreement, the two Foreign Ministers held nearly one hour's formal talks during which they discussed bilateral matters and regional and international issues of common concern, said the foreign ministry official.

Two sides expressed identical views on various interna-

A Bangladesh foreign ministry official told newsmen that the Joint Commission would meet every year alternately in Dhaka or in Kuala Lumpur.

The Joint Commission was inaugurated soon after the agreement was signed. Officials of both sides began deliberations on cooperation between the two countries in different sectors.

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Two sides expressed identical views on various interna-
 See Page 12 Col 7

BNP misrule creates anarchy: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

KOTALIPARA (Gopalganj), Aug 25: Sheikh Hasina today blamed government's "ignorance and indifference" for deepening the problems of vast rural masses and said "misrule of neo-autocracy" hanging over the nation is creating anarchy and frustration, reports UNB.

"There is no work, food, medicine and education for the people in rural Bangla... they are battered by hunger, disease, poverty and calamity," she said. "The government has failed to provide them with work, coarse food and clothes."

The Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament was addressing a huge rally at Bhanganhat College ground this afternoon on the fourth day of her organisational tour to her
 See Page 12 Col 2

Sick units seek time until Dec 31

By Sohel Manzur

The body on sick industries has suggested the government form a board for industrial and financial re-structuring providing it with the legitimate authority to take decisions and measures on the sick industries. A meeting of the Sick Industries Revival and Rehabilitation Cell, chaired by Industries Secretary Dr Ekram Hossain Tuesday, also said that no legal action should be taken against entrepreneurs of sick industries until December 31, 1992.

According to the decision of the meeting, implementation of the recommendations of the cell would be made by the proposed board that would also act as a permanent government body to identify, rehabilitate and liquidate the sick industries.

A draft of a proposed law in

this regard has already been finalised by the cell.

According to the provisions in the proposed law an 'appeal authority' would also be formed to make decision on the applications challenging those of the board for industrial and financial restructuring.

The meeting of the Cell attended by representatives of the concerned ministries, departments, banks and financing institutions, approved all the recommendations with minor changes to rehabilitate the sick industries.

It also decided to submit its recommendations to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the next seven days for approval by the Cabinet.

The body estimated that Taka 500 crore would be required to rehabilitate the 1555 sick industries in ten indus-

trial sectors of the country.

The Cell, however, suggested that the entire fund be given to the board for industrial and financial restructuring to implement the rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan has agreed to arrange an inter-ministerial meeting of all the concerned ministries and departments to chalk out ways and means to implement the recommendations of the Cell.

A total of 1880 entrepreneurs applied to the Cell for rehabilitation of their sick industries. But the Cell identified 1555 units as genuinely sick while the applications of 38 units were yet to be scrutinized.

The amount in overdues of the entrepreneurs of sick industries was Taka 1268 crore.

Menon's lung, liver functions unchanged

By Staff Correspondent

The condition of Rashed Khan Menon's lung and liver remained unchanged Tuesday, though his kidney functions had showed definite improvement, according to medical bulletin issued by the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) this morning.

Meanwhile, the medical team responsible for Menon's treatment made further investigations to establish and treat the causes of his fluctuating temperature and other symptoms.

Chief Surgeon, Major General M A Mohammin and the Chief Physician Major General Anis Waiz reviewed the condition of Menon.

However, CMH doctors in
 See Page 12 Col 2

Bangladesh clothes may face US embargo

By Masud Hasan Khan

Bangladesh garments industry may face a potential US embargo on some of its important export items like shirts, trousers, shorts and slacks because of supply over allocation, exporters feared.

All shipments entering the US ports carrying these apparels in 847 and 340/640 categories from Bangladesh may face the embargo, possibly from October, they said.

The embargo may be clamped because the country had already exhausted 70 per cent of its present quota level in the two categories in just six months of the present quota year, they said.

There was only 30 per cent of the quota level left for shipment in the two categories for the rest of the six months, the exporters pointed out. These categories filled 45 per cent of the allocation by the same period during the last quota year, they pointed out. Quota year extends from February to January.

Once the embargo enforced, Bangladesh may lose its present status in the US market with damaged customers confidence on the Bangladesh garment manufacturers and exporters, leaders of the Bangladesh Garment
 See Page 12 Col 7

India may evacuate embassy staff

Fierce fighting erupts in Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Aug 25: Fierce fighting erupted around Kabul today between pro and anti-government forces with both sides using heavy weapons, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said, reports AFP.

The Pakistan-based agency which is a mouthpiece for Yunus Khaled's splinter faction of the Hazb-i-Islami, said the Afghan capital was hit by rockets in the morning. But it said the fiercest fighting was centred to the south and southeast of Kabul.

Government planes bombed radical Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Butkhak base in the southeast where his Hazb-i-Islami forces have artillery trained on Kabul, AIP said.

Hezb infantry and the government's ground forces were locked in fierce fighting around the Defence Ministry's Bala Hissar, Bini Hissar, Bagrani and Hudkhel bases, the agency said.

Fighting was heavy close to the country's main military academy to the east of Kabul, it said.

Concentrated fighting was also reported near the former

royal Chelchatoon palace. The agency, which is in radio contact with Kabul, said: "It was not clear who is in control of the place."

Hekmatyar's spokesman Mangal Hussain had claimed on Monday that the Uzbek militia spearheading the government offensive to recapture the palace from Hezb troops had been "badly defeated."

But government officials in Kabul immediately denied the report. A Defence Ministry spokesman confirmed there was "some fighting" in the area but "categorically" denied the Hezb claims.

AFP adds: India is considering evacuating its 20 embassy staff from the Afghan capital following intensified attacks on Kabul, an official spokesman said today.

New Delhi was "carefully watching" the situation in Kabul, which has been heavily rocketed by radical Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman told reporters in New Delhi.

"Indian diplomats (in Kabul) are also in close consultation
 See Page 12 Col 8

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
 জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
 ঢাকা।

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 ৪০৬৬৫১, ৪০৮০১২, ৪০০৮৬৫ এবং ৪১২০৪৪।

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Interested entrepreneurs are requested to avail of this unique opportunity and come forward with suitable projects and thereby contribute to the economic development of the country.

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- Bank of Small Industries and Commerce Bangladesh Limited.
- Eastern Bank Ltd.