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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Cultural team goes to China today**

An 18-member cultural delegation led by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahangir Begum leaves Dhaka today for Beijing on a visit to China and North Korea at the invitation of the government of the two countries. During its stay in China, the delegation will participate in "China Xian Ancient Cultural and Fine Arts Festival -92, report BSS.

**BCIC, BSEC, BSFIC postpone strike**

The Sammilita Sangram Parishad of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC), Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC), has postponed its 72-hour strike scheduled to commence today, reports BSS.

**Bernard in Cox's Bazar**

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 5: Bernard de Riedmatten, Chairman of the Executive Committee of UNHCR arrived here today on a two-day visit. Bernard will visit refugee camps at Teknaf, Ukhiya and Ramu tomorrow to see for himself the condition of the Rohingya refugees as well as relief activities there, reports BSS.

## BDR deployed : Halls raided JCD activities at DU stay suspended

All political activities of the pro-government Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) stayed suspended at the Dhaka University Saturday following a bloody showdown between two rival factions in the party that left two of its activists killed on the campus Friday.

**Star Report**

Deviating from precedents, no rally was held nor any procession organised by any faction of the JCD to react to the killings. Campus dwellers said that heavy contingents of riot police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) were deployed at important places on campus while machinegun-mounted trucks patrolled the streets. All the roads leading to the Surya Sen and Mohsin halls

were blocked and guarded by security personnel. Meanwhile, a strong rumour about a stop to political activities by JCD gripped the campus with central committee leaders of the organisation absent. A report of the UNB news agency said that the BNP topnotchers had ordered a sus- See Page 12 Col 3

## Student bodies blame govt for campus violence

Different student organisations Saturday blamed the government for the continuing violence in the educational institutions. The organisations yesterday held several processions and rallies condemning the killing of students in the Dhaka University and accused the pro-government Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of unleashing violence in all the educational institutions across the country. The student organisations held the rallies to protest the killing of Ashraful Azam Ma- See Page 12 Col 3



BDR was deployed at the Dhaka University Saturday to tighten security on the campus. —Star photo



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returned home yesterday after attending the 10th NAM Summit in Jakarta. —PID photo

## Khaleda returns home

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returned home last night after attending the 10th summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Jakarta, reports BSS. She was received at the gateway by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Gohar Hafez. Members of the cabinet, chiefs of the three services, dean of the diplomatic corps Myanmar Ambassador U Soe Myint were present at the airport to receive the Prime Minister. Besides, Indonesian Amba- See Page 12 Col 6

## Shantibahini willing to sit for dialogue

CHITTAGONG, Sept 5: Authorities are likely to hold a dialogue soon with the Shantibahini in a bid to resolve the 18-year old Hill Tracts issue that has so far claimed the lives of about 3000 people, highly placed sources said. A process is now on to work out the modus operandi as the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghalt Samity (PCJSS), the mother organisation of the Shantibahini in a letter sent recently to the leader of its 'liaison committee' expressed willingness to sit for a dialogue with the parliamentary committee, sources in the administration said. The six-member 'liaison committee' led by Hangshadoz Chakma communicated the matter to the government high command, sources said adding that the PCJSS wrote the letter responding to an earlier proposal from the committee to hold a dialogue with the country's democratic government that had been eyeing the Hill Tracts issue from a political angle. The 'liaison committee' was constituted about three months ago with the consent of the PCJSS enabling it to contact both the authorities and the Shantibahini on the holding of any dialogue. After due consideration, the decision of the authorities in this regard would be routed through the liaison committee to the PCJSS to finalise a date and venue for the dialogue, an official informed. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during her August 26 visits to Rangamati and Bandarban hill districts publicly made an offer for a dialogue to end the long-drawn See Page 12 Col 6

## Attempt on Menon Police hope to nab chief accused soon

Delwar Hossain who was arrested in connection with assassination attempt on Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon yesterday made a confessional statement to a Metropolitan Magistrate, reports UNB. Following the statement, police said they are hopeful of arresting soon the principal accused in the case. Delwar was produced yesterday before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate after two days' police remand. Zakir Hossain, Nizamuddin, Nurul Islam Mahub, Jahangir and Delwar Hossain had been implicated as accused in the case of assassination attempt on Menon. Yusuf Pasha who was also arrested in connection with the case was enlarged on bail. Bail petitions of others will be taken up by the court today (Sunday).

## NAM call to refrain from state-sponsored terrorism

JAKARTA, Sept 5 : Non-Aligned leaders here is to issue a call to all countries to refrain from assisting terrorist acts against their neighbours and other nations, diplomats here said today, reports AFP. A document on political issues which the 108-member Non-Aligned Movement will issue Sunday is expected to denounce the sponsorship of terrorism by one state against another as a violation of international principles that should be "unequivocally condemned" by the international community. The reference to state-sponsored terrorism which the document describes as "the most dangerous threat to the enjoyment of human rights" worldwide was sought by India and met with no objections, sources close to the Indian delegation said. India has repeatedly accused neighbouring Pakistan of abetting terrorist operation in its troubled states of Kashmir and Punjab, an allegation Islamabad denies. Diplomats said the NAM had also endorsed a Tunisian request to denounce organised terrorism as a threat to free functioning democracies. The Tunisian amendment

to an original Indonesian draft also urges governments to cooperate and consult to curb extremist and terrorist policies as well as violence seeking to exploit social, cultural and religious feelings. The Non-Aligned Movement has adopted a 'consensus document' on political issues, a senior Indonesian official said today while acknowledging that some delegates to the summit here were unhappy with it. Diplomats, meanwhile, said that lobbying was still continuing on the contentious issues of Bosnia-Herzegovina and an Iraqi move, blocked by pro-American Arab states, to refer to the ban on its aircraft flights over southern Iraq enforced by the United States and some of its Gulf War allies. "We have a consensus document on political issues but it is possible that some delegations may be less than happy with it," Wiryono Sastrohandoyo, Director-General for political affairs at the Indonesian Foreign Ministry said. Wiryono said that because the 108-member movement worked through consensus, the document might not reflect the views of all delegations to the extent they

had expected. Sources said the document, pushed through by Ghanaian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamed Chamba who chaired the political talks, did not blame Serbia and Montenegro, Rump states of the former Yugoslavian federation, for the inter-ethnic violence, despite demands by Muslim countries led by Malaysia and Senegal. They said the document instead condemned all parties to the conflict and urged an end to the fighting. A senior Malaysian official described the text on Yugoslavia as "unsatisfactory," adding that it "failed to reflect the gravity of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina." Halim Ali, Deputy Secretary-General of the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Muslim countries would make another attempt to change the document at a meeting of the 25-member NAM coordinating bureau scheduled to meet late Saturday. "Most OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference) members are with us on this issue," he said. Indonesian officials said the consensus document was car- See Page 12 Col 7

## 'Ads on basis of high circulation to encourage yellow journalism'

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said the government would take all-out efforts for the development of the newspaper industry of the country, reports BSS. He said the newspapers which serve the people through publishing factual reports would be encouraged by government through the allocation of public advertisements. The minister was addressing as the chief guest the installation ceremony of the Bangladesh Times Karmachari Parishad in Dhaka. Huda said the government had no need to build up its image by using the public advertisements as a weapon because the ruling party believed that love of the people was the only source of its power. The minister said the circulation of those newspapers which publish reports detrimental to the interest of the country, rumours, sensational news items and untrue reports, are always high. So if the government advertisements are allocated on the basis of circulation, this, in fact, will give indulgence to the yellow journalism, he said. Huda said a single trustee named Times-Bangla was See Page 12 Col 2

## Govt to procure rice thru' open tender

The government has decided to procure rice from domestic market through open tender to reduce "system loss" in the procurement process, Food Minister Shamsul Islam said in Dhaka yesterday. The open tender will replace the existing practice of direct procurement at the farmers' level that very often results in misappropriation and misuse, the minister said while talking to UNB. He said the new measure is aimed at reducing rampant system loss in the direct procurement of foodgrains which cause immense financial loss to the exchequer. Modalities of the new procurement measures are being worked out and the method might be applied in the next procurement season. Presently, only 10 per cent of the projected government purchase is procured directly from the farmers while the rest 90 per cent from the brokers and millers without any tender. "Farmers hardly come to the godowns and they prefer selling to open market," Islam

said. So, he pointed out, the new measure will in no way affect the farmers who will rather get rid of un-necessary hassle. The minister, however, said that a "floor price" will be set by the government prior to every procurement season so that the farmers get a minimum price for their produce. In case the market price goes down to the floor price, Islam said, the government would then purchase directly from the farmers at the floor price. Under the new system, the minister said, only rice will be procured instead of paddy. The government now handles an estimated 10 to 12 per cent of the foodgrain produced in the country. It purchases rice during every boro season with the dual objectives of giving price support to the farmers and maintaining a stock for emergency. Government procurement of rice this season stood at five lakh tons and with carryover from the previous season, its current rice stock is eight lakh tons.

## AL council session on Sept 18,19

By Staff Correspondent  
 Awami League (AL) has decided to hold its central biennial council session on September 18-19. It was decided at a meeting of the party's Working Committee held last night with the party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Awami League in a press release issued last night said that the Working Committee had discussed different aspects relating to the preparation of the council sessions and asked the district level leaders to get prepared for making the council sessions a success. The meeting observed one minute's silence to mourn the death of party MPs Abdul Wajed Chowdhury and Nazrul Islam, former MPs Shahid Ali Khan and Abdul Jabbar, former See Page 12 Col 6

## Bank guard to die for killing manager

A middle aged bank guard was sentenced to death for killing the manager of Janata bank Chowkbazar branch in November last year, reports UNB. Guard Amjad Hossain shot with his rifle manager Ali Ahmed Khan in the latter's chamber at 1-15 pm on November 17, 1991. Delivering the judgement yesterday Sessions Judge Nasiruddin Ahmed observed that the rifle which the accused was supposed to use against miscreants for protection of the bank property has been unprovokedly used upon the life of a man who was quite innocent and defenceless. The prosecution case was that the manager had asked the accused to continue his See Page 12 Col 6

## Biman's computer reservation system fails

By Asiuzzaman  
 Bangladesh Biman has failed to maintain its fully computerised reservation and reconfirmation systems. Biman sources said. This has resulted in Biman's adoption of both the old and the new systems in the reservation and reconfirmation of tickets. See Page 12 Col 7

## Rohingyas burn firewood worth Tk 2 cr a month

Bangladesh is losing forest resources worth two crore taka monthly for keeping 265,000 Rohingya refugees in its Cox's Bazar-Teknaf region, official sources said on Saturday. The refugees living in about 20 camps are using local plantations as fuel wood and have already destroyed forests on about 2,633 acres of land, the sources reached by telephone at Cox's Bazar said. The refugees need 15,000 cft of fuel wood everyday. Speaking on condition of anonymity officials said that the local forest department has asked the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the

government to pay it 35 crore taka to compensate the losses since the refugees' arrival in Bangladesh in March last year. According to relief officials provision of fuel wood for the refugees has become a major problem. The authorities are planning to supply the refugees compressed rice dust sticks in addition to kerosene for cooking. The UNHCR has agreed to finance the procurement of rice dust sticks and kerosene. Besides, the authorities are planning to import coal especially for use in the relief camps. A UNHCR official at Cox's Bazar said it has kept 24 lakh taka ready as compensation for 100 acres of privately-owned land, used to build camps for

the refugees. Meanwhile, security for the camps has been beefed up and restrictions on the movement of the refugees outside the camps tightened amid increased criminal activity in the region. More than 500 refugees have been arrested so far on charges of robbery, theft, mugging, violence and other crimes. Last week police arrested 11 refugees as they were preparing for a robbery in Teknaf. Two country-made weapons were recovered from them. A police official said law and order in the region has deteriorated because of the refugees, massed in makeshift camps of mud-and-straw huts and canvas tents.



Non-Aligned leaders Suharto of Indonesia (left), Omer Ghalib of Somalia (center) and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat smile as they wave to a crowd Saturday while visiting Bandung, the site where the Non-Aligned Movement originated. —AFP photo