

## Inside Today

### Article

**AL Council Session: Look to the Future, Not the Past**

Column: The Third View by Mahfuz Anam Page 4

### International



**Mitterrand kisses a girl presenting him flowers on his leaving hospital after prostate surgery**

**Koreas to install hot line between defence ministers** Page 5

### Business



**Chaotic situation in European currency market**

**CIRDAP to take up \$2.6m poverty alleviation projects** Page 7

### Magazine

**Is Calcutta's China town vanishing? The chopstick community in Dhaka. Of men and matters. My World by S M Ali. Write to Mita, Bold, Beautiful and Benign and Book Reviews** Pages 9, 10, 11

### Metropolitan

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**Old Wine in a New Bottle** Page 3

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Hasina leaves for Mymensingh today

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka today for Mymensingh where she will inaugurate the party district conference at the Town Hall. Party sources said this is for the first time she will attend a district conference, reports UNB.

### Razzaque Ali off to Beijing

A 7-member Bangladesh parliamentary delegation led by speaker Sheikh Razzaque Ali left Dhaka yesterday for Beijing on an 11-day goodwill visit to China. The members of the delegation are Ansar Ali Siddiqui MP, Mian Mohammad Mansur Ali MP, Dr Strajul Haq MP, Begum Fatema Chowdhury MP, Kalpananjani Chakma MP and Assistant Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Mrs. Maris Jesmin, reports UNB.

### ALWC meet continues

The adjourned meeting of Awami League central working committee continued deliberation on amendments to the party manifesto and constitution yesterday.

The meeting was adjourned till 5 pm today (Friday), reports UNB.

## Educational bodies warned against terrorism

# Govt to suspend grants, withdraw recognition

Government has decided to suspend grants to and withdraw recognition from educational institutions where normal academic atmosphere will be disrupted by acts of terrorism, reports UNB.

An official announcement last night said the measure was taken to ensure proper academic atmosphere so that the students especially the poor and meritorious ones could pursue their studies.

It said if normal academic life is disrupted in any government college or it is closed sine die for terrorism, recognition to the college would be withdrawn and grants suspended. In its place a better college will be nationalised and declared as government college.

The announcement further said similar action would be taken against a private college where academic atmosphere is disrupted or the college is closed for indefinite period because of terrorist activities. All development and expansion of the college will be suspended.

Similar actions will be applicable to all government and private educational institutions in the country, the announcement added.

The educational institutions which maintained peace, discipline and congenial academic atmosphere will receive priority in matters of government grants and other facilities.

The announcement said Bangladesh is a poor country

with limited resources. A great part of the population is illiterate. But an educated manpower is essential for development and prosperity of the nation. With this end in view, the government has attached top priority to education with the highest allocation of funds.

It said the government also attached much importance to the adherence of strict discipline in educational institutions for the greater interest of the nation.

Announcing the measures, the Education Ministry has called upon the teachers and employees, guardians and students to cooperate with the government in maintaining peaceful and congenial academic atmosphere in all educational institutions.

## DUTA call to back govt move

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) has called upon all to cooperate with the government to root out terrorism from the country.

The DUTA at a meeting of its working committee yesterday (Thursday) congratulated the step to restore peace and security in society.

The DUTA leaders observed that all the arms and ammunition could not be recovered from the Dhaka University halls though police made frequent raids. The leaders urged all to recover all the arms from the residential halls

# Shantibahini sets stage for talks Sept 28

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Sept 17: The Shantibahini has opted to hold a preparatory meeting with the members of its 'Liaison Committee' September 28 before its dialogue with the authorities to resolve the 18-year old Hill Tracts issue, highly placed sources said.

The Parbatyati Chhatragram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the mother organisation of the

Shantibahini, in a letter sent to its 'Liaison Committee' communicated its decision to hold the preparatory meeting September 28 at Dudukchari border village near Loughong BOP (border outpost) under Panchhari upazila of Khagrachari district, sources said.

The letter from the PCJSS today reached Hongshad Chakma who heads the 'Liaison Committee' 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, sources added.

Sources in the administration said that the preparatory meeting would discuss the modus operandi of the dialogue. See Page 12 Col 6

## Montu seeks review of action against him

Mustafa Mohsin Montu, who was expelled from Awami League, yesterday called for a review of the action against him in the party's council scheduled for September 19-20, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference in city on the eve of the Awami League biennial council, Mustafa Montu reiterated that the action by the party high command was 'undemocratic, unconstitutional and contrary to the party's principles'. See Page 12 Col 2

## AL biennial council begins tomorrow

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's 11-year leadership is likely to face an acid test in her party's belated biennial council beginning Saturday, reports UNB.

Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, will officially inaugurate the two-day conference at the Engineers Institute at 3 pm on Saturday.

Nearly 2,400 councillors from across the country are expected to join the two-day session, party sources said.

Observers believe the council session of the country's main opposition party bears a lot of significance in the present political and socio-economic perspective.

The last Awami League council was held January 1-2 in 1987 when Hasina was re-elected party President and Begum Sajeda Chowdhury chosen General Secretary as a compromise candidate.

The forthcoming council will elect a new central committee. See Page 12 Col 1

## Nazrul Islam MP dead

Principal M.M. Nazrul Islam, MP dead of heart attack at Suhrawardi Hospital in Dhaka Wednesday night. He was 50, reports BSS.

Principal Nazrul Islam was elected to the Jatiya Sangsad from Bhola-4 constituency on Awami League ticket in the last general election.

He left behind his wife, three sons, a daughter and a large number of relations and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Principal Nazrul Islam was laid to rest at the premises of Charfession College, founded by him, after namaz-e-janaza. Thousands of people thronged the college ground to join the janaza and to pay last respect to their leader.

His body was flown to Charfession from Dhaka by a helicopter provided at the instruction of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Organising Secretary of Awami League To-fael Ahmed, MP and family members of Principal Nazrul Islam accompanied his body to Charfession.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas paid his last respect to See Page 12 Col 3

## Possessors of phone-sets in DU halls to lose seats

By DU Correspondent

Seats of any resident students of the Dhaka University will be cancelled if any telephone hand sets were found in their residential hall rooms.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of Provoosts and Proctors of the university yesterday with the Vice Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Miah in the chair.

The Vice Chancellor was urged in the meeting to examine the legal procedures of cancellation of the seats of the students in the residential halls in case of their failing for more than once and for not attending the examinations.

The meeting discussed the decision taken earlier this month regarding the restoration of law and discipline on the university campus.

Meanwhile UNB adds: The Dhaka University, including its See Page 12 Col 7

## 'Summon JS session for law to curb terrorism'

Dr Kamal Hossain, Convenor of Bangladesh Democratic Forum, yesterday called for summoning the Jatiya Sangsad to enact law of the basis of consensus to curb terrorism and rid the country of anarchy.

Talking to BSS he said terrorism was posing a serious threat to the life and property of the people. In view of the situation obtaining in the country the Jatiya Sangsad should be called into session to pass a law of the basis of consensus to combat and curb terrorism and anarchy effectively, he said.

He also underlined the need for setting up of a special action committee headed by the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to look after the See Page 12 Col 5

## Acid thrown on 2 sisters, stabbed

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Sept 17: A group of three assailants stabbed two teenage girls and then threw acid on them here Thursday witnesses and police said.

Tuhin Akter Bharati and Shamima Akter Kushum, the two sisters and both 2nd year HSC students of Bogra, were women's college travelling in a rickshaw at about 11 am when they came under attack at Badrutala.

Witnesses said they sustained serious burn injuries that damaged their eyes. Both of them were also stabbed.

They were immediately rushed to the Mohammad Ali Hospital by some pedestrians but their treatment was delayed. There was no eye specialist available at the hospital. The superintendent of the hospital was also not present.

Their father is a college teacher. Police was searching for one Mofazzel Hossain, a young neighbour of the victims in this connection. See Page 12 Col 7



Club wielding policemen engaged in a scuffle with nurses trying to force their way into Secretariat yesterday. — Star photo

## Nurses to go on indefinite strike Oct 3

By Staff Correspondent

Nurses across the country have decided to go on an indefinite strike from Oct 3 if their demands that include regularisation of jobs of some 750 adhoc employees were not met before that date.

Chairperson of the Diploma Nurses Association Kohnur Begum announced before several hundred nurses at a rally in front of the National Press Club Thursday that from Saturday they would start a four-hour stoppage which would turn into 72-hour strike from September 28.

Their 14-point demands also include pay hike, promotions and slotting of unemployed nurses into jobs.

After the rally they brought out a procession and tried to proceed toward Secretariat which was intercepted by police. See Page 12 Col 2

## JS body chooses public meeting venue soon

By Nurul Kabir

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Public Works will soon decide on a venue in the city for the public rallies of different socio-political organisations, an authoritative source said.

Different social and political organisations had been demanding a venue for public meeting in the city and the standing committee was given the responsibility to select and suggest the allotment of a piece of land for this purpose by the winter session of Parliament last year.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Minister for Public Works and chairman of the 10-member standing committee, while talking to The Daily Star said that the committee was consistently working to keep its commitment to Parliament.

A sub-committee was constituted last month to search for an adequately large piece of land, the Minister said adding that it was expected to send its recommendation by the last week of this month.

As soon as the sub-committee comes up with its recommendation, the standing committee will finalise its decision on the issue, the Minister said.

Headed by ruling party MP ATM Alamgir, the four-member sub-committee includes Kazi Abdur Rashid of the Awami League, Abdur Rashid Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party and Shajahan Chowdhury of the Jamaat.

According to sub-committee sources, its members met September 2 and primarily See Page 12 Col 7

## Children get little budgetary care

From S. Bari

COLOMBO, Sept 17: Most governments devote less than 10 per cent of their national GNP on basic human needs such as education, sanitation and health. This regret was expressed by delegates attending the SAARC ministerial conference on children in South Asia. Seven working groups, each chaired by a different member country, spent the day preparing reports on various sectors of child protection.

The sectors were: child survival and safe motherhood, mother and child nutrition, basic education, safe water and the environment, the convention on the rights of the child, socio-political strategies to reach set goals, and poverty reduction.

At a press conference this afternoon, UNICEF executive director James P. Grant expressed the hope that government of the region would readjust their budgets to allocate more money to social services essential to the protection and development of the 450 million children in South Asia.

When asked if pressure from the World Bank and the

International Monetary Fund or other lending bodies forced developing nations to accept interference in their budgets, Grant replied that governments were not left completely without a say in the matter.

He held both international financial institutions and inept government machinery responsible for lack of funding available for children's affairs.

"We are not popular with the big banks," he joked during the press briefing, "because we think more money See Page 12 Col 8

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## Polytech teachers go on strike from Sept 21

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers' Association (BPTA) in a statement Thursday has called for an indefinite strike in all the 20 polytechnic institutes from September 21 for immediate realisation of its ten-point demand.

The demands include: providing selection grade to the Chief Instructors and Principals of the institutes, relieving the instructors, workshop supervisors and lecturers serving five years in their See Page 12 Col 8

## EC may take decision on food aid cut Sept 20

By Inam Ahmed

The European Community (EC) is likely to take a major decision on its proposed cut in food aid for Bangladesh during the Asian Latin America (ALA) food aid committee meeting on September 20 in Brussels, according to Food Ministry sources.

The EC will channel its food aid into Bangladesh through Integrated Food for Assisted Development Project (IFADEP) under a six-year long scheme.

The project will start in 1992 and end in 1997.

The project envisages that about 1.4 lakh metric tons of food will be given to Bangladesh on the first year of the six-year long programme. The amount will ultimately trickle down to only about 21,000 metric tons by 1997.

The IFADEP proposal stipulates that though the quantity of traditional food aid will decrease, the targeted food aid See Page 12 Col 3

# Major's govt in shambles as pound plunges further

LONDON, Sept 17: The British pound plunged further Thursday after the government lost a daylong battle to prop up the currency with two interest rate hikes, then gave up and set it loose in the marketplace, reports AP.

But sterling showed a partial rebound against the US dollar after the Bank of England returned its base interest rate to 10 per cent, where it stood a day earlier as Britain intensified its futile fight to strengthen the value of sterling. In early afternoon trading,

the pound was quoted at dils 1.7755, up from dils 1.7385 in the morning but well below the level of dils 1.8083 from late Wednesday. The pound was at 2.6400 German marks early in the afternoon, after falling through its exchange mechanism floor of 2.7780 marks on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister John Major, his government in shambles after failing to face down a currency crisis, Thursday rallied his 21-member Cabinet behind the embattled treasury chief. After a three-hour emer-

gency meeting at Major's 10 Downing Street office, a senior official said that Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont "will not resign," despite a chorus of calls for him to quit.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, also said that the Cabinet agreed that the pound will rejoin Europe's exchange rate mechanism "as soon as conditions allow."

He refused to elaborate. Despite the expression of loyalty, speculation continued that Lamont would go soon. The position of Major, who

has identified totally with Lamont, was also regarded as also gravely undermined in the view of most commentators.

By abruptly pulling out of the European exchange rate mechanism, Major abandoned the keystone of his economic policy and accepted devaluation—an option he rejected less than a week ago as a betrayal of our future.

He also yielded to demands from opposition Labour Party leader John Smith that Parliament be called back into session next week. Former Cabinet Minister

Nicholas Ridley, now Lord Ridley, suggested that Major's days as prime minister were numbered.

"I believe it will set forward a political transformation in due course. You cannot spend two years putting everything you have on the importance of the ERM and then have it shattered as it's been today," said Ridley, a leading opponent of Britain's ERM membership.

Major led Britain into the exchange rate mechanism, when he was former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's treasury chief.

"I said at the time that membership was no soft option," he declared in a speech to businessmen last Thursday. "The soft option, the devaluers' option, would be a betrayal of our future. And it is not the government's policy."

The Daily Telegraph, a strong supporter of the governing Conservatives, said in an editorial that Major had been gravely if not fatally wounded. "He has chosen to bind himself in chains to this policy, and now he must pay the political price," said news- See Page 12 Col 7