Dhaka, Yangon sit again Sept 27

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh and Myanmar will hold another round of offictal level talks September 27 to find ways to start sending back the reluctant Rohingya

Officials in Dhaka said that Bangladesh would emphastse on making renewed efforts to ward off fears among the refugees who refuse to believe that the military-ruled Myanmar would be a safe haven when they return.

Persuading the more than a quarter of a million Muslim refugees to go back has been the prime job for both the countries since Bangladesh and Myanmar Foreign Ministers signed an agreement four months back. The accord said that the repatriation would be voluntary.

The talks, ninth since the April 28 pact, will be held in Sittwe, a Myanmar town in the Akvab region.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Omar Farooq will lead the Bangladesh team of officials while the Myanmar side will be headed by the country's Immigration Ministry Director General Maung Aung.

The refugee representatives their repademand that triation be monitored by the international community Myanmar does not entertain the plea, insisting on continu-

ing the ongoing bilateral bid. Talk of repatriation sparks off tension among the refugees and their violent protests have so far killed four of them.

A fast increasing criminal activities by the refugees are a cause of concern for the Bangladesh authorities and have prompted tightening of security in and around the camps and clamping down on the activities of the NGOs providing aid. There are widespread allegations that some of the NGOs are abetting the antirepatriation elements.

Human rights rhetorics of the Western groups add to the Catch 22 situation that the Bangladesh authorities are in regarding the repatriation.

Sheltered in 19 makeshifts camps in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts, some 2.65 lakh people are one of the most well-kept refugee groups around the world, and therefore, say Bangladesh officials. they are fighting to stay back. Apart from the NGOs, some

fundamentalist organisations are also allegedly fanning the unwilling Rohingyas' efforts.

Sources said the council

would adopt some amend-

ments to the party constitution

and manifesto in keeping with

the changed political scenario,

both national and interna-

In addition to the central

working committee, there

would be an Advisory Commi-

ttee to be formed exclusively

for the party President to seek

advice on different national

and international affairs. The

strength of the proposed

committee will not be more

than nine. It will consist of

Awami League-minded intel-

lectuals, retired bureaucrats

central working committee is

expected to be increased from

59 to 65 or so. Several new

faces, particularly former stu-

dent and youth leaders, includ-

ing Abdul Mannan, Sultan

Mohammad Mansur and Mukul

Bose, and some newcomers

like Mirza Sultan Raza, Mahm-

udur Rahman Manna and

Akhtaruzzaman, are likely to be

Two additional posts of

Secretary and another two of

Assistant Secretary are also

Montu

From Page 1 Col 5

Mostafa Mohsin Montu.

Responding to a correspon-

dent, the Awami League dissi-

dent leader denied that he

planed to float a new party or

he wants a split in Awami

grievances to the councillors.

should be given an opportunity

to express my views to them",

self as the Chairman of Awami

Juba League, also said that the

decision to expel him was

taken illegally without giving

him any scope for self-defence.

"It was done to undermine my

image. There was no particular

Bangabandhu's ideals I did not

resort to any wrongdoing... nor

did I do anything contrary to

tended by Juba League and

Dhaka District Awami League

leaders including Harunur

Rashid, Advocate Saidur Rah-

man, Niaz Shikder, Abdul Jab-

bar, Abul Kalam and Ataur

The conference was also at-

He said, "as a soldier of

complaint against me."

the party constitution."

"I want to express my

Montu, who claimed him-

to fundamental rights."

League.

he added.

- Star photo

Articles on Page 4

likely to be created.

inducted into the central

The present strength of the

and technocrats.

AL council tomorrow

From Page 1 Col 7 mittee - the highest policy making body of the party adopt party's new economic policy, amended manifesto and constitution as well as formulate its future line of ac-

But the focus of the council will be on election of a new General Secretary for Awami League. As it appears, there will be no new candidate for the top post, held by Hasina.

Incumbent General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury is almost certain to leave the office after holding it for more than five years.

There is lot of speculations in and outside the party centering round the post of General Secretary.

Sources said at least five stalwarts of the party were in the race for the coveted post. They are Abdur Razzak, Amir Hossain Ame, Toleel Ahmed. Abdul Jali and Mohammad Nasim, among the seniors guys, the name of presidium member Zillur Rahman is also being heard for the post.

As per party constitution, the councillors are to elect the new committee. But there is a strong possibility that the subject committee, following the Awami League culture and practice, might authorise the party chief to name the General Secretary, office-bearers and members of the central committee.

Competent sources indicated that efforts would be made to elect an acceptable candidate for General Secretary through mutual discussion among the top candidates. If they fail. Hasina finally might come up with her trump card. It would not also be surprising if she name a new face for the

Observers say Hasina who is in overwhelming command in the party will seize the opportunity to recast the organisation according to her own plan to make the organisation more, effective and dynamic.

The issues of expulsion of former Dhaka District Awami League President and Jubo League Chairman Mostafa Mohsin Mantu and floating of Dr Kamal Hossain's Democratic Forum, indemnity ordinance and future course of action are expected to dominate the council agenda.

Insiders said the party could review the decision against Mantu, but his recent activities and statements might have blocked reconsideration of the disciplinary actions by the council.

Regarding Dr Kamal's Democratic Forum, the majority in the party thought that the forum had already created confusion among the Awami League workers and sympathisers.

The party chief on several occasions had requested Dr Kamal to spend his labour and intellect on strengthening the organisation, but he reportedly didn't pay heed. It is now for the councillors to determine the fate of both Maritu and Dr Kamal.

Apart from these issues, the council is expected to make deliberations on the party's poor performance in the last parliamentary elections, its present role and future line of

Country's student commu nity yesterday observed in a befitting manner the historic "Education Day" with the slogan: Education is a right, not privilege, reports UNB.

Education Day

observed

On the day in 1962, three students were killed in Dhaka when police opened fire during a student strike to protest recommendations of a Commission on education.

Mostafa, Babul and Waziullah laid down their lives to uphold the demand for withdrawal of the "anti-people" report and introducing universal scientific education system in the coun-

On August 26 in 1959, the commission, headed by former Education Secretary SM Sharif, submitted recommendations on a new education Later, the Pakistan govern-

ment decided to implement the recommendations form 1961-62 academic year, touching off a campus storm of protest To mark the day, different student organisations held ral-

meetings in the city, as elsewhere in the country. (Related story on Metro

lies and organised discussion

Nazrul Islam

From Page 1 Col 8 the late Awami League parliamentarian at the Old Airport before airlifting of his body to Charfession.

Earlier Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina paid their last respect to the departed soul at the south plaza of Jatiya Sangsad where a janaza of late Islam was held

The janaza was attended by Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, cabinet ministers, MPs, political leaders and officials of Jatiya Sangsad.

Wreaths were placed on the coffin of late Nazrul Islam by Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina. Wreaths were also placed on behalf of the Prime Minister by LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, on behalf of Sangsad members by Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain and on behalf of Awami League by party General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury.

Principal Nazrul Islam was born on October 16, 1942 at Chandpur under Bhola. He graduated from Brojomohun College of Barisal in 1964 and passed MA in economics in 1966 from Dhaka University.

He began his teaching profession in 1968 as founder principal of Charfession College under Bhola. He worked there till his death.

He was also elected to the Jatiya Sangsad on Awami League ticket in 1979 from Bakerganj-3 constituency.

He was a member of the standing committees on Public Accounts and Post and Telecommunications.

EC decision

From Page 1 Col 7 will increase.

The EC will cut its support for the public food distribution system (PFDS) and the figures show no food aid for 1996, Food Ministry sources said. The EC proposal for cut in

food aid came following a possibility" that Bangladesh may become self-sufficient in food in a few years time. Meanwhile, the concerned

ministries including the Food Ministry has shown strong resentment at the IFADEP pro-

The Food Ministry in a letter for the EC's concern said despite an increase in rice production in the country. self-sufficiency is yet to be

The ministry further said the production of wheat is now dwindling to one million tons as against the country's annual requirement of between 2.5 and three million tons.

The ministry observed that the IFADEP cut on food would seriously affect the food reserve of the country and create crisis in the market.

Sources said other relevant ministries also expressed their similar concerns at the IFADEP proposal.

Sources said IFADEP in its proposal also suggested for integration of financial and technical aid with food aid to make its assistance more target oriented.

Two flee DB custody

By Staff Correspondent

Two alleged terrorists picked up by police for questioning escaped from the high security detective branch office at Minto Road in the capital Wednesday. Police sources said yester-

day that Mohan and Nasiruddin, who were nabbed by DB police from Lalbagh area in Dhaka Tuesday night in connection with terrorist activities, got loose from the duty room of the DB office at about 15 in the morning Wednesday.



to enter the college yesterday. The security measure came in the aftermath of a clash between the college students Star photo Wednesday.

Eden College tense: Attendance thin

By Staff Correspondent

An uneasy calm prevailed in the Eden Girls College in the capital Thursday following a clash between two rival groups of students Wednesday.

At least 20 girl students were injured in the clash between the activists of pro-government Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the supporters of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee at the college ground Wednesday after-

Attendance of the students at the college Thursday was very thin as many of them did not come fearing further clashes.

However, police has been posted at the entrance of the college to prevent further clashes. The students were allowed to enter the college campus after thorough identity check.

Authorities have advised

students to carry ID cards with them.

Many students were refused entry in the college for not having any identification document with them Thursday.

Talking to The Daily Star. the college Principal said that the situation of the college was normal Thursday. However, she admitted that

the presence of students on the campus was thin.

Leaders of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee in a statement Thursday blamed the Vice President of the College Students Union for terrorising the students on the campus and ransacking several rooms of their supporters at the college dormitory.

They also resented the fail ure of the Principal of the college to ensure security to the common students of the col-

Anti-terrorism ordn under Left fire

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties and professional organisations Thursday blasted the promulgation of the Curbing of Terrorist Activities Ordinance 1992 terming it a tool to oppress the opposition.

The Central Steering Committee of Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) at a meeting yesterday at the CPB office said such a controversial ordinance, promulgated ignoring Parliament, would not be good for the democratic system.

The meeting demanded withdrawal of the ordinance. The meeting was attended by Pankaz Bhattacharya, Maulana Abdur Rahman Azmee,

Alhaj Abdus Samad, Dilip Barua, Abdur Rauf and Ranesh Moitra. The convenor of central

Five-party Alliance, Khalequzzaman in a statement condemned the anti-terrorism ordinance and demanded its withdrawal.

He termed it as a black law and said that it was against the basic rights of the people.

He also urged all the democracy loving people to build up movement against the ordinance. The Acting President of the

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Shamsuddoha and general secretary, Nurul Islam Nahid in a joint statement said the anti-terrorism ordinance was not acceptable to the people and political parties.

They said the law was undemocratic as it did not have the sanction of Parliament and it could be used to suppress opposition politics.

Ganotantri Party criticized the ordinance saying that it was against the human rights and normal justice. If the government had been honest in eurbing terrorism it could do it under the existing laws, the statement issued by Azizul Islam Khan and Mohammad Afzal, President and General Secretary of the party said. They, called upon all political parties to be united against the ordinance.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) at a meeting of its

Central Executive body said the ordinance was aimed at using the state power in suppressing the dissidents and called it another form of terrorism.

BSS adds: Prof Mozaffar Ahmed, chief of National Awami Party (NAP-M), said people wanted peace and restoration of law and order in the country.

Giving his reaction on the promulgation of anti-terrorist ordinance, Prof. Mozaffar said people no longer want to hear high flown talks any more. What they want is action-oriented programmes which would ensure peace in the society enabling them to march ahead to progress, he said. Patkal Sramik Karmachari

Sangram Parishad, Bangladesh Khetmajur Samity, Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Samaj, and Bangladesh Nezame Islami Party also slated the ordinance.

Dr Kamal From Page 1 Col 8

law and order situation. This action committee should com prise members from professional groups and members of parliament belonging to both treasury and opposition benches. These members must enjoy the confidence and respect of the people, he stressed. Dr. Hossain strongly

pleaded for constituting a special parliamentary standing committee in this respect. The parliamentary standing committee should work constantly to monitor the law and order situation and take matching steps to contain this scourge. It should be equipped with necessary powers to direct the law enforcing agencies to swing into action forthwith when and where it (committee) deems fit, he observed.

Dr. Kamal Hossain expressed his apprehension saying that there was chance of anti-terrorism ordinance's abuse. What is needed at the moment is the will and determination of the government to deal with anarchy and terror-

Clash follows **BCIC** union polls results

DMCH Correspondent

Five employees of Bangla-desh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) were wounded in a clash between two rival unions over an election result in the capital Thursday. The injured were identified

as Jainal Abedin (23), Nazrul Islam (25), Lal Mia (35), Abdul Hye (25) and Abdur Rashid Witnesses said that a clash

between two rival unions of BCIC began immediately after announcement of results of the BCIC Karmachari Union Parishad polls Thursday evening. They said Belayet group

unionists attacked the activists of Lutfar Rahman Bhuiyan after being defeated in the polls. The injured were released from the Dhaka Medical Colle-

Shantibahini

ge Hospital after first aid.

See Page 12 Col 4 logue and fix a date and venue

Sources also said that the Shantibahini had accepted the formation of the government committee led by the Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed and agreed to hold a dialogue with it after the preparatory meeting with its "liaison committee" setting aside all its recent pre-conditions that included the formation of an all party parliamen tary committee instead of the present one and the withdrawal of all Bengali settlers from the hill districts.

However, sources further said that the liaison committee leader would make efforts to hold the preparatory meeting September 25 instead of September 28 if possible after contacting the PCJSS. The government had pla-

nned to hold a dialogue with the Shantibahini September 12 but it was deferred as the tribal rebels suddenly put forward some fresh conditions During Ershad's rule, six

rounds of talks were held between security officials and representatives of the Shantibahini on different occasions at Puigao area of Khagrachari district but all of them ended inconclusively because of some Shantibahini demands that infringed the sovereignty and Constitution of the country.

The government, eyeing the long-drawn hill tracts issue from political angle, made a fresh offer to hold a dialogue to achieve a peaceful solution.

Pound plunges

From Page 1 Col 7

Conservative lawmaker Andrew liunter called for the dismissal of Lamont, the chancellor of the exchequer

'He has presided over a failed policy. He lacks all credibility," Hunter said.

In Washington, the worst currency crisis in two decades emphasizes the urgent need for major countries to address the problem of getting bloated budget deficits under control, the head of the International

Monetary Fund said today. IMF Director Michel Camdessus praised world finance officials for taking the proper emergency actions to contain the turmoil in European currency markets.

He said that markets appeared to be stabilizing today and that there was no indication that the British pound was in any kind of "free fall."

*Inspite of the formidable turmoil and turbulence of the last few days, the system has demonstrated its remarkable resilience," Camdessus told reporters at IMF headquarters. The authorities have reacted with flexibility and have demonstrated their commitment to the system."

(Related Story on Page 6)

3m homeless in Pak floods

MULTAN, Pakistan, Sept 17: Officials today evacuated villages along the river Indus, swollen by churning waters of five tributaries, as it hurtled south leaving three million homeless in Pakistan's worst floods in decade, reports The river waters poured

through two vital irrigation barrages and army engineers raced to strengthen embankments.

Officials said they hoped the water pressure would not force them to breach more bunds and flood fertile cropland. "This is the most dreadful

tide in history," said Ali Tahir Zaidi, Deputy Commissioner of the town of Muzaffargarh from which half the population was evacuated. The death toll passed 950

as officials reported more deaths after breaches in embankments transformed much of central Punjab province into a red-brown lake dotted with thatched roofs and mango

The Midnight File

ME peace talks conclude

MOSCOW, Sept 17: Multilateral disarmament talks organised here as part of the joint US-Russian sponsored Middle East peace process ended today with no date being fixed for the next meeting, informed sources said Participants in the meeting, which took place behind closed doors, approved a text on arms control but its details were not made public. Syria boycotted the talks, linking its participation to progress in bilateral negotiations in Washington with Israel over return of the Golan Heights. reports AFP

OPEC to freeze crude output

GENEVA, Sept 17: OPEC Minister agreed today to freeze crude output near current levels for the rest of the year in bid to push oil prices up to their target of dollars 21 per barrel, Indonesian Minister Ginanjar Kartasamita said. The deal pegs fourth-quarter production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries at 24.2 million Barrels Per Day (BPD). ministers emerging from two days of strategy talks said, reports Reuter.

From Page 1 Col 7
Selected three places in the city as probable venues for

The three places were the western part of the Osmany Uddayan near Gulistan, the park between the Gulistan Cinema and the Bangabhaban and a play ground behind Saidabad bus terminal.

According to sources, the sub-committee will meet tomorrow morning to choose one of the three place. The committee is expected to send its recommendation to the parliamentary standing committee as soon as a consensus is reached.

Sources further said that the sub-committee has specially invited Mir Shawkat Ali and Salauddin Ahmed, two MPs of the Dhaka metropolitan area, to attend the meeting and put forward their suggestions in this regard.

The sub-committee has also asked different officials including the Secretary of the Works Ministry, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dhaka, and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Dhaka to be

Possessors of phones

dormitories, appeared peaceful in the last two weeks as the authorities launched a massive campaign to cleanse the campus of arms and violence.

way since the grisly killing on September 4 of two activists of pro-government Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

No clashes took place or no gunshots were heard on the violence-ridden campus in the last few days when classes and examinations were held peacefully, campus sources said.

In last few days, police swooped on all the male dor-



from a city residence: 3 held

Police in a early hour swoop apur area in the city and recovered weapons and huge

police at about 4-15 am

Police recovered a swed off 303 rifle, an Italian-made pistol, 119 rounds of 303 bullet, 26 chargets of rifles, 47 rounds of bullets of SMG, four rounds of SLR bullets, seven rounds of revolver shells, a machete and other sharp weapons from the residence.

rorist by police, was absconding. A case was lodged with

Public meeting venue

also expected to send a repre-

sentative to let the position of

the corporation regarding a

A sub-committee member

told The Daily Star that as fixa-

tion of a venue in the city con-

cerned many things including

availability of government land

with adequate space, traffic

movement in the city, conve-

nience of the citizens to attend

rallies etc., the sub-committee

had to consult all the con-

The committee member,

however, was optimistic that

they would soon send the rec-

ommendation to the Standing

Polytech teachers

From Page 1 Col 5

posts, from appearing in the

senior scale examinations for

promotion and regularisation

of the teachers recruited on

Khandaker Shahabuddin

Ahmed, President and

Shamsur Rahman, General

Secretary of the association,

expressed grievances for not

having their demands fulfilled.

Although, they alleged, the

government assured them sev-

strike BPTA also decided to

organise silent procession,

press conference and submit

memorandum to the Prime

Minister to press home its

Children

should be dedicated to the

child. Of the 50 billion dollars

of foreign aid being given to

developing countries, only 6.5

per cent goes to services such

as health and education," Grat

of the cost of the three-day

gathering, recommends that

some 20 per cent of a gov-

ernment's budget be set aside

Summit on Children, member

countries promised to develop

plans of action for the protec-

tion of the rights of the child.

The Colombo conference

brings together experts from

various child-related fields to

make more concrete proposals

on how to reach the goals set

in the national plans of action.

child rights workers in non-

governmental and state agen-

cies that not enough action is

following the words spouted

during years of conferences on

the subject. It is hoped that

the working groups on the

separate sectors will produce

reports with suggestions for

strategies that can lead to

faster results in the movement

to improve the condition of

delegates, comes from gov-

ernment lethargy and the bu-

reaucracy. In a number of

fields, non-government organi-

zations have done a far better

job than government pro-

mal education system in

Bangladesh, highly regarded

around the world and enjoying

a higher rate of success than

conference is concentrated on

the meagre presence of NGOs.

Though umbrella organizations

are represented, on the whole

this conference is govern-

ment-oriented. This may be an

obstacle to more assertive ac-

tion in terms of legislation,

establishment of indicator and

The other major document

that should emerge from the

conference is a declaration on

the rights of the child to be

drafted by the seven SAARC

countries. The declaration will

hopefully be ratified by the

head of state due to congregate

The second day of discus-

sions yielded draft reports to

be finalised by the working

groups Friday, before the dec-

laration and the close of the

in Dhaka this December.

Criticism of the Colombo

the state programme.

sheer efficiency.

An example is the non-for-

Inaction, according to many

children in the region.

grammes

There is a feeling among

In 1990, at the World

for essential services.

UNICEF, bearing the brunt

From Page | Col 4

Besides, the indefinite

eral times of doing so.

The statement issued by

cerned departments.

Committee.

adhoc basis.

demands.

suttable venue be known.

present at tomorrow's meeting and give their opinions. The Mayor of the City Corporation Mirza Abbas MP is

public rallies.

From Page 1 Col 8

Residents in the campus area Thursday said most terrorist and outsiders had ostensibly left the halls as the anti-terrorist drive got under-

mitories of the campus and recovered some illegal arms and ammunition. The authorities have given

ultimatum to the trouble-mongers to leave the campus while concerted efforts of the university administration, the government and police so far succeeded in a great deal to restore peace in the campus. The authorities Thursday

reportedly deployed additional contingents of police and paramilitary BDR in and around the campus and at some residential halls identified as the den of terrorists and outsiders.



By Staff Correspondent

Thursday arrested three people from a residence at Sutrquantity of ammunition. Officials said that Sutrapur

Thursday raided the residence of Golam Haider alias Mukut at Nandalal Duta Lane at Sutrapur and arrested Nurul Islam, Golam Murshed and Sajjad

The owner of the house Mukut, reported to be a ter-

Sutrapur Police.

conference. Related story on page 5

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