

Inside Today

Article

**Our Students and
Our Future: Are
We Really
Concerned?**

Column : On The
Record
by Shah A M S Kibria
Page 4

International

**Dalai Lama renews
appeal to China
for dialogue**



**Imelda declares Marcos
a genuine hero**
Page 5

Business

**Land reform key to lift
Japan from economic
recession**

**French opposition to
US-EC draft farm
trade accord
continues**
Pages 6, 7

Feature

Living

**Of Teddies and Other
Cuddlies; Happy with
People; Women and
Ornaments; Dabbling
in Modelling; Beauty
Tips; Cookery**
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



The Shoe-Shine Man
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Zia Ispahani calls on Hasina

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Zia Ispahani made a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Parliament office yesterday. They exchanged views on political and economic matters of common concern between Bangladesh and Pakistan, reports UNB.

Shahudul UNTAC CIVPOL chief

DIG of Police Shahudul Haque now in Cambodia on a UN mission has taken over the command of Civilian Police (CIVPOL) of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), official source said here yesterday, reports BSS.

ALPP meet Sept 11 By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held at 4pm on September 11 at the conference room of the office of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament in the Sangsad Bhaban. AL chief Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting.

260 Rohingyas go home

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 4: Two hundred sixty Rohingyas refugees voluntarily went back to their homes in Myanmar through the Jumnapara Transit Camp at Teknaf here today. Officials sources told BSS here tonight that local UNHCR and Bangladesh officials saw the refugees off while they were crossing the border.

Jordan backs accord likely to be signed Sept 13 Fatah okays Arafat's self-rule deal

TUNIS, Sept 4: Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat, who has battled for the backing of his historic autonomy accord with Israel, today won "total approval" from his top aides, report AFP, Reuter, AP.

Arafat said today his mainstream Fatah movement had approved a deal with Israel on Palestinian self-rule.

The project was approved and transferred to the other Palestinian leaderships," he told reporters here.

Fatah's central committee has met under Arafat on three successive nights to discuss the

draft agreement.

PLO spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo said there was "total agreement on the text" presented by Arafat to the meeting.

Bassam Abu Sharif, Arafat's political advisor, told TRT radio in Paris that the approval granted by the central committee was a victory for Arafat.

Arafat gave no date for the mutual recognition. But Israel Army radio said Saturday that the two sides have agreed on Sept 13 as a target date.

The United States has suggested Monday, September 13 as the date for the signing in Washington the agreement,

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said today.

An aide to Peres told Reuters the date at a Paris hotel where he was holding talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, who is mediating between Israel and the PLO.

Arafat said other participants in the US-sponsored peace talks were close to signing agreements with Israel, but he did not name countries. Jordan, Lebanon and Syria are taking part.

Arafat also won the crucial support of King Hussein of

Jordan for the plan to grant self-rule to the Palestinians of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

King Hussein said today that his country backed the PLO-Israeli accord for Palestinian self-rule.

The King told a press conference in Amman it was a serious 'step forward'.

Hussein had been lukewarm to the plan, fearing it will backfire and cause new turmoil in the region, sending another wave of Palestinian refugees pouring into his resource-poor kingdom.

See Page 12 Col 1



Workmen yesterday dismantling the massive bamboo frame of the imposing shamiana put up on the Manik Miah Avenue for the opening session of the fourth national council of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on September 1. —Star photo

PM to address UNGA Oct 1

By M Anwarul Haq

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on October 1. She is expected to lead a 25-member team to the world body.

Bangladesh Biman's New York route is likely to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister when she leaves with her entourage on the maiden flight of the national carrier on the night of September 29. The flight will also carry normal revenue passengers.

The Prime Minister is expected to return home October 7.

The official delegation to the United Nations General Assembly will also comprise a five-member team from the Foreign Office headed by Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman. Seven other officials of the Bangladesh's Permanent Mission in New York will join the team.

Ahead of the Prime Minister's scheduled visit, Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman leaves Dhaka on September 18 via London to attend the UNGA session which begins on September 21.

Begum Zia is expected to be among 20 other heads of state or government who are planning to attend the UNGA session.

According to informed sources there are more than 150 items listed in the UNGA agenda this year, the largest in recent years. The UNGA is expected to deal with global and regional issues including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, Mozambique, Western Sahara and Somalia. Other than economic, social and legal issues, the subject of peace and security centering around disarmament would be on top of the UNGA agenda.

Another important subject expected to dominate the 48th UN General Assembly is related to "restructuring and re-vitalisation" of the world body. The UN, plagued by a cash crisis and shortage of adequate funds for its global peacekeeping role — which has expanded considerably in recent times — shall also figure prominently in the UNGA session.

Begum Zia, in her address to the august body on October 1, is expected to touch on a number of key issues and speak on

democracy, its success and consolidation in Bangladesh. She is also expected to make a call for taking more concrete steps for world peace and security with special emphasis to the region. The Bangladesh Prime Minister is also likely to appeal to the world body and its members to avoid double standards in international relations. Bangladesh's role in the UN peace keeping operations will also be highlighted.

The key elements of the Prime Minister's speech are now under preparation by officials concerned. Sources said, the Prime Minister has herself briefed the officials on the vital themes she would like to focus before the world body.

A decision on whether the Prime Minister should deliver her address in English or Bangla is yet to be finalised. However, the Prime Minister may choose to speak in Bangla. A source in the Prime Minister's office said, the PM would normally want to speak in Bangla to focus Bangladesh in its right linguistic perspective. She had spoken eloquently in English in several international conferences.

See Page 12 Col 7

JS body on Foreign Ministry visits Rohingya camps

TEKNAF (Cox's Bazar), Sept 4: The members of the sub-committee of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Foreign Ministry, led by Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, visited Rongkhali transit camp and Rohingya refugee camps of Rongkhali and Noapara-1 on Friday, reports BSS.

The members of the sub-committee went round the camps, openly exchanged views with the inmates of the camps and inquired about their welfare.

The minister was accompanied by committee members including Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, Major (Retd) Hossain Ahmed of the BNP, Additional Secretary (Law Adviser) of the Foreign Ministry Shamsul Morshed, Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Omar Faruque, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Golum Murtaza, Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Enamul Kabir and related officials.

Earlier, Chittagong divisional commissioner gave detailed briefings to the sub-committee members at his office chamber

Joint appraisal team for Jamuna Bridge arrives today

Star Report

A joint appraisal mission of the 690 million US dollar Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project, comprising representatives from the World Bank, ADB and OECF of Japan, will arrive today in the city, according to official sources.

The seven-member WB mission is expected to be headed by Ismail Mobarak, Principal Board Maritime Specialist, while the missions of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) comprising seven members each will be headed by B K Gupta, Senior Project Engineer and Kei Hare, Director, respectively.

The joint mission will stay in Bangladesh until September 20

and take decisions on a number of unresolved issues for preparing the appraisal report.

The three co-financiers of the project have, in the meantime, agreed to finance the project after being convinced of its viability, but they are yet to decide the method of co-financing.

The appraisal mission will firm up the project processing schedule besides taking decision on the method of co-financing. A number of technical issues, including the environmental aspects of the project, will also be resolved by the mission.

The crucial negotiations between the World Bank and the government for financing the

See Page 12 Col 4

Taka convertibility Foreign goods may be dearer from Oct

By Sohel Manzur

The prices of imported goods are likely to pick up immediately after the Taka is made fully convertible in October this year because of a possible sharp depreciation of the currency, banking sources apprehended.

Although the country has a formidable reserve of foreign exchange, the importers would have to buy those at much higher prices than ever before because of an artificial crisis that is most likely to persist at least for a few months, following the convertibility of Taka, the sources said.

They said that the Bangladesh Bank has directed the dealers of foreign exchange to keep the difference between buying and selling prices of the dollar within 20 paisa, increasing it from the previous limit of 10 paisa. The provision for keeping the limit would be re-

moved immediately after announcement of the Taka's full convertibility which may lead to an unexpected rise in the prices of the dollar, the sources said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a high official of a nationalised commercial bank said the possibility of such a rise in the dollar price cannot be ruled out in a totally deregulated exchange market that is in the offing. The exchange rates would be determined by the market forces and the banks would have to rationalise the prices when the market would be more competitive, he said.

The official said the city branches of all the private and nationalised commercial banks would start fixing up exchange rates on their own and continue trading independently. All necessary equipment, including the Reuters moneyline, are being

See Page 12 Col 8

Export-oriented units may get tax concessions

Export-oriented industries outside the country's Export Processing Zone (EPZ) are likely to be provided with the tax concessions now being enjoyed by the industries within the EPZ, reports PROBE.

The board of governors of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA), which meets here today with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, is expected to consider a proposal in this regard, a highly placed source told PROBE yesterday.

Industries set up in the EPZ enjoy all sorts of tax holiday for 10 years from the date of commencement of commercial production. Capital machinery — imported for setting up industries in the EPZ area — are also exempted from customs duties and VAT. Moreover, tax on dividends has also been waived.

The concessions under which foreign entrepreneurs can also remit their profit without paying any tax have been enforced to attract more foreign investment.

The proposal came from the BEPZA after it had faced problems while considering a joint

venture export-oriented industrial project to be set up outside the EPZ. The sponsors of the project argued that they should get the concessions which are aimed to increase foreign investment in the country.

The Nichimen Corporation of Japan has signed an agreement with the A K Khan Group to set up an export-oriented modern textile industry outside the EPZ. According to BEPZA, all sorts of export-oriented industries, irrespective of location, should get the same concession or facilities as industries within the EPZ.

The BEPZA board of governors will also consider the use of hi-tech and non hi-tech in the EPZ industries, the source said.

The BEPZA has evaluated the value added situation in the hi-tech and non hi-tech industries. According to the evaluation, the contribution of non hi-tech industries is much higher than the hi-tech industries.

Electronics industries, which are considered hi-tech industries, contributed only 15.44 per cent value addition last year

See Page 12 Col 7

Private bill for repeal of Anti-Terrorism Act placed

A private bill seeking repeal of the Anti-Terrorism Act was submitted to Parliament Secretariat yesterday, reports UNB.

K M Jahangir MP of the Awami League said he had submitted the bill titled Anti-Terrorism Act (Repeal) Bill, 1992 under Rule 72 (1) of the Rules of Procedure.

In the statement of object of the bill, it was stated that the law should be scrapped as it is being abused in victimising opposition leaders and workers since its enactment.

In some cases, it said, innocent supporters and workers of the ruling party are being harassed following intra-party conflicts.

Corrupt policemen are also using the act as a weapon for illegal earning, the statement alleged, adding that the law has created panic among the people all over the country.

The statement termed the act as contrary to fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Besides, all political parties, professional groups and social organisations have demanded repeal of the act, describing it as a bad law.

Movement against terrorism GF's maiden venture

Star Report

The newly-formed party Gano Forum (GF) headed by Dr Kamal Hossain is likely to begin its activities by launching a countrywide movement against terrorism.

The programmes of the movement as well as plans for organisational activities will be discussed at the first meeting of the Executive Council of the party which begins Tuesday afternoon. The Executive Council comprises the 12-member Council of Chairmen and the Secretariat consisting another 12.

Meanwhile, the 7-member Steering Committee, the

See Page 12 Col 6

Contaminated milk seized in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 4: Detective Branch (DB) Metropolitan Police in three separate raids in the city this evening recovered contaminated milk powder and smuggled spices worth over Taka two crore.

Acting on a tip off the DB personnel recovered 27,000 kgs of milk powder from the godown of H Akbar Ali at Sadarghat Road and 12,500 kgs from the godown of Nasir Brothers at Station Road. The value of the seized milk was estimated at Taka one crore.

In another operation at the godown of Apollo Store at Khatunganj here, smuggled spices worth Taka one crore were seized. But details were not available in this regard as the officials were staying at the spots at the time of filing this report.

FBUTA strike today and Wednesday

By DU Correspondent

The country's university teachers will observe a strike today and Wednesday demanding arrest and trial of the persons involved in the violence at two universities in July last.

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Associations (FBUTA) has called the strike protesting the terrorist activities at the Jahangirnagar University on July 29 and at the Islamic University on July 5.

However the examinations scheduled for these two days will be exempted from the strike, a FBUTA press release said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), in a press release yesterday, supported the FBUTA programme. The teachers of different universities across the country will bring out a silent procession from near the Aparajee Bangla statue at the Dhaka University at 10 in the morning on Wednesday which will end at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Muslims stream out of Croat-held areas

SARAJEVO, Sept 4: Muslim refugees are flooding out of Croat-controlled areas in western Bosnia-Herzegovina, including recent detainees with broken fingers, bruises and other signs of torture, UN officials said Saturday, reports AP.

The exodus appeared to be a deliberate attempt to purge the region of Muslims ahead of any agreement to divide the republic into Serb, Muslim and Croat components.

The refugee wave was cresting in the Jablanica area west of Sarajevo, where most of the expulsions occurred in late August, said Ray Wilkinson, a Sarajevo-based spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Personal possessions were strewn on the road from the last Croat checkpoint into Jablanica, indicating the civilians had fled in terror, Wilkinson said. Many arrive without

possessions... many people are already begging for bread on the streets.

All three groups have been accused of ethnic cleansing in the 17-month-long war that has left up to 200,000 people dead or missing and 2 million homeless, though Serbs have been accused of the worst atrocities.

About 1,200 Muslim refugees, mostly women, children and elderly people, arrived in Jablanica on Aug 24 and Aug 27 from Capljina and Stolac in Bosnian Croat-held Herzegovina, Wilkinson said. Local officials expect more refugees.

Fighting-age men from Croat detention camps also arrived in Jablanica. Wilkinson quoted a refugee agency official in the town as saying detainees from a Croat camp at Detelj had broken fingers and bruises on their upper bodies.

Many men were extremely emaciated and looked like con-

centration camp victims from World War II. Wilkinson quoted the field representative as saying, "The image evoked memories of tortured Muslim prisoners released early this year by Serbs."

Reports that 2,000 people had been expelled from Croat-held Prozor, and up to 3,000 people from towns east of Mostar were difficult to confirm because the UN representative spent only a few hours in Jablanica, he said.

Mostar was tense Saturday following an explosion of tank and mortar fire Friday that shattered a two-day truce and set back UN efforts to build confidence between the once-allied Muslims and Croats in the divided city.

Meanwhile, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said today the disrupted Bosnian peace talks might resume in Geneva

in the third week of September. "I believe the talks will continue in the week after next," Izetbegovic told a news conference in Istanbul.

He said the Bosnian side has not changed its position and he did not know if the Serbs and Croats had agreed to take part in the talks if and when they resume. Izetbegovic will meet with the full UN Security Council on Tuesday in New York, western diplomats said Friday.

Izetbegovic was also planning to meet separately with the non-aligned member of the Security Council, including Pakistan, Morocco and Venezuela, which strongly support the Muslim government's position, diplomats said.

He is also to meet with UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and may meet separately with the five permanent members of the top UN body, diplomats said.

Overloaded transformers blamed for power cuts

Star Report

Power disruptions in the Dhaka metropolitan area have recently increased causing much hardship to the electricity consumers. Of late city dwellers in most areas have been facing frequent power failures, at least twice or thrice a day.

The authorities concerned, who admit the existence of the growing problem, attribute it to the overloading of the transformers. About 900 transformers out of 4000 in the capital city are overloaded while more than 200 have been lying damaged and in need of immediate repair.

The existing power supply system in the city is totally inadequate to cope with the ever-growing demand, said a well-placed source in the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA).

The source indicated that

the problem is unlikely to be solved soon since development work of the power supply infrastructure in the DESA area has been moving at a slow pace.

The third phase of the DESA's electrification programme is aimed at improving the supply system which would minimise the power disruptions. But the implementation of the five-year programme, that began in 1988, is being delayed and is now likely to be completed in 1995.

"It is not shortage of funds, but some procedural bottlenecks regarding issue of work orders which have caused the delay," explained a DESA official.

See Page 12 Col 8