



Inside Today

Article

Taka Should be Put
on a Free Flow
Column: Along My Way
by S B Chaudhuri
Page 4

International

OIC supports Palesti-
nian self-rule plan



Sihanouk decides to
restore ties with
UN mission
Page 5

Business

China accuses US of
violating bilateral, int'l
trade pacts

Newsmen can help
formulate national
energy policy,
says Huda
Pages 6, 7

Feature

Development

The Numerical Mani-
pulation of Population;
ADB Enters Birth
Control Battle; Does it
Really Work? Where
People Float
In and Out
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



A US Drama Direc-
tor All Praise for
Local Talent
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Tk 17.50cr
Dutch grant

Bangladesh will receive a grant of approximately Taka 17.50 crore equivalent to 7,863 million Dutch guilders for the crop diversification project phase-two under a memorandum of understanding, signed between the two countries here yesterday, reports BSS.

Panni leaves for Cyprus

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni left for Cyprus early yesterday morning to attend the 39th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which began there on September 3. Panni is leading a four member Bangladesh delegation to the conference, reports UNB.

Gano Forum EC meets tomorrow

The first meeting of the Executive Council of the Gano Forum will be held at the Hotel Rendezvous Sundaram, Motijheel at 5pm tomorrow. All members of the council have been requested to attend the meeting, reports BSS.

Dhaka div Nirmul body confe today

By Staff Correspondent
The Dhaka divisional conference of the Ghatok Dalai Nirmul Samanaya Committee will be held at the Ali Ahmed Chunka auditorium in Narayanganj today. Dr Khan Sarwar Morshed will inaugurate the conference at 10 in the morning. Samanaya committee convenor Jaharara Imam will address the conference as chief guest.

PLO-Israel peace deal likely to be delayed

JERUSALEM, Sept 5: Cabinet ministers expressed hope today that Israel and the PLO would sign peace agreements on September 13 but a Palestinian source in Washington said a delay was likely, reports Reuter.

The United States has proposed September 13 as the date for the signing in Washington of the Israeli-PLO agreement on principles, which offers Palestinians early autonomy in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Environment Minister Yossi

Sarid said Israel and the PLO were still working out the final details of mutual recognition.

"Let's hope that the two agreements will be signed at the same time," Sarid told reporters.

The Palestinian source in Washington said the PLO and Israel would reach agreement this week on recognising each other, which they have to do before they can publicly sign their outline agreement on self-rule.

But he said PLO institutions

could take up to a month to approve the document.

Asked if the deal could still be signed a week on Monday, the source said: "I don't think so . . . the (PLO) executive committee is meeting Thursday, after that the central council. It is going to take some time."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on CBS television today that Israel would be ready before September 13 to sign a peace deal with the PLO, but a Palestinian official said approval could take two or three

weeks.

PLO strategist Nabil Shaath said on the same programme, "It is possible but highly improbable" that the PLO would get the approval it needed by September 13.

Shaath said it would probably take two or three weeks to get approval from the executive committee and the central council.

However, Shaath said there would likely be statements on mutual PLO-Israeli recognition

See Page 12 Col 4



Inspite of the eviction drive by the Dhaka City Corporation and police against street hawkers a large number of vendors carry on with impunity on the Bishwa Road near Malibagh Bazar.

— Star photo

Rao gets opposition mandate to better ties with China

NEW DELHI, Sept 5: India and China, whose relations improved decisively after the collapse of the Soviet Union, will discuss ways next week to get along with the United States, diplomats and politicians said today, reports Reuter.

Indian opposition leaders said they had given a rare unanimous mandate to Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao to improve relations with China during his three-day visit to Beijing starting on Monday.

But, they said, differences over India's future ties with the United States had sharpened recently after Washington pressured Russia to cancel a cryogenic rocket engine deal with New Delhi.

The United States also announced sanctions last month against China and Pakistan, charging Beijing with transferring forbidden missile technology to Islamabad.

Indian analysts said that

Washington's move was as arbitrary as its steps against India's rocket deal.

The United States has provided sufficient motivation to India and China to get together in opposing US hegemonism, said K Subramanyam, a defence expert close to the government. Chinese diplomats said Rao and Chinese premier Li Peng could sign an agreement to demarcate a ceasefire line separating their troops since the two neighbours fought a brief border war in 1962.

Indian officials said they were hopeful the agreement, a major component of confidence building measures they have proposed along the 4,056 km border, would eventually lead to a final settlement of the Himalayan boundary.

We are in no hurry to sign a border agreement. But the nation is unanimous that we should improve relations with China, the leader of the opposition said.

Indian diplomats say New Delhi has raised with Beijing the issue of Chinese arms supplies to arch-rival Pakistan. India is also worried Chinese arms in neighbouring Myanmar could be acquired by Maoist rebels in the northeastern Assam state.

Rao is expected to discuss the issue with Li.

Lawyers in Ctg continue to boycott CMM court

From Nurul Alam
CHITTAGONG, Sept 5: No step is in sight to break the deadlock prevailing for the last 56 days following the boycott of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court by the lawyers.

Replies to a question the Bar president claimed that the lawyers had occupied the room legally with the consent of the then government.

However, replying to another question Mahbub Uddin said the boycott would continue until further decision of his association.

Turning to the lawyers' boycott, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Matiur Rahman claimed that it had not at all affected his court since the lawyers were 'indirectly engaged' to help their clients move the cases on their own.

"Rather, the court is functioning very smoothly while the case disposal rate has marked an increase in my court," the CMM also claimed, saying that now it takes only two minutes — as against five minutes earlier — to run a case due to the 'self-conducting process.'

Regarding the eviction of the lawyers from the room in question, the CMM said the police

action was carried out legally because some lawyers illegally occupied a court room without having any proper allotment from the authorities concerned.

The police went into action after the lawyers refused to vacate the room, claiming that their accommodation problem had become acute at the court building with the recent return of the Thana Court Magistracy to the headquarters, the CMM added.

"This is a law court building. No professional group has any right to occupy any room by force," the CMM also said.

The CMM added: "Now the ball is in the court of the lawyers for breaking the stalemate."

During a visit to the Chittagong court building this correspondent found some lawyers prompting their clients with the conduct of their own cases in the CMM's court. But those lawyers came out of the court room once the CMM arrived to call the court to order.

JP announces 7-pt programme

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party (JP) yesterday announced a series of programmes including a rally in Dhaka to demand resignation of the present government and mid-term elections under a neutral interim government.

The agitation programmes were finalised after the party Central Working Committee's today meeting, held at the Dhaka District Sports Association Auditorium (DDSA) in the city.

District and thana-level leaders of the party addressed the meeting and urged the central leaders to plan anti-government programmes.

The extended meeting adopted a seven-point charter of demands that also includes release of the jailed JP leader and former President HM Ershad, eradication of terrorism from the campuses, restoration of the Upazila system, checking smuggling and protecting the local industries.

The meeting resolved that the party would observe a 'demand week' from September 10 demanding fulfilment of the aforesaid demands. The central leaders also would tour the districts for mass contacts from October 7 and a grand rally would be organised in the city. However, the date for the planned rally was not decided.

See Page 12 Col 1

Prisoners in Feni boycott court

FENI, Sept 5: The undertrial prisoners in the sub-jail here have not been appearing in the court for two days demanding removal of the District and Sessions Judge, reports UNB.

Sources said all the 235 prisoners signed a memorandum and submitted it through the Sub-jailor to the Deputy Commissioner.

They alleged that the Judge, Shah Jamsedur Rahman, did not examine witnesses and took unnecessary long time in delivering judgement.

The DC termed the stand of the prisoners illegal and said necessary action would be taken against them.

"It's duty of the administration to make sure that the prisoners appear in the court," he said without disclosing what step the administration would take in this regard.

The Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super visited the jail.

WB concerned over wage increase in public sector

By S Y Bakht

Project (JSRP).

Announced on July 17 amid mounting pressure from the SKOP, the new basic pay would increase the minimum salary of a public sector industrial worker to Tk 1493 per month, up from the previous minimum of Tk 1103.

According to an officials source, the government announced enhancing the minimum basic pay of public sector industrial workers to Tk 950 per month, nearly derailed the ongoing negotiations for securing World Bank financing for the Jute Sector Restructuring

See Page 12 Col 4

Simple interest on agricultural loans

The government has decided to impose simple interest on agricultural loans from July 1 this year to ease the burden of loan of the small and marginal farmers, reports BSS.

A Bangladesh Bank press release issued here yesterday said simple interest will be charged on all agricultural loans subject to their repayment within stipulated time.

But if any loanee does not repay the loan during the next six months of the specified time then compound interest will be charged on the loan from the date of receiving it. After the size of the principal is doubled with interest, no other interest will be charged on the loan, it added.

Reasonable incentive rebate may be given to the loanee if they repay the loans within stipulated time. The banks and institutions advancing agricultural loans will themselves be able to decide the rate of rebate. These facilities will be applied.

See Page 12 Col 8

Canal digging programme lagging behind target

By Inam Ahmed

The government's canal digging programme has been lagging behind its target because of some inherent weaknesses, according to a recent report.

The report, prepared by the Planning Commission, found that voluntary labour for canal digging seldom works and projects are not always prioritised according to the need of the people.

The report, based on a sample of 100 projects throughout the country, will be reviewed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on September 9, sources said.

The canal digging projects were supposed to be done under

Food-for-Work programme and by voluntary labour. However, in most cases, voluntary labour was not put in and canals were dug only under Food-for-Work.

This resulted in the digging of shallow canals which often have failed in their objectives of facilitating irrigation.

In some instances, authorities of different educational institutions raised money from the students and employed paid labourers replacing the voluntary labour system.

Also, on many occasions villagers objected to the digging of canals on their farm lands.

See Page 12 Col 7

Hasina ill,
cancels tour

PM's directive to implement SAARC summit decisions

SAARC Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday directed all concerned to accelerate the implementation of the decisions taken at the Seventh SAARC summit, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister was presiding over the meeting of the ministerial sub-committee on follow-up action on the decisions of the Seventh SAARC summit held at the International Conference centre here.

Earlier on August 2, WB Vice President for the South Asian region Joseph Wood, in a letter to the Finance Minister, expressed concern about the viability of the jute sector and

See Page 12 Col 1

No classes held as DU teachers observe strike

By DU Correspondent
No classes were held at the Dhaka University yesterday as the teachers observed a day-long strike demanding arrest and trial of the persons involved in the violence at two universities in July last.

However, some department offices and seminars remained open yesterday. The presence of students on the campus was thin.

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Associations (FBUTA) called a two-day strike on Sunday and next Wednesday protesting the terrorist activities at the Jahangirnagar University on July 29 and at the Islamic University on July 5 last.

According to the FBUTA no classes were held at Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, BUET and the Agricultural universities because of the strike. Jahangirnagar and Islamic universities have since been closed. Examinations were, however, See Page 12 Col 1

Hasina ill,
cancels tour

By Staff Correspondent
Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina was taken ill and has been advised complete rest by her physicians, AL sources said yesterday.

The Awami League chief has cancelled her scheduled programmes of visiting Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur and Saidpur from Sept 7 to 9 because of her sudden illness.

Sheikh Hasina is under the treatment of Dr M A Malek, Prof Mahmudul Hasan, and Prof M A Quadri.

The scheduled public meetings and peasant gatherings at Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur and Saidpur, however,