

Inside Today

Special News Focus

Special News Focus
on Elections in Pa-
kistan : Interviews
of PML's Sartaj
Aziz and the PPP's
Zia Ispahani
by Mahfuz Anam
Page 8

Article

A Month of Re- membrance and Resolution

Column: Passing
Clouds
by Zillur Rahman
Siddiqui
Page 4

International

Clinton asks 9
Arab states to back
Israeli-PLO deal



Rigoberta Menchu,
1992 Nobel Peace Prize
laureate and the UN
Goodwill Ambassador
for 1993 salutes the
gathering of indigenous
people in Sydney
Page 5

Business

India plans massive
reforms in overstaffed
banking sector

Taka convertibility :
A commendable step
forward in right di-
rection; commentary
by Abu Ahmed
Pages 6, 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Life of a Campus
Terrorist
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

730 bags powdered milk seized

The City Special Branch
Police yesterday seized 730 bags
of powdered milk worth about
Tk 30 lakh from a godown at
Imamganj on suspicion that the
milk is contaminated, reports
UNB.

Madrasah-e-Alia reopens Sept 13

Classes of the Madrasah-e-Alia
will start from September 13, according to a press release
of the madrasah here last
night. The decision was taken
at a meeting of the teachers
council of the madrasah with
its Principal Sikdar Mohammad
Yunus in the chair, reports BSS.

Forged passports, seals recovered

A special squad of the
Criminal Investigation Depart-
ment yesterday seized a large
number of forged passports,
seals and other papers from an
office room of two commercial
firms at Motijheel and arrested
one person in this connection,
reports BSS.

Arafat fails to win public support from Damascus

DAMASCUS, Sept 6: PLO
chairman Yasser Arafat left
Damascus today after failing to
win a public endorsement from
Syrian President Hafez al-Assad
for his proposed peace agree-
ment with Israel, report Reuter,
AFP, AP.

Assad's spokesman, speak-
ing after Arafat's meeting with
the President on Sunday, said
the Syrian leader had told the
PLO chief it was up to the
Palestinians to decide what
suited them.

During six hours of talks in
Damascus, Arafat failed to
win the support from a reluc-
tant president of Syria, Israel's
chief foe in the Middle East, who
threw the ball back in the
Palestinian court.

Talks between Assad and
Arafat dealt with the PLO-Israel
agreement reached in secret

talks between the two sides in
Norway. Syrian presidential
spokesman Jabran Kourieh
said.

Assad's cool response fell
short of outright endorsement
but allowed Arafat to press
ahead with his peace plan. The

TUNIS, Sept 6: A PLO official said today the organisation ex-
pected a PLO-Israel deal on mutual recognition within two
days. "There is progress and the surprise is expected very
soon, within two days," the official, who is close to the
talks with Israel, told Reuters.

PLO leader's campaign to drum
up support was boosted when
he received backing from the
oil-rich Gulf Arab states.

"I am very happy to have
made this visit. We exchanged
points of view with President
Assad and I hope we will thus
be able to pursue our difficult
route in historic circum-

stances," Arafat told reporters
on leaving.

"I thank President Assad in
the name of my people."

Arafat cautioned that the
signing of the accord on autonomy
starting in the Gaza strip and
West Bank town of Jericho

was "linked to other questions
which have not yet been re-
solved."

Two senior PLO leaders
based in Damascus, George
Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh,
refused to meet the organisation's
chairman during his one-day visit.

The Popular Front for the
People's Liberation of Palestine
was also present.

See Page 12 Col 2



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating the Zia Memorial Museum at the Circuit House in Chittagong yesterday. Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Environment and Forests Minister Abdullah-Al-Noman and State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum are also seen.

— PID photo

'Education a weapon against poverty'

MIRESARAI (Chittagong),
Sept 6: Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia today termed education
one of the effective
weapons for eradicating poverty
and said her government had
attached top priority to this sector,
reports UNB.

She was addressing a function
at the S N Government
Primary School on the occasion
of inaugurating the government's
"Food for Education" programme in Miresarai thana.

The Prime Minister launched
the countrywide programme on
August 29 aiming to encourage
the poor and underprivileged
boys and girls to go to school.

The literacy scheme, which
adds a new dimension to the
compulsory primary education
programme, has been undertaken
initially in one backward
union of each thana across the
country.

Some 1,24,000 tons of food
— See Page 12 Col 6

WB minor irrigation projects run aground

By a Special Correspondent

The decline in sale of irrigation
equipment during the last
fiscal year has little chance of
reversal in the near future be-
cause very little progress has
been achieved in using the 120
million dollars available since
mid-1991 for purchase of shallow
and deep tubewells.

In mid-1991 two credits were
signed with the World Bank (WB)
to finance farmers' in-
vestment in irrigation equipment
through the private sector.

The money was to be available
to private dealers through
commercial banks for import of
minor irrigation equipment.

The first among the two credits
was to finance the National
Minor Irrigation Development
Project. This money was ex-
pected to be used by the farmers
to buy around 80,000 shallow
tubewells and low-lift power
tillers.

There has been very little in-
vestment. — See Page 12 Col 8

Li, Rao for closer ties

BEIJING, Sept 6: Indian
Prime Minister P V Narasimha
Rao met with his Chinese counter-
part Monday at the start of a
state visit that could lead to
troop reductions along their
disputed border, reports AP.

Rao met with Premier Li
Peng at the state guest house
shortly after arriving in Beijing.
The Indian prime minister is to
meet several other leading
Chinese officials during his
four-day visit.

Most attention will focus on
whether the world's two most
populous countries can reach
an agreement on troop reductions
along their border, which
has been in dispute since a 21-
day war in 1962.

Indian Foreign Secretary
Jyotindra Nath Dixit told re-
porters in New Delhi last week
that the groundwork for such
an agreement was ready.

Thousands of square kilome-
ters are in dispute. Officials
have met six times since 1988

— See Page 12 Col 3

Maneka Gandhi in city

By Staff Correspondent

Maneka Gandhi, a former
Indian Environment Minister
under VP Singh, arrived in
Dhaka yesterday afternoon on a
two-day trip to Bangladesh.

During her stay, Maneka
Gandhi, widow of Sanjay
Gandhi, will attend as chief guest
a workshop on "Women and the
Environment" in the capital.

Sponsored by the National
Association for Resource Im-
provement (NARI), the day-long
workshop and an "ECO" exhibi-
tion begins today at 9am at
Somargao Hotel.

The main objective of the
workshop is to review the im-
plications of Agenda 21 adopted
at the Rio Earth Summit in the
context of women and Bang-
ladesh.

AL legal notice On DCC mayor

A legal notice has been is-
sued on the Mayor of Dhaka
City Corporation asking for
withdrawal of the rent imposed
for holding public meetings in
certain areas of the city, reports
UNB.

Barrister K S Nabi served the
notice on Saturday on behalf of
Awami League General Secretary
Zillur Rahman, an Awami
League press release said last
night.

The City Corporation last
month imposed a rent of Tk
25,000 for holding public
meetings at the Manik Mia
Avenue and Tk 15,000 at
Motijheel and Panthapath.

The notice said holding pub-
lic meetings is a fundamental
right guaranteed in Article 37 of
the Constitution. There is no
provision of rent for public
meetings in the Dhaka Municipal
Corporation Ordinance of
1983 or in any other rules and
regulations under the
Ordinance.

Private company to help govt in mass literacy programme

By Staff Correspondent

Some seven lakh 40 thou-
sand people, both young and
old, in the country can neither
read nor write, according to the
available statistics.

Everyday, about 5,000 peo-
ple add up to the volume of the
illiterate mass. The number of
the educated people is on the
rise but the rate of literacy is
still very low because of the
population growth.

With this grim scenario in
the backdrop, a non-profit pri-
vate company made its debut
yesterday with a promise of
drumming up a broad-based
campaign to mobilise people in
the mass literacy programme of
the government.

The company — Nijera
Shikhi (Let's Teach Ourselves)
— would work as a supplement
to the government efforts
for building up a nation of educated
people, its proponents
announced.

Speaking at a press confer-
ence at the Jatiya Press Club
yesterday afternoon, directors of
the Nijera Shikhi said that the
company would work for the
promotion of non-formal pri-
mary education as well as adult
literacy by its own education
service delivery.

The company plans to mo-
bilise, organise and support
See Page 12 Col 5

Mizan denies any threat from Raushan

Acting chairman of the
Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman
Chowdhury yesterday denied
the knowledge of any surreptitious
move by a party stalwart to
replace him with Begum
Raushan Ershad, reports UNB.

"It is the leadership of Ho-
ssain Mohammed Ershad, not
anyone else, that really matters in
the Jatiya Party," Mizan said
while reacting to reports that a
JP stalwart, who returned home
after a long stay abroad, was
making clandestine moves to
replace him by Begum Ershad
as acting chief of the party.

Lending no credence to the
report, Mizan Chowdhury, on
the contrary, observed: "Whether
I or anyone else is the
acting chairman of the party, it
is Hossain Mohammed Ershad
who is the guiding spirit and
tower of strength for the party.
He is leading the party from jail.
The party is being run in accordance
with the directives he is
issuing from time to time from

— See Page 12 Col 6

NBR order negates govt decision : BGMEA chief

By Staff Correspondent

President of the Bangladesh
Garments Manufacturers' and
Exporters' Association (BGMEA)
Redwan Ahmed, MP, Monday
slated the recent introduction of
duty and tax rebate on imports
of capital machinery and spares
for the export-oriented indus-
tries.

He said the government deci-
sion of allowing the 100 per
cent export-oriented industries
to import capital machinery and
spares free of duty and taxes
without any restrictions had not
been honoured.

The decision making the fa-
cilities enjoyed by the industries

— See Page 12 Col 2



Three tiny enthusiasts trying to decipher the Bangla
alphabets on a billboard put up yesterday at Shantinagar as
part of a city campaign in observance of the World Mass
Literacy Day tomorrow.

— Star photo

'Golden handshake' in Food Ministry hits snag

By Inam Ahmed and Sohel Manzur

But in the first year, the go-
vernment could mobilise only Tk
15 crore from its own fund
which was too meagre to meet
the demand.

According to a high official of
the Food Ministry, there has
been an allocation of Tk 18
crore in this year's budget for
the Food Ministry's retrench-
ment programme. But this
money has not yet been trans-
ferred to the ministry's fund
thus making the fate of the pro-
gramme uncertain.

However, a highly placed
source in the ministry said
without elaborating that the
rest of the fund may be avail-
able "very soon."

The plan to scale down the
number of staff in the Food
Ministry was taken up last year
following the government's 'Golden
Handshake' programme.

The rest of the applicants
had been notified that due to
shortage of funds they could
not be accommodated under the
programme, sources said.

The requirement for the pro-
gramme was about Tk 35 crore.

But Food Ministry sources
said the number of excess
manpower in the food sector
could not be ascertained since
this is not a 'service-oriented'
sector like the railways.

Bangladesh High Commis-
sioner in Pakistan Anwar Ha-
shim is expected to join the
Ministry as Additional Secretary
in the near future.

Mohituddin Ahmed is now
holding the office of the senior