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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**College girls from Sylhet meet PM**

A student delegation of the Sylhet Women's College last night called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office. Led by Vice-President of the college student union Samia Begum Chowdhury, the delegation apprised the Prime Minister of various problems of the college and its students. The Prime Minister said she would look into their problems, reports BSS.

**Plea to withdraw NBR order**

By Staff Correspondent  
The Bangladesh Economic Development Forum (BEDF), in a statement yesterday, urged the government to withdraw the recent NBR order introducing duty and tax rebate on the import of capital machinery and spares for the industries. The statement, issued by its president Abul Kashem Haider, said the order would hinder the growth of export-oriented industries.

**Drive against oil adulteration**

By Staff Correspondent  
The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has launched a drive to test the purity of edible oil in the capital and its outskirts.  
A spokesman in the Department said last night that a special CID team had collected samples from 20 factories in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Fatahah, Sonarganj and Savar, and sent them for chemical tests.

## Arafat blames Israel for delay Uncertainty clouds ME peace talks

WASHINGTON, Sept 8: Rocky negotiations on mutual Israeli-PLO recognition and public demonstrations in Israel against a plan for Palestinian self-rule clouded the Middle East peace talks today, report Reuters, AP.

A protest in Jerusalem that drew 60,000 people shows "there is a constituency that needs to be convinced" of the merits of the self-rule plan, one Israeli official said in Washington.

Nevertheless, the largely ceremonial discussions at the State Department continued between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators.

Yasser Arafat arrived in Tunis today to ask the PLO's ruling Executive Committee to approve a deal with Israel allowing for limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho.

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, for the first time, said today Israel would recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation on certain terms, reports Reuters.

Arafat faces opposition from radical PLO factions and the meeting, scheduled for Wednesday night, promised to be stormy.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman arrived in Tunis this evening from Cairo. He stopped over in Egypt on a flight from Oman, where he won backing for the peace deal from Gulf Arabs.

Arafat, who held talks with Sultan Qaboos bin Said at his summer palace in the southern town of Salalah, blamed Israel for a delay in agreeing on the terms for mutual recognition.

"The Israelis as usual are trying to set conditions," Arafat told a news conference on Tuesday night, broadcast on Omani television. He did not see Page 12 Col 3

## AL observes 'Save Peasants, Save Nation Day'

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League (AL) yesterday organised peasants' rallies at different districts to muster support for its 11-point charter of demands aimed at "salvaging" the country's farming community.

On the occasion of the party's "Save Peasants, Save Nation Day" AL chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday sent a copy of the 11-point memorandum to the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The district branches of the AL also submitted copies of the memorandum, addressed to the Prime Minister on behalf of the party chief, to the various Deputy Commissioners (DCs) on the day. The memo contained demands including immediate withdrawal of certificate cases and warrants of arrest against the farmers, reduction of agricultural inputs' prices, etc. Lower rates of interest on agri-loan, ensuring fair prices of agri-products, distribution of khas lands among the landless, end to "politicisation" in leasing out haats and bazars and waiving of interest on loans up to Taka 5,000 for cooperatives as per the PM's earlier commitment.

According to party sources, the main rally of the peasants was held at Lalmonirhat which was addressed by the AL's central leaders. Similar gatherings were also arranged in different other districts and thanas

See Page 12 Col 4

## Dhaka welcomes ME peace process

Bangladesh welcomed the current peace process in the Middle East co-sponsored by the United States and Russia for resolving the region's long-standing problem, reports UNB.

A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday Bangladesh has consistently supported a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem of which the core issue was the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

"We are closely monitoring the present developments in the Middle East, including the accord reportedly reached between the PLO and Israel," said the spokesman when asked to comment on the issue.

He said, "We believe that this will be an important first step." See Page 12 Col 4

## Varsity teachers announce fresh programmes

By DU Correspondent

No classes were held at the universities of the country as the teachers observed a day-long strike to protest the recent terrorist activities in two universities in July last.

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Associations (FBUTA) called the strike to protest the violence at the Jahangirnagar University on July 29 and in the Islamic University on July 5.

However, some department offices of the Dhaka University (DU) remained open yesterday.

Meanwhile, the FBUTA yesterday announced a series of programmes including strikes and a token hunger strike to press home their demands.

The teachers also demanded withdrawal of 'false' cases against ten of their colleagues at the Jahangirnagar University (JU) and punishment of the persons involved in violence in the JU and the Islamic University in July last.

The new programmes of the FBUTA include submission of memorandum to the Prime Minister on September 13, a token hunger-strike at the DU bar taka the same day, strikes in all universities on September 22, 23 and a grand rally of university teachers at the Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) of the DU on September 23.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the FBUTA yesterday afternoon with its president Professor Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman in the chair. — Star photo



The Bangladesh Federation of University Teachers' Association brought out a silent procession on the DU campus yesterday demanding arrest and trial of the Jahangirnagar University 'terrorists'. — Star photo

## Serb, Muslim troops preparing for new battles on Mt Igman

SARAJEVO, Sept 8: Uncertain about prospects for peace, Serb and Muslim-led government forces appear to be preparing for new battles on Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo, UN officials said Wednesday, report AP, Reuters.

Meanwhile fighting raged in the Muslim quarter of the southwest Bosnian city Mostar, and the area's makeshift hospital was now full, Bosnian radio reported today.

It said eight people had been killed, including five children, in tank shelling by Croatian troops besieging the Muslim area on the east bank of the Neretva river during the past 24 hours.

The radio also reported fighting on Tuesday in Maglaj, in the north, and Gorazde, a Muslim enclave in the east cut off by Serb troops.

Serb fighters wrested Mount Igman from Bosnian government forces in early August after heavy fighting, leading President Alija Izetbegovic to boycott peace talks in Geneva for two weeks until most of the Serbs pulled out. The mountain is important because the government's only weapons supply route into Sarajevo crosses it.

Cmdr Idesbald Van Biebroeck, a spokesman for UN peacekeepers in Sarajevo, said both sides began ominous troop movements early Tuesday.

"We are talking about thousands (of soldiers) on both sides," he said. UN officials were meeting with Serb and Muslim leaders trying to defuse the situation, he said.

The Serbs had withdrawn most of their forces to get the tanks moving on a plan to partition Bosnia into Serb, Muslim and Croat states. But a small Serb contingent remained on the mountain.

The peace talks broke off last week when Izetbegovic refused to accept what he termed an economically unviable chunk of land surrounded by Serbs and Muslims. See Page 12 Col 8

## Int'l Literacy Day observed

By Staff Correspondent

The International Literacy Day was observed in the country yesterday by different socio-cultural organisations with a call to enlighten the nation for the overall development of the country.

Different organisations planned various programmes including discussions, seminars and rallies to mark the day.

Ministers, Members of Parliament and local government body leaders attended functions held in different districts to mark the day.

The newspapers carried special articles while Radio Bangladesh and BTB broadcast special programmes to mark the day.

National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Huq at a seminar on "Community Participation in Mass Literacy Programme in Bangladesh," held by the See Page 12 Col 3

## Literacy rate up by 4 pc in 2 years : PM

The country's rate of literacy registered an increase of 4 per cent in last two years as a result of the government's pragmatic policies, the Prime Minister said yesterday, reports UNB.

Begum Khaleda Zia, speaking at a function on the occasion of the International Literacy Day, said there have been encouraging "signs of significant improvements" in education in which people's interest has grown tremendously.

The country had a 24.8 per cent rate of literacy until 1990 which, according to a recent survey conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), rose to more than 28 per cent in 1993.

The Prime Minister hoped that the country's literacy rate would continue to increase as the government has been able

to create a favourable atmosphere for promoting primary education.

She was addressing the inaugural session of a day-long discussion on "Strategy for Implementing Education for All," organised by the Primary and Mass Education Department at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium here yesterday morning.

Terming illiteracy as a curse and the cause of backwardness, the Prime Minister observed that "our huge manpower would have turned into human resource if the nation was free from the curse of illiteracy."

The present government has started its campaign against illiteracy from the villages where the majority of the population live, she said.

She mentioned different See Page 12 Col 7

## Reshuffle in CMP to curb crime

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 8: A sudden reshuffle was made here in the Chittagong Metropolitan Police administration in a bid to curb growing crime in the city.

Under the administrative changes, Deputy Police Commissioner (North) Abdur Rouf has been posted here as DC (Port) and the present DC (Port) Gazi Abdur Rahman has been transferred to the Traffic Division to replace DC (Traffic) Sultan Ahmed who has been posted as DC (North).

Besides, the Officer-in-charge (OC) of Panchlaish Thana Kazi Shahbuddin has been transferred to the Detective Branch while Police Inspector of DB S M Shamsuzzaman has been appointed OC of Panchlaish.

The OC of Doublemooring See Page 12 Col 8

## GF's signature campaign from today

Star Report

The newly-floated Gano Forum (GF) initiates its activities today with the launching of a month-long signature campaign against campus terrorism.

Dr Kamal Hossain, president of the GF, will inaugurate the campaign this morning at 10 at the Supreme Court Bar library.

The countrywide campaign demanding effective government measures to free the campus from terrorism will continue until October 10 after which the collected signatures will be submitted to the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad, party sources said.

Meanwhile, a resolution adopted yesterday at the meeting of the GF's standing committee presided over by Dr Kamal, called upon the whole See Page 12 Col 8



A colourful procession, led by Deputy Leader of the House A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and City Mayor Mirza Abbas, was brought out in the city on the occasion of the International Literacy Day yesterday. — Star photo

## Unresolved issues likely to make JS session stormy

By Nurul Kabir

The eleventh session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad (JS) is expected to be a stormy one with the Treasury and Opposition benches bent on scoring points over each other on some vital political and economic issues facing the nation.

The JS goes into its autumn session on September 12.

According to Parliament Secretariat sources, apart from legislative business, the JS is likely to take up for discussion contentious issues like the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance, 1975 and the Curbing Terrorist Crime Act, 1992, the crisis in the country's jute sector and the ways and means for poverty alleviation.

General debate on two issues — poverty alleviation and the jute sector — could not be held

during the last session, mainly due to preoccupation with the formation of a parliamentary committee to examine allegations of corruption against the Agriculture Ministry and the minister concerned.

According to sources, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali is likely to allow these two issues to be debated in the coming session.

The Parliament Secretariat has, meanwhile, circulated a programme up to September 20, a hint that the coming session would be a short-lived one. However, the Business Advisory Committee, comprising representatives from both Treasury and Opposition benches, is the final authority to decide both the agenda and tenure of the session.

The advisory committee is to meet on September 11.

The debate on poverty alleviation promises to be a noisy one.

According to the ruling party sources, the Treasury benches are likely to assert that the government was trying its best to do everything in the area despite the Opposition's obstructive role.

On the other hand, the Opposition, especially the AL, is likely to accuse the government of total failure in the field of poverty alleviation, a top ranking AL leader informed The Daily Star.

The tone and tenor of the debate on the crisis in the jute sector is likely to be similar because of the starkly contrasting See Page 12 Col 1

## Foreign Ministry to reintroduce regular briefing

The Foreign Ministry will reintroduce regular briefing for journalists on foreign affairs of the country, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen working for different overseas media at the Foreign Office yesterday, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman said the first such briefing will be held on Sunday.

He added that regular briefing will be held every fortnight while steps will be taken for special briefing if the situation demands.

OCAB president Zahiduzzaman Faruq and general secretary Farid Hossain pointed out various problems faced by the overseas journalists during different national and international events.

They sought cooperation from the Foreign Office in discharging their professional duties.

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The auction will be held on 20-9-93 in the Conference Room, 3rd floor of RAJUK Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 AM.

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## Germany keen to invest in Bangladesh : Saifur

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Wednesday said that the German entrepreneurs are keen to invest in Bangladesh, terming it most favourable among the Asian countries.

They are impressed with its low inflation rate, the macro-economic stability and financial reforms made in the last two years and are eager to expand trade with Bangladesh, he said.

"We are on top of the ladder among the Asian countries in upholding democracy and human rights," the Finance Minister said and added that this impression about Bangladesh in Germany as well as

the other European countries has created an opportunity for attracting more foreign investment.

The Minister was briefing newsmen yesterday at the Zia International Airport on his return from a week-long visit to Turkey and Germany.

He said Germany is the third largest donor, after Japan and the USA, and also the largest export market for the country. The export earnings of the country from Germany were about 217 million US dollars in 1992-93, almost double the previous year's earnings, he See Page 12 Col 1