



Inside Today

Article

BNP Puts its House in Order?

Column : Behind The Headlines
by Nurul Kabir
Page 4

International

US, Russia sign defence pacts

North Korea rejects N-talks with South
Page 5

Weekend Magazine

A Way of Life in Dhaka; Environment: The Right to Live; My World by S M Ali; Vivekananda: A Hundred Years Since Chicago Parliament of Religions; The View

Afar; Down the Memory Lane; Latin Art Gets a Big Look-in at Last; The Triumph and Tragedy of Telengana
Pages 9, 10, 11

Business

AFIA may fail in promoting free trade among members

International companies keen to explore oil, gas in Bangladesh
Pages 6, 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Old Traditions with a New Look
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

SMC internee docs call off strike

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 9: Internee doctors of the Sylhet Osmany Medical College Hospital today called off their four-day strike following fruitful discussions with the authorities. Some 132 doctors went on a strike Sunday last following an untoward incident in which the rooms of the hospital director and other departmental heads were ransacked.

Dr Kamal leaves for Colombo

Dr Kamal Hossain, president of the newly floated political party Gano Forum, left for Colombo yesterday to attend the "LAW-ASIA" conference. Dr Kamal, a member of the LAW-ASIA, will also attend the meeting of its Council at the Shri Lankan capital, reports UNB.

Mao Tse Tung's death anniversary

Comrade Mao Tse Tung Birth Centenary Celebration Committee yesterday observed 17th anniversary of death of the great communist leader with due solemnity. A meeting was held in front of Jatiya Press Club which was addressed by Dr Ahmed Sharif and convenor of the committee Reazur Rahman, reports UNB.

271 more Rohingya go home

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 9: Two hundred seventy one Rohingya refugees of sixty two families voluntarily returned to their homes in Myanmar through three transit camps at Teknaf here today. Official sources told BSS here tonight that with this 81st batch of repatriation, the total number of repatriated persons now stood at 35,714.

Israel, PLO agree on mutual recognition

TUNIS, Sept 9: The PLO and Israel, in a historic breakthrough after decades of warfare, agreed Thursday to officially recognise each other, report AP, Reuter, AFP.

Israel made the first formal announcement. Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer told reporters Israel's inner cabinet voted unanimously to approve a mutual recognition agreement with the PLO.

"With this, the process started in which Israel recognises the PLO, and the PLO recognises Israel," Ben-Eliezer said.

The inner cabinet is made up of 10 key ministers and its approval of the agreement clears the way for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to sign it.

Meanwhile, Yasser Arafat, one of the officials closest to PLO chairman, said, Arafat and Rabin will announce simultaneously the mutual recognition of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion tomorrow (Friday). He told reporters in Tunis that the texts of the two statements had been finalised and were awaiting the signatures of the two leaders.

Under the agreement, the Palestine Liberation Organisation would renounce terrorism and recognise Israel's right to exist. Mutual recognition would clear the way for the signing of a peace plan that would give autonomy to Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. That could eventually lead to a more comprehensive autonomy for Palestinians in lands captured by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The agreement follows months of behind-the-scenes negotiations between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israeli officials, with Norway acting as go-between.

Abed-Rabbo, who was involved in the negotiating process, said problems with the

wording of the agreement were worked out Thursday in telephone calls by both sides to Norwegian diplomats in Paris.

Johan Jorgen Holst, Norwegian FM, who brokered the autonomy plan in secret meetings in Oslo, arrived in Tunis with a copy of the recognition agreement.

After the PLO signs the agreement, Holst will take it to Jerusalem for Rabin's signature, Abed-Rabbo said. In Paris, Israeli Embassy spokeswoman Sabine Struk said Holst would fly to Israel Thursday night.

Israel's Ben-Eliezer said there were five main points in the accord:

—Recognition of Israel's right to exist in peace and security.

—A sharp denunciation of terror and all violence.

—A call to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories to refrain from all violence and terror.

—Removal of clauses in the

See Page 12 Col 3



—AFP photo

Govt to implement Wages Commission award : PM

The government is going to implement the Wages Commission award and a gazette in this regard will be published shortly, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia made the announcement in a meeting with the newly-elected committee members of the Dhaka unit of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal who called on her at Sugandha last night.

The present government believes in the politics of production and will solve all problems through discussion," she said.

Begum Zia told the leaders of ruling BNP's labour front that they had to be more tolerant than ever before as their party

is in power. "We have to streamline different sectors pushed in indisciplines during the nine years of autocratic rule."

People's aspirations have heightened and the responsibilities of the leaders of BNP and its front organisations redoubled, she pointed out. "We have to ensure the welfare of common man," she said.

The people elected BNP to power as they realised that it could lead the country towards progress and prosperity by implementing its various programmes, she reminded.

"A congenial investment atmosphere has been created by the democratic government," the Prime Minister said, but

warned that vested quarters were out to create indisciplines to hinder the development process.

She called upon the leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal to strengthen the front and the organisation as a whole to face the situation politically.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhutyan, President of the Sramik Dal Iskander Ali, General Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, President of Dhaka Metropolitan unit AKM Nazrul Islam, Abdul Kashem Chowdhury, Kazi Mosharrif Hossain and Zafarul Hassan also addressed the function.

The five reportedly picked up an insane man from the road near the police station Wednesday.

5 cops suspended for torturing madman

By Staff Correspondent

Five policemen of the city's Tejgaon police station were suspended yesterday allegedly for torturing a madman.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner yesterday ordered an inquiry into the incident and suspended sub-inspector Abdur Rahman, assistant sub-inspector Harun-ur-Rashid and constables Manzil Hossain, Abdus Samad and Zahidul Rahman.

The Police Commissioner also ordered departmental proceedings against the five policemen.

The five reportedly picked up an insane man from the road near the police station Wednesday.

See Page 12 Col 3

Saifur asks bankers Cut interest rate within a month

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday urged the bankers to bring down the high lending rate of interest to a reasonable and justifiable limit in order to encourage genuine borrowers to take loans for investment, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing the chairman and managing directors of the nationalised commercial banks (NCB) and national and overseas private banks.

He regretted that when the rate of interest now is only three per cent the banks are charging exceptionally high rate of interest from the borrowers.

See Page 12 Col 6

Clinton rebuffs Izetbegovic

WASHINGTON, Sept 9: President Bill Clinton on Wednesday rebuffed a request by the Muslim government of Bosnia to set a deadline for US air strikes if Bosnian Serbs do not lift the siege of Sarajevo.

Izetbegovic said peace negotiations between the former Yugoslavia's warring Serbs, Croats and Muslims, suspended last week in Geneva, might resume as early as next week in Geneva or perhaps New York.

The Muslim leader went into the meeting with Clinton saying he would ask the President to set a deadline for US air strikes

against the Bosnian Serbs if they do not lift the siege of Sarajevo.

"It is high time for the lifting of the siege of Sarajevo. That could be lifted only by air strikes," Izetbegovic told reporters after meeting several US House of Representatives and Senate members.

But Clinton declined to go along with such a deadline.

"I believe all that has to be a part of the negotiating process."

See Page 12 Col 1



—AFP photo

Benazir facing toughest challenge from Murtaza

KARACHI, Sept 9: Less than one month before parliamentary elections, Benazir Bhutto and her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) are facing their toughest challenge from within the former prime minister's own family, reports AFP.

Benazir Bhutto, PPP co-chairperson, openly admitted to a rift between herself and her brother Murtaza Bhutto, who is contesting independently in 23 constituencies in the Bhutto family's powerbase of southern Sindh.

"Murtaza is my brother, but the ways of his politics are different from mine," Bhutto told a late night press conference in her home town of Larkana Wednesday.

She said Murtaza, 38, would never be made Chief Minister of Sindh province since he was contesting the elections as an independent candidate.

His brother-in-law Nasir Hussain, who arrived in Karachi from Damascus where Murtaza is living in exile, in a statement here said Murtaza was willing to compromise with the PPP and withdraw his nominations against all PPP candidates barring one if he was promised the chief ministership of Sindh.

Simultaneously, Murtaza Wednesday denied having sent such a message and said he intended to contest all 23 constituencies from where he had filed nomination papers for the provincial and National Assem-

bly seats.

His papers were filed by his Lebanese-born wife Ghenva Bhutto.

Murtaza Bhutto faces criminal charges here and is likely to be arrested on arrival in Pakistan. Interim Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi — charged with holding free and fair elections — has said Murtaza could not be given amnesty because of the cases pending against him.

With an open split between the Bhuttos, the PPP faces its toughest test in Sindh. Analysts said Murtaza's decision is likely to split the party's vote base somewhat.

However, people still remember

See Page 12 Col 8

10 pc ad revenue for journalists' welfare: Huda

From Staff Correspondent

GOURNADY (Barisal), Sept 9: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, while addressing the members of the Gournady Press Club here today, said the government was considering setting aside ten per cent of its annual advertising revenue for the welfare of the journalists and the press clubs.

The minister, who announced a contribution of Tk five thousand for the Gournady Press Club, called upon the journalists to desist from yellow journalism.

He said because of the practice of yellow journalism there was a growing number of libel and defamation suits against the journalists and journals.

JP(N) convening body today

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party dissidents led by former Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury will announce a convening committee today to run the Jatiya Party (Nationalist), faction leaders said yesterday.

Shamsul Huda Chowdhury himself or former Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury will head the convening committee, to be announced at a press conference at Hotel Sonargaon at 4 this afternoon.

The dissident group will also place their political agenda at the press conference which is expected to be attended by most of the former JP men who deserted former President H M Ershad at the fag end of his rule

in 1990.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Dr M A Matin and Education Minister Mahbubur Rahman are in the forefront of the breakaway faction. Matin may become the Secretary General of the JP (Nationalist) with Humayun Rashid as the chairman.

The party will also adopt a new constitution by amending the present JP constitution, one source said, adding that the amendments will reduce the powers of the party chairman while increasing the powers of the president and the central executive committee.

Details of the amendment were immediately unavailable

See Page 12 Col 6

BNP may delay forming fresh committees

By Asiuzzaman

The announcement of fresh committees of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is likely to be delayed by at least another week as little progress has so far been made in this regard, party sources said.

The party chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia became very busy with administrative matters immediately after the national council, a fact which has delayed the finalisation of the committees, one source said yesterday.

The constitution of the BNP empowers the chairperson to nominate or select party officials including the Secretary General. However, the constitution does not say that the party chief must announce the committees within a particular time frame.

The sources could not give any details of the possible com-

See Page 12 Col 6

Amendment to Marine Fisheries Ordinance promulgated

The government has promulgated amendment '93 to the regulations of Marine Fisheries Ordinance '83, reports BSS.

Under the ordinance, it is made compulsory for all mechanised boats and fishermen fishing within the maritime zone of Bangladesh to have licences and identity cards, a PID handout said.

Applications addressed to Deputy Director, Marine Fisheries Department, Agrabad Government Building-1, Chittagong, have to be made within September 30 for licences and identity cards.

The application forms will be available from the offices of the concerned district and jhama officers including Deputy Director of Marine Fisheries Department, the handout added.