



Inside Today

Article

US-Japan Trade
Talks : A Fresh
Dose of Managed
Trade in the
Offing

Column: Along My Way
by S B Chaudhuri
Page 4

International

PLO, Hamas officials
likely to meet in
Yemen soon



Rigoberta Menchu,
1992 Nobel Peace Prize
laureate, receives an
honourable doctorate
degree in Japan
September 19

Page 5

Business

Japan needs radical
reform, admits trade
minister

Child labourers stage
protest in India
Pages 6, 7

Feature

Development

ADB on the Economy of
Bangladesh: Still a Long
Way to Go; Politics
Played Critical Role in
Deforestation; Arms
Spending Falls, But
Anyone Better Off;
The Urban Poor
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Putting Mind in
Miniature
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

OIC Secy Gen
arrives today

OIC Secretary General Dr Hamid Al Gabid has scheduled to arrive here this evening to attend the seventh congregation ceremony at the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), Gazipur. The OIC Secretary General during his stay in Dhaka is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

302 punished under Anti-Terrorism Act

Some 302 people were punished, five of them with life term, on charges of murder and hijacking under the Anti-Terrorism Act in last one year. Two hundred and ninety-seven criminals were given jail sentences for different terms in final verdicts in 140 cases during the period from September 15, 1992 to September 7, 1993, reports UNB.

BCS exam test Oct 15

Preliminary test of the 15th BCS examination 1993-94 will be held in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna centres on October 15. Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat has informed that the admit cards have already been sent to the candidates by post, reports UNB.

Varsity closed *sine die*, all provosts resign

One killed, 40 injured as Shibir activists swoop on 4 RU halls

RAJSHAHI, Sept 19: A student was killed and 40 others were injured, 13 seriously, in one of the worst incidents of violence at the trouble-torn Rajshahi University early today, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Zubayer Chowdhury Rimu, 22, a second year honours student of Management and son of Sathkira Govt College teacher Abu Matlebur Rahman.

Authorities declared the university closed *sine die* and ordered all residents to vacate their dormitories by 3 this afternoon.

The RU Syndicate took the

decision in an emergency meeting following the pre-dawn clashes in which scores of rooms of the residential halls were ransacked and torched, allegedly by pro-Jamaat Islam Chhatra Shibir activists. The official residence of the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctor's office were also ransacked later by the protesters.

Meanwhile, all the provosts of the 13 residential halls resigned in masse following the violence and misbehaviour by some students.

Campus sources said trouble erupted when some 500 activists of the Chhatra Shibir,

backed by outsiders, attacked four halls with firearms and lethal weapons at about 3 am.

The attackers ransacked 51 rooms and set on fire 28 others in those halls. They fired 10 gunshots and exploded about 40 home-made bombs during the rampage that lasted more than one and a half hours.

In protest against the "heinous Shibir attack", the general students and activists of different student organisations, including the ruling BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and the Chhatra Moitree, brought out a combined procession at 5 am and ransacked the official residence of the

See Page 12 Col 3

set ablaze.

Afterwards, they attacked the Madar Bux Hall and destroyed 16 rooms and set ablaze 10 others. Lastly, they attacked the Habibur Rahman Hall where they damaged seven and set fire to eight other rooms.

Then they marched to the Shaheed Suhrawardy Hall and stormed into the dormitory. Seventeen rooms of the hall were damaged and six others

See Page 12 Col 3



— Star photo

Review of Financial Sector Reform Project Macro-stability yet to be reflected upon economy

Star Report

not yet been achieved," the review observed. "It will take several years for the reform programme to influence significantly the quality of new investments to the point where the growth rate increases."

In a report presented last week at an Asian Development Bank sponsored conference on the Bangladeshi economy the authors, in their personal capacity, also said that the FSRP was unable to develop an active monetary policy and to counter the high real interest rates.

The reasons for the high interest rates, resulting in a sluggish economy, were identified as the huge burden of debt, which was underestimated earlier, faulty market organisation of the banks and the failure of the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) to improve their performance.

The rapid drop in the inflation rate also contributed to the high interest rates, the report said while noting that the amount of bad loans may be in the order of Taka 6000-8000

crore, although there are no reliable estimates of the total bad debts in the banking system.

The macro-economic performance is influenced by the greater caution of the banking sector in keeping very high interest rates."

The 'full' clean-up of the loan portfolios of the four state-owned NCBs would require further recapitalisation, in addition to the Taka 1700 crore already infused, the report said.

Noting that the NCBs failed to show any improvements as expected and continue to experience rising levels of bad debt and operating losses, the report cautioned against continuing the recapitalisation process.

Saying that recapitalisation "rewards bad performance", the report added "the repeated recapitalisation of the NCBs, apparently part of the reform programme conditionalities, creates a dangerous precedent as it relieves pres-

See Page 12 Col 1

4 killed in bus plunge

At least four people were killed and 45 injured when a bus skidded off the Dhaka-Narsingdi highway and plunged into a roadside ditch yesterday, reports UNB.

Fire Brigade sources said the vehicle rammed a roadside tree and then tumbled into the ditch at Karnagong in Rupganj thana at about 12:00 noon.

Local people rushed into rescue and recovered a body from the sunken bus and sent the body to Dhaka.

Later, firemen recovered three other dead, two of them women, from inside the bus. Among the dead, one was identified as Nur Mohammad, 45, of Saturia in Manikganj thana.

The injured were sent to various medicare centres including the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where nine people were admitted. A number of injured were released from DMCH after giving first aid.

The bodies were handed over to the Rupganj police.

In the city, a pedestrian, Ruhul Amin, 26, died on the spot when a speeding bus ran over him at Baita Bazar, Uttara yesterday noon.

BSS adds: Three other people including a mother and her daughter were killed when a Lalmonirhat-bound bus from

See Page 12 Col 6

Attack on Ajker Kagoj

Matin hopes to unveil 'mystery'

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that there is a mystery behind Friday's attack on the daily Ajker Kagoj newspaper office.

"Two separate cases have been lodged — one by newspaper authorities and another by an individual — after the incident and the matter is to be investigated," Chowdhury said while taking part in an unscheduled debate on the incident.

"I will not make any comment now since the matter is under investigation and I think the mystery will be unveiled soon," the minister said. In the

course of his statement on the matter Matin Chowdhury also referred to the situation at the Daily Ittefaq where, he said, there is rivalry and discord among the owners which has given rise to some untoward incidents in the past.

This was disclosed by Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman yesterday during his briefing of journalists in the conference room of the ministry yesterday about the Prime Minister's planned visit to New York.

The Prime Minister, who leaves Dhaka on September 29 for New York, will address the UNGA session on October 1, Rahman said.

See Page 12 Col 7

New York tour

Khaleda unlikely to meet Rao

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is unlikely to meet Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao during her New York visit to attend the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), reports UNB.

She will, however, meet her counterparts from Malaysia and Thailand to exchange views on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern.

This was disclosed by Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman yesterday during his briefing of journalists in the conference room of the ministry yesterday about the Prime Minister's planned visit to New York.

The Prime Minister, who leaves Dhaka on September 29 for New York, will address the UNGA session on October 1, Rahman said.

See Page 12 Col 6

Repatriation of Chakmas: Indian team in CHT

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 19: A 24-member delegation from Tripura state of India arrived today in the Khagrachari hill district headquarters on a three day visit to see if the conditions in the CHT districts are favourable for the repatriation of more than 50,000 Chakma refugees.

The delegation comprises seven Indian officials and 17 refugee leaders including the chairman of the Refugees' Welfare Association Upendra Lal Chakma. The Indian officials included three women and the relief commissioner of Tripura state K Arya.

The delegation reached Khagrachari district through Rangamati outpost at around 11:30 am. They were received by the reception committee members including MPs and administration officials.

The delegation is expected to return on September 21 after

See Page 12 Col 3

Hasina goes to Singapore for medical check-up

Awami League president and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday left for Singapore for medical check-up, reports UNB.

She will consult doctors at the National University Hospital in the city state, Awami League leader Amr Hossain Amu said.

Hasina, ailing for few days, is accompanied by her son, Joy, and aunt.

She was seen off at the airport by Abdus Samad Azad, Abdur Mannan, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, Zillur Rahman, Mohammad Nasim, Begum Matia Chowdhury, Barrister K S Nabi, Obaidul Qader, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Abul Hassan Chowdhury and a number of party MPs, leaders and workers of different front organisations.

Gano Forum suggests introduction of 'Zila government'

Staff Correspondent

The Gano Forum yesterday proposed introduction of 'Zila government' entrusted with specific powers in order to build an effective local government in the country.

The newly-floated party made its first public suggestion on the structure of government at a press conference held at its office premises in Segun Bagicha in the afternoon.

Acting president of the Forum Nurjahan Murshed was the key speaker at the press conference which was addressed, among others, by A M A Muhi, Shahjahan Siraj, MP, Shamsuddoha, MP, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Major Gen (retd) Khalilur Rahman, Ahmedur

See Page 12 Col 5

World economy shows recovery

Growth stronger in Asian developing states: IMF

By Staff Correspondent

The world economy showed a slight recovery in 1992 with an overall growth of 1.75 per cent compared with an increase of half one per cent in 1991, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 1993 annual report said.

The report was released here yesterday at the Bangladesh Bank conference room by the Fund's officials.

The IMF report disclosed that the developing countries in Asia and the Middle East as well as those in the Western hemisphere displayed a stronger growth, which helped fuel a six per cent increase in real GDP for the group of developing countries as a whole.

The report said inflation continued to decline throughout the world in 1992 as demand recovered slightly, this recovery

was below expectations and was characterised by persistence of low or negative growth in most industrial countries."

"Among developing countries, a number have seen an improvement in economic conditions as result of determined adjustment efforts to promote growth and introduce far-reaching structural reforms, often with financial and technical support from the IMF," the report said.

"Many others, however, still face difficult economic situations and must undertake major policy adjustments," the IMF observed.

The report said inflation continued to decline throughout the world in 1992 as demand recovered slightly, this recovery

See Page 12 Col 6

Sonargaon Hotel staff join duties

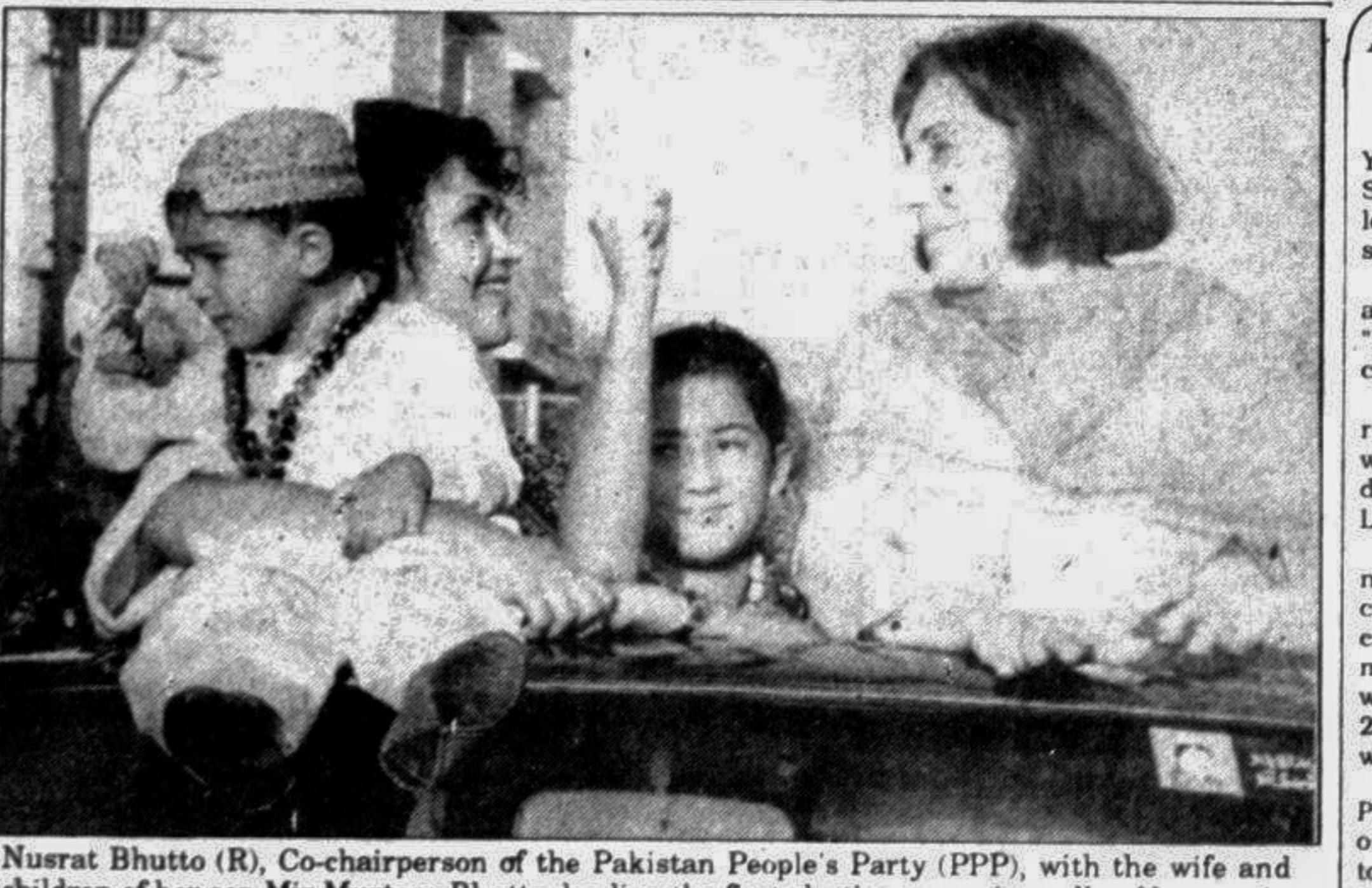
By Staff Correspondent

Some 400-odd staff of the Sonargaon Hotel joined their duties and freed the General Manager from his nine-and-a-half hour confinement late Saturday night following assurances by the authorities to consider their demands.

Union leaders of the hotel said they had put off their strike for two days following the assurance.

Workers and employees of the country's only five-star hotel

See Page 12 Col 2



— AFP photo