

Inside Today

Article

Sangsad Discusses the JU Crisis

Column: Passing Clouds by Zillur Rahman Siddiqui Page 4

International

Rabin pleads Arab states to normalise ties with Israel



Iranian President Rafsanjani welcomes Indian Premier Narasimha Rao in Tehran Page 5

Business

World Bank doubles aid to former east bloc countries

Paris presses EC partners to reopen trade deal with US Pages 6, 7

Feature

Environment
Man-eaters of the Sundarbans; Environmental Impacts of Leather Manufacturing Industry; Desertification in North Bengal Looms Large; Zambia Changes Archaic Laws to Save Nature Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Samad Azad acting AL president

Awami League Presidium Member Abdus Samad Azad will work as the acting president of the party and the acting Leader of the Opposition in Parliament during Sheikh Hasina's stay abroad.

Contract for rice export to UK

A Bangladeshi exporter has recently signed a contract for exporting of 10 thousand metric tons of rice to United Kingdom. The contract between Loyang Emas Bangladesh (Pvt) Limited and Budget Fair Limited of UK was signed by Saleh Ahmed and M A Musquim respectively on behalf of their organisations. The deal is expected to be completed by December 31, 1993, reports BSS.

ICTVTR congregation today

By Staff Correspondent The seventh congregation ceremony for award of diplomas to the graduating students of the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) will be held today at the Centre's premises at Gazipur.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be the chief guest and give away the diplomas. Secretary General of the OIC Dr Hamid Al-Gabid, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday, will also attend the occasion as a special guest.

73 activists of Jamaat, Shibir held

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury informed Parliament last night that 24 workers of the Jamaat-Shibir were arrested for their involvement in Sunday's incident on the Rajshahi University campus. The Home Minister also said that 49 activists of the Jamaat and the Shibir were arrested for the killings in Khulna yesterday. Police is hunting for others involved in the incidents at Rajshahi and Khulna, he assured the House, reports UNB.

B L College, Aliya Madrassah stormed Two Shibir activists killed in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 20: Two activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir were killed and at least thirty-six others were seriously injured when students of other organisations launched attacks in the city's B L College and the Aliya Madrassah at about 2 pm today.

Police and witnesses said armed groups of several hundred young men almost simultaneously stormed the B L College and the Aliya Madrassah, hurling hand bombs and firing shots.

Attackers entered the Tumur and Mohsin Halls of the B L College, ransacked and set fire to the rooms. They also stormed the mosque where some Shibir activists had taken shelter.

The violence on the cam-

puses was believed to have been a sequel to the violent incidents at Rajshahi University yesterday where attacks by nearly 500 Shibir activists led to the death of one student and injury to nearly 40 others.

Tension was prevailing in Khulna town and BDR and police were deployed in large numbers to patrol the trouble-prone areas. Police had arrested 59 persons till the time of filing this report late last night.

Seven students who were admitted to the local hospital with critical bullet wounds were: Mahfuz, college unit secretary of the Islami Chhatra Shibir, Rahmatullah, literary secretary, Rahim, former GS of the college and Masudur Rah-

See Page 12 Col 7

See Page 12 Col 7

Jamaat-Shibir under bipartisan fire in JS

By Staff Correspondent

Members of both the Treasury and Opposition benches, barring those belonging to the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh, yesterday strongly condemned the killing of Zubayer Chowdhury, a student of the Rajshahi University, allegedly by the Jamaat-backed Shibir activists.

Zubayer, an activist of the Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri and son of a BNP leader, was killed at the university campus in the early hours of September 19.

The members of both benches in Parliament at the beginning of the discussion, they staged a walkout at 10:05 pm protesting others' refusal to allow them to speak on the issue.

The MPs were deliberating on an adjournment motion moved in the House by Awami

See Page 12 Col 1

See Page 12 Col 1

AL slates attack on RU students

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League (AL), in a statement yesterday, slated the attack carried out by the Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activists on the students of the Rajshahi University Sunday that left one student killed and hundreds injured.

Jointly issued by the acting AL president Abdus Samad Azad and general secretary Zillur Rahman, the statement also criticised the silent role played by the police force.

The AL leaders alleged that the Jamaat-Shibir axis was indulging in repeated attacks on the pro-Liberation forces ever since the BNP came to power.

Citing instances from the Jahangirnagar University, the Rajshahi Medical College and the Chittagong University, the AL leaders claimed that the whole education system is on the verge of collapse due to the 'government-backed terrorists.'

See Page 12 Col 1

48th UNGA convenes today Israel-PLO accord, Bosnia to dominate session

By Staff Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 20: The landmark Israeli-Palestinian accord, the thorny situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and UN reform are expected to dominate the 48th General Assembly which convenes tomorrow, diplomats said, reports AFP.

The Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord, signed September 13 in Washington, already has begun to bear fruit at the United Nations. Israel's UN ambassador Gad Yaacobi and the PLO's UN envoy, Nasser Al-Kidwa, at the invitation of Egypt's representative, will lunch together today on the eve of the session — a meeting that was unthinkable a month ago.

A majority of UN member states, including several Arab countries, are reported to be ready to abrogate, suspend or amend several anti-Israel resolutions that have been adopted annually by the General Assembly at the request of Arab states.

"But it will depend on the Palestinians," Anver Tavori, spokesman for Israel's UN mission, said.

Kidwa, a nephew of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, said, "We will be ready to reflect (on)

European talks here.

The conflict in the former Yugoslavia has had strong repercussions in international relations. Commenting on the fighting's effect on US-European relations, Britain's UN ambassador Sir David Hannay said,

"The Bosnian poison circulates in the veins and affects everything."

The United States, which has not committed troops to the UN protection force in the former Yugoslavia, frequently has spoken in defense of the Bosnian Muslims, drawing support from non-aligned countries while irritating European countries, such as Britain and France, which have troops on the ground with the UN force.

A lack of cohesion among US and European countries had helped delay settlement of the Bosnian conflict, diplomats said. They are counting on the latest partition agreement among Bosnia's Muslims, Croats and Serbs to work.

But even if the agreement does take hold, it will be difficult to implement, an international official said.

Restructuring the United Nations, where operations have expanded dramatically in recent

See Page 12 Col 8

See Page 12 Col 8

China to break apart like Yugoslavia after Deng's death



BEIJING, Sept 20: China will break apart like Yugoslavia soon after paramount leader Deng Xiaoping dies unless the central government takes drastic steps to halt mounting regionalism, an internal report here warned.

The 66-page report, obtained by AFP, also proposed adopting a US-style federalist system that would reshape China's rubber-stamp parliament into a more democratic institution and create a legal framework for handling conflicts of interest between Beijing and the provinces.

With Deng pushing 90 years

of age, the report has caused a commotion here by predicting for the first time what has long been whispered in private — economic warlordism by the provinces is driving the country toward major upheaval.

"Until now policy makers have not realised the dangers of the central government's rapid decline of power, or they have come up with no effective way to halt the trend," said the report titled "Strengthening Central Government's Leading Role Amid the Shift to a Market Economy."

In years, at the soonest a few and at the latest, between 10 and 20, the country will move from economic collapse to political breakup, ending with its disintegration."

If a political strongman, (i.e. Deng Xiaoping) dies, it is possible that a situation like post-Tito Yugoslavia will emerge," it said.

It argued that Beijing gave

Recent spate of campus violence a conspiracy : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia termed the recent violence on the campuses as a planned conspiracy and warned that stringent actions would be taken against those resorting to anarchy and indiscipline to destroy the academic atmosphere, reports BSS.

Addressing the members of the Dhaka College and Tejgaon College students' unions at her Sugandha office, Begum Zia said the non-students and outsiders were creating anarchy on the campuses as part of a planned conspiracy at home and abroad to undermine the glorious role of the students.

The Prime Minister said the conspiracy was hatched just when the academic atmosphere had returned in the educational institutions and the brain-drain had been stopped.

According to the ADB's categorisation rules, downgrading of a project to 'B' implies that it has 'serious problems' which should be resolved immediately. With further degradation, such as category 'C' the project would lose eligibility to get funds from the Bank.

The DIFPP is an integrated five-year project initiated in 1991 with four components — flood control, drainage, environmental improvement and implementation assistance. The project, on completion, was ex-

pected to do away with water-logging and provide drainage facilities with consequential environmental improvement.

The Bangladesh Water Development Board, Dhaka WASA, and Dhaka City Corporation are among the agencies entrusted to undertake various segments of the project.

The sources mentioned that

the ADB's concern was mainly due to delay in appointment of consultants for detailed engineering design and construction supervision for the project.

In a letter addressed to the

Secretary of the Economic

Relations Division, the ADB

management also expressed

reservations about the govern-

ment's decision to award the

contract for the purpose to a

firm which was ranked second

by the government-appointed

evaluation committee in May

1992. The ADB advised that

the contract must be negotiated

with the first-ranked firm.

The ADB's letter mentioned

See Page 12 Col 8

See Page 12 Col 8

ADB downgrades Dhaka Flood Protection Project

By Chapal Bashar

The Asian Development Bank (ADB)

has downgraded the

121 million US dollar Dhaka

Integrated Flood Protection

Project (DIFPP) as a 'B' category

project because of its lack of

progress.

Reliable sources said the

Manila headquarters of the ADB

had officially communicated

this decision to the Bangladesh

government on 16 September

expressing serious concern over

delays in the implementation of

the project.

The sources mentioned that

the ADB's concern was mainly

due to delay in appointment of

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See Page 12 Col 8

See Page 12 Col 8

Khaleda urges Gabid for bold steps

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday appealed to the Organisation for Islamic Conference (OIC) to take bold and comprehensive steps to