

The Daily Star



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; Environ-
mental Impacts of
Leather Manufac-
turing 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 pres-
ident 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 be-
tween Loyal Emas Bangla-
desh (Pvt) Limited and Budget
Fair Limited of UK was signed
by Saleh Ahmed and M A
Muqim 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 Gaidpur.

Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia will be the chief
guest and give away the diplo-
mas. 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 Parliam-
ent 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 yester-
day. Police is hunting for
others involved in the incidents
at Rajshahi and Khulna, he as-
sured the House, reports UNB.

B L College, Aliya Madrassah stormed

Two Shibir activists killed in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 20: Two ac-
tivist of the Islamic 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 hun-
dred young men almost simulta-
neously stormed the B L Col-
lege and the Aliya Madrassah,
hurling hand bombs and
firing shots.

Attackers entered the Ti-
tumi 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 two dead were identified
as Munshi Abdul Halim, a
Shibir activist and OS of the B L
College students union and
Amanullah Aman, a student of
Class IX of the Aliya Madras-
sah.

It was not immediately
known who were responsible for

Editorial on Page 4

the violence. However, wit-
nesses said earlier in the morn-
ing, different student organisa-
tions including the pro-BNP
Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD),
the pro-AL Chhatra League, the
Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya and
the Chhatra Moltree brought
out separate protest marches in
the town and were seen chasing
Shibir activists.

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 po-
lice were deployed in large
numbers to patrol the trouble-
torn 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 se-
cretary of the Islamic Chhatra
Shibir, Rahmatullah, literary
secretary, Rahim, former GS of
the college and Masudur Rah-
See Page 12 Col 7

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 indis-
cipline to destroy the acade-
mic atmosphere, reports
BSS.

Addressing the members of
the Dhaka College and Tejaon
College students' unions at her
Sugandha office, Begum Zia
said the non-students and
outsiders were creating anar-
chy 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 atmo-
sphere had returned in the
educational institutions and
the brain-drain had been
stopped.

"We want that all the educa-
tional institutions should func-
tion smoothly and no scope
should be given to the out-
See Page 12 Col 7

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
has officially communicated this
decision to the Bangladesh gov-
ernment on 16 September ex-
pressing serious concern over
delays in the implementation of
the project.

According to the ADB's cate-
gorisation rules, downgradation
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, envi-
ronmental improvement and
implementation assistance. The
project, on completion, was ex-

pected to do away with water-
logging and provide drainage fa-
cilities with consequential envi-
ronmental improvement.

The Bangladesh Water De-
velopment 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 engi-
neering 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

Khaleda urges Gaid for bold steps

Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia yesterday appealed
the Organisation for Islamic
Conference (OIC) to take bold
and comprehensive steps to
solve the problems of the
Muslim world, including Bos-
nia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan
and Palestine, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister made the
appeal when the visiting OIC
Secretary General Hamid Al
Gaid called on her at her
Sugandha office.

The OIC Secretary General
arrived here last evening on a
two-day visit to attend a con-
vocation of the Islamic Centre for
Technical and Vocational Train-
ing and Research (ICTVTR).
This is his third visit to
Bangladesh.

Begum Zia said Bangladesh
was involved with all the activi-
ties of the OIC and would con-
tinue to give support to its
stands aimed at the welfare of
the Muslim Ummah.

The OIC Secretary General
told Begum Zia that the foreign
ministers of OIC member coun-
See Page 12 Col 3

Jamaat-Shibir under bipartisan fire in JS

By Staff Correspondent

Members of both the Treas-
ury 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 Moltree 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 also
demanded a ban on the com-
munal politics of what they
called, the fanatic Jamaat-e-
Islam.

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

League (AL) MP Prof Rafiqul
Islam. Thirty-three legislators
of the ruling BNP, the largest
Opposition in Parliament, AL,
the Jatiya Party (JP), the
Workers' Party (WP), the
Ganatantrik Party (GP), the JSD
and the Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ)
deliberated on the issue.

Almost all the speakers
blamed the Jamaat-backed
Shibir activists for the killing
of Zubayer and demanded trial
of the culprits, and also a ban
on the party's activities.

Although all the 20 MPs of
the Jamaat were present in
the House at the beginning of
the discussion, they staged a
walkout at 10:05 pm protest-
ing others' refusal to allow
them to speak on the issue.

However, immediately be-
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 in-
dulging 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.'



Visitors on the first day of the opening of the Ahsan Manzil Museum yesterday standing in front of the mounted tusks of 'Feroze Jung,' the favourite elephant of Nawab Abdul Ghani of Dhaka.

Indian space rocket fails to reach orbit

NEW DELHI, Sept 20: India's
largest and most powerful space
rocket failed today after a spec-
tacular launch, dispatching an
advanced satellite into oblivion
and dealing a blow to the coun-
try's ambitious space pro-
gramme, officials said, reports
AFP.

The huge, 280-tonne Polar
Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)
soared from Sriharikota, in
India's south, at 10:43 AM
(0513 GMT) in clear sky
watched by scientists who
clapped their hands in joy.

Reporters at Sriharikota,
north of Madras, saw the rocket
blast off, spewing golden yellow
flame in its wake.

The Press Trust of India (PTI)
See Page 12 Col 4

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

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

The Israeli-Palestine Libera-
tion Organisation (PLO) peace
accord, signed September 13 in
Washington, already has begun
to bear fruit at the United
Nations. Israel's UN am-
bassador Gad Yacobini 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-Israeli resolu-
tions that have been adopted
annually by the General
Assembly at the request of Arab
states.

"(But) It will depend on the
Palestinians," Anver Tavari,
spokesman for Israel's UN mis-
sion, said.

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

all positive developments on the
ground."

Security was heightened at
UN headquarters in New York
as the world body prepared for
this year's General Assembly
President, Samuel Insanally of
Guyana, to open the session
which will be attended by at
least 47 heads of state and gov-
ernment.

US President Bill Clinton
and newly elected Japanese
Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa
are expected to be among
the first officials to address the
session when it opens to
international leaders September
27. More than 90 Foreign
Ministers are slated to address
the Assembly.

According to Israeli sources,
Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon
Peres will be in New York dur-
ing the first week of the session
to meet with representatives of
countries which do not have
relations with Israel, and to try
to speed up reconciliation with
the United Nations after
decades of isolation.

UN diplomats would like
warring factions in Bosnia to
follow the example of Israel and
the PLO in reaching an accord.

The continued violence and
failure to reach a settlement in
Bosnia is expected to top

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 am-
bassador Sir David Hannay said,
"The Bosnian poison circulates
in the veins and affects every-
thing."

The United States, which
has not committed troops to the
UN protection force in the for-
mer Yugoslavia, frequently has
spoken in defense of the
Bosnian Muslims, drawing sup-
port from non-aligned countries
while irritating European coun-
tries, 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 dif-
ficult to implement, an interna-
tional official said.

Restructuring the United
Nations, where operations have
expanded dramatically in recent
See Page 12 Col 8

'Alarm' to protect T & T officials from extortionists

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20:
Telephone department officials
at Agrabad here from now on
will not bow to the extortion-
ists.

Instead, they will simply
push a button and switch on an
'anti-extortionist alarm' which
will help net a section of organ-
ised youngsters engaged in
squeezing money from people.

When pushed, the alarm
system would alert the security
personnel and other staff of the
Agrabad T & T office who would
lock all entrances and immedi-
ately inform the nearby Dou-
blemooing police, officials said
today.

The buttons, placed under
the desks of some of the T & T
officials, were concealed and
could be switched on 'by foot,
they confided.

Talking to The Daily Star
over telephone, the General
Manager of T & T Alauddin
Ahmed said the measure was
taken following 'frequent visits'
of the extortionists to the
Agrabad office.

Many T & T officials were
pestered by the toll collectors
who forced them to pay money.

Several office rooms of the
department were also ran-
sacked many times by the ruf-
fians who were usually armed, T
& T sources said.

MOU with six firms for oil, gas exploration

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh has signed five
preliminary memoranda of un-
derstanding with six foreign oil
exploration companies and ex-
pects that search for some new
gas and oil fields will begin
within December next, Energy
Minister 'Dr Khandaker
Mosharraf Hossain said.

The memoranda were signed
in Houston, Texas following the
first 'Bangladesh Petroleum
Investment Round Table' on
September 14 initiated by the
Energy Minister.

In a press briefing yesterday
at the secretariat, Khandaker
Mosharraf Hossain said foreign
companies were becoming more
interested in exploring oil and
gas in Bangladesh than before
because the present govern-
ment had implemented a 'very
new and liberal petroleum pol-
icy.'

Accompanied by Secretary of
the Ministry of Energy Fazur
Razzaque, the minister said in
addition, Bangladesh is offering
the foreign explorers specific in-
centives, including the elimina-
tion of signature bonus, ex-
emption from import duties on
exploration, development and
production equipment, no cor-
porate tax liability and a guar-
antee for the repatriation of
profits.

The minister informed the
press that more than 70 execu-

tives from 38 oil companies at-
tended the round table, the first
such conference held both
within and outside the country.
The minister said the pre-
sent gas reserve in the country
was 10.55 trillion cubic feet. 'If
the present rate of gas con-
sumption continues,' he said,
'we shall be running out of gas
by 2015.'

Presently, gas is being ex-
tracted from 17 wells. Fifty-four
per cent of the gas is being used
for production of electricity
while 30 per cent for production
of fertiliser.

"As an index of development,
energy consumption is one of
the chief factors," the Energy
Minister said, "and Bangladesh
has one of the lowest rates of
energy consumption. That is
why we intend to increase en-
ergy consumption by discover-
ing new gas and oil fields."

The government's top pri-
ority now is energy exploration,
the Energy Minister said and
added that a 300 MW power
station would be set up near
the Barapukuria coal mine.

He added that work at
Barapukuria would begin in
December or January next and
it would go into production from
1996-97.

"But we shall be needing
more sources of energy, that is
See Page 12 Col 8

Indian team visits Dighinala

KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 20:
The visiting twenty-member
team of the Indian officials and
leaders of Tribal Refugee Wel-
fare Association today visited
some parts of the Dighinala
thana of Khagrachhari Hill
District, reports BSS.

The team led by Relief
Commissioner of Tripura Kri-
shna Arya arrived Khagrachhari
yesterday through Ramgar
border point on a three-day
visit to Chittagong Hill Tracts
to see whether the situation in
Chittagong Hill Tracts were
congenial for return of the
tribal refugees housed in
Tripura.

Official sources said that the
tribal leader Upendra Lal
Chakma is also in the team.

The sources further said
that a memorandum from local
tribal people was given to their
leader Upendra Lal Chakma
during the visit.

The delegation will visit
Panchhari thana tomorrow be-
fore their return to Tripura.

Israeli team in Tunis

TUNIS, Sept 20: An Israeli
Foreign Ministry team arrived in
Tunis on Monday in a ground-
breaking visit to an Arab coun-
try which does not recognize the
Jewish state, reports AP.

In Washington, Secretary of
State Warren Christopher an-
nounced today that an interna-
tional conference will be held to
raise billions of dollars to help
implement the Israeli-PLO
peace agreement.

Meanwhile Israeli warplanes
on Monday blasted pro-iranian
guerrilla bases in south Leba-
non. It was Israel's first air raid
in Lebanon since the signing of
a peace agreement.

Tripura rebels kill 7 cops

AGARTALA, Sept 20: Seven
police men were killed and
four others injured in an attack
by the insurgents of the
National Liberation Front of
Tripura at Dhumacherra under
north Tripura district early to-
day, reports PTI.

The Taloung Kuki village
under Tamei sub-division in
Manipur's Tamenglong district
was set on fire last night by
unknown persons destroying
all 35 houses of the village, ac-
cording to official sources.

China to break apart like Y'slavia after Deng's death



Deng Xiaoping

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

The 96-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 danger of
the central government's rapid
decline of power, or they have
and 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

up too much power to the
provinces after Deng launched
market reforms in 1978, espe-
cially since the sudden shift to
a market economy last year,
which resulted in an economic
free-for-all by provinces accus-
tomed to four decades of rigid
state planning.

The report, written by two
influential Yale University-edu-
cated scholars and printed by
the Chinese Academy of
Sciences, predicted a power
struggle between Beijing and
the provinces as well as inter-
provincial clashes