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Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

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NEWS BRIEFS

Dhaka welcomes
IRA declarationBangladesh has welcomed
the IRA (Irish Republican
Army) declaration for a
'complete cessation of military
operations' in Northern
Ireland beginning August 31.
The government considers
this move of the IRA as a
'stepping-stone' in the long
road to peace and final settle-
ment in the violence-torn
Northern Ireland, the Foreign
Ministry said yesterday, re-
ports UNB.Hartal observed
in ManikganjMANIKGANJ, Sept 1: An
eight-hour hartal was observed
in the town today demanding
the demolition of an embank-
ment the local people alleged
was 'causing damage to crops'.
In Sadar and Singair thanas. All
shops, schools and colleges
remained closed during the
hartal called by an all-party
Nayakandi Embankment
Removal Action Committee,
reports UNB.Five killed in
SomaliaNAIROBI, Sept 1: A Swiss
journalist and four Somali
clansmen have been killed in
fighting in southern Somalia, a
UN operation in Somalia
(Unosom) spokesman an-
nounced today. Major Zubair
Chandha told AFP by telephone
from the Somali capital,
Mogadishu, that Swiss journal-
ist Pierre Anceaux and four
Somalis died today during in-
ter-clan fighting in the Somali
town of Baule, located between
the southern port of Kismayo
and the town of Bardera.

Fresh gunbattle at DU

Student hit by tear
gas shell dies

By DU Correspondent

A student of the Dhaka
University was killed when
struck by a tear gas shell on
the campus yesterday.Police lobbed the shells and
fired rubber bullets to disperse
activists of two rival student
bodies locked in a gunbattle
which left six others injured.Kamrul Islam Bulbul, an MA
final year student of the Library
Science department, was fa-
tally injured when a tear gasshell hit him in the neck in
front of the DU Central Library
at about 12:30 pm, witnesses
said.
He was rushed to the Dhaka
Medical College Hospital
(DMCH) where he was de-
clared dead.About 100 shots were fired
during an hour-long clash be-
tween the pro-Awami League
Chhatra League (M-I) and the
JSD-backed BCL (B-K) which

began at 11:55 am.

Yesterday's fight was a se-
quel to a conflict between the
two Chhatra Leagues following
an alleged assault on four ac-
tivist of the BCL(B-K) Monday.One of yesterday's injured,
Rezaul Huq, was admitted to
the DMCH with a bullet injury
in his leg. The others are
Rafiqul Islam, Mir Kanti Gho-
sal, Kazi Musa Kalimullah, Ja-
hangir Kabir Kamal and Mah-
bub Faruk.The trouble began when
See Page 12 Col 4.DU classes
postponed
for 3 days

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University au-
thorities have postponed all
classes from September 3
(Saturday) to September 5
(Monday) in the wake of yes-
terday's violence on the cam-
pus.However, all examinations
will be held on schedule and
different offices in the univer-
sity function normally.The DU Syndicate at an
emergency meeting yesterday
also formed a five-man com-
mittee to investigate the in-
cidents that occurred Tuesday
and yesterday.The Vice Chancellor, Pro-
fessor Emajuddin Ahmed, pre-
sided over the Syndicate meet-
ing held at his official resi-
dence.The Syndicate condemned
the terrorist activities and
urged the law enforcing au-
thorities to arrest the persons
involved in the incidents that
had happened since last
Monday.The five-member com-
mittee headed by Professor
Monirul Huq includes Barrister
Mainul Hossain, Dr. Md. Anwar
See Page 12 Col 2Soccer fans go
on rampage

By Staff Correspondent

Frenzied soccer fans went
on the rampage in and outside
the Dhaka Stadium damaging
several vehicles and injuring
scores of people yesterday
evening.The vandalism followed a 0-
1 defeat for the defending
champions Mohammedan
Sporting Club at the hands of
Brothers Union in a crucial
Star Premier League fixture.

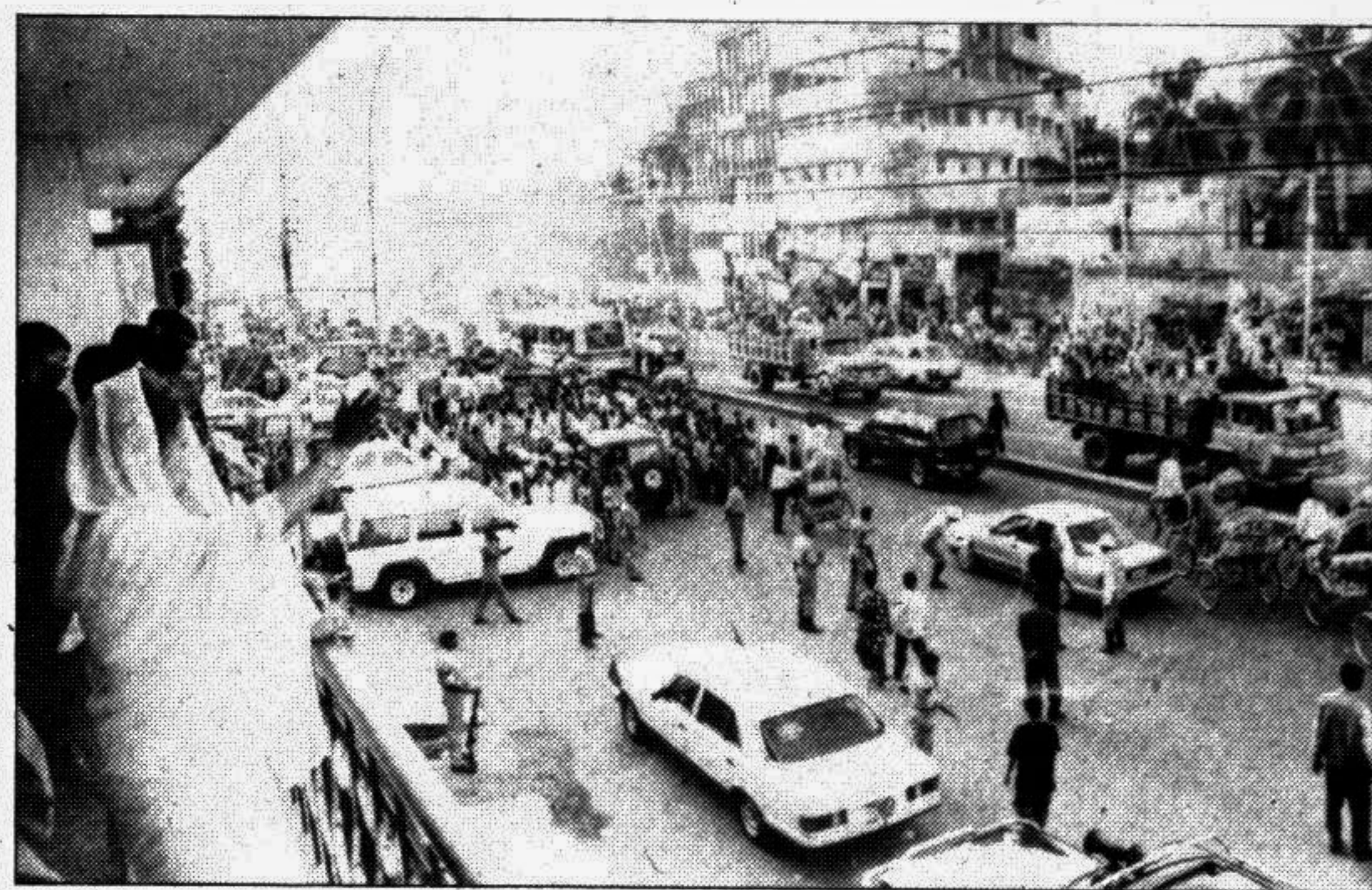
Match report on Page 8

Police resorted to baton-
charge and teargassing to dis-
perse the hooligans. They
needed almost an hour to
bring the situation under con-
trol.Witnesses said the trouble
began inside the stadium mo-
ments before the final whistle
and spread outside, forcing all
nearby markets to pull their
See Page 12 Col 2

Ex-commander tells press

India using Shantibahini
as pressure groupA former guerilla comman-
der of the outlawed Shan-
tibahini yesterday has alleged
that "a neighbouring country"
was responsible for the pre-
sent condition in the hill-
tracts, including the refugee
problem and insurgency, re-
ports UNB.The neighbouring country
wants to use the Shantibahini
as a pressure group," Tridip
Chandra Chakma told a press
conference at the National
Press Club yesterday.Tridip Chakma, whose
cadre name was Brojen, sur-
rendered to the authorities in
the trouble-torn hilltracts on
July 27, ending his long 13-
year association with the out-
lawed insurgents.A student of Rajshahi Uni-
versity, Tridip had joined the
Shantibahini in 1981.Tridip, while answering
questions on the modus
operandi of the Shantibahini,
told newsmen that they had
received both trainings and
weapons from India.He named nine places in
India that were being used by
the activists of the Shan-
tibahini as their sanctuaries
and hiding places. These

Tridip Chakma

places, located in the state of
Tripura, are: Sabrum, Shilai-
chhari, Boalpara, Kadamtali,
Dayek, Barachhara, Raima,
Trimakha and Ratannagar.
"Some of the guerilla fight-ers have received training
from Deraadun to my knowl-
edge," Tridip told a ques-
tioner.Priti Kumar Chakma and
Bhabatosh Dewan who led the
plot which killed Manobendra
Larma, were living a secure life
under the protection of "RAW"
in Tripura, he said.Tridip said that the activi-
ties of Shantibahini were fac-
ing collapse because of nepo-
tism and corruption of Jana-
sangati leader Shanto Larma.The former guerilla com-
mander, who was posted in
Maini-Dighinala sector, in-
formed that acts of insurgency
and sabotage carried by the
members of the Shantibahini
created a state of terror in the
region that forced the tribals
to cross the border.He observed that the ele-
ments who have been carrying
out acts of sabotage in the hill
region were neither the
friends of the people nor the
country. Their number is very
See Page 12 Col 1

BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia waiving at a truck procession passing by the BNP central office in the city on the occasion of the 16th founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday. — PID photo

Opposition waits
for 'framework'
for dialogue

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition parties are
now waiting for a framework
from the ruling party for the
dialogue with it to end the
present political impasse, the
Chief Whip of the Opposition
said yesterday."We will take our decision
after the ruling party informs
us of the framework of the dia-
logue," Mohammad Nasim told
newsmen at the Sangsad
Bhaban.He briefed the press after a
two and a half hour meeting of
the opposition parties with
Deputy Leader of the
Opposition in Parliament
Abdus Samad Azad in the chair.The meeting was convened
following the ruling BNP pro-
posal for a dialogue. Deputy
Leader of the House Prof
Badrudzoza Chowdhury met
Samad Azad at the latter's re-
sidence on Wednesday and for-
mally gave the proposal.Nasim declined to say
whether they have accepted the
proposal or already dis-
cussed the matter with Leader
of the Opposition Sheikh
Hasina, who is now in Makkah.
See Page 12 Col 2Talks only if BNP
admits need for
interim govt'

By Nurul Kabir

The mainstream Opposition
in Parliament believes that a
formal dialogue with the ruling
party to end the present politi-
cal impasse should be started
only after the latter agreed in
principle to the concept of a
caretaker government for
holding general elections.Acting Leader of the Opposi-
tion in Parliament Abdus
Samad Azad had already con-
veyed the position to ruling
party leader and Deputy Leader
of the House Prof. Badrudzoza
Chowdhury Wednesday, sour-
ces close to both the leaders
told The Daily Star.Prof Chowdhury and Samad
Azad met at the latter's resi-
dence Wednesday.
"We are ready to talk, but
your party has to admit, in
See Page 12 Col 7BNP celebrates 16th
founding anniversary

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Nationalist
Party (BNP) yesterday cele-
brated its 16th founding an-
niversary across the country.The ruling party held dis-
cussion meetings, milad mah-
fils, and photo exhibitions
held.A truck procession was also
brought out and a blood dona-
tion programmes arranged.
In the city, the party
erected huge colourful arches
on some important roads.These were decorated with
the portraits of the late presi-
dent Ziaur Rahman, the
founder of BNP, and Prime
Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.Recordings of speeches by
the late president and his
favourite patriotic songs were
played over loudspeakers near
the arches.Prime Minister and BNP
chairperson Begum Khaleda
Zia visited the mazar of Ziaur
Rahman in the morning.Accompanied by Standing
Committee members and party
leaders, the BNP chairperson
placed wreaths and offered
fateha. Deputy leader of the
House Prof AQM BadrudzozaChowdhury, BNP Secretary
General Abdus Salam Talukder
and others also placed wreaths.Leaders of the BNP and its
front organisations also placed
wreaths and offered munajat
praying for the eternal peace
of the late president and seek-
ing divine blessings for the
peace and progress of the
country.The Prime Minister later
visited a blood donation pro-
gramme in front of the mazar,
organised with the help of the
Red Crescent Society.The party held a discussion
on "Politics and development
and the BNP" at the Shilpakala
Academy in the afternoon
which was attended by Begum
Zia.With BNP vice chairman LK
Siddiqui in the chair, the dis-
cussion meeting was ad-
dressed by Barrister Salam
Talukder, Finance Minister M
Saifur Rahman, State Minister
for Planning Dr A Moeen
Khan, BIDS Director General
Dr SL Reza, chief editor of the
Financial Express Reazuddin
See Page 12 Col 6JS session adjourned
for lack of quorum

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali
adjourned yesterday's sitting of
Parliament in the middle of a
discussion because of a lack of
quorum.According to the rules of
procedure of the Jatiya Sang-
sad (JS), sixty out of 330
Parliament members make the
quorum. If any member, during
a sitting, draws the attention
of the chair that the number of
members present is less than
sixty, the Speaker is obliged to
suspend the proceedings and
"cause the bell to be rung for
five minutes; but if no quorum
is available even when the bell
stops ringing, he (the Spea-
ker) shall adjourn the sitting."The House had taken for
discussion a private member's
bill, sponsored by BNP MPFarida Rahman, relating to
further amendments to the
Muslim Family Laws Ordina-
nance, 1961 last night.When his treasury bench
colleague Education Minister
Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar
was deliberating on the issue,
Major (ret'd) Akhtaruzzaman
drew attention of the Speaker
that the House lacked a quo-
rum.The Speaker immediately
cut short Barrister Sircar in
the middle of a sentence,
suspended the sitting and
started ringing the bell. At
that time 56 MPs were pre-
sent in the House.When the bell stopped after
five minutes at 10:07 pm the
quorum was still not met and
See Page 12 Col 4South Korean
PM arrives
todayA warm welcome awaits
Prime Minister Lee Yung Dug
who arrives here today on a
three-day official visit — the
first by a top South Korean
leader — to Bangladesh, re-
ports UNB.He will be accompanied by
his wife Madame Chung Hwak
Sil.Foreign Minister A S M
Mostafizur Rahman and Begum
Rahman will receive the dis-
tinguished guests at Zia Inter-
national airport.Lee's 22-member entourage
will include Vice-Minister of
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Park Kun Woo and Secretary
General to the PM's office Lee
Heung Joo.Besides, a 19-member me-
dia team from South Korea
will visit Dhaka to cover the
visit, seen here as significant
See Page 12 Col 8Plan for dredging
Ctg port channel

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 1: The
Chittagong Port Authority
(CPA) has taken up a plan for
dredging of the Karnaphuli
river to improve the navigabi-
lity along its 19 jetty berths to
facilitate movement of vessels
at this major seaport of the
country, port sources said.The plan was taken up
against the backdrop of rapid
siltation along the jetties.About two years ago dredg-
ing was started at the jetty
berths but it could not be
completed because the
dredger was damaged when
hit by a ship.Vessels with draughts rang-
ing from 6.5 metres to 8.5
metres can now berth at the
jetties but vessels with higher
draughts face difficulty. These
vessels need lightering at the
outer anchorage, the source
said.Earlier, several years ago,
the port channel was dredged
by engaging a foreign company.Then the CPA procured a
dredger — the Khanak — to
continue maintenance dredg-
ing in the port channel.Shibir activists
attack JU buses:
5 injured

By JU Correspondent

At least five students were
injured when the activists of
the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS)
yesterday blocked the buses of
the Jahangirnagar University
in the city and attacked the
students.According to witnesses,
some 40 ICS activists, armed
with sticks and stones, forcibly
stopped the buses opposite the
police box at the Mirpur tech-
nical crossing. They also dis-
tributed some leaflets demand-
ing punishment to the killer of
Qamrul Islam, a Shibir activist,
who was found dead near a JU
residential hall recently.Chandrika rules
out secret
deals with LTTECOLOMBO, Sept 1: Sri
Lanka's Prime Minister
Chandrika Kumaratunga today
assured the military that there
will be no secret deals with
Tamil separatists but that she
was committed to ending eth-
nic bloodshed.Field Commanders backed
Kumaratunga's partially lifting
an economic embargo on terri-
tory held by the Liberation
Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
during a meeting, a defence
source said."Not a single commander
disagreed with the lifting of
the embargo. They suggested
that more items could be
taken off from the list of
banned items," a defence
source at the closed meeting
told AFP.

Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof Badrudzoza Chowdhury and his Opposition counterpart Abdus Samad Azad exchanging views at a discussion, organised to celebrate the 76th birth anniversary of Bangabir Osmany. — Star photo