BHADRA 23, 1401 BS, DHAKA WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1994 RABIUL AWAL 29, 1415 HIJRI



12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

- Inside Today -

Article

A Turning Point in Addressing the All-important **Population Issue** 

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International



Ghali in Pakistan to discuss Afghan, Kashmir issues Page 5

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World Bank pledges \$156m to Gas Infrastructure Project Page 6

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# **NEWS BRIEFS**

BCL (M-I) council By DU Correspondent

The national council '94 of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) will be held at the Ramna Batamul in the city today. AL chief Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the function at Hopes of a compromise in Cairo bleak

# Vatican rules out any major concessions

CAIRO, Sept 6: The Vatican ruled out today any fundamental concessions in its standoff with liberals at a UN population conference, as delegates dug in for a protracted closeddoor battle on abortion, reports Reuter.

The Holy See restated its opposition to some sections of the meeting's programme of action, which sets out a 20year strategy to contain a global population explosion.

In a statement, it acknowledged that the world faced serious problems connected to population" but said it would not make any major concessions on moral issues such as

world's soaring birthrate.

The three-day seventh ex-

tra-ordinary session of the

Islamic Conference of Foreign

gins in Islamabad today is ex-

pected to discuss the proposal

for lifting UN sanctions against

Iraq, according to diplomatic

posed following the Gulf war.

The sanctions were im-

Some OIC countries report-

edly have singed in advance

agreements on trade, eco-

nomic cooperation and infras-

tructural reconstruction of

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

চলতি আর্থিক বছরের প্রথম কোয়ার্টারের জন্য অগ্রিম

সংশ্রিষ্ট করদাতা কর্তক দেয় অগ্রিম আয়কর ফরম নং

আইটি–৩১(বি) (সংশোধিত) চালান ফরমের মাধ্যমে

পরিশোধ করতে হবে। এই ফরিমের যে যে স্থানে

'৭৪(১)'' সংখ্যাটি উল্লিখিত আছে তার স্থলে "৬৪''

সংখ্যাটি প্রতিস্থাপনপূর্বক চালান ফরমটি যথারীতি পুরণ

করে করদাতাগণ অগ্রিম কর পরিশোধ করবেন। উল্লেখ্য,

সকল শ্রেণীর করদাতার জন্য অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদানের

ক্ষেত্রে মোট আয়ের সীমা বর্তমানে ১,০০,০০০/-

বছরের জন্য চলতি আর্থিক বছরের প্রথম কোয়ার্টারের

অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদান না করলে অথবা প্রদেয় অগ্রিম

করের অংক থেকে কম পরিমাণ পরিশোধ করলে

বাৎসরিক ১০% হারে সরল সুদ আরোপণের বিধান

মধ্যে এই পদ্ধতিতে প্রদানের অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

সংশ্রিষ্ট সকল করদাতাকে ১৯৯৫-৯৬ কর

আয়কর ১৫ই সেপ্টেম্বর ১৯৯৪ইং তারিখের

প্রদানের তারিখ ১৫ই সেপ্টেম্বর, ১৯৯৪ইং।

"গাছ লাগান গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন

এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান"- প্রধানমন্ত্রী

Bangladesh is being repre-

Ministers (ICFMs) which bea

abortion and family matters. But it left a chink of light

suggesting it could agree a final text. European Union nations are working on compromise language on sections of the draft document that refer to abortion.

"We are on the road to getting something we could eventually sign", Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls

AFP adds: US Vice President Al Gore earlier dashed hopes of a compromise on the abortion controversy saying the Vatican would not sign a plan to curb the world's soaring

US Vice President AL Gore (L) and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak speak to reporters in a

joint press briefing in Cairo yesterday. They said the Vatican would not sign a plan to curb the

Delhi terms invitation to Kashmiris as interference

OIC FMs confce begins in

Islamabad today

By Staff Correspondent

sented by a four-member dele-

gation led by Foreign Minister

Mostafizur Rahman. The dele-

will advocate for a peaceful so-

lution to all issues within and

beyond the Muslim world at

lier stand on the issues to be

discussed at the ICFM extraor-

dinary session." Foreign Minis-

ter A S M Mostafizur Rahman

Poverty alleviation

target of EC's

future aid plan

will continue to be a leading

food donor to Bangladesh but.

henceforth, with a bias to po-

verty alleviation programmes,

d'Affaires of Delegation of the

European Commission in

Dhaka, told financial journal-

ists yesterday that the EC had

initiated restructuring its food

aid programme raising shares

See Page 12 Col 7

Anthony Goodwin, Charge

European Community (EC)

the meeting.

reports UNB.

Another report says. Dhaka

"We will maintain our ear-

gation left Dhaka vesterday.

told UNB.

Afghanistan.

problems.

Other members of the dele-

gation are: Bangladesh's per-

manent representative in the

OIC Shafi Shami, High Commi-

ssioner to Pakistan Q A M A

Rahim and Director General

(IO) at the Ministry of Foreign

rated by Pakistani Prime

Minister Benazir Bhutto, will

deal with the vexing issues of

Kashmir, situation in Bosnia-

Herzegovina, the Middle East

problems and the civil was in

The conference is expected

AFP adds: India criticised

to work out a common strategy

for peaceful solution to the

the OIC today for inviting

Kashmiri Muslim leaders to its

meeting, saving it was interfer-

for the all party Kashmir

Freedom Conference grouping

Muslim political and rebel

groups said New Delhi had de-

nied permission to conference

leaders to attend the meeting.

See Page 12 Col 1

Meanwhile. a spokesman

ing in its internal affairs.

The meeting to be inaugu-

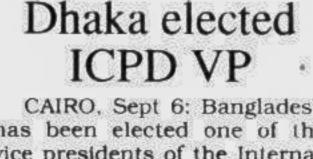
Affairs Syed Moazzem Ali.

"No one should have any illusion that there's going to be some kind of result that causes the Vatican to sign this document," Gore said today after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Gore earlier held 40-minutes of private talks with Vatican delegates.

The Vice President, who had come under personal attack from the Vatican over the draft action plan, said the Vatican did not sign the final document at UN population conferences 10 years and 20

It 'will not sign the docu-See Page 12 Col 1

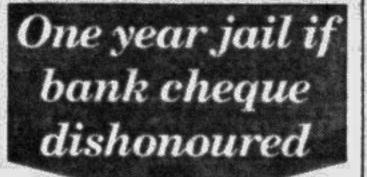


CAIRO, Sept 6: Bangladesh has been elected one of the vice presidents of the International Conference on Population and Development which got underway ceremonially yesterday. Other vice presidents elected from Asia are China, Pakistan, Japan, Indonesia, and Marshall Island reports BSS.

The Bangladesh delegation, headed by Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, was active in the pro-conference negotiations which dealt with organisational and procedural matters.

The activities also covered negotiations on some of the controversial issues and matters not dealt with during the preparatory commission.

Meanwhile, OIC countries including Bangladesh also met to assess and coordinate their position on some of the controversial issues in the draft Programme of Action of the - AFP photo ICPD.



A law providing one year jail for issuing cheque dishonoured by the bank was passed in Parliament last night, reports UNB.

Speaking briefly in favour of the bill that amends the Negotiable Instruments Act of 1881, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said the measure was essential to create confidence in transaction of money through cheque and maintain financial discipline of bank.

The bill provides that if a cheque given in payment to a person is returned by the bank unpaid due to insufficient fund, the drawer of the cheque shall be punished with a maximum one year jail or with fine of twice the amount of the cheque or with both.

But the penal provision shall not apply unless:

(a) the cheque has been presented to the bank within a period of six months from the date on which it is drawn or within the period of its validity, whichever is earlier;

(b) the payee or the holder in due course of the cheque, as the case may be, makes a demand for the payment of the said amount of money by giving a notice, in writing, to the drawer of the cheque, within See Page 12 Col 7

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia talking to the leaders of Left Democratic Front at her office in the city yesterday. - PID photo

### PM shares LDF's concern over fundamentalism

By Nurul Kabir Minister. She told us that she

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday shared the Left-leaning parties' concern over the alarming rise of religious fundamentalism in the country and felt that a unity of the democratic forces was the only answer to the undesirable phenomenon.

Leaders of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) who met the PM yesterday, on the other hand, assured Begum Zia of every possible support to any government step against the fundamentalists.

The Prime Minister and the leaders of the LDF, an alliance of eight Left-leaning parties, had more than 90 minutes of discussions on the country's political and economic situations at her Hare Road office yesterday afternoon.

"We expressed our concern over the rise of religious fundamentalism to the Prime

was aware of this and also of the fact that a particular Jamaat orator continues to make obnoxious criticism against her in waz mahfils or religious gatherings across the country," an LDF leader who attended the meeting told The Daily Star last night. When requested to stop the

use of the mosques by the fundamentalists for political activities, the Prime Minister reportedly told the LDF leaders that this would need legislative action. She, therefore, requested the Opposition to discuss the issue in Parliament, meeting sources said. "Begum Zia felt that disunity

among the democratic forces has contributed to growing fundamentalism," Rashed Khan Menon, MP of the LDF informed the Star.

See Page 12 Col 4

# BNP staging drama in the name of dialogue: Hasina

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina vesterday asked the government to quit immediately and transfer power to a neutral caretaker government to ensure peace, democracy and development, reports

Hasina's call came just four days ahead of the Opposition's Dhaka 'Siege' programme on September 10 designed to put pressure on the ruling BNP to concede to the demand for parliamentary election under a caretaker administration.

Addressing a function marking the new membership collection campaign of the Awami League at the party central office. Hasina said the

#### Police recover arms from CMC hostels

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 6: A large contingent of police this evening raided the Chittagong Medical College campus and hostels and recovered some

arrested.

Police recovered one sawed-off rifle, one double bar-See Page 12 Col 1

arms and ammunition. Six students, belonging to a pro-rightist student front were

Hasina accused the BNP of

return to the House.

ruling party, in the name of dialogue, was staging a 'drama' to mislead the current agitation for a caretaker govern-

"If they want a productive dialogue, they must address the core of the problem. But the BNP does not want a solution to the present impasse in Parliament," the Awami League President told the function.

She appealed to the people from all walks of life 'to frustrate all conspiracies and join the 'Dhaka Siege' programme to force the government to accept, the popular demand for caretaker government."

Referring to dialogue to resolve the six-month-old crisis in Parliament, Hasina said, she herself had wanted it in response to the Prime Minister's call. But the PM changed her position when she (Hasina) had suggested that the proposed dialogue must centre round the issue of a caretaker government.

"We cannot ask the people to join voting under a government that had failed to give security to voters," she said.

making Parliament ineffective and said the government party has blocked the Opposition's Referring to the Dhaka

See Page 12 Col 3

Public Issue of Shares

### Mistrust in Opposition camp over BNP tactics Star Report

The one-on-one discussions

with opposition parties initiated by the ruling BNP has given rise to suspicion and mistrust in the opposition camp, slowing down the process of an all-party dialogue to end the current political inpasse, sources said. The major opposition

Awami League has taken exception to the recent ruling party initiative to hold bilateral talks with some opposition parties, which appears to have put back the process towards a broader government-Opposition dialogue. The government move is

aimed at weakening the Opposition unity" one source said; adding; "In such bilateral - See Page 12 Col 7

### Detailed study of Farakka impact soon

By Special Correspondent The government will conduct a detailed study of the environmental impact of the

Farakka barrage on Bangladesh. A project concept paper (PCP) has already been prepared. Besides assessing the impact being felt by the country, the study will identify and

predict further environmental hazards due to diversion of the Ganges water by India, official sources said. The objective of the study includes preparation of an en-

vironmental management plan to offset the negative impact of the Farakka dam and preven-See Page 12 Col 8

#### Exploration of mineral resources to be streamlined Exploration and develop-

ment of lime stone, white clay, silica sand, peat coal and other mineral resources will be further streamlined, reports This was decided at a high

level meeting in Dhaka vesterday with Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Mosharraf Hossain in the chair. The Bureau of Mineral

Development (BMD), a national See Page 12 Col 7

## Total reform in power sector essential, say donors By Staff Correspondent

A total reform of the power sector is considered by the donors as absolutely essential to streamline the existing state-owned power infrastructure and, more importantly, to attract private investments.

Unless efficiency of the Power Development Board (PDB) and DESA is improved before allowing operation by . private developers, the present staggering loss from the national exchequer to keep lights burning and machines running would continue.

The need for approving the already drafted reform programme of the power sector was also stressed at a meeting between a World Bank led team and the Energy Ministry

on August 22. Given the current 36 per cent system loss in the power meeting were also of the view

sector, private power developers are wary about making investments without any government guarantee of offsetting losses which may be incurred because of the national system loss.

The private developers will obviously have to depend on the PDB and DESA infrastructure for transmission of the generated power. Both the donors and ex-

perts feel that unless the PDB and DESA are streamlined, the government would have to bear possible losses of the private power developers. "This will only result in a

transfer of the subsidy for the state-owned power sector to the private sector," one official The donors at last month's

that if the government were to allow private participation in the power sector without the needed reforms, it would cause a continuous drainage of resources from the public to the private sector to meet the obligations of the government's guarantee.

Currently a number of proposals from private power developers are lying with the ministry. But the reform. which officials say cover different aspects of the power sector, twice failed to get the Cabinet's approval.

Experts had pointed out that development of the power sector is the most crucial issue for rapid industrialisation of the country. However, in their meeting

with the Energy Ministry the

See Page 12 Col 8

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প্রযোজ্য হবে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

Agreement likely on Cairo draft

> soon: Kamal From Masud Hasan Khan CAIRO, Sept 6: Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf today indicated that almost all

stabilise the global population growth have been removed. This means, when fully agreed, the World Population Conference could come out with a final declaration that is supported by all the participating countries and a Programme of Action for the

next 20 years, he told The

the barriers impeding an agreement on strategies to

Daily Star in an interview. "Almost all the misunderstandings and confusions over some wordings in the draft of the final declaration of this Conference have been removed." he said. "A formula of compromise is now in action .. Hopefully, we will be able to

See Page 12 Col 3