War flares on several fronts in Bosnia

SARAJEVO. Sept 15: Muslim led forces and Bosnian Serbs battled for strategic areas in the north and along a newly reopened battlefront in central Bosnia. UN officials said Thursday, reports AP.

Exchanges of artillery fire were reported near Breko in the northeast, where Serbs hold a vital corridor that links Serbia with territory they control in northern Bosnia and Croatia.

In the central part of the country. Bosnian military sources claimed they had made some gains this week against Serb forces along an important Bosnian government supply route near the town of Konjic.

Fighting also centered on the Bihac area of northwestern Bosnia, which has been under Muslim-led government control since troops last month vanquished a rebel Muslim leader who was cooperating with Serbs.

Also Thursday. UN commanders in Bosnia met senior NATO military officers to discuss violations of UN-declared "safe areas" in Bosnia, including Bihac

French Gen. Bertrand de Lapresle, commander of UN peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia, told NATO's mili tary committee that the situa tion in Bihac was not serious enough to provoke NATO air strikes, sources said.

The war in Bosnia broke out in April 1992 when Serbs rebelled against a vote by Croats and Muslims to leave Serbdominated Yugoslavia. An estimated 200,000 people are · dead or missing.

Konjic, southwest of Sarajevo, is along the main government supply route from the Croatian coast to governmentheld territory in central and northern Bosnia.

The Bosnian government forces appeared to be trying to secure the corridor against Serb attacks, and also take advantage of a perceived Serb

City BNP

From Page 1 Col 8 -people when the opposition parties were indulging in violence

He said the responsibility of the BNP to the people had been increased since the people had voted the BNP to power through the elections held in 1991

Mir Shawkat Ali said when the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had been putting in its relentless efforts to ameliorate the condition of the masses, the leaders of opposition parties were engaged in a "conspiracy to shatter the economic infrastructure of Bangladesh." He said the people had not responded to the call of those who had once killed democracy in Parliament within 15 minutes and gagged the press by closing all but four newspapers. Now they wanted to thwart democracy, he added.

The meeting was also addressed by Salahuddin Ahmed MP, general secretary of city BNP. Presidents and general secretaries of the thana units were present

terrorism, political repression and its failure in boosting the

economy.

From Page 1 Col 7

boycott of Parliament, Hasina admitted that it is Parliament where all important issues ought to be deliberated and national policies decided.

"But have you seen such a process in Bangladesh since the BNP came to power? How many times has the Leader of the House attended the House or participated in debates? Has she ever replied to a question put to her by the members?" the opposition leader ques-

She said the Deputy Leader of the House, not being a minister and perhaps less than fully aware of government's plans and deliberations, is the one who stands up to speak for the government.

She said out of the first 94 bills passed by the House only four were introduced as Bills. The remaining 90 were first issued as Ordinances and then brought to the House to put parliamentary stamps.

The parliamentary committees fail to function properly because BNP ministers who chair these committees are blocking critical discussion on investigations. "How can we stamp out corruption in the government when Parliament is not allowed by the BNP government to play its proper role?" Indeed the BNP has rendered Parliament totally ineffectual, she alleged.

In her speech, Sheikh Hasina criticised the government policy of 'politicisation',

weakness in the large stretch of territory in southern Bosnia.

Bosnian Serbs responded with shelling. Paul Risely, a UN spokesman in Zagreb, said Croats then pulled their soldiers out of a small pocket of territory they held around the

Croats and Muslims formed a federation in the spring to end a year of fighting between them, and the presidents of Croatia and Bosnia met earlier in the week to try to firm up the agreement.

Croats also joined the Bosnian army in shelling Serb positions in Bracko. UN spokesman Cmdr. Eric Chaperon said observers reported more than 250 shells were fired. and another 139 were fired to the south around Gradacac.

Govt urged to accept demand for interim govt

By Staff Correspondent

Leading members of the intelligentsia of the country have urged the government to resolve the present political crisis arising out of the demand for a caretaker administration.

Some 45 poets, professionals, teachers and artists, meeting at the Dhanmondi residence of Sufia Kamal Thursday said, free and fair elections cannot be held under any political government.

"For this reason, the demand for a caretaker government has now become a national demand," they said in a press statement.

They said, holding elections under caretaker governments can be a better way of ensuring free and fair elections in fu-

They also urged all political parties and the government to come to a consensus on the is-

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Justice KM Sobhan, Shamsur Rahman, Prof Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, former ambassador Waliur Rahman, actor Asaduzzaman Noor, architect Mazharul Islam, Prof Mustafa Nurul-Islam, and painter Hashem Khan attended the meeting.

Prokrichi

From Page 1 Col 5 months, but the administration cadre managed to get their ex-

clusive order ready within a

The press conference was also addressed by, among others. Chairman of the council Dr MA Mazed, Vice-Chairman Akhter Hossain, Dr Zaved Iqbal. Abu Yusuf, Mesbah Uddin and Giasuddin Milky. The Prokrichi-BCS leaders said that the administration cadre had only 4148 members. "Thus, the promotions this time would make a peculiar organisational structure which never

They demanded a judicial inquiry into how the matter. Certain influential quarter

existed in the world before."

in the bureaucracy was 'leading the government to take controversial decisions,' they said

She expressed concern at

the rapid rise in the prices of

essentials as well as terrorist

transport strike, she ques-

tioned who had designed this

Referring to the recent

acts by 'armed BNP men'.

Hasina explains stand

tions. Referring to the Opposition

strike. "Was it not the government which arranged the strike to foil the Opposition programmes?" Quoting newspaper reports, Hasina said the government

was yet to announce the import policy for 1994-95, putting businessmen in a difficult situation. Investors are not coming to invest because they have no confidence in the BNP government which she said is wallowing about in corruption.

"Our campaign is against this corrupt, incompetent and oppressive government. The crisis that we face today is the result of the BNP government's misrule," she said.

Hasina said the Awami League is committed to following the free market system with emphasis on the initiative and creativity of the private entrepreneur. "We will encourage competition to stimulate growth. We also want to ensure social justice and equal oppor-

tunities for all." The AL chief said her party attached priority to eradication of poverty and illiteracy. "But how can we focus national attention on these basic goals when a congenial and stable environment for economic development does not exist?" she

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Home Minister's statement

motivated: Zillur Awami League general sec retary Zillur Rahman yesterday condemned the Home Minister's statement about the security to opposition leader Sheikh Hasina and termed it

'motivated,' reports UNB. He said Sheikh Hasina had pointed to constant surveillance on her usual political ac tivities by the government's intelligence and not about her security.

Home Minister But Abdul Matin Chowdhury in his statement in Parliament on Wednesday avoided the matter tactfully and raised irrelevant issues and dished out "falsehoods," Zillur said.

The Awami League leader said the security measures for Sheikh Hasina were arranged by acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on his personal initiative. Such arrangements were also made for Begum Khaleda Zia at that

After assuming power the BNP government has not made any additional security arrangements for the opposition leader. On the contrary, the government tried to withdraw the arrangement provided by Justice Shahabuddin.

Referring to security at Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi. Zillur said after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with members of his family. the Home Ministry took over charge of that house and placed it under police protection.

He said Chowdhury's 'false statement' about the security at Bangabandhu Bhaban is 'unfortunate.'

Zillur said letters to the opposition leader were being censored and her telephone bugged for a long time. Her political activities at Minto Road and outside were closely watched by the intelligence services on instruction from the government.

2 Indian vessels seized at Zakiganj

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Sept 15: The customs authorities at Zakiganj border in Sylhet impounded two Indian cargo vessels yesterday. The vessels were seized while they were entering the Bangladesh territory through the river Kushiyara, without valid papers, said a customs official

The official, however, refused to give any further de-

The vessels were carrying various goods from the Calcutta

Weavers From Page 1 Col 5

The demands include withdrawal of all cases against the weavers, exemption of their loans, rehabilitation of the weavers affected by floods and other natural disasters, and the setting up of a handloom ministry and a handloom bank to help the weavers get loans on easy terms and conditions.

The General Secretary of the association alleged that the government has completely failed to solve the problems of the handloom sector. The Weavers' Credit Scheme launched by the government could not fulfil the aspirations of the weavers, he said.

He said, if the government was sincere in providing the people with fabrics at a lower price, it would have taken pragmatic steps to develop this prospective sector by removing the problems of the weavers.

He said about 42 lakh families of the weavers are now leading an inhuman life due to the "wrong policies" of the government.

He announced that the Samity would start holding rallies and workers' meetings at the district level from October 16 and exchange views with the leaders of various political and professional organisations from November 7 to drum up support for their demands.

China against invasion of Haiti

BEIJING, Sept 15: China said today it opposes the US threat to invade Haiti, saying it did not approve of the use of force to solve international disputes, reports Reuter.

"We always stand for a peaceful solution to all international disputes and conflicts through patient negotiations, the Foreign Ministry spokesman's office said in answer to a question on the increasingly tense situation in the Caribbean.

"We are not in favour of the exertion of pressure at will or even the resort to the use of

US President Bill Clinton vowed on Wednesday to oust Haiti's military rulers by force if they do not leave voluntarily. China is one of the five

calmly announced," Jonassaint said. He noted that "the impermanent members of the mense majority of the Ame-UN Security Council.



wealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku on his arrival for a five-day visit to Bangladesh at Zia International Airport yesterday. - PID photo

10 killed in Kabul fighting

Wahdat.

Two ethnic Hazara factions.

Hezb-i-Wahdat and Haraket-i

Islami, are said to be the cen-

tre of the violence although

there is much talk that the

fighting started from a long-

simmering feud between two

conflicting personalities within

have been competing for po-

UFF threatens to

use force against

N Ireland's police

tant extremists threatened to

use force against Northern

Ireland's police today, accusing

them of harassing people in

Protestant areas of Belfast,

The outlawed Ulster Free-

dom Fighters (UFF) said they

would take affirmative action

against the Royal Ulster

Constabulary (RUC). Northern

Ireland's police force, if they

continued with their heavy-

Alleged move to

politicise Muktijoddha

Sangsad protested

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Muktijoddha San-

gsad central command council

have condemned the alleged

Addressing a press confer-

ence in the city yesterday.

Vice Chairman of the council S

M Badruddoza alleged that ef-

forts were being made to elect

a high official of the National

Security Intelligence (NSI) as

Chairman of the Sangsad in vi-

He alleged that the names

of genuine freedom fighters

were excluded from the vot-

ers list and fake names were

It was stated at the press

conference that a high gov-

ernment official cannot con-

test elections for the chair-

manship of an organisation like

Abdur Rashid, Habibur

Rahman and Belal Ahmed also

the Muktijoddha Sangsad.

olation of its constitution.

move to 'politicise'

organisation.

included.

Some leaders of the

reports Reuter.

handed tactics.

BELFAST, Sept 15: Protes-

wer ever since April 1992.

Rabbani and Hekmatyar

KABUL, Sept 15: Ten civil

ians were killed and scores

were wounded, many of them

children, in a bloody surge of

fighting this morning between

rival Shi'ite factions in south

and 85 wounded had been

admitted to the local Karte Se

hospital before noon. Many of

the casualties were screaming

and bleeding children woun-

ded in a direct rocket hit on a

"The wounded are coming

house celebrating a marriage.

in so fast they are not all regis-

tered yet," a harried hospital

worker said, "perhaps another

15-20 patients have yet to be

early Wednesday, when 12

people were reported killed

The clashes first erupted

Mortar rounds were landing

Thursday in the river alongside

the hospital as stretcher bear-

ers carried in fresh casualties.

one of whom was a blood-

spattered woman whose clo-

thes were scorched and still

smouldering from a rocket

Hasina protests

'false' cases

against AL

activists

strongly protested the filing of

cases under Anti-Terrorism

Act against Awami League

leaders and workers in differ-

ent Wards and Unions of

Demra thana in connection

with hartals on September 11-

The Awami League Presi

dent in a statement alleged

that the cases were filed

against her workers conspira-

torially. She demanded im-

mediate withdrawal of the

Those who were charged

include M Mozammel Haq.

Kafil Uddin, M Soni, Masum

Molla, Kazi Habibur Rahman,

Sanaullah, Liton, Alam, Sultan,

Majibor Rahman Manir, Maji

bor Rahman Manju, Mahfuz

Nayan, Khokon, Shahin, Ratan,

Yusuf, Jinnat, Siddigur Rah-

man, Bakul, Helaluddin, Babul

Shamsuzzaman, Rafiqul Islam

'false' cases against them.

13, reports UNB.

Sheikh Hasina yesterday

Doctors said 10 corpses

Kabul, reports AFP.

added to the book.

and 140 wounded.

Liberia

From Page | Col 4 tackers) are still holed up in the Executive Mansion... but it has been cordoned off by our troops and quite a number of the soldiers and officers who participated in the shooting have surrendered." Brig Gen A S Mukhtar, chief of staff of the African army, told the Associa-

He said members of the Armed Forces of Liberia had started moving in on the mansion, the national radio station and the telecommunications centre at around 2 am.

deserted and the few people on the streets around the troubled area appeared to be Liberian soldiers, according to a resident reached by telephone, who requested anony-

dance music.

Card phone in Srinagar

yesterday, reports UNB.

While talking to the Deputy leader, President Biswas underscored the need for further expansion of the telecommu nication system for overall development of the country.

medium of quick communication and closely linked up with infrastructural development."

tem as early as possible.

Minister informed the President that 728 card phones have so far been installed in different places in the country and initiatives have been taken for installation of more card phones on priority basis.

ted Press in a telephone inter-

casting hours late, around 9.30 am, but only played African

Chowdhury opened the ISD card phone system at Srinagar in Munshigani district by talking to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban

Telecommunications Tariqul Islam was present on the occa-

The Telecommunication

Haitian leaders defiant

From Page 1 Col 4

ers on the way and troops staging mock landings in Puerto Rico, Clinton planned to address the American public Thursday night to try and build support for an invasion.

out of there," Clinton said Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press and other news agencies. He said the United States has "exhausted every available alternative" to invasion to oust Haiti's military leaders.

Aristide, Haiti's first freely elected leader, was overthrown three years ago this month. The United States and other nations have tried, so far in vain, to restore him to power by imposing an increasingly restrictive series of trade and travel embargoes.

Jonassaint, installed in May as president but not recognised by foreign governments, complained that the invasion threat was politically motivated, with US congressional elections less than two months away.

rican people have not been convinced" of the need to invade.

Americans oppose a US invasion of Haiti and 60 per cent say the country's vital interests are not at stake.

Interior and Defence imposed a 7 pm-7am ban on traffic on inter-city highways and on the departure of boats and planes during those hours. It said the curfew was taken "to counter acts of foreign aggression." Militiamen beat people who

tried to pick up leaflets dropped by American aircraft early Wednesday. The leaflets announced Aristide's return. Michel Francois, the capi-

tal's police chief, was heard on the police radio band ordering soldiers to shoot at the aircraft as they flew over, according to a resident who spoke on condition of anonymity. Two US Army Blackhawk

helicopters flew over the capital later Wednesday. Apparently anticipating an

invasion, middle-and upperclass Haitians stocked up on goods, emptying shelves at many food stores and supermarkets in Port-au-Prince.

In his news conference. Jonassaint said legislative elections will be held as planned in December and that presidential elections will be held soon after.

for one third of the 27-member Senate and the entire 81member Chamber of deputies to be up for re-election. Presidential elections had been

his prepared text, removed his glasses and spoke spontaneously in Creole, the language of most Haitians. We have harmed no one. threatened neither the peace

When asked for his reaction to the sound of a US airplane overhead earlier in the day, he responded: "Don't worry. Haiti is not alone.

tion of the widely believed spiritual powers of Voodoo. Jonassaint's statement fol-

lowed all-day meetings of the army high command and the Cabinet. The 12-member Cabinet flanked him as he spoke

The Commonwealth Secretary General. Chief Emeka Anvaoku yesterday said that he would discuss the agenda of the upcoming Commonwealth Summit with the Bangladesh

Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport on his arrival here on a five-day official visit the Secretary General said that he was in the process of discussing the agenda with the member countries.

government leaders, reports

member Commonwealth is scheduled to take place at Auckland, New Zealand, next The Secretary General said

The summit of the 51

desh-Commonwealth relations could be strengthened. He described the existing relationship between Bangladesh and Commonwealth as "excellent", "very good" and

"very special".

that he would discuss during

his stay here on how Bangla-

The Secretary General said that he would pay a courtesy call on the President and have discussions with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Besides, he said, he would also meet the representatives of a number of institutions, his itinerary indicate he would visit BRAC and the Grameen

Monorovia's streets were

National radio began broad-

Prof AQM Badruddoza

He said, "Telephone is the Minister for Post and

President Biswas conveyed his best wishes to the people of Srinagar on this happy occasion and hoped that all important places will be connected by the card phone sys-

UK soon ISLAMABAD, Sept 15: Pakistan is in the firfal phase of negotiations with France and Britain over the sale of nonnuclear attack submarines, the

Pakistan to acquire

subs from France,

head of the Pakistan Navy, Admiral Saeed Khan, was quoted today as saying. The talks could wrap up soon, he was quoted by the official news agency APP as say

Pakistan currently has two Agosta and four Daphne submarines, all French-built and at least 25 years old.

From Page 1 Col 8 Pointing out the success story of oral saline in lighting diarrhoea, Dr Gazi told the journalists at the BMA Bhaban yesterday. "Various organisations and the media played vital role by popularising diarrhoea preventive methods which helped reduced the

The conference was also addressed by BMA president Dr M A Mazed, Dr Fakrul Islam Chowdhury. Dr Azizul Haq and Dr K S A Aziz. The theme of the confer-

number of deaths.

ence is "1994, the diarrhoea prevention year through social mobilisation". The World Health Organisation (WHO), Unicef and ICDDR,B co-sponsored the conference.

The participating countries are India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, USA, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Thailand and host country Bangladesh. Twelve scientific and five

plenary sessions will be held during the two-day conference which will be addressed by eminent scientists from USA and India. More than 100 papers will be presented in the

session. The members of the current ASCOD organising committee include Dr Mazed president, Prof K M S Aziz general secretary and Dr Yakub Al Mazru, vice president, from

PM visits

Saudi Arabia.

From Page 1 Col 4 district would fall by 30 per cent in the current Aman sea-

Later. Begum Zia dashed to

Palashbari in Nilphamari and visited the drought-affected The government has made arrangements to supply fertiliser to the farmers at the

government rate under the di-

rect supervision of Deputy

Commissioner, she told gath-

erings of people. She further announced that besides the special test relief, more open market rice sale centres would be opened in the drought-hit areas.

The Prime Minister asked

the people to face the drought with fortitude and patience. 'Don't worry, the government is with you. After visiting the areas, she

attended a meeting of local

leaders, elite and officials for

taking stock of the situation.

Begum Zia later visited the drought-affected areas of Baliadangi in Thakurgaon and addressed a big gathering. She asked the people to prepare their cultivable land for the next crop and avail agricultural loans and other facilities being provided by the government to make up their losses.

She advised the farmers and landless people not to depend only on agriculture but to involve themselves in alternative income generation schemes like poultry and dairy farming and pisciculture.

After ending her visit to the drought-stricken areas, she held a meeting with the DCs of greater Dinajpur and Rangpur districts, officials concerned, local elite and leaders as well as peasant leaders for an appraisal of the problems of the districts. Agriculture and Water

Resources Minister Majid-ul-Hug, State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harunal Rashid, Prof Abdul Hafiz, MP. Rebeka Mahmud, MP, and other local eleaders accompanied the PM.

spoke at the press conference. and Khairul Alam.

"It is time for them to get

"The approaching enslavement of our people has been

An ABC News poll released Monday found 73 per cent of

Haiti's Ministry of the

The constitution provides

scheduled for December 1995 when Aristide's term expires. After delivering his remarks in French, Jonassaint set aside

of America nor of the world, he said. 'Haiti doesn't have the atom bomb. They could destroy us in a couple of minutes."

He was referring to protec

C'wealth Secy-Gen The Midnight Bile Gaddafi expresses solidarity

with Haiti's military rulers TUNIS, Sept 15: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi expressed solidarity with Haiti's military rulers and called ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide a "butcher and a dictator." "The United States is preparing to invade a small country named Haiti because it has changed its Regime,' Gaddafi said in a speech quoted today by the Libyan news

agency Jana, reports Reuter. 12 more killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Sept 15: Twelve persons, including eight militants and a revenue official, were killed and 12 militants captured while extra security steps were taken around the six-storey building of civil secretariat following attempt by militants to blow it up in the Kashmir valley since last evening. The Jammu and Kashmir police personnel repulsed an attack by militants on a police post at Gotta village in Udhampur district while authorities lifted day curfew in Kistwar town of Doda district in Jammu region, reports PTI.

16 slain in Algeria

But critics accused the gov-

ernment of selling out and mil-

PDB signs Tk 77 cr

agreement with

Japanese firm

Development Board (PDB) and

the Nisho Iowai Corporation of

Japan yesterday signed an

agreement for Taka 77.17

crore for rehabilitation of

Haripur 100 megawatt gas

turbine power centre, accord-

ing to official sources in Dhaka

The OICF, Japan, aided re-

habilitation project would be

completed in 18 months. The

erection and commission of

the project would be done by

the PDB's own engineers and

technicians under the supervi-

sion of Japanese experts. With

the completion of work the

power centre would be able to

generate electricity in its full

mmad Azharul Islam and Gene-

ral Manager of the Power Pro-

ject Division of the concerned

Japanese farm Tatsu Nakamura

signed the agreement on be-

half of their respective organi

Two killed

From Page 1 Col 7

The mob then dispersed

The clash led to tension in

but many of them were in-

the entire Khagrachhari dis

trict and the district adminis-

would continue.

tration announced Section 144

of the Pahari Chhatra Parishad

(PCP) this afternoon demon-

strated in front of Rangamati

thana demanding release of

two tribal men 'arrested' Wed-

nesday from Baghaichhari

thana area while collecting

Police dispersed the de-

monstrators. Law enforcing

agency sources said the de-

monstrators damaged some

local shops before leaving the

IMF

From Page 1 Col 3

favourable and the reserve sit

uation is comfortable, the gov-

ernment is yet to take a deci-

sion on joining the ESAF suc-

cessor programme. Under the

programme, the IMF formu-

lates a policy framework paper

and then provides balance of

payment support. Without this

agreement, Bangladesh would

not be able to draw on the 392

million in Special Drawing

Rights (SDR) US dollar 549

million US dollar quota set

aside for the country under the

Earlier, Bangladesh re-

ceived such support under the

structural adjustment facility

(SAF), 201 million SDR and

the ESAF, 345 million SDR,

programmes initiated in 1986

The issue came up for dis-

cussion at the preliminary

meeting held between the two

to press for further accelerat

ing the ongoing reform pro-

cess. The IMF resident repre-

sentative at a press conference

last month had urged the gov-

ernment to go for further tariff

reduction, widen the financial

sector reforms, to increase

domestic resource mobilisa

tion and also to accelerate the

privatisation process of public

greater political will would be

needed to push the reforms

forward and added that the

country's growth rate also

needs to be increased from the

4.5 per cent per annum.

He had also noted that

sector enterprises.

The IMF team is also likely

new 3-year programme.

and 1987 respectively.

sides in Dhaka last May

Meanwhile, some activists

Secretary of PDB Moha

reports BSS.

capacity.

The Bangladesh Power

itants kept up their battle.

ports AP

talks next week.

ALGIERS, Sept 15: The bodies of 16 civilians were found beheaded and mutilated. a newspaper reported Thursday, as violence continued despite government concessions to Muslim fundamentalists, re-

Newly freed fundamentalist leaders reportedly began meeting with colleagues and speculation increased that their Islamic Salvation Front may be legalised as negotiators prepared for a new round of

Asian confee