The Midnight File

Haitians leaving capital

leaving the capital today for the safety of the countryside in

the face of a threatened US-led invasion to remove the

country's military leaders. Bus lines serving the country's

main provincial towns were besieged by people trying to leave

5 NPA rebels killed

in Philippines

killed in a gunbattle with government troops in the central

island of Leyte, the official Philippine News Agency (PNA) re-

ported today. The PNA quoted military sources as saying the

five rebels were among 20 suspected members of the com-

munist New People's Army (NPA) who were sighted by gov-

ernment troops in Calbiga town, 535 kilometers (331 miles)

MANILA, Sept 16: Five alleged communist guerillas were

the city to stay with relatives in the interior, reports AFP.

PORT-AU-PRINCE. Sept 16: Thousands of Haitians began

### DOWN TO EARTH

### College Admission Conundrum

greater on those colleges, both

government and private, which

carry a good name. For obvious

reasons, the government col-

leges bear the brunt of the

admission pressure, and the

Dhaka city attracts the largest

number of admission seekers.

It is reported that most col-

leges in Dhaka have not vet

been able to finalised the

principles on the basis of

which admission test will be

taken. Some government col-

leges may fix 700 total marks

as the minimum requirement

for participation in admission

tests: which others may fix

800 total marks as the mini-

mum requirement for that

purpose. Those who qualify to

sit for the admission tests suf-

fer from worrtes as they have

to do well in the written exam-

inations and the viva voce test.

What is the reason for

greater admission pressure on

certain colleges than on

others? The obvious answer is

the image such colleges have

built up of their academic per-

formance. Even in respect of

government colleges, such

common notion of differential

image operates. The general

idea of difference in standard

operates not only in respect of

government colleges but also

between government colleges

on the one hand and some pri-

vate colleges on the other.

Some private colleges enjoy a

reputation equal to that of the

best government colleges.

Notwithstanding this, it is felt

by and large that some private

colleges lack in satisfactory

standard. In this context, it

may contribute to the easing of

pressure on good colleges if

the existing gap in standard

between the two categories of

colleges can be bridged over

with proper discipline, re-

Every year we are faced with the problem of admission in the 11th class of a college. This year the problem is all the more acute. From the recently announced results of the SSC examination of the four Secondary Education Boards, it appears that a total of 4 lakh 90 thousand and 99 students have passed this examination this year. The total percentage of passing in the first and second division of the

those who have passed in the third division From the Ministry of Education and other relevant sources, it is learnt that at the higher education level in the whole country, the total number of government and private colleges and other institutes is one thousand and fiftysix where the total number of sears available for admission in the first year is 3 lakh 21 thousand and sixty. Against this background, a total of I Likh 69 thousand and 39 students will be deprived of opportunity for admission in any college or institution. Even if some increase in the number of seats is made in some institutions, the problem will remain beyond solution. Then what is the plan of government in meeting this serious situation? If such a huge number of

lour Boards is so high that we

can well imagine the fate of

as a factor for social unrest? In view of these circumstances, the affected students and their guardians are plagued with anxiety. Result in the SSC examination is considered an important step in the educational career of a student. As such many a student weaves his dream about his new life in college.

students are deprived of op-

portunities for admission, will

they not be a cause for concern

It appears from past expe-

duce the pressure on sub soil

By ASM Nurunnabi cruitment of suitable teachers rience that the pressure of and provision of better readmission seekers is always

quired lacilities. in the opinion of observers and education experts, the challenge of the needs of the burgeoning student population may be met by adoption of measures both on short-term and long-term basis. As a short-time measure, introduction of shifts in the colleges. both government and private. may be a partial answer. However, according to an education expert, as a long-solution, at least 500 new colleges need be set up to save the coming generation of students from frustrated hopes. But that is a tall order. Extending the educational infrastructure in the manners suggested involves considerable financial outlay where the financial constraints of government may stand in the way. Moreover there is also the time factor.

Hence it is felt that the private sector should be encouraged to play a greater role in tackling the admission problem as per guidelines to be given by government. At the same time, greater attention needs be paid to improve the standard of those colleges lagging behind, so that no situation arises where there is low pressure on some college and inordinately high pressure on others. In this connection, w may also keep in mind a bleak picture presented by a survey conducted by an unofficial agency. The results of the survey show that after passing the SSC examination, 40 per een of the students do not try for admission in any college: 30 per cent engage them-selves in earning money to help their families and 10 per cent give up further education on being frustrated in their efforts to get admission in any college.



Gulshan in the city yesterday.

### Demand for interim govt illogical, says Saifur

FENCHUGANJ. Sept 16: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman today urged the opposition political parties to extend their active support to the government's efforts to strengthen the Election Commission for ensuring free and fair poils in the country. reports BSS.

"The basic issue is to hold free and fair election, not the caretaker government. The Election Commission is responsible for holding the polls. not the caretaker government," he said adding that only a powerful and impartial Election Commission could hold free and fair polls in the

The finance minister was addressing two public meetings at the local fertiliser factory maidan and at Mirgani under Golapgani thana of Sylhet district.

Terming the demand for a caretaker government as illogical Saifur Rahman said never

invasion becomes increasing imminent.

From Page 1 Col 4

Monday.

topher said.

them by force.

him out of town until dawn

One-high-ranking official

said, however, an invasion was

not likely before Monday, and

Secretary of State Warren

Christopher told ABC Friday

morning. "It's a matter of

Christopher also suggested

that Aristide would not return

immediately. "It would be a

short time. I would say a week

or two. It depends on the se-

curity situation there," Chris-

Clinton told Americans

Thursday night, "We have ex-

hausted diplomacy," and he

put Haiti's rulers on notice

shore were ready to remove

restoration of democracy in

Haiti as a critical US interest

worthy of risking American

lives in an invasion. But he

promised the American mis-

Defence Secretary William

Perry said in an interview with

NBC Friday that the invasion

would be overwhelming and

would be over in a matter of

hours, at most a day or two.'

Perry said, adding that US sol

diers would stay longer."

restoring order and establish-

In a CBS interview immedi-

ately after Clinton's speech.

coup leader Lt. Gen. Raoul

ing security on the island."

"The military aspect of this

sion would be short-lived.

The president portrayed

that US troops amassing off-

days. It's a very short time."

in the history of parliamentary system a minority party could dictate terms to a majority party over a particular issue.

Referring to the observation made by opposition parties on the visit of two British MPs recently, the Finance Minister said that it had in fact tarnished the image of those parties as well as the country both at home and abroad.

He also said that such observation had compelled the British high-commission in Dhaka to explain that the British MPs had visited Bangladesh on their own cost, not at the expense of Bangladesh government

BNP's central leaders Hares Choudhury, Ilias Ali, Kayum Choudhury, local leaders Shafi Choudhury, Ariful Huq Choudhury, Fateh Yunus Khan and Mamunur Rashid also ad dressed the meetings.

The finance minister also addressed a wayside meeting at Manik Kona.

### Strike cripples northern towns in Kashmir

SRINAGAR (India), Sept 16: strike crippled northern towns in the troubled Indian state of Kashmir today as Muslims protested the alleged executions of seven militants by Indian troops, police said here, reports AFP.

Shops, offices and schools were closed and traffic stayed off the roads as incensed residents staged demonstrations to condemn the deaths of the seven Muslim rebels, allegedly while in custody, police and witnesses said.

The victims were slain by members of the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) following their capture, residents claimed.

Protestors took to the streets shouting anti-Indian slogans such as "we want freedom" and "down with Indian tyranny.

Human rights groups and watchdog organisations have accused the Indian security forces of committing rampant abuses of human rights in the disputed Himalayan state in their fight to quell the Muslim separatist movement.

Meanwhile, five Muslim guerillas were shot dead overnight in the frontier region of Kupwara while trying to sneak into Indian-administered Kashmir from Pakistan, a defence spokesman said.

A huge quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them, he said.

#### **Education Day** From Page 1 Col 5

programme on this occasion. Meanwhile, Muktijoddha

Chhatra Command yesterday held a press conference at the Madhu's Canteen on the DU campus on the eve of the Education Day. Command leader Afzal

Hossain put forward an eightpoint demand at the press conference. These include: inclusion of true history of the Bangalee nation and the war of liberation in the curricula of the secondary and higher secondary education, setting up of liberation war research insti tute in every union and Muktijoddha academy in each district to collect and preserve the history of independence war in area, banning of all publications opposed to the spirit of the war, removal of all teachers 'opposed to libera tion from the educational in stitutions and closure of all educational institutions run by the Jamaat-e-Islami.

Convenor of the Chhatra Command Kamal Pasha Choudhury, Sadekur Rahman, Ma sud Zaman and Zakaria spoke at the press conference.

## PM tells newcomers

From Page 1 Col 7 gramme for the people's welfare and said the BNP's politics of production and development was gaining increasing popularity among the people.

south of Manila on Tuesday, reports AFP.

People are joining the BNP seeing its programmes of welfare and national development. she added.

The Prime Minister said the Opposition, jealous of the success of the BNP's programmes and its growing popularity, are trying to hinder the development activities by fanning no-issues.

BSS adds: Front-ranking leaders of the Narayangani town Awami League and the Jativa Party, along with thousands of workers, deserted their respective parties in favour of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Announcing their decision in the presence of Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at her Hare Road office Thursday evening. they said they were fed up with the anti-people politics and terrorism pursued by the Awami League and the Jatiya Party across the country, spe-

cially in Narayanganj. Narayangani town Awami League leader Kamal Uddin Mridha, Narayanganj town Jatiya Party General Secretary Alhai Khwaja Ahsanullah Bangladesh Yarn Merchants' Association general secretary Jahangir Alam, Bangladesh Bid Sramik Federation president M Rafiqui Islam, Bangladesh Hosiery Samity senior vice president Alhaj Shahnewaz, Jatiya Party leaders Nurul Islam, Ali Asghar and Badiuz zaman, Narayangani unit Chhatra League general secretary Selim Reza spoke on behalf of the newcomers to the

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Narayangani town BNP President Abul Kalam MP. Professor Rezaul Karim MP, Ataur Rahman Khan Angur MP and Chhatra Dal president Fazlul Huq Milon also spoke. Denouncing the destructive

incident.

### Lankan troops kill 10 Tigers

COLOMBO, Sept 16: Government troops today shot dead 10 Tamil guerillas in eastern Sri Lanka and seized four automatic weapons during a lightening strike on a small rebel hide-out, military sources said, reports AFP.

Two soldiers were also wounded during the fierce gunbattle at the hide-out of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Nadunchenai, in coastal Batticaloa district, the sources said.

### radios over Haitian capital

#### PORT-AU-PRINCE, Sept 16: A low-flying US aircraft dropped boxes of transistor radios over the Haitian capital Thursday shortly after the US President urged Haiti's military leaders to step down or face in

invasion, reports AFP. Informed sources said most of the radios were picked up

off the streets by police. CNN said the radios were dropped so Haitians could tune

CNN said the radios were dropped so Haitians could tune

### Bangladesh

From Page | Col 5

countries from around the

They, he said, have agreed to join US because they think this problem in our neighbourhood is important to their future interests and their

politics of the Awami League Kamaluddin Mridha said they had come to the sad realisation that the BNP alone is a propeople political party which can lead Bangladesh along the

path of development, progress

and prosperity. Bitterly criticising the antipeople and anti-democracy politics of the Jatiya Party Alhaj Khwaja Ahsanullah said that if the destructive politics of the Opposition continued the entire nation would have to suffer and the on-going process of development would be disrupted.

Welcoming the new-comers, Begum Zia said people of the country are in favour of the politics of production and development. They do not want destruction, hartals, strikes, sieges and the uprooting of railway tracks.

The Prime Minister said with the demise of autocracy and restoration of democracy, frequent hartals and sieges have lost their justification.

She said, now people want peace and stability for their uplift and they know this is not possible through terrorism.

### Khagrachhari From Page 1 Col 8

The road blockade was part of a three-day protest programme of the Parishad, a chister village-based organisation, against Thursday's clash between police and its supporters at Matiranga Bazar that left two persons killed and 50 injured.

Witnesses said police batoncharged and fired two rounds of blank shots while VDP eight rounds to disperse the unruly mob today. The mob pelted stones at police.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Police arrested general secretary of the Parishad Abdul Awal on Thursday midnight from its office. Warrant of arrest was also issued against its president SM Rezaul Karim Helal.

District Awami League and Jativa Party condemned the

#### Pak army From Page 1 Col 4

especial scrutiny by Customs officers around the world.

The two officers purportedly behind the scheme are General Aslam Beg, Chief of Staff from 1988 to 1991 and now retired and General Asad Durrani, former chief of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) who is presently ambassador to Germany, both have issued denials, and the armed forces spokesman says the reported plan is "inconceivable."

The Post stand by its story and says it will be delighted to produce tape recordings of the interview in court, should Sharif carry out a threat to sue for libel.

Newspapers today said the scandal could inflict immense damage on one of Pakistan's prized institutions, as well as

on Sharif himself. "Who gains if the army loses?" a former officer told

the nation. An editorial in the News

said the interview "contains

explosive material that is dangerous for our national security, national image, the reputation of the armed forces and that of the leader of the opposition himself."

Added the independent daily Dawn: "One cannot help feeling strongly sceptical about Nawaz Sharif's denial. The fact is that the American paper is very confident about the veracity of its story which its editor says has been properly investigated and is supported by Sharif's taped interview.

Publication of the interview coincided with an anti-gov ernment crusade by Sharif who addressed crowds in a socalled 1.700-kilometer "train march" from Karachi to Peshawar

He followed this up today with a call for a countrywide general strike next Tuesday to protest at what he called the mismanagement of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's gov-

ernment Sharif resigned in July last year along with the then president Ghulam Ishaq Khan, under an army-brokered solution to a bitter power tussle, and then lost to Bhutto in elections

last October.

City water crisis ones. Tender has already been From Page I Col 7 solve the water crisis and re-

reserves. Most of the deep tubewells would then operate normally While a number of WASA plants require rehabilitation, the authorities also have another problem to cope with over 45 per cent of system loss. WASA sources said. ing, modernisation, rehabilitation and expansion (BMRE)

To meet the rising demand for water. WASA has taken up some projects such as augmenting the capacity Chand nighat surface water treatment plant and sinking of 20 more decor tubewells.

These projects should have been taken up at least four to five years ago, sources con-Armed said.

The French government funded Savedabad plant will be completed in three phases the WASA chairman said. On completion of the first phase at a cost of Tk. 708 crore in four years the plant will be able to supply' 50 IMGD through the existing 1294 kilometres of distribution channel of the WASA. Some improvements in the distribution channel will, however, be

needed. The next phase will also take four years and the plant will then supply another 50 IMGD and the last phase will be completed by 2010.

In the immediate future. WASA plans to sink 20 deep tubewells and replace 10 old

### Muktijoddha win

From Page 1 Col 8

National midfielder Rumi Rized Karim was in the thick of action coming close to scoring twice. Rumi's header in the 75th

minute upon a Rakib cross returned off the woodwork while another one by the curlyhaired medio was brilliantly saved by the Yemeni custodian.

Striker Nakib, who pulled back one of the two goals in Muktijoddha's 2-4 defeat to India in the previous match. had the vision of his second goal of the meet but his legs were not nimble enough to put him at the proper place to guide home a peach of a floater by substitute winger Ranjan, one of the three loaned players

from Brothers Union. The Muktijoddha defence. which was shabby to say the least, in the last match plugged the loopholes and the nottoo-stale nightmares were taken care of.

Muktijoddha's semifinal prospect is quite secure now unless of course Yemen pull off a big win against India, a possibility which should sound like quite a long shot given the form of the Indian team.

### floated and evaluation is being

Presently, WASA has 91 'active' deep tubewells in Dhaka and Narayangani region. Besides, a Japanese funded project will augment the water supply capacity of the 120 year-old Chandnighat plant. The plant will undergo balanc-

### US, ROK won't allow DPRK to choose N-reactor

from December.

SEOUL. Sept 16: The United States and South Korea will not allow North Korea to choose the type of nuclear reactor to replace a current model capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium, a

senior official said today. "North Korea made a statement which broke the principle reached at the Geneva talks," a South Korean Foreign Ministry official told AFP. "South Korea and the United States will not accept this.'

### Liberians

From Page 1 Col 5 African intervention force

ECOMOG, relief sources said. Witnesses told Reuters passers by spotted him this morning, beat him and stripped him before handing him over to an ECOMOG pa-

He was later seen by reporters crouched naked and handcuffed on a bare floor at. ECOMOG headquarters.

The AFL, once Liberia's national army but now little more than a tribal militia, is at the centre of a row over Liberia's latest peace treaty, signed on Monday in Ghana.

### Opposition reply

From Page 1 Col 7 gorically said the Opposition was ready for any meaningful discussion based on a specific

agenda. Samad Azad's reply also noted that the Deputy Leader of the House was supposed to discuss with the Prime Minister on the Opposition contention and to inform him (Samad Azad) of her views on

the matter, the sources said. Samad Azad's letter also mentioned that the 'police action' on Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim and other Opposition leaders and arrests of many workers during last week's 'Dhaka siege' programme were harmful for an atmosphere for dialogue, the

### **Editor**: Mahfuz Anam

sources said.

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motifheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

### FBUTA iterates demand

By Staff Correspondent The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Associations has demanded immediate removal of Dr M Ershadul Bari from the Dhaka University's senate, syndicate, hall administration and other

committees. The meeting reiterated its earlier decision of not attending any activities of the National University unless Dr Abdul Bari is removed from the post of its Vice-Chancellor.

### Dacoity in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Sept 16: Armed dacoits have looted cash, gold ornament and other valuables worth about Taka three lakh from the house of a businessman at Kulalpara village under Khuru Union here

early today. A gang of about ten robbers barged into the house of Abdus Sabir, a fish trader, around 3 am today. They tied up the inmates of the house, assaulted them and went on with the looting for half an hour, ac-

cording to police. The dacoits also fired hi least five rounds of gunshots in

the air during the heist. Cox's Bazar Sadar Thana police visited the scene this morning, but no arrest was reported.

### Make Sept 27 programme a success: JP

The Jativa Party central working committee yesterday said there is no alternative to agitation to realise the demand for resignation of BNP gov ernment and general polls un der a neutral caretaker admin-

istration, reports UNB. The working committee at a meeting with party's acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury called for making the rail-and-road blockade on September 27 and other programmes beginning Sunday a success to press for the

national demand. The meeting condemned the use of baton, tear gas and bullet on the opposition during the 'Dhaka Siege' and hartals and demanded judicial enquiry into police action on JP leaders Col (Rtd) Malek, Mahbubul Haq Dolon, former MP Manirul Islam and 100 other workers and Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim.

It demanded immediate release of all the arrested leaders and workers.

The meeting decided to constitute a sub-committee to maintain liaison with other opposition parties and empowered Mizan Chowdhury to take any emergency decision regarding the current agitation.

Clinton's final warning Cedras said he was "prepared

A US warship circles the bay of the Haitian capital Port-Au Prince yesterday as a US-led

to fight with my people.' Nevertheless, Cedras and his colleagues were putting out feelers for a way out of their dilemma, according to former Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga. He told The Associated Press that he was contacted Tuesday by a Haitian

intermediary close to Cedras. The intermediary said the junta leaders were offering to step down and allow Aristide's return "if there was an agreement not to proceed with the invasion" and a pledge of no retribution against some 600 people associated with the Haitian regime, Seaga said.

He passed the proposal to US Embassy charge d'affaires Lacy Wright in Kingston for relay to Washington, but said he had no reply. State Depart ment spokesman Mike Mc-Curry would not confirm or deny Seaga's account of the offer. But he said the military leaders would have to leave

Conflicting signals emerged from the administration on whether Clinton would send an emissary for a last-ditch appeal to Cedras, his chief of staff, Gen. Philippe Biamby, and Lt. Col. Michel Francois, the police chief.

Haiti unconditionally.

step down after his term ends in February 1996 and turn over power to newly elected leader An ABC poll after Clinton's speech indicated that he had

whatever. Clinton stressed in his speech that Aristide would

Dennis DeConcini of Arizona, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Clinton's speech had "made as good a case as you can for any invasion."

#### are serious questions about the policy itself, and I still have those reservations. A leading critic of Clinton's Haiti policy. Republican Senator John McCain, said the president's speech did not change

and normal for the American people to rally behind the president. Republican Senator Richard Lugar said Clinton was unconvincing. Unlike the Panama and Grenada invasions, he said, There is no physical threat from Haiti to the United Sta-

tes, no strategic interest

won over some support, with

60 per cent opposed to an in-

vasion, compared with 73 per

cent four days earlier. Repu-

blican lawmakers are strongly

opposed to military action, and

many Democrats are insisting

he should seek a con-

gressional vote of approval for

Schator, Sam Nunn, chair-

man of the Senate Armed

Services Committee, said

Friday, "I think the president

showed his determination.

think he made a good explana

tion of current US policy." But

Nunn said, "I do think there

his mind, "except that I think

that the president, as always,

gave a very excellent speech.

and I think it's very natural

But Democratic Senator

# US airdrops

in to special US broadcasts in Tyssevent of the invasion,

in to special US broadcasts in the event of an invasion.

He said more than 20

globe - including almost all the Caribbean community and nations from as far away as Poland, which has so recently won its own freedom, Israel and Jordan, which have been struggling for decades to preserve their own security and Bangladesh, a country working on its own economic problems - have joined nations like Belgium and Great

security.