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Needed to  
Revamp the Tea  
Sector

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by S B Chaudhuri

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NEWS BRIEFS

CSYO team meets  
Anyaku

A four-member delegation of the Commonwealth Student and Youth Organisation (CSYO) made a courtesy call on Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaku yesterday. The Commonwealth Secretary General expressed his satisfaction over the functioning of the organisation and assured its continued cooperation. He also gifted the Commonwealth Pin to the delegation members, reports UNB.

**Sangram Parishad  
rally today**

The Sammilita Sangram Parishad, an alliance of 13 pro-Islamic organisations, will hold a rally today at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque to realise its 11-point demand. Central leaders of the Parishad will address the rally at 3 pm, reports UNB.

**ANC leader dies**

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 18: Thomas Nkobi, longtime treasurer of the African National Congress who lived in exile for almost three decades, died Sunday. He was 71. The cause of death was not immediately disclosed, but Nkobi's health had declined in recent months, said family spokesman Billy Modise, reports AP.

**21 die in Brazilian  
bus plunge**

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 18: A bus packed with members of a church group plunged into a river, killing 21 people on board and injuring 15 others, police said today. The accident happened late Saturday in the town of Nova Iguaçu in Rio De Janeiro state, when the bus driver lost control of the vehicle, which plunged into the Pocas river, police said, reports AFP.

**Egyptian police  
kill 3 extremists**

CAIRO, Sept 18: Police killed three suspected Muslim extremists during a raid Sunday as battles between government forces and radicals intensified in southern Egypt. The deaths brought to 14 the number of police and extremists killed in the past week in the south, a stronghold of militants seeking to impose Islamic law on Egypt. In Sunday's incident, police raided a hideout of the militants in Qift, a town in Qena province about 500 kilometres (300 miles) south of Cairo, an interior Ministry statement said, reports AP.

Carter holds fourth round of talks

## Positive signs of an accord in Haiti

PORTE-AU-PRINCE, Sept 18: A US peace emissary Jimmy Carter was in hopeful last-ditch talks today to persuade Haiti's military leaders to step down and avert a US invasion of the Caribbean island country, reports Reuter.

His meeting with junta leader Raoul Cedras at military headquarters in Port-au-Prince continued well past the US delegation's scheduled departure time from Haiti about noon, a clear indication agreement remained possible.

US officials were giving no information on the progress of the talks, but CNN television reported that Carter had a

draft document that Cedras had not yet signed.

The former US President, who has become a respected international mediator since he left office in 1981, was briefed by Clinton to talk only

WASHINGTON, Sept 18: CNN television today citing an administration source said "things" in Haiti are looking a lot better than they did only 24 hours ago. There could well be a deal in the works, reports AFP.

about the modalities of Cedras and the other two members of his junta relinquishing power.

One sticking point appeared to be the junta's insistence

that Cedras would not return to power if they agreed to step down.

Some reports said the military were split and some would relinquish power provided they could stay in the country.

An aircraft due to take the three-man US delegation home to report to President Clinton waited on the tarmac at Port-au-Prince airport. Carter is due to report back to President Clinton in Washington this evening.

Haitians were leaving a tense, jittery capital in packed buses and trucks today fearing

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## PM urges OIC states to pay subscriptions to ICTVTR

GAZIPUR, Sept 18: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon the OIC member countries, especially the rich ones, to pay their mandatory subscriptions as well as to make voluntary donations for the smooth running of the ICTVTR, reports UNB.

Regular flow of funds is required for proper academic planning, availability of necessary educational equipment, academic staff and scholars in order to realise the academic and research potentials of the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), she said addressing the 8th convocation of the ICTVTR as chief

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Begum Zia noted with satisfaction that students from as many as 33 OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference) countries are studying at the centre and the number is increasing steadily.

She mentioned that she had highlighted the financial difficulties of the ICTVTR at the OIC summit held in Dakar.

"I have also requested the President of the Islamic Development Bank to provide financial assistance for the infrastructural development of this centre, including construction of a second academic building, and to expedite

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A royal reception is awaiting Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Thimpu, the capital of Bhutan, according to a message received in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Begum Zia will leave Dhaka for Thimpu on Wednesday morning on a two-day official visit to Bhutan.

Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuk will receive Begum Zia at Paro Airport.

The highlight of the visit will be a summit between the Bhutanese King and the Bangladesh Prime Minister covering the entire gamut of

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A law reforms commission is finally expected to be set up within this month with a broad mandate to recommend ways to expedite the dispensation of justice by updating the existing legal procedures.

The members for the 3-member commission, including its chairman, have been tentatively selected and the appointments will be finalised soon, said an authoritative source at the law ministry.

He added that the commission, with a 3-year term, would be formed this month but declined to name the members.

Although the terms of reference were fixed way back in April, the formation of the

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Anyaku praises Dhaka's economic progress

Visiting Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaku yesterday lauded Bangladesh's general economic progress and said his organisation helps promote the socio-economic development of the member countries, reports BSS.

Anyaku also praised Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her keen interest in the spread of education aimed at economic uplift of the masses.

In an interview with Bangladesh Television last night, Anyaku had words of appreciation for the recently launched programmes of the

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Two JP student leaders held for questioning

By Staff Correspondent Two leaders of the Jatiya Party student-wing were detained in the city's Detective Branch (DB) office yesterday for questioning. They are accused of firing gunshots at a police constable during the Opposition's recent 'Dhaka Siege' programme.

This was said by leaders of the Bangladesh Match Manufacturers' Association at a press conference in the city yesterday. If the authorities did not accept their demands, all the 22 match factories might be closed, they further said.

"Withdrawal of import restriction on matches has created an unhealthy competition between the local and Indian products. Since the Indian matches are cheaper, these have captured the whole market," president of the association.

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Owners to lay off match factories

By Staff Correspondent Owners of match factories will lay off their factories on September 23 for a week demanding withdrawal of duty, taxes and VAT on their products and seeking protection against imported and 'smuggled' matches.

This was said by leaders of the Bangladesh Match Manufacturers' Association at a press conference in the city yesterday. If the authorities did not accept their demands, all the 22 match factories might be closed, they further said.

"Withdrawal of import restriction on matches has created an unhealthy competition between the local and Indian products. Since the Indian matches are cheaper, these have captured the whole market," president of the association.

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Govt college teachers' strike Sept 20-21

By Staff Correspondent The teachers of government colleges throughout the country will observe a two-day strike on Tuesday and Wednesday at the call of the BCS General Education Association.

The strike on Tuesday has been called to protest alleged terrorist attacks on teachers and the appointments of non-teachers in the education department.

The strike on Wednesday has been called to press for implementation of the 17-point charter of demands of the Prokrishi-BCS Coordination Committee, said a press release of the association.

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Pak govt move to bar Sharif from public office

ISLAMABAD, Sept 18: The Pakistan Government has responded to the opening of political hostilities by opposition leader Nawaz Sharif by starting moves to have him barred from public office, reports AFP.

The Pakistan Muslim League (PML) leader, who last week toured the country by train to address rallies demanding that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stand down, has called a nationwide strike for Tuesday. Sharif said the aim is to demonstrate that the people do not want Bhutto's "inefficient and corrupt" government.

The PML chief said the national exchequer lost nearly 1.178 billion rupees (39 million dollars) in duties over three years after Sharif changed the rules on importing metal scrap for his industry.

Sharif was Prime Minister from 1990 to 1993 after Bhutto was sacked by former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on charges of misrule during

his first 20-month stint.

Sharif and Ishaq Khan resigned in July last year under an army brokered solution of a bitter power tussle with Bhuttos. But Sharif lost to Bhutto in the polls held in October.

Qasim also accused Sharif's company of evading duty on an agriculture land deal. The Ittefaq Foundry got millions of rupees of bank loans rescheduled and concealed family property when filing wealth tax returns, he added.

The PML chairman said the cases made the Sharif brothers eligible for disqualification.

He said he had asked the central board of revenue to "reopen" an inquiry into concealment of income tax and wealth tax returns.

The association also presented Thursday's promotion of the officials of a particular cadre "in violation of rules" instead of removing anomalies in the inter-cadre salary structure.

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Haitians line the street from the Port-au-Prince airport Saturday as part of their protest against ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and for democracy while a caravan carrying a US delegation led by former US President Jimmy Carter heads to the centre of the capital.

— AFP photo

**ATTENTION**  
Read The Full Text of The Daily Star Round Table on "The Future of Jute: Problems and Prospects" in Today's Special Supplement on Pages 7,8,9,10.

**IMF suggests further fiscal reform**

International Monetary Fund has strongly suggested that Bangladesh should carry forward its reform measures further to reap salutary benefits from it, reports UNB.

The IMF also maintained that Bangladesh economy was set for further fiscal reform for encouraging foreign investment in desired areas.

This view was expressed by a five-member mission of the Fund, led by its Division Chief of South East Asia and Pacific Department John Hicklin.

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**MCCI wants tax exemption for foreign buyers**

Star Report

Foreign buyers purchasing goods from the country through liaison offices should be exempted from being taxed because such operations do not constitute business connections here, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) maintains.

The MCCI's views were expressed in a recent editorial write-up in its tax review.

Currently, the foreign buyers are taxable under Section 18 (2) (a) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1984.

But the MCCI feels that the ordinance read with Rule 34 of

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**PM addresses nation today**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address the nation at 7:30 pm today marking the third anniversary of the restoration of parliamentary form of government, reports UNB.

Her address will be simultaneously broadcast over radio and television.

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49th Branch

BANDURA, NAWABGANJ

DHAKA

Another addition to the AB Bank's expanding network. Our 49th branch goes into operation from today, the 19th September 1994.

Our clients can now see AB Bank expertise at work at our new branch at Bandura Government Super Market, Nawabganj, Dhaka.

With AB Bank it is experience and skill that count.

**AB BANK**  
ARAB BANGLADESH BANK LIMITED  
a new generation bank