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NEWS BRIEFS

CSYO team meets
Anyako

A four-member delegation of the Commonwealth Student and Youth Organisation (CSYO) made a courtesy call on Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeke Anyako 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 Sammita 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 Pocos river, police said, reports AP.

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 hide-out of the militants in Qift, a town in Gena 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**

PORT-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 Reuters.

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 of 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 insis-

tence that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide 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

guest.

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 recently to provide financial assistance for the infrastructural development of this centre, including construction of a second academic building, and to expedite," she said.

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**Royal reception
awaits Khaleda
in Thimpu**

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 Wanchuk 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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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

Law reforms commission soon

By S Y Bakht

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

commission was delayed as the 'political' decision on nominating its chairman was not forthcoming, pointed out another source.

He said, a retired Supreme Court judge is likely to be selected for the quasi-judicial post of chairman of the commission while one of the members would be an academic and the other from the private sector with expertise on commercial laws.

The staff pattern of the commission has already been approved and the budget has been allocated, he added. The office of the commission would temporarily be set up at the Old High Court Building in the

space allocated by the Supreme Court Chief Justice for setting up a judicial institute.

Formation of the law reforms commission is also a condition of the World Bank funded 105 million US dollar second industrial sector adjustment credit (ISAC-2). The donors have been highly critical of the existing legal system, which, they said, is not conducive to the development of a healthy private sector.

The terms of reference of the commission were finalised through a gazette notification on April 9, with a mandate to recommend ways to reform

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**Anyako praises
Dhaka's economic
progress**

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

Anyako 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, Anyako had words of appreciation for the recently launched programmes of the

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**Opposition protests
Anyako's remarks**

By Nazmul Ashraf

Three major opposition parties, now agitating for a caretaker government for holding general elections, have resented the visiting Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeke Anyako's reported remarks on fair polls in the country.

The leaders of these parties regretted Anyako's suggestions in line with the ruling party's contention before knowing the opposition parties' views on the issue.

The Commonwealth Secretary General, during his meet with the Prime Minister

Saturday, reportedly said that free and fair polls were possible under the present administration and suggested a three-point step — further strengthening of the Election Commission, formulation of an election code of conduct for all political parties and allowing a Commonwealth observers' team to oversee future polls — to ensure fair voting.

When contacted over telephone last night, Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Mohammad Nasim said it appeared that the C'wealth

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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.

**BNP scared of interim
govt, says Hasina**

SYLHET, Sept 18: Awami League president Sheikh Hasina today launched her week-long campaign from this holy town to drum-up support for polls under a caretaker government, reports UNB.

Soon after arriving at the Osmany airport, Hasina drove straight to the shrine of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R), a most revered saint, and offered feteha there. She also visited the shrine of Hazrat Shah Paran (R) in the evening.

Hasina addressed a mammoth rally at the Sylhet Registry ground in the afternoon where she explained the imperatives of the demand for a caretaker government and sought public support in realising it.

"Our demand is clear. We want to institutionalise democracy by ensuring people's rights to vote and food. We want to end the misrule of corrupt, terrorist and vote-bought regime of the BNP and achieve economic development."

She said the BNP has lost the confidence of the people for its 'corruption and misrule,' and is now scared of free and fair election under a neutral caretaker government although it had taken part in the 1991 election under such an authority.

"They (BNP) are opposing the demand for a caretaker government because without rigging they won't be able to

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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.

Police believe the two leaders — AFM Morshed alias Sabui, 27, and Mohammad Alamgir Kabir alias Kabir, 26, — fired gunshots apparently to kill constable Shahidullah, in the city's Purana Paltan area on September 10.

The constable who sustained bullet wound in his abdomen, is still under treatment.

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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.

But on Friday, Malik Qasim, chairman of the Federal Anti-Corruption Committee (FACC), said he had recommended that the government file "disqualification charges" against Sharif and his two elected brothers.

Qasim said the industrialist,

whose family owns Ittefaq Foundry, deliberately avoided paying millions of dollars in government duties and taxes.

Police have already arrested two executives of Sharif's conglomerate on corruption charges and other charges are pending against him.

The investigation will increase pressure on the former prime minister whose declared intention is to bring down Bhutto, political analysts said.

The FACC 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

her 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 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 FACC chairman said the cases made the Sharif brothers eligible "disqualification." He said he had asked the central board of revenue to "reopen" an inquiry into concealment of income tax and wealth tax returns.

Qasim's disclosure means there is now little chance of conciliation between Bhutto

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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 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 said.

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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 Prokrihi-BCS Coordination Committee, said a press release of the association last night.

The association also resented 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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