

Inside Today

Article

Ombudsman: An Unimplemented Article of the Constitution

by Muhammad Quamrul Islam

Page 4

International

56 sailors feared dead as Tamil rebels attack Lankan ship

Reports of over 1000 arrests in Saudi Arabia exaggerated

Page 5

Business

Pakistan to announce new energy package in October

US will spend \$500m in Haiti

Pages 8, 9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Prank Calls  
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

MCB opens branch in city today

By Staff Correspondent

Pakistan's largest private sector bank — Muslim Commercial Bank Ltd — will open its first branch in Bangladesh today. Governor of Bangladesh Bank Khorshed Alam will inaugurate the branch at 4 Dilkusha Commercial Area in the city. Chairman of the bank.



Shukla Sarkar and her dance troupe of the Dhrupad Arts Centre presenting a classical number at the National Museum auditorium yesterday.

— Star photo

PM leaves for Bhutan today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia leaves this morning on a two-day official visit to Bhutan at the invitation of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk, reports UNB.

A royal reception will be accorded to the Bangladesh Prime Minister when she arrives at the Paro airport in Thimpu.

The King and Queen of the tiny Himalayan Kingdom will greet the Bangladesh leader at the airport. Her arrival will be heralded by a 19-gun salute.

After inspecting a guard of honour at the airport, she will drive in a ceremonial motorcade to the Ugyen Pelri Palace.

Her 35-member entourage will include Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Principal Secretary to the PM A N M Yusuf, Sirajul Islam, MP, Shahin Ara Haque, MP, Additional Foreign Secretary Kazi

See Page 12 Col 5

Hasina dismisses PM's claim of development

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday criticised the government policies in various fields and said, "All of us think that things have not gone quite the way the nation expected under a democratic set-up."

Speaking as guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the American-Bangladesh Economic Forum, Sheikh Hasina gave an overview of the economic situation in the country and outlined her party's programmes.

She asked: "Is it not obvious today that no industry or business establishment, except those belonging to the BNP members, is safe unless it pays a toll to the armed elements?"

This has been eroding the

See Page 12 Col 3

Doctors begin strike today

By Staff Correspondent

Doctors belonging to the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) begin an indefinite strike today to press home their demands for better health services and ending the government's repressive measures against them.

The strike call was given at a press conference organised by the BMA in Dhaka yesterday.

Some 9,000 members of the BMA are now on campaign trail demanding removal of the Health Secretary, cancellation of vigilance team, making effective the health service committee headed by the MPs and withdrawal of suspension order against doctors at Tongi and Gazipur hospitals.

The strike will be observed in all government hospitals, health complexes and other health offices, BMA official

See Page 12 Col 8

7 ministers told to supervise drought relief

Seven ministers have been given special duty to supervise relief activities and agricultural rehabilitation programmes in eight drought-hit northern districts of the country, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia directed the ministers to operate special programmes to assuage the woes of the affected people and recoup crop losses after her whirlwind tour of the untimely drought-affected districts on September 15.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will supervise the special programmes in Panchagar and Thakurgaon districts, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman in Dinajpur, State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan in Nilphamari, Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia in Rangpur, Deputy Minister for Local Government Abdul Hye in Kurigram, State Minister for Water Resources Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan in Lalmonirhat and State Minister for Environment and Forest

See Page 12 Col 2

Legal system must be streamlined: Saifur

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said a dramatic improvement could be made in all sectors of the country if the legal system was streamlined.

Terming the country's legal system as responsible for the deteriorating situation in all fields, including the financial sector, he said the legal system is not at all supporting the government efforts in the recovery of loans by the nationalised commercial banks.

If this happened, he said, the condition of the private banks would have been better than that of the NCBs. But the reality is that the situation in the private banks is worse than in the nationalised banks.

Saifur said and added that disbursement of loans to relatives of the banks' directors is rampant in most of those banks.

He regretted that cases were being filed against the small borrowers, but not against those defaulters who had taken huge sums of money as loans. Genuine lending

See Page 12 Col 7

Eggs for DMCH patients looted

By Staff Correspondent

Extortionists looted eggs from a supplier of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) as they were refused to pay yesterday.

The looters snatched all 1400 eggs bought for the DMCH patients.

The egg-supplier Mansoor alleged that some local bullies, who used to demand money from him, had looted the eggs.

Witnesses said some extortionists carrying knives waylaid a rickshaw van carrying the two baskets full of eggs and looted them near the gate of the DMCH around 10 in the morning.

5 drown as boat sinks in Meghna

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 20: Five persons including three members of a family, drowned when an engine boat capsized in the river Meghna near Ashuganj ghat today.

According to witnesses, the boat, coming from Ratnagar village under Nathinnagar thana of the district, was overloaded. The victims are identified as Jhunurunessa (75), Sayeda (12) and Abeda (7), members of the same family. Sultan Mia (1) and Meherunessa (65).

The other passengers were rescued by local people.

Stepmother held for infanticide

By Staff Correspondent

A 17-month-old girl was reportedly killed by her stepmother in the city yesterday. The stepmother did away with the child by throwing her into a ditch in the city's Khilbari Tek area under Gulshan police station.

Police arrested the woman, Aleya, and her alleged accomplice, one Motiur Rahman, who are expected to be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) today.

Police recovered the body

See Page 12 Col 5

Junta leaders meet Suu Kyi



BANGKOK, Sept 20: Myanmar's military rulers met opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi today in her first high-level encounter with the ruling junta since she was placed under house arrest five years ago.

Suu Kyi, daughter of Myanmar's independence hero General Aung San and leader of the opposition National League for Democracy, has been under house arrest in Yangon since July 1990.

In talks earlier this year with US Congressman Bill

Richardson, she said she was always ready to meet leaders of the junta that seized power in 1988 after killing hundreds of pro-democracy protesters.

Despite her detention, her National League for Democracy won a landslide victory in a general election in 1990 that was ignored by the SLORC.

Police recovered the body

See Page 12 Col 5

# US troops to stay in Haiti for months

WASHINGTON, Sept 20: The US military occupation of Haiti, which entered its first full day Tuesday, "will be measured in months and not in weeks," said the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen John Shalikashvili, reports AP.

President Clinton won plaudits from Republicans and Democrats — and a boost in his poll ratings — for avoiding an outright invasion of Haiti with a last-minute peaceful settlement.

But before the glow of success had worn off Monday, lawmakers of both parties already were voicing worries about this new commitment of US forces in Haiti.

And former President Jimmy Carter, who helped negotiate the agreement that averted a US attack, sharply criticised the Clinton administration's handling of Haiti.

Carter said he had made a "very emotional speech" to Haiti's military leaders to win the agreement for them to step down.

"One of the things was that I was ashamed of my country's policy," the former president said on his return to Atlanta Monday night.

Shalikashvili, appearing on ABC, said Tuesday that he expected Cedars and the other leaders to continue to work with the US military.

"It's not a matter of trust. We need to be dealing from strength," he said. "We need to understand what kind of person he is, but I think right now our efforts are best served if we cooperate together."

Even with cooperation,

**Students protest US intervention in Haiti**

By Staff Correspondent

A group of students of Dhaka University yesterday burnt a US flag protesting "American aggression in Haiti" and denounced the Bangladesh government for sending troops to the Caribbean island state.

At the call of the Samrajabadi Birodi Chhatra-Gano Samabesh some students at noon Tuesday brought out a protest procession from the Dhaka University campus. The procession ended at the Satyati Press Club.

See Page 12 Col 3

Shalikashvili predicted "you will see reduction in troops over time, but the overall period will be measured in months and not in weeks."

He added that, "I think everyone from the United Nations mission in Haiti will leave no later than February or March of 1996."

Sen Sam Nunn, the Senate Armed Services Committee chairman who helped broker the deal that averted a US invasion, said Tuesday that "We should not in any way underestimate the difficulties we still face there."

Building democracy in a country that has not had democracy is not a short-term proposition," Nunn said on NBC.

On Monday, the House voted 353-45 for a resolution calling for the orderly withdrawal of all American forces "as soon as possible."

"With this resolution we are not endorsing President Clinton's Haiti policy," said Rep Dave McCurdy. "I opposed an invasion of Haiti and am equally concerned about the dangers of a long-term occupation."

See Page 12 Col 1



Dozens of Haitians sitting on a boat moored in the Port-au-Prince harbour wave to a US helicopter as it approaches the docks in order to land US troops Monday. — AFP photo

## Partial response to Sharif's strike call

Hasina wants caretaker govt to rig polls: Huda

Information Minister Nazmul Huda has said that opposition leader Sheikh Hasina wants a caretaker government as there is ample scope of rigging in election under such a weak administration, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at the council session of UK branch BNP at the Hotel Britannia International in London on Sunday, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Huda said the Awami League was trying to come to power by any means before 1996 to renew the 25 year slavery pact with India as the pact, which expires in 1996, would not be renewed if the BNP remained in power.

The Information Minister said the Awami League calls hartaal to hinder the development efforts of the government as it does not want economic emancipation of 12 crore people of Bangladesh.

"It (AL) wants to make the country a market of Indian goods," he alleged.

Presided over by Joint Convenor of UK branch BNP

See Page 12 Col 4

## Iranian diplomat dies in Beijing shooting

No alternative to dialogue, says Kamal

BEIJING, Sept 20: Eight people, including an Iranian diplomat and his son, were killed when a man fired a rifle at vehicles and pedestrians on one of Beijing's main streets early Tuesday, an official report said, according to AP.

Dozens of people were injured when the man ran down the middle of the road shooting intermittently, witnesses said.

The motive for the shooting was not immediately known and police killed the gunman at the scene, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

One witness described the gunman as a member of the PLA, the paramilitary armed force, who had an argument with a superior.

The shooting was very unusual for Beijing, where authorities have imposed tight security ahead of October 1 National Day celebrations.

Officials at the Iranian Embassy said an attaché there, Yousef Mohammad Pishkarni, and one of his sons were shot to death. Another of Mohammad's sons was shot in the leg. The Xinhua report said two of Mohammad's daughters, who earlier had been reported missing, had been rushed to a nearby hospital.

There was no indication that Mohammad, who was driving his children to school and may have been caught in the cross fire with police, had been single out in the shooting.

There was no indication that Mohammad, who was driving his children to school and may have been caught in the cross fire with police, had been single out in the shooting.

There was no indication that Mohammad, who was driving his children to school and may have been caught in the cross fire with police, had been single out in the shooting.

See Page 12 Col 5

See Page 12 Col 6