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Not through  
Quotas Alone

Column: Between the  
Lines  
by Kuldip Nayar  
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International

China continues close  
military links with  
Pakistan

UN Council may ease  
sanctions against  
Serbia today  
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Business

Export earnings fall by  
19.44 pc in July

Thatcher urges labour  
reform in India  
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Weekend  
Magazine

On the campus: Africa;  
Folklore: Concept and  
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Dhaka Day by Day



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Special Supplement  
Today's 20-page issue of  
The Daily Star contains an 8-  
page supplement on the  
Saudi National Day. The  
price, however, remains Taka  
five.

NEWS BRIEFS

PM greets Saudi  
Crown Prince

Prime Minister Begum  
Khaleda Zia has felicitated  
the Crown Prince and first Deputy  
Premier of Saudi Arabia Prince  
Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz on the  
occasion of the National Day of  
his country today, reports BSS.

Hasina greets  
King Fahd

Awami League president  
and Opposition leader Sheikh  
Hasina yesterday felicitated  
King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of  
Saudi Arabia on the occasion of  
its National Day, reports UNB.

Saudi envoy  
hosts reception

Saudi Ambassador Abdullah  
Omar Barry held a reception in  
celebration of the 63rd  
National Day of the Kingdom of  
Saudi Arabia at Hotel  
Sonargaon yesterday. The  
reception was attended by Home  
Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury,  
Religious Affairs Minister Kermani Ali,  
Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad  
Humayun Khan Panni, Deputy  
Leader of the Opposition Abdus  
Samad Azad, political leaders,  
diplomats, journalists and elite  
of the city, reports BSS.

CU Exams  
schedule

CHITTAGONG, Sept. 22:  
The second year B.B.A  
Honours Examination 1993 of  
Chittagong University scheduled  
to be held on September  
25 will now be held on  
September 26, a university  
press release said here today.  
The terminal examination of  
MSS-1991 of the university  
will be held on October 17  
instead of September 25, re-  
ports BSS.

Dhaka-Thimpu Joint Communique

# Accord to explore more transit points for trade

Bangladesh and Bhutan have  
agreed to bolster cooperation in  
all fields, including trade and  
transit, reports UNB.

The two countries agreed to  
explore the possibilities of  
opening up additional points of  
transit and expanding modes of  
transport and transshipment for  
boosting trade.

The agreement was reached  
when Prime Minister Begum  
Khaleda Zia held wide-ranging  
talks with Bhutanese King  
Jigme Singye Wangchuk during  
her two-day visit to Bhutan  
yesterday.

A joint communique issued  
simultaneously in Dhaka and  
Thimpu at the end of the visit  
said the two leaders agreed that  
the concerned authorities of the  
two countries and the private  
sectors would take specific  
steps towards expand-

ing, diversifying and balancing  
the trade.

They observed that there  
was a great scope for further  
expansion of mutually beneficial  
cooperation in the field of  
trade.

Begum Zia visited the tiny  
Himalayan kingdom at the invitation  
of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk in her capacity as  
Chairperson of the SAARC.

Besides bilateral matters,  
she discussed with the monarch  
regional and international  
issues of common concern.

While reviewing the entire  
range of bilateral relations the  
two leaders expressed their  
determination to further the  
existing warm, friendly and  
cooperative ties between the  
two countries.

Thimpu praised Dhaka for  
providing infrastructural facilities  
in Bangladesh for promoting  
trade between the two countries.

On the issue of harnessing  
the water resources of the region,  
they said there existed great  
potential for harnessing  
regional water resources for  
the benefit of the entire peoples.

The two leaders expressed  
the desire to promote cooperation  
in the economic, cultural,  
educational and technical fields.  
The need to exchange visits of  
experts and officials for enhancing  
cooperation in these fields were also  
discussed.

They reaffirmed their conviction  
that SAARC as a forum of  
regional cooperation could  
contribute significantly to  
strengthening the relations  
among the member states in the  
interests of promoting peace,  
progress, harmony and the well-being  
of their peoples.

The issue of poverty alleviation  
should continue to remain high on the  
SAARC agenda, the leaders said, and reviewed  
the progress made in implementing  
the SAARC Preferential Trading  
Arrangement.

Begum Zia and King  
Wangchuk expressed satisfaction  
at the steady progress in  
the implementation of the decisions  
adopted at the 7th SAARC Summit  
and noted the successful outcome of  
the SAARC Planning/Finance  
Minister's meeting, the 14th  
session of the Council of  
Ministers and the ministerial  
meetings on the youth, the

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states in the interests of promoting  
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of their peoples.

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Visit fruitful,  
says PM on  
return

Prime Minister Begum  
Khaleda Zia returned home  
yesterday at the end of her  
two-day official visit to the  
Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan,  
describing the visit as  
"successful", reports BSS.

The visit, at the invitation of  
King Jigme Singye Wangchuk,  
was the first of a series Begum  
Zia will be paying to the SAARC  
countries as the current chairperson  
of the seven-nation regional  
forum.

One her arrival at the Zia  
International Airport the  
Prime Minister was greeted by  
cabinet ministers, diplomats and  
senior civil and military  
officials.

Earlier Begum Zia was given  
a hearty send-off at the Paro  
Airport.

King Wangchuk and the  
Queens bade farewell.

She was given a 19-gun  
salute and a guard of honour by  
the members of the Royal  
Bhutanese Army.

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The demands of the doctors

Govt ready to  
sit with  
doctors

By Staff Correspondent

Health and Family Welfare  
Minister Chowdhury Kamal  
Ibne Yusuf yesterday called  
upon the striking doctors to  
return to their duties but  
admitted there had been no official  
move yet to resolve the  
crisis.

Speaking at a press conference  
at his Secretariat office in  
Dhaka, the minister expressed  
his willingness to sit for talks  
with the doctors.

The largely attended press  
conference was organised to  
explain the government position  
about the on-going strike by  
some 8,600 government  
doctors.

Called by the Bangladesh  
Medical Association (BMA),  
the doctors began the strike for an  
indefinite period Wednesday to  
press for implementation of its  
accord with the government on a  
21-point charter of demands.

The demands include doubling  
the allocation for the  
health sector, from the present  
Taka 600 crore, more job  
opportunities and promotions.

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Prokrichi-BCS's  
day-long strike

By Staff Correspondent

Members of the functional  
cadre services across the  
country yesterday abstained  
from their duties demanding  
administrative reforms.

The Prokrichi-BCS Central  
Action Council, representing  
some 70,000 doctors, engineers,  
agriculturists and non-administrative  
cadre members, called the day-long strike  
to press for implementation of its  
17-point charter of demands.

At a rally in the capital yesterday  
morning, the striking professionals  
warned they would strike for an  
indefinite period from October 10  
unless their demands were met  
by October 7.

After the rally, the professionals  
moved towards the Prime Minister's office in a  
procession, which was halted by  
police near the Farmgate area.

Later, a number of senior  
leaders of the Action Council  
were allowed to submit a  
See Page 12 Col 7

ILO-BGMEA agreement

Under-aged workers  
to get education

Under-aged workers in  
garment industry in the country  
will get education and skill  
development training under an  
agreement signed in the city  
yesterday between Bangladesh  
Garment Manufacturers and  
Exporters Association (BGMEA) and  
International Labour Organisation (ILO),  
reports BSS.

As per the agreement, the  
under-aged workers of the  
garment factories will get education  
at two schools to be located  
near cluster of garment factories  
to enable the workers to do normal work and also attend  
school conveniently.

The agreement is aimed at  
"upgrading educational and  
technical skills," a BGMEA  
press release said.

Redwan Ahmed MP, president  
BGMEA and Werner K Blenk,  
Director, ILO Dhaka office,  
signed the agreement on  
behalf of their respective sides.

The enrolled worker-cum-student  
will be working for six hours a day instead of normal  
eight hours as long as he will attend  
school. They will, however, receive salary for eight  
hours.

As an incentive to these  
students, foods will be provided  
to the students to motivate  
children to attend schools.

Malaysian  
minister  
due tomorrow

Deputy Minister of Home  
Affairs Dato Megat Junid Bin  
Megat Ayob of Malaysia will arrive  
in Dhaka tomorrow (Saturday) on a four-day official  
visit, reports BSS.

During his stay, Megat will call on  
President Abdur Rahman Biswas. He will have official  
talks with Home Minister Abdur Matin Chowdhury on  
bilateral issues.

Megat will also call on  
Labour and Manpower Minister  
Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

His itinerary includes visits to  
the Arisan Academy, national  
museum, drug addiction centre,  
hospital, BDR headquarters and  
Bureau of Manpower Employment  
and Training Centre.



Relatives of a critically ill patient look askance in the absence of doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, the second day of a country-wide indefinite strike by the government physicians.

— Star photo

## Suffering mounts as docs continue strike

By Staff Correspondent

Suffering of the patients in  
government hospitals and health  
complexes across the country aggravated as the  
doctors continued their indefinite  
strike for the second day yesterday.

Many patients left hospitals  
in the capital and the number  
of patients seeking admission  
to different hospitals declined  
because of the strike.

Some eight thousand doctors  
are on strike called by the  
Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) to press for  
implementation of its agreement  
with the authorities on the 21-point charter of demands.

Earlier Begum Zia was given  
a hearty send-off at the Paro  
Airport.

King Wangchuk and the  
Queens bade farewell.

She was given a 19-gun  
salute and a guard of honour by  
the members of the Royal  
Bhutanese Army.

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## Govt may soon allow newsprint import

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur  
Rahman yesterday said the  
government would take a decision  
soon on lifting the embargo on the import of  
newsprint.

"I have no reservations about making newsprint import free, if the Industries  
Ministry agrees" the Finance Minister said while addressing a press conference at the  
Secretariat.

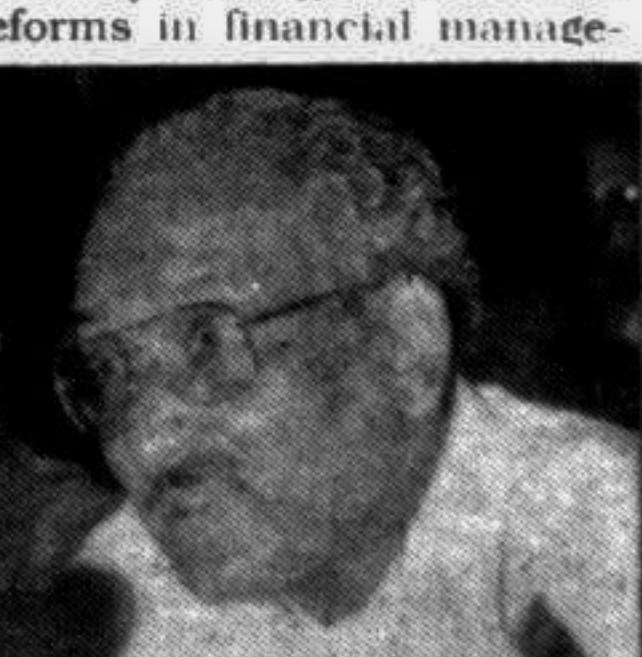
The other ministry that will have to be consulted before taking a decision on the matter is the Commerce Ministry, Saifur said, adding that he does not find any reason why the embargo on the import of newsprint should not be lifted.

Industries Secretary A H M  
Abdul Hye, who was present at the  
press conference, said his ministry would not oppose the lifting of embargo on the import  
of newsprint.

The press conference was also attended by Finance  
Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Bank Governor  
Khorshed Alam, NBR Chairman  
Dr Akbar Ali Khan, ERD  
Secretary Lutfullah Majid and  
Executive Chairman of the

Board of Investment (BOI)  
Mokammel Huq.

About the achievements of the present government,  
Saifur Rahman said, the BNP  
government has achieved tremendous successes in all  
almost the sectors of the economy through substantive  
reforms in financial management.



M Saifur Rahman

He said expenditure in the  
non-development sector has  
been contained while it has increased  
in the development sector. Tk 11,000 crore has  
See Page 12 Col 4

## Rohingya repatriation to be reviewed soon

By Special Correspondent

The latest situation regarding  
repatriation of Rohingya  
refugees will be reviewed  
jointly by Bangladesh and the  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
(UNHCR) soon.

Foreign office sources said  
under the changed circumstances, a new MOU is  
essential for boosting repatriation  
process further.

The UNHCR office in Dhaka  
proposed the review in late  
October. "However, the date is yet  
to be fixed," according to a source.

Besides assessing the  
progress in repatriation process,  
the issue of concluding a new  
memorandum of understanding  
(MOU) between Bangladesh and the UNHCR  
will also be discussed.