

Inside Today

Article

Not through Quotas Alone

Column: Between the
Lines
by Kuldip Nayar
Page 4

International

China continues close
military links with
Pakistan

UN Council may ease
sanctions against
Serbia today
Page 5

Business

Export earnings fall by
19.44 pc in July

Thatcher urges labour
reform in India
Pages 6, 7

Weekend Magazine

On the campus: Africa;
Folklore: Concept and
context; Sexism is still
sexy in South Asia;
My Patches of Disqui-
et; The true story of
Queen Margot and
Viewing video
Pages 9, 10 and 11

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Rendezvous a la
Bibliothèque
Page 3

Special Supplement

Today's 20-page issue of
The Daily Star contains an 8-
page supplement on the
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 his 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 Keramat Ali, Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Khan Panu, 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 BBA 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, reports 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 ending 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 of the region.

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 towards strengthening the rela-

tions 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

See Page 12 Col 8

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

See Page 12 Col 8



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.

However, the BMA has exempted the indoor departments of hospitals from the strike programme. But the number of doctors at the hospital indoors was less than usual, witnesses said.

The demands of the doctors

include removal of the health secretary, cancellation of the vigilance system, withdrawal of the suspension order against some doctors of Tongi and Gazipur hospitals, increased budget allocation for the health sector, more job opportunities and promotions for doctors and increased autonomy for the medical colleges.

Our DMCH correspondent says work in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital was almost normal. About 31 patients from different wards left the hospital voluntarily. The doctors manned a substitute outdoor, as suggested by the BMA, and abstained from working in the regular outdoor department.

The doctors also performed their normal work at the children's and gynaecology wards and operated upon 20 patients till 7 pm.

See Page 12 Col 3

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

See Page 12 Col 1

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 work 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 at two separate places 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 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 UNB.

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

Megat will also call on Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. His itinerary includes visits to the Arisar Academy, national museum, drug addiction centre hospital, BDR headquarters and Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training Centre.

Hasina at Khulna rally Force BNP to transfer power to interim govt

KHULNA, Sept. 22: Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina today asked the people to make the planned September 27 road-rail barricade programme a success to force the government to quit by transferring power to a neutral, caretaker government, reports UNB.

"Our agitation is to give democracy an institutional shape and ensure economic wellbeing of the people... This is not only the Awami League's agitation, it's an agitation of the masses," Hasina told a cheering crowd at the local Shaheed Haidis Park in the afternoon.

The Awami League chief, now on her second leg of a meet-the-people tour to muster popular support for a caretaker government, said the BNP, which has lost the confidence of the people for its "corrupt and misrule", was scared of elections under a caretaker government.

She said the people had removed the autocratic Ershad for restoring their inalienable right to vote and improvement

of their economic condition. "But after assuming power, the BNP has denied people their right to vote and food and reneged on all of its electoral promises in the last three and a half years," she added.

Referring to what she described as rigging, terrorism, use of black money and the administrative machinery in past by-elections and city corporation elections, Hasina declared: "We will not allow anyone to play ducks and drakes with the people's independent right to choose their government."

Only elections under a neutral, caretaker government can guarantee a corruption-free accountable government in the country, the Awami League president told the meeting.

"Our struggle will continue until our demand is met... People will shed their blood to realise their demand, as they did in the past," she said.

About the violence and killing in the Gopalganj municipal election of Tangail district, she alleged that a BNP

See Page 12 Col 6

AL-LDF talks uncertain

By Nurul Kabir

The proposed dialogue between the Awami League Chief and the leaders of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) now seems somewhat uncertain due to the 'evasive response' of the latter, LDF sources have said.

The LDF leaders had sought a schedule from the AL chief early August to exchange views with her on the ways of ensuring a foolproof electoral process and making it free from the influence of black money and hoodliganism. Hasina has so far given three dates, but the talks were not held because of the change of schedules by her.

Meanwhile, the LDF leaders had talks with Prime Minister and chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Begum Khaleda Zia on September 6 and put forward their views on the ways of resolving different socio-political and economic problems now confronting the nation.

Sheikh Hasina had agreed to have the proposed talks with LDF leaders 'sometime in the second week' of August. But the dialogue did not take place that time because the AL

See Page 12 Col 6

Sylhet becomes division tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Sylhet will become the sixth administrative division of the country on September 24.

A formal announcement will be made by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at a public meeting to be held in Sylhet town on that day, according to sources.

The decision was taken after the completion of all formalities by a high-powered committee.

The Sylhet Division with its headquarters in old Sylhet town will comprise four districts of greater Sylhet namely Habiganj, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Sylhet.

The government is also learnt to be actively considering setting up two more divisions. In the next phase, Mymensingh will be upgraded to the status of a full Division, immediately afterwards, Rangpur will be given the status of a division, sources said.

With the creation of the three new divisions, the number of divisions in the country will rise to eight.

Krishak Kallyan Parishad chief arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested the president of the CHT-based Bangalee Krishak Sramik Kallyan Parishad from his house in Khagrachhari yesterday.

Rezaul Karim Helal, who tried to organise a grand rally in Khagrachhari on September 15, earlier offered to court arrest in exchange for the release of other parishad leaders.

Three people were killed and one hundred injured when violence erupted in the wake of the rally.

The parishad has been demanding better facilities for Bengali-speaking settlers living in the cluster villages in the region.

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.

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.

Bangladesh and the UNHCR signed a MOU on Rohingya repatriation in May last year.

Six killed, 31 injured in Calcutta police firing

NEW DELHI, Sept. 22: At least six people died and 31 injured when police fired on railway commuters who went on the rampage after a passenger was allegedly harassed in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta, newspapers said today, reports AFP.

The victims of the police action late Wednesday included a student and other passengers at the city's downtown Sealdah Railway which mainly serves suburban commuters, the Telegraph daily said.

Thirty-one people have been admitted in hospital with bullet injuries, it said.

The trouble erupted when a

college professor was allegedly "manhandled" by checkers when he failed to produce a ticket, reports said.

The incident inflamed several student travellers who broke furniture and trashed railway property after officials refused to apologise to the professor, witnesses said. They also sat on tracks and held up traffic for five hours.

Police help was sought to control the angry crowd during the peak evening rush hour, but witnesses said they fired at random, even targeting bystanders watching from a flyover near the station.

"They were firing indiscriminately. I began to run like

the others when a bullet hit my arm," the Telegraph quoted a passenger as saying in hospital.

Joyti Basu, the Marxist Chief Minister of West Bengal state of which Calcutta is capital, has condemned the firing as a "very serious matter" and ordered a probe, his party's Bengali-language newspaper Ganashakti said.

Ticketless train travel is fairly common in West Bengal with most collegians regarding it as one of the privileges of student life.

Meanwhile PTI adds, the West Bengal Assembly today witnessed noisy scenes with

See Page 12 Col 8