

Haitian parliament sits tomorrow Amnesty for coup leaders may be considered

WASHINGTON, Sept 26: Haiti's exiled president Jean-Bertrand Aristide said Sunday he would convene an extraordinary session of parliament Wednesday to consider granting amnesty for the military rulers who ousted him, reports Reuters.

In a statement issued by public relations firm, McKinney and McDowell Associates, Aristide said parliament would be convened to study a draft of the amnesty law, as called for in the September 18 agreement under which Haiti's military rulers agreed to give up power.

Owen McKinney, a spokeswoman for Aristide, said the parliamentary session would

Only dialogue can solve present political crisis: Badrudhoza

Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof AQM Badrudhoza Chowdhury said only dialogue between the Opposition and the government could solve any problem of the country including the present political impasse, reports BSS.

The Deputy Leader was addressing as chief guest a public meeting organised by Mirpur thana BNP unit at Mirpur in the city last evening.

With Abdul Malek, convenor of Mirpur thana BNP, in the chair, the meeting was addressed by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Food Minister Mir Shaukat Ali, State Minister for Finance Mojibar Rahman, Sayer Mohammad Mohsin MP, general secretary of Krishak Dal Shamsuzzaman Dudu, ward commissioner Ehsanul Hoq Setu and Chhatra Dal leader Anwar Ali Joy.

Plague

From Page 1 Col 2
with doctors into the filthy shantytowns from where most of the plague cases were reported, and helped bring back the patients to hospital.

Soldiers, armed with automatic weapons also stood guard at the main entrance to the Civil Hospital to ensure no patients fled before they were cured.

At least 60 have fled before the federal government on Sunday sent 800 paramilitary soldiers to Surat from its Rapid Action Force, which has been used in natural disasters and to stop Hindu-Muslim riots.

No deaths in 24 hours, that is since 5 pm on Sunday until 5 pm today, said Kundan Lal, a city administrator.

But Lal also told The Associated Press that two patients from neighboring villages died at the hospital Sunday afternoon, the first plague victims from outside Surat city.

Khaleda, Hasina

From Page 1 Col 4
Since the 1991 elections, declared by a Commonwealth monitoring group as a triumph for democracy, Bangladesh politics have become increasingly confrontational, culminating in street protests and an Opposition boycott of Parliament, the Commonwealth press release said.

Announcing the agreement of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to have direct talks, the press release quoted the Secretary General to have made the following statement:

"During the course of my discussions with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, members of her government, and the Leader of the Opposition, I formed the view that there existed sufficient common ground between the parties which would allow for a meaningful dialogue between them."

"In the belief that the parties would wish the Commonwealth to assist in the consolidation of democracy in Bangladesh, given its active support for the 1991 transition from military rule to multi-party democracy, I put forward a three-point plan for talks. The details of the proposals which are attached speak for themselves."

"I am happy to say that I have now heard from both the Prime Minister and Sheikh Hasina indicating their agreement to these proposals. I am therefore in touch with the parties and hope it will be possible for the talks to begin without delay and to lead to a negotiated resolution of the current impasse," the Secretary General said.

The names of two other opposition political parties, who are in line with the Awami League, were not mentioned in the Commonwealth press release.

take place in Haiti, even though several Aristide supporters in the parliament are currently in exile in the United States.

Meanwhile, Haitian military leader Raoul Cedras Sunday accused US troops in Haiti of atrocities after they killed 10 people in a gunfight outside police headquarters in Cap-Haitien.

AP from New York adds: President Clinton is prepared to support immediate lifting of sanctions against Haiti, administration officials said Monday.

Clinton may announce the move in his address to the General Assembly of the United Nations, his second as president.

31 AIDS victims found in Bangladesh

A total of 31 persons have been infected in Bangladesh with the AIDS virus "HIV" so far and out of them two have died, reports BSS.

This was disclosed yesterday at the 26th meeting of the National AIDS committee held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The meeting was informed that during the last six months eight persons were infected with HIV virus, according to an official handout.

The committee recommended that the army, BDR and police personnel while going abroad and coming back should be tested for HIV antibody.

The meeting also approved a media sub-committee to strengthen the publicity on prevention and creation of awareness about AIDS.

Thousands of Hindu protesters held in Hyderabad

NEW DELHI, Sept 26: Scores of people were injured Monday when police armed with clubs attacked Hindu nationalists who tried to hold a banned rally against a Muslim-owned slaughter house, reports AP.

Police arrested thousands of protesters when they tried to enter a Hindu temple in a village outside the southern city of Hyderabad to hold the protest, then march toward the slaughter house and destroy it, United News of India news agency reported.

The confrontation between Hindu militants and police could heighten communal tensions in Hyderabad.

Hartal

From Page 1 Col 8
A number of processions were brought out in the district headquarters demanding a new division.

Due to the hartal, the local Bar Council had to shift its programme to accord a reception to Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed from 10 am to 7 pm.

The Mymensingh Bibhag Andolon organised a rally in the afternoon and decided to stage a mass hunger strike in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office on October 10.

Held in front of the local Press Club, the rally was chaired by Anisur Rahman and addressed by among others, Shamsul Haq, MP of AL, Paurasabha Chairman Delwar Hossain Khan, Prof. Talizul Hossain Chowdhury and Amir Ahmed Choudhury.

Tourism Day

From Page 1 Col 5
drawn up an elaborate programme.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan and the secretary general of the World Tourism Organisation have given messages on the occasion.

The programmes of the day include holding of seminars and cultural shows and food festivals at the BPC's commercial units throughout the country.

The BPC, in collaboration with the National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh, arranged a discussion meeting at the Hotel Abakash in the capital yesterday evening.

5 receive bullet injuries as rival JP men clash in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 26: At least five activists of the Jatiya Party received bullet injuries in a clash between two rival groups at the Sylhet railway station in the early hours today. The clash started when the Matin-Azam group reached the railway station to receive the central leaders. Police later brought the situation under control.

The injured were admitted to private clinics.



Filipino President Fidel Ramos received Professor Md. Yunus, Managing Director of the Grameen Bank, at the Presidential Palace in Manila September 22 last.

Rabin okays new Jewish settlement in West Bank

JERUSALEM, Sept 26: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who curbed Israeli construction in the occupied territories two years ago, has approved new housing for a Jewish settlement just inside the West Bank, officials said today, reports Reuters.

The move — which drew immediate condemnation from the PLO — appeared to be designed to tighten Israel's hold on a section of the West Bank directly across the border from where the Jewish state is only 11 km (seven miles) wide.

"It is on the 'seam'," said Rabin spokesman Oded Ben-Ami, asked about a report in the Haaretz newspaper that Rabin had given permission for new housing in the Alfei Menashe settlement, three kilometres (two miles) inside the West Bank.

He said the term 'seam' was a reference to areas just '100 metres or so' across the pre-1967 war border with the West Bank.

"It (the building project) is in Alfei Menashe on the 'seam' but on the other side, in the West Bank — but very near the green line (border)," a Housing Ministry official told Reuters.

On taking office two years ago, Rabin froze the construction of about 10,000 housing units in the occupied territories and allowed work to continue on 13,700 homes whose foundations had been laid.

The decision helped win Israel vital loan guarantees totalling 10 billion US dollars from the United States — which had, described settlements as obstacles to peace — to fund a wave of Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union.

30 Tamil rebels killed in clash with troops

COLOMBO, Sept 26: At least 30 Tamil rebels and two Sri Lankan soldiers have been killed in fierce fighting in the Jaffna peninsula in the north, a senior military officer said today, reports Reuters.

"We received intelligence reports of a rebel build-up outside our forward defence lines, so we decided to launch an operation to clear it," Brigadier Gemunu Kulatunga said.



Although there is an abundant supply of the Bengalee's favourite hilsa fish in the city markets yet the price remains out of reach of the commonman. — Star photo

Private investment

From Page 1 Col 4

the 'quite impressive' rate of the ADP implementation for 1993-94, which was reported to be 94 per cent by the government.

However, he noted that there were 'quite a large' number of projects considered as implemented in the ADP, where money was transferred only from one account to another.

On the actual growth rate achieved during the last fiscal year, another bank official, Syed Nizamuddin, said the preliminary estimate of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is between 4.6 to 4.8 per cent and the final estimate would be available sometime in November.

However, he noted that the growth rate estimate is difficult to make because of the existing problems in national accounting.

Landell-mills noted that 1993-94 was a 'bumper' year for Bangladesh as the bank made aid commitments totalling 597 million dollars: 200 million for the Jamuna bridge project, 250 million for the jute sector adjustment credit

and the rest for secondary road rehabilitation and maintenance.

The bank is currently disbursing funds for 29 ongoing projects with an outstanding loan commitment of 1.7 billion dollars. Disbursement during the last fiscal year, he said, stood at 360 million dollars as against 338 million dollars the year before.

As new areas of bank funding, he said, the bank would consider providing loans for a major follow-up project for the ongoing mother and child health and family planning programmes and a second general education project aimed at improving the condition of schooling.

Besides, a nutrition project is ready for approval and a project to expand adult literacy is under preparation, he said. The bank would also support implementation of the National Environmental Management Action Plan, better resource management, agricultural diversification, improved rural infrastructure and markets, and improved power sector management and expanded power transmission and distribution.

Manila to replicate Grameen Bank

President Fidel V Ramos of the Philippines received Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director of the Grameen Bank, at the Presidential Palace in Manila on September 22, a bank press release in the city said yesterday.

Prof Yunus was invited by the President to participate in a high-level policy meeting to give final shape to the Grameen Bank Replication Programme in the Philippines.

The meeting decided to create an independent trust fund of 4 billion peso (160 million US dollars) to support implementation of the programme.

The two-and-a-half hour meeting, presided over by President Ramos was also attended by the Ministers of Finance Roberto S. De Ocampo and Planning Cielito F. Habito, and the Acting Governor of the Central Bank.

President Ramos announced his endorsement of the Grameen Bank approach as the main thrust of the poverty alleviation strategy in the Philippines.

AL-BNP clash in Sirajganj: 50 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 26: About 50 people were injured, five of them seriously, in a clash between activists of the BNP and Awami League here today, witnesses and police said, reports UNB.

They said the clash erupted when a procession of the BNP protesting tomorrow's rial and road blockade programme was attacked by supporters of the AL in front of the local press club at about 7 pm.

Police resorted to lathicharge and lobbed tear gas canisters to disperse the clashing groups who blasted crackers and used sticks and stones.

Five of the injured were admitted to the Sirajganj General Hospital. They included district JCD president Nazmul Hasan Rana, Jubadal leader KM Rakibul Hasan, and JCD activists Shamim Ahmed and Saidur Rahman Bachchu.

KL, Manila sign defence pact

MANILA, Sept 26: Malaysia and the Philippines signed a defence cooperation pact today designed to strengthen military ties, reports Reuters.

"We are witnessing a historic moment in our bilateral relations," Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Abdul Razak said after signing the accord with his Filipino counterpart, Renato De Villa.

Opposition's

From Page 1 Col 5
has urged the people to enforce the barricade peacefully.

She asked her party workers, supporters and pro-democracy forces to take positions on the roads and railway tracks leading to all divisional, district and thana headquarters, and make the programme a success.

The Jatiya Party and Jamaat have also called for making the programme a success.

The blockade follows the Opposition's "Dhaka siege" programme on September 10 and hartals on September 11-13.

The Opposition parties are scheduled to hold separate rallies in the capital on Wednesday when they are expected to announce their next courses of action.

The authorities have stepped up security measures to maintain law and order during the Opposition programme today.

Meanwhile, the movement of ambulances, fire engines and vehicles carrying newspapers across the country has been exempted from the barricade programme.

5.2pc growth rate in South Asia in 80s

By Staff Correspondent

The South Asian nations averaged a combined growth rate of 5.2 per cent during the 1980s, a record exceeded only by the developing countries in East Asia and the Pacific, states the 1994 World Bank annual report.

The report was released here yesterday at a press conference by Pierre Landell-mills, new resident mission chief of the Bank.

The primary challenge facing the South Asian countries is to deepen the ongoing economic reforms to sustain the growth level, while at the same time achieving further progress in reducing poverty and improving living conditions, says the report.

It lists three major challenges: To deepen economic reforms, to broaden and enhance poverty reduction efforts in a region which is home to half of the world's poor and to ensure environmental sustainability.

The report highlighted the achievements made by Bangladesh in its family planning efforts saying that the country is the only one among the developing nations where there has been a continual decline in the birth rate over the last 20 years. "Bangladesh's progress disproved the conventional wisdom that only rapidly developing countries, such as South Korea and Indonesia, can have successful family planning programmes."

The report observes that an important development in the South Asian nations is the expanded role for local governments and the creation of a 'more hospitable' environment for the NGOs. In fiscal 1994, lending by the World Bank to countries in South Asia amounted to 2.37 billion dollars or 11.3 per cent of its worldwide lending of 20.84 billion. Lending to the South Asian countries declined by 1046 million dollars compared to the previous year's total.

Share market

From Page 1 Col 5
HMMS Mostaque Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday.

The UBS Securities Limited is likely to invest a total of 50 million US dollars in the share market by the end of the current year, he said.

The Swiss company has been looking for emerging share markets in the world for investment and has chosen the Dhaka market as an emerging one, he noted.

The MD of HMMS also said the UBS is interested not only in investments in the securities market but also in corporate investments in Bangladesh.

Niall Shiner, who is accompanied by Parvati Bariati, Associate Research Director of the company's Hong Kong branch, will leave Dhaka Friday.

Till now Smith New Court, a London-based brokerage firm, is the largest investor in Bangladesh's share market. It has so far channelised about 140 million US dollars in the Dhaka share market and plans to invest 25 million dollars more by the end of the current year.

The Midnight File

Sarajevo airport closed again

SARAJEVO, Sept 26: Sarajevo airport was closed today following a Bosnian Serb threat to shoot down aircraft attempting to use it, a UN spokesman said, as UN-Serb relations remained tense following a NATO airstrike against a Serb tank. Meanwhile gas supplies to the city were cut today less than a day after resuming, a civilian UN official said, reports AFP.

3 top pro-democracy activists held in Nigeria

LAGOS, Sept 26: Nigeria's military government has arrested three top pro-democracy activists in the capital in its continuing crackdown on voices of dissent. Arrested late Sunday were Sen B A Okoroafor and Bola Ogunjola, both members of the opposition National Democratic Coalition, and Abdul Kareem Kasumu, a Muslim leader in Nigeria's predominantly Christian southwest, reports AP.

PM asks her aides

From Page 1 Col 3

who attended the meeting at Hare Road, said the Prime Minister had asked Prof Badrudhoza Chowdhury — the BNP's chief pointsman vis-a-vis the Opposition — to immediately contact either Sheikh Hasina herself or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad to begin the process for immediate talks on the basis of Emeka's proposals.

When contacted last night over telephone, Sheikh Hasina said the ruling party was yet to contact her in this regard.

In reply to a query about her reactions to Chief Emeka's proposals, she only said the talks must be held in the presence of a Commonwealth representative.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party leader Maudud Ahmed, talking to UNB last night, said he had no knowledge about the exact nature of the understanding between the PM, the AL chief and the Commonwealth Secretary General. He

PM: Hartal

From Page 1 Col 4

tem. She added that on the one hand, these programmes will threaten democracy and on the other, destroy the economic infrastructure.

The elite of the three crowded residential areas of the city, while exchanging views with the Prime Minister, raised various local problems faced by them and urged her to resolve those.

The problems included traffic jam, mosquito menace, water, electricity and sewerage.

They also urged the Prime Minister to ensure more facilities for the haj pilgrims, construction of an over-bridge at Khilgaon railgate and opening of college at Motijheel government girls' and boys' high schools.

Sheikh Hasina left for Dhaka by air in the evening.

The prime Minister assured them of resolving the problems at the earliest. She, however, reminded: "Our resources are very limited, but problems are numerous. So, we have to resolve the problems within the limited resources."

On different development programmes undertaken by the government, Begum Zia said programmes and policies of her government were aimed at the welfare of the commonman.

Local MP, Mirza Abbas also spoke on the occasion.

said the other components of the parliamentary opposition — the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — would have to study Emeka's proposals carefully before venturing any comment.

He, however, pointed out: "It was our combined decision that no dialogue with the government on the issue (of a caretaker government to hold the next general elections) would take place on a party-to-party (bilateral) basis."

Drought relief

The government has so far allocated 4,100 metric tons of wheat — 3,500 tons under test relief programme and 600 tons as gratuitous relief — for the eight drought-hit northern districts, an official handout said last night, reports UNB.

Besides, 100 tons of biscuits each have been allocated for six districts — Thakurgaon, Panchagar, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 7
the achievement of rice export."

The AL chief said that her party, if voted to power, would constitute thana parishads to ensure balanced development of the country as well as to improve law and order. The party would also set up industries and take up projects for the welfare of the women, she added.

Presided over by Mosharraf Hossain, President of the AL, Chittagong district (north) unit, the meeting was also addressed by party leaders including Abdus Samad Azad, Amir Hossain Amu, Zillur Rahman, Matia Chowdhury, Ataur Rahman Kaiser, Pulin Dey, Abdul Jalil and mayor of Chittagong City Corporation Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

Sheikh Hasina left for Dhaka by air in the evening.

Doctors

From Page 1 Col 7

the sufferings of the people," the statement said. But, because of the propaganda, private practice was being stopped at some places in the country.

The statement also asked all concerned not to be misled by such propaganda.

Meanwhile, more patients left the hospitals yesterday.

The total number of patients at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital was 1216 as against the usual over 1400, said our DMCH correspondent.

**BANGLADESH GARMENT MANUFACTURERS
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**URGENT NOTICE TO
BGMEA MEMBERS AND HOSIERY MANUFACTURERS**

This is for kind information of all the BGMEA member units and Hosiery Manufacturers that NO U/P WILL BE ISSUED BY CUSTOM DEPARTMENT AFTER 30.09.94. As per arrangements with the Board of Revenue (NBR) the U/D (Utilization Declaration) in lieu of U/P will be issued by BGMEA office in Dhaka & Chittagong to the member units and to the Hosiery Manufacturers in the respective region with effect from 01.10.94 for items both within and outside the SRO. All necessary papers needed for U/P will be required to be submitted to obtain U/D alongwith some additional papers which already been mailed to all concerned as well as displayed in the BGMEA Notice Boards.

The specimen signature of the present signatories for Risk Bond and Duty Bond have to be submitted to BGMEA office Dhaka and Chittagong on a Tk. 50.00 (Taka fifty) Non-Judicial Stamp duly attested by Managing Director/Chairman of the concerned unit and countersigned by their respective banker alongwith a copy of the existing specimen signature already with the respective Custom Department.

All concerned units are also requested to kindly submit a copy of the last U/P obtained from their respective Custom Department duly attested by their concerned bank.

Secretary, BGMEA

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.