The Midnight File

US Senators for closer

ties with Taiwan

for closer US ties with Taiwan and said recent administration

policy changes did not go far enough. "On a number of critical

issues. Taiwan is outside of the tent when it should be

inside." Virginia Democrat Charles Robb said at a Senate

Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the September 7'

Mexico's ruling party

Secy-Gen shot dead

ruling party. Francisco Ruiz Massieu, died today after being

shot by a lone gunman as he left a downtown hotel meeting

with party officials, doctors said. 'He arrived at the hospital

in critical condition with a bullet in the left side of the neck

Maldonado Campos of the Hospital Espanol told reporters,

he was declared dead at 10:30 in the morning." Dr Felipe

MEXICO CITY, Sept 28; The secretary-general of Mexico's

policy adjustments, reports Reuter.

reports Reuter.

CAB condemns

doctors' strike

By Staff Correspondent

of Bangladesh (CAB), in a

statement Wednesday, ex

pressed grave concern at the

suffering of the people because

of the indefinite strike by the

The statement termed the

strike 'immoral, inhuman and

illogical and urged the gov-

ernment to make necessary

provisions in the fourthcom

ing national health policy re-

stricting doctors' rights to

Show cause issued

on BMA chief

A 24-hour show cause no-

tice has been served upon

tion President Prof M A Mazid

and Secretary General Dr Gazi

Abdul Hoque as to why they

shall not be restrained by a

temporary injunction from

Children's rights

Fram Page 1 Col 6

rated by Prime Minister Be-

gum Khaleda Zia at a function

at the Osmany Memorial Hall

in the city at 10:30 this

morning. Deputy Leader of the

Jatiya Sangsad Prof Badruddoza

Chowdhury will be present as

special guest. State Minister

for Women and Children's

Affairs will preside over the

ministry include seminars cul-

tural functions, art and essay

competitions for the children,

colourful processions of the

organised at the Bangladesh

Shishu Academy. The fair will

remain open for the visitors

Adhikar Forum has also taken

up a week-long programme.

The programme will be inau-

gurated by Information Mi-

nister Barrister Nazmul Huda

at the National Museum at 8-

Showcause notice

on BAIRA

one Khorshed Alam, the High

Court has ordered the Bang-

ladesh Association of Interna-

tional Recruiting Agencies

(BAIRA) to showcause within

six weeks why the ballot

papers of its recent election

should not be recounted,

The court also stayed the

election results, as announced

in the annual general meeting,

till hearing of the writ petition.

JP rally

From Page 1 Col 5

to end the present political

dressing a rally at the Shapla

Square at Motifheel in the city

vesterday as part of an agita-

tion to force the ruling party to

agree to the demand for a

that since the combined op-

position has been campaigning

for the issue, the matter would

Mizan Chowdhury an

nounced a series of agitation

programmes - from October

to 9 — to mobilise public sup-

port in favour of the caretaker

government issue. The pro-

grammes included mass con-

tact, rallies, processions and

finally a sit-in in front of the

Prime Minister's office Octo-

Col (retd) Abdul Malek, the

rally was also addressed by

among others, Moudud Ah

med. Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Kha-

ledur Rahman Tito. Anwar

Hossain Manju, Monirul Hug

Chowdhury, Razia Foyez.

Mahbubul Huq Dolon and Is-

the government's economic

and foreign policies and said

trade gap with almost all the

countries widened during the

Moudud Ahmed criticise

mail Hossain Bengal.

BNP rule

Chaired by city JP president

The acting JP chief said

caretaker government.

be resolved unitedly.

ber 9

Mizan Chowdhury was ad-

reports UNB.

Upon a writ petition filed by

The Bangladesh Shishu

A book fair has also been

children and film shows.

from 3 to 8 pm everyday.

The programmes of the

strike, reports UNB.

Piroj Kamrul Hasan.

function.

30 am.

Bangladesh Medical Associa

government doctors.

strike work. .

The Consumers' Association

WASHINGTON. Sept 28: Several senators Tuesday called



A half-day hartal was observed in city's Lalbagh area yesterday protesting bomb attack on Awami League leader allegedly by BNP activists during September 27 barricade - Star photo programme.

In primary pneunomic

plague (the kind that has bro-

ken out in India's Surat) the

sputum is at first slimy and

tinted with blood; it later be-

comes free-flowing and bright

red. Death occurs in most

cases two or three days after

the first appearance of symp

Many preventive measures.

such as sanitation, killing of

rats and prevention of the

transport of rats in ships arriv-

ing from ports in which the

disease is endemic are effec-

tive in reducing the incidence

of plague. Famine which re-

duces resistance to the dis-

ease, results in spread of the

tracted the disease are iso

lated, put to bed, and fed fluids

and easily digestible

foods. Sedatives are used to re-

duce pain and to quiet delir-

ium. During World War II. sci-

entists using sulfa drugs were

able to produce cures o

plaque: subsequently, strepto-

mycin and tetracyclines were

found to be more effective in

date for starting the dialogue.

The date will be finalised fol-

lowing a further contacts with

the ruling party, the sources

Commonwealth Secretary

General's envoy, if it is really

required, would depend on the

schedule of the talks decided

by the opposing camps," the

Clinton hails Dhaka

NIAW YORK, Sept 28.

President Bill Clinton warmly

greeted Bangladesh Foreign

Minister ASM Mostafizur

Rahman Monday evening at a

reception hosted by him on

the occasion of the 49th ses-

sion of UN General Assembly,

reports BSS. He thanked Bangladesh for

its participation in the UN

right to vote and other rights

and that her struggle was

aimed at returning those

rights to the commonman. "All

the programmes we take up

are for ensuring that ballot not

bullet will be the only means to

continued boycott of Parlia-

ment sessions, the Opposition

leader maintained that the

ruling party had made Parlia-

ment 'inoperative and ineffec-

tive' by ignoring the Oppo-

their people-oriented moves.

sition members and rejecting

blamed the Leader of the

House for her "negligence" to

Parliament proceedings. "She

remained absent from the

House most of the time, spe-

cially when I spoke on issues

of national importance".

BNP government for its

'failure' to maintain law and

order which she said, caused

no investment both by the lo-

cal and the foreign en-

trepreneurs. She alleged that

due to unbridled corruption,

terrorism, lawlessness and

misrule by the BNP, no devel-

opment took place in the past

three and a half years although

the government repeatedly

claimed "waves of develop-

to power, her party would de-

centralise the administration.

set up health centre in each

union and primary school in

each village, create a congenial

atmosphere for local and for-

eign investments, check cor-

ruption, improve law and

order and take steps for the

welfare of the peasants and in-

dustrial workers.

The AL chief said, if voted

The AL chief criticised the

Hasina said.

In this regard. Hasina also

Turning to the Opposition's

change state power.

mission in Haiti.

Hasina addresses rally

Opposition Chief Whip said.

"The date of arrival of the

controlling the disease.

Individuals who have con-

plague.

Opposition team for talks

Prevention and treatment

The Microsoft Encarta, a

computer encyclopaedia.

contains the following informa-

tion on the dreaded disease

The term plague applied

indiscriminately in the Middle

Ages to all fatal epidemic dis-

eases is now restricted to an

acute, infections, contagious

disease of rodents and hu-

mans, caused by a short, thick

gram-negative bacillus, Yersina

three forms: bubonic plaque,

pneunomic plague, and sep-

fatal in 30 to 75 per cent of all

cases, pneunomic plague 95

percent of the time, and sep-

ticemic plague almost invari-

ably. Mortality in treated cases

symptoms are headache, nau-

sea, vomitting, aching joints

and a general feeling of ill

health. The lymp nodes of the

groin or, less commonly of the

armpit or neck, suddenly be-

come painful and swollen. In

fatal cases death results in

From Page 1 Col 5

conduct general elections 'very

The AL, however, quickly

acted on the issue deciding

that their (JP-Jamaat) repre-

sentatives would be included

in the team for the proposed

the opposition parties in

Parliament are scheduled to

meet this afternoon to discuss

their strategies for the dia

logue. Besides, leader of the

Opposition in Parliament

Sheikh Hasina is likely to in-

form her colleagues in the JP

and Jamaat about her discus-

sions with the Commonwealth

Secretary General during his

Opposition sources indi-

From Page 1 Col 3

Referring to her recent

talks with Commonwealth

Secretary General Chief Emaka

Anayaoku, the AL leader told

the meeting she had categori-

cally explained her party's

views on the government offer

About the much-talked dia-

logue. Hasina further said it

was she who first proposed a

debate on the caretaker gov-

ernment issue with the Prime

Minister. But she (PM) refused

to accept the proposal, Hasina

sions to resolve political issues.

We are not opposed to such

democratic practice", she said.

under a caretaker government

has become a popular demand

because the people want to

vote freely and it is not possi-

ble with the 'vote-dacoit' BNP

government continuing in

power. "Even the lives of the

voters are not safe in the

Hasina accused the gov-

ernment of conspiring to foil

the Opposition agitation for a

caretaker administration

since, she said, the ruling

party was now afraid of seeking

public support after its three

Terming the BNP govern-

ment a pledge-breaker, the

Opposition leader said people

of all walks of life were agitat-

ing against it, because it did

not fulfil its commitments to

the opposition parties, profes-

sionals, workers, farmers, stu-

had been deprived of their

Hasina said that the people

hands of the BNP".

and half-year misrule.

dents and all others.

The AL leader said elections

"We are always for discus-

for a dialogue to end the cur-

rent political standoff.

cated that today's meeting is

likely to decide on a tentative

recent visit to Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the leaders of

In bubonic plague, the first

In humans plague occurs in

Untreated bubonic plague is

known as Plague:

ticemic plague.

is 5 to percent.

about five days.

unhappy.

Ahmed.

added.

Definition of Plague

Hartal observed in city's Lalbagh

area

A half day hartal protesting attack on a City Awami League leader during Tuesday's railroad barricade programme was observed in Lalbagh area of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

City AL Vice President Abdul Aziz was injured in a cracker blast while leading a procession in Lalbagh. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Shops, business establish ments and educational institutions in the area were closed during the dawn to-noon hartal. All sorts of motor vehicles were off the road

Awami League supporters brought out a number of small processions and held a rally in the area protesting Tuesday's violence.



front of the TV Bhaban at Rampura in the city yesterday protesting cancellation of the general manager's - Star photo appointment.

Employees of the Bangladesh Television demonstrating in

Plague: How to tackle All but 7 entry points sealed

From Page 1 Col 4 started fumigating all incoming

The decision to close the border points was taken at a high-level meeting at the Home Ministry chaired by Home Minister Abdul Matin

posts to remain open are Benapole, Sona Masjid, Hili Burimari, Jakiganj, Tamabil and Akhaura.

The meeting also decided that all incoming travellers from India would have to go through a medical check-up at those border points and that all incoming vehicles and containers would also be fumi-

Officials said that about 500 passengers were screened at Zia International Airport (ZIA) and the Benapole Border Post on the first day of the mandatory testing for plague yester-

One hundred and minetynine adult passengers flying in from Calcutta in two flights were examined on the day at

Another 290 people coming from India through the Benapole entry point were also tested yesterday, a district

fore the minister boarded the aircraft.

passengers from India.

Anyone with positive plague symptoms will be shifted to at Mohakhali for treatment Abdur Rob at the airport medi-

The hospital with 50 beds has been kept ready for treating plague patients. Besides, all

Talking to reporters at the

enough stock of medicine to treat plague patients and if necessary, we will go for mass

in all bordering villages have

The Immigration and Customs personnel at the airport said, they had been asked by the authorities to wear noseguards while clearing passengers from India. They have also been advised to take tetracycline capsules as a preventive measures.

Doctors wearing face masks

desh Airlines has taken up some precautionary measures to prevent the outbreak of plague in Bangladesh.

According to a Biman press from India or having touched any points in India will be sprayed after landing at the airports with the passengers on board.

also be provided as soon as the passengers disembark and enter the terminal building.

disembarked, the entire airwill be fumigated, the press release added

TV employees

From Page 1 Col 8 President and the Prime Min-

A source in the seven-man action committee which is spearheading the agitation. told The Daily Star last night that the employees' meeting had also resolved to suspend all editing and recording of programmes. Besides, the names of the artistes and technicians would not be shown after any programme. However, transmission would continue uninterrupted.

Meanwhile, a high official in the Director General's office told this correspondent that Information Minister Nazmul Huda last night met the lead ers of the action committee at the Rampura TV Bhaban and told them flatly there would be no compromise on the issue. He also said that a new general manager would be appointed soon.

The source, requesting anonymity, said a delegation headed by Information Secretary Dr Ekram Hossain and including Director General Habibur Rahman, DDG (Programme) Mustafa Kamal Syed, the Director Administration and some other senior officials went to Rampura at around 1:30 pm to talk to the agitating staff in a bid to defuse the situation, but their mission ended in futility.

Later, the same set of offi cials accompanied the information minister to the TV Bhaban at around 7:30 pm and met the action committee members.

During the discussions which lasted until 9:15 pm the minister remained firm, saying it was the government's prerogative to appoint or transfer anyone at BTV.

He said the order cancelling a previous ministry order to give additional charge of general manager to Director. VTO Nawazesh Ali Khan would not be revoked.

The action committee members apparently were convinced of Huda's logic but sought time to consult their colleagues today before giving a reply, a source attending last night's meeting said.

He told this correspondent it is true very little can be achieved in such cases involving particular officials or individuals.

According to another high BTV source, the controversy arose after the information ministry, during the absence of the minister from the country. decided to make Khan the GM in addition to his duties as Director VTO. On his return home September 26, Nazmul Huda did not approve of the appointment and ordered rescinding of the previous ministry notification.

According to this source the Director Admin.BTV had written to the ministry on September 6 that a GM should be appointed because the hitherto "working arrangement" under which the DDG (Programme) was holding the GM's charge was not in the best interests of the organisation. The post of DDG(Prog) is senior to that of GM.

On the basis of this note, the ministry issued a notification on September 24 appointing Khan as GM.

According to another wellplaced source, seeking anonymity, certain officials in the ministry, at the behest of a praticular quarter inside BTV. hurriedly pushed through the file regarding Khan's new appointment to serve their "coterie interests".

Jamaat

From Page 1 Col 6 government and introduction of blasphemy law and said Jamaat would launch a greater movement if their demands were not met immediately.

The Jamaat leader also announced the party's next course of action programme that included a march towards the Prime Minister's Secretariat on November 9.

Other programmes, almost identical with Awami League and Jatiya Party, are: Protest day on October 1 march towards Dhaka on October 9, mass contact October 16-18. mass procession in Dhaka October 20, mass contact October 21-23, mass procession in Dhaka October 26 and a rally in Dhaka on Novem-

ber 1 Wednesday's rally organised by City Jamaat was also addressed by Matiur Rahman, Nizami MP, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Abdul Kader Mollah, Advocate Jasimuddin Sarkar and Saiful Alam Khan. Jamaat City Ameer ATM Azharul Islam presided.

About the mediation of the Commonwealth Secretary General for a government-opposition dialogue. Abbas Ali Khan said it constituted "an unwarranted interference" in the internal affairs of the

"We are enough to break the deadlock on the question of

of doctors and surgeons. There is nothing new in these offers. These are all verhal bluffs. Let there be real implementation of the demands first," said BMA president Dr MA Mazed last night over

Determined to continue the strike that began on September 22, the BMA president said, the government must issue orders in favour of the demands accepted in January.

and Prof Hadi of the BMA met the minister after he had invited the BMA for negotiation

"A well-placed source in the ministry said, a cabinet subcommittee was formed earlier to review the 21-point charter of demands. This committee suggested the implementation

continuing the BMA's' illegal Kutubuddin Ahmed Sikder an Assistant Judge of Dhaka. sixth grade. vesterday passed the order The civil surgeons of the upon a suit filed by advocate

country, who are all appointed on current charge basis, and the services of about 1300 other doctors will be regularised.

agreed to regularise the services of a number of doctors in a particular batch of the BCS health cadre who failed in their departmental examina-

The health minister assured the BMA leaders of implementing the four demands immediately after the doctors withdraw the strike.

PM in Ctg

From Page 1 Col 7 sist the conspirators" Begum Zia said.

"Only BNP can protect the rights of vote and food" she

democratic process and to snatch the rights to food by re-

Highlighting her party programmes, the BNP chief said that BNP government had taken 'Dal-Bhat' programmes for poverty alleviation.

The BNP chairperson said while a political party was once

in power famine broke out in the country in 1974 and all foreign aids and internal resources were looted by its corrupt activists. The meeting presided over

by Chittagong city BNP convenor Mir Nasiruddin, was also addressed by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Minister for Industries Zahiruddin Khan, Minister for Fisheries Abdullah Al Noman, Minister for Energy Mosarraf Hossain. Minister for Forest Akbar Hossain, Rosy Kabir, MP, Wahidul Alam, MP, Jainal Abedin MP, L K Siddiqui MP and other local BNP and JCD leaders. The meeting over, the Prime Minister returned to Dhaka by

Agitation plans

JP programmes: Protest day on October 1, march towards Dhaka on October 9 from Mukti Sarani at Demra, mase contact on October 16-18, mass procession in the capital on October 20, mass contact on October 21-22. hartal in all thanas demanding restoration of upazila system and mass procession in the capital on October 26 and a grand rally

test day on October 1, march

health official of Jessore con-

transports from India, including aircraft and trucks, while travellers coming from the neighbouring country are being advised not to bring in any food items or live animals along with them.

Choudhury yesterday. The seven border check

gated.

Zia International Airport.

Health Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, accompanied by Director General of Health Services Prof Nurun Nabi, boarded an incoming Biman flight from Calcutta at around 12.30 pm and informed the passengers of the mandatory test. The cabin was sprayed with disinfectants be-

About a dozen specialist physicians have been posted at a temporary medical camp set up at ZIA by the Infections Diseases Hospital. The doctors would be working in shifts and would be available throughout the day to screen incoming

the Infectious Disease Hospital under quarantine, said Dr cal camp.

district hospitals and thana health complexes have been instructed to keep seats reserved for possible plague pa-

airport, the health minister said the government has taken all precautionary measures to prevent any outbreak of plague in the country. We have production of those medicine" Doctors and health workers

been asked to take precautionary measures while health complexes have been kept on high alert, he said.

screened all passengers coming from India while immigration officials checked their "plague free" certificates. Meanwhile, Biman Bangla

release, all aircraft coming in

Free medical cleck-up will

After the passengers have craft including the cargo hold



A Swedish-Estonian passenger ferry M S Estonia that capsized with more than 950 on board -AFP file photo in a gale off Finnish coast yesterday.

Ferry disaster

From Page 1 Col 7 phony, said Harry M. 4 Swedes and about 200 Estonians. The nationalities of the other passengers and crew were not immediately known.

The Estonia was built in 1980 in Germany, and had room for 2,000 passengers and 460 cars.

DMCH staff strike work for 4 hrs

By Staff Correspondent Employees of the Dhaka

Medical College Hospital (DMCH) vesterday observed a four hour strike to protest the alleged assault on a hospital staff by some Awami League men on Tuesday. All the Class Three and

Class Four Employees of DMCH abstained from their duties from 8 am to 12 noon. According to a hospital source, a rent collector, Rafigul Islam, was assaulted by

some AL men, including Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, a central AL leader. He said, the trouble started when the AL men forced the rent collector to admit City AL

vice president M A Aziz - injured during opposition barricade programme - without paying advance cabin-rent, as required under hospital rules. The rent-collector said he was beaten up by AL men when

he demanded advance cabin

rent for ten days. · Later, the workers arranged a protest rally after the strike but Professor Mudasser Ali and Dr Kazi Shahidul Haq intervened and settled the matter.

Plague cases From Page 1 Col 4

which is south of the city of Surat where the outbreak erupted last week and surrounds Bombay, with its population of about 13 million.

In a development that officials said was especially worrisome, seven confirmed plague victims surfaced in Calcutta and the surrounding region -1,600 km northeast of Surat. Another 13 had plague symp-

The Health Minister of West Bengal state, where Calcutta is located, said three men had recently died in the region of plague-like symptoms like high fever. One of the men died near the border with Bangladesh, Prasant Sur said.

Autopsies were being conducted to determine if the men, all of whom had recently been to Surat, had died of plague.

AP from Berlin, Germany adds: A man with symptoms like those of pneumonic plague has been admitted to a Berlin hospital and placed in quarantipe for observation, the city's pree University clinic said to-

If the case is confirmed it would be the first reported in Europe since the plague broke out in India earlier this month. Students damage vehicles

The movement of traffic on the city's Mirpur Road near the Bangladesh Agricultural Institute at Sher-e-Banglanagar was suspended for over an hour as its students demonstrated damaging vehicles yesterday morning. Some five vehicles were damaged.

20 faint at PM's Ctg rally

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 28: At least 20 persons, including

two women, fainted in a stampede at today's mammoth public meeting addressed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the local Laldighi Maidan. With people continuously

pushing forward, those nearer to the dats came under tremendous pressure

Girl violated

From Page 1 Col 8 an on-duty Ansar and Dulal, the launch supervisor, during Tuesday night in a cabin of the A devastated, dumbfounded

Poly was recovered from the city's Sadarghat terminal by Kotwali police early yesterday morning after two of her relatives who were travelling with her informed the police of the incident when the launch reached Dhaka. Hafeza Khatoon and Khalil,

distant relatives of the poor girl who work at a city garments factory, were allegedly confined inside a cabin by accused Sohrab, who then took away Poly to another cabin where he and his accomplice Dulal raped her by turn

nadi, was sent to hospital for medical examination. The two accused, who denied the charges during initial

police interrogation, are likely to be produced before court Despite her shattered men tal and physical condition Poly identified her violators before

the police, thana sour-ces said.

Poly, from Torki in Gourcountry.

caretaker government', he said. "There was no need to invite a foreign guest to arrange dialogue between the government and the opposition.

Docs reject

From Page 1 Col 8 and regularisation of services

Dr Fakrul Islam Chowdhury

the day before.

of the four demands. The four demands include promotion of 2000 doctors from the seventh grade to

The government also

categorically said. Begum Zia further said that some political parties were now active to destroy the

sorting to hartal and strikes.

Her government always gave priority to education and production oriented works to free the people from the curse of poverty, the Prime Minister asserted.

From Page 1 Col 4 mass procession in the capital on October 20, mass contact by launch on October 21-23. another mass procession in the capital on October 26 and grand rally on November 1.

on November 1. Jamaat programmes: Pro-

towards Dhaka on October 9. mass contact on October 16-18, mass procession in the capital on October 20, mass contact on October 21-23, mass procession in the capital on October 26 and a grand rally on November 1.

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