

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is greeted by Chinese President Jiang Zemin yesterday during the official welcoming ceremony in Beijing. -AFP/UNB photo

PM: Beijing confce Turning to her country.

the prime minister said de

spite numerous and diversi-

fied constraints, Bangladesh's

commitment towards women

development and freeing

them from poverty remained

fort in last few years to en-

hance the status of women

We have sought to empower

them to enable them to con-

tribute their best to societal

achievements, Begum Zia

said besides the Constitu

tional guarantee of gender

equality, legislations are in

place to protect the rights of

formed that private and non-

governmental initiatives were

supplementing the govern-

ment efforts in devising a

large number of innovative

programmes for empower-

pointed out that the achieve-

ment of Grameen Bank had

Minister, who was the im-

mediate past chairperson of

the seven-nation SAARC, also

referred to the regional

grouping that has given the

had declared 1991-2000 as

Decade for the Girl Child, set

the SAARC target of eliminat-

ing poverty by 2002 and

adopted Dhaka Resolution in

stressing eradication of po-

been given an added meaning

and significance by virtue of

the fact that three out of

seven SAARC countries today

are headed by women who

have been placed at the helm

lence and discrimination

against women are high in

many societies and said: "The

barbaric atrocities being

committed against women in

Bosnia are a painful reminder

that even in Europe today the

veneer of civilization and en-

lightenment is thin indeed."

teaching and tenets of Islam

could positively contribute to

the realization of the com-

mon goal of equality, devel-

Alleged kidnapper

held in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

Police today arrested one

Jahid Hossain Mehdi from

in what the hotel manage-

ment claimed was an attempt

Falsely identifying himself

as Asigur Rahman, Mehdi had

impersonated a member of

the 'Prime Minister's

Coordination Cell' and sought

on August 27 an appointment

with Abul Kalam, MD of the

hotel. Abul Kalam asked

sensed in it a kidnap bid and

Police came earlier

gave prior information to po-

preyed on Mehdi and caught

him, police said. Mehdi came

along with some others but

Dinappur incident

From Page 1

ing black badges marched

carrying candles in memory

of thousands of women whose

lives have been destroyed by

violence, both domestic and

especially mentioned and the

South Asian delegates joined

in the condemnation of the

act. They stated that as the

World Conference goes on,

such incidents of violence

against women are a regular

feature in the lives of many

women in the region and de-

manded that authorities take

immediate steps to stop such

man rights, crimes against

women, violence in the form

of rape, trafficking and do-

mestic violence have re-

ceived special attention at

the NGO Forum for Women.

Violation of women's hu-

The Dinajpur incident was

they managed to escape.

Mehdi to come today but

to kidnap the managing di-

rector of the hotel.

CHITTAGONG, Sept 4:

opment and peace.

She also mentioned that

Begum Zia observed vio-

of affairs through the ballot."

verty among women.

SAARC ministerial meeting

"Our efforts have certainly

She said the association

highest priority to women.

employment of women.

been remarkable.

ment, emancipation and

In this connection, he

The Bangladesh Prime

Begum Zia further in-

Enumerating some of the

progress," she said.

"We have made every ef-

unflinching.

From Page 1 grammes throughout the UN system, the Prime Minister

Begum Zia also proposed establishment of a high-level UN Commission made up entirely of women of great eminence who would serve in their personal capacities.

Elaborating, she said the commission would put forward specific proposals and suggest programmes to facilitate the implementation of the Platform of Action dubbed a charter of socioeconomic emancipation of womankind.

Above all, she said, it would monitor and evaluate the performance of all UN bodies and agencies on issues relating to women. The several eminent and distinguished women who are holding top positions in the UN system may also be invited to serve in their individual capacity on the Commission.

In her third proposal, Begum Zia suggested that the UN Secretary General take the lead in institutionalising an annual award to be given to a woman, whose achievements during the year would earn her title: Woman of the

She said the person should be selected by an international jury of great eminence. Perhaps the Secretary General could invite the distinguished chairperson of this Conference, to serve as the first chairperson of the International Jury. "My three proposals relate

primarily to the international community and specifically to women of great eminence who have a global vision," the Bangladesh Prime Minister said in her address as third speaker to the opening session of the august forum.

"While considering these proposals," she went on, "we must not forget the millions of women in our own countries, who struggle day and night to improve the quality of their lives and contribute in their own modest way to female emancipation, enlightenment and empowerment."

National awards can be instituted for these women, who have contributed in their own modest way to the uplift of women in their respective countries.

...We shall endeavour to remember the significance of the World Conference on Women in Beijing ... we shall pay tribute to the sacrifice and contribution made by countless generations of women.'

Our vision for the future hotel Saint Martin at Agrabad world is not for one that is ideal, but for one that is just; not for one that is unattainable, but for one that is achievable," she told the mammoth gathering.

While observing that this vision can be transformed into reality. Begum Zia said "improving the condition of women is a vital investment in future of humankind."

"There must be commensurate new and additional resources in the form of finance, technical know-how and technology transfer from developed to developing world," she said.

Besides investment on women, the Prime Minister identified new relationship between man and woman and support to the creativity of women as two other crucial factors that the conference should reiterate for the advancement of womenfolk.

Saying that women are a fundamental force in eradicating poverty, charting a sustainable future and attaining regional and global peace. she asserted: "We must do everything possible to create. promote and sustain awareness of the role and contribution of women by all means

possible." "We must affirm the need for new relationship and harmonious partnership between men and women, governments and citizens, indeed, all those who can contribute solutions to complex social problems ... this must be buttressed with responsible society in which supportive role of government is indispensable."

Begum Zia at banquet by Jiang Zemin

BEIJING, Sept 4 (BSS): Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders tonight attended a banquet at Beijing state guest house, hosted by Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Pak Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Iceland President Vigdis Finnbogadottir, Ugandan Vice President Dr Speciosa Kazibwe, Vietnamese Vice President Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, UN Under-Secretary General Ismat Kittani, chairman of the conference Chan Mohua and conference secretary general Gertrude Mongella among others, attended.

Earlier Begum Zia and other leaders were accorded a ceremonial reception at the Great Hall of the People.

Jiang Zemin received them, exchanged greeting and had brief discussion.

Later Jiang Zemin. Ismat Kittani and Gertrude Mongella spoke at the welcoming ceremony conducted by Chan Begum Zia later tonight

initialled the UNESCO Statement on Women's Contribution to Culture of Peace in a simple ceremony at her Beijing hotel suite.

The Statement will be presented to the UNESCO member states at its 28th General Conference in November with the intent to integrate the commitments in the UNESCO Medium Term Strategy 1996-2000.

Benazir's late-night shopping

BEIJING, Sept 4: Latenight regulars at Beijing' most popular ice cream parlour, Baskin Bobbins, were shocked to find themselves surrounded by police Sunday when Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto popped in for a midnight snack, reports

Bhutto and members of her governmental delegation to the UN Fourth World Conference on Women had decided on some late-night shopping at the Beijing Friendship Store, shortly after their arrival in the Chinese capital.

The store had closed hours before but when Bhutto arrived in a black Limousine escorted by numerous police cars at around 11:30 pm, she found that all four floors had been reopened for her convenience.

Having completed her shopping spree. Bhutto and ten other women delegates then ducked into the 24hour Baskin Bobbins next

Border trade

From Page

ments with China and India Shamsul Islam told The Daily Star that the border trade would help strengthen economic ties between the two countries. Both the countries would benefit from the trade, he added.

Officials here said the trade would generate employment opportunities for people living in the border

Talking to this correspondent, Syed Mahmudul Huq, former president of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters' Association and Managing Director of Myanmar-Bangladesh Fisheries Ltd, said border trade would definitely have a positive impact on Bangladesh's economy.

He thought that the trade would ultimately go in favour of Bangladesh as it would import raw materials and export consumer items.

Local businessmen are, however, concerned over dual exchange rate of the currency. Unofficially, Bangladesh Taka has an edge over Kyat, the currency of Myanmar. Traders feel that it may help encourage border trade and trade through hard currency.

Sonali Bank of Bangladesh and the Myanmar Investment and Commerce Bank will officially look after the trade af-

With the commencement of the border trade, one can buy goods worth US dollars 2,500 at a time without any registration, or Letter of Credit, official sources said.

Bangladesh is expected to import items like — timber. forest products, bamboo, fresh vegetables, pulses, garlic, chilies, spices, betel nuts, shrimp, fruits and rice while it would export to Myanmar products like - pharmaceuticals, ceramic goods, tobacco, leather products. cosmetics and toiletries,

Meanwhile. the Commerce Minister tonight held a meeting at Cox's Bazar Circuit House with the officials, business leaders and local elite. Trade and traderelated matters came up for discussion at the meeting.

newsprint and fertilizer.



Abdur Rahim, killed at Mirpur in the city during hartal hours Sunday. - Star photo

JP office case

Charges not proved, says defence counsel

The chief defence counsel of former president H M the special judge's court to discharge the case against his client as the prosecution could not prove beyond reasonable doubt that Ershad abused his position in renovating an abandoned house in the capital, reports BSS.

The prosecution charged the former president with spending a huge amount of government money in renovating and refurbishing the house

Submitting the argument on the second day in the special case against Ershad and two others. Khandker Mahbub Hossain, the defence counsel, said his client had neither received any benefit from that work nor there was any concrete proof that he had ordered the work. "The case has been instituted with political motive only to harass my client," Hossain said while concluding the argu-

Ershad is the principal accused in this case relating to spending of about Taka 82 lakh to refurbish a house in Dhanmandi residential area. used as the central office of Jatiya Party. Former works minister Mostafa Jamal Haider and former works secretary Abdur Rouf were charged as abetter to the principal accused.

Zinat Ara, Additional Session and District Judge (First Court), Dhaka, who was presiding the court, adjourned the proceedings till September 5 as the defence argument remained incomplete.

After Hossain finished his part, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, the defence counsel for Mostafa Jamal Haider began the argument, but it remained inconclusive when the court was adjourned.

Khandker Mahbub Hossain alleged that one after another case has been instituted against his client to be fool the people and also to lower the image of the former president.

Besides, cases are also needed to justify spending of Ershad yesterday appealed to Taka Two crore given to the US-based investigating agen cy Fairfax to prove the so called wrong-doings of Er shad, he added.

The counsel said that for the sake of argument "if we admit that my client did some excesses, then such activities will fall under the moral category and not criminal misconduct as has been charged. Hossain said that though

the prosecution stated that Major Imtiaz, administrator of JP central office in his letters to the works ministry mentioned the desire of Ershad in getting the job done, he was not brought to the court. Imtiaz is very much in the country and a vital witness in this case, but no attempt has been made by the prosecution to produce him, he pointed out.

Defending Mostafa Jamal Haider, his counsel Yusuf Hossain Humayun argued that the prosecution was yet to prove beyond reasonable doubt that loss of government money was deliberate. He said the onus lies with the prosecution to prove the charge.

While questioning the motive of the prosecution in bringing allegations against his client whose name was not in the first information report (FIR), Humayun said from the depositions of the witnesses it was confirmed that there was no irregularity. As for the allegations of

administrative approval of work against Mostafa Jamal Haider, the counsel said "My client did that after getting NOC from the Finance Ministry. His (Haider's) approval was only formal for it was duly processed by the ministry.

Earlier on August 22. state prosecutor Abdur Razzak Khan concluded his argument against the three accused persons and demanded that they be punished as per law for causing huge loss to the state.

World women's confce

From Page lowed by real action."

Boutros-Ghali took aim at countries, which he did not name, for balking at granting equality for women, especially for denying them the same access as men to economic, social and political power.

Liberal countries, led by the United States and Scandinavia, have been opposed by a loose alliance of eight or nine conservatives, ranging from the Vatican and other ardently pro-Roman Catholic countries to Iran and other Muslim states.

The squabble is over wordings over women's rights to fertility control and abortion, but also over the notion of 'equality', which some Muslim states charge is incompatible with Islamic law.

Women activists fear that if the discord - covering around a fifth of the key document - is not resolved, a fudgy or conservative text could in fact erode two decades of gains. Pakistani Prime Minister

Benazir Bhutto delivered a condemnation of female infanticide. "The cries of the girl child

reach out to us." Bhutto told the UN gathering's opening session. "This conference needs to create a climate where a girl child is as welcome and valued as a boy child."

Women in the Islamic world were being held back my men, she said "It is really a patriarchal or

tribal society which today is denying women the rights they previously enjoyed and

that our Islamic teaching

gives," she said, adding that the Prophet Mohammad (SM) himself had married a working woman who was both a mother and a businesswoman. "I have never considered

it traditional for the woman

to be in the home," she said. Bhutto said Pakistan could not agree with the wording of the platform of action to include single mothers, adding that in Islam a single mother

divorced woman. "But in the West a single mother can be one who has had a child out of wedlock . and that is an area of concern to all of us," she said. "We feel the traditional family is the bedrock of society."

could only be a widowed or

China's Chen Muhua, elected conference president at the opening session, told the gathering that improving the lot of women "is not only a cry from the women's population, but a demand from the times."

In a gesture of liberality. Chinese authorities meanwhile, allowed publication today of the Earth Times, a newspaper for the NGO Forum in Huairou, 30 miles west of Beijing.

However, the Chinese wish to keep a tight lid on the gathering was likely to be reinforced by the visit of first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. who will serve as honorary head of the US delegation.

Mrs Clinton is to address the official conference tomorrow and the unofficial gathering in Huairou on Wednesday. Some private activists hint they may try to stage protests,

Half-day hartal

From Page No untoward incident was

reported during the hartal hours from six am to noon. The Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami extended their support to the hartal All modes of vehicles were

off the roads while shops and educational institutions closed in the Mirpur thana area.

The Awami League claimed the deceased rick shawpuller Abdur Rahim as a worker of its front organisa tion. Sramik League. The protest rally at the

Mirpur Section 1 intersec tion was chaired by S A Khan president of Ward-12 unit of the party. The Awami League and the Jamaat-e-Islami brought out

separate mourning proces-

sions in the city yesterday

protesting the killing. The AL processionists carried the body of the rickshawpuller from the eastern gate of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. Wearing black badges, the procession-

ists paraded the city roads. Earlier, Rahim's namaz-ejanaza was held at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

UNB adds: Abdur Rahim was buried at Mirpur graveyard yesterday.

Earlier, Awami League president Sheikh Hasina went to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue to see the body of Abdur Rahim. The Jatiya Party brought

out a procession from Muktangan at Paltan area and it ended in front of Jatiya Press Club after parading Gulistan area.

Robin Raphel

From Page 1

Apart from bilateral matters. Raphel said, she will exchange views with Bangladesh leaders and officials on regional and international issues including "peacekee-Replying to a question

she did not rule out the possibility of her discussion with the Prime Minister and opposition leaders on the contry's current political scenario. She, however, said that "my visit has nothing to do with the domestic situation." Rephel flew in from

Colombo, Sri Lanka, as part of a three-nation swing that will later take her to Pakistan. But she is not visiting India this

Besides having official talks with Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Raphel will call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia before leaving for Pakistan on Thursday.

Her talks with the Foreign Secretary will cover bilateral matters like economic cooperation, trade - particularly export of readymade garments to US, and food aid under PL-480, official

Raphel's itinerary also includes meetings with leaders of some major opposition parties including Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina.

sources here said.

Chinese restaurant ransacked in city

By Staff Correspondent Unidentified youths ransacked a Chinese restaurant,

Chang Pei, at Maghbazar in the city yesterday. Police and witnesses said a group of about 15 young

men from a nearby college attacked the restaurant at about 12:30 pm. They went to the restaurant for lunch. Salil Chowdhury

critically ill CALCUTTA, Sept 4: Music

director Salil Chowdhury was put on peritoneal dialysis as his condition remained critical at the Woodlands Nursing home tonight, according to doctors attending him, reports PTI.

The dialysis was conducted considering his worsening renal condition.

The Midnight Rife

Downpour claims 39 in India

NEW DELHI, Sept 4: At least 39 people were killed in widespread rains that pounded the whole of north India and army was called out to help Punjab and Haryana civil administrations in relief and rescue operations. The downpour continuing for the past 36 hours widely damaged telecommunication network, reports PTI.

4 manpower recruiting agents arrested

The operation squad the special branch yesterday raided two manpower recruiting offices in the city and arrested four persons including two businessmen on charges of making fake visas and illegal manpower business, reports BSS. The squad raided the Dia

Enterprise and Dia Tours and Travels at the Maghbazar inter section and arrested the owner of the business house Akhtaruzzaman Bhuiyan alias Dipu. 35, and his associate Noor Hussain alias Nuru, 30. Police said that Dipu and Nuru had been doing the fake

visa business for quite a long time and sending people abroad including Malaysia. They were also cheating people in the name of manpower

been given 120 days' deten-

The operation squad also raided the Gemini Travels and S B International at Nava Paltan vesterday afternoon

Varsity officers' strike from today

By DU Correspondent

Officers of nine universiies across the country will go on a two-day strike from today to realise their demands.

The Bangladesh Inter University Officers' Federation has called the strike demanding amendment to their "down-graded-payscale" and representation in different university bodies including the senate and syndicate.

Garments

From Page 1 seek assistance from them for doubling the export

quota," he added.

Led by Commerce Secretary M Asafuddowla, the fivemember delegation includes Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) president Redwan Ahmed MP, director general of Textiles B M Hug and two executives of the BGMEA, N H Sikder and Kazi Muniruzzaman. The delegation will also visit Canada during its nearly two-week stav abroad.

According to sources, the delegation is likely to negotiate with departments concerned for flexibility adjustments like special carry-forward arrangements as production of some categories reached 70 to 85 per cent of the quota set by US government. During its visit in Canada, the team will try to fix some 'infirmity' confronting the export of garments from the country to Canada.

One shot dead

From Page 1 when he was on his way to a nearby hotel for breakfast.

The armed men gheraoed Sabur, a resident of 12 Kulal Mohol, Hazaribagh and fired at him from a point blank range. He died on the spot.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy. A case has been filed with the Lalbagh thana. No one was arrested till last night.

The body was sent to the

and arrested the owner of the organisations, Aziz Sikder, 30, and his associate Abdul Gafur, 25. They were arrested on charges of engaging Bangladeshi women in prostitution by sending them to the Middle Eastern countries as house-maids.

Police also said that the business house had been sending young women as house-maids to the Middle Eastern countries for quite a long time. A victim recently went to the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait and informed the mission of her tragic tales. The Bangladesh ambassador later informed the matter to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The ministry has recommended to cancel the licence of this business house and The arrested persons have ordered 120-day detention for the arrested persons.

The operation squad has also recovered 240 passports including those of 40 women and seized many papers including forged seals.

Talukdar From Page 1

The BNP Secretary General alleged that few political parties had been engaged in "conspiratorial activities" for the last few years to make the government and Parliament ineffective and have been following the course of hartals, gheraos, siege and destructions.

He said the people did never associate with the Opposition in such kind of "terrorist" activities. He said after failing to get public. support the Opposition first had boycotted the Jatiya Sangsad session on a flimsy ground.

But as the people did not extend support to their illogical, undemocratic and unconstitutional demand, they resigned en masse to make the Sangsad and parliamentary democracy ineffective.

He said the Opposition's claim of a successful hartal was not correct. "In fact the people have no support for hartal," he said. He congratulated the people for ignoring the Opposition programme and carrying out their normal activities.

BNPPP

From Page 1 to begin amid an oppositioncalled dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city tomorrow.

The emergency meeting of the BNP parliamentary group is being held in the absence of the Prime Minister and BNP chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia, who is now in the Chinese capital for the International Conference on

Women. BNP chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain is the convenor of the party's parliamentary party.

BNP MPs are likely to speak on the party stand in the backdrop of the opposition agitation for a non-party caretaker government to conduct the next general elections, party sources said. They may also discuss possible wayouts of the long-standing political impasse, the sources added.

নিৰ্বাচন কমিশন সচিবালয় ভোটার আইডি কার্ড প্রকল্প

শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা

নং-নিকস/আইডি/২(১২)/৯৫/১৫৪ তারিখ ঃ ৪-১-১৯৯৫ইং

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সদয় অবপতির জন্য জানান যাইতেছে যে, নির্বাচন কমিশনের ভোটার আইডি কার্ড প্রকল্পে ক্যাশিয়ার এবং স্টোর সহকারী পদে নিয়োগের জন্য আগামী ৬-৯-৯৫ইং তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষা অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ স্থপিত করা হইল। ক্যাশিয়ার পদপ্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা আগামী ১০-০৯-৯৫ইং এবং স্টোর সহকারী পদপ্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা আগামী ১১-০৯-৯৫ইং তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। স্থান ও সময় অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে। এই জন্য পৃথকভাবে আর কোন চিঠি দেওয়া হইবে না।

ডিএফপি-২১৫৬০-৪/৯ M->000

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