The Midnight Kile

21 die in Colombian

plane crash

the jungles of southern Colombia today, killing all 21

people on board, the civil aviation authority said. The plane

was owned by the state airline Satena, and was flying from

Villavicencio, 45 miles (70 kilometers) south of the capital

Bogota, to La Macarena, 130 miles (210 kilometers) south

NATO expands airstrikes

against Serbs

of Villavicencio, reports AP.

NAPLES. Italy. Sept 9:

NATO has expanded its zone

of airstrikes against the

Bosnian Serbs, taking aim at

air defence installations acr-

military official said today.

Murray, chief of air opera-

weather had forced the al-

liance to call off several

strike missions. Murray said

airstrikes were gradually be-

College

oss Bosnia, a senior NATO

BOGOTA. Sept 9: An airplane crashed in bad weather in

Cox's Bazar attracts less tourists

By Krishna P Roy, back from Cox's Bazar

waves, rare conch shells. colourful pagodas. Buddhist temples and tribes, delightful sea food — this is how the Parjatan Corporation, the national tourism organisation. describes Cox's Bazar.

longest (120 km) beach. sloping gently down the blue waters of the Bay of Bengal. Cox's Bazar, 152 km south of Chittagong, has lost her glamour and attraction due to negligence by the authorities to lure tourists.

One would wonder after entering the district town of Cox's Bazar. Roads are dirty and pitted. Traffic jam is a perennial problem. Most of the 3 km main road of the town is in a deplorable condi-

"It is the one of the dirti est towns in the country. Nobody cares about it. The roads go under water with the slightest rains," said

Miles of golden coloured Mahbubur Rahman, editor of sands, towering cliffs, surfing a local daily, the Daily Saikat.

"Burmese markets", or naments made of sea shells in tastefully decorated stalls on both sides of the road attract tourists. But the sewer age system along the load has collapsed, Rahman said. Despite having the world's "There is always a tussle between the Roads and Highways department and the Pourashava".

> According to an official of Parjatan's local office, the number of foreign tourists has been declining since there are no adequate facilities to attract the foreigners.

During a visit, this correspondent found the sea beach virtually left without attention of the authorities. The beach is not clean and even a number of makeshift huts are there. Tourists, particularly the foreigners suffer from insecurity as there are no guards in the beach, said MA

Hamid, who owns a shells shop just near to the beach. Local people said that at least two persons drown in the sea every year as there is no safety net and tourists are not adequately briefed when to swim in the sea.

But what is needed, ac cording to a Parjatan official. is some special facilities in the beach - such as small shops for drinks, mobile restaurants and an exclusive area for the tourists. "Many foreigners told us that your beach is so beautiful, but you can not maintain it," he said.

To pass time at night is a problem Parjatan used to arrange cultural programmes by tribal people. But it is no

There is no package tour facility. Parjatan also cannot give adequate transports to tourists. It, however, offers tennis courts, golf field, swimming pool, open air showering, restaurant and bar to the tourists.

Dhaka, Tehran to bolster ties

From Page 1 Visiting Iranian Deputy Brujerdi and Foreign of yesterday's talks. Secretary Faroog Sobhan led the teams of their respective countries at both rounds of the talks.

The two sides also reviewed Tehran's request for routing Bangladesh's trade with the Central Asian re-

Prime Minister

From Page 1 Justice for holding the next

polls and demanded resignation of the present government 90 days before the polls. Some top BNP leaders

who, in their instant reactions, said Hasina's proposal was nothing new.

Some other party leaders, however, said that the matter would be discussed in party forum.

The BNP leaders, sources said, would continue their discussions on the formation of the interim government.

Meanwhile, US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel, who has just concluded a visit to Bangladesh. Thursday underlined the need for compromise and understanding amon, the political parties for solving the present political impasse.

publics through Iran, said a senior official of the Ministry Foreign Minister Alauddin of Foreign Affairs at the end

> Officials of different min istries of the two countries who held separate joint meetings earlier to devise new avenues of cooperation also submitted reports of the respective ministries at the

"The two sides revealed identical views in various fields and some common interest," the Foreign Ministry official said.

The talks, taking place ahead of Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's coming visit to Bangladesh. also discussed proposals for signing agreement on some specific sectors like shipping and culture. President Rafsanjani of the

Islamic Republic of Iran will pay a state visit to Bangladesh sometime next month.

The Foreign Secretary told newsmen on Thursday that the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister came to work out the details of his President's planned visit.

Brujerdi, in charge of Asia and the Oceania, flew in Dhaka Wednesday. He met several ministers also. He is due to leave today concluding his five-day tour.

Beijing Conference

From Page 1

rights or equal rights or the human rights of women." said US delegate Felice Gaer. director of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Human Rights of the American Jewish Committee.

Some delegates are concerned that words such as "human dignity" and "inherent dignity" are being used to imply that women are special, that they're "on a pedestal and don't have the same human rights as men. she said.

The United States would like an affirmation of religion in the platform, Gaer said, "but our concern is ... that religion or extremism not be used to hurt women— to violate their rights."

The dispute was dramatically illustrated when Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls and Britain's Monsignor Peter J Elliott walked into the conference press room to deliver their statement and were confronted by former US congressman and feminist activist Bella Abzug.

"The Holy See has a right to make a statement, but I tell you it's a statement of desperation and more significantly, it's a statement ignoring the will of a large. large consensus which exists," said Abzug, who heads the Women's Environment and Development Organiza-

Elliott countered, saying: "It is most dishonest to depict us as anti-women." One of the key concepts of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights is "human dignity," he said, describing this as a woman's innate worth. "a distinct value of femininity.

With delegates working toward a Wednesday night deadline to finish drafting the platform, small committees met into the night discussing contentious issues.

These include sexual rights, parental rights over adolescent sex education, financial resources and sexual orientation, generally used to refer to gays and lesbians.

The Vatican and some Catholic and Islamic countries are expected to object

to parts of the platform which will not be legally binding but will act as a guide for governments to make

policy NGO Forum ends

Shaheen Anam adds from Beijing: The NGO Forum ended on Friday with NGOs and women's organizations from all over the world vowing to press ahead with their demand of gender equality and a discrimination free so-

Supatra Masdit, the Convenor of the NGO Forum, in her speech at the closing ceremony at the Kumba Stage of the Forum site said," We are going back with our strategies and visions sharpened and although the impact of the NGO Forum will not be crystalized today. We will surely see its impact when we return home because of the outstanding women who attended the

NGO Forum. A press conference was held on Friday morning by leading NGOs from the USA, Lebanon, China. Netherlands and Malaysia in order to counter the negative press coverage that the conference has been receiving particularly by the Western Media. Fibha Halavi from Lebanon said that it was unfortunate that the Western media just chose to project the negative ignoring the tremendous effort the Chinese authorities have made in ensuring the success of the Conference.

The Bangladesh NGO delegation organised a rally on Thursday last at the Global Tent which was attended by most of the members of the delegation. The rally was organised by the National Preparatory Committee. At the end of the rally Dr Najma Chowdhury, Ayesha Khanum and Sigma Huda made statements urging all participants to the NGO Forum to carry on the work for gender equality beyond Beijing. The State Minister for the Women's Affairs Sarwary Rahman visited the NGO Forum on Thursday with members of the official delegation. She held discussions with NGO delegations members on the activities at the NGO Forum.

today, reports UNB.

crease daily quota and number of sale centres of rice under the OMS system from A Food Ministry announcement said vesterday

Quota, sale centres

of rice under

OMS increased

The government will in-

the allotment of rice would be raised from 5 to 6 metric tons in the thanas comprising 21 or more unions and from 6 to 8 mt in the 20 old district headquarters. Besides, the government

will increase sale centres in the six divisional towns. The number of OMS-centres has been increased to 100 from 60 in Dhaka, in Chittagong and Khulna each 25 centres from 20. Rajshahi 20 centres from 10 and Sylhet and Barisal each 15 centres from

As per the decision, each OMS (open market sale) centre will sell one ton of rice daily.

The government measure came as the market price of food continued to maintain high rates.

4 die in city

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons were killed in separate accidents while two others reportedly committed suicide in the city vesterday.

Abdul Karim, 22, a fish monger, who was earlier injured in a road accident at Dhanmondi area, succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) around 5:30 pm yesterday.

Karim, son of one Belayet Howlader of 126, Rayerbazar, was injured when a tempo rammed a rickshaw in which he was travelling at Road No 2 Dhanmondi Saturday morning.

In another incident, a construction worker Nurunnabi, 23, was electrocuted while he accidently touched an electric wire at an under-construction building at Siddeswari area around 10 am.

Meanwhile, Liton, 24, son of Abdul Khalegue Talukder of 114 North Goran, reportedly committed suicide by taking poison following a family dispute early yester-

In another incident. Mohiuddin, 35, a resident of Uttara, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison yesterday afternoon following a reported family dispute.

AL council

From Page 1

ing the special council session at the Engineers Institution auditorium. The session will begin at 10 am with Sheikh Hasina in the chair, Secretary General Zillur Rahman is due to submit a report on the party's political and organisational activities during the last three years.

Some 2800 councilors from AL's 71 organisational districts are expected to attend the council session being held after three years. The last session was held in September 1992.

Housewife From Page 1

Eeti had been living with her husband Shafigul Alam Khan Lincoln and their ninemonth-old baby girl at her inlaw's house since their marriage in January, 1993.

Ecti's relatives told a press conference at the national press club that she had been continuously subjected to torture by her in-laws for a dowry of Tk 3 lakh from her father.

Her father, a retired engineer alleged that two days had passed before anyone of Eeti's family was informed about the incident.



Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alauddin Brujerdi called on Prime Minister Begum - PID photo Khaleda Zia at her office vesterday.

Businessman

snatched the money kept in a

Marketing Manager Shah

Alam was going to his factory

from Islampur by an au

The muggers attacked

them when the driver parked

the autorickshaw in the Al

Bohor area due to some

technical problem of his ve-

Bhuiyan was carrying Taka

2.5 lakh in cash and Taka

torickshaw, police added.

Bhuiyan along with his

From Page 1

handbag.

8 killed

From Page 1

UNB adds: The drivers of a bus and a truck were killed when their vehicles collided head-on at Kaichuki in Chouddagram thana in Feni district Friday night.

One passenger of the bus was also killed and 15 others were injured in the accident on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at about 9:30 pm.

Names of the dead and the wounded were not known.

According to police, a Chowmuhuni-bound bus of Jatri Seba Transport company crashed with a truck coming from opposite direction, killing the three instantly.

Seven of the 15 injured were admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital and six others with serious wound sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In Chittagong, an old man was killed when two buses collided head-on at Trial in Sitakunda thana on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway vesterday.

The victim, identified as Deen Mohammad, 65, was a passenger of a bus.

Students protest

From Page 1 The students decided to stage a demonstration in front of the Jatiya Press Club tomorrow.

Police was posted in the college area.

1.17 lakh in cheque, police A case has been filed with the Demra thana. However, none was arrested.

Spiritual leader gets life-term PIROJPUR, Sept 9: A self-

styled spiritual leader was awarded life-term in jail today for murdering a co-vil lager in Mathbaria thana two years ago, reports UNB.

Bijoy Dhopee was also fined to pay Tk 500 or in de fault suffer another six-month imprisonment, according to a verdict given by district and sessions judge Abdur Razz Dhopee killed his neigh-

bour Upendranath Sheel in an orgy of oracle in his temple on March 9 in 1993.

Dhaka-Tehran ties excellent:

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia vesterday described the bilateral ties between Bangladesh and Iran as an excellent one and expressed her optimism that Tehran would seize the in-

The Prime Minister hoped

Visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alauddin Brujerdi called on Begum Zia at her office here in the afternoon.

Iran ties have been progress-

timely one.

energy sector.

Khaleda

vestment opportunities in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

that Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's forthcoming visit to Bangla desh would help further foster the bilateral ties wide ning the areas of trade and economic cooperation.

Brujerdi said Bangladesh

ing quite fast and his (President) planned visit would cement and widen the ties. The Iranian minister de

scried Begum Zia's initiative to hold an emergency summit of OIC on Bosnia as a very Welcoming the Iranian

deputy minister, the Prime Minister said that a Bangladesh delegation led by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondker Mo sharraf Hossain would visit Iran soon to explore the areas of cooperation in the

ing expanded to include not only ammunition dumps. command and control centres and communications Savar Women's

reports Reuter

principal held SAVAR, Sept 9: Police here today arrested the former Principal of Bangladesh Women's College in Dhaka on charge of misappropriation of the college fund. Monowara Khanam Hadi, now the Principal of Savar Women's College, was arrested from her residence at Bank Town here following an arrest warrant issued against her by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court. A teacher of Bangla-desh Wom en's College, SM Tofazzal had earlier filed a case with the CMM Court accusing her of misappropriating about Tk

JCD, BCL clash in Sirajganj, Sherpur

8 lakh of the college fund,

reports UNB.

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 9: Clashes between supporters of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) left at least 20 students injured at Chandaikona Bazar in Sirajganj and Sherpur in Bogra districts, reports UNB.

The clashes erupted Friday evening at Chandaikona Bazar and later spread into neighbouring Sherpur area, local people said.

Hartal today

Meanwhile, the Rickshaw Sramik Union of Sirajganj district has called a dawn-todusk hartal today in the town. They have called the strike to protest a recent incident in which the president of the union Shajahan Ali and four of their leaders were allegedly manhandled by the local JCD and Juba Dal activists, said a press release.

DU halls

From Page 1 quality of food"

"As a matter of fact, no subsidy is given now," said a caterer in a dining hall

Recently Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia announced a grant of Tk 1.4 million for improving the quality of food in the fourteen residential halls of Dhaka University which comes to Tk. One lakh for each hall.

Recreation and reading room facilities in the residential halls are not worth mentioning. Newspapers are seldom available in the reading room and it is difficult to find a seat in the TV room. said a student of Rokeya hall.

Shrimp culture From Page 1

feed for ducks and birds, be sides being used as green manure for conservation of soil moisture, the researcher

According to the study. shrimp farming has con tributed to the "fall in production of meat and milk. besides high prevalence of livestock diseases and a surge of mortality among them. Domestic animals like

cattle, goats and buffaloes. poultry birds and ducks are not finding their grazing fields and their population is decreasing in the shrimp culture areas. Roy said.

"Rich diversity of fish species suitable for cultivation in coastal environment were available before shrimp farming was introduced, that has now been narrowed to only a few species," the study

Commenting on the impact of shrimp culture on na tional income, researcher said. "The current national income from shrimp is perhaps exaggerated as it does not account for the depletion and degradation of the limited stocks of the natural resources.

lines. But also targets like

The warplanes were also re-visiting the Bosnian Serb integrated air defence system, which includes tracking and targeting radar and sur-

face-to-air missiles. "Last night we expanded those attacks against other elements of that system and visited other areas outside the zone of action which we have been operating in up to now." Murray told a news briefing.

S dists tomorrow

Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon yesterday called for taking stern action against the terrorist groups to safeguard democracy and the electoral process, reports

Free and fair elections can never be possible if effective steps are not taken against the terrorists." he told a press conference at the party office in the evening.

Workers Party has called a six-hour hartal in 10 southern districts on September 11 to protest terrorism and killings by the outlawed groups. The districts are: Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenidah, Magura, Jessore, Narail, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat.

2 JCD leaders assaulted

PANCHAGARH, Sept 9: Two local leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were roughed up in the town today allegedly by activists of Jatiya Party, reports UNB.

District JCD President 5 M Saleh Liton came under attack on the Cinema Hall road at about 1:30 pm when he was going to meet Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz at the local Circuit House, party sources said.

Witnesses said the attackers numbering about 10 to 12 beat up Liton and left him critically injured. He was first rushed to Sadar Hospital and then shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Another JCD leader. Kawsar Alam, was also beaten up allegedly by JP supporters in front of Brothers Union Club in the same area at about pm. He was admitted to Sadar Hospital

Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, who is now in his home town, condemned the attack on Liton and Alam. Local leaders of BNP and Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal also condemned the attack.

Ershad

From Page 1

K Z Islam had gone to London as per instruction of Ershad and opened an account in his own name at the suggestions of BCCI President Aga Hassan Abedi and Saleh Nagvi. He received two loans of five and eight million dollars, totalling 13 million dollars, from Kuwait International Finance Corporation (KIFCO) in which BCCI had a 40 per cent share, the press

release said. American government securities worth 10 million US dollars were purchased by withdrawing the same amount from the 14 million dollar account of Ershad with the ACIC Bank of Caymen Island, a subsidiary of BCCI, as collateral securities for the two loans and the loans were considered as paid after the securities were liquidated after one year.

It said K Z Islam transferred 10 million dollars out of this loan to Mariam Mumtaz and according to her desire the amount was deposited in her account in the Hong Kong-based Mercantile

Bank rate

From Page 1 tain the inflationary pres-

sure." said the official On the rationale of increasing interest gate, he

that the interest rates match the inflation rate. inflation, which drew

said the government wanted

down to 1.2 per cent at one stage last year, shot up to 5.22 per cent at the end of 1994-95 and the rate keeps on increasing due to rising food price and the lending surge:

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Congestion at Ctg port to persist

Students protesting the new admission system set fire to a police sergeant's motor cycle

From Page 1

near Dhaka College in the city yesterday.

Commission's vetting. "The TAPP approval will take about three months followed by six months to appoint consultants. At least they will work for one-year and take another year to design. So the actual construction will not start earlier than 1998 and the container terminal with two berths including back-up facilities can be commissioned by the year 2002," said the officials of the CPA.

Responding to a query on the recent congestion crisis in berthing, loading and unloading of ships in Chittagong port, the chairman attributed it to the priority given to unloading of ships carrying foodgrains, which is prolonging the vessel turn around period abnormally, and inordinate delay caused by the Customs authorities.

"It is easy to blame, think it is the joint inefficiency of the Customs and the Port authorities," said acting commissioner of the Chittagong Customs House, Dr Azizur Rahman. The holding capacity of the CPA is 8,500 containers

but presently the CPA has an

inventory of 11,250, which

jumped to a level of 14,000

during May, causing severe

congestion. During the last fiscal, the multipurpose berth (MPB) at the handled 1.75 lakh twenty equivalent unit (TEU) of containers compared to a level of 75 thousand an 4993-'94 indicating a growth rate of 30 per cent while the MPB

is designed to handle only 1.2 lakh TEU, said the CPA officials.

"As a result, some of us

have been forced not to accept in-bound containers originating from the Far East ports to Bangladesh as the ships are facing detention at Singapore," noted a shipping agent.

Some shipping lines have also started charging congestion surcharge at the rate of 50 US dollars per tonne, putting additional burden on our exports, said some exporters.

A local Bangladesh

Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) official alleged: "Our members are facing serious cancellation of export orders in large numbers as the delayed release of raw materials have been jeopardising the export schedule. To cover the delay in delivery of raw materials, they have been compelled to send their finished products by air, thus incurring a huge extra expenditure in air freight."

Listing the procurement schedule, the acting chairman of the CPA said they had opened up several letters of credit (L/C) to procure four straddle carriers, two 32tonne fork-lifts, 12 terminal tractors and 12 container semi-trailers. The CPA authorities said the equipment would arrive at Chittagong port by November.

When his attention was drawn to the 5291 empty containers stocked at the

port the acting chairman said. "We have decided to sell in auction those containers which have been stranded for over the 75-day limit. Accordingly, 180 containers were sold and 396 contain ers have been handed over to Customs authorities for auc

Dwelling on Customs delay, the acting commissioner said they had enforced several measures to ease down the process including onetime assessment for about 50 per cent arrivals. Suggesting decentralisation as the "key" to resolve

the problem, he said, "We

have to create more off-dock

facilities to handle the con-

tainers and the private sector should come forward in setting up such facilities to ease the congestion." When asked whether they have allowed the private sector to set up inland container depot (ICD), the acting commissioner of customs replied,"To allow the partici-

pation of the private sector in

setting ICD needs enactment

According to the CPA, four private companies have applied to the CPA' to establish ICD. In response to a question

of new laws."

on the construction of new jetty or container terminal by the private sector, the chairman of the CPA said that a committee had been formed to chalk out terms and conditions which, he hoped, would submit its report by the next week.

Group captain Trevor tions for NATO's southern command, said that bad

WP calls hartal in