

**'EDI facilities should be available to businesses'**

A leading chamber has suggested making Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) facilities available to all involved in trade and industry immediately to plug corruption and delay in business, reports UNB.

"As a nation, we should remember that today, EDI is an integral part of the world trade — more than many of us can believe at this juncture," said Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in its latest publication.

EDI for trade and commerce is a UN-sponsored globally accepted standard, but in Bangladesh, it is widely misunderstood as an exchange of business information through electronic means.

A recent meeting chaired by the Commerce Secretary, has decided that the country's trade and industry would be able to avail the facilities of EDI.

A committee has been appointed to examine the issues relating to EDI institutional infrastructure and recommend the guidelines for use of EDI facilities under a priority action programme.

While complimenting the Commerce Ministry decision for the 'timely move', the MCCI observed that any further delay in its implementation would affect the country's globalisation programme.

The world is moving fast

**Myanmar forces send Bangladeshi businessmen back**

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 10: Twelve Bangladeshi businessmen, who went to explore trade opportunities in Myanmar with a week's visa, returned from Maungdow today in absence of any instruction from Myanmar authorities to its border guards, reports UNB.

According to the businessmen, the Myanmar border security forces, Nasaka, sent them back to Teknaf as they were preparing to go to Akyab town this morning.

Informed that they were seeking business under the Bangladesh-Myanmar border trade which opened on September 5, the armed Nasaka-men said they have not yet received any instruction from the higher authorities.

Some 15 businessmen went to Myanmar after the border trade opened, but three of them were also sent back by Nasaka on Friday showing a similar reason.

Meanwhile, three businessmen from Myanmar are in Teknaf looking for business with Bangladesh.

**Beijing confce : 50 pc quota**

From Page 1

During an election campaign, I was asked who was taking care of my children, but a male candidate was asked about the national economy and national issues, Fletcher recalled, underlining the need for action to make governments change the way they see us.

AP adds: Informal negotiators at the UN women's conference neared agreement today on a proposal to ask governments to review laws that punish women who have abortions.

Merwat Tallaway, chairwoman of the committee on health issues, said only one or two delegations at the conference have asked for time to confer with their governments back home.

"There is in fact agreement pending the instruction of one delegation or two," she told a news conference.

Tallaway said the committee is also close to agreeing

in EDI, the chamber said, but the idea about the data interchange facilities is missing in important circles in Bangladesh.

"EDI... needs to be adopted for compliance not only by business but also by the support services related to business such as ports, customs, telecommunications, etc.," it said.

Electronic mails, systems for remote keying-in, or transaction through electronic transmissions are not EDI if these do not use pre-defined and international standards for trade transactions.

The chamber said that in EDI, the message functions such as invoice, order, customs declarations, customs response, transport instructions, etc. need to be well-defined and agreed in advance by sender, receiver and the trade related agencies.

Also, data are structured according to agreed standards and exchange takes place electronically between computer applications without manual intervention.

**JP office case Hearing adjourned till Sept 25**

The hearing of the corruption case against former President Ershad and three others for refurbishing the central office of the Jatiya Party at the expenses from the government chequebook was adjourned yesterday till September 25, reports BSS.

Additional Sessions Judge, First Court, Dhaka and Special Judge Jinat Ara yesterday passed orders for recalling and re-examining two defence witnesses Monirul Haque Chowdhury and Abdul Barez, and one prosecution witness and a PWD Engineer, in whose evidence as reference was found that the Jatiya Party house administrator Major (ret'd) Imitiaz Ahmed looked after the maintenance of the party office.

The judge considered that the evidence of Major (ret'd) Imitiaz was relevant for the speedy and proper disposal of the case but his present whereabouts could not be located.

The deposition of the witnesses recalled by the judge under Section 540 of the criminal code of procedure and documentary evidences pointed to the relevance of evidence of Major (ret'd) Imitiaz.

Public prosecutor Abdur Razzaque Khan, assisted by APP Jahangir Alam appeared on behalf of the state. Khondoker Mahub Hossain with Yusuf Hossain Humayun pleaded on behalf of the defence.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a big public meeting at Bagha in Rajshahi yesterday.

**PM:Hartals**

From Page 1

27 after the government introduced the food for education programme and attached top priority to the sector.

She said the BNP government had done its best for the country's poor farmers by waiving Tk 2500 crore agricultural loan and exempting tax up to 25 bighas of lands.

Begum Zia said the BNP government had also kept the prices of agricultural inputs at lower level than that of the neighbouring countries by providing subsidies to the sector.

Presided over Bagha thana BNP president Jamaluddin, the meeting was also addressed, by State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman, State Minister for Land Advocate Kabir Hossain, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Azizur Rahman MP, Lutfunnessa Hossain MP and district BNP president Advocate Abdul Hal.

She also addressed a public meeting at Raninagar High School at Noagaon district.

**Minor boy electrocuted**

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 10: A minor boy died and two other persons were injured when they came in contact with a live torn electric wire at Kumarpura here today.

Masud, 6, son of one Md Bazu Mia, while playing outside his home was electrocuted as soon as he touched an electric wire lying on the road around 12:30 pm.

Two neighbours — Rashida Begum, 38 and Abdur Kader, 35, received injuries when tried to save the boy.

**BNP considering options**

From Page 1

her cabinet colleagues 30 days before the next general elections.

He, however, added that the discussions on the interim government issue had not yet taken any concrete shape and hoped that their task would be completed shortly.

As authorised by my party, I'll soon contact my Awami League counterpart Zillur Rahman (on the party plans for an interim government). Talukdar told some reporters while leaving the Parliament building yesterday evening.

According to highly-placed sources in the BNP, the party might endorse the interim government formula



Miss Norway Anne Lena Hansen adjusts the crown after she won the Miss International during the final event of the beauty pageant yesterday in Tokyo. — AFP/UNB photo



Awami League president Sheikh Hasina speaking at the extended meeting of the Jubo League in the city yesterday.

**AL council**

From Page 1

to conduct the next general elections.

General Secretary Zillur Rahman is due to submit a report on the party's political and organisational activities during the last three years.

Sources said, some senior politicians — such as Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and Suranjit Sengupta —, who had joined Awami League after the last council session may be included in the central working committee.

Meanwhile, a meeting of party presidium yesterday discussed the latest political situation and different aspects of the council such as proposal for extension of the tenure, inclusion of newcomers to the central working committee and some amendments to the party policies on education, health, economy and others.

**Azad denies talks with Talukdar**

Awami League Presidium member Abdus Samad Azad termed as 'incorrect and baseless' the news published in some dailies yesterday that the BNP Secretary General had talked to him over phone and given him a proposal Saturday night, reports UNB.

**Hasina : BNP formula**

From Page 1

truncated and illegal parliament deserted by the Opposition MPs, ignoring the constitutional provisions," she told the meeting.

According to the Constitution, the government is pledge-bound to give security of public life, to ensure all other rights of the people, including the right to vote and food, said Hasina.

But the BNP government failed to give minimum security to public life, rather it killed the voters and snatched their voting rights, she alleged.

"And that is why the Opposition parties and the people demanded removal of this killer and undemocratic government and fresh elections under a caretaker government."

Referring to the rejection of resignation letters of the opposition MPs, Hasina said there was no freedom of the opposition members to resign even under the rule of this 'autocratic' government.

headed by the President since it is consistent with the party decision to go by the Constitution only.

Under the President, the sources said, the BNP might propose an advisory body comprising MPs from both the treasury and the opposition benches after the dissolution of the present parliament before the time limit for holding by-polls to the vacant Opposition seats expired.

Such an arrangement, a standing committee member of the BNP hoped, would be acceptable to the Opposition, as the AL chief had also made a similar proposal earlier.

When his attention was drawn to press reports that he had contacted AL leader Abdus Samad Azad to convey a formula for an interim government Saturday night, the BNP Secretary General said, "It's totally baseless. Why should I contact Samad Azad? I am supposed to approach my counterpart, Zillur Rahman whom I contacted twice earlier to invite him to a dialogue."

Asked if the Prime Minister's offer to resign would be implemented even if the Opposition boycott the next polls, the BNP leader said, "I believe it would be effective since the BNP has nothing to lose if a free and fair poll takes place."

He did not rule out speculations that the next polls would be held in January.

In another development, Salam Talukdar who is the LGRD Minister held an exclusive meeting with some senior party leaders at his Bailey Road official residence to discuss the interim government issue.

**Wreckage of IAF plane to be handed over soon**

By Staff Correspondent

The government has constituted a five-member committee to take measures for handing over the wreckage of the Indian airforce plane that crashed in a border village in Panchagar district Thursday last.

The wreckage might be handed over to the Indian authorities any day, the Deputy Commissioner of Panchagar told The Daily Star last night.

The training aircraft of the Indian Air Force crashed in Omankhan village, about one kilometre from the border. The pilots, however, managed to parachute into Indian territory.

A team of Bangladesh Air Force along with an IAF officer visited the spot on Friday.

Meanwhile, at a flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security (BSF) Friday, the Indian authorities regretted the incident and requested for returning the wreckage.

**Acid thrown at 4 of a family**

By Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 10: Four members of a family were injured critically when one Abdur Rahman allegedly threw acid at his wife Farul Begum, 22, and three others at his father-in-law's house at Manikbhali village under Mathbaria of Perojpur district last night.

The other victims are his mother-in-law Fatima Begum, 40, and sister-in-law Mohafaza, 25, and Nasima, 14. All victims were admitted to the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested one Sultan Khan, 30, allegedly an accomplice of Abdur Rahman.

**Lightning claims one**

Meanwhile, one Md Hanif, 25, was killed and six others were injured by lightning at Jagaddal village under Kotwali thana this morning.

**CIRDAP meet in Nepal today**

The twelfth meeting of the Technical Committee (TC) of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) will begin today at Pokhara, Nepal, reports BSS.

**OIC contact group**

From Page 1

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and Director General (IO) at the Foreign Office Asfaqur Rahman yesterday left for Kuala Lumpur to attend the meetings.

The meetings, being held amidst fast-evolving situation in the Balkans, will deal with some vital aspects of the issue, including lifting arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims and devising ways of helping them deter Serb onslaught.

The OIC and its member countries have already called for lifting the UN arms embargo imposed against the legitimate government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, allowing them to defend the republic's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The Kuala Lumpur meet is expected to discuss Prime Minister Begum Zia's call for an emergency OIC summit on the Bosnian issue.

**Nepalese govt**

From Page 1

defence.

He has been in hospital after breaking his shoulder in a helicopter crash last month and his speech was broadcast live on state radio and television from his hospital bed this afternoon.

"The NCP-UML government has never done anything that diminished the dignity of parliament — it is surprising that some people are saying the government has weakened the legislature," Adhikari said.

"That people used to tyranny seek to teach democracy is ridiculous," he added.

Adhikari had earlier said he would accept the result of the vote and denied his government had failed to control corruption, control market prices, mend the country's economy and maintain law and order.

"In fact, during our rule, law and order were very good," he said.

"Revenue has increased and exports have increased by 8.5 per cent," the premier said. He accused the Opposition of making false allegations about the government to try to cover up its own mistakes.

The Supreme Court on August 28 ruled King Birendra's dissolution of parliament in June was unconstitutional and reinstated the House.

**The Midnight File**

**5 killed in Andhra clash**

HYDERABAD, Sept 10: At least five people were killed when groups of Hindus and Muslims attacked each other with knives and stones, police said today. Among the 25 injured were six policemen, including one who was stabbed and another who thrown into a river near predominantly Muslim old quarter in Hyderabad, the capital of southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, reports AP.

**NATO raids to be suspended for several hrs on Bosnia**

PARIS, Sept 10: NATO raids on Bosnia are to be suspended for several hours to allow for a meeting between the Bosnian Serb leader and the UN commander, French President Jacques Chirac announced Sunday night, reports AP.

**Bangladeshi workers Malaysia to consider pending cases**

By Staff Correspondent

All Bangladeshi worker, who have already got visa or deposited necessary fees for the same through the employers or the recruiting agencies, will be allowed to enter Malaysia and get work permits.

This was disclosed by Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali to a delegation of the Bangladesh Association for International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) which met him at his office Thursday.

The meeting was told that the Malaysian government had decided to allow all the workers who have been issued visa by the Malaysian High Commission in Dhaka to enter Malaysia and will be issued work permits at Subang International Airport.

Those who are awaiting visa approval but the employers or the recruiting agencies had paid levies and other fees prior to the suspension of private-level recruitment process would also enjoy the same arrangements, the delegation was told.

The fate of some 10,000 Bangladeshi workers who were trying, through the private recruiting agencies, for the last couple of months to fly to Malaysia following the two government's recent decision to abolish the role of private agencies in recruiting manpower for Malaysia.

Under an accord signed by the governments of Bangladesh and Malaysia on August 16, manpower recruitment will be handled by the Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) and the Foreign Workers Task Force (FWTF) of Malaysia on behalf of their respective governments.

Under the new settlement, the FWTF will issue work order and with that the BOESL can obtain visa for the selected workers. To facilitate immigration clearance at Subang International Airport, the BOESL will be required to inform the Immigration Department of Malaysia and the FWTF at least seven days before the workers' arrival in Malaysia.

**Ten police officials off to Zagreb**

Ten officials of Bangladesh Police left here for Zagreb last night to monitor the peace accord in Yugoslavia under the supervision of UN Peace Keeping Force, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh police contingent — six Inspector, three Sub-Inspector and one sergeant also worked as police monitor in Mozambique, sent to Zagreb for one-year contract, said a press release.

**Fruit exporters**

From Page 1

worth Tk 200 crore was exported last fiscal. Beetle leaves, fresh vegetables, jackfruit, guava and other perishables were exported to London weighing 80 to 85 tons per week in four Biman flights. Biman charges Tk 55,000 per ton of perishable or "wet goods" while some other airlines offer a Tk 8,000 to 10,000 per tons lower.

"These wet goods are a major part of the freight we carry to London. We prefer to carry dry cargo like garments, because carrying wet goods increase the maintenance cost of Biman. For wet goods export, the aircrafts undergo an expensive anti-corrosive treatment every two months. For this reason, most airlines do not prefer handling perishable goods," the Biman spokesman said.

"Actually the exporters want to increase their margin of profit by lowering the freight rate of Biman. But look at the other side — Biman has got its own business to look after. Biman's Cargo business in the London route is going on in full swing, even after the vegetable exporters have stopped their export," he pointed out.

**Bombs hurled**

From Page 1

ductors' alleged misbehaviour with a female student, the students smashed windows of a number of vehicles and the transport workers hurled bombs.

Rabi was admitted to the DMCH.

**জ্ঞাতব্য**

"দৈনিক ভোরের কাগজ" এর ২৬/০৯/৯৫ ইং তারিখে প্রকাশিত "ন্যাপনাল ব্যাকের শীর্ষ ১০ খেলার অনাদারী" স্বর্ণ ২৭৪ কোটি টাকা শীর্ষক কলামে মোহাম্মদী গ্রুপের নিকট অনাদারী ১০ কোটি ১১ লক্ষ টাকা খেলাধী স্বর্ণের ব্যাপারে প্রচারিত সংবাদে কিছু ভুল বোঝাবুঝির সূত্র রয়েছে। এই প্রসঙ্গে সকলের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানাচ্ছি যে, মোহাম্মদী গ্রুপ অফ গার্মেন্টস এন্ড টেক্সটাইলস ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ, ৯৩ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা এর সঙ্গে উপরোক্ত সংবাদে প্রকাশিত মোহাম্মদী গ্রুপের কোন সম্পর্ক নেই। ন্যাপনাল ব্যাক লিঃ সূত্রে প্রাপ্ত তথ্যে প্রকাশ উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানটি চট্টগ্রাম ভিত্তিক একটি বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠান।

ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষ  
মোহাম্মদী গ্রুপ অফ গার্মেন্টস এন্ড টেক্সটাইলস ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ  
৯৩ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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

**ADMISSION**

**CENTRE FOR BUSINESS STUDIES**

**EVENING SHIFT (5.00 TO 7.30)**

- # ACCOUNTING - A' LEVEL, Exam Jan 1997.
- # BUSINESS STUDIES - A' LEVEL, Exam June 1997

**MORNING SHIFT (9.00 TO 12.30)**

- # BENGALI - Exam-Jan 1996
- # ACCOUNTING - A LEVEL, Exam-Jan 1997
- # MATH, SYL - A, O' LEVEL, Exam-May 1996

Class starts from 1st October 1995. Application deadline 25th September 1995.

**CONTACT:**

Road No. 28 Old, 15 new.  
House No. 392 Old, 3/A new  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209. Phone: 810633.