The authorities have barred import of cigarettes through Pre Shipment Inspection (PSI) amidst growing allegations of manipulation with invoices in imports under the system, reports

Import of cigarettes will. henceforth, be allowed only through traditional way, and the duty be charged on the basis of tariff value.

Sources at the National Board of Revenue (NBR) said NBR would soon put similar bar on some other importables, largely being imported through PSI but with dubious invoices with the ulterior motive of evading duty.

Sources indicated that restrictions might soon come on powdered milk, cumin

and black peeper. In imports under PSI, in-

Hilsa fish worth Tk 1cr lying unsold

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Sept 30: Over eight thousand maunds of hilsa fish worth about one crore taka were lying unsold at different centres of six

the transport strike. Traders fear, a huge quantity of fish might be rotten as there are no proper storage facilities.

southern districts because of

Tug-boat capsize Search for master pilot continues

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: A joint search operation by BIWTA and police continued today to recover the body of master pilot Saker Ali, 40, who drowned when Singaporean tug-boat sank at the Sandwip Channel Thursday

The tug-boat "Britoil' sank in heavy current while towing a dredger from Chittagong for Jamuna bridge, its local agent said today. All the 14 foreign crew survived and are now under treatment at the Sandwip health complex. Saker Ali was a master pilot of the BIWTA

Meanwhile, efforts are being made to salvage the ug-boat.

PSI barred spection companies, regis tered with NBR, inspect quantity, quality and prices of importables prior to shipment, and then issue certificates against service charge Customs authorities collect duty and tax on the value quoted in the certificate.

The government allowed all kinds of imports through PSI system since November 1984 to plug revenue leakage and ease delays in clearance of consignments.

Sources, however, said they were increasingly detecting dubious invoices

An NBR official said the board was now evaluating the impact of import operations under PSI following allega tions of malpractice.

Revenue authorities suspended operation of one of the five inspection agencies, registered with NBR, a couple of months back on charge of malpractice. The suspension has, however, been lifted recently.

Importers are increasingly getting interested in PSI. specially for imports of higher-duty items, although they are to bear the inspection

Five internationally renowned agencies are registered with NBR.

46.17 pc pass CU B Com exams

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: The results of B. Com Pass examination-1993 held in December-1994 and January-1995 under the University of Chittagong were announced today, reports BSS.

Eleven hundred and sixtythree regular students from 73 colleges appeared in the examination, of whom 537 candidates came out success-

The percentage of pass in the examination is 46.17, of the successful candidates 26 got the second division while 511 were placed in the third division, the sources said adding that none could get first division in the examina-

The results of B. Com. Pass (supplementary) examination-1992 under the same university were also published. The percentage of pass in that examination is

ation from all concerned for

The DC of Dinajpur said most of the thatched houses were damaged by the flash flood and the death toll rose to nine in the district. BDR personnel have been deployed for rescue operation.

From Page

A total of 47 flood shelters have been opened in the district. Birampur, Biral, Parbatipur and Fulbari are the worst affected thanas, where standing crops of 38,000 acres of land went under wa-

The Thakurgaon DC told the Prime Minister that all the five thanas of the district were affected by the flood and 15 per cent of the standing crops were damaged.

In Panchagarh, all the five thanas were affected and about 95,000 people were water marooned. About 30,000 houses were affected and crops on 1,241 acres of land were damaged.

After the briefing, Begum Zia visited five flood shelters in Dinajpur and talked with the affected people and enquired about their condition. She visited Dinajpur Academy High School, Zila School, Dinajpur High School, Iqbal High School and Khanpur

At the flood shelters, some 12 km from the distown, the Prime Minister distributed relief materials among the affected people and asked them to tackle the situation with courage and patience.

Begum Zia sought cooper-12 die in West Bengal flood

CALCUTTA, Sept 30: Twelve people were killed in flash floods following heavy overnight monsoon rains in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal, officials said today, reports AFP.

"The overall situation in eastern India is improving marginally," Information Min- if we wished.' ister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee said.

"Majority of the deaths were reported from Balurghat town in the southern district of Dinapur where at least 10 persons were drowned. The other two died in separate incidents of house collapses," Bhattacharjee said.

PM visits flood-hit areas proper distribution of relief materials and instructed the local administration to gear

up relief activities and rescue

operation. She asked them

to look after the flood affected people round the clock. In the afternoon, the Prime Minister went to the flood affected areas of Rangpur and visited the flood shelters of Rangpur Government College and Pirganj

Rangpur Sadar, Gangach hara, Pirgachha, Badarganj Kaunia and Pirganj thanas of the district were affected by

High school, 40 km off the

the flood. Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, Abdul Hafiz MP Begum Khurshid Jahan Huq MP, Rebeka Mahmud MP and former minister and BNP leader Matiur Rahman accompanied the Prime Minister

FBCCI

From Page 1 jor opposition parties announced six days of general strike this month to force the government to accept their demand for a caretaker administration to oversee

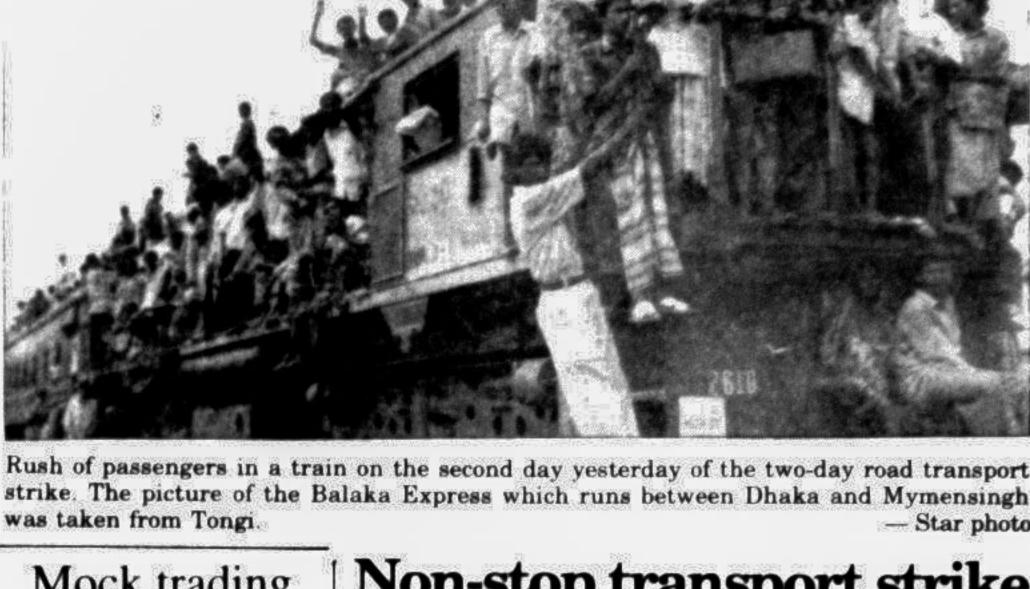
general elections. "The present political impasse is leading the country towards a crisis situation which will result in irreparable damage not only to the economy but also to democratic principles and values, FBCCI president Salman Rahman said in a statement last night.

He appealed to the political leaders of the country to resolve their differences immediately and end the present deadlock.

Warning of the possible economic consequences Salman Rahman said "unless remedial measures were taken immediately we might reach a point when it might not be possible to do so even

The FBCCI president said, Bangladesh today is uniquely positioned where exciting opportunities exist in a global context which, if exploited fully, could result in dramatically improving the quality of

"It is imperative that we must all work together to make this happen," he added.



strike. The picture of the Balaka Express which runs between Dhaka and Mymensingh was taken from Tongi. - Star photo

Mock trading begins at CSE

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: A mock trading began today on the floor of the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) in preparation for opening for mal trading later this week reports UNB.

Members and their authorised representatives participated in the mock trading Formal trading is likely to start October 4, CSE sources

Missing Tanbazar 'madams' traced

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Sept 30: Police today traced the three 'madams' four days after their mysterious disappearance from the Tanbazar brothel.

Narayanganj said. Ritha Khanam was staying at the house of Mainuddin, one of the operators of the brothel, Najma at the house of Mostafa, a 'Babu' (regular client), at Jinjira and Salma some where in the

The three "madams' -Ritha, Najma and Salma popularly known as 'Mashi,' were reportedly evicted from Tanbazar by the brothel operators because of their campaign to protect the rights of the prostitutes.

Talking to this correspondent over telephone, Ritha said she was not evicted. Rather, she herself shifted to. Mainuddin's house in order to fight the cases lodged against her at various times. She said, she would no

longer act as a call girl. Meanwhile, the inmates of the brothel alleged that the 27 prostitutes, who were under the three 'madams', were also evicted. But, police said, the 27 prostitutes were now in the brothel under other

Salam Talukdar

madams'.

From Page 1 ances and unnecessary hartals in the coming elections through ballot.

The BNP Secretary General referred to the "untrue. illogical and provocative" statements by some leaders from the public rallies organised by the Opposition on September 28 and said these opposition leaders were trying in vain to prove their false and illogical statements in the old gobbles' style.

He said it is necessary to protest against such statements of the opposition leaders, so that the countrymen

could not be misguided. Referring to the threat by an opposition leader to storm the residence of the elected Prime Minister, the BNP Secretary General said by giving such a threat, the political leader had in fact expressed total disregard to the verdict of the people.

Non-stop transport strike From Page

buses, minibuses, trucks and tank-lorries stayed off the road for the second day yesterday.

The joint meeting of the organisations of transport owners and workers — BSPS and BSPSF — yesterday congratulated all for "making its strike programme a success" and resented the authorities' "indifference" to the 12-point demand.

The demands include lowering of spares and fuel prices, withdrawal of enhanced ferry fare and bridge

Elders' Day today

The International Elders Day will be observed today in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world, reports UNB.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday issued separate messages on the occasion.

MQM calls strike in Karachi today

KARACHI, Sept 30: Pakistan's ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) today called for a general strike in Sindh province on Sunday, maintaining a standoff with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government reports Reuter.

toll and protection from 'illegal' toll collection.

The meeting, chaired by Mirza Abbas, also regretted the inconvenience caused to members of the public due to the two-day transport strike.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the representatives of 54 route committees affiliated with the Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity (DSPS) was held in the city yesterday. The meeting demanded removal of the chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) for what it said his negligence in implementing an agreemen signed in October last year.

Durga Puja begins

Durga Puja, the greatest festival of the Hindu community, began yesterday with much enthusiasm and religious fervours, reports UNB.

The worship of Goddess Durga or Sharadiya Utshab, (autumn festival) symbolises the victory of good over the

Hundreds of image of Durga have been erected throughout the country, and more than a hundred in capital Dhaka.

Mahanagar Sharbajanin Puja Committee, the central representative body, has erected a puja mandap at Dhakeswari Madir. Another main puja mandap is at Ramkrishna Mission.



Finishing touches being given to the idols at a Durga Puja mandap in the city as the greatest religious festival of the Hindu community began yesterday. - Star photo

15-yr perspective plan

From Page 1

in the third, brings out sectoral dimensions and intersectoral relationships in the fourth, points out the areas of conflicts and conduits for their resolution in the fifth, and outlines the vision of society to be attained by 2010 in the sixth chapter.

To realise the set objectives, the working paper prepared for the NEC says, the real gross domestic product (GDP) has to grow from the current 5 per cent to 8 per cent in the year 2000, and the reach double-

digit rates by 2008. Assuming that in 2010 the population will be around 146 million, the paper says. such a growth in GDP will yield a per capita income of 1250 US dollars in 2010, rising from the current level of 236 US dollars and 382 US dollar in 2000.

"Unless GDP grows at these rates, envisaged alleviation of poverty, based primarily on availability of materials, goods and services and expansion of employment.

will not be possible," it cau-

To attain the envisioned rate of growth, given the current levels of efficiency in use of capital investment, investment rates will have to raise from 15 per cent of GDP in 1995 to a level of over 19 per cent by 2000, and to at least 23 per cent of GDP by 2010, the paper adds.

The PPP projects workers' remittance from abroad during 2000 to 2010 at a rate of about 3 per cent of GDP and gross national savings is projected to be around 15 to 19 per cent of GDP between 2005 and 2010.

The PPP envisages that annual growth in agriculture to increase from the current level of about one per cent to 2.9 per cent in 2000 to 3.5 per cent by the year 2010 while it estimates that industry will grow from the current annual rate of 10 per cent to over 14 per cent in 2000 and to 20 per cent in 2010.

Noting that a 15-year PPP

does not imply 'a planning holiday' from conventiona five-year ones, the paper says, "On the contrary, within the PPP, short, medium and long term programmes are expected to follow through the functional instruments of ADP and three year rolling investment plan (TYRIP)."

According to the PPP, the development objectives of government under the PPP are: poverty alleviation, attaining self-sufficiency in foodgrain production, human resource development and private sector development.

Dwelling on the plan allocations, the PPP says that public sector expenditures in the physical sector will fall from 68 per cent of ADP in 1995 to 59 per cent in the year 2000 and 50 per cent in the year 2010, expecting that most of the productive activities would be largely left to the private sector.

Expenditures in the social sector will be increased from 32 per cent in 1995 to 41 per cent in 2000 and 50 per cent in 2010.

DU announces exam schedule despite hartals

By DU Correspondent The Dhaka University authorities have not yet decided to reschedule the Honours and Masters exami October 17 nations due The Controller of examina tions said this when enquired about the hartal called by the Opposition from October 16.

The examination routine was announced yesterday, two days after the opposition parties declared their programme.

Meanwhile, the students of different departments gheraoed the office of the Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed yesterday afternoon demanding on more time between the examinations.

The vice Chancellor re fused to talk to the students and asked them to contact him after October 5. The students later submitted a memorandum to the vice chancellor.

4 killed, 5 hurt in city incidents By DMCH Correspondent

Four persons were killed

and at least five others injured in separate incidents in the city yesterday. One Arif, 8, drowned in a pond near his house at Moh-

ammadbagh under Demra In another incident, Abdul Zabbař, 30, was seriously injured after falling from the 11th floor of a building at Mirpur-13. He succumbed to

Hospital (DMCH). One Shuresh, 28, was killed when a speeding truck ran over him at Mirpur-2 bus

his injuries on the way to the

Dhaka Medical College

Police also recovered the body of an unknown male aged about 25 from a ditch at Mirpur-1. There were marks of injuries on the body.

Meanwhile, at least five persons were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Keller Mor at Lalbagh.

Rahim, 15, Saidul, 20, and Noor Islam, 25, were admitted to the DMCH with bomb injuries. Two persons were arrested in this connection.

President, PM greet Hindu community

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday greeted the members of the Hindu community on the occasion of the Durga Puja, report agencies. In a message the

President said like every year Durga Puja, the greatest Hindu religious festival, is being observed this year also in Bangladesh where a tradition of communal harmony among different religious faiths exists. Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia also greeted the Hindu community on the same occasion.

"Bangladesh is a classic example of communal harmony," she said in a message wishing the Hindus continued happiness, peace and prosperity.

There prevails full religious freedom of people from all faiths, and as such they have the equal right to observe their own rituals, she added.

Sheikh Hasina

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in a statement has also greeted the Hindu community on the occasion of Durga Puja.

She recalled that once the Shardiya Durga Puja was observed across the Bengal with great festivity. But, she said, hunger, poverty, social instability and fanning of communalism faded that festivity.

Hasina hoped that the spirit of the Liberation War would inspire the Hindu Muslim, Buddha, Christian and other religious communi ties to uphold religious harmony in the country.

Farmers gherao

From Page 1

the DC office at 1 pm as part of the central programme of the Bangladesh Krishak Sa mity and submitted a memorandum to the district adm-

Union Sangha, Jatiya Chhatra Dal and the Jatiya Ganata ntrik Front have expressed solidarity with the peasants Earlier, they paraded the main roads in the town.

ested killing, rape, hijack, dacoity and other terrorist activities in the area. A rally was held at the DC office premises which was addressed by district con-

The peasants also prot-

venor of the samity Azizur from Tk 40.15. Rahman Salam and general Devaluation of local cursecretary Tozammel Hog and central leader Advocate Abdul

The Midnight Kile

Talks on ceasefire in Bosnia premature'

BELGRADE, Sept 30: US peace envoy Richard Holbrooke arrived in Belgrade today to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and said talk on a ceasefire in Bosnia was "premature". "We're hearing a lot of talk about a ceasefire which I think is quite premature. The two sides. both want a ceasefire but they have very different ideas of what it means and I would caution people not to expect any direct announcement on that in the near future." Holbrooke told reporters, says Reuter.

Flood situation

der ankle to knee-deep water while two-thirds of the Noagaon town reeled under flood

Our Correspondent reported from Rajshahi. The overall flood situation in Rashahi. Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Bogra further deteriorated as all the rivers in the region continued to rise.

In Bogra. 39 unions of 11 thanas have been flooded. Seriously affected thanas are Sariakandi, Dhunat, Sherpur and Sonatala. The Jamuna was flowing 7 mm above the danger mark last evening.

A minor boy, Abdur Rah man of Sonatala was swept away by the flood waters. Crops on more than 1.5 lakh acres of land have been dam-

Fresh areas have been flooded in Bagmara, Tanore and Mohanpur thanas of Raishahi. At least 10,000 acres of crop lands have been dam-

Six JCD leaders held in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 30: Six Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders were sent to jail hajat after their bail prayers were rejected today. Accused in a number of

cases, they were arrested last

night from Goshala area of

The arrested are Milan, Rana, Raisul, Akkas, Rafiq and Faridul Islam. They are also accused of hurling bombs

at police on September 4. UNB adds: Student union leaders of six colleges in Pabna today blamed JCD's district president Sheikh Tuhin for the deterioration of law and order in the Pabna town.

Kashmir

From Page 1 and drove away its dozens employees, sparking tension and forcing Indian authorities to deploy hundreds of police and paramilitary forces in

Muslim-sources said JKLF gunmen were still present in strength near the Hazratball shrine and warned of violent clashes if Parray, who heads the Ikhwan-ul-Muslimoon Group, tried to hold any meeting at the mosque.

Parray, who has his base some 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Srinagar, is described as an Indian agent by Muslim separatists in Kashmir. He denies the charge, and instead accuses his critics of being New Delhi's stooges

Another report says: A strike called by Muslim militants to protest against the visit of a senior Indian election official paralysed the state of Kashmir today.

Shops, businesses and government offices were closed in this state summer capital and elsewhere across the Kashmir valley, a day after deputy election commissioner M S Gill arrived here to study prospects of holding legislative pools, witnesses and police said.

Meanwhile, the fate of four western tourists, held hostage by Al-Faran militant outfit, remained uncertain with no contact between the abductors and the authorities

for the 11th day today. An official spokesman. however, said the hostages were safe.

Taka devalued

From Page 1 knitwear the retention quota has been raised a little, from 5 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

Both the measures, the revised Dollar-Taka exchange rates and the new foreign exchange retention quota, will come to effect simultaneously The Bangladesh Trade from today. According to the revised

exchange rates, the Bangladesh Bank will buy US dollar from authorised dealers at Tk 40.40 and sell to them at Tk 40.60.

In a similar move on September 10, the central bank had devalued Taka by 15 paisa against the US currency, raising the buying rate of dollar to Tk 40.15 from Tk 40 and selling to Tk 40.35

rency usually benefits exporters and wage-earners while discourages imports.

In Naogaon, 99 unions of 11 thanas have been flooded Severely affected thanas are Dhamoirhat, Patnitala. Badalgachi. Manda, Atrai Raninagar and Niamatpur. Over 3 lakh people have been affected by flood. Standing crops on about 40,000 acres of land have been damaged. Twothirds of the district town have been flooded. Road communication has been badly disrupted as most of the roads went under water Road communication between Rajshahi and Noagaon was suspended as a bridge collapsed at Narayanpur in Manda thana today.

Fresh areas have been flooded in Chapainawabgan, Some 25 relief centres have been opened in the worst affected Bholahat thana.

Our Correspondent reports from Pabna: At least 25,000 people have been affected and 400 houses and transplanted aman in 18,000 acres damaged in the district in the floods. According to officials, the

flood situation worsened in six thanas — Bera, Sujanagar, Chatmohor, Bhangura, Faridpur and Santhia — as two major rivers - the Padma and the Jamuna - kept swelling. In the worst-hit Bera

ple have been marooned in low-lying areas of Mazhgram and Ranigram. Our Correspondent from Jamalpur reports: Five thanas of the district have been badly affected by the flood. Onrush of hill water from across the border along with

thana, more than 5,000 peo-

gravated the situation. Tea garden staff killed in clash

continuous rainfall for the

last four days have further ag-

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: One person was killed and 10 people were injured in a clash between the workers and the management of a tea garden in Fatikchhari thana today. Police said the clash erupted this morning after the workers gheraoed the office of Andharmanik Tea Garden, 14 kilometres north of Fatikchhari, demanding arrear salaries and bonuses. The dead was identified as Ahmed Hossain, 20, an office staff of the tea garden, re-

Jute traders

From Page

gated account to be paid on instalment basis within five years. The first instalment is scheduled to be paid within December this year.

Finance Ministry sources

said the government is con-

sidering sharing some losses of the private banks, to be incurred due to the waiving of interest. Affected jute traders said although the nationalised

are implementing the programme, the pace is very When contacted, Mostafa Aminur Rashid, Managing Director of Agrani Bank, said implement that to

banks like Sonali and Agrani

this programme, Agrani Bank alone would have to incur loss of about Tk 36 crore. Leaders of Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA), however, said that due to absence of good number of exporters of raw jute, export of jute

declined to some extent this They said that up to September 15 this year, 1 lakh 93 thousand bales of raw jute were exported while during the corresponding period of last year, the quantity exported was 2 lakh 23

thousand bales. Talking to The Daily Star, BJA Vice Chairman Rezaul Karim demanded immediate implementation of the Finance Ministry's circular by the private banks so that more exporters can come back to the market and participate in export of raw jute.

Clarification Our Rajshahi University

Correspondent has informed us that the news item headlined "30 injured as JCD. Shibir clash at RU", published on the front page on September 25, was not sent by him. No such incident occurred on that day. Some one sent the news item impersonating him. We regret the error

- News Editor

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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