### PM visits flood-hit Joypurhat

JOYPURHAT, Oct 4: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today extensively toured the flood-hit areas of the district and assured the victims of adequate relief and succour to mitigate their woes, reports UNB.

"I have come here to see for myself the plight you are in and stand beside you at the time of distress," she told thousands of flood victims who have taken shelter on rooftops and in makeshift camps.

Begum Zia, now on a three-day visit to the country's flood-ravaged northern districts, first dropped in at Joypurhat Zila Parishad Bhaban where the Deputy Commissioner, Ali Ahmed briefed her on the situation in the district.

Begum Zia distributed relief materials among the flood victims and asked them to face calamity with courage and patience.

An army medical team with four doctors, including two civilians, is working to combat the water-borne diseases in the areas.

left for the frontier thana of Panchbibi and halted at L B Pilot High School flood centre where she distributed relief materials among the flood-displaced people.

#### Murtaza acquitted in murder case

LAHORE, Oct 4: A special anti-terrorism court has acquitted Murtaza Bhutto. brother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in a 14-year old murder case. court officials said today, reports AFP.

The Prime Minister directed the officials concerned to properly distribute relief materials so that each and every victim could avail the government help. She also halted at a number of places and talked to the flood-affected people.

Later, Begum Zia embarked upon a 30-km-long journey in a mechanised boat from 4:45 pm to 9:00 pm and talked to the affected people.

#### Body to probe Kushtia jail killing

for arrest and punishment of the killers, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner Md Nazrul Islam today visited the jail and assured the prisoners that exemplary punishment would be given to those responsible for the death of Nakim Sarder.

Sarder, an under-trial ac-Later, the Prime Minister cused in a woman-repression case, died after he was mer cilessly beaten reportedly by three prison guards following an altercation late Monday

> Besides, another investiga tion committee headed by A D M Khorshed Alam has been constituted to investigate the allegation of torture and also mismanagement of the jail.

## SAPTA just 'rhetoric'

From Page 1 Press Club.

members.

from December this year. It doing it on Monday.

region is home to 1.2 billion people, trade among the only three per cent of the region's commerce. Because of high tariffs, bilateral conflicts and bureaucratic redtapism a substantial part of the region's trade is done by the cross-border smugglers.

#### **CMCH** interne docs withdraw strike

CHITTAGONG, Oct 4: Interne Doctors Association of Chittagong Medical College Hospital today withdrew its strike following a discussion between the association leaders and hospital authorities. An emergency meeting in this connection was held at the hospital's conference room where representatives of interne doctors association leaders of Bangladesh Medical Association, Medical College Teachers' Association and the director of the hospital were present, reports BSS.

#### CEC seeks help

From Page 1

mandatory to all concerned through giving it a legal cov-

The meeting reviewed the Election Commission initiatives in preparing voter identity cards and their distribution process and laid emphasis on creating interests among the people as well as the political leadership regarding the voter identity cards through media publicity.

also underscored the need for creating public opinion against the use of black money, arms and muscle power in the election.

Election commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil, Secretary of the commission Mohammad Irshadul Haq, Additional Secretary S M Zakaria, Director General of Bangladesh Television Risalat Ahmed. Director General of Radio Bangladesh Mahiuddin Ahmed, Principal Information Officer Abdur Rahim, Director General of Mass Communications Syed Sujauddin Ahmed attended the meeting.

KUSHTIA, Oct 4: A onemember judicial probe body has been formed to investigate the killing of a prisoner in Kushtia jail as the inmates threatened a hunger-strike

night.

Meanwhile, a press release from the police headquarters clarified that police were not involved in the incident. To call jail guards as police is a misnomer, it said, as they belong to two separate agencies.

The SAPTA is seen as a

Though the FBCCI presi-

Infrastructure and law and

dent did not directly criticise

the SAPTA, he made it clear

order should get priority in

building the economy and

promotion of economic de-

velopment in Bangladesh,

hurts the economy, but cau-

tioned that this should not be

seen as the only factor for

slowing down the economy.

"Because of congestion in

ports our economic loss is 10

times higher than caused by

men should also enter poli-

tics; he said a political party

will be an independent can

didate for a parliamentary

seat from Dhanmandi-Moha-

Favouring that business-

Salman Rahman said he

He said hartals certainly

Salman Rahman said.

hartals," he said.

may evolve one day.

that it will not be a panacea.

major step towards removing

these obstacles against pro-

motion of regional trade.

India, he said, must grant greater access to the goods produced by its fellow SAARC

The SAPTA seeks to promote trading among Bangladesh. India, Pakistan, Sri lanka: Nepal. Bhutan and the Maldives. Adopted at the SAARC summit in New Delhi last vear the SAPTA is scheduled to be effective will reduce tariffs on 226 items for boosting regional trading. Except Pakistan, the other six signatories to the agreement, have already ratified it, Bangladesh cabinet

Although the South Asian seven nations accounts for

#### mmadpur constituency. BNP endorses

From Page 1 be done by us.'

"We have thrown the bal into their court. It is up to them as to how well my formula can be implemented, he said over telephone late last night.

In his reaction, Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman told The Daily Star "I expect that he (Matin Chowdhury) spoke the truth. He did not say anything baseless.

But, Zillur pointed out, We still stand by the Awami League formula proposed earlier." The AL formula suggests forming a caretaker government headed by the Chief Justice.

The home minister speaking at a function of Hindu community in the city on Monday, once again endorsed the JP acting chairman's

formula. Earlier, on the concluding day of the 21st session of the Jatiya Sangsad, the home minister had welcome the formula and invited the Opposition to sit for a dialogue to resolve the persist-

ing political impasse.

Mizan Chowdhury, talking to this correspondent Tuesday night, however, said, "I really do not understand who the spokesman of the ruling party. Is it the Prime Minister or Salam Talukder (BNP Secretary General) or Matin Chowdhury?"

The acting JP chairman. addressing his party's labour front on September 25, said under the parliamentary system, a caretaker government could be formed with the Prime Minister resigning and expressing her reluctance to continue along with her cabinet. The President would then nominate a competent person, in consultation with all political parties, to head the interim administration, he added.



A stall at the BATEXPO '95 at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday.

- Star photo

#### 20 injured as procession attacked at Natore

From Our Correspondent NATORE, Oct 4: At least

20 persons were injured when some unidentified miscreants attacked a procession brought out by Hindu devotees at West Alaipur here this evening.

Local members of the Hindu community brought out the procession to immerse the idol of goddess Durga in the Kalibari pond in the town.

The unidentified attackers pelted stones on the processionists.

After the attack, the processionists put a barricade on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway from 7 pm to 10 pm. Later, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and SP of Natore visited the scene and the barricade was withdrawn.

Talking to this correspondent the DC Aziruddin said that nothing serious had happened and the situation was totally under control.

#### Ittefaq incident: Renu on one-day police remand

By Staff Correspondent

Ittefaq incident Mohammad Hossain Renu

arrested on charge of killing a young man inside Ittefaq Bhaban Sunday, was taken on a one-day police remand vesterday.

Renu. 40, was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court (CMM) vesterday morning. Sources said that police had sought for a 10 day remand.

Detective Branch police arrested Renu from a Nissan Patrol jeep in front of comprising only businessmen Madhumita Cinema hall in Motifheel area in the city Tuesday afternoon. Police claimed that Renu was the main suspect in the incident.

#### Employees condemn incident

BSS adds: A joint meeting of the Ittefag Unit of the Dhaka Union of Journalists. employees union and workers union, yesterday strongly condemned the incidents of violence and firing by outsiders in the Ittefaq office on October 1.

The meeting demanded punishment of the persons responsible for the incident, a press release said.

The meeting urged the authorities to ensure the security of the journalists and other employees in the daily Ittefag or settle their accounts so that they could leave the organisation.

## BATEXPO '95 opens

From Page 1

Apparel and Textile Exposition (BATEXPO) at Sonargaon Hotel.

Ministers, diplomats, industrialists, foreign buyers, businessmen and senior government officials attended the function.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) arranged the 6th BATEXPO with the aim to acquaint buyers and investors with Bangladesh's products and make them aware of its potentials in textile industry.

The Prime Minister noted that export earning from the readymade garments jumped to 2.2 billion US dollar or over 60 per cent of total export earnings in the last fiscal and was expected to rise further. But, she lamented that the industry is still dependent on imported fabrics.

"As a result, the lion's share of export earning is spent on fabrics import," she said, stressing the need for setting up textile mills capable of producing high quality fabrics for the garments industry which is growing by 20 per cent a year.

Begum Zia mentioned that with the completion of Uruguay Round talks and signing of GATT, the developed countries are relocating their textile units in developing nations.

"We have created a favourable investment climate in Bangladesh," she said while inviting the foreign entrepreneurs to set up new ones or relocate textile mills in this country.

The Prime Minister also listed the facilities for investment in Bangladesh. "For rapid industrialisation in the private sector, we have reduced import and custom duty. The loan sanction procedures has been simplified. The rate of interest has been reduced.'

Begum Zia said the garments industry has ushered in a revolutionary change in the society. The sector has employed over 800,000 workers, 80 per cent of them women.

"Readymade garments industry has made a remarkable contribution to empowerment and employment of women and ensuring their dignity," she said and hoped that entrepreneurs would take special welfare measures for the women workers.

The Prime Minister said her government has taken steps for development planning and attached highest priority to private sector initiatives in the industrial sec-

Begum Zia observed that democracy ensures such environment and called upon all to work together to further strengthen the base of democracy.

The Prime Minister said she would direct concerned authorities to hand over a plot to the BGMEA for its office complex in Dhaka as she had committed during last year's BATEXPO.

Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam cautioned that Bangladeshi producers are likely to face upcoming global challenges due to phasing out of the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) in 2005.

"Although the export figure is rising steadily over the vears, our skills in CMT (cut, make and trim) only cannot ensure future development of this sector unless we are able to expand our horizon by offering our own fashions and designs to attract potential buyers," he said.

State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan said the domestic value addition in the industry, which is now only 25 per cent, could be raised to 75 per cent if some realistic efforts" are taken.

Commerce Secretary M Asafuddowlah, who recently led a trade delegation to North America, said that the US Textile Department had recommended to the US government to raise the garments quotas for Bangladesh.

**BGMEA** president Redwan Ahmed appealed to the Prime Minister to help set up textile industries and a fashion institute in the country on priority basis.

#### NATO jets attack Serb missile sites

SARAJEVO, Oct 4: NATO warplanes attacked Bosnian Serb missile sites in central and southern Bosnia today after Serb radar locked on to the aircraft, a UN official said, reports AFP.

The strikes were the first on Bosnian Serb sites since an earlier series of intensive NATO airstrikes against Serb military installations was suspended on September 20.

"In three separate incidents NATO attacked Bosnian Serb SAM (surface to air missile) sites that illuminated NATO Aircraft conducting deny flight operation," the of ficial said.

#### 3 shot dead

From Page 1

Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy. An uneasy calm was prevailing in the area when this correspondent visited the spot late last night. Contingents of police were deployed in the area. Local people were tight lipped. All shops and business centres were closed immediately after the incident.

#### 'Salinity spreading fast in south-western region' Barrage river bed of the pacity of the rivers and re-

Water resources expert Prof Ainun Nishat yesterday said that due to rapid increase of salinity a large area in the south-western part of Bangladesh would become unfit for human habitation within next 25 to 30 years. reports BSS.

He said the salinity was increasing at a very faster rate and intruding into new areas every year due to reduction of fresh water flows caused by Farakka Barrage built on the Ganges river by India. India is unilaterally withdrawing waters in the upstream of the river causing serious ecological damage to Bangladesh, he added.

Prof Nishat who is also a member of Bangladesh-India Joint River Commission was giving a lecture on "Flood Problem of Bangladesh and its Solution" held in the conference room of the National Museum of Science and Technology at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar here,

He said due to Farakka

Padma in Rajshahi already rose by about five feet which would increase probability of flood even at normal flows of waters in the rainy season.

Referring to construction of dams, barrages, embankments and other fixed structures by India to obstruct the natural flows of 45 common rivers Prof Nishat said Bangladesh wants to settle the water sharing issue of all the 54 common rivers.

He said currently discussions were going on between the two countries on sharing of waters of nine rivers while the talks on the Ganges and the Teesta were in progress. Prof Nishat advocated for

controlled flood by building low rise embankments and said we need some changes in the existing flood control structures which would allow inundation but not flood level water.

He said dredging and reexcavation were necessary to increase water carrying caduce the probability of flood. He said water manage-

ment and flood control systems had existed in Bangladesh since 3000 years back but the British colonial regime had destroyed all these systems. Referring to the consecu-

tive four floods in the northern districts of Bangladesh this year Prof Nishat said all of them except the one in the month of July were caused due to mismanagement of the existing flood control structures. He said only the flood in July was a natural one.

He alleged that the Water Board was still following the concept of high rise embankments suggested by the Crug mission formed in late Fifties. He said preparation of Flood Action Plan (FAP) also followed the 1964 Master Plan concept of building embankments to tame the rivers.

# leader killed in gunbattle

SRIMAGAR Oct 4: Antiindian procests erupted in a town in northern Kashmir today following the killing of a top Kashmiri Muslim mili tant by Indian troops, police said, reports AFP.

Manzoor Ahmed Bhat, 28, a district commander of the pro-independence group the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) was killed in a gunbattle today in the town of Trehgam, police

A spokesman said the JKLF guerilla "was killed in a shootout during a search operation" but residents alleged he died while in the custody of the security forces.

Police said hundreds of residents took to the streets of Trehgam, in Kupwara district near the border with Pakistan, following the killing chanting "we want freedom" and anti-Indian slogans.

### 7 alleged dacoits held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested seven al leged dacoits along with five arms from a microbus near Dholairpar in the city Tuesday evening while they were going to Munshigani to commit dacoity, police said vesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, police. waylaid the dacoits near the Buriganga Bridge and caught them when the microbus stopped at a petrol pump in the area.

The arrested persons are Md Manik (22). Omar Faruk (21), Quiyum (19), Syed Md Habibur Rahman (21), Akbar Ali (20), Bakul (23) and Nazrul Islam (21). Police recovered three automatic pistols, five bullet, 30 hand bombs and some sharp weapons.

The dacoits confessed to police that they were going to commit dacoity in a house in Munshiganj.

#### Hasina

From Page 1 northern region where she said peopled were facing food

problem. "There cannot be any election under a government which cannot ensure security to people, Hasina said.

She cited the killings of farmers over the fertiliser crisis early this year. Students, workers and people of all walks of life were being repressed by this government, she added.

"This government cannot provide security to voters. Voters willing to cast votes according to their choice would not be able to do so if election is held under this government," the AL chief

Turning to law and order in Pabna district, Hasina alleged that the administration was totally inactive about arresting criminals in the area

or recovering illegal firearms. The rally was presided over by Advocate Mohammad Shamsul. It was also addressed by, among others. party leaders Matia Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, Suranjit Sengupta, and Prof

Abu Syed. Hasina also addressed public meetings at Chinakhara in Sujanagar thana, Ataikula in Santhia thana, Jalalpur and Gachhpara in Sadar thana and Muladuli in Iswardi thana.

#### Asian Art

From Page 1

Invitations are sent out to the cultural ministries of all Asian nations a year prior to the event. The countries then make their own selections regarding the number of works and artists to delegate.

However, only works done over the two previous years are exhibited at the event and each country is alloted a specific area of display space. that, in this year's case, is 30 metres by 30 metres.

As for the host country, any number of artists can submit up to three works, from which a selection is made by a BSA jury. Space for display is unspecified.

Twenty-seven Asian countries took part in the Biennial '93 and a greater number is expected this year.

"For the first time, this year we have included countries of the Pacific Ocean region in the biennial," Chowdhury said. The countries that have

confirmed their participation till the writing of this report are: Australia, Bahrain, Bhutan, China, India, Japan, Kuwait, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, South Korea, The Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates. Yemen, Vietnam, Iran, the Philippines, Indonesia, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine.

# Top Kashmiri

#### Pak Islamic leader shot dead

LAHORE. Oct 4: Masked gunmen killed a local leader of an Islamic group in the Pakistani city of Lahore today in what appeared to be a revival of sectarian violence in the central province of Punjab, police said. "Qari Saifullah Khalid, president of the Sipah-I-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) branch for Lahore was shot in the head while riding his motorcycle to a court trying him for the murder of a rival sect activist, reports Reuter.

#### 60 DU teachers urge Opposition to reconsider

hartal programmes Sixty teachers of the Dhaka University have urged the opposition parties to "reconsider" their hartal programmes in view of the catastrophic flood in 14 northern districts which needs integrated relief ef

forts, reports UNB. "Hartal certainly will impede relief operation," the varsity teachers said in a joint

statement yesterday. The teachers observed that the present political stalemate also needed an urgent solution through mutual

understanding
Among the signatories to the statement are Dr Yusuf Haider, Professor of Physics. Dr Anwar Hossain (IBA). Prof M Shahiahan Mina of Finance and Banking Department Prof M Nurul Ameen of Political Science, Dr M Khalilur Rahman (Bio Chemistry). Dr Saeedur Rahman (Bengali), Dr Sirajul Islam Khan and Dr Ershadul Bari. Dean of the Faculty of Law

### Train dacoity

From Page 1

Police prayed for five days remand for the four accused, raffway police sources said. The details of the court decision could not be known till last night. Meanwhile, the three-

member inquiry committee headed by the Bangladesh Railway (Eastern Zone) operating superintendent S K Habibullah began investigation into the dacoity yesterday, said an agency report quoting a railway press release. The committee would re-

ceive information from eye

witnesses in this regard at the railway office in Chittagong on October 9 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. It would also receive information at the VIP room of Kamalapur railway station in Dhaka on October 11 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Passengers having knowl-

edge about the dacoity have

been requested to appear

before the inquiry committee

at the scheduled dates and

times, the agency report

added.

#### Shantibahini attack on securitymen

KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 4: Security personnel repelled a Shantibahini attack on them at Machalong Chhara in Dighinala thana today, re-

ports UNB. Officials said a group of the outlaws fired on some security men of Machalong Chhara camp at about 8 am when they went for a bath to

a nearby canal. Hearing gunshots security officials from the camp rushed out in rescue of their fellowmen and exchanged at least 13 gunshots with the

tribal insurgents. The Shantibahinimen later fled into the deep forest. No casualties were reported.

Later, the security officials recovered a rille, one magazine and 26 rounds of ammunition from the spot.

### Agri loans

From Page 1 written off and recommend those to the bank's board for taking final decision.

Following waiver, the accounts have to be transferred to a separate ledger. While recovery efforts would have to be continued in some cases even after being written off, there will be a freeze on charging fresh interest.

The two specialised agriculture banks and four nationalised commercial banks have altogether disbursed about Tk 1400 crore as agricultural credit in fiscal 1994-

#### Diarrhoea

From Page 1 day, one in wall collapse and

the other from drowning. The Flood Information Centre said that the overall flood situation in Dinajpur. Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj, Rajbari, Manikganj, Shariatpur and Madaripur districts is likely to improve further today. But the flood situation of Naogaon is likely

to remain static. UNB reported from Sirajganj that at least 600 people have been attacked with diarrhoea in the five flood-hit thanas of the dis-

### Bangladesh Bank **Motijheel Office** Dhaka Tender for 90-Day Treasury Bill

trict.

To make the money market more active and improve indirect monetary management further, the government has decided to issue Treasury Bills through auction. Bangladesh Bank, on behalf of the government, will conduct all business relating to issuance of the Bill through auction. Individuals, business firms, companies & corporate bodies, banks and financial institutions residing/engaged in business in Bangladesh are eligible for participation in the auction.

Tenders for 90-Day Treasury Bill will be received on Tuesday, October 10, 1995. The intending tenderer should submit their tenders in the prescribed form which can be had from the General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel Branch, Dhaka. The completed tender should be placed in a sealed cover superscribed, "Tender for 90-Day Treasury Bill" and should be deposited in the box kept for the purpose in the Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel Branch, Dhaka before 12 Noon on Tuesday, October 10, 1995. The results of the auction would be announced on Wednesday, October 11, 1995. Successful bidders would be required to make payment of cost price latest by 12 Noon on Thursday, October 12, 1995.

The auctions will be held each fortnight.

Detailed information regarding auction of the 90-Day Treasury Bill can be obtained from Motijheel Office of Bangladesh Bank and Offices of the scheduled banks.

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