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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Chinese counterpart Li Peng at an accord signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. Bangladesh Ambassador Mostafizur Rahman and Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Madam Li Guo Hua signed the accords on behalf of their respective - PID photo governments.

Dhaka-Beijing talks

From Page Choudhury, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Jawadul

Karim and others. On the Chinese side, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuang, other ministers and senior officials concerned of the Chinese government were present.

During the talks, the Bangladesh delegation felt that there should be increased cooperation in various fields including investments in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh would welcome Chinese investments in joint ventures like agro-based industries. 'If we can develop agrobased industry in our country like China, the rural migration to cities will lessen, Sheikh Hasina said

Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh would welcome China's infrastructural help to develop technology in Bangladesh's agriculture sector including livestock and fish-

Referring to the four agree-

Li Peng to visit

From Page 1 later by the two foreign min-

Later, the Chinese Premier tonight hosted a dinner in honour of Sheikh Hasina at the Western Hall of the Great Hall of the People.

Members of the delegation accompanying Sheikh Hasina, Madam Li Pang, ministers and senior officials of the Chinese government attended the din-

4 accords

From Page 1 room of the Great Hall of the

People. The agreements are: 30 million yuan Chinese grant, 100 million yuan Chinese soft loan for Bangladesh, promotion and protection of each other's investment agreements and avoidance of double taxation.

Bangladesh Ambassador to China Mustafizur Rahman signed the agreements on behalf of Bangladesh while Chinese Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Madam Li Guo Hua signed the first three agreements on behalf of China and the agreement regarding double taxation was signed by Chinese Commis-

sioner of Taxation. Senior Chinese leaders and members of the entourage of the Bangladesh Prime Minister were present at the signing cer-

NPWF team meets Prof Abu Sayeed

A delegation of Bangladesh Newspapers Press Workers Federation met State Minister for Information Professor Abu Sayeed at his office yesterday, reports BSS. .

The delegation led by Mosharraf Hossain, President and Bazlur Rahman Milan, General Secretary of the Federation apprised the minister various problems of the newspaper

press workers. The state minister said the present government was aware and conscious about the professional problems being faced by those connected with the newspaper industry. He sought allout cooperation of the press workers for the proper development of newspaper industry.

Information Secretary Kazi Raquib Uddin was present on

the occasion. The delegation of the federation included vice presidents Wares Ali (Daily Ittefaq) and M Afaz Uddin (BSS), joint secre-tary general Rafiqul Alam (Dainik Bangla), treasurer M Khalilur Rahman (Bangladesh Observer) and executive members Golam Sarwar Azad (Bangladesh Times), M Mashuk Ahmed (Bangladesh Times), M Mozammel Huq (Bangladesh Times), M Golam Mowla (Dai-nik Bangla), Jamal Uddin (Dainik Janata), M Abul Hashem (The Daily Star), and Mir Igbal Hossain (Dainik Dinkal).

ments signed today between Bangladesh and China, Premier Li Peng observed that these

He also said that his government would study on how to make the present cooperation between the two countries ce-

agreements would add a new

chapter in the existing bilateral

relations between the two

mented in the coming years. He showed his keen interest on the poverty alleviation programme undertaken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's gov ernment and said they had also brought changes in their economic programmes over the last 20 years.

"We are now progressing with socialist economic policy he said adding that they wanted

one-China policy. Li Peng also said that the Chinese government believed in good relations with neighbour ing countries and described Bangladesh as a good neigh bouring country.

10 hurt as Ansars, workers clash

at Raozan From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 12 At least 10 persons were injured in a clash between Ansars and workers at the Raozan 210 megawatt power plant premises this afternoon, police and local sources said.

The injured were admitted to

Police said, the clash started at 1:30 pm when Ansars challenged some workers who were allegedly taking away construction materials from the

Ansars opened fire to disperse the unruly workers. The situation came under control after an armed police battalion went to the place.

Flood situation in Kushtia still unchanged

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Sept 12: The overall flood situation in Kushtia district remains unchanged. The river Ganges was still flowing 2 centimetres above the danger mark at the Hardinge bridge point. Meanwhile, water borne diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery have broken out in an epidemic form in the affected areas. The affected people are suffering for want of medicines and other medical

Arsenic: NIPSOM team collects water samples from Bagerhat

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 12: A sevenmember team of NIPSOM has collected the samples of water of one hundred shallow and deep tubewells in Fakirhat and Rampal thanas of Bagerhat district to determine the proportion of arsenic. Two persons Anil Das and Shyamal Das have died after drinking tubewell water contaminated with arsenic.

The member of the team. who arrived in Bagerhat on September 8 from Dhaka, also collected the samples of nail, hair and skin of some patients for tests in India as there is no laboratory in Bangladesh for

such test. The leader of the NIPSOM team, Dr Wadud Khan, when contacted, alleged that the Civil Surgeon of Bagerhat did not cooperate with him in giving necessary information about the presence of arsenic in underground water in some areas of

Bagerhat district. Meanwhile, the number of people being attacked by arsenic pollution is gradually increasing in Bagerhat district, said a member of the NIPSOM team.

By-polls to Habiganj-2 on Oct 15

The by-election to Jatiya Sangsad seat-239, Habiganj-2 will be held on October 15, ac cording to the schedule an nounced by the Election Commission here yesterday, reports

The seat fell vacant follow ing the death of Sharifuddin Ahmed of Awami League.

As per the schedule, September 16 is the last date for filing nomination papers. The scru tiny of the nomination papers will take place on September 17 while the last date for withdrawal of candidature is September 23.

After the withdrawal of candidature, the returning officer will distribute election symbols. All rules and regulations, including the code of conduct for general election. will be applicable in the byelection.

Faridpur-Madaripur group leader of BCL arrested

By DU Correspondent

Detective Police arrested Famizuddin Tami, a leader of the Faridpur-Madaripur group of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, in the city yesterday.

He was taken into custody while entering the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University through the South gate at about 12 noon.

Police said. Tami and his associates under the banner of the Chhatra League let loose a reign of terror in the University area Tami was staying in the BCLdominated halls although he was not a student of Dhaka

University, police sources said. Meanwhile, the Vice Chancellor of the university at a meeting on Wednesday issued a 72-hour ultimatum to the Chhatra Dal and the Chhatra League to prepare the lists of their "problem creating" work-

Housewife killed

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Sept 12: A

young housewife was allegedly killed at Enayetnagar under Shiddhirganj thana last night. According to police, Ambia Khatun, the first wife of Abdul Mannan, a labour leader of Gabtali bus station, killed Rahima Begum, 23, the second

wife of her husband. Mannan married Rahima, a cousin of Ambia, only one and a half month ago and lived with her separately at Enayetnagar. His first wife whom he married eleven years ago, used to live at Savar.

Ambia came to Siddhirganj last night and wanted Tk 200 from her husband. But he refused to give the money and left the house for work. Later at night, Ambia attacked Rahima with a sharp knife. Ambia left the place after the killing.

Mannan did not return to his house till the writing of this report tonight. The body was sent to the Narayangani General Hospital for autopsy.

Arrested DCC commissioner remanded

By Staff Correspondent The arrested ward commissioner Monwar Hossain alias

Dipzol of Mirpur was taken on two days' remand yesterday. The Detective Branch (DB) police produced Dipzol before the Metropolitan Magistrate Court yesterday afternoon and prayed for 10 days remand. The

court granted two days. Dipzol, aged about 30, was arrested from Noornagar area under Mirpur thana Wednesday morning. He is an accused in several cases filed with Mirpur and Savar thanas, police said.

'Govt won't allow law & order situation in CHT'

The Baily Stari

PM depfores massacre

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday deplored the inhuman incident in Rangamati on Monday in which 28 wood-cutters were killed, reports BSS.

"We have to ascertain the nature of the motive behind such an unfortunate incident and put an end to this kind of situation," she said while talking to newsmen at the airport on the eve of her departure for Beijing.

The Prime Minister said when her government was trying to bring peace and stability in the country, the incident in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) was unfortunate.

Sheikh Hasina said her government would put in efforts to stop terrorism in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and take steps for the overall welfare of the inhabitants of the hills.

pressed her heartfelt sympathy to the families of those killed on Monday and prayed for the peace of the departed souls. She said she had spoken to the General Officer Commanding (GOC). Chittagong, adminis-

The Prime Minister ex-

tration and intelligence men and asked them to take appropriate action. Sheikh Hasina said that a multi-party parliamentary committee had been formed to

enquire into the tragedy and to submit its report in the shortest possible time. The Prime Minister said steps were being taken so that none could create law and order

situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts taking advantage of the incident She said after the formation of the new government conspir-

acies had started to undo progress. Sheikh Hasina said that when her government was making efforts to improve economy restore law and order and curb

terrorism, some others were

Referring to the BNP's allegation of rigging in the recent by-elections. Sheikh Hasina said they were complaining about rigging in all places but demanding re-election in two constituencies only.

She said that the by-elections were free and fair, and pointed out that the Awami League nominee in Khulna byelection was defeated by an independent candidate.

Sheikh Hasina expressed the hope that good sense would prevail upon the BNP which, she said, was trying to drive the country to confrontation.

She urged the BNP to honour the verdict of the people and not to hinder the development pro-

Khaleda shocked at killing of wood-cutters

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock at the killing of 28 wood cutters in deep forest of Baghaichhari thana in Rangamati hill district, reports UNB

This is undoubtedly a massacre." Begum Zia said in a condolence message yesterday. She condemned and protested the brutal killing of innocent citizens by "terrorists" The BNP chairperson ex-

pressed sympathy for the mem bers of the bereaved families and prayed for the departed Begum Zia called upon the

people of the hill districts to

face the situation with patience and tolerance and not to lose temper in the situation. This is a proven truth that the path of peace is the best path. Violence and bloodshed

cannot resolve any problem.

she said in the statement.

Ministers visit CHT

From Page 1 Langadu thana ghat.

spared," he said.

creating hindrances.

Earlier, their autopsy was conducted Langadu

Tofael Ahmed announced that "all the affected families would be given Tk 50,000 each" The home minister assured the people of strict measures to ensure their safety and security. "Through political dialogue the government will restore peace in the region and those trying to destabilise peace will not be

The people who assembled at the thana ghat, at one stage, chanted slogans against the government. But they calmed down when assurance was given of their safety and security.

The mourning rally was also attended by among others. Dipanker Talukder, Awami League MP from Rangamati. Rabindra Lal Chakma, Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council, IG of Police M Azizul Hug, Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Sakhawat Hossain and GOC of the 24 Infantry Division Maj Gen A Matin.

Meanwhile, motorised boat communication between Rangamati and other hill areas may resume tomorrow, according to boat owners, the Correspondent added from Ranga-

Some 63 hill people kept under police custody for their safety would be sent to their respective houses tomorrow, police sources said

At Rangamati, a special meeting reviewing the law and order in the town was held at the municipality auditorium. A cross section of people attended the meeting. Tofael Ahmed. Abdur Razzaq and Rafiqul Islam and the Deputy Commissioner. among others, addressed the

They urged all to help main-

tain peace and order. Tofael Ahmed said that the present government was proceeding towards a 'political solution of the problem' under constitutional provisions. The brutal killings posed a threat to the peace process, he added.

Abdur Razzak said called upon the people to cooperate with the government in its ini tiative for resolving the crisis in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The district BNP, Parbattya

political and non-political organisations have condemned the killings. A protest procession was brought out by the Gano Parishad. Our Staff Correspondent adds: In Dhaka, General Secre-

Gano Parishad and many other

tary of Chittagong Hill Tracts Coordination and Peace Council. Shabinay Chakma in a statement demanded formation of a judicial inquiry committee to probe the incident. Besides, Chittagong Hil

Tracts Hill People's Council, the Jamaat-e-Islami, in separate press releases, condemned the killings.

Moudud

From Page 1

duced some posters pested in his area intimidating BNP support-

"The Magura by-election was nothing in comparison to the September 5 by-election," he Moudud, who was defeated in

the by-election by the ruling

party candidate with a narrow

margin, said he had repeatedly appealed to the Election Commission for repolling in 12 centres of his constituency, but it didn't consider his allega-He told newsmen that the EC

had assured him of hearing over his allegation and the hearing schedule was fixed on Thursday, but the commission at last published the gazette notification on Wednesday to confirm the victory of Awami League candidate.

"The Election Commission is not neutral. It worked for the interest of the political government," he said

Moudud said he personally requested the Chief Election Commissioner to cancel voting in 12 centres. But he did not pay heed to his request and visited only three polling centres captured by Awami League activists

M A Jinnah, who contested the by-election from Chittagong-1 (Mirsarai) constituency, made similar allegations at the press conference and called for restoring people's right to franchise for the sake of protecting the democracy.

Special JS team

League (AL), opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jatiya Party (JP) was formed at the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Wednesday night. A meeting of the ruling party evening, advised the Prime Minister to form a "special parliamentary committee" to probe the incident and to send a ministerial team to the spot immediately, a presidium member

said. According to the terms of reference of the seven-member special body, it would conduct a "spot-enquiry" soon.

"With a view to finding reasons behind the incident, the probe body will have discussions with the local people, administrations and various law enforcing agencies of the area," AL presidium member and Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Suranjit Sengupta said.

Under the terms of reference. the probe committee would submit a report on what caused the tragic incident. "It will also put forward a set of recommendations to the Prime Minister on how to stop repeatation of any such incident in the areas,"

The probe-body will also place a report in the House during the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad, the terms of reference said.

Replying to a question as how could a body be called a presidium, held Wednesday "special parliamentary committee" when it was not formed in the House "on a motion" as required by the JS Rules of Procedure, the Premier's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser said, "What is more important is to respond to a crisis as quickly as possible. As regards the rules, the Treasury bench will get the committee and its terms of reference approved by the House with retrospective effect in the

next Sangsad session." When asked whether the ruling party had asked for the opposition for its representative in the probe body, Sengupta said that it was the discretion of the Leader of the House to propose the name of any member of Parliament for such a commit-

The members of the probe committee included Kalparanjan Chakma, Dipankar Talukder, Bir Bahadur and Mosharraf Hossain of AL. Zainul Abedin Farook of the BNP and Fazle Rabbi of the JP.





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Dhaka's debt burden within sustainable limit: IMF

has also access to a lot of grants

and highly concessional loans."

he said, adding that countries

having this criteria are not

considered to be heavily debt-

a country to deal with its bal-

ance of payment (BOP) problem,

finance for the continuation of

its enhanced structural adjust-

ment facility (ESAF) and de-

last ESAF programme in 1993.

and since then there was no

At its April 1996 meeting.

IMF programme in Bangladesh.

according to the annual report.

an IMF Interim Committee re-

iterated its support for continu-

ing ESAF as the centrepiece of

the IMF's ongoing strategy to

help the low-income countries.

including those that are most

The Committee and the

Board also endorsed analyses

by IMF and World Bank staff

heavily indebted.

Bangladesh had finished its

velop a framework of action.

The IMF extends supports to

Bangladesh needs no immediate support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as its debt burden remains within the sustainable limit, an IMF official of Dhaka mission said. report UNB.

Briefing newsmen on the Fund's annual report that was released worldwide yesterday. the official said it has under taken a debt reduction initia tive for 41 heavily debt-ridden low-income countries. Bangladesh is certainly not

among them Bangladesh is a low-income country, but it is not considered as one of the heavily debt-burdened countries," said the official, who cannot be identified under the briefing rule. He said the country has less

than 600 million US dollars loan from IMF as a result of earlier borrowings, but its debt burden is considered within the sustainable limit because of its export growth and low level of debt-servicing.

Maid stabbed to

death in city

By DMC Correspondent

to death in the house of a police

constable at South Bashabo un-

der Shabujbagh thana in the

injuries in her belly when

Jewel, 18, the son of the con-

stable, allegedly stabbed her at

about 2:30 pm. Shumi breathed

her last on the way to the

Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

NGOs involved

From Page 1

districts during July-August

this year. They will also oversee

have been included in the task

forces to make the government

programmes more participa-

tory and dynamic, says a press

release of the Agriculture Ex-

formed with a deputy secretary

of the Agriculture Ministry as

its head, three members from

different agriculture-related

government organisations and

a representative from the Asso-

ciation of Development Agen-

13 MPs-elect

Nur Mohammad Mondal of

From Page 1

Jatiya Party and independent

candidate Panchanan Biswas,

who were also elected in the by-

elections, could not take oath

and LGRD and Cooperatives

Minister Zillur Rahman, De-

puty Speaker Abdul Hamid,

Post and Telecommunication

Minister Mohammad Nasim,

Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdul-

lah, State Ministers, Whips and

a number of MPs were present

during the oath taking of

tion Prof AQM Badruddoza

Chowdhury, BNP secretary gen-

eral Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan

MP and central leader Oli

Ahmed MP were present during

the oath taking of BNP's par-

parliament members Advocate

Fazle Rabbi and Tajul Islam

Chowdhury were present when

the party's newly elected MPs

Farooq

From Page 1

was on remand for interroga

tion in two cases lodged against

killed in jail were Tajuddin

Ahmed, Mansur Ali, Kamruz-

ACC Trophy

Bangladesh defeated Nepal

by better run-rate, Fiji by six

wickets. Brunei by nine wickets,

Japan by 185 runs, and Hong

Kong by 108 runs en route to the

In the other semi-final

United Arab Emirates, one of

the three Associate Members of

ICC to qualify for the last World

The final will be held on

Cup, will meet Fiji tomorrow.

From Page 1

zaman and Syed Nazrul Islam.

The four national leaders

him with Cantonment thana.

Jatiya Party leaders and

Deputy Leader of the Opposi-

Awami League MPs.

liament members.

took oath.

semi-final

September 15.

Deputy Leader of the House

vesterday due to sickness.

cies in Bangladesh (ADAB).

Each of the task force was

Representatives of the NGOs

the rehabilitation process

tension Directorate.

Shumi, 14, sustained fatal

city yesterday

A teenaged maid was stabbed

"Fortunately, Bangladesh

that suggested that for most heavily indebted poor coun-

By Staff Correspondent An unidentified teenaged boy was killed when a train ran over him near Tejgaon railway station in the city yesterday morning

Railway police recovered the body of the deceased aged about 14 at about 11:30 am and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy. police said. Meanwhile, police recovered

the body of an unidentified

man, aged about 45, from near tal (DMCH), police said. the BG Press at Tejgaon Constable Azadur Rahman Wednesday evening. and other members of the family were in the house at the Parliamentary team time, police said adding the killer, a college student, fled leaves for Beijing away soon after the murder.

today to attend Azad, who was in another room, rushed to the spot after IPU conference hearing the screams of the poor girl and found her lying on the floor. She was immediately A nine-member parliamentaken to the DMCH where doctary delegation led by Deputy Speaker M Abdul Hamid leaves tors declared her dead, hospital Dhaka today for Beijing to atsources said tend the 96th conference of In-Shumi had been staying

ter Parliamentary Union (IPU). with the family for the last 12 reports UNB. years, a family member said. The seven-day conference The reason behind the killing could not be known beginning on September 16. would review the world's preimmediately. The body was sent vailing politico-economy sceto the DMCH morgue for aunario, said a press release in

> Dhaka yesterday. Other MPs include in the delegation are: Whip M Abdus Shahid, M Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, Prof Panna Kaiser, M Majibul Haq. Dr Kazi Abu Yusuf

and ABM Abul Kashem.

Students, villagers clash in Sylhet: 12 injured

SYLHET, Sept 12: About a dozen of students were wounded in a clash between students of Shahjalal University and villagers here today, reports UNB. Of them, three with bullet wounds were admitted to the

Hospital in critical condition. Campus sources said the clash erupted when villagers swooped on the university in protest of putting barricade on the Sylhet-Sunamganj road, about one and a half km off the campus, this morning.

Sylhet Osmani Medical Collage

The students put the barricade on the road, protesting an untoward incident between them and local people on Wednesday night. During the clash, the vil-

lagers went on rampage in the campus and fired gunshots. Police later dispersed the mob firing teargas shells. A teacher of Shahjalal University told UNB over telephone

that police remained silent when the villagers attacked the administrative building and the only dormitory for male students "We are feeling very much

urging the law enforcing agencies to ensure their security. Meanwhile, the university authorities also requested higher authorities to send paramilitary, BDR for the security of teachers and students and

save property of the university.

insecured and apprehending

further attack", the teacher said

cient to ensure debt sustainability in the medium term. However, for many of the heavily indebted poor countries the debt burden would remain above sustainable levels over the medium term, even with

tries, sound policies coupled

with new concessional financ-

ing and debt relief under exist-

ing mechanism would be suffi-

strong policies and full use of existing debt-relief mechanism Additional assistance would be needed for these countries to ensure that their adjustment and reform efforts would not be put at risk by continued high

debt and debt-service burdens.

said the report, released ahead

of the IMF annual meeting in Washington from October 1-3 The provision of financial support of IMF to member countries rose to a record high, during the financial year that ended on April 30, 1996. The world body's assistance totaled 26 billion US dollars last year up from 22 billion dollars a

2 killed in city Bill placed in Lok Sabha to reserve

year back.

33pc women's seats NEW DELHI, Sept 12: Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda today introduced a bill in par-

August 15.

liament and the state assemblies for women, reports Reuter. The bill, favoured by major political parties, would require an amendment to the constitution by a two-thirds majority in

parliament before becoming Deve Gowda committed himself to providing reserved seats for women in his Independence Day address to the nation on

liament to reserve 33 per cent of

seats in the lower house of par-

Farooq Abdullah escapes grenade attack

SRINAGAR (India), Sept 12: Kashmir's top politician, Faroog Abdullah, escaped a grenade attack today at an election rally in the northern state's Pulwama district, the po-

lice here said, reports AFP. The explosion left four policemen and two civilians injured.

Salman Shah From Page 1

buried, to take necessary steps for the second autopsy immediately. According to police sources,

the DB moved the petition as Salman's father Kamaruddin Ahmed Chowdhury did not accept the first autopsy report in which it was mentioned that the death was a case of suicide. The first autopsy was conducted at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Chowdhury Mohammad Shahriar alias Imon, better known as Salman Shah, died in his 10th-floor apartment at Eskaton Plaza under Ramna thana in the city on Septem-

Meanwhile, the DB team yesterday interrogated at least five persons including two maids -Rokeya, 30, and Dolly, 20 - who were reportedly in the flat at the time of the incident. Salman's wife Samira Shahriar was staying with her father in Dhanmondi area in the city, police sources said. The flat was sealed and was under police vigilance till last night.

Joint Secy

From Page 1

tariat Mohammad Ashraf Ali, Director (Finance) Bangladesh Parjaton Corporation Syed Asgar Ali, Deputy Secretary of Local Government Department Mohammad Hafij Uddin Sarker, Director of NPO Mohammad Fazlur Rab Mia, Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies of Cooperative Directorate Syed Golam Kibria. Director of Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust Sheikh Nurul Islam and Principal of Gachbaria Government

College AKM Shamsul Alam.

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