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Traffic jam has also gripped Barisal town. The photograph was taken from in front of the fish market at Sadar Road -Star photo

Dhaka supports plan for rapid deployment of UN forces

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has expressed Bangladesh's support for the formulated plan of rapid deployment headquarters which was to assist the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operation, reports

Participating in the ministerial meeting of the "friends of rapid reaction force" in New York on Thursday, he hoped that the rapid deployment headquarters would be represented by the widest spectrum of countries to give it an appear ance of international participation, according to a message received here yesterday.

The "friends" are a group of 24 countries brought together by the governments of Canada and the Netherlands to assist in the preparation of plan for rapid deployment of UN forces in areas of conflict around the

The Foreign Minister expressed concern at the current practice of loan officers from developed countries which has created disparity among functionaries of the development and the developing countries in the department of peace-keep-

ing operation. Abdus Samad Azad appealed that such imbalance should be rectified and equity in participation be brought about among developed and developing countries as soon as possible.

Earlier, the Foreign Minister had a meeting with US Under Secretary of State Peter Turnott.

During the meeting, Abdus Samad Azad referred to the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries and sought US cooperation in the form of economic assistance and enhanced market access for Bangladeshi products.

The foreign minister requested the US Under Secretary of State to increase the quota for ready-made garments from

Bangladesh. Abdus Samad Azad also at tended a luncheon hosted by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Morocco M Abdellatif Filali at the UN headquar-

During the function, the foreign minister exchanged views with his counterparts from various OIC countries.

Later, during a meeting with his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas, Samad Azad discussed bilateral, regional and international issues. The two ministers agreed

that cooperation under TCDC (technical cooperation among developing countries) between the two countries was an imperative. The Indonesian foreign min-

ister said that his government offered scholarships in the fields of remote sensing and population control which he felt Bangladesh could avail.

The two ministers concurred that Indonesia could be a conduit for Bangladesh for further consolidating its economic and trade relations with the

Abdus Samad Azad also at tended a reception hosted by German Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel The two foreign ministers exchanged views on major issues of mutual concern.

The foreign minister also attended a dinner hosted by ASEAN foreign ministers in honour of Ambassador Razali Ismail, the President of the 51st UN General Assembly.

Prior to his election as UNGA president, Ismail was Malaysia's permanent representative to the United Nations.

CHT: Recommendations

From Page 1

The recommendations also included creation of a congenial atmosphere for the return of the refugees and holding of all future discussions on CHT in the capital.

The seminar and open dialogue on "CHT: Peace Democracy and Self-Determination, organised by the National Committee for Protection of Fundamental Rights in CHT held at the German Cultural Centre in the city.

Speaking on human rights. Farida Akhtar of Sammilita Nari Samaj said that in the CHT 'policy-related violation of human rights was rampant." Citing an example she said, till now it is not possible to know

Trawler looted in Barguna

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Sept 26: A fishing trawler 'FB Mesal' was attacked by a gang of pirates in the Baleswar river under Pirojpur district last night.

Jalal Hossein, owner of the trawler alleged that the pirates swooped on the vessel when it was on the way to Bagerhat. All 12 fishermen on board the trawler were thrown in to the river by the pirates. They

ermen of another trawler. The pirates looted fish, fishing nets, engine parts and about Tk three lakh in cash, the owner of the vessel claimed.

were later rescued by the fish-

the exact population in the CHT. "Family planning and population control programmes are so widespread and one may easily conclude that the policy there is to reduce

population there," she said. Khaleda Khatun, a lawyer and an office bearer of Ain-o-Salis, an NGO, described her onthe-spot investigation in to the abduction of Kalpana Chakma. 'This (Kalpana Chakma) case is just one of many in the CHT.

The participants in the seminar also included human rights activists, journalists and writers from Sri Lanka and In-

Other speakers included Adilur Rahman Khan, Lutfur Rahman Shahjahan, Meghna Guha Thakurta, Kalpana Ranjan Chakma MP, Rokeya Kabir, Sisir Morol, Kabita Chakma, Dr Imtiaz Ahmed, Bir Bahadur MP and Editor of The

Daily Star Mahfuz Anam. Mahfuz Anam said that the failure to solve the CHT problem could be attributed to the fact that the country did not have continuity of democracy.

Arms recovered in Ctg: 2 held

CHITTAGONG, Sept 27: Chandgaon police in two separate drives recovered one revolver, one pistol and three cartridges from Kalurghat and Mohara and arrested two persons in this connection, police said, reports BSS.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Notice

Our regular weekly feature 'Down to Earth' could not be published today due to some unavoidable reasons. We regret the inconvenience to our readers.

Japan

From Page 1 stage for the first general election in almost three and a half

The dissolution, announced by Lower House Speaker Takako Doi, came only minutes after Parliament resumed sitting at noon after the annual summer holiday break and followed an edict signed by Emperor Akihito in the morning.

AP adds: Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto dissolved Parliament Friday, opening the way for elections he hopes will bolster his conservative party's hand and return him to Japan's

Depression weakens

Depression over north Bay moved northwestwards and weakened into a well-marked low over northwest Bay at 3 pm yesterday, reports UNB. It is likely to move in a

northwesterly direction and weaken gradually, a Met Office special bulletin said. Under its influence, the

coastal districts of Cox's Bazar Chittagong , Noakhali, Luxmipur, Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali, Borguna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Khulna and Satkhira and their offshore island and chars may experience moderately heavy or heavy falls with temporary gusty or squally wind at a speed of 40-50 kilometres per hour.

AL activities

From Page 1

tariat of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) had a meeting on Thursday with acting General Secretary of the party, Abdul Jalil in the chair.

The ALCWC is scheduled to meet again on October 4 with party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair and an extended meeting of it is billed for October 11.

The meetings are 'very important' since these will work out plans for holding the council session successfully, said a

party leader. The national council session which was earlier scheduled to be held this month, was deferred by three months and will now be held in the first week of December. Council session of the party's district and thana units are scheduled to be com-

pleted by November 15. Abdul Jalil told The Daily Star that party central leaders would start visiting different areas in the next couple of weeks to see latest organisational position of the party's

grassroots level units. He, however, said the leaders are likely to start their visits after the scheduled meetings of

the party units are completed. Party insiders said that the leaders would make sure that nothing went wrong centring the holding of district and thana level council sessions and would try to resolve intraparty feuds, if there any, at grassroots levels.

Meanwhile, the party's 'cleansing drive' in the form of taking action against 'dissi-dents and discipline breakers' would continue and might be intensified ahead of the council session, a senior party leader

Since the June 12 general elections, AL expelled four leaders including a central committee member and suspended three others for non-compli-

ance with party decisions. The party leader told this correspondent that the cases of some other alleged 'discipline breakers' were now being examined and if found 'guilty' punitive actions would be taken against them in a similar fash-

ion.

Opinion poll

70.5pc want restoration of upazila system

Majority people favour restoration of the defunct upazila system to make administration more accessible and ensure its accountability, according to a sample survey carried out by a Dhaka University pro-

fessor, reports UNB. The survey revealed that 70.44 per cent of the respondents also believed that the upazila system should be reintroduced immediately to ensure popular participation and con-stitutional commitment, bringing government closer to the

Titled "Abolition of Upazila System — What People Think About It," the survey was conducted by Dr Salahuddin Aminuzzaman, professor of the Public Administration Department of the University.

A cross section of people from 23 upazilas (thanas) of the four big (former) administrative divisions - Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi were questioned in carrying out the sample study.

Talking about the survey. Prof Salahuddin said he became interested as the abolition upazila generated considerable debate in the country

There were lots of arguments both in favour and against the upazila model of decentralisation and local government system, he said adding that he became interested as he found people believed that the system was "very good for rural devel-

Reintroduction of the upazila system was Awami League's pre-election pledge which, Prof Salahuddin said, also made him interested to go for the study.

Referring to the survey, he said 71 per cent respondents believed that the upazila system had been very successful in developing different basic infrastructures for local level devel-

But the then ruling party BNP dismantled the system for "political reasons," about 66.54 per cent respondents said.

However, the survey showed that the MPs in general played a significant role in the process of the abolition of upazila. Respondents noted that MPs from the BNP as well as Jatiya Party and Awami League, all under a "tacit understanding,"

helped the then ruling party in abolishing the system.

Power struggle between the members of bureaucracy and the local political elite also accelerated the process of abolition of the upazila, the study

bureaucracy played a critical role in convincing the government that upazila was not institutionally effective to carry out the development activities of the national government. Bureaucracy portrayed a

It further reveled that the

very "passive and negative image" of the upazila system and its political leadership to the ruling party

Only 20 per cent of the respondents believed that "cor ruption" was the major factor that caused the abolition of the upazila system.

According to some 64.56 per cent respondents, the upazila system for the time "brought bureaucracy under local control and attempted to ensure local accountability.

About 60 per cent respondents said that through the introduction of the upazila system, health delivery improved significantly

Some 49.43 per cent and 39.78 per cent of the respondents respectively noted that the system "brought national government closer to common people" and "democratized the development process at the grassroots level."

Taliban capture Kabul

From Page 1

sider the present status of Kabul to be an occupation. Pakistan today appeared to

signal a recognition of the new Taliban militia government hours after the militia's capture of Kabul, and called for restraint and peace talks there. "In keeping with its policy,

the government of Pakistan will send immediately a delegation to establish contact with 'the new government' in Kabul and maintain its contact with the Taliban Shura (council) in the southern town of Kandahar," a Foreign Ministry statement said

AP adds: The United Nations special mission to Afghanistan expressed dismay today at the abduction and execution of Naiibullah and his brother in

The abduction 'without any legitimate judicial procedure ... constitutes a grave violation of immunity the UN premises enjoys under international law." said Norbert Holl, the head of the mission, which is based in Pakistan.

It would further jeopardize efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan, he said in a

statement. Police stepped up security in Delhi today for relatives of Najibullah, according to AFP.

Officials and witnesses said armed commandos took position around the house where Najibullah's widow and two daughters have been living for the past five years. Afghanistan's ambassador

to India today denied that government forces had been defeated despite the fall of Kabul.

Masood Khalili, who bitterly accused Pakistan of covertly backing the rebellion, said the government wanted to avoid a bloodbath among the capital's civilians before launching a counter-offensive.

Retreat is not defeat. Our withdrawal was strategic, because we wanted to avoid civilian casualties. The first priority of the government will be to recapture Kabul.

"The fall of Kabul does not mean the people will fall. But we will be very cautious about the civilian population.' A Russian Foreign Ministry

statement expressed 'alarm' and said the fall of Kabul only aggravates the crisis into which Afghanistan has been plunged through internal armed conflict' and would have a destabilising effect on the region.

Moscow called on the United Nations to act as a mediator to resolve the crisis Kabul was calm with people

moving normally on the street but decreased numbers. Traffic was normal, but less taxis were evident. There were no reports of

looting or anti-social behaviour by the Taliban. They maintained a remarkably low profile - very few were seen in the streets although convoys of religious militia jeeps with small white flags were seen passing through the city.

The Taliban were also said to have freed prisoners held in the various jails of the government departments.

3 Palestinians

From Page 1 tanyahu agreed to calm the atmosphere. Arafat said he also spoke by telephone with Israeli

President Ezer Weizman. At a news conference in Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said today he would consider an invitation from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Cairo.

"There was an invitation from President Mubarak. I did not rule it out. I am prepared to consider it. I don't think the meeting will be the stumbling block. It won't be a problem. There will be a meeting. I think the more important thing is to agree on those principles which will guide us, the principles of behaviour, not the arrangement for negotiations or their results," Netanyahu told the con-

A report from New York said: The United States criticised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu today and repeated a call on Israelis and Palestinians to stop fighting and begin talking.

DSE price index

Price Index crossed the 1600 mark for the second time. Since then the market continued to rise in the following days.

Market operators and share brokers said that the market boomed because buying pressure dominated the floor last week after heavy selling pressure during previous week.

A member of the DSE said the market returned to its earlier track with the release of a substantial amount of money. which had been stuck up with the application for primary shares of some new companies and a mutual fund of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB).

That money entered into the secondary market increasing buying pressure on the floor, he Besides, there was a short supply of shares at the market

Imtiaz Hossen, chairman of the Expressing concern over the dual trading of shares at the Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges he said, it has been making a adverse impact on the capital market.

which pushed the prices up, said

"Some unscrupulous people buy shares from one stock exchange and sell those at another for getting quick profit which made the capital market imperfect, the DSE chairman "I feel uncertain about the

market," Imtiaz said when

asked about the future of the He demanded stoppage of dual trading. Talking to The Daily Star an

official of the Security and Exchange Commission said that dual trading occur because prices of same shares differ in the country's two stock exchanges. According to capital market rules, there is no harm in buying shares from one stock ex-

change and selling these at another, said Alamgir Kabir, a member of the SEC. Although dual trading is not illegal, some times it may effect the stock market negatively, he said. Dual trading will not be stopped until share trading is computerized, Alamgir said. The SEC has been pressuring the stock exchanges for making

their trading computerized as

quickly as possible, he said.

Electronic Toaster



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PHILIPS

4 held for alleged kidnapping sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent

Four persons arrested in connection with the abduction of a businessman from Banani area in the city on Wednesday were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday, police sources

The four — Tokon Chowdhury, 26, Zahiduzzaman, 25, Awlad, 25, and Shafful Islam alias Monir. 28. - were arrested on Thursday and produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday.

Police prayed to the court for a seven-day remand for interrogating the arrested persons. But the court sent them to the Central Jail, police sources

3 killed as police open fire on mob in Maharashtra

BOMBAY. Sept 27: Three people were killed and three others injured when police fired on a crowd of Hindus who tried to torch a Mosque in a western Indian city after a reli gious spat during major Hindu festival, reports AFP.

Police said here today the shooting occurred late Thursday in the town of Pen, some 85 kilometres from Bombay, dur ing the last day of the 10-day Ganesha festival dedicated to the Hindu god of wealth and

Coast Guard DG to visit India

By Staff Correspondent The Director General o Bangladesh Coast Guard will visit Garden Ritch Ship Builders and Engineers in Cal cutta next month, said a BBC report quoting the state minister of Indian Defence Ministry last night.

The report quoted the state minister as saying that talks were underway to build small and medium size ships for Bangladesh and Philippines in

the ship yard. Final decision in this regard will be taken during the visit of the DG of Bangladesh Coast Guard, the report added.

Wrists severed

From Page 1 Khokon were sent to Pangu Hospital for treatment.

Police said Washim has long been involved in anti-social activities in Jurain area and eight different criminal cases including murder, terrorism and toll collection, were pending against him with Demra police. Khokon was also a wanted

criminal and was involved in various criminal activities. However, a resident of the locality told UNB that members of another terrorist group led by one Nabi launched the attack on Washim and Khokon over

rain area.

establishing supremacy in Ju-

Mugger killed From Page 1 under Sutrapur thana area and two of them getting down from

the autorickshaw tried to es-Police with the help of loca people caught the two — Afzal and Kamal - and found their bullet-hit accomplice Babu Dhali inside the autorickshaw.

Dhali was immediately

taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead, police said. Gold ornaments including chain, ear ring and two bangles

were recovered from the mug-

gers. Besides, three bombs and

two daggers were recovered, po-The body of Dhali was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Three cases were lodged with Motifheel thana in this connection.

Gold haul

From Page 1 night on Thursday till yesterday morning looking for suspects in the sensational gold

The DB has prepared a list of more than one dozen people. mainly businessman and politicians, suspecting their involvement in the smuggling. sources added. According to police, a special team has also been formed with

Syed Bazlul Karim as the leader to investigate the case. Some DB officials said the preliminary investigation of the gold smuggling case was almost complete. They have now began an operation to nab the

the DB deputy commissioner

suspected smugglers. Customs officials seized 11,750 tolas of gold worth about Tk 7.05 crore on September 21 at the Zia International Airport in the biggest-ever haul of the smuggled consignment in the country.

firm at Gulshan in the city.

The smuggled golds, weighing some 3.67 maunds, were found in packets of electronic goods despatched from Singaprivatisation. "We have great pore to an untraced business expectation from the present government."

16 more killed in Kashmir violence

SRINAGAR, India, Sept 27: At least 16 people died in Kashmir as the strife-torn Himalayan territory braced itself for the last phase of state elec-tions on Monday, police said today, reports AFP.

Muslim separatist militants killed three Indian army soldiers early today in the township of Sopore, 57 kilometres (4 miles) north of Srinagar. Police sources said a girl also died.

Troops returned fire and killed three rebels in the firefight in Sopore, a bastion of Muslim guerillas in Kashmir. Militants also shot dead a couple on Thursday night in a

Srinagar suburb, according to police reports. The killings were seen as re-

Pabna jail incident District admn looking into allegations

Star Report

The Pabna district administration is looking into the allegations made in a memorandum submitted by a group youths against the district jail administration and officials of some utility services, said the DC when contacted over telephone yesterday. A group of youths failing to

secure the release of a person from Pabna Jail, staged demonstrations in the town against the jailor and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner on Wednesday. They also staged demonstrations against some officials of the Public Health Engineering Department Power Development Board and the Mental Hospital and de-

Other sources in the district administration claimed that the group of youths enjoyed the blessings of political parties and were trying to dictate the district administration and threatening the fail officials to realise their demands. Prince, who was earlier re-

leased from jail, et the district

jailor on September 19,

demanded release of another

prisoner Rana and 'threatened'

manded remove the offi-

the jailor for non-compliance. the sources said. Consequently, the jailor lodged a General Diary (GD) with the Kotoali thana, On the next day, Prince along with his followers staged

demonstrations near the jail

demanding removal of the with the killing of the tea garden manager.

WB experts From Page 1 been fueled partly by the sale of energy to other countries. They could earn the money they

needed, he said. Banerjee said, "We must get out of the Bangladesh-India syndrome. Bangladesh should look after its own interest whether to sale natural gas resources to India or any other country because India is not the

only market, he said. Banerjee said if the vision is gas is ours and we will not sell it to anybody" would mean that the country would be basically depriving itself the possibility that may be deprived more out of gas than could at present. Dwelling on the power sector

Ljung said the country would

need 2.5 billion US dollars by

the end of the decade which

meant that it would have to invest 500 million US dollars yearly for the development of the sector. The World Bank expert who is also the South Asian chief of the bank's energy and project financing division said that he thought the fund could be arranged from private sector investors provided the new pro-

posed policy for private power generation is approved by the government and there is general agreement about how these power plants should be organ-Ljung while explaining his views about the buying of power

from India said quite sometime will be needed to make real arrangements in terms negotiating legally binding contracts between the two nations for import of energy. He also said the country would need to look for financ-

ing to build a transmission

line. So, he said, the power could be available not less than three years and by that time it should be able to have at least some private power generation plants installed. But for medium and long term, building up interconnectors between the two countries

makes sense, he said. Through the interconnectors one country could sale the electricity to the other at appropriate times and earn foreign exchange.

Talking about the expectation from the present government. Ljung said, he believed that the government was committed and determined to move ahead not only in energy sector but in all other sectors with taliation against civilians who defied a rebel boycott of the third phase of balloting on September 21.

In a similar overnight attack, rebels killed a family of three in the southern Kashmiri township of Kokarnag, the po-

More than 15,000 people have died here since Muslim separatist groups launched a guerilla campaign against Indian rule seven years ago. New Delhi has administered Kashmir since 1990 after dissolving

the state assembly.

Jyoti Basu

From Page 1 might take a little more time." We have told that there is no need for a five-year agreement Let us see if we can give them a little more water for two years. Basu is reported to have told the Union government, urging for a

joint effort by the Union gov-

ernment and the West Bengal

government to solve the watersharing issue with Bangladesh. Basu who was addressing a press conference in London yesterday, is scheduled to visit Bangladesh in November this year. He also expressed his intention to visit Bhutan to seek a long term solution to the water

"I am very sympathetic in this regard as I am aware of their difficulties," Basu commented regarding the situation in Bangladesh. He also said that a committee had been formed to assess Bangladesh's requirement of water. The chief secretary of West Bengal is also a member of the committee, he

Manager murdered From Page 1

and one labourer on the spot, police said. Police said that earlier in the day some labourers of Kejurichhara tea garden went to Tiparachhara to collect firewood by cutting shade trees of the garden. Labourers of the Tiparachhara resisted them and a clash took place. Two labourers of Kejurichhara tea garden - Nimai Chasha (22) and Subudh Paik (17) were killed on the spot. Police of Srimongal thana recovered the

manager and the labourer were sent to Moulvibazar sadar hospital for autopsy today. Two separate cases were lodged with Srimongal Thana in this connection. One person was arrested in this connection

bodies yesterday. Bodies of the

Shibir activist

From Page 1 those responsible for the inci-

maz-e-janaza was held at Agrani Square at Jhenidah after Zohr prayers. Leaders and supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami and Chhatra Shibir and others attended the janaza. Chhatra League today brought out processions at

Kushtia town and the surround-

Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal

ing areas of the University.

Meanwhile, Aminul's na-

leader Mohammad Ali and Mizanur Rahman in a statement to the press expressed deep sorrow at the untoward incident on the campus and death of a student and demanded reopening of the University. The Dhaka University

Teachers Association (DUTA)

today expressed deep concern over the violent clashes on Islamic University campus. In a statement in the capital DUTA President Prof A T M Zahurul Hag and General Secretary Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique demanded immediate arrest of the terrorists involved in the

incident. They also urged the authorities concerned to take steps for restoring congenial academic

atmosphere on the IU campus. The DUTA leaders called upon all concerned to remain alert against any conspiracy to create volatile situation at the country's universities, said a press release.

Babri Mosque

The state of Uttar Pradesh has always been one of the most politically active ones, it has 85 of the 545-members of the Lok Sabha and all but 3 of India's 10 prime ministers have come from that state. It is the home of the country's famous Nehru Gandhi dynasty.

The elections will also be an acid test for the post PV Narasimha Rao corruption ridden Congress Party. The 111year-old Congress that has governed India all but four years since the country got independence from the British in 1947. will face a tough situation in Uttar Pradesh, once the party's power centre. The elections are being held

in three phases to allow shifting of an estimated 250,000 security forces that will be de ployed to ensure free and fair poll in a state where crime chart is one of the highest in India.