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The World On Time



President Shahabaddin Ahmed being adorned with a Scout scarf after he took with as the Chief Scout of Bangladesh at Bangabhaban in the city vesterday

MOU with Japan signed to bolster economic ties

Entrepreneurs from Japan and Bangladesh vesterday agreed to remove the impediments and identify the areas of trade and investment to bolster bilateral economic cooperation, reports UNB.

"It's the beginning, I think the Japanese investors would come forward in a bigger way. said FBCCI President Yusuf Abdullah Harun, after signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to boost trade and in vestment.

He said the Japanese delegation that took part in the meet ing identified three impediments standing as the stumbling block towards their prospective investment and enhancing trade relations with the country.

These are absence of political stability, lack of necessary infrastructure and lack of quick decision from the government, Harun said. He hoped the last two problems would be solved as political stability had already been restored.

In the MOU initialled by Harun and Uwatoko, both the sides agreed on a five-point agenda after holding elaborate day-long discussion in three working sessions on "the hard realities of matters connected with investment and traded.

The points are: a) In order to increase Japanese investment in Bangladesh and trade between the two countries, the Joint Committee should establish an appropriate forum for exchange of information and pursuing implementation of

b) In order to bring the business community of both the countries closer to each other. more frequent exchange of visit between them should be ar

Indemnity Bill

From Page 1 Apart from this, the House is

decisions.

likely to witness a "general discussion" on industrial policy. JS Secretariat sources said. A call attention notice relat-

ing to the reported carrying of a fire arm by the PS to the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament would also be disposed of today. the sources added.

The House will resume today at 4.15 in the afternoon.

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Mahbubur

Gen Mahbub meets

Jiang Zemin

Rahman called on Chinese

President Jiang Zemin in Bei-

jing Friday, according to a mes-

sage received yesterday, reports

that the visit of Bangladesh's

Chief of Army Staff would fur-

ther enhance the good under

standing and cooperation be

cent visit of Bangladesh Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina and

thanked Bangladesh for her

support to China on various in-

the two countries was of utmost

importance, the Chinese Presi-

dent said adding that both the

countries confronted with seri-

ous population-problem and

suffered natural calamities fre

General Mahbub expressed

his deep sense of gratitude for

the generous support China had

rendered to Bangladesh. He also

conveyed good wishes of

Bangladesh Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina to the Chinese

Dr Kamal, 5 others

express concern

at granting of

bail to Ershad

By Staff Correspondent

and professional organisa-

tions, including Dr Kamal

Hossain and Advocate Sigma

Huda, in a statement yesterday

expressed concern at granting

of bail to former President H M

Ershad is allowed to evade trial

particularly in serious charges

of corruption and murder, it

will undermine credibility of

the system of justice in

Bangladesh and would be a vio-

lation of the constitution, they

The statement further said

"Upholding the rule of law and

strict enforcement of the law

against all who are charged

with crime and regardless of

their political standing is a

constitutional duty. Any action

which indicates that the com-

mitment of the government to

discharge this duty has been

weakened due to political or ex-

traneous considerations un-

dermines the rule of law and is

a negation of the constitutional

principle that are equal before

the law and no one is above the

law." Signatories to the statement

are Salma Sobhan of Ain-o-

Salish Kendra, Abul Haseeb

Khan of Odhikar, Adilur

Rahman Khan of Jatiyo Ainjibi

Parishad, Dr Kamal Hossain of

Bangladesh Legal Aid and

Services Trust, Farida Yasmin

of Madaripur Legal Aid

Association and Sigma Huda of

Bangladesh Society for the

Enforcement of Human Rights.

Ershad gets bail

From Page 1

Ershad's lawyers are ex-

On November 16, they are

Khandaker Mahbub Hossain

pected to pray for bail in one

more case today (Sunday), and

moving a bail petition in the

General Manzoor murder case.

and Yusuf Hossain Humayun,

counsels for Ershad, moved the

prayers for bail while Public

Prosecutor Altaf Hossain repre-

hopeful that their leader is

coming out of his sub-jail soon.

ened to withdrew support from

the Awami League government

unless he was enlarged on bail

freedom on bail, he is planning

to visit his home town Rangpur.

Later he would proceed to the

United Arab Emirate on way to

Saudi Arabia to perform Umra.

From there he will go to

London for medical check-up.

JP sources said they are

Earlier, Ershad had threat-

The source said after his

two others on Monday.

sented the state.

by November.

movement.

"We feel strongly that if

Leaders of six human rights

Mutual cooperation between

Jiang Zemin recalled the re-

tween the two countries.

ternational issues.

quently.

President

Ershad MP.

The Chinese President hoped

cover more areas of commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries. d) It was further arranged in the meeting that Japanese new investment will be examined more seriously by the Japanese side. In this context, the Bangladesh government would

c) The activities of the Joint

Committee would be enlarged to

power supply, communication problem etc. e) Study should be undertaken to identify which sunset industries can be profitably relocated from Japan to Bangladesh and after that the Japa-

nese side would take the next

try to remove the bottlenecks

already identified, such as

Both sides resolved that the agreed decisions would be seriously pursued henceforth and the ninth meeting of the Joint Committee would be held in Japan at a mutually convenient date next year.

Stalemate at JU continues

By JU Correspondent

Stalemate continued on the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus as the indefinite strike called by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) entered the fifth day yesterday.

No classes and examina tions were held while the uni versity transport services remained suspended.

The JCD had called the strike protesting "capture" of tour residential halls by activists of Chhatra League.

All the gates of the troubled dormitories have been kept closed and a number of armed men including outsiders were seen guarding the halls, campus sources said.

Both the JCD and the BCL brought out processions on the campus chanting slogans blaming each other for terrorist ac-

tivities on the campus. Meanwhile, the JU Teachers Association (JUTA) at an emergency meeting yesterday condemned the terrorist activities including locking the gates of academic buildings, capturing of halls and keeping teachers' buses under lock and key.

Savar Jubo Dal chief

The assailants fled the scene after hacking Moznu. He succumbed to his injuries on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital Hearing about the killing of

Moznu, several thousand agitated activists of the BNP went on a rowdy protest putting barricade on the Dhaka-Aricha highway and attacking scores of vehicles. At least 100 people, includ-

ing passengers and drivers. were reported injured and 150 vehicles damaged in the melee. The Bangladesh Nationalist

Party called a half-day hartal in the thana tomorrow to protest the killing.

Road communications of 36 districts of the country's southwestern part with capital Dhaka remained disrupted due to the barricade since 2 pm. Thousands of vehicles were stranded as traffic on the busy highway remained blocked.

The BNP leaders blamed the ruling Awami League for the killing of the Jubo Dal leader. The body of the deceased was

not sent for autopsy and no case was filed till filing of the report as the protest continued.

Killing condemned

General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has condemned the killing of Moznu.

In a statement today in Dhaka. Bhuiyan said such an incident in front of police station is beyond imagination in any civilised country. "We have no word to express our condemnation over the killing."

Bhuiyan said the ruling Awami League has resorted to the politics of revenge and killings although it had promised not to do so. "Awami League is realising its evil design to suppress its opponents through killing and repression," he added.

The BNP secretary general said killing of leaders and workers of the BNP and its front organisations across the country was increasing day by

He urged the government not to provide protection to the killers and arrest the culprits immediately. He also asked the members of the law enforcing agencies to arrest the killers as per the commitment given to the people and not to show alle-

giance to the ruling party. Mannan Bhuiyan expressed sympathy for the bereaved family members of late Moksed

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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

5 teams to go on study tour of foreign parliaments

By Mizan Ali

Twenty-five MPs and offi cials, split into five teams would visit UK. India. Singapore. Australia and Canada to study the working of parliaments, including the committee system and support services according to official sources.

The teams comprise six MPs who are in the Jativa Sangsad Task Force, 12 MPs who are members of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and seven of ficials of the Parliament Secre tariat. They would begin their study tour in the third week of this month, under the Preparatory Assistance Programme of the UNDP and some other donor agencies, the sources

Each of the five teams would visit two countries and on their return submit reports relating to reform measures for strengthening parliamentary system in the country, the sources noted.

"Substantive aspects of the

study tour of other parliaments would be video taped for the benefit of all other MPs here. said one source. Public opinion on the re form initiatives would be

sought through the media and workshops would be organised 204 bottles of phensydil seized

at Sylhet From Staff Correspondent SYLHET. Nov 9 Kotwali police recovered 204 bottles of Indian Phensydil and other

medicines worth about Tk two lakh from a pharmacy at the Hasan Market here this after Earlier on Wednesday night police recovered 250 bottles of phensydil and medicines worth

about Taka five lakh from a cloth store in the same market Both the shops are owned by one person, who is absconding Police said cases have been filed against him under the

Liquor and Narcotics Act and

the Special Powers Act

Islamic University reopens

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Nov 9: The Islamic University reopened today after 43 day's unscheduled

The two hostels for male students and the other for female students also reopened vesterday.

The Islamic University was closed sine die on September 26 following a clash between Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists in which one student was killed and at least 150 were injured.

Talking to The Daily Star. Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Enamul Haq said adequate law-enforcing personnel have been deployed to maintain law and order on the campus. Stern action will be taken against anybody found disturbing peace on the campus, he

Hasina said: "It may be because

of the failure of our previous

government in giving adequate

attention to projecting our

country suffers natural calanii-

ties, but said she believed that

natural calamities do not re-

strain direct investment by the

foreign entrepreneurs in the

is more imaginary and far from

reality," she said mentioning

that during her recent visit to

China and Hong Kong, she no

ticed that formation of the new

government brought changes in

the mindset of investors about

investment opportunities in

steps already taken she said the

Board of Investment, which is

being strengthened, had been

asked to take the role of facili-

tator for promotion of invest-

ment, especially foreign in-

to provide power, tele-links and

other infrastructural facilities

to the foreign investors while

issuance of visas to foreign in-

vestors has been made easier.

had given high priority to de-

velopment of infrastructure.

including gas fields, power and

ports, telecommunication net-

thorities concerned to frame

standard contracts for produc-

tion-sharing in field of power,

gas and oil to process the pri-

vate investment proposals ex-

measures, we are also working

for maintaining macroeco-

nomic stability, keeping infla-

tion rate low containing fiscal

deficit within reasonable lim-

its, maintaining adequate for-

eign exchange reserve and

restoring financial convert-

assistance in the nationbuild-

ing activities in Bangladesh,

the prime minister said the

bond of friendship between the

two nations is historic and "the

friendship has withstood the

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman to Japan ushered in a

She said the visit of

Referring to the Japanese

"Apart from these specific

"I have also directed the au-

work, roads and bridges.

peditiously," she said.

ibility of the taka."

test of time."

Hasina said the government

Instructions have been given

Listing the pro-investment

Bangladesh.

vestment.

"I think, the image problem

private sector in any country.

She acknowledged that the

country abroad rightly.

at divisional headquarters to seek people's views on those, he

or making the Jatiya Sangsad an efficient and responsive legislature, responsive and accountable forum for debate on matters of national concern and an effective forum for scrutiny of public sector policies and performance."

Prof Naima Chowdhury of Dhaka University was selected team leader for the Preparatory Assistance Programme on behalf of the UNDP, the source

Draft report on Rules of Procedure

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure was held at the Sangsad Bhaban last night with chairman of the committee Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury in the chair

The meeting discussed the draft report prepared by the committee for amending the Rules of Prodedure o Bangladesh Parliament Discussions were also held on the minutes of the last meeting of the committee held on October 31 last

Powell ready to join Clinton admin

ORLANDO (Florida), Nov 9 Nearly four years after bowing out of the first Clinton cabinet retired Army Gen Colin Powell said he would consider being a part of the president's second term if an offer came his way, reports AP.

No offers have been made Powell told The Orlando Sen tinel in a story published today But, he said: "You always have to listen to your president.

The former national security adviser and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has been mentioned as a possible successor to Secretary of State Warren Christopher or Secretary of Defence William Perry.

would not say whether Powell, a Republican, was being considered for a cabinet position.

Kashmiri leader killed

SRINAGAR. (India) Nov 9: A senior leader of an organisa tion of former Muslim separatists was abducted and murdered by rival guerillas in the northern Himalayan state of Kashmir, police said today, reports AFF

Nabi Azad, leader of the pro-Indian Muslim mujahideen group, was abducted by rival militants Friday night and his body was found in the town of Achabal, 67 kilometres from Srinagar today, the police said.

new era of friendship between

the two countries and "we will

always remember the friendly

cooperation extended by Japan

for rehabilitation and reorgan-

isation of the war-torn

amongst the country's bilateral

donors in official development

assistance, she said and men-

tioned that it had helped exten-

sively in the development of

physical infrastructure of the

to two significant projects — the

Meghna-Gumti bridge which

has set up a nonstop road link

between Dhaka and Chittagong

tain a higher level of economic

investment and technology

Hashimoto's

Prime Minister of Japan

message

Ryutaro Hashimoto has ex-

pressed his happiness over re-

markable increase of export

from Bangladesh and his coun-

try being the largest importer of

In a message sent here on the

Bangladeshi products in Asia,

occasion of the inauguration of

the 8th meeting of the Japan-

Bangladesh Joint Committee

vesterday, the Japanese Prime

Minister said the bilateral rela-

tions between the two countries

are becoming wider and deeper

through numerous visits of gov-

ernment leaders and economic

missions, trade, private in-

vestment and cultural ex-

Japanese Ambassador in

Bangladesh Yoshikazu Kaneko

at the inaugural session where

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

was the chief guest.

The message was read out by

Referring to the Japanese

In this context, she referred

Japan ranks the top

Bangladesh.

country.

struction.

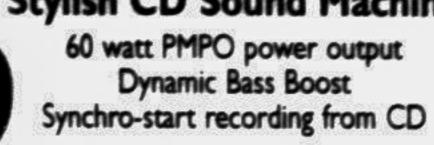
added.

growth.

reports BSS.

changes.

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Let's make

400 Zairian refugees die in boat capsize

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania. Nov 9: A boat packed with Zairian refugees fleeing to Tanzania capsized in Lake Tanganyika, killing an estimated 400 people, a newspaper reported today, says AP.

Kalulu, published in the lake port town of Kigoma, quoted refugees arriving there as saying the boat from Uvira, 150 kilometres (90 miles) northwest across the lake, was overloaded and went down in high winds yesterday.

The newspaper said another boat carrying an undetermined number of Zairian refugees lost its way, and its fate was un-

An estimated 12,000 Zairian since fighting between Zairian rebels and the army erupted three weeks ago.

Three eastern Zaire towns including Uvira, have fallen to Zairian rebels.

Date for depositing Hajj pilgrims' house rent extended

The government has ex tended the last date for deposit ing advance house rent by the an official handout said yester day, reports BSS.

on the request of the public to facilitate a large number of pilgrims to perform Hajj next

thousand should be deposited with the Sonali Bank, Rupali Bank, Pubali Bank, Agricultural Bank, Islami Bank Janata Bank and Agrani Bank. The government will dis-

bilities including arranging passport and visas, immigration and customs formalities and endorsing foreign currencies for those who will perform Hajj under government management.

Launch service in Barisal resumes From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 9: The launch service between the divisional city and other places throughout the country resumed today the owners of the motor vessels

refugees, including some soldiers, have arrived in Kigoma

Hajj pilgrims till November 16. The decision has been taken

The house rent of Taka 16

charge all necessary responsi-

The launch service in some 60 short and long distance routes was suspended by launch owners and workers on Thursday following the reported killing of one launch master on

Sherpur businessmen begin hartal

SHERPUR, Nov 9: An indefinite hartal called by Sherpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, began in the district fown today in protest of the deerioration of law and order. reports UNB The businessmen kept their

shutters down on the first day of the hartal also protesting attacks on them by students. Vehicles also remained off the road and educational institutions were closed

Angry pro-hartal pickets damaged two buses on the Sherpur-Jhenaigati road. No bus left 39 degree examinees

expelled in Kushtia, 11 in Chandpur From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA. Nov 9: Some thirty-nine degree examinees were expelled from six centres of Kushtia district on the first day of the examination today for adopting unfairmeans.

Eighteen of them were ex pelled from the Islamia College centre, one from the Govt University College centre. 3 from the Daulatpur College centre, 9 from the Bheramara College centre, 5 from the Mathurapur College centre and 3 from the Kumarkhali College centre.

Our Chandpur correspondent adds: Eleven students of Chandpur Govt University College were expelled on the first day of the degree examination being held under the National University One person was arrested allegedly for supplying answer scripts.

Murtaza's wife sues Karachi police chief KARACHI, Nov 9: The widow of Benazir Bhutto's slain bro-

ther filed murder charges today

against the Karachi police chief

and senior policemen in con-

nection with the shooting death

of her husband, the state-run

news agency said, reports AP.

the district town, for Dhaka. An unidentified group attacked the Sherpur College in the small hours today and set fire to the offices of college principal, vice-principal and the female students' common-

Earlier, an anarchic situa tion gripped the district town centring the college students' union election held on Wednesday. Chhatra League captured 17 posts, including VP, while the Chhatra Dal got four. in-

The rival student bodies were locked in a series of violent clashes on the polling day and also on Friday. During the Widespread violence, a number of shops were attacked and damaged.

The principal of Sherpur College, some police personnel and another 25 people were in-

Meanwhile, the district administration called an allparty meeting at the DC's office this evening. The meeting was continuing till filing of this report at 10 pm.

Besides, the district administration also sought help from para military, BDR to tackle

UNB court correspondent re-The Criminal Investigation

was rejected by the court. Lawvers of Jobaida also moved a petition seeking divi-

measures regarding her diviard, if necessary.

Noor Hossain Day today He prayed for the eternal

then opposition leader Sheikh

President message vesterday called upon the countrymen for realising the coveted desire of the people through consolidating and strengthening the hard earned democracy.

Noor Hossain, President Shahabuddin said the nation remembers with gratitude the supreme sacrifice of Noor Hossain for the restoration of democracy in the country.

Sylhet JCD

From Page 1

unit have also been suspended while the town and thana committees will continue to functioning party, sources said. The dissolution of the JCD's district committee was announced by the president of the central body, Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anee.

the sources added.

Council session From Page 1

Star'that council sessions of Banderban, Natore and Pabna are in the offing. Mannan hoped that with everything set for holding of

council meets of various district

units, the national council session could be arranged by late next month. "There is no scope for further rescheduling the national council session as the holy month of Ramadan is nearing. said Abdul Jalil, who is busy in helping organise sessions of

problems Both Mannan and Jalil said that six teams comprising AL central leaders were now making shuttle trips to districts for successful holding of district units sessions.

district and thana units with

It is gathered from party insiders that a proposal for inviting prominent political figures and delegates from major political parties in 15 countries to the national council sessions is now under active consideration of party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Over 5,000 party delegates are likely

to attend the session. Meanwhile, President of city AL and DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif told The Daily Star that the city unit's council meet would be held a few days ahead of the national council session and for this preparations were going on for council meets of 90 ward units and 19 union units by the end of this month.

From Page 1 her five-day police remand,

arrested from her Gulshan resi-A bail petition was moved on behalf of Jobaida Rashid which

sion for her in jail and also forming a medical board for her treatment. The court ordered district magistrate to take necessary

sion as per provision of jail code. It also asked the jail authorities to form medical bo-

peace of the departed soul of

tributes to the memories of the

martyrs of the democratic

movement in the country. She

termed the day a memorable

all martyrs and contributions

Paying tributes to Shaheed

All activities of the district

A workers' meeting of the district JCD began at the Shahid Soleman Hall in Sylhet town this morning. When the meeting was on, a group of JCD activists reportedly belonging to the Jaman group reached the venue. Then the clash started

Dhaka city unit of Awami

League will hold a discussion

Daewoo From Page 1

ning and dyeing and sweater knitting. The factory, which will be set up with fully Korean financing, would create employment

opportunities to about three to five thousand workers. The unit is expected to start work on sweater knitting in May 1997, yarn spinning in Au-

the same year the company of all possible cooperation from the government for setting up the industry as

well as other units.

From Page 1 Deve Gowda and other top lead-

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister will go through a busy schedule when he begins formal talks with Indian leaders on November 11 and continues through November 13.

The high-level delegation

includes. among others, Foreign Secretary Fareoq Sobhan.

Ali Moznu. Meanwhile, BNP Secretary

A source concerned said the Preparatory Assistance Programme is aimed at "preparing

discussed

reports BSS.

The White House on Friday

Wednesday. PM: Japanese investors

which played a catalytic role in

the development of Southeast

Asian countries, he said the Japanese entrepreneurs should divert their capital to countries like Bangladesh "We are not only capitaldeficit country, but we have also a vast number of unemployed people." Kibria said, adding that Bangladesh offers the best in-

centives and facilities for foreign direct investment. "This is the most liberal system that exists in the world today, there could not be more liberal system than what we can offer," he said, calling for joint-venture industrial units between the entrepreneurs of

and the Jamuna Multipurpose the two countries. bridge which is now under con-The minister noted with appreciation that the ODA level Japan has also provided from Japan remained steady considerable grant assistance and assured that the governin the areas of environment ment was moving in a "resolute and flood management, health way" to resolve all the bottleand medicare services and hunecks in utilising Japanese man resource development, she grants and aid.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed at the Addressing the function Finance Minister Shah A M S meeting urged the Japanese in-Kibria noted that a supportive vestors to set up an exclusive industrial park or small indusrelationship between the businessmen and the bureaucrats in trial town in Bangladesh. Japan could be a model for Listing various incentives to Bangladesh in its efforts to atthe foreign investors, he said

> served for the investors. Uwatoko Uzuhiko Chairman of the Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation, said Japan's investment had not yet achieved full potential although some factories had been set up here with Japanese capital.

The Japanese companies are

now regarding Bangladesh as

one of the good candidates for

two seats in the Dhaka-

Chittagong flights would be re-

investment destination. But the companies are concerned about the infrastructures, particularly power supply, and expansion of EPZs, he observed. He also informed that negotiations were underway between the two governments towards entering into a bilateral agreement concerning the promotion

and protection of investment

and "we hope the agreement will

be concluded soon. FBCCI president and leader of the Bangladesh delegation Yussuf Abdullah Harun, vicepresident Kazi M Shafiqul Islam and Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Yoshikazu Kaneko also addressed the meeting.

cluding the GS.

jured in the two-day violence.

the situation.

Rashid's wife

Department did not pray for any further remand. She was dence early on Sunday.

Shaheed Noor Hossain. Hasina Justice In a message on the occasion. Prime Minister Sheikh Shahabuddin Ahmed in his Hasina yesterday paid rich

one in the country's history of democratic movement. The supreme sacrifice by Noor Hossain had inspired the nation with a new spirit to struggle for democracy, she said. "We recall the sacrifices of

of all others in the struggle for democracy with gratitude," she Various socio-cultural and political organisations have chalked out programmes to observe the day. Shaheed Noor Hossain Sangsad's day-long programmes include, hoisting of black flag atop the Sangsad's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue and wearing black badge at 6 am. offering fateha and placing wreaths at Hossain's grave at Jurain in the city at 7 am, placing wreaths at

discussion at Awami League central office at 11 am. Prominent political figures. intellectuals and father of Shaheed Noor Hossain will take part in the discussion, says

a press release.

Noor Hossain Square at 8 am.

meeting at the AL central office at six pm. a party press release

On completion, the unit will have the facilities of yarn spin-

gust and yarn dyeing in October The state minister assured

Samad Azad

On arrival, the Foreign Minister was given a warm reception at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here.