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stairs, setting up of automatic

fire alarm with smoke detector,

bringing all workers and em-

ployees under group insurance

scheme, implementing Factory

Act properly, setting up of safe

capacity to maintain load, ar-

ranging regular firefighting

demonstration, keeping fire ex-

tinguishing equipment and

The minister also instructed

During the visit, the minis-

ters also talked to the workers

and enquired about their

salaries and other benefits.

IFIC Board

From Page 1

the notices for various alleged

irregularities and alleged acts

of fraud in rescheduling two ex-

port cash credits (ECC) of

Bagkhali Fisheries, a company

in which Beximco has an inter-

The chairman of the board

apprised the members about the

letters and it was also decided

that the MD would prepare a

reply to the notice and place it

before the board in another

meeting before expiry of the

deadline for replying to the no-

40 hurt

From Page 1

in the fifth floor factory at the

were immediately taken to

Tongi Hospital and seven of

them were later shifted to

Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

tal. All of them were released

after treatment, police and

of the boiler pipe could not be

spot. Police team was deployed

Women's college

From Page 1

Chhatra League (S-P) and BNP-

backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra

Dal erupted in the morning over

injured in the violence that

three from each side - were

admitted to Mymensingh

union AGS Lipi, magazine sec-

retary Poly and member Afsana

of BCL. Injured JCD activists

the town, the JCD activists set

ablaze a microbus and a jeep.

They also damaged several

the heart of the town, were

closed following the clashes.

Police were deployed in the

ing of fiscal policy as central el-

ement of the adjustment effort.

the IMF report emphasised the

need for the government to re-

sist pressure for higher public-

the government make timely

cut in low-priority domesti-

cally financed expenditure and

be ready to implement addi-

ratio of revenue to GDP, the

Fund suggested that the author-

ties should vigorously pursue

tax administration reform, a

broadening of the tax base and

tion in domestic credit growth

by limiting bank borrowing by

the government, the report em-

phasised the need for a more

independent and effective role

bility of interest rates, tighten-

ing the monetary targets to

bring about a desired reduction

the international reserve posi-

tion were also suggested.

bolder policies.

in inflation and strengthening

The report said the Board of

Directors of the Fund concluded

their consultation with Ban-

gladesh in August last year and

the directors welcomed the

opportunity that the new gov-

ernment now had to adopt

undertake a fundamental over-

haul of the role of government

and to reform the financial sec-

They urged the authorities to

Increasing further the flexi-

for the central bank.

As it was suggesting a reduc-

elimination of tax exemption.

In view of the country's low

It also recommended that

All shops at Ganginarpar

rickshaws and shops.

main streets.

sector wages.

tional measures.

After a series of clashes in

are Jhuma, Nita and Sheuli.

later spread to the town.

Medical College Hospital.

At least 10 girl students were

Of the injured, six girls -

They are college students

pro-Awami League

The reason behind the burst

Uttara police visited the

hospital sources said.

known immediately.

admission.

About 30 injured workers

est, into term loans.

the factory owners to take some

long and mid-term steps for

preventing accidents and reduc-

ing the extent of damage and ca-

first aid arrangements.

electrical waring with adequate

## Ministerial body visits some garments units

month.

committee for averting accidents in garments factories yesterday paid a surprise visit to some woven, knit and sweater factories in the city to see for themselves the preventive measures taken by the owners, re-

Led by committee Chairman Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, the team comprised Home Minister Mohammad Nasim and State Minister for Labour and

During the visit, the ministers expressed dissatisfaction over the inadequate emergency security measures and accident prevention activities in some lactories, said an official hand-

As the ministers directed them to immediately ensure security measures in their respective factories as per the gov-

#### suicide in city

By Staff Correspondent

The dead were identified as Fatema Nizami Chowdhury alias Sunny 22, and Sharifa Nizami Chowdhury alias Jeni. 20. daughters of Sarfuddin Ahmed.

Police recovered the bodies from inside a bathroom of the ground-floor flat at about noon yesterday.

The reason behind the alleged suicide could not be known immediately.

Quoting the FIR, filed by Jaglul Haider Biswas, a brother-in-law of the dead girls, police said Sunny and Jeni killed themselves by taking poison after the family mem-

10 am. They then broke the door of the room which was locked from inside. They found the two sisters dead inside an attached bathroom.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed with Tejgaon thana in this connection.

#### Three killed in road accident

COMILLA, Sept 10: A road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Nayakandi in

bus collided at about 3:45 pm.

The dead were identified as Jaker Party's Chittagong unit general secretary Selimullah Chowdhury, owner of Chittagong Shipping Corporation Manirul Alam Selim and one Selim Chowdhury of Nasirabad. Chittagong.

The injured was identified as Towhidul Islam. Police seized the vehicles, but the bus driver fled the scene.

State for Int'l Dev due Sept 15 ernment policy, the owners British Secretary of State for committed that they would take all security steps within one

International Development Clare Short, MP, will arrive in Dhaka on September 15 on a The steps include: Making five-day official visit, reports emergency exit and alternative UNB. This will be the first high-

British Secy of

level visit by a British Minister since the new Labour government assumed office on May 1. Short will meet senior min-

isters, senior officials and representatives of NGOs during her visit. She is a British Cabinet Minister responsible for the Department for International Development (DFID), formerly known as the Overseas Development Administration.

DFID's cooperation programme in Bangladesh is the UK's second largest programme, said a British High Commi-

#### One beaten to death in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Sept 10: One person was allegedly beaten to death at Godnail under Siddhirganj thana early today. police said

said that the victim lobal Hossain liffat demanded toll from a truck carrying garments near Godnail bridge on the Narayanganj-Demra highway at around 1:30 am.

The helpers of the truck took him away and beat him severely, police said. lqbal, son of one Firoz Mia was then thrown on the road near No 2 Dhakeswari, police quoting local people said. He was found

Siddhirganj thana.

## Sramik League factions clash in

KHULNA, Sept 10: Four persons, including a policeman were injured in a hour-long fierce gunbattle between the two rival groups of Sramik League over the leadership of CSD godown handling workers union at noon today.

Both the groups used firearms and handbombs during the clash.

Police fired blank shot and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse feuding groups.

#### rested with a country-made gun. Link road

From Page 1

The Land Reforms Board leased out the link road behind the Sonali Bank headquarters in Motifheel for one year for Tk 85,000, claiming that 18 kathas of land belonged to Nawab Sir Salimullah, of which, the Board was the custodian.

Immediately after the deal, the lease holders totally blocked the road and raised several shops on it. Signboards of Awami Juba League, Sramik League and that of the Land Reforms Board were seen on the

makeshift structures. The minister said he did not know anything about the to see the report published in

offices, clubs and other structures on government lands in the city, the state minister expressed his determination to cuss the matter with the Prime Minister soon and chalk out a course of action." He, however, said most such land in the city belonged to the Dhaka City

Corporation. When asked what his office was doing to confront widespread illegal encroachment on the river Buriganga, Mosharaf replied that his office would also take action in this regard.

### Board committee

The source also said that examinations of 250 examinees who appeared in the examination before expiry of their terms of expulsion and 206 students who changed their names and addresses in the registration cards are likely to be cancelled.

The board earlier decided to cancel the examinations of 6,686 examinees for three kinds of irregularities. But the court of Senior Assistant Judge ordered the Board yesterday to publish the results within 30 days of those retained examinees who changed their colleges to appear in the examination.

### **PG** Hospital

From Page 1

government decision to turn the BMU, into an autonomous institution.

nurses also demanded that the BMU authorities cancel the transfer order of five leaders of the nurses.

dent at the BMU yesterday. Popremises of the BMU.



Rafiya Khatoon, mother of martyred freedom fighter Zulfigar Ali Ahmed, and other members of her family standing in front of their house at Rajia Sultana Road of Mohammadpur in the city as an unidentified man 'evicted' them and threw away their belongings yesterday.

- Star photo

#### Samad Azad in London: Talks with Cook today

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad arrived in London yesterday on a four-day official visit to the UK, reports BSS. The foreign minister was accompanied by Begum Azad.

John Margetson, special representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, received the minister at the Heathrow Airport A H Mahmood, Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK. was also present.

The foreign minister is scheduled to hold talks with Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Robin Cook today. He will also meet Secretary of State for International Development Claire Short and Secretary of State for Home Affairs Jack

#### BCL CU unit to go on fast-unto-death from today

CHITTAGONG, Sept 10: Chittagong University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League will go on fast unto-death tomorrow demanding arrest of the killers of Aminul Islam Bakul, reports UNB.

Bakul, a BCL leader, was gunned down on the Chittagong University campus on August 3 during a fierce gunbattle between the activists of BCL and Islami Chhatra Shibir

The hunger strike will begin in the morning in front of the local press club.

# One killed, 35 hurt in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Sept 10: A fierce clash between the supporters of Tablig-e-Jamaat and a Sunni group at Astagram in the town today left a man dead and 35 others injured, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Amir Hossain, 50, of Humayunpur village in Bajitpur thana. Tablig-e-Jamaat claimed Amir as its activist.

Suntil group reportedly attacked the supporters of Tablige-Jamaat while erecting pandel at Astagram helipad ground this morning to hold its threeday assembly, beginning on September 18.

Meanwhile, the district administration has imposed Section 144 in the trouble-torn thana till September 20.

#### Mustafiz

1993.

married and has one daughter diately. and two sons.

# as Tablig Jamaat, Sunni group clash

The clash occurred when the

But the supporters of Sunni group at a meeting at Astagram high school on Tuesday protested the assembly of Tablig-e-Jamaat and announced their own programmes at the same time at same venue.

Deputy Commissioner and senior police officials visited the spot. Additional police were deployed in the thana to avert further trouble.

From Page 1

Earlier, he was an Additional Foreign Secretary from August 1987 to November Born in 1941, Mustafiz is

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# PHILIPS

#### Khaleda given 2 months time to respond to show

cause notice

By Special Correspondent Assistant District and Sessions Judge of Dhaka, Abdul Mannan yesterday granted two months' time to BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia to explain why she should not be restrained from celebrating her birthday on August 15.

A group of lawyers led by Advocate Sanaullah, on behalf of Begum Zia, appeared before the court and sought time to reply to the show cause notice issued on August 21 following a petition filed by Advocate Suhrawarddy.

He filed the petition on August 20 seeking a mandatory injunction to restrain the leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad from celebrating her Birthday on August 15, saying it had hurt his feelings and impeded his right to observe the National Mourning Day on the same day.

He also claimed according to documents available from the Dhaka Education Board, Begum Zia's birthday is September 5.

The petitioner's lawyers were, however, not present in the court vesterday.

The lawyers for the defendant raised slogans in the court premises denouncing the filing of the case.

#### Traffic constable arrested for snatching money By Staff Correspondent

A traffic constable was ar rested on charge of snatching money from a man at Katchukhet under Cantonment thans in the city yesterday. Police said Harun Ur Rashid.

a constable of Kotwali traffic zone, and two others attacked Abu Taher when he was passing through the area at about 11am. They reportedly snatched Tk 4,900 from Taher, a trader residing in Bhashantek. When Taher raised a hue and

cry, local people rushed to the scene and caught Harun, who was not in uniform. The mob also assaulted the constable while his two accomplices fled the scene by an auto-rickshaw.

Patrol police immediately rushed to the spot and arrested Harun. However, the money could not be recovered till last night.

#### Transport leader shot in city

By Staff Correspondent

A leader of the transport workers was shot by a group of unidentified gunmen at his Demra residence in the city yesterday. Identified as Selim, a leader

of the Dhaka-Demra Minibus Workers' Association, the victim was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds in his chest. Hospital sources said a gang

of about five armedmen stormed into Selim's house at Konapara at about 12:30 pm and opened fire on him.

The reason behind the attack could not be known imme-

# PM: BNP's revenge

From Page 1 Committee (BAC) meetings.

"In the BAC meet before the just-concluded sixth session, we agreed to discuss in the House all the issues they raised, even those which are delicate for us. But the Deputy Leader of the Opposition violating an agree-ment, rose on a point of order and walked out of the House in a

pre-planned way. Did they come to the BAC meet to stage the drama later?" Hasina said and added the Opposition leader has no right to speak outside parliament after refraining from attending the BAC meet. Replying to a question on Jatiya Party chief Ershad's re-

ported decision to withdraw his support to her government, the PM said in a lighter vein, "He (Ershad) may have been inspired and excited by the statements of his bhabi and being so he sometimes utters these. It will be looking nice if the debar and the bhabi take to the streets together. We need to witness such a combination."

Asked if her government would accept BNP's 15-point demand, Hasina replied, "Those are already accepted. I don't find any substance in those."

About a demand for withdrawal of the government circular renaming Zia International Airport, she said. "We didn't change its (airport's) name rather, they did it. We feel the original name should be re-

Asked to comment on President Shahabuddin Ahmed's recent remarks about the ruling party and the major opposition party, the AL chief said she would meet the President to know for herself what exactly he said. "It won't be wise to make any comment

before I discuss the issue with the President", she noted. When her attention was drawn to reports that a section of people in the administration. is allegedly sabotaging her government, the Prime Minister admitted this and advised the journalists to "expose" those persons. "We're also trying to overcome the crisis, caused by the vested groups existing in the administration for long.

Earlier, the Prime Minister described her six-day visit to Indonesia and the Philippines as "very fruitful". She also briefed the news-

men about her discussions with President Soeharto o Indonesia and President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines, with the businessmen in both the ASEAN countries and the accords signed during the visit.

Besides, bilateral economic cooperation, Hasina said, regional cooperation was also stressed.

#### Bangabandhu murder was disbanded in 1976' the PW-

From Page 1

diers pushing a red vehicle

through the Rd No 32," he added During the days proceedings Khan Saifur Rahman, lawyer of accused Farook and Abdur Razzak Khan, lawyer of accused Shahriar cross-examined the PW-12. The lawyers of accused Wahab Joarder, Muhiuddin and Taheruddin Thakur declined to cross-examine him.

It was noticed that Patrick Freeman second secretary of American Embassy and Feroze Ahmed, political specialist of the embassy were present in the court room for about two hours during the proceedings yester-

They are attending the pro-ceedings of the court today with permission from proper authorities," said Chief Special Public Prosecutor, Serajul Huq. When asked if the prosecution side was aware that they will be attending the proceedings he

said, 'yes'. The PW-12 also told the court that he was not forced by police to record his statement at the CID office or before the Magistrate.

When the lawyers said that his statement before the court and that recorded by police earlier differed, Huq said, that his statement in the court was cor-

To the question of a lawyer that the 'First Bengal Lancer

From Page 1

without the approval of Jatiya Party. Asked if he had consented to his joining the cabinet. Ershad said he was in jail at that time.

during his meeting with the Prime Minister to review the cases against him, the former president replied in the negative. "Why should I ask for that?"

tion, the JP Chairman rejected the idea of mid-term election, saying that the government should be allowed to complete its full five-year term.

"I'm not in favour of midterm election... Let the government have the opportunity to rule the country full term and people to judge," he said.

ernment was making many mistakes and taking wrong decisions against the interests of the people. He pointed out the recent raise in fuel and fertiliser prices as well as low prices of jute and paddy. He also criticised the gov-

ernment for the passage of the Gram Parishad (village council) Bill in Parliament despite protests from the JP lawmak-

In an oblique reference to BNP's threat of demanding midterm election, he said Begum Zia had run the country without the opposition in parliament for three years. "They claimed themselves as democratic and forcibly ruled the country for five years.

never supported this government. Our stand is clear: Support the good works and oppose the wrongdoings of the government.

Ershad scoffed at the idea of launching anti-government movement with Begum Zia. "Jatiya Party has its own politics and own philosophy for doing good for the country and the people... We will go our own way.

12 said 'I do not remember' To the suggestion of the lawyer that his dismissal from

the army and disbanding of the First Bengal Lancer were linked with the incident of August 15, he said, "it is not true" All the soldiers of the First Bengal Lancer excepting the appointment holders' of the

Unit participated in the operation on that day, he said. Appointment holders were those who held important positions and were posted on duty in the cantonment, the PW-12 explained. When the lawyer suggested

that during the night parade of August 14, 1975, no briefing was given other than that relating to the scheduled night parade the PW-12 said, "it is not true". When asked whether he in-

formed the superior officers about the briefing which was not related to the night parade, he said, 'such provision does not exist in the army'. 'The juniors cannot do anything on their own,' he added.

"I am not aware whether any punitive action was taken against those who participated and those who did not participate in the operation", he said.

"I did not see any jeep parked near trucks when I returned to the parade ground carrying ammunition from the kote on the night of August 14," he said.

#### Inderfuth

year end. Replying to a question,

declaration at this stage. In this context, he recalled US First Lady Hilary Clinton's visit to Bangladesh in 1995 and said she had an extremely en-

the airport by Director General (American desk) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ashrafuddowla and new US Ambassador to Bangladesh John C Holzman. During his stay here, Inderfurth will call on Prime

will also meet State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan

Minister Sheikh Hasina. He

## 15 hurt as BCL factions clash

From Our Correspondent

erupted between the activists of the two BCL factions at the Bilash square of the college led by two local Awami League leaders. The clash left 15 BCL activists and an Awami League leader injured.

trict leaders Quayum, 28, and Amar, 22, were sent to Barisal Medical College Hospital while Awami League leader Mostafa Sikder, 38, was admitted to Piropur Hospital.

# Showcause notice on IFIC Board

From Page 1 in a rather complicated rescheduling process, a whole chain of borrowing from one account to another took place with the last check bouncing. The mandatory 15 per cent, as required for such an adjustment, was then paid through means, unapproved and unacceptable in banking norms.

The entire process, along with other transactions, only created new loans to the tune of Tk 8.80 crore with the IFIC branch at the end of July this year, the sources quoted the central bank inquiry as concluding. The inquiry, it has been

learnt, detected that a Tk 9.93 crore classified loan in two export cash credit accounts, long overdue, to Baghkhali Fisheries, a Beximco company, had been rescheduled recently by IFIC after the defaulting firm agreed to pay the required 15 per cent of the outstanding money in cash.

And IFIC gave them ex-

tremely favourable terms. The

Baghkhali Fisheries would re-

pay the rest in eight years, from

October 1 1997 to October 2004, in equal, annual installments. The interest was fixed at nine per cent. According to the sources, the central bank said the rate of interest should have been 15 per cent, the usual for such a term loan. The Bank pointed out that it violated instructions issued

in 1991 which were still valid.

In addition, according to the inquiry findings, the IFIC violated a major clause of the Banking Company Act. The bank did not ask for Bangladesh Bank approval, which is mandatory when the loan amount exceeds 15 per cent of a bank's capital and reserves.

was 20.57 per cent of the total capital of the bank. As obtained from various

sources, the story of the alleged fraud and the frantic bid to find ways to arrange the 15 per cent payment was indeed compli-The sources said the IFIC Bank had rescheduled the

Baghkhali Fisheries' ECC loans

with its Motijheel branch, turning it into a term loan, without required approval. According to the rescheduling terms, IFIC's Dhanmondi branch gave a Tk 1.75 crore payorder on November 5, 1996 in favour of the defaulting ECC accounts of the Baghkhali Fisheries. The inquiry revealed that the payorder was in fact an withdrawal of that amount from a current account of

Ltd (BICL) with the same branch. The same day, a similar amount was allegedly transferred from an STD account of BICL with the same branch to its current account. At the time of the transfer, the balance was only Tk 27.01 lakh in the cur-

rent account.

Beximco Investment Company

The same day, again, Tk 1.75 crore was allegedly credited to the STD account -- then with a balance of only Tk 7.98 lakh -through an Inland Bill Purchase (IBP) against a cheque drawn on the Cox's Bazaar branch of Arab Bangladesh Bank, of which the Rahman brothers are also shareholders. The IBP is a kind of loan

which is given against a cheque purchase which cannot be encashed immediately. The cheque in this case is the collateral, and the bank concerned acts on the basis of its relationship with the client entirely

based on mutual trust. "If the

cheque bounces, it is a breach

trust. And it's a criminal offence," a banker said, explaining IBP. The Cox's Bazaar cheque in

favour BICL came from an account of Mallik Exports Ltd. The cheque bore the same date. November 5, 1996. The same day, IFIC's Dhanmondi branch sent the cheque for collection to the AB Bank branch. It bounced; there

was not enough money in the

Mallik Exports account. That

was November 11. Later again, Tk 1.75 crore was credited to STD account of BICL on November 11 to adjust the unadjusted IBP. To do this, two more cheques worth Tk 25 lakh and Tk 3.8 crore from other sources were purchased through IBP provisions.

to make up for the bounced Mallik Exports cheque. None of these, according to the allegations, was ever sent to the IFIC Board for approval, in clear violation of the Bank Company Act 1991. The Bangladesh Bank was not also

informed as required by the

The inquiry also found that

This money was transferred

there were more such instances of purchasing cheques and transferring money from the IFIC Dhanmondi branch to help the Beximco Group. Allegations have it that the inquiry has also indicted officials at different levels includ-

ing the managing director were

involved in the whole process. The Daily Star also tried, in vain. Tuesday to contact Salman F Rahman. His secretary said he would get back to Star by Wednesday if the Beximco Group deputy chairman would be willing to talk. Till the writing of this report, he did not respond.

### Ershad

Asked if he had requested

Responding to another ques-

make more mistakes for the Ershad said the present gov-

Asked about possibility of his party withdrawing support from the government, the JP chief, however, said, "We have

Jatiya Party, he said, has always been in the opposition and wants to play a constructive role as responsible opposi-

#### From Page 1 Washington in connection with the World Micro Credit Summit

last year, the US official said relation between the two countries is excellent. He mentioned the planned high-level visits from his country to the region by the

Inderfurth said President Clinton would visit the region in 1998. Asked about the US President's visit to Bangladesh he said, "we have had no final

joyable visit. Inderfurth was received at

Chowdhury. The US Assistant Secretary of State is expected to call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia.

# in Pirojpur

BARISAL, Sept 10: At least 15 activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured, two of them seriously, in a factional clash on the Pirojpur college campus atabout 11 in the morning. Witnesses said, the clash

Seriously injured BCL dis-

PLEASE CONTACT

# Members of the ministerial

ports UNB. Rafigul Islam, Post and Telecommunications Minister

Manpower MA Mannan.

2 sisters commit

Two sisters allegedly committed suicide together in a house at Indira Road in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

bers went to bed at about 2 am. The family members got suspicious when the two were not getting out of their room till

Burichang thana today left three people killed and one injured, reports UNB. Police said the accident occurred when a private car and a

IMF suggests reduction From Page 1 should be accelerated. He strongly recommended maintenance of the macro-economic stability and suggested that the country's trade regime

be opened further. "Frankly,

there is no progress in trade lib-

eralisation," he told the news-

While briefing on the IMF

annual report. Bove replied to quires that the negotiations for an ESAF (enhanced structural adjustment facility) loan for the country were yet to conclude. He said officials of the government and the Fund were discussing a package proposal

submitted by a mission from

the IMF that visited the country recently to assess its financial requirements. According to the finance minister, the government sought some 600 million US dollars under the ESAF scheme. But as per quota, Bangladesh can get maximum 435 million US dollars from the Fund.

The IMF report, released ahead of the Fund's annual board meeting this month, encouraged the authorities, in conjunction with tightening the financial policies, to adopt a more market-based exchange rate regime. This would help prevent a further decline in reserves and

help conduct monetary policy

while avoiding recourse to ad-

ministrative controls on im-

While noting the strengthen-

ports, it said.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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ssion press release today.

Police quoting local people

A murder case was filed with

Khulna: 4 hurt Staff Correspondent

One Lalchand, 30, was ar

Board's move and was surprised The Daily Star on September 7. About mushrooming party take action and said, "I will dis-

From Page 1

Yesterday, the striking

There was no untoward incilice was deployed at the

In this case, the loan account