

PM pays tribute to Teresa

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday paid tributes to Mother Teresa placing wreaths at the foot of the white casket where the body of the Mother was rested at the Netaji Indoor Stadium at Calcutta, report agencies.

Hasina attended funeral of the Nobel laureate Christian Nun along with a good number of world dignitaries. She flew to Calcutta by a Biman flight in the morning and went straight to the Netaji Stadium.

Later, Hasina made a courtesy call on Indian President K.R. Narayanan and his wife at the Rajbhawan.

The Prime Minister also called on her Indian counterpart I.K. Gujral at the Rajbhawan.

Expressing her deep condolences at the death of Mother Teresa on behalf of her government.

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Hasina for greater unity among regional countries

CALCUTTA, Sept 13: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said that the countries in the region should forge a greater unity among themselves and put in their efforts to ameliorate the conditions of their people, reports BSS.

Talking to a group of journalists at her Taj Bengal Hotel suite here this evening, the Bangladesh Prime Minister said, "We must put in our all-out efforts for the welfare of our people."

Sheikh Hasina, who is here to attend the funeral of Nobel laureate Mother Teresa, called for greater cooperation among the regional countries to change the lot of their people. "Why should we not employ our entire energies for the welfare of our people," she asked.

Asked about the relations between Bangladesh and India, she said even our religion Islam taught us to maintain good relations with the neighbours, she said. "We must try to work in close collaboration and in friendly atmosphere for the welfare of our people."

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Nat'l Edn Week begins today

By Staff Correspondent
The National Education Week '97 begins today.

The theme of this year's Education Week is "Development of science and technical education."

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.

President in his message emphasised on massive development of science and technical education for facing challenges of next millennium.

"The world is confronting new challenges on the threshold of 21st century and we have to face the challenges," the President said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message urged all concerned to contribute their mite towards implementation of various government pro-

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Millions bid farewell to Teresa

Mother Teresa, you are immortal'

CALCUTTA, Sept 13: In a city of 12 million, so many seemed to know Mother Teresa personally, reports AP.

Lining her funeral route today, mourners said they not only knew of Mother Teresa but had met her, been inspired by her, seen someone cured by her touch.

"Mother Teresa blessed my elder brother when he had fractured his leg is a motor accident. That's what made him well," said David Simon, a Hindu hospital employee, who stood for two hours before Mother Teresa's body was brought out of St Thomas' Church for the funeral procession.

The five-kilometer route from the church to the indoor stadium where the funeral was held was less crowded than expected. At major intersections, however, scores of people tried to break through the bamboo barriers to catch a last glimpse of the woman who made her home among Calcutta's poorest.

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CALCUTTA, Sept 13: Almost a million mourners including world leaders bade farewell to Mother Teresa on her final journey through the rain-drenched streets of Calcutta today as India held a state funeral for the "Saint of the Gutters," report agencies.

Millions more across the world watched the funeral on televisions and paid tribute to her dedicated work with the poor and dying.

Gurkha soldiers fired three volleys to mark her burial at the end of a six-hour funeral that included a Vatican-led mass in an indoor stadium, homages from world dignitaries, and the simple tributes of ordinary people the nun had served.

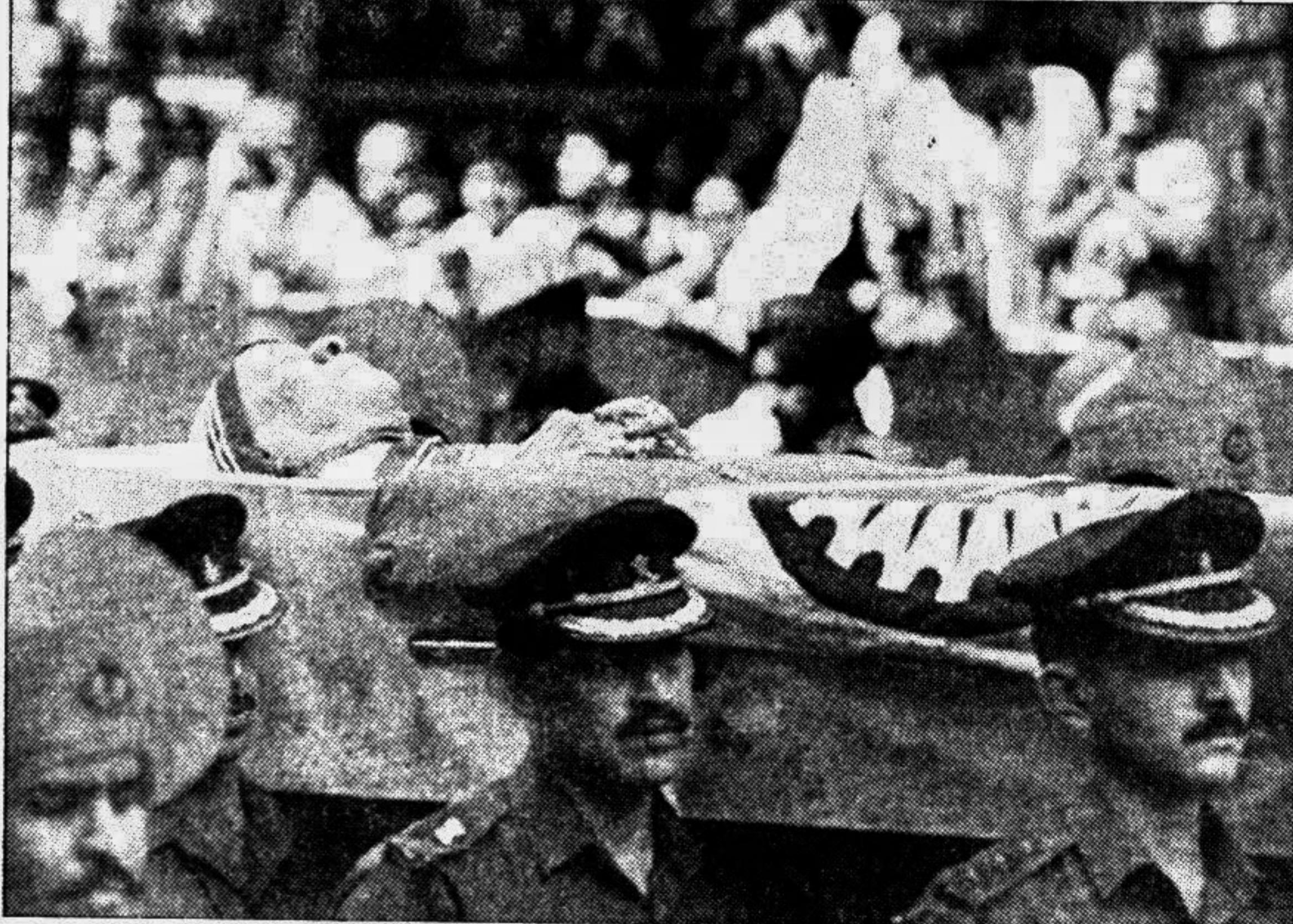
Four buglers sounded the last post to end the state honours for the 'saint' who died of a heart attack on September 5 at the age of 87. In keeping with the wishes of her Missionaries of Charity order, the soldiers remained outside Mother House, the order's headquarters, as the private burial took place.

Earlier the wail of bagpipes and thump of muffled drums today accompanied Teresa's simple white coffin, draped with the Indian flag, through the streets of Calcutta, the nun's adopted home and resting place.

Thousands of children, Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Christians and Sikhs lined the funeral cortege route. They threw flowers and held up photographs, cut-out newspaper pictures and bouquets.

Monsoon rains which had held off for the first part of the funeral drenched the crowds waiting outside the indoor stadium, but failed to drive them off the streets for the last rain-soaked voyage to the Mother House.

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Mother Teresa's body being carried by an Honour Guard to the gun carriage at the start of the procession for state funeral at Netaji Indoor Stadium in Calcutta yesterday.

— AFP/UNB photo

Sixth round of CHT talks begins today

By Special Correspondent

The sixth round of talks between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) and the Parbartya Chittagong Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) will begin at a state guest house today in a fresh bid for a permanent settlement of the CHT problem.

A military helicopter carrying the PCJSS delegation, led by its Chairman Jyoti Prakash Bodhupriya Larma, will land at BAF base Bashir from Dukukchhara in the early afternoon. The PCJSS delegation arrived at Dukukchhara yesterday.

The meeting has been rescheduled from September 7 because Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was on a visit to the Philippines and Indonesia last week.

A two-member delegation of the Refugee Welfare Association, led by Upendra Lal Chakma, had an unscheduled meeting with the Prime Minister at her office on Friday.

Details of the meeting were not available. But sources said

that they are hopeful about a breakthrough in the tomorrow's talks which they described as crucial for peace in the CHT.

The tribal refugees staying in camps in Tripura, India, since 1986, declined to return despite two visits by members of the NCCHT, the last one taking place recently. The leaders of the refugees imposed several new conditions for returning home. These included increased ration for the returnees for one year, providing the same amount of ration even to those who had returned in 1994 and early this year, resettlement of the returnees under the aegis of the UNHCR and the ICRC, remittance in jobs, raising the age limit for government jobs to 40 years.

The return of the refugees depends on the outcome of the current series of negotiations between the NCCHT led by Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad and the PCJSS.

But the PCJSS reportedly agreed on a maximum level of autonomy for the 'regional council', short of constitutional guarantees, which it explained, was not possible.

But the PCJSS leadership is

under pressure from militants

in its student and other front

organisations. Recently renegades of PCJSS formed a rival

group and increased pressure

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Earlier the meeting between the two sides ended in Dhaka on July 19 after five days of talks, during which both sides exchanged drafts of a proposed agreement to resolve the problems in the CHT.

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which now has a total of 178

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Support to AL govt withdrawn: Ershad

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday announced the withdrawal of his party's support to the Awami League government, reports UNB.

"I withdraw the support of Jatiya Party to the Awami League government," Ershad said addressing a number of public meetings in northern Bogra district, said a party press release.

The former President yesterday addressed several meetings and roadside gatherings in Sariakandi, Gabtoli and Sotiaola Thanas of the district.

The Jatiya Party, having 30 MPs elected in last election, extended support to the AL in forming government. In exchange, it shared 3 women seats and a cabinet post.

JP Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju is the Communications Minister of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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Many killers are there in JS: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia has said 'many killers' are sitting in parliament, but she did not name any of them.

She was responding to queries during her 'meet the press' programme at a city hotel yesterday evening.

To a question on her reported meeting with the killers of Bangabandhu during her recent visit to Pakistan, the BNP chief said, "One doesn't need to go somewhere to meet someone. We're sitting with so many killers you're speaking about in parliament."

However, the BNP chief avoided a direct reply to a supplementary question if she meant the killers of Bangabandhu are sitting in the House. "Many killers are there."

Begum Zia also termed the press report on her meeting with Bangabandhu's killers in Pakistan as 'untrue', 'totally false', 'misleading' and 'motivated'.

"There is nothing to hide about my Pakistan visit and you came to know (through the media) all about my trip there," she said.

The Opposition leader sharply denied the Prime Minister's recent accusation



that BNP was taking revenge on the people for their verdict in the last general elections by obstructing the government's development efforts.

"BNP never acted against the process of national development. It's the party which restored democracy and ensured development in the country."

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3 young men found dead in Feni in 24 hrs

FENI, Sept 13: Three young men were found dead here within a span of twenty-four hours in Sadar and Chhagolai thanas, reports UNB.

Police recovered the body of an unidentified young man from Muhriganj under Chhagolai thana early today.

Earlier on Friday morning, Belal Ahmed, 26, was left dead at the Sadar hospital outdoor by some assailants. Hospital sources said the victim was poisoned to death.

The same day, police recovered the body of Imam Uddin, 18, from the staff quarter of Eastern Rice Mills, located in the local industrial area.

Motives behind the incidents could not be known. Separate cases were filed.

BCL leader shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

A BCL leader was killed in the city yesterday.

Muklesur Rahman alias Babu, 30, president of Cantonment thana unit of Chhagolai League was gunned down by an unidentified gang near a slum at South Kafur at about 3 pm.

Police said Babu sustained fatal wounds in his head when the gang of about five armed men shot him following a previous enmity. He succumbed on the way to the DMCH at about 4:30 pm.

A resident of Ibrahimpur, Babu, who was accused in four criminal cases, was attacked following a conflict related to gaining control over the locality, police sources said.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. None was arrested in this regard till last night.

Over 100 shanties gutted in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 13: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) today evicted some 500 slum dwellers from the city's Agrabada area for setting up a children's park, report agencies.