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The Daily Star

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Alleviation of poverty on top of agenda, PM tells Short

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the poverty alleviation and development of rural infrastructure are on the priority agenda of her government, report agencies.

She was talking to British Secretary of State for International Development Ms Clare Short, when she called on her at Ganabhaban yesterday evening.

The government has laid priority on the spread of education and development of rural areas ensuring electricity and communications, Hasina told the UK minister.

Short appreciated government's development efforts. She also explained her experiences during her visit to some NGOs and slum areas in the city yesterday.

About the education programmes of the government, the Prime Minister said programmes had been taken for the

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Mostafiz takes over as Foreign Secretary

Mostafizur Rahman formally took over as the Foreign Secretary yesterday, reports UNB.

Mostafiz one of the country's top diplomats, replaced Farooq Sobhan who went on retirement completing a 33-year diplomatic career.

The officials and employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a function bade farewell to the outgoing Foreign Secretary and welcomed his successor.

Speaking as the chief guest, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad admired Farooq Sobhan for efficiently discharging his responsibilities as a diplomat with different capacities in serving the nation.

He also praised the new Foreign Secretary for possessing the genius of highest order of diplomacy and wished him a success.

Envoy to Germany recalled

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh ambassador to Germany Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury has been recalled, according to official sources.

The reason for his recall could not be known.

Narda Devi & her host sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent
The woman who claimed herself to be the daughter of a former president of Bangladesh, Narda Devi of Himachal, Province of India and her host Enamul Haque Chowdhury of Bashabo area in the city were sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

The two were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and sent to jail, Sabujbagh police said.

They were arrested on Monday. Narda Devi made contradictory statements at different stages of interrogation by police.

First she reportedly said she is the daughter of a former president. But later she said she is a friend of the former president.

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A relative attending a patient at the PG Hospital yesterday as the nurses continued their strike. — Star photo

Nurses defy ban, continue rallies, demonstration

By Staff Correspondent
Defying a ban order, striking nurses continued rallies and demonstrations in the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BMMU)—formerly PG Hospital—premises yesterday.

In a written statement issued Monday, the director of the hospital said rallies and demonstrations in the hospital premises are banned until further orders with effect from the same day.

"I have taken the decision to ensure peaceful environment in the hospital. Slogans create public nuisance in the hospital. There are patients in the hospital who are suffering from serious chest and cardiac ailments. We have to protect their interest first," said Md Tahir, director of BMMU.

When asked why did the authorities take such a long time to protect the interest of the pa-

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Tariff on 17 items raised, 19 cut

By Rafiq Hasan
The National Board of Revenue has readjusted the tariff values on certain items like powdered milk, degummed soybean oil, crude palm oil and sodium chloride in keeping with their prices in the international market, NBR sources said.

It is likely to affect their retail prices as enhanced duties have already been imposed from September 11.

A Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) by the NBR said tariff on 17 items has been raised and that on tin plates used by the canning industry waived.

Tariff on 19 items was reduced while new tariff was imposed on nine items. The highest increase of Tk 300 per tonne was on milk powder while the maximum decrease of Tk 1200 per tonne was on hydrochloric acid used for industrial and commercial purposes.

The tariff on milk powder was enhanced to Tk 2100 per tonne from Tk 1800 while that

The Daily Star on the internet <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

Permanent secretariat of Nat'l Road Security Council to be established

A permanent secretariat of the National Road Security Council will be established here with a view to implementing, monitoring and evaluating all road security programmes, reports BSS.

It was decided at a meeting of the National Road Security Council held at the Cabinet Division in the city yesterday with Communications Minister Anwar Hossain in the chair, an official handout said.

The handout said mid-level officials representing each of the organisations like police, Roads and Highways Division, Local Government Engineering Department and the Health Directorate with their present salary level would be appointed in the secretariat until ar-

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BNP protests attacks on leaders, workers

BNP secretary general Abdur Mannan Bhuiyan has protested the attacks on party leaders and workers in different parts of the country by the "terrorists" of ruling Awami League, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, Bhuiyan also demanded of the government to immediately withdraw the "false" cases filed against BNP men and release its leaders and activists.

He alleged that police on Monday night arrested Gulshan thana Sramik Dal leader S M Asif without any charge and he was assaulted by Awami League leaders in the office of Gulshan thana OC.

Earlier, police arrested general secretary of Titumir College students' union Anwar Hossain and Juba Dal leader Abu Taher on false charges, Bhuiyan further alleged.

He said the Awami terrorists under police protection attacked the residence of Kotwali

mad Mohan Mia, ransacked the house and assaulted the family members on Sunday.

The BNP leader also said the terrorists belonging to Chhatra League attacked a peaceful procession of JCD at Kuliarchar

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Goods train derails in Naogaon

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Sept 16: Train communication between the north-western and the south-western regions of the country remained suspended for about 21 hours as a bogey of a goods train derailed at a place between Atrai and Shahagola railway stations in Naogaon district last night.

Railway control room in Rajshahi informed that at least nine trains including three inter-city trains to and from Ishardi had remained stranded at different stations since the bogey of the Shantahar-bound goods train derailed at about 8:40 pm Monday.

A rescue train was sent to the spot and the bogey was derailed this evening, sources said.

CHT talks: No progress yet on land issue

By Special Correspondent
Negotiators from the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) were trying to break the impasse on the complex issue of land management in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) on the third day of their talks here yesterday.

Untying the Gordian knot of land management may lead to a treaty to end the decades-old CHT problem, according to meeting sources last night.

The NCCHT had already consulted relevant government departments on the legal and management aspects of the land issue.

It had taken opinions from the Law Ministry and the Land Ministry whether to retain the

British-introduced manuals for the CHT, dating back to 1900 or to amalgamate it with the existing provisions under the Hill District Councils Ordinance introduced in 1989.

The negotiators, led by NCCHT Convenor Abul Hasnat Abdullah and PCJSS Chairman Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, laboured virtually the whole day yesterday, barring lunch and tea breaks. Both had a closed door meeting without their aides in the evening. They argued and reportedly had heated discussions on Monday but they failed to resolve the issues till 9-30 pm yesterday when the talks were adjourned for this morning.

Meeting sources said that talks would continue to reach a consensus on the complex issue of land management in the CHT. The PCJSS wants it to be vested under the proposed Regional Council.

It has been further compounded by the PCJSS demands for removal of the Bangalee settlers from their farms and their resettlement in khas land which is scarce in the CHT.

The PCJSS in its five-point charter of demand placed earlier insists that the proposed Regional Council manage all the lands in the CHT. New ownership by "outsiders" would not be allowed. Transfers too would be prohibited. They also want authority over strategic and key installations like the Kaptai lake and its hydro-electric stations and the ground satellite

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\$40m ADB loan for pry healthcare

MANILA, Sept 16: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today approved a 40-million US dollar loan to boost primary health care in Bangladesh cities, reports AFP.

The loan will be used for health services to non-government organisations and the private sector in the cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi, the Manila-based ADB said in a statement.

2 BCL leaders arrested at IU

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 16: Police today arrested two local leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League, one from the campus and the other from nearby Sheikhpara bazaar.

Police said the BCL leaders, Ferdous Kamal Saki and Saber Hossain, were arrested in connection with cases filed against them earlier.

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Dhaka's support sought to restructure OIC

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said the OIC member-states must accord highest priority to the development of human resources to meet the challenges of the next millennium, reports UNB.

He said the rich and fortunate among the OIC member-countries should support the poor and less fortunate in their efforts to achieve a decent and dignified life.

The President was talking to OIC Secretary General Dr Azeddine Laraki who paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Ahmed stressed adequate allocation of fund for the Dhaka-based Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT) for its development.

He referred to the formidable challenges facing the Muslim world, specially against the concerted attack to undermine Islamic values, and said the OIC must organise the Muslim

states to remain ever vigilant and united for protecting the interest of the Islamic Ummah.

Dr Laraki recalled the support of Bangladesh in various efforts of OIC, saying that the Islamic Ummah, despite geographical distance, constitute a unified strength.

He sought the support of Bangladesh in the restructuring move of OIC for making it more meaningful and vibrant.

Dr. Laraki also called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

He said preparations are underway to hold the next summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran next December.

Talking to the management of IIT, the Prime Minister said despite limitations the government is putting its available resources to run the institute.

She informed the OIC secretary general that subscriptions

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Bangabandhu Murder Case

Tanks rolled out on Aug 15 under Farook's instructions: PW-14

By Staff Correspondent
Four tanks rolled out of Dhaka cantonment at around 4:00 am on August 15, 1975 under instructions from Maj Syed Farooq Rahman, acting commanding officer of the First Bengal Lancer Unit, said the 14th prosecution witness in Bangabandhu murder case.

Dafadar (ret'd) Abdul Jabbar Mridha, PW-14, in his deposition before the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, yesterday also said that he was a participant in the 'night exercise of August 14, 1975' and was among those Lancer soldiers who came to the Dhaka Radio Station in tanks.

Dafadar Mridha said, Maj Farook was the commanding officer of one of those four tanks, while Maj Ahmed Shariful Hossain, Capt Kismet

task. Then he ordered us to fall in by rank. Introducing those people in civilian clothes, he said they are army men and will work with us. Ordering us to carry out his instructions, Maj Farook also said any sort of disobedience or negligence to duty will not be tolerated.

"Of those introduced to us, I remember the names of Maj Dalim and Maj Shahriar," he said adding that he, however, did not remember the names of others.

"Maj Farook then ordered us to take preparation within half an hour to move out with tanks and also carry necessary arms and ammunition. I then rushed and collected a stengun for my self. There were no shells in the tank as we moved out," he said

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OIC Secretary General Dr Azeddine Laraki called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

DV-98: Bangladeshis top list of lottery winners

Washington has registered 6,075 Bangladeshi applicants under the diversity lottery, known as the DV-98 programme, reports UNB.

Some 100,000 applicants under the diversity lottery, conducted under Immigration and Nationality Act, State Department Deputy Spokesman James Foley said in a statement, according to a USIS press release.

Among the registered applicants, the highest number — 6,075 — were from Bangladesh, the press release said yesterday.

The spokesman said applicants registered for the DV-98 programme were selected at random from the approximately 4.7 million qualified entries received during the application period from February

3 to March 5, 1997.

An additional 1.3 million applications were disqualified for failing to properly follow directions.

The diversity lottery makes available 55,000 permanent resident visas annually to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

Almost 100,000 applicants who have been registered and notified may now make an application for an immigrant visa. Since it is likely that some of the first 55,000 persons registered will not pursue their cases to visa issuance, this larger figure should insure that all DV-98 numbers will be used.

The visas have been apportioned among six geographic regions with a maximum of

1 killed, 21 trapped as bldg collapses in Bombay

BOMBAY, Sept 16: One of an eight-story building collapsed Tuesday in an upscale area of Bombay, India's financial capital. Firefighters rescued 26 injured people from debris, but at least 21 more remained trapped, reports AP.

Police said one of the injured later died in a hospital. Bombay Police Commissioner Ronald Mendonca said witnesses saw the collapse begin from the building's top floor, and said most people had time to flee.

Fourteen injured people have been hospitalized. Poor maintenance and corrosion was the main cause of the collapse of the building located on sea front, said Amarnath Dubey, the area deputy commissioner.

Using searchlights, 85 fire-fighters looked for the missing 21 people, Dubey said.

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Indo-Pak talks begin

NEW DELHI, Sept 16: Overshadowed by a recent exchange of artillery fire by their armies and expulsion of embassy officials, India and Pakistan begin official-level talks today to resolve disputes, notably over the northern territory of Kashmir, reports AP.

The talks were constructive, frank and cordial," India's Foreign Secretary K Raghunath told reporters after three hours of talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Shamsheer Ahmed. The talks will continue until Thursday.

Details of the talks were not immediately known, but both sides are expected to set up groups to discuss Kashmir, and other disputes.

"Both sides have expressed their determination to carry forward talks in a meaningful and purposeful manner," Ahmed said.

The two foreign secretaries are also expected to prepare for talks between the prime ministers of the two nations when they meet next week in New York at the United Nations General Assembly session.

Over the weekend, Islamabad expelled two non-diplomats of the Indian embassy for alleged links with a local journalist convicted of spying for India. New Delhi had expelled two Pakistani embassy officials last month on similar charges.

Pakistan almost called off the talks after both nations exchanged artillery, rocket and mortar fire last month in Kashmir. Both nations gave conflicting death tolls.

India and Pakistan also will discuss a dispute over the flow of water to Pakistan from the Wullar barrage in Jammu-Kashmir state and fighting at the world's highest battle

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Reform plan to improve healthcare, arrest population boom

By Naimul Haq
The government has adopted a reform programme to improve basic public healthcare services and to slow down population growth.

The programme, styled 'Health and Population Sector Strategy' (HPSS) targets five main areas: child health, maternal health, control of communicable diseases, services for curative care and overall improvement in the management of hospitals in rural and urban areas.

The programme has been prepared in consultation with donors, sources in the Ministry of Health said.

The programme for child healthcare will focus on extended immunisation through increased activities of health workers at community union, thana and district levels.

The programme will also include prevention and control of ARI, diarrhoeal diseases, measles, malaria, malnutrition, iodine deficiency and

Vitamin A deficiency. Measures will be taken for early diagnosis and prompt treatment (EDPT) of malaria, encouraging breastfeeding of children and counselling mothers on diet. Vitamin A tablets will be distributed among children up to six years and cases of night blindness among children will be detected for treatment. Iodine deficiency will be monitored and steps will be taken to encourage use of iodised salt.

Maternal healthcare will include registration of pregnant women, vaccination, giving post-natal and obstetric care and encouraging family planning. Steps will be taken for creating awareness for 'safe sex'.

To control communicable diseases, measures will be taken for creating awareness about tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria and kala zar and preventive measures.

Under the HPSS, 'vigilance team' comprising members of parliament and local body representatives will be formed to monitor the activities of the thana health complexes and hospitals.

Talking to The Daily Star Health Secretary Mohammad Ali said more than two dozen common problems has been identified which need to be corrected.

"Overcrowding in hospitals, crisis of drugs, doctors' tendency to private practice during

Securities and Exchange Commission

Jiban Bima Tower (15th & 16th floor) 10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka

Notification

No. SEC/Section-7/Lock-in/97-128 Dated: 16th September 1997

1. In order to promote fair dealing in Securities and to further strengthen protection of Investors, the Securities and Exchange Commission, in exercise of power conferred on it under Section 2CC of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969 (Ordinance No. XVII of 1969) as amended by the Securities and Exchange (Amendment) Act, 1997 (Act No. 6 of 1997), hereby impose the following restriction on the transferability of securities:

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2. The Notification will take effect from the date of its publication.

M A Syed
Chairman

GD-172 Securities & Exchange Commission