Banks keep branches open

EXPRESS LIMITED

PLEASE CONTACT:

BANGLADESH AIR EXPRESS INT'L

For more information call-Head Office: 9565114, Gulshan: 607657 887771, Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khuina (041) 72 500 N





BNP workers stage a demonstration in front of the party's central office at Nayapaltan in — Star photo the city yesterday.

## Govt facing difficulty

From Page 1 unless government expenditure

is controlled.

The government, however, views that its borrowing is not 'very high' and is restricted within one per cent of GDP which, it says, can be taken as within the standard level of borrowing.

IMF's conditions also include restricting the central bank's lending to specialised credit institutions, mainly the development financing institutions (DFIs). Reviewing the dismal performance of the DFIs now limping with huge bad loans, IMF has come to the conclusion that unless there has been some positive improvement in their performances, pumping further money into them will also be wasteful.

It has also set privatisation of a DFI, Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS), as a condition for ESAF loan.

IMF is also pressing for raising interest rate ceiling on agricultural credit on the ground that it is still subsidised and that it is not being utilised by

those needing it most. Putting special emphasis on privatising the state-owned enterorises (SOEs), IMF has said

the enterprises have to be corporatised to enable them to be off loaded. Closing down of non-viable SOEs and promoting private sector entry into power, communication, water and sanitation areas are also demanded as preconditions for

ESAF loan. But the toughest part of the conditions, as viewed by the government, comes in the domain of domestic pricing of fertiliser and petroleum products.

The government has to increase its fertiliser and gas prices to the world market level

In the trade area, IMF is pressing for reducing tariff levels to 0-15 per cent. The maximum tariff rate has to be lowered to 30 per cent by 1997-98, to 20 per cent by 1998-99 and to 15 per cent by 1999-2000.

IMF has also asked for introducing a flexible exchange rate system and for liberalising capital controls by 1998-99 to

## Murder in custody

tan Police (DMP). It's too hot," Nuruzzaman had told the on-duty constables at Tejgaon thana. ĆID sources said the Biman crew was assaulted only once. Later, he fell sick

Nuruzzaman's relatives went to Tejgaon thana to meet him two him "devastated and wearing

### Police action

From Page 1

prayers. However, police did not put up any more resistance after the

Jatiya Press Club. Addressing the supporters without a microphone which he said police had taken away earlier, Nizami, standing on a

action and blasted the government for ordering the ban on street rallies. demonstration and protests on Monday, to to preceded by a

demonstration in the city after a gathering at Paltan crossing at 5 pm today. The government which bans rallies and demonstrations does so out of a feeling of losing its toe hold, Nizami observed.

He urged police to discharge their duties professionally, not as partisans, claiming, they (police) showed bias against people with beard and cap.

He urged the government to take lesson before it is too late. Even Ershad could not survive by banning rallies and resorting to repressions. He also demanded withdrawal of the ban on gatherings in and around the

Baitul Mukarram. ' This government has failed to run the country in all respect, Nizami said catalouging a litany of failures to support his claim. These include faltering power supply, deteriorating law and order, poor economic management leading to rise in oil

prices, and failure in capping the fire at Magurchhara. The Jamaat leader also warned the government against withdrawal of Army from the Chittagong Hill Tracts "to placate a neighbouring country". The rally was addressed by party leaders Kamruzzaman, Abdul Kader Mollah, Jasimuddin and ATM Azharul Islam.

between this year and 1999-2000. Diesel prices have to be restored to 1991-92 level in real terms and power tariff is to be adjusted annually. These increases in prices have to be passed through to the retail

police did not even allow Nu-

ruzzaman to contact them after

tion from one of their relatives

on June 15 that her husband

The autopsy report submit-

Shilpi, mother of a 10-year-

he was arrested on June 13.

Commissioner

was in police custody.

From Page 1

only an undergarment. I saw my husband almost nude when I met him in court "I can not stay in this place. custody. He could not even talk to me as he was looking pale and weak," Nuruzzaman's wife Sabina Huq Shilpi had said while talking to The Daily Star in June. and started behaving abnor-Family members of the Bi-

man crew claimed that Teigaon It was reported that when days after the arrest, they found old boy, first got the informa-

Metropolitan Police AK Al Bijoynagar, Kakrail, Purana Mamun instructed Sutrapur Paltan, Fakirerpool and Daithana to file a murder case unnik Bangla crossing before der Section 302 of the Penal dissolving inside the Baitul Code after the autopsy report of Mukarram for the Maghreb Nuruzzaman said that it was a case of homicide. However,

none was named as accused in the murder case. brief action in front of the ted by the Forensic Department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) had said that

the Biman crew suffered serious injuries in his left chest and stool borrowed from a cigarette abdomen. vendor, denounced the police It was reported earlier that the post-mortem did not need He announced countrywide

any chemical analysis to find out the actual cause of the death as it was clear that the death resulted from physical torture. A Sub-Inspector (SI) of Tej-

gaon thana, Shakhawat, was suspended and closed at Razarbagh police lines following the death. The SI was investigating the case against Nuruzzaman for his alleged trespass into the PMO.

Following Nuruzzaman's death, the DMP in a report to the Home Ministry had said that Nuruzzaman had a fist fight with some others in court custody. It added that the fight as well as suffocation in the congested custody might be a reason for the death, according to reports.

### One stabbed to death in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Sept 20: Unientified miscreants stabbed a oung man to death in the town this evening, police and hospital sources said, reports

The dead was identified as Akbar Ali, 25, a mason and son of one Siraj Ali Mandol of

Sadar thana. The assailants swooped on him at about 7.30 pm while Akbar was returning home. He died on the spot. However, reason behind the killing could not be known.

# JCD-BCL clash in

Chhatra League at Baroma Col-

The injured were rushed to local health complex for treatment. Police said the clash had erupted at noon when the BCL activists brought out a procession welcoming the freshers in

the college. Police said the procession came under attack by rivals near Amirhat. The supporters of both BCL and JCD used lethal weapons during an hour-long

### Principal

From Page 1

hospital with serious injury. The Namaz-e-Janaza of Prof Haque was held at the Jagan-University College premises at 1 pm yesterday. He

will be buried at his family graveyard at village Nowapara. Vice-Chancellor of the National University Prof Aminul Islam, in a message of condolence, yesterday expressed his deepshock at the sudden death of Prof Haque.

### BNP condemns

From Page 1

ing of "false" cases against 30 BNP men, including Ilias Ali and Shaheeduddin Chowdhury Anne. He demanded immediate withdrawal of the false cases and unconditional release of all arrested leaders and workers.

He also urged the government to stop its repressive measures against political oppo-

nents. Our Staff Correspondent adds: Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzam Hossain, cochairman of the Jatiya Party (Z-M) have condemned the 'police attack' on the rallies of BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote and other opposition parties.

'In a joint statement yesterday they called for formation of a 'united platform' of the nationalist, democratic and islamic forces.

They also condemned 'police attack' on Jamaat rally and assault on their top ranking leaders including Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

# Ctg: 10 injured

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between the supporters of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and ruling party backed lege at Chandanaish, 25 miles off the city, this noon, police

and witnesses said.

Later, police rushed to the spot and dispersed the feuding groups.

### Feni BCL leader

the killers.

cent months.

## From Page 1

reau, and Inayatullah Niazi had been named Director General of the Federal Intelligence Agency in place of Mian Muhammad

ment on widespread media speculation that Friday's changes reflected a government view faulting the agencies for security lapses which allowed Wednesday's shooting of the five Iranians and their Pak-

istani driver.

Pakistan this year.

### trading partners of Bangladesh remain open on Fridays, but keep their banks and establishments close on Saturdays

From Page 1

important places. He said the banks were asked to report to the central bank how many branches at which places would be kept open. Till date, only Prime Bank and ANZ Grindlays Bank reported to the Bangladesh Bank.

The central bank official also informed that the management of the NCBs sought a little time from the Bangladesh Bank so that they could organise the branches to operate on Saturdays.

"Hopefully, they would start their Saturday operation from the next week," Raquib told

Leaders of the business community welcomed the Bangladesh Bank decision allowing the commercial banks to keep open some selective branches on Saturdays, but again demanded weekly holidays on Sundays.

"It's a positive step, but most ideal would be half-day banking on Saturdays and weekly holidays on Sundays," said Samson Chowdhury, the President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

He told UNB that the commercial establishments, most of which remain open on Saturdays, would be benefited by the banking transactions on the holiday

But Chowdhury again strongly demanded Sunday as weekly holiday as most of the

### Task Force

From Page 1

The report, however, said that the system should not be introduced in a haste and without sufficient ground work as the recommendations were not consistent with the traditional ideas of the people of the country. The new system could be discussed in conferences of

teachers, it proposed. The Committee for Formulation of National Education Policy has also suggested that students failing in one subject should be allowed a second chance to pass in the same sub-

Both the Task Force and the Committee recommended introduction of Grade System, replacing the present 'merit list'.

Sixty-three per cent students failed in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations held under the five education boards this year. The HSC results were announced on September 11. Forty-eight students failed in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations this year. The results

were announced in July. Under the existing system, students failing in one subject have to appear at examinations in all the subjects next year.

From Page 1

trict BCL president Azharul Haq Arzu and general secretary Shahjahan Saju demanded immediate arrest and trial of

A good number of leaders and workers of both student and youth fronts of Awami League and BNP have been assassinated in the district in re-

# Pak intelligence

But they declined to com-

Police, linking the attack to feuding between militant Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim groups in Pakistan, say it bore the hallmarks of the fiercely anti-Shi'ite Lashkar-i-Jhangvi group, which is reported to have claimed responsibility.

Iran has protested over the killings, which broke a relative will in sectarian violence since Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government enacted a tough new anti-terrorism law in Au-

Sectarian feuding, centred in the populous province of Punjab, has cost al least 144 lives in and Sundays. "The government should

possess the courage to declare Sunday as holiday," he said and cited the examples of countries like Malaysia and Indonesia. both Muslim countries, where Sunday is the weekly holiday.

Even Pakistan went for weekly holiday on Sunday considering the international transaction by their business people, said the chief of MCCI. Sarwaruzzaman Khan, the

acting Managing Director of National Bank Limited (NBL), observed that the 'piecemeal' decision keeping selective branches open on Saturdays would not serve the purpose. "If the government wants to

another day for banking transaction, then it should ensure that all the bank branches and the central bank remain open on the day," he said. He said his bank, which would select the branches through a meeting of the Board

Committee Today, is likely to

facilitate business by providing

keep some five to seven branches open on Saturdays from next week. But, as the Bangladesh Bank would remain closed, it would be very difficult to provide all

utive. "We would certainly face problem in carrying out our banking operation as there would be no cash movement due to closure of the central bank,"

banking services to their

clients, said the NBL chief exec-

he added Khan also informed that they would have to bear some extra cost as overtime to the officers and employees due to the banking operation on the holi-

Raquib of the central bank also admitted that the banks would have to pay some additional money. But he noted that the banks would also earn by extending services on the holi-

### One murdered in Hathazari

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: A youth was stabbed to death by some unidentified miscreants in Hathazari thana of the dis-

From Our Correspondent trict today, reports UNB. The victim was identified as RAJSHAHI, Sept 20: Bus ser-Mohammad Haroon, 18, of vice between Rajshahi and the Shikondi village in the thana.

rest of the country resumed to-Police suspect that some youths, who called him out of Rajshahi District Motor his residence in the Friday Sramik Union had called evening, killed him. His body transport strike for an indefiwas found in nearby Katakhali nite period after a clash be-

beel at about 8 am today. Loadshedding

## Hartal at Barguna tomorrow

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Sept 20: The Barguna Electricity Consumers Association has called a halfday hartal in the town and its adjoining areas on Monday protesting frequent loadshed-

Hundreds of people brought out a hurricane procession in the town yesterday. They demanded of the authority concerned to connect Barguna with the Patuakhali 32 KV substa-

### shot as two rival groups of youths clash in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Sept 20: A woman was shot when several rounds of bullets were fired during chase and counter chase between two rival groups of young men in Nirermaidan area in the

town this afternoon. A group of young men from Sagardighirpar attacked the another group belonging to Mirermaidan area in the after-

They also exploded crackers and fired blank shots to create panic in the area.

Karimunnessa, 40, a housewife sustained bullet wounds. She was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

The incident took place as a sequel to a clash over a cricket match. Additional police force has been deployed in the area.

### About the other venues, the city BNP leader said, "Those could at best be used for wardlevel meetings, and were totally unfit for holding of national

Mayor Mohammad Hanif, who himself had organised 'Janatar Mancha' for days together on the road in front of the Jatiya Press Club, did not consult 90 elected ward commissioners of the DCC, 44 of whom belong to BNP, in reach-

added.

level rallies."

Awami League's coming to power. The BNP leaders at the press

## Vacuum Cleaner Compact & ultra light



Let's make things better.

**PHILIPS** 

## Ctg.: 716353, 723578, Khuina: 720304, Bogra: 6215 Crime: Home Minister

From Page 1 and lawyers appointed to review

Transcom Electronics Limited

Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V.

for lighting products, radio and TV sets

Dhales 815306-9, 819625-9, 8899993

JP Demonstration

Day today

through all Deputy Commis-

sioners and Thana Nirbahi Of-

JP's demands are: Fixation

of minimum price of jute at Tk

500 per maund, reduction of the

prices of fertiliser and fuel, and

withdrawal of cases filed

against the party leaders and

workers including party chair-man HM Ershad.

at Bahadur Shah Park in the

city at 10 am and then bring out

a memorandum to the DC, said

Missing police

wireless

recovered

By Staff Correspondent

was missing during police ac-

tion on workers of Jamaat-e-Is-

lami in front of the Jatiya Press

Club yesterday afternoon was

recovered from an ablution

room of Kakrail Mosque in the

persons in this connection, po-

Bus service to

& from Rajshahi

resumes

tween Awami League supporters

and Motor Sramik Union

workers in Puthia Tuesday last.

following an assurance given by

the district administration to

meet their demands of the

joint meeting of political lead-

ers, Motor Sramik Union lead-

ers and the district police ad-

Protest day

From Page

Sadek Hossain Khoka MP in a

separate statement also called

for participation of party work-

ers and the people in the protest

front organisations yesterday

held a series of rallies and

brought out processions in dif-

ferent wards to protest removal

of the bridge on the Crescent

Lake, connecting the mazar of

Shaheed President Ziaur Rah-

man, and Thursday's police ac-

Mayor, PM

From Page 1

protesting this, rather, all the

political parties including LDF.

Jatiya Party (Z-M), Gana Fo-

rum, CPB, BSD and the city unit

of Jatiya Party have already

rejected the Mayor's decision",

Khoka said, the authorities of

the school concerned at Mirpur

Section 1 was not willing to al-

low public rallies at the school

ground and Osmany Uddiyan

was not suitable for rallies be-

cause of trees. Besides, Outer

Stadium was used round-the-

year for pioneer league, second

division football and for prac-

tices by budding sportsmen, he

About the designated venues,

"Not that BNP alone is

of public meetings in the city.

Meanwhile, BNP and its

ministration lastnight.

The assurance was given at a

Sramik union.

day programme.

tion at BNP office.

he said.

The strike was with

lice sources said.

Ramna police arrested five

A police wireless set which

a press release.

reports UNB.

The Jatiya Party will ob-

serve Demonstration Day the criminal cases in which across the country today to criminals or terrorists get press for its four-point demand. relieved from courts. It will bring out processions. The minister said in the rehold rallies and submit memoformative measures law enrandum to the Prime Minister forcement and police investiga-

> two-digit telephone number in-troduced to inform the police on emergency basis. An intelligence network wil also be formed, to come to grips with the crime galore. Moreover, a dog squad will be raised to trace out criminals.

tion would be separated, and

The Home Minister further informed that 200 vehicles would join the fleet of police by October to accelerate the drive

As part of the programme, JP city unit will hold a meeting against crimes. An additional 4,000 police personnel will joint the DMP a procession. It will also submit within over year, and to meet the emergency, 1,000-man Ansar force will be deployed to assist traffic and guard primary

schools in Dhaka. The minister said there would be vigilance on police-

men and police stations. "Our approach is different, we want people to go to police station to file case," he said, adding if police refuse to record any case, action will taken against them.

Referring to allegation from the speakers, the Home Minister said statistics would show the rise of crime rate across the country in last 15 months, but it was because police were now recording crimes and people going to police with complains. which he said was lacking in

We don't want to hide any thing and will project the true picture... we are taking action against the criminals and will continue it," he told them. Responding to a suggestion, Rafiq said the government was

### Ministry and NGOs to keep the ALCWC

planning to set up homes with

the help of Women Affairs

From Page 1

who have amassed wealth through illegal means will certainly face the wrath of the peo-

organisation by maintaining contacts with the people. She also advised her attend their offices regularly. maintain contacts with party

workers, listen to the people

She asked her party leaders

### and solve their problems. In a separate resolution the meeting expressed satisfaction over different decisions so far taken by the government to re-

sector. The meeting urged all concerned to continue efforts so that farmers could get fair prices of jute.

store discipline in the economic

It called for remaining alert about other vital sectors including power and taking necessary steps timely to resolve any problems in these sectors. In another resolution, the meeting decided to start thana

and district tours immediately

to strengthen the organisa-

country.

tional activities throughout the

female victims there instead of

thana or jail custody. He said a good number of top criminals were arrested and others were on the run to escape arrest, but they would be caught

Earlier, taking part in the dialogue, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru stressed that godfathers of the crime would should be exposed and community support mobilised to bring end to this fast-spreading ter-

Defining various types of terrorism - like state terrorism, social terrorism and white terrorism - the minister said people also unleash terrorism to protest social disorder.

Khasru underlined the need

of total community support for wiping out terrorism. People from different professional groups taking part in the dialogue said goodwill of the

political parties could bring an end to terrorism. They blamed both the ruling and opposition parties for pa-

tronising terrorists. The speakers also criticised the role of the judiciary in this regard, saying terrorists in Bangladesh get encouraged as they are not punished.

They also suggested the Home Minister to "go out of the way, and if necessary, out of the law to build a terrorism-free country. Earlier, ABAC Secretary

General Dr Matiur Rahman quoting a recent newspaper report said there are 250 godfathers across the country who are doing all sorts of crimes from behind the scene through their musclemen. Of the 250 godfathers, 90 per cent are Dhaka-based. Of the to-

tal godfathers, according to a report of an intelligence agency. 25 belong to ruling Awami League, 30 to BNP and 10 to Jatiya Party. Former Inspector General of Police Dr Enamul Huq presented the keynote paper in the

net Secretary Mujibul Huq acted as moderator. Another murder

dialogue, presided over by

ABAC Chairman Sheikh

Shamsul Abedin. Former Cabi-

### case against Zardari

KARACHI, Sept 20: Pakistani police have filed another murder case against Benazir Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, implicated in the death of a former federal secretary Alam Baluch, police sources said today, reports AFP.

Murder charges were also

filed against Zardari's father

Hakim Ali Zardari and five

others for their alleged role in

the deaths of Alam Baluch and his guard near Hyderabad in Sindh province on Wednesday. Zardari, detained husband of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, is currently facing murder charges

for the death of his estranged

brother-in-law Mir Murtaza

Bhutto, who was killed on

September 20 last year.

# ইষ্টার্ণ হাউজিং লিঃ-এর ISLAM GROUP আরো দু'টি নতুন প্রকল্পে ফ্র্যাট বরাদ্দ চলছে। মোহাম্মদপুর (কাঁটাসুর) ১০৫০ বর্গফুট ১৫/১ সেগুন বাগিচা, ১১১০ বর্গফুট विद्याद्रिक ज्राथां द्र क्रमा योगायां क्ट्रम्म । EHL 5회나 512(교생 년)

**Editor**: Mahfuz Anam

এপার্টমেন্ট প্রকল্প

১২৫/এ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্ঞাক এলাকা, ঢাকা।

টেলিফোন : ৯৫৬৭২০৮-৯, ৯৫৬৬৩০৩-৫, ফ্যাস্ম : ৮৮০-২-৯৫৬৬৩১১

E-mail: bdcl\_ig@bdmail.net

Printed by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 and published by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

## Jute about to become history 1979-80 which came down to Kalihati thana of Tangail dis-

From Page 1

Things are getting worse every year. In Tangail, jute now sells at around 200 taka per maund against last year's 500

Price situation in northern

jute growing pockets are much

worse than Tangail. In Thakur-

gaon, price is 120-130 taka per maund while in Gaibandha, it is less than 100 taka. An agriculture official in Tangail said farmers in the district produced 408,275 bales of jute in 108,760 acre in 1985. In 1997, the production dropped to 20,881 bales. "Future looks

National figures are equally gloomy. In 1969-70 fiscal year, Bangladeshi farmers grew jute on 24.45 lakh acres and produced 73.91 lakh bales of fibre. In 1995-96, the acreage came down to 11.33 lakh acres and

production to 41 lakh bales.

Both acreage and production

bleak," he said.

have been halved in the 25 years," said one jute official. The downslide is closely linked to dwindling demand in international market. Bangladesh exported 447.7 thousand metric tons of jute in

325 thousand tons in 1995-96. International prices are either static or waning gradually.

Stable price of petroleum has given synthetic substitute a big edge over the natural fibres. Immediate convenience is also giving rise to both industrial and households uses of synthetics. Comparatively costly natural fibres like jute became the victim. Growing international com-

Bangladesh being almost the lone producer used to dictate the international price. Now there are many other low-cost competitors, including India, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Philippines.

not at all controlled by produc-

tion in Bangladesh. Production

in China is the dictating factor."

"International price now is

petition is another cause for the

plight of Bangladesh jute. Once

said one jute exporter. Growing distortions in domestic market also has created additional burdens on jute growers. "Farias and mahajans (middlemen) eat up a major portion of the returns," grumbled Abul Kalam, a jute grower in Middlemen pay the growers

in prices. "We do no other alternative but to go to this farias (agents) because we need cash to buy inputs," Kalam said. So, even if government raises its purchase rates, benefits do not often reach to poor

rior quality seeds are other major dangers for jute. India has done a great job to its jute sector by promoting jute in their domestic market. More than 90 per cent of their produce

is used in India's market.

Jute traders say a ban on synthetic could radically expand the domestic market for jute. Research on diversified

trict.

in advance and deprive the farmers of any benefit from rise

growers. Lack of research, lack of effort to raise domestic demand of jute and growing use of infe-

Bangladesh has totally overlooked the matter. The previous government once initiated to ban use of synthetic bags, but the plan died halfway under the pressure of synthetic lobby.

conference also condemned 'police attack' on Jamaat leaders

ing the recent this decision, Khoka pointed out. Hanif is total failure as far as addressing the problems of mosquito menace, traffic jam and water logging are concerned, he said. Khoka attributed the city's traffic jam to, what he said, illegal operation of 80,000 new rickshaws in the name of 'Rickshaw Sramik League' after the

and workers in front of the Press Club yesterday. They also said BNP will bring out a procession in the city this afternoon, as scheduled earlier, protesting various uses of jute could be another panacea for the ailing jute secanti-people' activities of the

government.