No change in decisions

on Asian Highway

corporate Chittagong-Cox's

Bazar highway into new Asian

kilometre) road was excluded

from the Asian Highway. It is to

be mentioned that Sylhet-Tam-

abil Highway was renovated by

switching money from another

Kuwait government funded

project," the handout observed.

munications Ministry has been

drawn to an interview of former

communications minister Col

(Rtd) Oli Ahmed with the

British Broadcasting Corpora-

tion (BBC) on September 25 last

on the Asian Highway.

Faridpur-Aricha-Dhaka-

Myanmar," the handout said.

that the highway (Asian High-

way) would pass through Syl-

FM leaves for

New York

Samad Azad left Dhaka last

night for London en route to

New York to attend the 52nd

session of the United Nations

General Assembly, reports

Bangladesh delegation which

include State Minister for For-

eign Affairs Abul Hasan

Chowdhury, MPs, the Foreign

The Foreign Minister will

Secretary and other high offi-

deliver his address at the as-

sembly on October 1.

He is leading a 20-member

UNB.

Foreign Minister Abdus

het," the handout added.

"The attention of the Com-

"The Sylhet-Austogram (44

Highway system

The present government has

not changed the decisions taken

by the previous government re-

Highway, reports BSS.

garding the route of the Asian

continuing discussions with the

government of Myanmer to in-

clude another route of the

Highway which would pass

through Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf and finally to

"Following the decisions of

Myanmer, said a PID handout.

the expert group meeting from

November 29 to December 3.

1993 in the ESCAP headquar

ters in Bangkok, Jessore-Bon-

para-Hatikamrul (206 kilome-

tres) road and Sylhet-Tamabil

(56 kilometres) road were in

cluded in the new Asian High-

way project which was approved by the then Communica-

tions Minister Col (Rtd) Oli

Ahmed on August 13, 1995. He

also directed for further actions

on emergency basis in this re-

gard," the handout said for re-

same time he (Oli Ahmed) di-

rected the Roads and Highways

Department to submit unother

BB services to

remain essential

tended the effectiveness of the

notification issued by Labour

and Manpower Ministry for

making the services of all offi-

cers and employees of

Bangladesh Bank essential for

next six months from Septem-

ficers and employees of the

Bank were declared essential on

March 20 under the Essential

Services (Second) Ordinance

1958, said an official handout

and Jatiya Party (Z-M), how-

ever, did not attend the meeting

putting some pre-conditions for

Mayor to 'suspend for the time

being the earlier DCC decision

selecting seven venues for pub-

lic meetings and try again for

having the views of BNP. They

also said that if the issue not re-

solved at this level, a political

dialogue should be initiated.

LDF and GF suggested the

their participation.

Earlier, the services of all of

ber 20, reports UNB.

The government has ex

proposal to the ESCAP to in-

The handout noted "at the

moving people's confusion.

Rather, the government is

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Charbhuta union of Bhola district yesterday.

employment problem.

for the elderly poor.

taken steps for loans to unem-

ployed youths and opened a

youth bank. She also men-

tioned the pension programmes

ernment would provide fer-

tiliser, seeds and cash to the

farmers to make up their losses

The Prime Minister took lo-

cal MP and BNP leader Major

(Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed

(Bhola-3) with her from Lalmo-

han and later visited different

addressed by Commerce and In-

dustries Minister Tofael

Ahmed, Shipping Minister A S

M Abdur Rab, State Minister for

Disaster Management and Re-

lief Talukdar M Abdul

Khaleque, State Minister for

Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader

and Major Hafizuddin Ahmed

tributed relief materials among

BNP workers

From Page 1

workers, supporters and well-

wishers to donate relief materi-

Minto Road, the official resi-

dence of the Leader of the Oppo-

open from 10 am to 1 pm and 5

pm to receive dona-

Death toll

From Page 1

the huge funnel shaped Meghna

estuary which carries the com-

bine flows of the Padma.

Brahmaputra and the Meghna

as well as numerous other fast

Meanwhile, a cargo vessel.

MV Najimuddin, carrying 750

tonnes of cement from Mongla

port on its way to Dhaka ran

aground at a shoal at Hijla-

Mehendiganj of Barisal at 7-30

Latachapalighat of Mehendi-

ganj when storm warning was

flashed. But it hit the shoal in

the Meghna shortly after it

started the journey for Dhaka.

The vessel belongs to Joypara

Officials at the Disaster

Management and Relief Control

Room told The Daily Star last

night that 30 people were killed

in Bhola, which bore the brunt

of the storm that lashed the dis-

trict and its adjoining islands

in the estuary, packing winds

followed by Noakhali, 5; Bager-

hat, 1; Patuakhali, 1 and

Chandpur, 1, control room offi-

cials said, adding that 38 people were injured and another 37

ravaged the southern coast af-

fected 415,600 people of 81,700

families. A total of 1772 houses

were destroyed and 13,090

damaged partially, crops in

9149 acres, 55-km of roads and

79 educational institutions

tioned 85 tonnes of rice. Tk

2,60,000 cash grants, 25000

pieces of saris and lungis and

500 tins of survival biscuits for

the affected people. Besides, di-

rectives were given for distribu-

tion of 20 tonnes of rice and Tk

50,000 sanctioned earlier on an

and the directives were given

yesterday at a secretariat

meeting to assess the losses and

relief requirements. State Min-

ister for Disaster Management

The meeting decided to sent

high officials to the affected

districts to help and oversee the

relief operations, along with

the respective deputy commis-

and Relief Talukder Abdul

Khaleque was in chair.

The allocations were made

The government has sanc-

were also damaged.

emergency basis.

Officials said the storm that

remained unaccounted for.

In Luxmipur, 13 people died

reaching upto 150 kmph.

The vessel had anchored at

running rivers.

am yesterday.

Shipping Lines.

The relief centre will remain

als to its relief fund set up at 29

the cyclone victims.

sition in Parliament.

The Prime Minister also dis-

These gatherings were also

cyclone-affected areas.

in the shortest possible time.

Sheikh Hasina said the gov-

PID photo

PM visits affected areas

From Page 1 told the meeting. During this

time the government will arrange relief for the victims, she

assured. From Charbhuta she flew to Borhanuddin and met a crosssection of people affected by the cyclone. Then the Prime Minister went to Mirjakalu to see a cross-dam on the bank of river Meghna. About two kilometres of the embankment have been

whipped by the storm. Addressing a gathering there, the Prime Minister said the government had taken measures for protecting the people from erosion and for repairing the embankment soon.

washed away by tidal surge

From Mirjakalu the Prime Minister flew to Laxmipur and met a cross-section of people at the circuit house to have an idea about their suffering.

The Prime Minister said the government had taken a plan to build a green belt in the coastline as a shield against tidal

Referring to the cooperation of all in facing the cyclone: the Prime Minister thanked the members of the armed forces, Red Crescent Society, local administrations and the people for extending their help to save life and property. She said the government was

planning a long-term cyclone and flood-protection pro-

8 hurt in Khulna

From Page 1 about an hour.

The policemen were injured when they intervened to quell the violence, DC of KMP Abdus Sattar Shah told this correspondent. Police fired eight shots in the air to bring the situation under control, he said.

Police later arrested 14 activists of Chhatra League and Jubo League from the spot and recovered from their possession a sawed-off SBL gun, one pistol, one revolver, one pipegun, one gun cartridge, four revolver bullets and ten cocktail bombs. Witnesses said all valuables

of the club and two roadside shops were looted by the activists. The entire Dharmasara area

has been cordoned off by riot police to prevent any further violence. Two separate cases have

been filed with the Kotwali thana in this connection.

Kibria

From Page 1

Bangladesh's quota in IMF would rise in absolute term. But in relative terms, the change would be small, he said. Kibria declined to elaborate

on the conditions tagged by the IMF to the ESAF loan but said there is a 'consistency' between the government's avowed reform policy and the IMF condi-tionalities. They would tag conditions

like reducing the size of the government, limiting wastage and reforms in various sectors, including the administration, he said. We have already taken steps towards those adjustments."

The minister, however, clarified that Bangladesh is not seeking the ESAF loan to face

any crisis. "We are not in a crisis, we are negotiating from a strong position. Both the world Bank and

IMF have agreed to provide cooperation in strengthening the financial sector of Bangladesh. he told reporters. Kibria informed that

Bangladesh would get 200 million dollars from the World Bank for an education project, for which negotiations are at the final stage. "An agreement will be signed shortly," he said.

The Asian Development Bank will provide 100 million dollars for the 500 million-dollar education project. The rest will be given by other donor agencies and countries.

The minister indicated that the signing would take place during the visit of World Bank President James Wolfensohn from October 13.

cial said.

gramme which will be implemented in phases to save the people from natural disasters. All the programmes of the government aim at improving the condition of the masses, she said, mentioning the government steps for curbing the unvictims. She said the government had

spaces in front of houses were strewn with fallen trees. Many trees were devoid of leaves, torn away by the fierce wind.

Doulatkhan thana, about 50 boats belonging to the 'Bedes' (families traditionally living in boats) were swept half a kilometre into the shore near a main road. The boats got stranded in the field when the tidal water receded within an hour. Men, women and children

and helplessly asking every passer-by for help. "Baba, please help us to get back to the river or we will die without food on the land", said Nagar Ali, a frail-looking elderly man.

lay tilted on the shore. The cyclone pushed them ashore. Assistant Commissioner (Land) of Doulatkhan thana Sharif Murtaza, who came to Chowkighat to note down the names of the grounded ships, admitted having no contact with many places, particularly shoals. Birthday

Milad wishing

long life of

Hasina

A milad mahfil was held at

the Awami League central office

yesterday after Asr prayers on

the occasion of the 51st birth-

day of Prime Minister Sheikh

Munajat was offered wishing long life and sound health of

the prime minister and the wel-

fare of the country and its peo-

sought for eternal peace of those

who died in the cyclone that

lashed the country's coastal belt

League visited the Ganobhaban

this morning and greeted the

prime minister and wished her

ports: Bangladesh Chhatra

League (BCL), student wing of

the ruling Awami League,

greeted Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina with flowers at the

Ganobhaban yesterday on the

occasion of her 51st birthday,

offered on behalf of the BCL at

the University Central Mosque

after Zahr prayers. BCL dis-

tributed sweets among the stu-

dents on the DU campus on the

cession on the DU campus and

held a rally at the Aparajeo

BCL also brought out a pro-

Special prayers were also

says a BCL press release.

occasion.

Bangla.

Our DU Correspondent re-

a long life, says a press release.

Central leaders of Awami

in the early hours of Saturday.

Divine blessing was also

Hasina, reports BSS.

Khamar and Hasan Nagar un-

Nearby. 10 ocean going ships

From Page

The roads and the open

At Chowkighat under

were seen sitting on those boats

Bhola

This correspondent visited Guingarhat under Sadar thana, Chowkighat and Patharikhal under Doulatkhan thana, Niz der Borhanuddin thana and found that no relief reached the

They were also critical of the way the decision was taken and the way it was being enforced by using police. They suggested the Mayor to have 'broad-based' dialogues with all parties including BNP and select at least 10 venues for big rallies and one venue each in the 15 thanas in the metropolis. They strongly argued that

till a consensus is reached. holding of rallies on streets should not be prohibited. The sites adjacent to the Secretariat Rahman Monju of LDF.

DCC: Meeting venues and the Jatiya Press Club should be allowed to be used for programmes like procession. sit-in, hunger strike, march toward the Jatiya Sangsad and submission of memorandum at the Secretariat. LDF leaders said that Phul-

baria Bus Terminal could be developed as "Nagar Chattar" (City Square) and on holidays, rallies on certain streets could be allowed, ensuring alternative traffic management. The Mayor appreciated the

suggestions but, did not agree to 'suspend' the earlier decision.

The meeting was attended by Advocate Zahirul Islam Pankaj Bhattachariya and Sai fuddin Ahmed Manik of GF and Fayez Hossain. Mostafa Faruq. Nurul Hasan, Abdul Malek Qamrul Ahsan, Meer Hossain Akhter, Rezaur Rashid, Idris Ali, Harun Chowdhury, Golam Mahmud, Abdullah Al Kafi, Abul Hossain, Nirmal Dey Abul Khair and Mahbubur



Chhatra League brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus to celebrate the 51st birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday. - Star photo

BNP to reject 'secret deal'

From Page 1

traffic jam. "We admit street rallies cause traffic jam but we also see traffic jam even when there is no public rally. In fact, inflow of a large number of unemployed rural people into the capital and increased number of rickshaws with fake licences or Awami League-issued 'identity boards' are largely contributing to the problem," she viewed.

The 15-month-old government has presented a "stagnant" economy by pursuing "wrong" policies, she alleged. "Economic problem is the root of all problems including the traffic congestion." The government has stopped street rallies as all its "failures

and misdeeds" are being made public through such programmes, she observed. "The move is designed to suppress the Opposition and reestablish one-party BKSAL rule in the country," she remarked.

Begum Zia went on saying.

"Not only political activities, this government is also creating obstruction to cultural and religious activities."

She also alleged the government was indulging in 'alien culture' to destroy the local one. "The foreign artists are grabbing the national domain of art and culture," she said, adding the television was being used for "cultural aggression." The BNP chief also came

down heavily on the government for removing the floating bridge leading to Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman's mazar in the city and termed the act as a "heinous" one. In this regard, the widow of

Shaheed Zia said when she became prime minister in 1991. establish her husband politi-

did not go for hanging his por-

traits or naming anything after

her government did nothing to He (Zia) himself got his place among the people by his welfare activities for all classes of people. During our rule, we

him, as is being done by the present government," she said. About the ruling AL's criticism of hartals, the Opposition

leader said the ruling party has. of late, realised the negative impact of hartals after observing hartals for 173 days. "It is designed to divert public attention from their failures."

Later, Begum Zia distributed Zisas crests among noted personalities in cultural and other fields for the years 1995 and Chaired by the Zisas presi-

dent and film actor Ahmed Sharif, the function was also addressed by BNP leaders M K Anwar, MP. Abdul Mannan, MP, Khurshid Jahan Haq, MP, A N M Ehsanul Haq Milon, MP, Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan, MP. BSP president Prof Majedul Islam and Zisas leaders Abul Hashem Rana, Ahsan Habib Kamal and Ahmed Kaiser.

Film actress Sohana conducted the function followed by a cultural function.

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Let's make things better. PHILIPS

Memo to RU VC demanding lifting of ban on

student politics From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 28: Five Col Ahmed in his interview student organisations of Rasaid, "we proposed a route jshahi University today subthrough Benapole-Jessoremitted a memorandum to the acting Vice Chancellor Prof Comilla-Noakhali-Chittagong-Abul Fazal Haq demanding the Cox's Bazar and finally to withdrawal of a ban imposed on student politics and an-"He further said with the nouncement RUCSU and hall present government's assump-tion of power we suddenly heard unions elections immediately.

The five student organisations are BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) JSD-backed Chhatra League (KC). Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Chhatra Front and Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree.

The last RUCSU polls were held on July 29, 1990 Presently, any student organisation can hold rallies and meetings only with prior per mission of the proctor.

Tk 4 lakh snatched from businessman in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Sept 28: An industrialist and frozen food exporter was robbed of Tk 3 lakh and 98 thousand from inside a Janata Bank branch here this noon.

Kazi Mohammad Shahnewaz withdrew the amount from the bank at K D Ghose Road and kept it in a briefcase. The money was meant for his staff salary An unidentified young man

snatched the briefcase and sped away in a motorcycle.

Demonstrations

From Page 1

After the processions, they also held rallies in different parts of the city, where the party leaders condemned the government's repressive mea sures taken against the opposition BNP. They alleged that the gov-

ernment has chosen the path of killing, arrest and torture throughout the country to suppress the on-going democratic movement They also accused the gov-

ernment of curbing people's fundamental rights by imposing a ban on holding meetings and rallies on the city streets.

Success story

From Page 1 men about the meeting as it was a closed door affair.

'We decided to hold the ministers' meetings with the party workers in closed door from today," said AL presidium member Abdul Jalil when his attention was drawn to the matter. Kibria, in this regard, said

that in democratic practice, many issues might come up in such meetings that should not be published in newspapers. Replying to a query, the finance minister denied the alle-

gation that he is criticised everywhere - in the party forum by his own people and in parliament by the MPs. All come to me on various occasions with many a problem, "it does not mean that they

are aggrieved or are bringing allegations against me," he said. The minister informed that a seminar would be organised shortly to make the government's success known both to the party and the public.

Regarding the share market scam, he told some party workers, who were losers in the collapse, that no government in any country can control the stock market. "However, the Securities and

Exchange Commission has been strengthened." he said.

Pakistan champions

From Page 1 defeat to Pakistan and the West Indies in their both the second round matches.

Bangladesh lost to mighty Pakistan by 35 runs in the first match. Pakistan scored 100 for three with Sajid Ali making 33 retired, Nayeem Ashraf 26. Wasim Akram 18 and Basit Ali 16 not out.

ets for 16 and Athar Ali Khan got one for 29. Bangladesh, in reply, were 65 for four. All-rounder Rafique scored a fine 28 before being

Rafique captured two wick-

bowled by Asif Mujtaba. Aminul Islam Bulbul and Akram Khan scored 17 and 10 not out respectively. Asif Mujtaba got two wickets for 12 runs while Nayeem

Ashraf and Zahur Elahi took one wicket each for 14 and 10 runs respectively. Bangladesh lost to the West

Indies by 25 runs in the second encounter. The West Indies piled up 84 for three with Reifer top scored 27 not out. He was followed by Simmons with 24, McLean 21.

Skipper Akram Khan grabbed two wickets for 15 while Athar Ali Khan took the other wicket for six runs. Bangladesh, in reply, were

59 for five with all-rounder Athar Ali Khan making an unbeaten 19, Rafique 14, Mofizur Rahman Munna 11, Bulbul nine and Akram Khan six.

Maizbhandari gets ad-interim bail

By Court Correspondent Syed Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari, a BNP leader and former MP, was granted ad-interim bail yesterday by the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka. Maizbhandari, Convenor of

rested on September 22 during the hartal called by his party from in front of the Jatiya Press Club. Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, MP, along with over a hundred other lawyers includ-

BNP's Ulema front, was ar-

ing former information minister Barrister Najmul Huda moved his bail petition.

medical officer failed to turn

son's pain.

up. After eight minutes of wait, a 'brother' attending another patient came to see the child. His panic-stricken mother fainted there, unable to bear her

From Page 1

Asked why were they sitting in the room when patients screamed for help, one of the emergency medical officers said. "It is not possible to keep standing at the corridor. Besides, some of the cases are not as severe as they seem." He explained, saying, "Some poor people posing as patients come here unnecessarily to seek free healthcare as free food facility is available once they are admitted. We are sick and tired of receiving such kinds of cases." His colleague said, "The

emergency unit at DMCH handles, on an average, 180 patients per shift. There are only two doctors, one brother and two ward boys in each shift. In fact, we are doing the job of four doctors here." When contacted, DMCH Di-

rector Col Badrul Munir admitted the poor condition of the emergency unit and said, "The first thing that is needed at the emergency unit is assignment of more doctors. The existing patient-doctor ratio is very poor. I am hopeful that we will soon overcome the problem." Once the under-construction

operation theatre is completed. he said, "We expect to see substantial development in emergency service. I have taken it as .a 'challenge' to improve service to the really needy patients."

Simmons, Gibson, McLean and Reifer took one wicket

Pakistan reached the final from the Bradman Group when they beat the West Indies by four The West Indies scored 70 for

three with Williams and Reifer scoring 24 and 13 runs respec-

for two. Nayeem Ashraf scored 29 and Basit Ali 20 runs.

England qualified for the final beating Australia by 20 runs and Sri Lanka by five runs from the Sobers Group.

47 and Hollioake and Ealham making 11 each. Australia, in reply 71 for

England beat Sri Lanka by five runs in their second group

In the Sri Lankan-Australia

beat Australia by three runs. Sri Lanka scored 84 for five with Russel Arnold hammering a fine 31 not out and Upal Chandana 23.

Australia, in reply, were 81 for two. Campbell and Venuto scored 32 not out and 26 respec-

train: 7 hurt

GRP sources here said a group of identified youths, who used to travel by a Dhaka-Akhaura passenger train without tickets, attacked guard A K Barua in the evening after he

the aid of the guard. The youths also damaged windowpanes of the train.

were admitted to Sadar Hospi-

be carried out. Regarding detergent use. the seminar viewed that regulation on the optimum use of detergent

search activities should be geared up to monitor the pollution in soil and surface and ground water.

tion should be gradually phased out, the speakers said, suggesting that care should be taken for proper maintenance and fitness of the engines. In order to reduce the use of

polyethylene, the use of jute products should be encouraged.

chaired the technical and recommendation session of the seminar, jointly organised by Bangladesh Chemical Society

United Nations'

"International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction"

IDNDR Day (Wednesday)

: Honourable President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Venue

All are invited to join the Rally.

Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief

Rally

DFP-21775-25/9

Disaster Management Bureau

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Pakistan, in reply, made 73

England scored 91 for five with Brown hammering a fine

five. Mark Waugh scored high-

match. England scored 70 for three with Hollioake making an unbeaten 36 and Brown 12. Sri Lanka were 65 for two. Kaluwitharana scored highest

match, the South Asian country

Youths attack

NARSINGDI, Sept 28: Seven people were injured when a group of youths attacked a train at Narsingdi Station today for not allowing them to travel without tickets, reports UNB.

asked them to get down. The youths also beat up six passengers when they came to

Guard A K Barua and passengers Zahedur Rahman, Manik Mia, Abul Hossain and Gazi

Pollution

From Page 1 regation of solid waste should

should be framed keeping in view its harmful effect on human health and environment. It recommended that re-

Automobiles creating pollu-

Buriganga river should be saved from pollution and encroachment, the speakers said. Dr Jashim Uddin Ahmed, retired Director and Head of Radiation Safety, International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna,

(BCS) and BARC. Dr S G Hassan, PSO, BARC. presented a paper on "pollution problems of Dhaka city and mitigation: with special reference to soil pollution" and Dr S A Tarafdar, CSO, BAEC, tabled a paper on "monitoring of air

and surface pollution due to an-

thropogemic activities."

on 08 October, 1997

: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. : At 07:30 AM from Children's Park to Press Club.