#### PW Pranab tells court

## Armed Forces' chiefs did not control Radio on Aug 15

Chiefs of the Three Services neither controlled the radio station nor gave any order to the radio staff on any programme related matter on or after August 15 of 1975, according to a radio engineer, reports

Denying a suggestion of a defence counsel, Pranab Chandra Roy, the 38th prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu Murder Case, said the armed forces' chiefs and their officers did not control the radio sta-

tion on August 15. The radio staff also did not work as per the wish and demand of the armed forces chiefs or their subordinates, he added.

Being cross-examined by defence lawyers, he said he saw through glass Khandaker Mushtaque talking with the chiefs of the armed forces in a

But, he said, he could not say whether Mushtaque, calling the chiefs of the armed forces, congratulated Army Chief Shaffullah, saying his troops had done

an excellent job. The PW-38 said he did not hear if the following conversation took place on August 15. Mushtaque: Congratulation

Shafiullah: Your troops have

RAJSHAHI, Nov 11: Bang-

ladesh Bank Governor Lutfar

Rahman Sarkar said here today

the government has decided to

set up an employment bank

with the objective to provide

loan among the unemployed

a paid-up capital of Tk 50 crore

will start functioning from

early next year, he said, adding

its branches will be opened in

The Governor was exchang-

ing views on the role of banking

system for overall economic

development of northern region

at the auditorium of Rajshahi

Chamber of Commerce and In-

tance of the development of

human resources as well as the

Dacoity at Rly

Colony in city

By Staff Correspondent

naments, US dollars and cash

estimated at Tk 4.13 lakh from

the residents of senior officials

of Bangladesh Railway at Rail-

way Colony in city's South Sha-

seven armed men got inside the

ground floor quarter of Samsul

Islam, Joint-Director General

of Railway by cutting the iron

grill of a window at about 4 am.

inmates, the gang took gold or-

naments worth about Tk 85

went upstairs while two guarded

the inmates at the ground floor.

door of the house of Ataur

Rahman, Joint-Director of the

Ministry of Communication,

Then, five of the dacofts

The armed men knocked the

thousand and Tk 10,000 cash,

Brandishing arms to the

Police said a gang of about

jahanpur area early yesterday.

Dacoits took away gold or-

He underlined the impor-

different districts in phases.

The employment bank with

youths, reports BSS.

dustry (RCCI)

Employment bank to be

done an excellent job. Now do

Shafiullah: What rest? Mushtaque: You should

know it better. Shafiullah: In that case The witnesses said he did not hear the conversation as the

microphones in the studio were off at that time. An engineer of Bangladesh Betar, Pranab said, the 7 o'clock news on August 15 morning was

not based on any written text. It was an 'extempore news' broadcast by the order of Major Dalim and the news bulletin was of five minutes' duration instead of usual 10 minutes, he

In reply to a question from a defence counsel, the witness said he did not had the scope to check the identity of the person who identified himself as Major Dalim as 'we were at gun-

He said showing arms Major Dalim and his people enquired about the shift-in-charge.

Pranab said the radio transmission on August 15 continued at the order of Major Dalim, not as per schedule.

The PW-38 said the scheduled radio programmes were not broadcast on August 15 and he did not have the scope to in-form his higher authority about

He said he transmitted the programmes at gun-point and Major Dalim made the radio announcement on promulgation of Martial Law in the coun-

On August 15, he said, first announcements made by Major Dalim were live, but later the announcement was taped and

broadcast. He said he saw Taheruddin Thakur writing the text of Mushtaque's speech which was broadcast by radio.

Being asked Pranab told the court that he would be able to identify accused Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shariyar Rashid Khan as he saw him for a long time. Shariyar was in charge of the radio station from August 15 to

November 2, 1975, he said. The police personnel and Rakkhi Bahini on duty at the radio station surrendered to the army on August 15 morning immediately laying their arms

and holding their hands up. Risalder Mansur will make his deposition as the 39th prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu Murder Case when

## other places except streets

yesterday.

government would definitely accept Opposition proposals for some more places in the capital. other than streets, to hold public rallies.

"We hope the opposition BNP will give up its stubbornness and accept our decision (on holding public rallies at the seven selected venues) for the sake of public interest since the party also felt the need while in power ... They can suggest some other places excepting streets. We'll definitely accept those", the PM said while replying to questions in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina said yesterday that the

The PM was replying to a question by Mirza Azam of the Awami League (AL) and supplementaries by some other lawmakers during the questionanswer session. First 30 minutes of the question-hour are reserved for the PM on Tues-

She recalled that the BNP, while in power, had taken a move to select some venues for public rallies and that her party had participated in the initiative. "I don't understand why they've taken to the streets all of a sudden after we've decided on the matter which they failed to resolve." Sheikh Hasina, also

rallies on the city streets," she said without mentioning recent police actions on BNP rallies on streets, defying a ban.

The Prime Minister also offered the opposition parties to hold public meetings at the Ramna Batamul with permission from the relevant authorities, without harming the greenery there. About BNP's complaint to

the President that the seven designated venues were not suitable for public meetings, the

child prostitution as an inte-

gral part of the overall child

against the backdrop of

poverty, urbanisation, sex-cul-

only about 18 per cent revealed

their sexual preference towards

homosexuality although more

than 80 per cent of them con-

sidered the profession as an

girl prostitutes blamed fate for

their present state while only

nine per cent boys did so. In

most cases, the study says, the

girls came to the city with the

promise of jobs with their rela-

tives or neighbours, but they

more than 20 per cent of the

street child prostitutes died be-

fore or just after reaching their

adulthood; 22 per cent became

physically invalid and ended up

as beggars; 2.74 per cent could

sion in meaningful ways while

manage to change their profes-

The study also found that

However, about 40 per cent of

Among the boy prostitutes,

ture and tradition

economic compulsion.

were sold to pimps.

abour situation of the country

AL chief said the President himself visited three of the seven places to look into it. "We held public rallies at the Palton Maidan, the Parade Ground and the Osmani Uddvan. The countrymen have witnessed how big those gatherings were".

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at

PM replies to question in JS on meeting venues

Opposition can suggest some

By Staff Correspondent

Referring to the backstage parleys between her party and BNP on issues including ban on street rallies, Sheikh Hasina said, "We believe all problems can be solved through discus-

the meantime, the wall at the middle of the Palton maidan has been removed and the lower areas in the ground have been filled up", she told the parliament.

She said the government has undertaken some other measures to ease traffic jam in the city. Under the third crash programme to remove traffic congestion, she added, the government has planned to build steel foot overbridges at Aminbazar Truck Terminal and at some other points in the city. Besides. plans are also there to construct 20 link roads, and a ring road in the city.

# Bill '97 passed

further amendments to the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980, was piloted by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs The House passed the Bill in

met by supplying these rocks. "Due to delay in ensuring power supply in the area and Ratio of sex workers various other reasons, the progress of this mining project has remained behind schedule. It is necessary to speed up the

letter said.

#### BNP activists opened fire, say police

At least three people including a police naik were killed when the BNP activists opened fire at the on-duty police at Kazir Dewri in Chittagong town yesterday afternoon, a police press release said last night, reports BSS.

Without any instigation, police said, the BNP activists fired at the police in a preplanned manner just after the public meeting at Chittagong Outer Stadium organised by BNP Jamaat-e-Islami and some other political parties.

Police faced the situation with utmost patience in the face of all types of instigation and attack by the BNP activists, the press release added.

#### said that experts in the government would study with great

care any model law on refugees. mer chief justice of Pakistan,

Nasim Hassan Shah, a for-Bradman Weerakoon, a former advisor to the Sri Lankan President, Daman Nath Dhungana, a former Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nepal, Rose Verghese, Secretary General of Indian Centre for Humanitarian Law and Research and Wilbert van Hovell, UNHCR Representative in Dhaka were also present at the

press briefing. Earlier, in the concluding session. Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru briefly spoke highlighting the need for consolidated efforts in redressing the problems of refugees in the

South Asian region. Dr Kamal Hossain said the programme ended with a future plan to create awareness among the people in general, and conscious civil societies, in partic-

## 'Trend of globalisation increasing'

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury yesterday said that with each passing day, more and more people around the globe are be-coming interested in building contacts among nations for the welfare of all, reports BSS.

"The trend of globalisation with emphasis on greater cooperation among nations is increasingly being accepted by a greater number of people for the good of humanity." Abul Hasan told a seminar at the auditorium of British Council in the

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh David Walker chaired the seminar styled as "Post CHOGM Commonwealth Europe and Bangladesh: Prospects for Investment and Trade." Organised by the British Council, the seminar was also addressed by EC country head Michael Drury, former foreign secretary Faroque Sobhan, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam and Bhorer Kagoj Editor Motiur Rahman.

Bangabhaban

PM calls on

From Page 1

(CHOGM) late last month.

She informed the president

about the opening of new head-

quarters of Cairn Energy, a

British oil and gas exploration

company which struck a huge

gas reserve in the Bay of Bengal

ister and her British counter-

part Tony Blair jointly inaugu-

the president of the present po-

litical situation of the country.

President

ber 4, it was said that the Presi-

dent's attention had been drawn

to recent newspaper reports on

The letter said that the

President visited the project

sites on October 29 and had ex-

pressed his hopes that these

projects would be immediately

these projects would be imple-

mented promptly," the letter

It maintained that the im-

plementation of Barapukuria

Coal Mining Project began from

1994 at a cost of 227.52 million

US dollars. About 83 per cent of

the coal produced by the coa

mine would be used as basic in-

put for a 300 mw thermal power

unit there. The power unit is an

"inseparable" part of the coal

already at an advance stage and

partial production of coal

"Side by side with the

progress of the construction of

the mine, it is necessary to be-

gin the construction of the

power plant," the President's

dhyapara Hard Rock Mining

Project, the developers have al-

ready spent Tk 245 crore and

completed 30.68 per cent of the

work. The quality of hard rocks

extracted as a by-product of

sinking the mining shaft ap-

pears to be very good. The local

demand for hard rock could be

work. That is why timely dis-

bursement of fund is neces-

sary," the letter pointed out.

In the Tk 687 crore Mad-

would be started from 1999.

Development of the mine is

mine project, the letter noted.

The President wishes that

the status of these projects.

implemented.

From Page 1

rated the Cairn headquarters.

The Bangladesh Prime Min-

Sheikh Hasina also apprised

at Edinburgh.

-PID photo

Abul Hasan Chowdhury said it is encouraging to note that more and more people are now talking of the need for greater contact and cooperation with nations both within their neighbouring region and out-

Expressing his firm optimism about the success of SAARC, Abul Hasan said it would be realised soon that subregional bodies were also a worthwhile proposition and has the potential to bring benefits. The lack of interest or apathy in regional cooperation which was witnessed is not unique, even there were division in the UK on the question of joining European Union, he

The state minister said there is a growing realisation that much good could be achieved through shared wisdom which can be attained by firm cooperation. He said the world has come to a stage where no country can live in isolation, but to exchange with others — be it in the immediate neighbourhood or far.

Faroque Sobhan said one of the great achievement of last CHOGM was the formation of South Asia Fund with a likely total investment of 200 million dollars. So far, over 107 million dollars have been arranged and the first meeting of the fund is likely to be held in next January in Mauritius, he said.

Michael Drury said European Union being the largest trading partner of Bangladesh has interests to invest in this country. He said potential investors from Europe are not fully aware of the brighter side of this country and hence the need for good publicity.

### Mirpur vagrant centre

From Page 1 During a visit to the vagrant centre Monday, this correspondent saw dozens of people moving around the centre trying to supply food or lobbying for the release of their sons, daughters or relatives, confined there for the last three months.

Some of them claimed that the 13 inmates who had fled from the centre and many others who demonstrated on Sunday did so because they were living there in a miserable condition. The 13 are yet to be traced

The Department of Social Services runs the centre which can accommodate up to 200 vagrants. But the centre has often been used as a 'dumping place' for tokais, according to sources in the department. Besides young girls, picked up by police for their alleged involvement in flesh trade, are also confined there, violating the existing law related to vagrants, said a senior official of the department.

The Controller of Vagrants in a letter to the Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in August had said that police were also arresting girls working in beauty parlours and sending them and those involved in flesh trade to the vagrant centre. This affected the atmosphere of the centre resulting immoral degradation of the vagrants, the letter added.

Officials of the department alleged that police were more interested in arresting the 'street girls' so that they could realise money from them. They dump the young girls in the vagrant centre creating problems

The officials added that the department had to spend a good amount of money for treatment of the girls as they carry various contagious diseases.

Replying to a question a senior official said they had to keep children, under the age of 16, in the vagrant centre af though it contradicted The Children Act. 1974 and the Children Rules, 1976.

#### Speaker's call From Page 1

pected, the Speaker made the request to the Home Minister. However, the minister was not present in the House at the time. Standing on a point of order. Syed Rafiqui Islam, MP, drew the Speaker's attention to armed attacks and damaging of

'Hotel Golden Inn,' owned by the MP, in Chittagong yesterday and blamed 'armed cadres' of the opposition BNP for the attack. He said that the armed cadres made the attack after being incited by 'provocative speeches' delivered by the BNP Chairperson in a Chittagong rally yesterday. He demanded exemplary punishment for the persons responsible for the at-

Mosharraf Hossain and ABM Abul Kashem, two other Treasury Bench members from Chittagong, also spoke on the same issue and held the opposition BNP responsible for creating anarchy at a time when a peace accord was going to be signed ending insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Mosharraf alleged that the

attack was made on the hotel in Chittagong in a planned manner and a policeman Abdul Mannan was also gunned down by the terrorists.

Nurul Islam Nahid, an Awami League lawmaker from Sylhet, dropped his planned idarity with the others regard-

point of order to express his soling the violence in Chittagong.

#### BAC to sue From Page 1

party affiliations."

The Prime Minister further added: "The process is underway to place the BAC in the Cabinet Division to make the body more dynamic and transparent. The plan will be implemented soon after the President's approval to the proposal.

Denying the allegation that corrupt practices had increased during her government, she noted, "Development expenditure rises due to corruption... The poor countries have limited allocation of resources. It's very natural that smuggling of money through corruption creates negative impact on development work."

A magistrate of the Juvenile Court at the Tongi Correctional Institute is responsible for holding 'trial' at the Mirpur Vagrant Centre. Only the magistrate has the authority to release anyone from the vagrant

The post of the magistrate at the Juvenile Court remained vacant for about three months although the Department of Social Services had urged the authorities concerned several times so that the vacancy is filled up.

Juvenile Court few days ago but he was yet to join. However, it could not be confirmed from the Ministry of Establishment.

#### From Page 1

alleged during the press conferalso subsequently attacked.

meeting," she said and firmly ruled out that it was due to in-

shifted coinciding with the date

Expressing her suspicion over the content of the treaty, she questioned as to why the government was hiding it from the people. "The government should immediately make public the content of the treaty it proposed to sign with the Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity. The government should place the treaty before the Jatiya Sangsad before it is

The press conference was also attended, among others, by the BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Jatiya Party (ZM) co-chairman Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

#### Jute workers

strike across the country.

Leaders of Patkal Sramik

The jute-textile workers have been agitating to press home their various demands. including implementation of wage commission recommendation of 1991 in the private jute and textile mills, formulation of 5th wage commission and stoppage of privatisation.

Abul Bashar, Lutfar Rahman, Shahidullah Chowdhury Badrul Alam Khan Lablu, Igbal Majumdar, Shah Alam, Mosiuddoullah, K Alam Belal Bachchu Mia, Siraj Sardar and Abul Hashem were present at the press conference.

#### From Page 1

ever, made it clear that there would be no point of consideration for those cases involving three types of crimes — murder,

The BNP's list of 'political cases' includes cases against 19 party lawmakers, 52 other cases and 20 general diaries

lodged with 13 thanas in the city against BNP leaders and workers since September 1

raise their efficiency level and

explained that the resource constraints of the government does not allow a further pay The leaders of the Parishad

will review the developments at a meeting of its leaders at the Secretariat today, the sources

#### and as soon as the door was opened, they stormed in to the They took gold ornaments. US dollars worth about Tk 2.88 lakh and Tk 30,000.

of dacoity at the residence of high officials of Railway at Shajahanpur area in last one None was arrested till last

This was the second incident

night in connection with the incident. A case was lodged with Motifheel thana in this regard.

#### Khaleda

From Page 1 that such move should be stopped, if needed at the cost of

ruling party had created the

CHT crisis when it was in power

She alleged that the present

earlier. She said this government, whenever had scope, signed anti-people and anti-state agreement with India.

"This government is run under the dictation of India as it wanted to remain in power with that country's blessing" she Criticising the water treaty

with India, Begum Zia said it was totally unfavourable to Bangladesh. "There is no guarantee clause in this treaty" she categorically said, adding that it could not be implemented. She urged the police and other government officials not to carry out any 'unjust' gov-

ernment order. Turning to country's economy, Begum Zia said Indian goods had flooded the Bangladesh markets as the border was kept open to ruin the country's industries.

"Our farmers are not getting fair price against their produces today while all kinds of business activities slumped", she

The grand rally presided over by Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, president of BNP's city committee, was addressed by Matiur Rahman Nizami, of Jamaat-e-Islami, Kazi Zafar Ahmed of JP. Shafiul Alam Prodhan of Jagpa, Shawkat Hossain Nilu of PNP, Saifuddin Manik of DL, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, MP, Amir Khasru Mehmud Chowdhury, MP, Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury, MP. Moulana Abu Taher and others.

set up early next year need for the development and proper use of modern management system and modern tech-

nology. Chaired by RCCI President Mohammad Ali Sarkar, the function was also addressed by Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank Chairman Tajul Islam Mohammad Farook. Bank officials, businessmen, government officials, elite and jour-

nalists were also present. The Governor also sought help and cooperation of the chamber members for recovery of loans from the defaulters, and added that 37 per cent loans have so far been realised from the defaulters out of Tk 13,000

Lutfar Rahman said banks

are playing a vital role in the

infrastructural development of

the country. Stressing the need for quick industrial development of the country, he said, political will and leadership are essential in this regard. Earlier, he visited the Head

Office of Rajshahi Krishi Un-

navan bank and Rajshahi

#### Branch of Bangladesh Bank. 2 JCD leaders

held in Sylhet From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 11: Kotwali po lice arrested Najibur Rahman Najib and Mofajjal Hossain Bulbul, Vice-Presidents of Sylhet District unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal on charge of creating chaos during the torch procession of District Jubadal on

Sunday might. The Sylhet district BNP president and Secretary in charge M A Haque and Advocate Noman Mahmud in a statement strongly condemned the arrests and demanded their immediate release. The district unit of JCD also brought out a procession and held a rally yesterday afternoon demanding release of the party leaders.

#### EC issues showcause on Beanibazar TNO

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Nov 11: The Election Commission has issued show cause notice on the Thana Nirbahi Officer of Beanibazar thana of Sylhet on charge of unauthorised collection money from the candidates of the union parishad elections during the filing of nomination papers on November 4 and 5.

There are allegations that the TNO collected unauthorised money ranging from Taka 100 to 500 from the candidates as donations for a mosque.

#### 34 symbols

From Page 1

drawal of the candidature as per the UP (Election) Rules 1983, a press release of the Election Commission said.

The symbols for the member candidates in general seats are: mango, pitcher, kite, table, green coconut, see-saw, lock and key, jug, bucket, ladder, fish, cock, rickshaw and hand-The symbols for the female.

member candidates in reserved seats are: cup-saucer, spade, bullock-cart, rose, star, wallclock, pen-inkpot, tubewell, betel leaf and king stork. The symbols for the chairman candidates are: pineapple.

brella, butterfly, candle, deer and duck If the number of candidates exceeds the number of symbols. then the Returning Officer concerned with allot symbol from the additional list of symbols.

kula, wheel, tea-cup, chair, um-

If more than one candidates demand the same symbol, the Returning Officer will give them a scope for mutual understanding among themselves. If they fail, the Returning Officer would allocate the symbols through lottery.

The decision of the Returning Officer will be considered as final in distributing the sym-

#### Trust newspapers Payment of dues

court resumes at 9:30 am today.

to journalists, employees begins

The payment of dues to the journalists, press workers and general staff of the trust newspapers — The Bangladesh Times, Dainik Bangla, weekly Bichitra and fortnightly Ananda Bichitra, began yesterday, an official handout said, reports BSS.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed formally handed over cheques to the persons who have gone on voluntary retirement. Information Secretary M Akmol Hossain and Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mohammad Mokbul Ahmed were present on the oc-

**Times-Bangla Trust** 

Showcause on govt for ordering voluntary resignation A High Court bench yester day asked the government to

voluntary resignation of the journalists and employees of the Times-Bangla Trust shall not be declared illegal, reports The court also asked the government to explain why the decision to cancel the declaration

show cause why the order of the

be declared without lawful authority. The HC Division bench comprising Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman and Abu Sayeed

of Bangladesh Times shall not

Ahmed issued the rule after hearing a writ petition. The petition was filed by Mohammad Shamsur Rahman. a senior sub-editor of Bangladesh Times and the deputy unit chief DUJ Times unit and Mujibul Hoque a senior ACC assistant and general secretary of Bangladesh Times Emplo-

yees Union. The court fixed November 24 for hearing of the case and asked the respondents to show

cause by the date. The government, represented by the Information Secretary, Deputy Secretary (Press) and Dhaka's Additional Deputy Commissioner have been made respondents in the writ peti-

## Shamsher Mobin made envoy to

Vietnam The government has decided to appoint Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, at present ambassador of Bangladesh to Ger many, as ambassador of Bangladesh to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, according to an official announcement in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

#### 3 killed

From Page 1

tonight, BDR were deployed at the troubled spots to assist police and the situation came under control, police officials

ing in the city. Security has been tightened. BNP meanwhile called a half day hartal in Chittagong tomorrow to protest what it said attack on its meeting here to-

A tense situation is prevail-

#### MOU signed

of the Chinese government had extensive talks with his Chinese counterpart, Niu Maosheng.

From Page 1

Razzak invited China to participate in the international seminar on the feasibility study on the Ganges barrage project scheduled to be held in Dhaka in February, 1998. Maosheng assured Razzak

that China was eager to render all possible assistance and cooperation to Bangladesh in the areas of flood control and water development.

sions. Our doors are open. We're ready to sit across the table anytime. "Steps are underway to develop the meeting venues and in

# we must take necessary Administrative steps to implement the government decision of not allowing Tribunals (Amend)

Parliament last night passed the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 1997, re-

ports UNB. The Bill, which proposed Minister Abdul Matin Khasru.

amended form by voice vote.

only seven per cent eventually got married. However, all the money children earn never reach their hands. They are forced to pay about 50 to 60 per cent of their earning to the mastans in order

to get access to the sex market. The average age of the clients of the street girls is about 30 years, lower than that of the clients of the boy prostitutes which is about 37 years. The majority of the clients of the boys come from the non-working class strata of the urban fabric and 34 per cent of them belong to the class of urban pro-

fessionals. Researchers found that about 85 per cent of the street child prostitutes were not at all aware of preventive measures

against STD and HIV/AIDS. The members of the study team - A K M Masud Ali, A K M Mustaque Ali and Ratan Sarkar Red Barnet officials, NGO representatives and professionals from different sectors participated in the dissemination held at the WVA auditorium.

## Model Nat'l Law on Refugees

From Page 1 count of particular situation in each country.

It gave the definition of a refugee as "any person who is outside his or her country of origin, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, sex, nationality, ethnic identity, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

principle of 'non-refoulement' saying, "No refugee or asylum seeker should be expelled or returned in any manner whatsoever to a place where there were reasons to believe his or her life or freedom would be threatened. "The repatriation of refugees shall take place at their free vo-

The Model Law upheld the

lition expressed in writing or other appropriate means which must be clearly expressed. The voluntary and individual character of repatriation of refugees and the need for it to be carried out under conditions of safety

to the country of origin shall be respected" reads another provision of the Model Law. "A major advantage is that

national legislation will enable governments to distinguish between refugees, being persons fleeing conflict and persecution and lacking national protection, and others who do not fall within the refugee definition," said a press release issued immediately after the concluding session of the conference yesterday afternoon. The conference over, some of

the experts who participated in it, briefed newsmen. Dr Kamal Hossain, Chairman of Bangladesh Association for UNHCR told newsmen that the Model Law would be taken back to their respective countries by the participants from India. Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh for wider dissemination and discussion so that governments of those countries could enact laws in the process. No country in South Asia has yet ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Earlier, speaking on the first day of the conference, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister

ular, for the causes of the asylum seekers and the refugees. He said the next round of expert groups' meeting would be held in Kathmandu sometime in

Officials of the department said a magistrate from Gazipur district was ordered to join the

#### Hartal in Ctg

ence, adding that the attack was launched from the direction of the circuit house which was "Police did not attack the

tra-party conflict. Begum Zia also said that Alliance will observe a hartal on November 16, if the government signed the peace treaty with the Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity on the day, adding that hartal will be

of signing of the treaty.

signed," she said.

From Page 1

Karmachari Sangram Parisad, Suta-Bastrakal Sramik Karmachari Federation, Bastrashilpa Sramik League and Jute Spinning and Twine Mills Sramik Karmachari Federation addressed the press conference.

Among the workers' leaders,

#### List of cases

possessing of arms and corrup-

Pay scale From Page 1 employee sources said. The minister urged them to

# hike.