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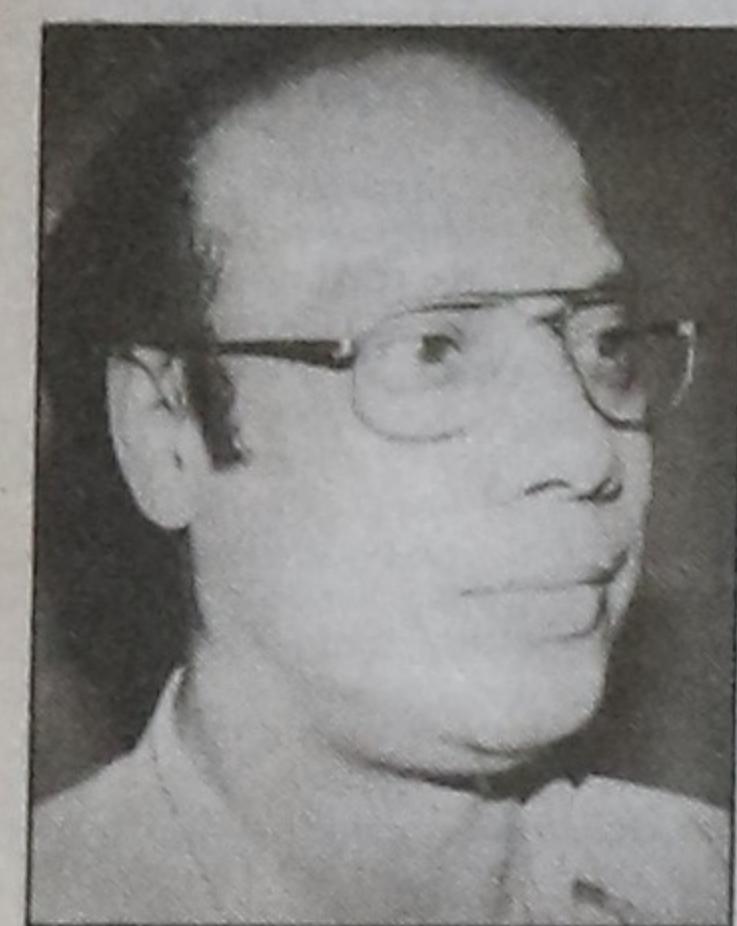
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Azad Chowdhury
re-appointed
DU VC

By DU Correspondent
Incumbent Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury has been re-appointed for the next four-year term.

Chancellor of the university President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday signed the appointment letter, sources said, preferring anonymity, adding that the official announcement will be made today.

Prof. Chowdhury told The Daily Star, "I am yet to receive the appointment letter."

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**Annan urges
donors to
stand by
flood victims**

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has appealed to donors to stand by Bangladesh's flood victims, reports BSS.

The secretary general is distressed by the devastation ... being caused by severe floods in India, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam, a United Nations statement received here yesterday said.

It added that Annan "reiterated the readiness of the United Nations to assist national authorities in dealing with the consequences of the floods and called the international donor community to contribute generously to the efforts of the governments of these countries to assist the victims of the destructive floods".

**Customs officials
in Ctg threaten
strike from
October 18**

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 27: The Customs Officials and Employees Coordination Council today announced programmes including indefinite strike at Chittagong customs house and fast unto death from October 18 if the government's move for inter-departmental transfer is not withdrawn by October 7.

The programmes were announced at a grand rally of the customs officials and employees at Chittagong customs house this afternoon.

The rally organised by the Coordination Council was presided over by Shafiqul Alam. It was addressed by Shahnewaj, Jakir Hossain, Jahangir Khan, Farid Uddin, Mojamal Hoque, Gias Uddin and Md Yunus.

Other programmes are two-hour work abstention from October 15 to October 17, mass hunger strike on October 12, human chain from 9 am to 11 am on October 11 and demonstration for one hour from 9 am from October 8 to October 10.

The speakers urged the government to immediately withdraw the decision for amalgamation of sea customs and land customs.

**Easy win for
New Zealand**

HARARE, Sept 27: New Zealand batsman Craig Spearman destroyed Zimbabwe in the first of three one-day cricket internationals here on Wednesday in a seven-wicket win, reports AFP.

New Zealand coasted to the target with 184-3 and used only 40.5 overs for their relatively easy task.

Spearman scored two and two in his Harare Test innings. But he more than made up for those lapses when he sped to 86 from 104 deliveries, taking the Kiwis close to a modest Zimbabwe target of 183 set by the home team.

12000 health workers to lose job

By Naimul Haq

The government has decided to reduce its field level health and family planning workers to 32,000 from 44,000 in three years, sources concerned said.

The 27 per cent reduction, mainly from projects at union level and below under the development budget, will be made to trim the overburdened Family Planning wing for its merger with the Health wing of the ministry. The merger may be completed by 2005 or 2006.

The trimming will be made by not renewing contract services and making no fresh recruitment.

Alongside the trimming, certain categories of projects and jobs will be placed under the government's revenue budget from the development budget, the sources said.

The merger is being made as per the Health and Population Sector Programme (HPS) under the on-going Fifth Five Year Plan.

After three years, the manpower will be further reduced under a Human Resource Development Programme so that the total strength at union level and below after the merger stands at 32,000, the sources said.

Services of about ten per cent of the FP staff will be brought under the Health wing every year. "Since we are already behind schedule, services of about 30 per cent of the staff will be brought under the Health wing this year, starting from senior officials," one source said.

Sensational murders in city

Main accused go scot-free with blessing of AL men, cops'

By Staff Correspondent

None of the main accused in the recent sensational murders in the city could be arrested as they are either sheltered by ruling party leaders or are being given "safe passage" by a section of policemen, sources concerned claimed.

Detective Branch police raided several places in the city but could not arrest Rabeeb Hasan Sumon who, along with his accomplices killed Mohsin, 18 and Sayem, 19, at the Gandaia Rifle Club on September 15.

Sumon is a central leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League. He is the son of Nasim Ahmed, a leader of Motilla Awami League and commissioner of wards 75, 76, 80, 81 and 82 in the city.

Jewel and Rebel were called out from their Mohammadpur house by Pasha one after another within an interval of fifteen minutes, taken to a nearby place and shot dead. The case was handed over to DB but transferred again to Mohamadpur thana. It was reported earlier that Pasha is a professional killer.

Jewel Majumder, son of ruling party MP Kamal Majumder and two others were accused in the murder of cellular phone trader Iftekhar Ahmed Shipu at Banani on May 24. The case was transferred to DB but it could not yet arrest any of the FIR-listed accused.

Kamal Pasha, distant relative of a ruling party MP, is accused of killing two brothers - Ashfaque Hossain Jewel and Mohammad Ali Rebel - on May 5. He could not be arrested yet although some sources claim that he is often seen in the city.

Jewel and Rebel were called out from their Mohammadpur house by Pasha one after another within an interval of fifteen minutes, taken to a nearby place and shot dead. The case was handed over to DB but transferred again to Mohamadpur thana. It was reported earlier that Pasha is a professional killer.

Three young men were murdered near the Mahakhalil police box on April 5. Gulshan Police filed a murder case in this connection, allegedly not to give the victims' families any scope to lodge case.

The families later jointly filed a petition case with the CMM's court accusing 11 people. Mo

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PM's statement

Envoy asked to confirm Pak FM's comment

Bangladesh yesterday instructed its envoy in Islamabad to confirm whether Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar had actually made any objectionable comments on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's observations made recently with regard to Pakistani atrocities during the War of Liberation in 1971, reports BSS.

High Commissioner Alimul Haque has been asked to ascertain from Pakistan Foreign Minister's office if the statement as reported to us was actually made by Abdul Sattar, at a press conference in Islamabad on September 25, a high official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said.

On Tuesday, Bangladesh had asked Pakistan High Commissioner Iqbal Ahmad Khan to provide MOFA with a copy of the FM's statement made at the said press conference.

A transnational news agency

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Irina Privalova of Russia (R) clears a hurdle in the women's 400m hurdles final of the Sydney Olympic Games to win the gold yesterday.

— AFP photo

Salary, allowances of non-govt primary school teachers raised

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced a Tk 30-crore financial package increasing salary and allowances of non-government registered primary school teachers, reports UNB.

Besides, the amount of incidental expenses of each school has been raised to Tk 150 from Tk 30.

These financial benefits for non-government primary school teachers would cost an additional expenditure of Tk 30 crore from the government exchequer, the Prime Minister said.

Education Minister S H K Sadeq, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Satish Chandra Roy, Secretary of Primary and Mass Education Dr Shadat Hossain, Vice President of Non-government Primary School Teachers Association Golam Mohammad, Advisor

Sheikh Hasina said the government has also decided to pay monthly house rent of Tk 100 and medical allowance of Tk 150 to non-government primary school teachers.

Tofazzal Hossain and Secretary General Mansur Ali also spoke at the meeting.

The Prime Minister said a bill for Non-government Primary School Welfare Trust would be passed by parliament in its next session.

She said the teachers and members of their families would be benefited after establishment of the trust.

Stressing the need for quality education, she said it depends on competence and capability of a teacher. She said a good teacher means a good school.

Hasina narrated the government's various schemes for setting up new schools, repairing old ones, recruiting teachers and their training.

Hasina said the government is aware of the problems facing the teacher community and assured that all these problems would be addressed in phases within limited resources.

Scores hurt, 500 detained in Prague

Scuffle with cops on: IMF, WB delegates besieged



Demonstrators break the windows of the McDonald's fast food restaurant on Wenceslas Square in Prague as violent demonstrations against the IMF and the World Bank continued there yesterday.

PRAGUE, Sept 27: After anti-capitalism rioters went on a rampage that injured dozens and trashed visible symbols of the globalised economy, more trouble broke out early today when dozens of people scuffled with police outside a hotel where IMF and World Bank delegates were staying, reports AP.

Police quickly pushed the angry crowd away from the hotel, but tensions remained high in the Czech capital as wary authorities stayed on guard outside the International Monetary Fund and World Bank summit.

Police spokesman Jiri Sutner said about 100 activists were detained near the Hilton hotel, raising the overall number of detentions to more than 500.

Police had earlier said 50 protesters were involved in the scuffle, and it was not immediately possible to explain the discrepancy.

Another group of about 300 or 400 activists began moving from a town square toward the police station in the early afternoon, but were stopped by riot police. There was no violence.

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Dhaka protests decline in ODA transfer

Bangladesh raised voice before the donors against decline in ODA transfer, constrained market access for the developing countries and unmatched production factors, reports UNB.

The Finance Minister said liberalisation of the flow of goods and services had not been matched by the flow of factors of production.

Labour migration policies of the industrialised countries continue to be restrictive, he pointed out. Movement of capital has also been highly volatile, often exacerbated by unstable portfolio investment.

Against this backdrop, Kibria welcomed the initiation to establish a new international financial architecture. "But a new structure will not be sustainable unless it is based on equity where both developing and developed countries have equal opportunity for participation."

He asserted that access of developing countries to industrial markets still remained constrained by tariff and non-tariff barriers, according to a message received here.

"Competition in the service

Clinton looks forward to Hasina's visit, says US envoy

Newly appointed US Ambassador to Bangladesh Mary Ann Peters yesterday said President Bill Clinton is eagerly waiting to receive Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Washington next month.

"Despite his heavy schedule of campaigning in his country, President Clinton is keenly waiting to receive you," the ambassador told the Prime Minister during a courtesy call at her office.

Renewing Clinton's invitation to Hasina, the envoy said the US administration was working hard with relevant ministries of Bangladesh government.

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Mannan Bhuiyan returns today

By Staff Correspondent
BNP secretary general Abdul

Mannan Bhuiyan returns home today after treatment in Singapore.

He will arrive at Zia International Airport at 10:20 pm, according to a BNP press release.

Mannan Bhuiyan left Dhaka on September 20 for treatment at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore. He was released from the hospital on Sunday as his condition improved.

He is in a stable condition and will be able to start normal activities shortly, the press release added.

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