

PM asks party men to work vigorously for polls

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday asked her party's field level leaders to gear up mass contact and organisational activities ahead of the upcoming general elections. She also asked them to work for the party candidates to be nominated for the next elections. The prime minister gave the directives during a meeting with the party's grassroots level leaders at her 30 Hare Road office in the evening.

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Ohio internet healthcare help for Bagerhat women

MONJUR MAHMUD

Rural women in Bangladesh now can get advanced medical counselling from the specialists in the US, thanks to the Internet service. Amader Gram ICT for Development -- a non-government organisation (NGO) -- is going to launch an online service in detecting breast cancer in Bagerhat district from the second week of this month. The International Breast Cancer Research Foundation (IBCRF) of Ohio State University, USA will provide the service through Internet

for the rural women of Bangladesh. "Initially the service for detecting breast cancer will be available at the Shapfulful Mother & Child Health Care Centre -- an associate organisation of Amader Gram -- in Bagerhat and later it will be extended to other areas of the country gradually," Reza Salim, project director of Amader Gram, told The Daily Star. The advice of US specialists will be available within eight hours in diagnosis of breast cancer and they will also make necessary suggestions for treatment.

Amader Gram and IBCRF has recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement in Bagerhat to execute the project. Reza Salim and Heather Roberto, research specialist of IBCRF, signed the agreement on behalf of their organisations. Initial screening will be done to those with the breast tumour or other symptoms at the Primary Screening Centre. The reports of all these tests will be sent to the IBCRF through Internet.

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Dealers stop receiving fertiliser from Zia factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Fertiliser dealers of Zia Fertiliser Company Ltd refrained from lifting urea from the factory since Friday protesting against upazila-wise fertiliser allocation system. According to sources, the dealers were supposed to deposit money on August 31 to draw urea from September 1. But none of the 668 dealers made the deposit protesting against the government decision to allocate fertiliser upazila-wise instead of the previous district-wise allocation system.

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South Asian pilgrims shot dead in Iraq

18 Iraqis killed in attack, Pentagon warns of looming civil war

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi insurgents slaughtered 14 south Asian Shia pilgrims and 18 Iraqi civilians yesterday after the Pentagon warned that the country was close to falling into a sectarian war. Suspected Sunni gunmen dragged a group of Pakistani and Indian travellers off a bus crossing

the desert towards the Shia holy city of Karbala and shot dead 11 Pakistani and three Indian men. "They were coming in a big bus with children and women. The attackers freed the women and children and shot dead the men, execution-style," said interior ministry spokesman Brigadier General Abdul Karim Khalaf. Karbala city health director Salim

Kadhimi confirmed the death toll, and said the bus had taken a route past Ramadi, a stronghold of Sunni Arab rebels, who are often blamed for murderous attacks against Iraq's Shia majority. The murders came as Iraq was already braced for a possible backlash from Shia militias after a synchronised series of bomb attacks in

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Nurses and doctors of Suhrawardi Hospital bring out a procession at the hospital yesterday during their two-hour strike demanding immediate punishment to those who beat up two male nurses on Thursday.

SUHRAWARDI HOSPITAL Patients suffer as strike enforced over staff abuse
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sufferings of several hundred patients at Shaheed Suhrawardi Hospital in the capital increased as physicians, nurses, officials and staff of the hospital yesterday started a two-hour abstention from

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3 killed in "crossfire" in Khulna, Rangpur

STAR REPORT

Three criminals were killed in "crossfire" during separate incidents of shootouts between their accomplices and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Khulna and Rangpur early yesterday. The dead were identified as Mohammad Abul Hossain, 24 and Mohammad Shamim, 23, members of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) of South Tootpara in Khulna and Sadek Hossain alias Pancho Dakat, a police listed robber in Rangpur. Our staff correspondent from Khulna says: Abul and Shamim died

in an encounter between members of Rab-6 and the PBCP outlaws at about 2:50am on Saturday at Tootpara Barhokhalparh area under Khulna Sadar Police Station. They were arrested at Jorhakhil Bazar at around 9:00am on Friday, says a Rab press release. At least 31 shots were fired during the 16-minute long gunfight in which two Rab members sustained bullet injuries. The outlaws also exploded bombs, the press release said. Three cartridges and a few splinters of bombs were recovered from the scene.

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EU sets deadline for Iran over nukes row

Annan in Tehran for talks

REUTERS, Lappeenranta

The European Union agreed yesterday to try to clarify Iran's stance on halting uranium enrichment within two weeks as the UN secretary general arrived in Tehran to discuss the dispute. Kofi Annan's visit to Iran takes place two days after the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), reported Tehran had failed to meet the UN Security Council's August 31 deadline to suspend sensitive work. The United States, which accuses Iran of seeking atomic

14 British killed in Afghan air crash

BBC ONLINE

Fourteen British armed personnel have died after their aircraft crashed in Afghanistan, the British Ministry of Defence said. Twelve Royal Air Force (RAF) personnel, a Royal Marine and an Army soldier were among those who died in the crash in the southern province of Kandahar in Afghanistan. The aircraft belonged to Nato-led international force against the Taliban. An International Security Assistance Force spokesman said, "Enemy action had been discounted at this stage." Earlier, Nato said its forces had launched a major offensive against known hideouts of the Taleban insurgents in the Panjwayi district of Kandahar, with the aim of driving them out of the area. There was no indication of an

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Prayer Timing		
September 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-23	6-26
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

