

## PM threatens legal action against chaos, anarchy

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday cautioned that chaos and anarchy in the name of movement would not be tolerated and that action would be taken under the law of the land if anyone took the law into one's own hands.

"BNP and alliance government has come to power by a two-thirds majority of people's vote, not on mercy of anyone. So, any kind of indiscipline and anarchy in the country would not be tolerated," she told a big public meeting at Chapainawabganj.

She urged the opposition to come to the path of peace shunning the path of chaos and anarchy, in order to join in the country's forward march following the roadmap of development.

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## Proposal for opposition day in JS ignored in report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body has prepared a report recommending some amendments to rules of procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad, rejecting vital suggestions for introducing 'opposition days' in parliament and making opposition lawmakers chiefs of parliamentary standing committees.

The parliamentary standing committee on rules of procedure headed by Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar has dropped its earlier decision to amend the rules of procedure to allow sending the proposed national budget to parliamentary bodies for scrutiny, sources said.

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## Robbers loot Tk 8 lakh from bank in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed robbers stabbed two cashiers and got away with Tk 8 lakh from a bank exploding cocktails in city's Halishahar area yesterday.

The robbery took place at around 11:45am at the Halishahar Housing Estate branch of Agrani Bank in presence of at least 20 clients alongside the bank officials.

The branch had no police posted there for security.

Witnesses said the gang of around 10 robbers came by two

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## JUDICIARY SEPARATION Bill gathers dust in JS for govt's apathy

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The much-talked-about bill for separation of the judiciary from the executive has been gathering dust in parliament for over six months due to the government's insincerity towards Supreme Court (SC) directives in this regard.

The possibility of passage of the bill during the tenure of the current parliament is also fading fast as its last session will be prorogued on September 27 with the parliamentary body tasked with submitting a scrutiny report on the bill having

made no move yet.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs held its last meeting yesterday but did not discuss the bill styled Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2006. The bill was the last on the meeting agenda.

Committee member Justice Mozammel Huq admitted that they did not discuss the bill at yesterday's meeting.

If the bill is not passed by the parliament during its ongoing session, its effectiveness will be

lapsed with dissolution of the current parliament on October 27. In that case, a new bill will have to be moved in next parliament which will be formed after the next parliamentary election scheduled for January next year.

Sources said sensing the government's stance for not passing the bill, the parliamentary body, which has held at least six meetings since the bill was sent to it for scrutiny on February 26, did not even start the process of scrutinising the bill.

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## FNB worried at Proshika staff arrests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) yesterday expressed grave concern over the indiscriminate arrest of Proshika staff and asked the government to make public the reasons behind the recent crackdown on the NGO.

In a press release of the federation, the NGO leaders also urged not to make any such arrest or harass any NGO of the country without valid grounds.

Around 200 offices of Proshika, one of the leading NGOs of the country, virtually remained closed across the country for the last four days due to the crackdown. Many of its panic-stricken staff have gone into hiding fearing further arrests.

A meeting of the National Executive Board of FNB on

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## Heated debate in JS over Phulbari coalmine

Hasina blames BNP for signing accord; Mosharraf, Moudud say no agreement signed on 'mining'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday in parliament locked horns with previous BNP government's energy minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain over the agreement on open-pit coal mining signed with Asia Energy.

Both Awami League (AL) President Hasina and Mosharraf showed documents in support of their arguments.

Mosharraf, now health minister, and Law Minister Moudud Ahmed

said no government has signed any agreement for open-pit coal mining at Phulbari.

At one stage of the unscheduled debate on point of order, BNP lawmaker Moshir Rahman alleged that it was the AL government that signed the agreement with Asia Energy and Hasina's son Sajib Wazed Joy negotiated the deal from London.

He said, "I can challenge that the BNP government did not sign any agreement with Asia Energy and I will resign if I fail to prove it."

During the debate, the opposi-

tion lawmakers also blasted the government for police atrocities on the AL leaders and workers during their siege of Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Tuesday.

In reply to Sheikh Selim's accusation that the police harassed women activists, even tried to strip them, during the opposition's PMO siege programme, Moshir said, "A fake picture was published in a daily showing the woman activist partially stripped due to police beating."

Just after Moshir's speech,

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PHOTO: STAR

Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra bring out a procession in the capital yesterday rejecting the new pay structure for readymade garment workers proposed on Tuesday.

## EU mission for talks to solve reform disputes Meets Justice KM Hasan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The visiting European Union (EU) mission yesterday stressed the need for dialogue among the political parties to solve disputes relating to reforms in the caretaker government and Election Commission.

The EU Observation Exploratory Mission met former president and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) chief Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday at the KCMemorial Clinic.

The EU team asked the BDB leaders whether it would be useful, feasible and advisable to send an

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## Indo-Bangla joint visit of erosion-hit areas from today

RASHIDUL HASAN

Water resources ministers of Bangladesh and India for the first time from today will start visiting jointly the trans-border areas affected by land erosion by the rivers shared by both countries.

The visit is designed to give the ministers a first-hand experience of the sufferings of the people of those areas which spring from natural calamities originating from the raging rivers during the monsoon, diplomatic sources said.

Bangladesh and India share 54

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## Babar backs cop action

Nasim not well yet, Noor recovering fast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar threw his weight behind the cops yesterday, a day after the 'unprovoked' police action on Awami League lawmakers Mohammad Nasim and Asaduzzaman Noor during the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) siege programme, arguing that they were in fact forced to go into action.

"No lawmaker is above law," Babar told reporters at his office yesterday. "The police had no choice but to go into action."

The opposition activists joined the programme with sticks and

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## RMG WORKERS REJECT WAGE PLAN Tougher movement if not reviewed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While workers organisations rejected the proposed pay structure for the garment sector, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday sought opinion from its members about the possible impact of the new wage.

Different workers' organisations representing the readymade

garment (RMG) sector yesterday urged the National Wage Board to review its proposal and warned of a tougher movement if the minimum wage is not revised to an acceptable level.

The organisations brought out processions at Muktangan in the capital and tried to move towards the wage commission office to lay siege to it but police stopped them at Topkhana crossing.

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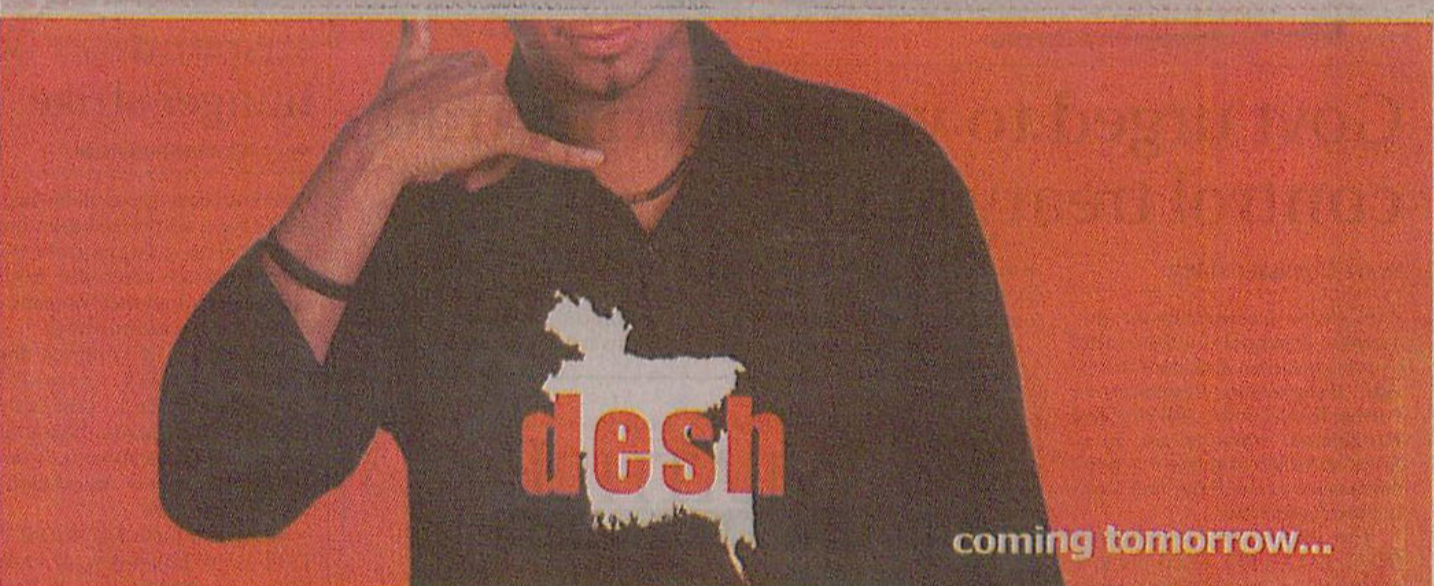
## Govt retreats from case dropping move

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appealed to withdraw the petitions placed earlier for withdrawal of two cases filed against two brothers in connection with possession of 520 bottles of the contraband syrup Phensidyl.

Metropolitan Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdullah Mahmud Hasan submitted two separate petitions on September 7 along with a home ministry letter recommending withdrawal of the cases saying the

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