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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Sangsad likely to meet on Oct 12

Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) is likely to be summoned into session sometime in the second week of October. Ruling party sources told UNB Tuesday night that in all probability parliament will meet on October 12.

### Newspaper price raised

Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) has fixed the price of each issue of minimum eight-page newspaper at Taka 4.00, a BSP press release signed by its president Motiul Hossain said here Tuesday. The new price will come into effect from September 26, the press release said adding that BSP fixed the new price in consultation with government, BSP members and others.

### RU reopens, classes held

All classes of Rajshahi University were held peacefully Tuesday as the varsity reopened after two months of unscheduled closure. The University authority opened all the residential halls for students from September 21, reports UNB.

### Principal's office ransacked

From Our Correspondent MANIKGANJ, Sept 24: Over one hundred degree examinees of Daulatpur upazila in Manikganj district ransacked the office of the Principal of Daulatpur Matilal Degree College on Monday after they saw their results were withheld for non-payment of examination centre fees they had submitted and demanded his immediate removal.

### 'Toofan Bahini' members held

FARIDPUR, Sept 24: Police arrested two members of the outlawed 'Toofan Bahini' including their leader and recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition from Shadia village in Shibpur upazila Monday morning after an exchange of fire for half an hour, reports UNB.

## Nominations for the post of President today: AL still undecided Biswas may be lone candidate

Star Report

The nomination of BNP's candidate for the post of President will be formalised at a meeting of its Standing Committee at the Prime Minister's office today at 10 am.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had a meeting with some of her cabinet colleagues late last night immediately after her return from a tour of Feni at 10-30 pm. Her return to the city was delayed because she had to come by road due to inclement weather.

After the one and a half

hour meeting at her Sugandha office Begum Zia said her party's decision would be announced today.

Reliable sources, however, indicated that the BNP leadership had made up its mind to nominate Speaker Abdul Rahman Biswas. But since such an important decision cannot be taken at an informal meeting like last night's an official announcement will be made after the BNP Standing Committee meeting this morning.

Nominations for the October 8 presidential election

are to be submitted between 8 am and 2-30pm today. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be done tomorrow at 10am. The last day of withdrawal of candidature will expire on September 30 at 2-30 pm.

The central leaders of Awami League also had a meeting at the Minto Road office of the Leader of Opposition in Parliament with Sheikh Hasina in the chair. AL's decision will also be announced after a meeting this morning.

BNP's meeting at the Sugandha office of the Prime

Minister was attended by Agriculture Minister Majidul Haq, Local Government Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar, Speaker Abdul Rahman Biswas, Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman Education Minister Barrister Zamrudin Sircer, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Information Minister Bariah Nazmul Huda, Environment, Forests, Fisheries and Live-stock Minister Abdullah Al-

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## Conspiracy in name of democracy will not succeed: PM

FENI, Sept 24: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon the people to extend their wholehearted cooperation to consolidate the present democratic process to derive maximum benefit out of it, reports BSS.

"You must extend your full cooperation to this government irrespective of caste, creed and affiliations to ensure betterment of the teeming millions," she told a big public meeting at the local stadium.

Among others, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khandokar Mosharraf Hossain, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara, Ataur Rahman Mukul and Meshbahuddin Advocate spoke on the occasion.

The meeting was conducted by Shahiduddin Ferdous, General Secretary of Feni district BNP.

Begum Zia said that the days of tall talks were over. "Now is the time for all to work for building up the nation and to reach the cherished goal of progress and prosperity," she said.

She said those who had wanted to confuse the people in the name of democracy would soon be identified.

"Do not hatch conspiracy in the name of democracy otherwise you will be isolated

from the people," she said.

The BNP chairperson said those who had committed mistakes in the past should utilise the present opportunity and participate in the uplift activities.

The Prime Minister said the nation had to take its own initiative to build the country because nobody from outside would bring it progress and prosperity.

She said people of this country always struggled against the autocracy along with the democratic forces. At present democracy had been institutionalised with the introduction of parliamentary system of government, she said adding it was people again who had created history in the transition to democracy by giving their mandate in the referendum.

Begum Zia said people had elected their popular party, BNP, to power after ousting the autocratic regime. The government of BNP would work according to the will of the people, she said.

Begum Zia said the present government had strong determination to achieve self-reliance in all sectors of the national life by fulfilling all its commitment to the people one by one.

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## National gasgrid planned

FENI, Sept 24: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said today programme would be taken for gas supply to all parts of the country through the national gasgrid in the shortest possible time, reports UNB.

Inaugurating the Feni Gas Field at Ballia Choumohani, about 8 kilometre from here, she said the government was determined to ensure optimum utilisation of natural gas to bolster the economy.

The function was also addressed by Energy and Mineral

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## Disinvestment of public sector enterprises from next month: Saifur

Star Economic Report

The government would start disinvestment of public sector enterprises from next month.

This was stated by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman on Tuesday at a reception given in his honour by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) at a city hotel.

He said, the 'massive system losses' in all public sector bodies and the government-run organisations will continue

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## US urged to relax garments quota restrictions

NEW YORK, Sept 24: Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman has called upon the US administration to relax quota restrictions on garments industry to help the economy of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He said that the garment industry was labour-intensive and provided employment to a large number of people, especially women. Helping this industry would contribute to improve the quality of life of the people, he added.

Mostafiz stated this when the US Assistance Secretary of State, John Kelly accompanied by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mrs Teresta Schaffer called on him in his hotel suite

## Mizan opposes Shahabuddin's return to post of Chief Justice

Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party (JP) Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Tuesday opposed the return of the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, to his original post of Chief Justice, reports BSS.

He said as Justice Shahabuddin took many administrative and political decisions during his tenure as Acting President his return would affect independence of the

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## Hasina goes to UK Thursday

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina is expected to leave Dhaka Thursday (September 26) for United Kingdom, reports UNB.

The three-week tour will take her to London, Paris and New Delhi. "It's mainly an organisational tour when she is also expected to meet leaders of those countries," said Amir Hussain Amu, Awami League Joint Secretary.

During her stay in London, Hasina will attend a conference of the Awami League UK unit scheduled for September 29.

Party General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, will accompany the leader during the tour.

## Status of minister for DCC Mayor

The Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, Mirza Abbas, MP, will have the rank and status of a minister with related facilities while he is in office, an official handout said in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The Mayors of Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi City Corporations, Mir Nasir Uddin, Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and Mizanur Rahman Minu respectively will get the rank and status of a state minister with related facilities while they are in office.



Kompaninessa Bibi lamenting with her injured son, Mosharraf, at the hospital yesterday. —Star photo

## Minor girl killed, 3 of a family injured in explosion

By Staff Correspondent

A minor girl was killed and her two siblings along with their mother were seriously injured when a bomb exploded at their Gonokuli Sweeper Colony home in Azimpur Tuesday morning.

The bomb contained in a tin-can was collected by the girl, Hassora Begum (5) from a dustbin.

Hassora Begum, as part of her daily chore, returned home at around 7 am with a sackful of waste paper and tins collected from dustbins around the Azimpur area and gleefully told her mother, Kompaninessa Bibi, (30), that she may have found something valuable in a heavy tin-can.

When she emptied the contents of the sack on the floor of the hut, the "heavy tin-can" exploded injuring three of the children and the mother.

"I don't even know what all she had brought, I couldn't even have a look at it before the explosion rocked our house," lamented Kompaninessa Bibi from her hospital bed. She had just returned home after delivering water at some homes nearby, she added.

Her husband, Abdul Baset Mian (50), was at work as a loader at the Nawabganj Bazar at the time of the accident.

Local people rushed the injured to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Hassora succumbed to the injuries in the afternoon.

Her younger brother, Mosharraf (3), lost the middle and index finger of his left hand and also sustained lacerations to his forehead and body. Her elder sister, Hazera Begum (6), and her mother also sustained serious lacerating injuries to the body.

## Flood situation in 3 dists worsens

# Diarrhoea death toll rises

By Staff Correspondent

Diarrhoea claimed 31 more lives in the flood affected districts Tuesday raising the death toll to 467 since September 1.

According to official sources, another 2387 persons were attacked with diarrhoea Tuesday. Nearly 27 thousand people have so far been attacked by the disease in the 23 flood affected districts.

Government has set up 14 temporary medical camps in the flood stricken northern districts to arrest the spread of diarrhoea.

BSS adds: Four-truck loads of emergency medicines worth Taka 15 lakh was sent Tuesday to the districts of Kurigram,

Lalmoharhat, Rajbari, Satkhira and Sirajganj, a government handout said.

A number of senior officials including additional health secretary Prof KM Fariduddin, four deputy secretaries, additional director general of the Health Directorate, 10 directors and 16 deputy directors are now in the flood-affected areas to strengthen medicare.

Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister and Relief Coordinator of greater Rangpur district Tariqul Islam held a review meeting on flood situation and relief activities in Nilphamari district Tuesday.

It was attended by officials of district administration, rep-

resentatives for armed forces, peoples' representatives and local political leaders.

According to reports from our correspondent: In Nilphamari the death toll rose to 129 with two more deaths while another 384 were attacked with diarrhoea Tuesday. Eight medical teams including two special teams from ICDDR,B are now working in the affected areas of the district.

Diarrhoea situation in Kishoreganj, Chandpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha also remained critical where about one thousand people were attacked by the disease.

Our correspondent from

See Page 12 Col. 2

## JCD advised not to hold rally on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, abstained from holding any rally or procession on the campus Tuesday. It was learnt that JCD was advised by its central leadership not to hold campus meetings and processions in order to avoid further clashes with the rival student groups.

Awami League student front Chhatra League (S-A) however held a rally at the 'Aparajeo Bangla' to protest Monday's incidents in which its DU unit president Golam Mostafa Suzan was assaulted and an activist was stabbed.

The BCL rally was ad-

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## Ershad's wealth amassing case

# Heated debate in court

By Staff Correspondent

The Special Judge Court trying deposed President Ershad on Tuesday experienced a hot debate between the Prosecution and the Defence lawyers over the recalling of a Prosecution Witness by the Attorney General.

Prosecution witness Matir Rahman Sardar, the Investigating Officer in the wealth amassing case against Ershad further deposing before the Court proved that he had met and interrogated him in Gulshan sub-jail before submission of the chargesheet in this case.

The prayer of the Attorney General was made at one stage of the cross-examination of the

last prosecution witness.

Defence lawyer Yusuf Hossain Humayun raised serious objections against recalling of the witness.

The Attorney General recalled the Investigating Officer after completion of the cross-examination by Defence Counsel Yusuf Hossain Humayun. The deposition of Sardar began on September 18 and dragged on for the third day yesterday.

The Attorney General in his prayer pointed out that the recall of Matir Rahman Sardar (PW 48) was needed to record further deposition relating to the interrogation of the 'accused Ershad' and also to prove

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# Iraq detains UN nuclear inspectors again

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 24: Iraqi troops detained more than 40 UN nuclear weapons inspectors again Tuesday and demanded that they turn over videotape of a search they conducted at a Baghdad records-keeping building, UN officials said, reports AP.

David Kay, head of the inspection team, said 60 armed Iraqi security men were surrounding the UN team at the Baghdad building where they examined documents on Iraq's nuclear programmes today.

But he added he did not

feel "hostility" from the Iraqis and did not believe the lives of the team were in danger.

Johan Molander, spokesman for the UN Special Commission in charge of finding and demolishing Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said the inspectors on Tuesday found "significant records" at the documents repository, but not blueprints and nuclear weapons programme plans as they did Monday.

The inspectors did not try to remove the documents, but videotaped their search, he

said.

Earlier Tuesday, Iraq returned some documents its troops forcibly took from the inspection team on Monday, but UN officials said key information on Saddam Hussein's nuclear weapons programmes was missing.

"We suspect that important documents have not been given back to us," said Hans-Friedrich Meyer, spokesman of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

UN inspectors had taken the documents during a sur-

prise search in Baghdad on Monday. The inspectors were detained in another defiant step by Baghdad against the United Nations, and not allowed to leave until Iraqi troops had retrieved the documents.

David Kydd, another IAEA spokesman, said the documents were significant because they gave "the first indication of an Iraqi interest in turning their nuclear know-how into a weapons capability."

Kydd told BBC Radio that the documents included "in-

dications on paper of designs for ..... the detonation of a nuclear device."

He said the documents returned by the Iraqis did not include those with the most sensitive information.

The White House says it is increasingly pessimistic Iraq's Saddam Hussein will do what President Bush says he must: dismantle his country's clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the United States was considering

setting a 48-hour deadline for Iraq to comply with UN demands on the weapons, or take action to force the issue.

Bush spoke last week of possibly sending in armed escorts for UN helicopter inspection teams.

Bush told the UN General Assembly on Monday that "we will not compromise" on demands that Iraq destroy all its weapons of mass destruction.

"We're trying to sort all this out," Bush told Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello. Related story on Page 5