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Last week President Bush announced cuts in the US nuclear arsenals, which was more than matched by President Gorbachev announcing cuts in Soviet Union's nuclear arsenals
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Hot Water Lane — a 'messy' life within
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Business

Japanese grant assistance to Bangladesh is increasing by two billion yen every year
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NEWS BRIEFS

PM appoints relief Co-ordinator

Prime Minister and Chairperson of BNP Begum Khaleda Zia has appointed Wing Commander (Retd) M Hamidullah Khan to coordinate relief work and medicare in the flood and diarrhoea-affected areas of greater Rangpur district, reports BSS.

BNP MPs asked to attend session

A meeting of Whips in the city Thursday asked parliament members of ruling BNP to regularly attend the Jatiya Sangsad session due to begin Saturday, reports UNB.

Danish grant

Bangladesh will receive Danish Kroner 311 million (approximately, Taka 100 crore 70 lakh) as grant from Denmark during the calendar year 1992 as project and commodity assistance, reports BSS.

DU classes suspended

By DU Correspondent
 Classes of Dhaka University will remain suspended from tomorrow (Saturday) for eight days due to Hindu religious festival 'Durga Puza'.

Shantibahini burns 22 houses

RANGAMATI, Oct 10: Outlawed Shantibahini gunmen have burnt 22 houses in a reign of terror in Barkal upazila Tuesday-Wednesday and abducted two prominent tribesmen, reports UNB.

DU campus turns into battlefield

Star Report

The Dhaka University campus turned into a battlefield Thursday night when rivals Jatiyatada Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (S-A) traded heavy gunfire and exploded bombs.

Both the fighting groups claimed one activist injured on either side but declined to identify them.

The activists fired about 1000 rounds of bullets from their respective residential hall strongholds in the Arts Faculty area during the fighting that began at 7.30 pm and continued till our going to the press at 1.30 am.

Automatic weapons used in the fighting included cut rifles and pistols.

Our DU correspondent telephoned at about 12.30 am that a group of armed JCD activists had attacked the Jagannath hall.

Police cordoned the entire Arts Faculty area including the residential halls at around midnight raising apprehension of an early morning raid of the residential halls.

Inside the halls, the stu-

dents were panicky and those who were out in the late afternoon could not enter their halls as the shootout began in the evening.

According to eye witnesses, the fighting erupted when a group of armed youths all of a sudden fired several shots at the Mohsin Hall from near the 'Bashunia Turon'.

The shots were returned from the hall and the rival groups were chasing each other. The fighting then spread to the entire Arts Faculty area with the JCD activists entrenched in Mohsin, Suryasen, Zia and Mujib halls and BCL activists in Zahurul Huq, Salimulla and Jagannath halls.

UNB adds: The first shooting occurred at about 1.30 Wednesday night when at least 40 rounds of gunshots were heard in and around Zahurul Huq and Jagannath hall areas.

The campus situation worsened with an incident of beating up of a JCD activist later in the day.

Mizanur Rahman Mizan, a sophomore of Management

Department, was seriously beaten up by their rival group near the Arts Faculty Building at about 11 am.

Witnesses said that a group of gunmen attacked Mizan when he was taking food from the 'Campus Shadow' snackbar. The gunmen beat him with the butt of cut-rifle.

Mizan took first aid from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A number of activists of Chhatra League were seen running with automatic weapons in the corridor of the Arts Faculty at about 12 noon. Panicky students ran helter-skelter.

Clash at BAU

Another UNB report said: Two students were injured on Thursday as rival groups fought protracted battle at the Bangladesh Agriculture University at Mymensingh.

Authorities cancelled the third year final examination and declared the university closed from Saturday (September 12) for puja vaca-

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Jatiya Party workers fleeing the venue of the party meeting in the city yesterday after police started firing tear gas shells to disperse warring groups. — Star photo

Transfers of Asst Judges' Courts to dist hqs underway Plan to separate judiciary from executive finalised

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

The draft of a bill seeking to separate the judiciary from the executive branch of government has been finalised by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The draft, forwarded to the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat, will be referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice for scrutiny.

Disclosing this to The Daily Star Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz said that as

and when the bill becomes a law, Magistrates now controlled by the executive branch will be asked to opt for either the judicial service or the administrative service and their services will be adjusted accordingly.

Meanwhile, the government has started a process of transferring the Assistant Judges' Courts from upazila towns to district headquarters by

widening their territorial jurisdictions. So far about one hundred such courts have been shifted to district headquarters.

However, even though there will be no upazila courts, the government will, on popular demand, establish 'chowkis' in remote upazilas like Sandwip, Haliya, Kutubdia, Moheskhal from where people cannot

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Biswas pledges to uphold Constitution

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said Thursday that he would always uphold the country's Constitution at any cost and perform his duties according to law and principle of justice, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a reception accorded to him by the Sangsad Secretariat on his assumption as the President of the country.

Presided over by Sheikh Razzak Ali, Deputy Speaker, the function was also addressed by Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Whip

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Clashes foil Jatiya Party public meeting

By Staff Correspondent

A Jatiya Party public meeting in the city on Thursday afternoon ended in a fiasco as clashes between JP workers and its rival political activists broke out when it was proceeding. JP leaders blamed the BNP for the incident and alleged that the ruling party organised the attack on the public meeting.

The clash, which occurred at the meeting venue in front of the Baitul Mukarram north gate, left several people injured. Crackers, sticks and bricks were freely used during

the half an-hour long clash. Eye witnesses said firearms like cut rifles and pistols were in possession of some people involved in the violence.

Police lobbed at least 40 tear gas shells and resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the clashing groups. Eleven people were arrested from the venue.

Other than bursting of tear gas shells, explosions of over 20 crackers and several gunshots were heard during the clashes. Police said they did not fire any shot.

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Parliament session begins tomorrow

The Jatiya Sangsad session beginning tomorrow Saturday is likely to be short, but it will have a busy schedule, reports BSS.

The session, being held after the reintroduction of parliamentary democracy making the government accountable to the legislature will elect a new Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

Former Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas has been elected President of Bangladesh while the Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali is expected to become the Speaker.

"We will try to make the coming session short," Sheikh Razzak Ali said.

He said that the business Advisory Committee which will meet on October 13 under the chairmanship of the new Speaker will decide the duration of the session and its business.

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JP attempting to destabilise Govt, BNP leaders say

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Thursday accused the Jatiya Party of attempting to destabilise the government by spending black money accumulated during its nine years of autocratic rule.

At a rally in front of the National Press Club demanding that deposed President I M Ershad be hanged for the killing of Zihad, Ataur and Mona, the BNP leaders said that the JP started creating anarchy in the country at the very start of the launching of democracy to foil the achievement of the government.

Presided over by city BNP president Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali, the rally was addressed by BNP, JCD and Jubo

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Students pay respect to Oct 10 martyrs

By DU Correspondent

Various student organisations observed 'Shaheed Jhad Day' Thursday by holding rallies and processions separately on the Dhaka University campus.

They placed wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar in the morning to pay respect to the martyrs.

It may be recalled that Zahid Hossain Jhad, a Degree student of Ullapara College was killed in firing near Allahwala Building in the city on this day last year.

In the capital, police resorted to firing to disperse the demonstrating people who laid siege to the Secretariat demanding resignation of Ershad. The student organisations

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Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina called on former Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at his residence Thursday. — Star photo

Khaleda-Rao talks in Harare likely

By Moinuddin Naser

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will meet Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and discuss bilateral issues with him at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Harare capital of Zimbabwe from October 16.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will leave Dhaka on October 14 while Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman who left for Rome last night to attend a conference there will join her in Harare on October 15.

The Prime Minister's scheduled visit to Harare has

provided an opportunity for discussing bilateral issues between Bangladesh and India at a time when the bilateral relations between these two neighbouring countries need improvement, foreign office sources said. The meeting between the Indian leader and the Bangladesh Prime Minister will be a step in that direction.

Foreign office sources said that while in Harare the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will discuss all bilateral issues with her Indian counterpart including transfer of the Tinbigha Corridor to Bangladesh.

The matter was supposed to have been resolved during Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman's visit to India last month but because of new developments in Indian politics transfer of the Tinbigha Corridor as per an agreement in the post-independence period was delayed.

Even though the West Bengal government has agreed to hand over the Tinbigha Corridor, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Forward Block are obstructing its formal transfer.

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Nation will remain grateful to Shahabuddin, says Hasina

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina made a courtesy call on former Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at his residence Thursday, reports UNB.

Hasina expressed her personal and party's gratitude to Justice Ahmed for performing the onerous responsibility successfully guiding the nation in its transition to democratic rule in the country.

She said Justice Ahmed responded to people's call at the critical juncture of the history after the ouster of the autocrat Ershad and honestly completed the great task entrusted to him by the nation.

The nation will remain ever grateful to you for your untiring

Shahabuddin resumes duty of Chief Justice

The former Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Thursday formally joined the office of the Chief Justice of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Official sources said the joining letter of Justice Shahabuddin was accepted by the President, Abdur Rahman Biswas, with effect from Thursday.

The 11th amendment to the Constitution passed by the Jatiya Sangsad had ratified his appointment as the Vice

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Lankan Speaker survives no-confidence motion

COLOMBO, Oct 10: Sri Lanka's parliamentary Speaker today survived an opposition-sponsored no-confidence motion to oust him over his action in dropping impeachment charges against President Ranasinghe Premadasa, reports AFP.

Earlier report said: Opposition MPs began a fiery debate today on a no-confidence motion against the parliamentary Speaker, accusing him of taking bribes to drop impeachment moves against

President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Opening the debate, chief opposition whip Richard Pathirana told Parliament that Speaker Mohammad Haniffa Mohammad had accepted bribes, degraded Parliament and acted in a crooked manner in dropping the charges against Premadasa.

Opposition MPs also brandished a newspaper report alleging that Mohammad had been offered bribes by a businessman close to the govern-

ment to reject the motion against the President.

Sirima Bandaranatke, leader of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) said Mohammad had informed her that a leading businessman had given him money but he had refused to take it.

A vote on the opposition-sponsored no-confidence resolution is expected to be taken late Thursday after a marathon 11-hour debate.

The four-page resolution accuses the Speaker of inten-

tionally violating the Constitution by rejecting the impeachment petition against Premadasa after earlier accepting it as valid.

"The Speaker has acted dishonestly, corruptly, dishonourably and pusillanimously and in gross dereliction of the duties of his high office," the resolution said.

Amid intense barracking by opposition MPs, Mohammad told the Assembly Tuesday that he had rejected the impeachment motion because it did

not have the constitutionally required number of valid signatures.

But the Opposition said it had been signed by more than 50 per cent of the 225-member Assembly, as demanded by the Constitution.

The government Wednesday condemned the opposition's heckling of Mohammad as "rowdy, boisterous anti-national, unpatriotic, undemocratic and reactionary behaviour."

While party officials said

ruling United National Party (UNP) legislators would maintain party discipline and vote against the resolution, doubt remains over which way some dissenting UNP lawmakers will vote.

A presidential Secretariat statement said UNP legislators had decided late Wednesday to back the Speaker because he had acted constitutionally and abided by the law of the country with regards the impeachment process.