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## NEWS BRIEFS

### All nominations for Mymensingh-3 valid

All the five nomination papers submitted for by-election of the Jatiya Sangsad Mymensingh-3 constituency were found valid Sunday Elections Commission sources said. The nomination papers were earlier received by the Returning Officer Saturday, reports BBS.

### 2 killed, 40 hurt in Ctg road accident

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: Two people were killed and 40 others injured when two passenger buses collided on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Highway at West Gumdandi in Boalkhali thana today (Sunday), reports UNB.

### Govt Asheq Mahmud College reopens

JAMALPUR, Sept 20: The trouble-ridden Government Asheq Mahmud College reopened today after eight days of closure following clashes between feuding student groups. Resumption of classes was decided after an understanding at a meeting held on Saturday between the college authorities and student leaders of different organisations, reports UNB.

## Hasina reelected AL chief, Zillur new GS

Star Report

Sheikh Hasina was re-elected President of the Awami League unopposed, but the party belied virtually all speculations by electing Zillur Rahman General Secretary in the early hours today.

The councillors had authorised Sunday night the Subject Committee to elect the new Central Working Committee including the General Secretary, but the Subject Committee passed the author-

ity on to the party President. Sheikh Hasina after an eight-hour discussion with the Subject Committee members finalised the Central Working Committee what would take office for the next three years. The committee began its session at 8.30 Sunday night and ended at 3.50 Monday morning.

Sheikh Hasina announced the new committee before the councillors who endorsed the

proposals. Tofael Ahmed, Abdur Razzak and Amir Hossain Amu — three much talked about aspirants for the post of general secretary — were included in the 13-member presidium. Abdul Jalil, another aspirant, retained his post — Joint Secretary.

From midnight onwards hundreds of weary Awami League leaders and activists eagerly waited outside the



Sheikh Hasina lends a ear to outgoing AL Secretary General Sajeda Chowdhury whispering something special during the Council Session Sunday — Star photo

## Complacency is the rub, admits AL

Over complacency of the Awami League leaders and workers about victory was one of the lapses and limitations that contributed to the party's defeat in the February 27 polls last year, General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury said yesterday, reports UNB.

The factors behind its electoral debacle were analysed in the party General Secretary's report placed by Begum Sajeda Chowdhury in Sunday's session of the two-day Awami League council, being held at the Engineers Institution.

Sajeda said there was widespread speculation home and abroad that Awami League would form government with an overwhelming majority.

Apprehending disaster, BNP had also announced post-election agitation in advance. But the election results gave a surprise to all, she said.

Besides, she said, Awami League and its like-minded parties had failed to reach a comprehensive electoral understanding against the unity of rightist, defeated forces of 1971, beneficiaries of the post-75 autocratic regimes.

The adversaries of Awami League lavished huge black money and presented communal statements during the electioneering. Moreover, according to the report, BNP and Jamaat had reached understanding in 206 seats following a meeting between BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and Jamaat chief Golam Azam.

The AL General Secretary supported party chief Sheikh Hasina's allegation of "subtle rigging and entente" in the election.

Party chief's allegation was misunderstood at that time, but today's political development, she said.



Zillur Rahman Engineers Institution, the venue of the two-day council, to hear the results.

The office-bearers are: President: Sheikh Hasina, Presidium members: Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Kamruzzaman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Pulin Dey, Dr Alauddin, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, and Tofael

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## AL should form 'alternative govt', suggests Sajeda

By Staff Correspondent

The outgoing Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury Sunday suggested formation of an 'alternative government' for the continuity of rule in a parliamentary democracy.

While presenting the General Secretary's report on the second day of the Awami League Council Session, she said that the country had reverted to the parliamentary system and that the Awami League had emerged as the main Opposition in the House.

"The largest Opposition party in a parliamentary democracy in the developed world is considered the alternative government," Sajeda said. "It will not be unwise now for the Awami League to form an alternative government."

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## AL Gen Secy's report says Party should be built as political institution

By Staff Correspondent

The Third Council Session of the Awami League (AL) Sunday approved the report of its outgoing General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury who suggested that the party be developed into a political institution.

Sajeda Chowdhury also recommended narrowing the generation gap within the party and said that the Awami League should be built up in such a way so that it promptly adapts to the changing world.

The report was placed Sunday morning at the Council Session which began Saturday afternoon in the premises of Institute of Engineers.

The 63-page report of the General Secretary outlined the role of the Awami League in various movements in the

country since the last Council meet in 1987.

The report included the Party position in the changed global scenario, an analysis on the BNP rule in the country, a list of the Awami League's present objectives, its activities during the anti-autocracy movement, restoration of parliamentary democracy in the country and the 1991 parliamentary polls.

The Awami League General Secretary's report said that 23 general and 74 emergency meetings of the central executive committee took place during her six-year tenure.

Two joint meetings between the executive committee and the parliamentary body also took place beside other

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## Tribunal in 61 districts to curb terrorism

The government has constituted one tribunal in each 61 district taking as the area for curbing terrorist activities, reports BBS.

The Session Judges in the 61 districts had been made Judges of the tribunals in addition to their normal duties.

Following are the districts: Dhaka, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Rajbari, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Jessore, Magura, Jhenaidah, Narail, Barisal, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Kustia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Rajshahi, Nababganj, Naogaon, Natore, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Feni, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sunamganj and Dinajpur.

## Tk 482.47 cr US aid for health, family planning

An agreement was signed Sunday by the governments of Bangladesh and the United States continuing long standing cooperative efforts to expand family planning and health services for the people of Bangladesh, reports BBS.

The agreement was signed on behalf of Bangladesh by Dr A M M Shaukat Ali, Additional Secretary, External Resources Division (ERD) and for the United States, by Ambassador William B. Milam. Frank Young, acting Mission Director US Agency for International Development (USAID) was also present at the signing ceremony.

The agreement signed Sunday was for approximately Taka 482.47 crore. It brings the total amount of assistance provided by the United States for health and family planning since 1974 to approximately Taka 1,848.17 crore.

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## JP evolves way to relieve Moazzem

By Asiuzzaman

The Jatiya Party has evolved a formula to relieve the incumbent Secretary General and install the new one on the "order" of its jailed chief, deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

A reliable JP source holding a central post said Sunday that Shah Moazzem Hossain would go abroad for treatment and would not take back his current responsibilities again.

Joint Secretary General A B M Shajahan would work as the Acting Secretary General until former state minister Khale-ud-din Tilo, a choice of Ershad, came out of prison.

The source who requested anonymity said that Moazzem's departure was being delayed as his passport was now with the Home Ministry.

"He applied for a new passport," the source said confirming that "Tito will be the full-fledged secretary general of the party."

The JP constitution empowers the Chairman to remove anybody from the party.

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## Kidnapped girl rescued from Satkhira village

KHULNA, Sept 20: Police today (Sunday) rescued a kidnapped teen-aged girl from a village in Kaliganj thana of Satkhira district, reports UNB.

Shamima Akhter (14), a student of class ten of Magbazar Girls High School and daughter of a Taxation official, was rescued from the house of Salahuddin of village Bara Shilma in Kaliganj at about 4 am police said.

Earlier on August 22, Shamima was kidnapped at gun point from near her school in Dhaka by a gang of four youngmen, allegedly led by Abu Aslam Khan.

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## Ahsan Manzil Museum opens

## Govt to renovate, preserve historical relics: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government had taken up a policy to renovate and preserve the country's historical relics and called for private and individual initiatives in this regard, reports UNB.

"The first and foremost thing about nationalist spirit is to know the country and its people," she said while opening the renovated Ahsan Manzil, the palace of the Nawabs of Dhaka, in Dhaka Sunday morning.

Reminding that the present is built on the past and the two

are twinned to herald the future, Begum Zia recalled the country's glorious history of thousand years that is replete with rich cultural heritage.

"That glorious past has given us a distinct identity which we have to hold high. We have to nurture our past glory and cultural traditions," she said.

The Prime Minister urged the scholars and historians to undertake research on the country's past traditions and culture to project those to the people at home and abroad.

In this context, she re-

ferred to the practice of preserving ancient relics in different countries which not only inspires the future generation, but also attracts foreign tourists and brightens the national image abroad.

Begum Zia underlined the need for following examples from those countries in preserving our past glories and architectural edifices.

The historic Ahsan Manzil, situated on the bank of river Buriganga, has been renovated at the cost of about Taka 13.58 crore and turned into a mu-

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## BSF pushes 3 more thru' Benapole

JESSORE, Sept 20: Despite Dhaka's strong protest to New Delhi against forcible deportation of the Jatiya Sangsad Mymensingh-3 constituency were found valid Sunday Elections Commission sources said. The nomination papers were earlier received by the Returning Officer Saturday, reports BBS.

"We did not push them back immediately on humanitarian consideration... they were carrying a baby born several hours before in BSF camp," said an officer of BDR. "We will, however, send them back."

The Indians forcibly pushed into Bangladesh at about 11 am today the three people who identified themselves as Abdur Razzak, his wife Hazera Khatun and sister Aleya Begum.

Indian Border Security Force (BSF), under its plan Operation Push Back, sent into

Bangladesh 132 of their nationals on September 11 and many more kept waiting in its camps along the Jessore border.

Abdur Razzak, who is in his mid-50s and now detained in BDR camp said they were picked up from a slum area in New Delhi.

About a week ago, some slum areas in New Delhi were raided by police, treated the dwellers inhumanly and loaded them in trucks which brought them to West Bengal from where they were brought to Benapole, Razzak said while narrating his plight.

Bangladesh has lodged a strong protest against the Indian action and denied those who were forcibly pushed

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## JCD gunfight Ctg Polytech closed sine die

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: Chittagong Polytechnic Institute was closed sine die today, two days after its reopening, amidst a gunfight between two factions of the pro-government Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the Academic Council of the institute took the decision in an emergency meeting at noon with Principal Shafiqullah in the chair.

Witnesses said the armed clash erupted when a JCD faction led by joint convener of its city unit Rafiqul Islam Khokon refused to join another group led by city convener Sufian in locking up Principal's office to press for promotion of their two col-

leagues. The JCD faction led by joint convener of its city unit Rafiqul Islam Khokon refused to join another group led by city convener Sufian in locking up Principal's office to press for promotion of their two col-

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## Polytech teachers go on strike from today

By Staff Correspondent

Teachers of 20 Polytechnic Institutes throughout the country will start an indefinite strike from today (Monday) to press home their 10-point demands.

Their demands include promotions under the BCS technical education cadre, waiving of senior scale examination for those who have completed their five years of job and regularisation of adhoc teachers.

Meanwhile, the polytechnic teachers at a rally at the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute observed that the working atmosphere in the institutions have deteriorated due to negligence of the government.

The rally vowed that the work abstention of the teachers would continue till realisation of their demands.

## JU students guarding halls by night

SAVAR, Sept 20: Jahangirnagar University students are still guarding their halls overnight out of fear of possible attack by Jamaat-Shibir activists, reports UNB.

Apart from the security measures taken by the authorities, the students themselves have taken steps to fend off any reprisal for the recent apprehension of eleven Shibir activists allegedly along with arms.

The Sarbadaliya Chhatra Oikya has raised volunteer corps for a vigil on the seven JU dormitories. Even female students are taking part in the sentry duty.

"With the honours examinations ahead, guarding the halls overnight is hampering our studies seriously," said a student commenting on the

guard, "but even then, the Shibir politics of killing will not be allowed on the campus."

According to JUCSU Vice-President and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Masud Hasan Talukdar Liton, "besides disrupting academic atmosphere, as they have done in Chittagong University, the Shibirites want to tarnish the JU image as a centre of fair politics."

Dubbing Jamaat-Shibir as enemies of democracy, the JUCSU VP asserted that Shibir would not succeed in materialising its "blueprint" of turning JU into one of their strongholds.

Another SCO leader, Aminul Haq Alam, cautioned that conspirators were hiding among the students and everybody

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## France says 'yes' to Maastricht Treaty by narrow margin

PARIS, Sept 20: France, by a narrow margin, today said 'yes' to the Maastricht Treaty on a unified Europe, computer projections on early returns conducted by the country's two main television networks showed, reports AFP.

The private TF-1 network had it 51.5 for the 'yes' vote and the state-run France-2 51 per cent, respectively. The projections have proved highly accurate past electoral exercises.

The third main television

station, France-3, also state-run, said the 'yes' had garnered 51.49 per cent of the vote.

Turnout was estimated at 70 per cent by French television.

AP adds: Earlier, with its allies watching anxiously, France voted Sunday in a referendum determining whether Western Europe strides toward or steps back from closer political and economic union.

Defeat of the union treaty could unleash renewed turmoil

in world financial markets, damage the stature of French and other European leaders who promoted the accord, and force the European Community into a fundamental re-assessment of its future.

By noon (1000 GMT), four hours after polling stations opened, 20.5 per cent of France's 38.3 million registered voters has cast ballots — almost the same voting pace as in 1988 parliamentary balloting. The referendum was widely viewed as having more

international ramifications than any election in French history.

Voting was to end at 8:00 pm (1800 GMT). Projections were expected within minutes, and fairly comprehensive results within hours, though the official result was expected no earlier than Monday, after ballots in far-flung overseas departments were counted.

Voters were deciding whether France should ratify the Maastricht treaty, designed to unite the 12-nation

EC in common economic, foreign and defence policies and a single currency by 1999.

Rejection by France, which had been the driving force for unity along with Germany, would doom the treaty, already defeated by Danish voters in June.

A 'yes' victory would keep alive the EC's hopes of becoming an economic and political superpower. However, the closely contested campaign in France and the recent currency chaos have raised seri-

ous doubts about whether the Maastricht process can proceed without an overhaul.

President Francois Mitterrand, resting from Sept 11 surgery that revealed he has prostate cancer, voted along with his wife in his home base of Chateau Chignon, 225 kilometres (140 miles) southeast of Paris.

Mitterrand, 75, took a gamble in June by calling the referendum instead of seeking almost-certain parliamentary ratification of the treaty.