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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Hema Premadasa calls on Khaleda

Madam Hema Premadasa paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. During the meeting she praised the Prime Minister for her role in women and children development. Madam Premadasa presented some gifts to Prime Minister Begum Zia. Khaleda Zia thanked her for the gifts, reports BSS.

### BPC seminar tomorrow

Bangladesh Press Council will hold a three-day seminar on "Newspapers and Improvement of the Standard of Journalism" beginning on October 7. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the seminar at 11 am at Hotel Sheraton, reports BSS.

### Jamaat programme October 10

Jamaat-e-Islami will observe Demonstration Day on October 10 (Saturday) in protest against the operation push back by India. The party has asked all its organisational units to observe the day by holding rallies and demonstrations across the country, reports UNB.

### ROK envoy hosts reception

The Ambassador of Republic of Korea and Mrs. Sung Oh Shin hosted a reception in Dhaka Monday evening marking the occasion of the National Foundation of their republic. Communications Minister Oli Ahmed and Information Minister Najmul Huda, political leaders, elites and journalists of the city were present, reports BSS.

## Expansion of bilateral trade ties stressed Khaleda, Premadasa talk ways to boost SAARC

President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Monday talked ways, including cooperation in "hard-core" economic areas, for making SAARC more dynamic in promoting socio-economic condition of more than one billion people in the region, reports UNB.

During the 70-minute talks, the current Chairman of SAARC briefed Begum Zia the activities and progress of the regional forum since its 6th summit held in Colombo last year.

Premadasa particularly mentioned programmes for

poverty alleviation and in this regard attached special importance to the 'Dal Bhaat' concept propounded by Begum Zia.

The Lankan President apprised Bangladesh leader of the poverty alleviation programmes undertaken in his country, which were appreciated by her.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told newsmen that the meeting, held in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere, also covered bilateral matters.

During the deliberation at the International Conference Centre (ICC), Begum Zia was

assisted by a 12-member team including Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister K M Rabhani and Additional Foreign Secretary A H Mahmood Ali.

Among others on Premadasa's aide team were Foreign Secretary B P Tilakratna and Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alfred David.

The two leaders had a tete-a-tete before beginning the formal talks.

The Lankan President emphasised the need for greater cooperation in the hard-core

economic areas and referred to the recent meeting of officials in Kathmandu with a view to creating South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA).

He hoped this plan could be finalised by the next summit due in Dhaka December 12-14.

Premadasa briefed Begum Zia about activities of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, including progress of work regarding creation of the South Asian Development Fund, children and women's welfare as well as greater people-to-people contact.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa led their respective delegations at the formal talks at the International Conference Centre in city yesterday. — PID photo



Firemen recovering the body of the driver from inside the BRTC bus that met with an accident at Adhuria yesterday. — Star photo by Enamul Huq

### One killed, 50 injured in bus plunge

By Staff Correspondent

At least one person was killed and 50 others were injured Monday when a Narsingdi-bound BRTC bus plunged into a roadside ditch near Kanchpur bridge under Rujganj thana, some 13 km from the capital, Fire Service sources said.

The bus (No Dhaka Cha 2359) went under three feet of water in Bolta Adhuria area, 4 km off Kanchpur bridge, as the driver lost his control over the bus carrying nearly 60 passengers, the source said.

Local people rescued most of the passengers trapped inside the bus but the Fire Service help was sought when they suspected that there might be more bodies inside the bus.

Two Fire Service teams with drivers rushed to the spot from Dhaka and they pulled the bus out of the water and recovered one body from near steering.

The victim was later identified as the driver of the bus. His name could not be known immediately.

Most of the other passengers were more or less injured and were rushed to Rujganj Health Complex, the source added.

### Premadasa for setting up SAARC resource bank to promote trade

President of Sri Lanka Ranasinghe Premadasa visualised bright future for SAARC in developing fruitful cooperation among seven South Asian nations, particularly in the economic field, reports BSS.

Talking to the editors and senior journalists here on Monday afternoon at the state guest house "Karatoa", Premadasa who is the current Chairman of SAARC said, emergence of democratically-elected governments in South Asian countries was a very important development in promoting greater understanding.

Relying to a question as to whether SAARC Charter is likely to be amended for discussion of contentious bilateral issues, Premadasa said even if such amendment is not done, a mechanism would gradually arise out of close collaboration among SAARC leaders for discussion of such issues. "We should build up mutual understanding and create an environment for discussing issues of concern including disputes," he added.

The Sri Lankan President hoped, cooperation among the nations would gradually expand in the economic field for alleviating poverty, developing preferential trade to mutual advantage and working out measures to improve the living standard of the people.

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## BDR foils 8 BSF attempts to push in 213 more

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Oct 5: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) today foiled eight attempts of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) to push 213 people into Bangladesh through different borders, according to BDR sources.

The sources said that the BSF pushed 88 persons in three batches through Sadipur border under Sharsha thana between 3 am and 8 am today. BSF also pushed 61 persons in two batches through Bara Achra and 19 through Gattipara borders at the same time. Another 45 persons were pushed into Bangladesh in two groups through Dhanna Khola at around 8 am.

The BDR foiled all the attempts of the BSF and sent back all the persons. The sources said that all of them were Bangla-speaking Indian citizens.

According to latest reports, the BSF had brought a huge number of people to the border villages of Sadipur to push them into Bangladesh. BSF had also increased its strength in that border area, according to witnesses.

BDR sources said that they were ready to resist the Indian attempt to push the people into Bangladesh.

A tense situation was prevailing in the border areas of the district.

## Govt not to rehabilitate all sick industries

By Inam Ahmed and Sohel Manzur

Despite the recommendations of the body on sick industries, the government has agreed to rehabilitate only a portion of the 1555 units listed sick with fresh loans.

This was the outcome of a recent meeting of a number of high officials of the Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Bank and National Board of Revenue (NBR) with the Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan.

The meeting viewed that only industries that could be viable and prospective if provided loans, would be rehabilitated. The industries with old

machinery and low prospects would not be given loans for rehabilitation as the money spent on the units would ultimately turn into bad loans, the meeting observed.

Such bad loans should not be disbursed at the time when massive reforms were being made and discipline was being restored in the banking and financial sector, it added.

According to concerned sources, the resolutions of the meeting were in fact the outcome of the suggestions by the donor countries and agencies to maintain strict control over

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## 200 feared killed in Israeli plane crash

AMSTERDAM, Oct 5: Up to 200 people were feared killed when an Israeli cargo airliner crashed into two apartment buildings near Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport on Sunday in the Netherlands' worst-ever air disaster, reports Reuter.

The El-Al Boeing 747-200F slammed into two nine-storey apartment blocks in a densely-populated suburb shortly after take-off, directly hitting 80 flats and engulfing much of the complex in flames.

Civil Aviation officials said two of the aircraft's four engines had fallen off and were recovered from a lake 15 km (nine miles) from the crash site.

They said the plane had tried to return to Schiphol 10 minutes after take-off but it was already losing altitude and crashed in a ball of flame.

Horror-struck residents said the aircraft veered sharply to one side before smashing into their homes. Some said they saw an explosion before the plane hit the apartment blocks.

"I saw sparks and a flash of light. Then there was a rang and we ran outside. All nine floors burst into flames almost immediately. The worst thing was the hundreds of people who were screaming for their lives, it was terrible," said one witness.

"I saw a fireball outside and

several flats burst into flames. There was lots of smoke and the buildings shook," said a resident of a neighbouring building.

Hundreds of ambulances, fire engines and other emergency vehicles rushed to the scene. They were joined by scores of taxis which helped to ferry casualties to hospital.

Helicopters flew some of the victims to a special burns unit in the town of Beverwijk, 40 kms (25 miles) to the west.

Hours after the aircraft crashed at 6:22 pm (1722 GMT) firemen were rattling control blazes at the apartment complex and the death toll was still unclear.

### One held for hurling bomb at police van

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 5: Kotwali police Monday arrested one person on charge of hurling a bomb last night at a police van from a joint torch procession of Jatya Jubo Command and Indian Collaborator Resistance Committee here.

The arrested person, Mahubur Rahman Khaleel, is an activist of Jubo Command, police said.

## 11 sub-committees Hasina names 24 members of ALWC

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina last night announced names of the 24 members of her Party Working Committee.

The recently concluded AL council sessions authorised her to nominate the 65 members to the Working Committee. Hasina, earlier, announced the name of the party members, party president and secretary.

The members to the Working Committee of the party are: Abdul Kader Siddiki, Rafiquddin Bhuiyan, Dewan Farid Gazi, Mohammad Rawshan Ali MP, Yunus Ali, Shudhansu Shekhar Haider MP, M A Mannan, Siddik Hossain, ABM Taleb Ali, Mattur Rahman, Advocate Abdul Awal.

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## Bijoya Dashami today

Bijoya Dashami is being celebrated today, rounding off a five-day Durga Puja rituals through immersion of the image of the Hindu goddess, reports UNB.

On the eve of the final ceremony of the greatest Hindu festival, Bangladesh Hindu Parishad yesterday greeted the countrymen and called for all to protest religious fundamentalism, particularly the Indian BJP stance.

In a statement, Parishad President Sree Prem Ranjan Deb yesterday urged the people to resist the growing religious fundamentalism causing violence in politics.

The fundamentalist forces are out to destroy human civilisation across the world through violence, bigotry, fascism, he said.

Editorial on Page 4

## Steps taken for welfare of Hindus : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka yesterday that Bangladesh was a country of communal harmony where members of all communities irrespective of religion, caste and creed have the complete freedom and equal rights to practise their own religious rites, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion of Sharadiya Durga Puja of the Hindu community, Begum Khaleda Zia extended her sincere congratulations and greetings to the people of Hindu religion of the country, on their greatest religious festival.

Begum Zia hoped that the Durga Puja would bring happiness, peace and prosperity to every Hindu family of the country.

The Prime Minister said the government had taken some steps for the welfare of the Hindu community to ensure development in all sectors.

Begum Zia called upon all classes of people to come forward unitedly to consolidate the newly established democracy and add momentum to the national development.

She hoped that the members of the country's Hindu community would continue to play their role and work for the development of the country and the nation.

## Serb tanks, mortars pound several parts of Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Oct 5: Serb tanks and mortars pounded several parts of the city Monday, shattering a relatively tranquil weekend that saw the resumption of relief flights after a month-long suspension, reports AP.

The Dobrinja suburb near the airport came under fierce attack overnight and there was another barrage Monday in the southern Trg Pero Kosoric district.

Two large plumes of smoke rose over the city. At the main hospital, Kosevo, Dr. Marko Vukovic said that seven dead and 26 wounded from the latest violence had been brought in.

The roar of artillery intensified after day break, shortly after two US C-130 transport

planes headed for Sarajevo from Rhein-Main air base in Germany.

Capt. Mike Rein, a base spokesman, said each plane carried about 12 tons of ready-to-eat meals — turkey or ham with vegetables.

A US plane carried 10 tons of food into the besieged Bosnian capital on Saturday, the first relief flight since the airlift was suspended after an Italian relief plane was shot down on Sept. 3.

But rainy weather on Sunday prevented four of eight planned flights from arriving as residents waited to stock up for the coming hardships of winter.

Relief officials fear the Bosnian winter could claim hundreds of thousands of lives

unless adequate supplies of food and fuel are on hand.

At least nine flights were scheduled Monday by US, Canadian and French planes, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said.

The UNHCR estimates that it needs to land about 16 flights a day to meet the city's minimum food needs.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has threatened to pull out of Geneva peace talks on former Yugoslavia over President Bush's proposed ban on military flights in the war zone. UN envoy Cyrus Vance said Monday.

"It's probably more than a threat," Vance said. "However, I think that Karadzic should

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## Ilias Ali shifted to Comilla jail

By Staff Correspondent

Ilias Ali, the detained leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), was transferred to the Comilla Central jail late last month, informed sources said Monday.

Alli, the former General Secretary of JCD, was shifted from the Dhaka Central jail to Comilla on September 29 under special security arrangement, sources close to his family told The Daily Star.

He was picked up by Special Branch Police on September 11.

The source said that his wife and brothers met him at the Comilla Jail on October 2.

When contacted over telephone his family members declined to comment on the matter.

The jailer of Dhaka Central Jail was also not available for comment.



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## Emergency Notice

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