

# Five hurt in Eden College clash

By Staff Correspondent

Two groups of students clashed at Eden Girls' College leaving at least five hurt Monday.

The activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-L) renewed the clash which originated on September 15 and kept them engaged for a couple of days in the college compound, college sources said.

Students from both the group made chase and counter-chase with rod and soft-drinks bottles at around 1:15 pm and continued for about 15 minutes, both witnesses and police said.

Quarrel between the two groups ensued on September 15 when some workers of JCD hindered the supporter of Nirmul committee from attending a rally held at the Jatiya Press Club premises demanding trial of Jamaat chief, Golam Azam.

Later the students of the both JCD and BCI clashed on September 16 in the college compound leaving at least 15 of them injured.

Meanwhile, some students alleged that hundreds of students could not attend their classes from September 16 to 30 as the JCD workers obstructed them from entering the college.

The clash ensued when BCI workers entered the college yesterday after a ten-day Pujavacation, sources said.

Lalbagh police said that two cases were lodged with them from the both BCI and JCD in connection with the clash. But no arrest was made, police added.

## Pre-bid meets on Jamuna Bridge project held

By Staff Correspondent

A series of pre-bid meetings of Jamuna Multi-Purpose Bridge Project started at the JMB authority office Monday.

The meetings were held to explain to the pre-qualified bidders the technical and other details of the four components of the project.

These components are: the bridge, river training and the two approach roads.

Representatives of 22 internationally reputed companies and consortiums, members of the panel of experts and World Bank's experts and consultants of the project are participating in the meetings to be continued for four days.

The inauguration of the meetings on all four components of the project is being done by the executive director of the authority.



AL presidium member Abdul Mannan speaking at the National Press Club lecture series yesterday marking the foundation anniversary of the club. —Star photo

## Govt-opposition consensus on major issues to strengthen democracy

Politicians, parliamentarians and professionals at a seminar in Dhaka yesterday urged the government and the opposition to practise democracy within themselves and cooperate with each other to make the parliament effective, reports UNB.

They underscored the need for concerted efforts for completion of the full five-year term of the legislature and for self-evaluation of the performance of elected representatives with a view to giving democracy an institutional base.

The speakers also called for making consensus on major national issues like population boom, unemployment, illiteracy and flood control as well as combatting terrorism, a menace that is hindering the onward march of democracy.

Jatiya Press Club organised the seminar on "Democracy and Present Parliament" at its conference room as part of its two-day lecture series on the eve of its 38th founding anniversary on October 20.

Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, Energy Minister Dr. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Awami League Presidium member Abdul Mannan, Metropolitan Chamber President Mursheed Khan and BMA President Dr. MA Majed addressed the seminar chaired by acting President of the club Syed Abdul Kahhar.

Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi, Editor of the Dainik Desh Bangla presented the key note paper on the topic on the opening day of the Jatiya Press Club Lecture Series-1992.

Dwelling on various aspects of democracy, Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz said tolerance and practice of democracy were essential for bringing about political stability of a country.

"In a democracy the government is always run by a party", he said responding to criticism that the BNP government has resorted to politicisation of the administration.

Mirza Hafiz said by reverting to the parliamentary democracy from the presidential one more power was vested on the parliament to make democracy meaningful.

The Law Minister said the government is considering the constitutional provision of ombudsman and working towards separation of judiciary from the executive to ensure rule of law in the country.

Terminology of democracy a complex process, Energy Minister Dr Mosharraf Hossain said it could not function in our country due to frequent extra-constitutional interruptions. Parliament was never allowed to complete its tenure, he added. He urged the opposition to cooperate with the govern-

ment in running the government and invited constructive criticism from them to make up the lapses. He also sought the opposition help to make the parliament more effective.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad suggested that the political parties should reach a consensus on national issues, otherwise they would betray the nation.

Metropolitan Chamber President Mursheed Khan said the government failed to consolidate democracy due to lack of cooperation from the opposition. He urged the government, bureaucrats and the opposition to help each other to uphold democracy.

## Fischer, Krebs get Nobel Prize for Medicine

STOCKHOLM, Oct 12: The 1992 Nobel Prize for Medicine was awarded today to US Biochemists Edmond Fischer and Edwin Krebs for their pioneer work in the regulation of proteins in the body, reports AFP.

The researchers, who both work at Washington University in Seattle, won the award for their discoveries on "Reversible Protein Phosphorylation as a Biological Regulatory Mechanism", the Nobel assembly at the Karolinska Institute here said.

## Cabinet approves draft bills on UP, Poursava

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle the draft bill for amendment of the Poursava (Municipality) Ordinance-1977 and Local Government (Union Parishad) Ordinance-1983 proposed by the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives, reports BSS.

The approval was given at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

According to the proposed amendment, the union parishads and the municipalities will be declared as administrative units within their respective areas for the purpose of Article 59 of the Constitution.

## PM: Rome

Chancellor Willy Brandt of Germany, late Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden, Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers of Netherlands, President Abdou Diouf of Senegal and Prime Minister Mario Soares of Portugal.

During the visit, officials here said, Begum Zia will have wide-ranging talks with President Scalfaro, Prime Minister Amato and Foreign Minister Colombo of Italy on bilateral matters, regional and international issues of common concern.

They said Bangladesh and Italy have common position on many current world issues.

Italy is the largest European trading partner of Bangladesh with a total annual trade volume worth over 200 millions US dollars.

Bangladesh and Italy signed an accord for a three-year programme of economic cooperation in last February.

Begum Zia's visit is likely to bring Italy in Europe and Bangladesh in South Asia closer and contribute to strengthening further the relations between the two countries.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister will seize the opportunity to meet Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on Thursday.

The meeting between head of the government of the second largest Muslim country and head of the Catholic church is seen here as significant against the backdrop of current ethnic crisis in Europe and elsewhere.

Pope paid a visit to Dhaka in 1986.

The Prime Minister's entourage will include Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Agriculture Minister M Mazid-Ul Haq, Begum Khaleda Rabhani MP, Principal Secretary to the PM Secretary KM Rabhani and Director General (Economic Affairs) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Ifekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

## Rajbari-1

From Page 1 Col 8  
17 unions was reported peaceful.

The parliament seat fell vacant at the death of Advocate Abdul Wazed Chowdhury of AL on July 31.

Awami League Presidium member Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, in her post-election reaction here said the victory of AL again proved that people had lost confidence in the BNP government because of its "inefficiency and inaptitude."

"The victory of Awami League is the victory of the people and the ideals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," she told a gathering outside the polling centre in Sajeda also congratulated the people on their taking the "right decision" and urged them to vote for "boat," the election symbol of Awami League, in Gouripur by-election on October 15.

Awami League MP Quazi Abdur Rashid, Shajahan Khan, Abdul Awal, Mosharraf Hossain and Prof Rafiq were also present.

## 63 Rohingyas return

From Page 1 Col 7  
of repatriation since Sept 22 when Bangladesh sent 49 refugees in the first batch. The first move became controversial as no independent observers were invited to watch the refugees' journey back home.

The Sept 22 repatriation also touched off clashes between police and militant refugees that left at least three refugees killed.

Farooq, who usually leads Bangladesh delegation at talks with Myanmar officials, said the authorities hope to repatriate more refugees soon. But he gave no time-frame.

However, he said Bangladesh and Myanmar officials were expected to hold their 10th round of repatriation talks next week in Chittagong.

Nearly 265,000 Rohingyas Muslims have fled to Bangladesh during past one year to escape alleged atrocities by Myanmar's military junta. They are living in 20 makeshift camps of mud-and-straw huts and canvas tents along Cox's Bazar-Teknaf region.

Their repatriation was scheduled to begin from May 15 under Bangladesh-Myanmar repatriation agreement signed in April. But it was stalled because of the refugees' refusal to return home until human rights condition improved in Myanmar and the UNHCR involved in the process.

Bangladesh officials, who recently visited Arakan, say the situation is congenial for the return of the refugees. The Myanmar authorities have relaxed restrictions on Rohingyas Muslims.

There is, however, no independent assessment of the situation in Arakan as foreign journalists and observers have little access to Myanmar.

Our correspondent in Cox's Bazar adds: The member of Parliament from Ukhiya-Teknaf constituency Shahjahan Chowdhury, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Khandaker Shahidul Islam, the Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar Enamul Kabir and local police Superintendent were present when the Myanmar refugees sailed for home Monday.

A team of three Bangladesh officials led by the officer in charge of the Rangikhali refugee camp Ziauddin Ahmed accompanied the refugees to their homeward journey.

A team of the Bangladesh Television had also gone with them.

Before they started for home Bangladesh authorities distributed dry food for one week among the returnees, officials of Cox's Bazar said.

They said that the third batch of 82 refugees were getting ready to return home.

Earlier, Bangladesh officials had sent a list of 65 thousand refugees to the Myanmar authorities. From this list 471 were selected for repatriation on a priority basis, the officials added.

An AP report from Yangon said: The second group of Muslims who had fled across the border to Bangladesh returned home to Myanmar Monday, the Myanmar state radio said.

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## Bush-Clinton debate

From Page 1 Col 6  
to win the election and change the country... (to) lift up the people," said Clinton, who was headed to Philadelphia later Sunday.

AFP adds: President Bush's failure to knock out Clinton in the first of three presidential debates Sunday means a loss for the trailing Republican, analysts said.

"By not winning, Bush lost. By not losing, Clinton won", Chicago reporter Elaine Povich told Cable News Network (CNN).

The debates had been seen as Bush's last, best chance to catch up to the Arkansas governor, who has been running consistently 10 points ahead in the polls since July.

Independent billionaire Perot, who dropped out of the race in July and reentered last month, trails far behind the two major party candidates in the polls.

AP adds: Polls taken after Sunday night's presidential debate found Ross Perot the only presidential candidate who significantly increased his popularity, but viewers were about as likely to call Bill Clinton the winner.

About sixty percent of viewers in a CBS News poll said their opinion of Perot improved, and 33 percent said the Texas businessman won the debate or did the best job.

Thirty percent said Clinton won and 16 percent cited Bush.

## BSF moves foiled

From Page 1 Col 7  
They have also reportedly brought a large number of people to Mashampur of Bagdad thana in the Indian state of West Bengal, opposite Chowgacha of Jessore district, the officials said.

A UNB report from Meherpur said some 153 people were stranded on the 'no-man's land' as Indian border guards pushed them through the border and Bangladesh Rifles gave a counterpush early today.

Witnesses said 100 of them including 15 women and 10 children, got stuck up on the Bangladesh side of the no-man's land while the rest on the other side since 2:30 am.

Frontier villagers also joined the resistance against the late-night BSF attempt to repush the Bangla-speaking Indians into Bangladesh through Jhamjha and Iskhali

## Madonna says

PARIS, Oct 12: The American pop singer Madonna, indicating a strong preference for democratic candidate Bill Clinton in next month's US Election, said Sunday that "Nobody cares" whether he had smoked marijuana in his youth, reports AFP.

Madonna, appearing on a French TV show to promote a new book and record, said she believed media investigations into Clinton's private life were irrelevant and unjustified.

"Who cares whether Clinton smoked marijuana?" she said. "Nobody cares." She added that although the election did not interest her a great deal, she hoped Clinton would win.

Clinton was deemed the winner by 28 percent in an ABC News poll, slightly ahead of the 24 percent who saw victory in Perot's folksy performance. Eighteen percent said Bush won the leadoff debate, which many political analysts saw as his best chance to turn the course of a lagging campaign.

Just over a quarter of the random national sample of 637 registered voters polled by ABC after they viewed the debate called it a tie, ABC said.

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## DU classes held, exams shifted

By DU Correspondent  
Classes in Dhaka University were held yesterday peacefully after a nine-day vacation.

A DU press release adds: Examinations of second year B A/B S S (Honours) of annual course system 1991 of Dhaka University which were scheduled to be commenced on October 17 will now be held on November 1.

Earlier the students of the second year (Honours) brought out a big procession demanding shifting of their final examinations schedule to begin on 17th of this month.

The university authorities assured the students of rescheduling the examination dates, sources said.

BSS adds: A meeting of the provosts and assistant provosts of all residential halls and proctor of Dhaka University was held yesterday with Prof M Muniruzzaman Mia, Vice-Chancellor of the university in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the overall law and order situation prevailing in the campus after autumn vacation. All the provosts informed the meeting that non-student were not residing in the residential halls.

## Mymensingh-3: Ban on campaign from tonight

A 48-hour ban on all public meetings and processions from Tuesday midnight has been imposed on the concerned areas in the run-up to by-election in Mymensingh-3 constituency, reports UNB.

The interdict will remain in force till midnight after Thursday (Oct 15), the day of polling in the vacant seat, said a press release issued yesterday by the Election Commission.

According to rule 78 (1) of the People's Representation Order 1972, none could organise or hold or join any such public gatherings during the prohibition period.

If anyone violates the interdict, he or she will be awarded at least two to seven years rigorous imprisonment as per rule 78 (2) of the Order.

Voting will be held from 7 am at 3 pm without any break. The JS seat fell void with the death of Awami League MP Nazrul Islam in a road accident last August.

# The Midnight File

## Iran to buy nuclear arms from Kazakhstan

WASHINGTON, Oct 12: Iran has made a deal with the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan to buy four nuclear warheads, the leading Iranian opposition group said Monday.

Mohammed Mohebbest, director of international relations for the Mujahedeen said Mujahedeen agents inside Iran obtained information about the deal. The warheads have been paid for but not delivered, he said. The Mujahedeen report comes a month after Kazakhstan's prime minister, Sergei Tereshchenko, pledged on a visit to Israel that his country would sell none of the nuclear weapons it inherited upon the breakup of the Soviet Union, reports AP.

## Menon's appeal to JS

From Page 1 Col 8  
Alliance, referred in this regard to Information Minister Nazmul Huda's reported admission that they had handed over arms to the struggling student-youngmen during the mass movement.

It's natural to assume that this statement of the Information Minister in only to justify terrorism under the umbrella of state," said the wounded lawmaker, himself victim of terrorism.

In his letter, received here yesterday, Menon refuted media exposure locally and abroad that the government was bearing his medical expenses.

"I have been shifted to London entirely on my family arrangements," he said.

He, however, acknowledged that Lt Col Dr Zafrullah of CMH accompanied him to the Kings Hospital where he got admitted and thanked the Bangladesh High Commission in London for taking security measures for him.

Referring to Speaker's visit to the ailing parliamentarian during a stopover in London on way home from Stockholm, Menon reiterated his request for making arrangements under the existing provisions of parliament, if there be any, to grant medical expenses for one of its members.

Venting concern about the safety of himself, his family members, his party and other political leaders and workers, Menon quoted his foreign doctor to have asked him what guarantee is there that he will not be shot again when he returns home.

"It's now two months since the attempt was made on my life, and still the assailants are roaming free," he observed and alleged that the investigation was being influenced.

Referring to Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury's interview with BBC on the case where he said Jamaat-Shibir or Jubo Command had no connection with the shooting, Menon questioned how could the minister say that pending investigation report. "It proves that the Home Minister wanted to direct the line of investigation beforehand."

He alleged that Home Minister's comment and daily Sangram's implication that Sarbahara men might be involved in the attempted killing were simply an attempt to cover up a deep suspicion of the people that Jamaat-Shibir or Jubo Command had hands behind it.

Menon alleged in spite of repeated intimation to the Home Minister and another Minister that he had been threatened by the terrorists for his frontline role against Jamaat-e-Islami, rehabilitation of the Sarbaharas and trial of the "war criminal", no action was taken to protect his life.

Drawing parliament's attention to the anti-terrorism ordinance, he said the government had committed "contempt of parliament" by promulgating the law which was under consideration of the House.

"The President has no power to promulgate the ordinance, and for advising him to do so, the government can be accused," the MP said.

He said people's fundamental rights cannot be denied on the pretext of curbing terrorism. "None has the right to make the people scapegoat of the failure to resist terrorism," Menon said, adding earlier under the same excuse, the Special Powers Act was made, which has still been kept intact in breach of the pledge of the mass movement.

Parliament established to fulfil the dreams of democracy cannot approve the ordinance, said the vocal parliamentarian who could not join the Jatiya Sangsad, now in session. "It will be another assault on the democratic aspiration of the people."

## Road mishaps

From Page 1 Col 5  
case was filed with Rugganj police in this connection.

Meanwhile, our DMCH Correspondent reported, seven of the seriously injured passengers were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). They were: Mohammad Ali, 45, Mohammad Mohsin, 40, Fahim, 15, Noor-I-Iam, 20, Bachchu Mian, 45, Monowara, 60, and Sufia Khatun, 45.

Meanwhile, UNB adds: Two people were killed and four injured when a truck smashed a rickshaw on the Dhaka-Arisha highway, Savar, yesterday.

Police said Shuman, 8, and a woman aged about 35 died on the spot at Mominbar in Savar thana after the Dhaka-bound bus hit the rickshaw they were riding at about 12 noon.

Four pedestrians, injured in the accident, were rushed to different hospital in Dhaka.

The dead had been taken away by relatives before police reached the scene, witnesses said.

## Egyptian quake

From Page 1 Col 8  
on record that near the city.

Shocks were felt in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria to the north, the Suez Canal town of Ismailiya to the east and in Assiut in southern Egypt. Tremors were felt as far away as Jerusalem, 400 kilometers (250 miles) northeast of Cairo.

The government-owned Middle East News Agency said the quake was felt in most of Egypt's 26 provinces.

The Interior Ministry issued a statement this evening saying 65 people died and 386 were injured nationwide.

The quake was preceded by a loud roar and lasted 20 seconds in Cairo.

A 14-story building in suburban Helipolis collapsed, and Fire Brigade Col. Ashraf el-Sherif said two hours after the quake that casualties still were being pulled from the rubble.

Disabled telephone service made gathering information difficult. Hospitals, most official agencies and emergency services could not be contacted.

AFP adds: President Hosni Mubarak cut short a visit to China and was to return to Egypt on Tuesday, the official news agency MENA reported.

Mubarak began a five day visit to China today.

## WB conditions

From Page 1 Col 4  
sector. The WB has also asked for trimming of the excess manpower in different sectors and administration.

It has also asked for making better utilisation of foreign aid. This suggestion came following poor performance in this field, sources said.

The WB has also identified the health, fisheries and energy sectors for sectoral review by the government.

Sources said this suggestion came as these sectors had turned out to be inefficient.

The poor health facilities came under the WB scrutiny specially because of the 600 million dollar WB funds for population control. The fisheries and the energy sectors are still low performing areas and needed to be overhauled, the WB felt.

Meanwhile, different divisions of the government are carrying out vigorous exercises for the needed reforms and restructuring in the sectors. Some review reports have already been sent to the WB.

A government source says with the quick action of the government, the second tranche of the PRMAC is likely to be released by November.

## AJM: 3 killed

From Page 1 Col 4  
Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) reacting to the incident said that the occurrence proved Kashem group workers' involvement in the terrorist activities in and around the mills. They also accused Kashem of manufacturing bombs and firearms and supplying them to the feuding workers of the mills.

Kadamtoli is a stronghold of the Kashem group and bombs were regularly manufactured at the said brick-field, locals informed.

While contacted, the Kashem group leaders expressed their ignorance about today's incident.

Kashem's opponents alleged that he (Kashem) had close links with Safar Ali Bhuiyan who once was with the Jatiya Party.