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## NEWS BRIEFS

### One killed in road mishap

By DMCH Correspondent  
A pedestrian was killed when a speeding Mishuk ran over him at Kawran Bazar at about 7 am yesterday (Friday). The victim was identified as Mohammed Abdul Khaleque and he was about 50. Abdul Khaleque died on the spot. Police seized the Mishuk (Dhaka Metro Ta 02-0125) but the driver managed to escape.

### Navy chief off to France

The chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohamminul Islam, left Dhaka yesterday afternoon on a week-long visit to France at the invitation of the French government. During his stay there Admiral Islam will witness a display of the French navy ships at Brest. He will also visit a display of naval equipment and armament in Paris. His other programmes include call on the French navy chief and senior military officials, reports BSS.

### Clash over playing of music: 10 hurt

MAGURA, Oct 16: Two groups of villagers clashed in Sreepur thana today over playing of music during a wedding ceremony, leaving at least 10 people injured. Witnesses and police said the clash ensued when Sirajuddin Sikdar obstructed his brother Alauddin Sheikh in playing music through loud speaker in the marriage ceremony of their sister in village Khamarpara, reports UBN.

### 98 more held on various charges

Police arrested 98 people from different parts of the city on Friday on various charges, a DMP press release, yesterday said, reports UBN.

## Khaleda presents keynote address at FAO headquarters

# Fight hunger, close gap between peoples

ROME, Oct 16: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called for collective efforts of peoples, governments and international organisations to fight hunger and close the gap between peoples, reports BSS.

Presenting the key-note address in observance of World Food Day at the FAO headquarters here, Begum Zia stressed the need for a common pledge to banish hunger and poverty. The Bangladesh Prime Minister said, we could today produce enough food to feed all the planet, yet millions continue to be trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty. Strongly pleading for display of the political will to eradicate miseries Begum Zia said FAO could play a crucial role in this task. She said, we must act in concert to make the nightmare of human deprivation and degradation a thing of the past.

She reminded those, who rejoice at the achievements of our age, about the picture of the famished child in sub-

Saharan Africa, or the emaciated offspring on mother's lap in South Asia. She stressed: We still have a long way to go.

Referring to this year's theme of "food and nutrition" Begum Zia stressed the need for incorporation of nutrition balance in the agricultural programmes. She said, people must have the power to purchase the right kind of food in adequate quantities.

She said, despite the pledge by the world community 20 years ago that "no child should go to bed hungry," thousands of children particularly in the Third World countries, continue to die as a result of hunger and malnutrition. She said insufficient food has led to unhealthy and unproductive lives of people between 15 and 20 per cent and argued in favour of united efforts to address the crisis.

She described her trip to FAO also as an emotional one as 13 years ago her husband President Ziaur Rahman had been invited to address, the

world conference on rural development and agrarian reforms. Paying tributes to Zia as a believer in plural and participatory democracy, she recalled the triumph of anti-autocracy movement in her country two years ago inspired by the memory of Zia.

Referring to "Daal Brat" initiative in the SAARC countries she said, it is aimed at meeting the basic needs of the people.

As regards the proposed international conference on nutrition, jointly by FAO and WHO to consider issues and recommend a plan of health education, social development and planning, she pleaded for empowering the people at the local level as a pre-requisite for success.

The Prime Minister described the FAO technical support as important in harmonization of food standards and regulations. Stressing the need for protecting the health of consumers of the food importing countries, Begum Zia said

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the twelfth anniversary of World Food Day at FAO headquarters in Rome yesterday. — PID photo

## Bush again fails to make dent in Clinton campaign

### Clinton leads

Washington, Oct 16: Bill Clinton, holding a big lead with just 18 days left until election day, scored well in the second debate on Thursday, according to initial opinion polls. A nationwide CBS news poll of 1,394 registered voters found that 54 per cent thought Clinton had won the contest, 25 per cent gave the nod to President George Bush and 20 per cent chose independent candidates Ross Perot, reports Reuters.

RICHMOND (Virginia), Oct 16: President George Bush on Thursday attacked Democrat Bill Clinton on character issues and higher taxes in a debate where once again the president failed to land the blows he needed to re-invigorate his election campaign, reports Reuters.

The debate was largely devoid of the fireworks expected to Bush as he tries to catch up

to Clinton in the polls with less than three weeks until election day.

The format for the second of three presidential debates -- a single moderation and questions posed by an audience of undecided voters -- seemed designed to invite a freewheeling exchange.

But despite threats to the contrary, Bush did not use the

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Bill Clinton (right), and President George Bush listen as Ross Perot (centre) answers a question from the audience Thursday at the University of Richmond. — AFP photo

## FBCCI suggests broad-based National Export Council

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has called for a broad-based "National Export Council" instead of the proposed Cabinet Committee on Export, reports UBN.

The council should be given the responsibility of formulating, evaluating and monitoring of export strategy and its implementation.

Besides the concerned ministers and secretaries, the council should also include representatives from chambers and export associations, the FBCCI, which represents the

country's private sector, suggested in a recent note to the government.

The FBCCI submitted its recommendation as asked by the Commerce Ministry in finalizing the proposed export Development Strategy for 1992-2000.

The first ever long-term strategy on export, drawn up in line with suggestions from the World Bank, will henceforth guide the formulation of the country's biennial export policy.

The FBCCI endorsed the draft strategy but with certain

amendments.

The apex body of the country's chambers and trade associations particularly demanded greater involvement of the private sector in policy formulation and execution stages, and sought more relaxation in official procedures. It also sought a number of fiscal benefit for the export trade.

All export earnings must be 100 per cent income tax free till the year 2000, the FBCCI recommended, referring to similar benefit in some neighbouring countries.

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## Independent University starts functioning from Feb next

The country's first private university named Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) starts functioning from February next with a mission to prepare graduates for meaningful employment.

The objective of the university is to create a category of students as complete persons well grounded in the liberal arts and marketable skills in business, communication, language, resource management and scientific methods to enable them work as engines for economic growth and national

development. IUB has been organised as a private sector initiative where traditionally university education has been a state function.

Talking to BSS, President of the University Dr A Majeed Khan said the IUB would be an institution dedicated to teaching, community research and development of new knowledge and skills to support resource management and technological progress of the country.

He said IUB intends to bring about qualitative changes

both in terms of the curriculum and outlook development of its graduates raising their levels to the contemporary societies where our brilliant boys and girls now flock in large number for studies in the universities there.

He said to maintain the high standard of education at international level, an international advisory body was formed consisting of individuals and eminent professionals from different universities abroad to advise on curriculum matters, academic practices

## People losing trust in BNP govt: Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her party workers to work relentlessly for making the hard-won democracy meaningful for the deprived multitude, reports UNB.

"Awami League will have to lead the movement for ensuring economic freedom of the people", she told the first meeting of the newly formed Awami League central working committee at the party office.

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## ALWC talks strategy of movement

By Nurul Kabir

The Awami League Working Committee (ALWC) yesterday discussed strategies to face situation arising out of the ruling party's attempt to get the anti-terrorism bill passed and its "hesitation" to pave the way for passage of Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill in Parliament.

Beginning 10 in the morning yesterday, it was the first Working Committee meeting

of the AL after the party's national council session held last month.

The ALWC meeting was adjourned 8-3 last night to resume 10 this morning.

According to sources in the ALWC, along with debating strategies to compel the ruling party to pass the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill and withdraw the anti terrorism

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## Beaten Jamaat activist succumbs

An activist of Jamaat-e-Islami, who was allegedly manhandled by supporters of Ghatk Dalal Nirmul Committee on Wednesday, died at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in city yesterday, reports UNB.

Party sources alleged that Md Moulana Mohammad Abdul Matin Mridha was beaten up by the supporters of Awami League and Nirmul Committee at West Malibagh on Wednesday while he was miking for a party meeting held later in the day.

Mridha was taken to the CMH in a critical condition. He succumbed to his injuries there Friday morning.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The namaz-e-janaza of the

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## Meghalaya tribals won't allow uranium mining

NEW DELHI, Oct 16: Tribes people in the northeast Indian state of Meghalaya are threatening protests if test mining of uranium there leads to commercial extraction, a local activist said today, reports Reuters.

Hopin Gstone Lyngdoh, who is organising resistance to commercial mining in the states, said a meeting of tribes people and activists decided not to allow uranium mining and threatened state-wide protests if commercial extraction begins.

He said the decision followed the appearance before a tribal council of the state official responsible for ordering a government takeover of tribal land for test mining in the Wawsahaw and Wahkalar-Nongsteng areas, about 70 KM (44 miles) southwest of

Shillong, the state capital.

The official was summoned by the tribal chief to explain the takeover of land owned by the tribe. The council was not satisfied with his explanation and decided to oppose commercial mining, Lyngdoh said.

The Indian government began test mining for uranium early this year in the Domastiat area, about 140 km (90 miles) west of Shillong.

A government spokesman in New Delhi said the state-run Uranium Corporation of India (UCIL) was currently preparing a study on whether commercial mining was feasible there.

He described the uranium deposits, originally discovered in the 1950s, as "sizeable".

Lyngdoh said in an interview that when test mining started in the Domastiat area,

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## Guatemalan wins Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, (Norway), Oct 16: Rigoberta Menchu, an outspoken Indian rights activist from Guatemala and an orphan of that country's civil war, won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for working toward racial reconciliation and social justice, reports AP.

Guatemala's military claims that Menchu supports the leftist guerrillas in the war, and it had denounced her nomination for the prize. A statement from the office of Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano reiterated that position Friday and said the prize was proposed by enemies of his nation.

But the Nobel Committee said it had looked closely at Guatemala's bloody conflict, in which the armed forces have been accused of repressing the Indian population and killing tens of thousands, and said it was confident that Menchu's politics was marked by reconciliation.

Today, Rigoberta Menchu stands out as a vivid symbol of peace and reconciliation across ethnic cultural and social dividing lines, in her own

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## 8 top Chinese politburo men resign

BEIJING, Oct 16: Eight senior Chinese Politburo members were reported Friday to have resigned to make way for younger men as a Communist Party congress deliberated their replacements, reports AP.

The Wen Wei Po newspaper of Hong Kong, funded and controlled by Beijing, said the eight were all over 65 years old and stepped down voluntarily.

The reported resignations have been rumoured for weeks. The newspaper did not say who would replace the eight, but Chinese sources have predicted that young, reform-minded officials will dominate the new Politburo.

The Politburo is one of the party's top policy-making bodies.

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## BSF move to push in 32 more foiled

By Staff Correspondent

Fresh attempts were made to push in 32 people through Jessore and Jhenidah districts while the country's south western frontier across Sathkhira district remained quiet.

Sathkhira district Sector Commander of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Lt Col Mozammel Huq told The Daily Star over telephone that situation remained peaceful along Sathkhira border with India from where not attempt was made Friday to deport Bangla-speaking

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## The Daily Star OFFICE SHIFTED

The Daily Star announces the shifting of its editorial, news and commercial offices to Road 3, House 11, Dhanmandi Residential Area, Dhaka with effect from Saturday, October 10, 1992.

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