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NEWS BRIEFS

Cops attacked  
in city

By Staff Correspondent

A rickshaw puller was killed and 11 policemen were seriously injured at Shahidnagar, Lalbagh in the city last night. The incident occurred when police, on receipt of secret information, went to arrest an alleged terrorist Abdur Rahim who was said to be attending a meeting in the area. After police reached the spot and arrested Abdur Rahim, a number of bombs were hurled at the police men from the rooftops of nearby buildings. Police spread out to search for the culprits and arrested five persons. The injured policemen were admitted to the Rajarbagh Police Hospital while the body of the rickshaw puller was sent to the DMCH morgue.

Zia museum fire:  
probe report today

CHITTAGONG, Sept 3: The enquiry committee, formed to probe Wednesday's fire incident at the Zia Memorial museum here, is likely to submit its report to the government tomorrow, an official source said today. The four-member committee headed by Joint Secretary of Cultural Affairs Ministry Moslem Ali started its function at 10 am today. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the museum on September 6.

Five MPs leave  
for Washington

Five Members of Parliament left Dhaka yesterday evening for Washington to join a month-long programme to observe legislative process and development of democracy in the USA, reports BSS.

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## Khaleda warns against anti-party activity

By Staff Correspondent  
be taken against such people," she was quoted as having said by a councillor. The delegate did not elaborate but said the chairperson's speech indicated a degree of unhealthy factionalism in different districts.

Begum Zia also urged the party leaders and workers to

Editorial on Page 4

maintain the present thrust generated from the council to win the forthcoming city corporation and district council elections.

She said elections to the four city corporations will be held in January, and a bill relating to the district councils will be placed before Parliament in its coming session beginning

"In future stern action would

September 12.  
More than 2000 councillors attended the three-day council session of which some 150 took part in the discussion.

Begum Zia said fresh blood would be injected at different tiers of the party leadership to boost organisational activities.

"I have carefully heard your opinions and will reorganise the entire gamut of committees on the basis of your suggestions," Begum Zia said, adding that tested leaders of the party would be placed in the right positions.

She also said that those who have completed their tenure and responsibility in the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) would

See Page 12 Col 2

Leaders to oversee  
development  
projects : Talukder

By Staff Correspondent

From now on political leaders will oversee all development works undertaken in their respective areas for proper implementation of projects.

The decision was taken after the three-day council session of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) which concluded in Dhaka yesterday.

The projects, usually taken up and supervised by civil servants, reveal a lot of flaws after completion," BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder told newsmen at the post-council press conference at the party's Naya Paltan central office.

In reply to a question he said It is not, however, a direct integration of the politicians in government projects. Rather it will be a voluntary supervision for

See Page 12 Col 7

'BNP responsible  
for Hasina  
staying away  
from council'

The Assistant Publicity Secretary of the Awami League yesterday said the opposition party could not attend the opening session of the BNP council because of the "narrow-mindedness" of the ruling party, reports UNB.

The opposition leader (Sheikh Hasina) was not only ready to attend the BNP council but also prepared to deliver her goodwill speech at the inaugural session," Abdul Mannan said in a statement.

If the BNP sincerely sought the opposition party's cooperation in ensuring development of the country or its presence in the council, Begum Khaleda Zia would have avoided "unrestored and vituperative" remarks about the opposition as well as "distortion of history" in her opening address, he said.

See Page 12 Col 8

Most city areas  
become  
water-logged

By Staff Correspondent

The capital was virtually swamped on Friday with water in almost all places as rains drenched the city, as also other parts of the country, for the third consecutive day.

Most parts of the city became water-logged and several areas went under one to two feet water. The city's outworn and ill-planned sewerage system failed to cope with the heavy discharge.

Traffic at some major city intersections were seen moving with great difficulty while many cars and other vehicles went out of order after getting stuck in water-logged roads.

Pedestrians had to wade through mud and filth as the water in several places remained knee-deep.

In two or three areas in the capital, even boats were seen competing with the rickshaws. Once again, some people caught fish on the lush lawns of the Ramna Park and Suhrawardy Uddyan, which were flooded.

See Page 12 Col 6



Italian actress Sophia Loren (C) enjoyed the Stadium Court match between Pete Sampras of the US and Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic in the US Open in New York Thursday. Loren watched as the second-seeded Sampras won the match in four sets.

— AFP photo

PLO leader in city says

Proposed self-rule is  
a correct first step

by S Y Bakht

than autonomy and less than  
independence."

He was reacting to news re-

ports of an Israeli offer to initially provide self-rule to the Palestinians living in the Gaza strip and the West Bank en-

clave of Jericho. The Israeli offer reportedly came after secret nego-

cations with the PLO in Norway and was welcomed by the PLO high command.

In an hour-long exclusive in-

terview with The Daily Star, the PLO leader talked about the

Treasury Bench lawmakers, sources said adding that Nazir

Hossain also met the Speaker of

the Jatiya Sangsad to find out

the legal position regarding

changing their party identity.

Dabirul Islam, another CPB  
See Page 12 Col 4

PML will sweep  
Oct polls:  
Sartaj Aziz

The Secretary General of the  
Pakistan Muslim League (PML)  
Sartaj Aziz yesterday expressed  
his optimism that his party  
would sweep to power in the  
coming October elections, re-  
ports BSS.

He said his party had left its  
mark in the overall development of  
Pakistan during its tenure of  
more than two years. "Our per-  
formance in the election will be  
on the basis of our records and  
not on promises," he asserted.

Aziz, who came to Dhaka to  
attend the fourth national  
council of the BNP, was talking  
to a group of journalists at the  
Sheraton Hotel here yesterday  
morning.

The PML Secretary General  
said that Nawaz Sharif's popu-  
larity graph was higher now.

Referring to election violence,  
Aziz, a former finance minister  
in Sharif's Cabinet, said the  
army wanted a free and fair  
election to take place. He ex-

See Page 12 Col 5



Yasser Arafat

Russia, Poland help  
boost tea sales

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Sept 3: Bangla-  
desh tea this season recorded  
a better position both in sales  
and prices than the previous  
season despite adequate supply  
in the global markets, officials  
and brokers said.

They said, the re-entry of  
Russia and Poland, the two tradi-  
tional major buyers, had im-  
proved the auction markets here  
leading to boost in sales and  
prices compared with the  
previous season.

As a result, most of the 18  
tea auctions held so far wit-  
nessed brisk trading with fair  
participation from the buyers of  
Russia, Poland and Pakistan.

Market reports said, upto  
the sixteenth auction this sea-  
son, over 14 million kg of tea  
were sold, up from 10.9 million  
kg the previous season.

The average price was  
recorded at Tk 51.11 per kg in  
the current season as against  
Tk 45.01 per kg previously,  
market reports added.

Talking to this correspon-  
dent, a director of a leading tea

broker house, said "Our tea  
market, both in price and de-  
mand, is quite healthy this year  
compared with last year."

An official of the state-owned  
Bangladesh Tea Board, said  
"Our tea has recaptured its  
global markets and fetched a  
better price this season in view  
of growing demand."

Bangladesh tea, the coun-  
try's second major cash crop af-  
ter jute, suffered a debacle last  
season following the collapse of  
the Soviet Union. Nearly 50 per  
cent of total offerings in every  
weekly auction here used to  
remain unsold. But in the cur-  
rent season the average with-  
drawal rate was below 20 per  
cent, brokers said.

The sources, quoted by the  
semi-official Anatolian news  
agency, said the air force was  
flying constant reconnaissance  
flights in the region and said  
the troops were "ready to per-  
form any duty assigned to them."

"While very important devel-  
opment in the region are taking  
place, which closely interest  
Turkey, carrying out such mili-  
tary activities is normal," a mili-  
tary source said.

Witnesses in eastern Turkey  
said earlier today that they had  
seen many armoured troop car-  
riers heading towards the Ar-  
menian border.

President Suleyman Demirel,  
Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, se-  
nior cabinet ministers and the  
armed forces deputy chief of  
staff held a crisis meeting on  
Azerbaijan on Thursday night.

Parliament  
overrules  
Yeltsin's  
decree

MOSCOW, Sept 3: Russia's  
parliament voted overwhelm-  
ingly today to overrule a decree  
by President Boris Yeltsin sus-  
pensing his conservative vice-  
president Alexander Rutskoi  
from office, reports Reuter.

Deputies voted by 141 votes  
to 2 to suspend implementation  
of the decree and to refer it to  
the constitutional court for  
consideration. It left in place  
those parts of the decree that  
also suspended Yeltsin's politi-  
cal ally Vladimir Shumeiko.

Yeltsin urged parliament  
earlier to back his decree sus-  
pensing the two men as vital to  
clear up accusations of corruption  
undermining the authority of  
the state.

The adoption of our resolution  
means that the decree of  
the President is no longer in  
force," parliament Chairman  
Ruslan Khatsabulatov told depu-  
ties after the vote.