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## NEWS BRIEFS

### SMC interneer does call off strike

From Our Correspondent  
SYLHET, Sept 9: Internee  
doctors of the Sylhet Osmani  
Medical College Hospital today  
called off their four-day strike  
following fruitful discussions  
with the authorities. Some 132  
doctors went on a strike  
Sunday last following an untoward  
incident in which the  
rooms of the hospital director  
and other departmental heads  
were ransacked.

### Dr Kamal leaves for Colombo

Dr Kamal Hossain, president  
of the newly floated political  
party Gano Forum, left for  
Colombo yesterday to attend  
the "LAW-ASIA" conference. Dr  
Kamal, a member of the LAW-  
ASIA, will also attend the meet-  
ing of its Council at the Sri  
Lankan capital, reports UNB.

### Mao Tse Tung's death anniversary

Comrade Mao Tse Tung Birth  
Centenary Celebration Com-  
mittee yesterday observed  
17th anniversary of death of the  
great communist leader with  
due solemnity. A meeting was  
held in front of Jatiya Press  
Club which was addressed by  
Dr Ahmed Sharif and convenor  
of the committee Reazur  
Rahman, reports UNB.

### 271 more Rohingyas go home

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 9: Two  
hundred seventy one Rohingyas  
refugees of sixty two families  
voluntarily returned to their  
homes in Myanmar through  
three transit camps at Teknaf  
here today. Official sources told  
BSS here tonight that with this  
81st batch of repatriation, the  
total number of repatriated per-  
sons now stood at 35,714.

# Israel, PLO agree on mutual recognition

TUNIS, Sept 9: The PLO and  
Israel, in a historic break-  
through after decades of war-  
fare, agreed Thursday to offi-  
cially recognise each other, re-  
port AP, Reuters, AFP.

Israel made the first formal  
announcement. Housing Minis-  
ter Benjamin Ben-Eliezer told  
reporters Israel's inner cabinet  
voted unanimously to approve a  
mutual recognition agreement  
with the PLO.

"With this, the process started  
in which Israel recognises the  
PLO, and the PLO recognises  
Israel," Ben-Eliezer said.

The inner cabinet is made up  
of 10 key ministers and its ap-  
proval of the agreement clears  
the way for Israeli Prime  
Minister Yitzhak Rabin to sign  
it.

Meanwhile, Yasser Abed  
Rabbo, one of the officials closest  
to PLO chairman, said, Arafat  
and Rabin will announce simulta-  
neously the mutual recogni-  
tion of Israel and the Palestine  
Liberation Organisation.

tion tomorrow (Friday).

He told reporters in Tunis  
that the texts of the two state-  
ments had been finalised and  
were awaiting the signatures of  
the two leaders.

Under the agreement, the  
Palestine Liberation Organisation  
would renounce terrorism and  
recognise Israel's right to exist.  
Mutual recognition would  
clear the way for the signing of  
a peace plan that would give  
autonomy to Palestinians in the  
occupied Gaza Strip and West  
Bank town of Jericho. That  
could eventually lead to a more  
comprehensive autonomy for  
Palestinians in lands captured  
by Israel in the 1967 Arab-  
Israeli war.

The agreement follows  
months of behind-the-scenes  
negotiations between the Pa-  
lestine Liberation Organization  
and Israeli officials, with Nor-  
way acting as go-between.

Abed-Rabbo, who was in-  
volved in the negotiating pro-  
cess, said problems with the

wording of the agreement were  
worked out Thursday in tele-  
phone calls by both sides to  
Norwegian diplomats in Paris.

Johan Jorgen Holst, Norwe-  
gian FM, who brokered the  
autonomy plan in secret meet-  
ings in Oslo, arrived in Tunis  
with a copy of the recognition  
agreement.

After the PLO signs the  
agreement, Holst will take it to  
Jerusalem for Rabin's signa-  
ture, Abed-Rabbo said. In Paris,  
Israeli Embassy spokeswoman  
Sabine Sitruk said Holst would  
fly to Israel Thursday night.

Israel's Ben-Eliezer said  
there were five main points in  
the accord:

—Recognition of Israel's right  
to exist in peace and security.

—A sharp denunciation of  
terror and all violence.

—A call to the Palestinian  
people in the occupied territo-  
ries to refrain from all violence  
and terror.

—Removal of clauses in the  
See Page 12 Col 3



PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat (C) presiding over a session with the Palestine Liberation Organization's executive council members in Tunis Wednesday.  
— AFP photo

## Govt to implement Wages Commission award : PM

The government is going to  
implement the Wages Commis-  
sion award and a gazette in  
this regard will be published  
shortly, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Kha-  
leda Zia made the announce-  
ment in a meeting with the  
newly-elected committee mem-  
bers of the Dhaka unit of the  
Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik  
Dal who called on her at  
Sugandha last night.

"The present government be-  
lieves in the politics of produc-  
tion and will solve all problems  
through discussion," she said.

Begum Zia told the leaders of  
ruling BNP's labour front that  
they had to be more tolerant  
than ever before as their party

is in power. "We have to stre-  
ngthen different sectors pushed  
in indiscipline during the nine  
years of autocratic rule."

People's aspirations have  
heightened and the responsibil-  
ities of the leaders of BNP and  
its front organisations redoubled,  
she pointed out. "We have  
to ensure the welfare of com-  
monman," she said.

The people elected BNP to  
power as they realised that it  
could lead the country towards  
progress and prosperity by im-  
plementing its various pro-  
grammes, she reminded.

"A congenial investment at-  
mosphere has been created by  
the democratic government,"  
the Prime Minister said, but

warned that vested quarters  
were out to create indiscipline  
to hinder the development pro-  
cess.

She called upon the leaders  
of the Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal  
to strengthen the front and the  
organisation as a whole to face  
the situation politically.

LGRD and Cooperatives  
Minister Barrister Abdus Salam  
Talukder, Labour Minister Ab-  
dul Mannan Bhuiyan, President  
of the Sramik Dal Iskander Ali,  
General Secretary Nazrul Islam  
Khan, President of Dhaka  
Metropolitan unit AKM Nazrul  
Islam, Abul Kashem Chowdhury,  
Kazi Mosharruf Hossain and  
Zafrul Hassan also add-  
ressed the function.

## 5 cops suspended for torturing madman

By Staff Correspondent

Five policemen of the city's  
Tejgaon police station were  
suspended yesterday allegedly  
for torturing a madman.

The Dhaka Metropolitan  
Police Commissioner yesterday  
ordered an inquiry into the in-  
cident and suspended sub-in-  
spector Abdul Rahman, as-  
sistant sub-inspector Harun-ur-  
Rashid and constables Manzil  
Hossain, Abdus Samad and  
Zahidur Rahman.

The Police Commissioner  
also ordered departmental pro-  
ceedings against the five po-  
licemen.

The five reportedly picked up  
an insane man from the road  
near the police station Wednes-  
day.  
See Page 12 Col 3

## Saifur asks bankers Cut interest rate within a month

Finance Minister M Saifur  
Rahman yesterday urged the  
bankers to bring down the high  
lending rate of interest to a rea-  
sonable and justifiable limit in  
order to encourage genuine bor-  
rowers to take loans for invest-  
ment, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing  
the chairmen and managing di-  
rectors of the nationalised  
commercial banks (NCB) and  
national and overseas private  
banks here.

He regretted that when the  
rate of interest now is only three  
per cent the banks are charging  
exceptionally high rate of inter-  
est from the borrowers.

Saifur Rahman asked the  
bankers to bring down the in-  
terest rate within one month.  
Otherwise, the government  
would be compelled to cap max-  
imum rate of interest in this  
regard, he warned.

Referring to the banking  
practices of covering up bad  
loans of the past, Saifur Rah-  
man said there is no justifi-  
cation of charging very high rate  
of interest to cover up bad loans  
of the past. "By doing so," the  
Finance Minister said, "you are  
making your current loans also  
potentially bad loans and fu-  
ture borrowers potentially bad  
See Page 12 Col 6

## BNP may delay forming fresh committees

By Asiuzzaman

The announcement of fresh  
committees of the ruling  
Bangladesh Nationalist Party  
(BNP) is likely to be delayed by  
at least another week as little  
progress has so far been made  
in this regard, party sources  
said.

"The party chairperson and  
Prime Minister Begum Khaleda  
Zia became very busy with ad-  
ministrative matters immedi-  
ately after the national council,  
a fact which has delayed the fi-  
nalisation of the committees,"  
one source said yesterday.

The constitution of the BNP  
empowers the chairperson to  
nominate or select party offi-  
cials including the Secretary  
General. However, the constitu-  
tion does not say that the party  
chief must announce the com-  
mittees within a particular time  
frame.

The sources could not give  
any details of the possible com-  
mittees.  
See Page 12 Col 6

## Amendment to Marine Fisheries Ordinance promulgated

The government has promul-  
gated amendment '93 to the  
regulations of Marine Fisheries  
Ordinance '83, reports BSS.

Under the ordinance, it is  
made compulsory for all mechan-  
ised boats and fishermen  
fishing within the maritime zone  
of Bangladesh to have licences  
and identity cards, a PID hand-  
out said yesterday.

Applications addressed to  
Deputy Director, Marine Fish-  
eries Department, Agrabad Gov-  
ernment Building-1, Chitta-  
gong, have to be made within  
September 30 for licences and  
identity cards.

The application forms will be  
available from the offices of the  
concerned district and thana  
officers including Deputy Di-  
rector of Marine Fisheries De-  
partment, the handout added.

## Pragati Insurance not allowed to float shares at a 50 pc premium

Star Report

In a dramatic turnaround  
the Securities Exchange Com-  
mission (SEC) recently re-  
voked its earlier order allowing  
an insurance company to float  
public shares at a premium rate.

The company, Pragati In-  
surance Ltd, meanwhile, has  
appealed against the SEC de-  
cision, concerned sources said.

The SEC had given permis-  
sion to Pragati on August 14  
last to float Tk 3.05 crore worth  
of public shares of Tk 100 each  
at a Tk 50 premium.

Accordingly, Pragati pub-  
lished its prospectus on August  
22 and advertised in a daily  
newspaper offering the shares  
for public subscription.

However, a few days ago the  
SEC through a letter rescinded  
its earlier order allowing Pragati  
to float shares at a fifty per cent  
premium.

The letter said the SEC had  
re-examined the issue and had  
come to the conclusion that the  
suggested premium was con-  
trary to the intentions and ob-  
jectives of the Article 4 A, 1958  
Insurance Act.

"Since the entrepreneurs of  
the company are buying 50 per  
cent of the company shares at  
the same price and according to  
the aforementioned act there  
See Page 12 Col 1

## Corruption has percolated to grassroots level : Samad

KURIGRAM, Sept 9: Deputy  
Leader of the Opposition Abdus  
Samad Azad today called upon  
the people to unite against the  
present "corrupt" government,  
reports UNB.

"Corruption and terrorism  
have percolated to grassroots  
level of the country during the  
rule of BNP government," the  
Awami League Presidium mem-  
ber said and accused it of un-  
leashing a reign of terror in the  
country.

Addressing a peasant rally  
organised by district Awami  
League at Shaheed Minar  
premises here, Azad said the  
government had failed to fulfil  
its commitment to the people.  
The rally was presided over by  
Kurigram District AL President  
See Page 12 Col 3

## Gano Forum launches signature campaign

The newly-floated Gano  
Forum of Dr Kamal Hossain  
came out on the political sce-  
nario yesterday with a signature  
campaign against terrorism in  
educational institutions and  
society, reports UNB.

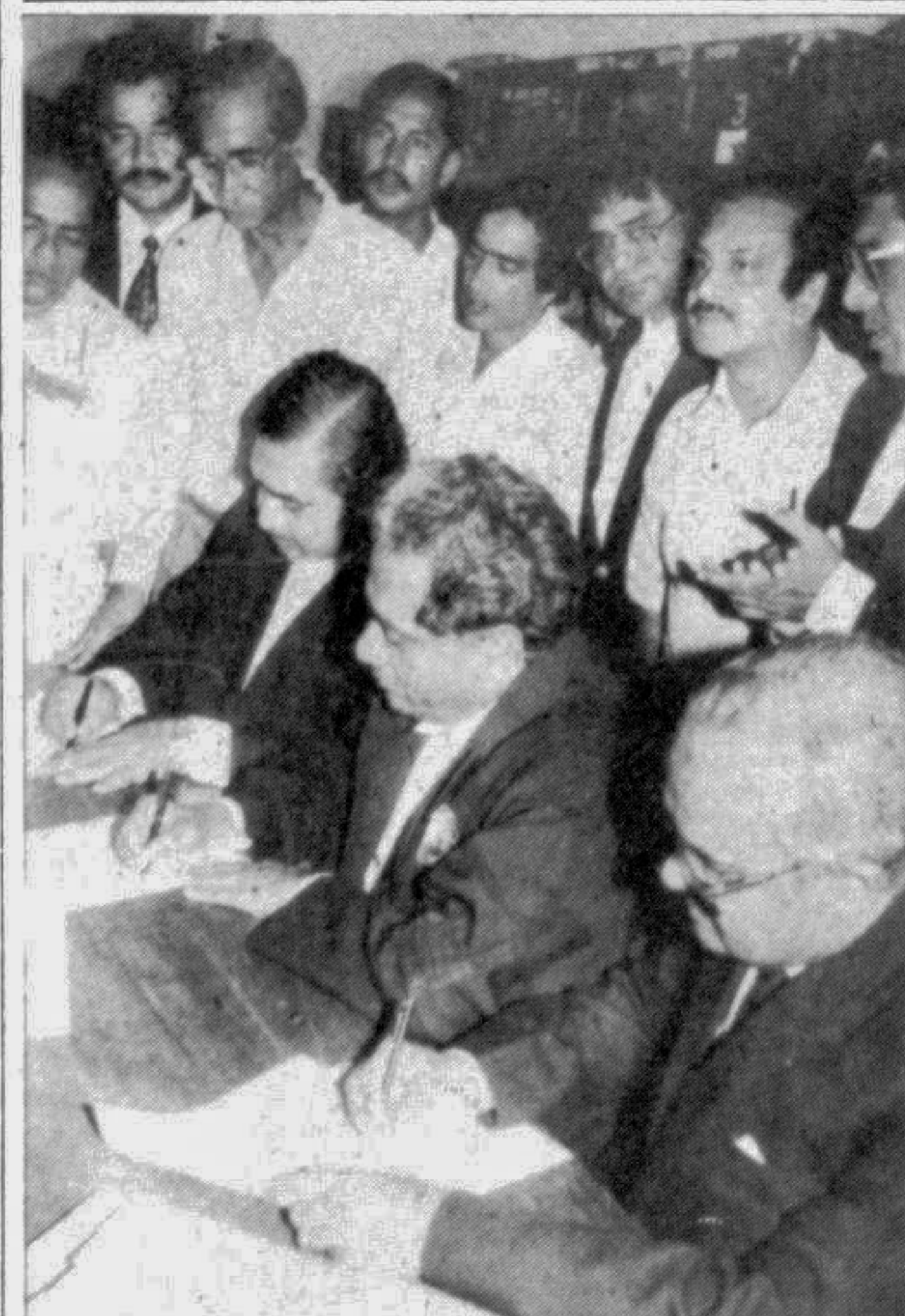
The campaign was formally  
launched from the Supreme  
Court Bar Association premises  
in the capital where 333  
lawyers gave their signature in  
favour of the move towards  
saving students, education and  
civilisation.

The former presidents of the  
Supreme Court Bar Association  
were among the signatories.  
Among them are Shamsul Haq  
Chowdhury, Syed Ishtiaq Ah-  
med, Sirazul Haq, Khandaker  
Mahbuddin Ahmed and sit-  
ting President Kazi Golam  
Mahbub and Vice President of  
the Bangladesh Bar Council  
and President of Gano Forum  
Dr Kamal Hossain.

A large number of people  
from different professional  
groups, organisations, students,  
youths and women joined the  
signature collection campaign.

The campaign will start in  
different thanas and districts  
from September 11 and con-  
tinue till October 10.

Meanwhile, a three-day meet-  
ing of the standing committee  
of Gano Forum, which began  
here September 7, ended yester-  
day distributing duties among  
— Star photo.



Supreme Court Bar Association president Kazi Golam Mahbub flanked by Gano Forum (GF) president Dr Kamal Hossain and convenor of the National Lawyers' Coordination Committee Shamsul Haque Chowdhury opening the GF's signature campaign yesterday.

## Benazir facing toughest challenge from Murtaza

KARACHI, Sept 9: Less than  
one month before parliamentary  
elections, Benazir Bhutto and  
her Pakistan People's Party (PPP)  
are facing their toughest  
challenge from within the  
former prime minister's own fam-  
ily, reports AFP.

Benazir Bhutto, PPP co-  
chairperson, openly admitted to  
a rift between herself and her  
brother Murtaza Bhutto, who is  
contesting independently in 23  
constituencies in the Bhutto  
family's powerbase of southern  
Sindh.

"Murtaza is my brother, but  
the ways of his politics are dif-  
ferent from mine," Bhutto told a  
late night press conference in  
her home town of Larkana  
Wednesday.

She said Murtaza, 38, would  
never be made Chief Minister of  
Sindh province since he was  
contesting the elections as an  
independent candidate.

Her brother-in-law Nasir  
Hussain, who arrived in Karachi  
from Damascus where Murtaza  
is living in exile, in a statement  
here said Murtaza was willing to  
compromise with the PPP and  
withdraw his nominations  
against all PPP candidates bar-  
ring one if he was promised the  
chief ministership of Sindh.

Simultaneously, Murtaza  
Wednesday denied having sent  
such a message and said he  
intended to contest all 23 con-  
stituencies from where he had  
filed nomination papers for the  
provincial and National Assem-  
bly seats.

His papers were filed by his  
Lebanese-born wife Ghenva  
Bhutto.

Murtaza Bhutto faces criminal  
charges here and is likely to be  
arrested on arrival in  
Pakistan. Interim Prime Minis-  
ter Moen Qureshi — charged  
with holding free and fair elec-  
tions — has said Murtaza could  
not be given amnesty because  
of the cases pending against  
him.

With an open split between  
the Bhuttos, the PPP faces its  
toughest test in Sindh. Analysts  
said Murtaza's decision is likely  
to split the party's vote bank to  
some extent.

However, people still remem-  
ber  
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## 10 pc ad revenue for journalists' welfare: Huda

From Staff Correspondent

GOURNADI (Barisal), Sept 9:  
Information Minister Barrister  
Nazmul Huda, while addressing  
the members of the Gournadi  
Press Club here today, said the  
government was considering  
setting aside ten per cent of its  
annual advertising revenue for  
the welfare of the journalists  
and the press clubs.

The minister, who an-  
nounced a contribution of Tk  
five thousand for the Gournadi  
Press Club, called upon the  
journalists to desist from yellow  
journalism.

He said because of the prac-  
tice of yellow journalism there  
was a growing number of libel  
and defamation suits against  
the journalists and journals.

## JP(N) convening body today

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party dissidents  
led by former Speaker Shamsul  
Huda Chowdhury will announce  
a convening committee today to  
run the Jatiya Party (Nationa-  
list), faction leaders said  
yesterday.

Shamsul Huda Chowdhury  
himself or former Foreign Minis-  
ter Humayun Rashid, Chow-  
dhury will head the convening  
committee, to be announced at  
a press conference at Hotel  
Sonargon at 4 this afternoon.

The dissident group will also  
place their political agenda at  
the press conference which is  
expected to be attended by most  
of the former JP men who de-  
serted President H M Ershad at the  
flag end of his rule  
in 1990.

Former Deputy Prime Min-  
ister Dr M A Matin and Edu-  
cation Minister Mahbubur Rah-  
man are in the forefront of the  
breakaway faction. Matin may  
become the Secretary General of  
the JP (Nationalist) with Hu-  
mayun Rashid as the chairman.

The party will also adopt a  
new constitution by amending  
the present JP constitution, one  
source said, adding that the  
amendments will reduce the  
powers of the party chairman  
while increasing the powers of  
the presidium and the central  
executive committee.

Details of the amendment  
were immediately unavailable.  
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