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NEWS BRIEFS

Saudi envoy hosts
reception

The Charge d'Affaires of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in
Bangladesh, Ali Ahmad Abdal
Wahab, held reception here
yesterday evening in celebra-
tions of the 62nd national day
of the kingdom. The reception
was attended by cabinet minis-
ters M K Anwar, Kamal Yusuf,
Shamsul Islam, Abdul Matin
Chowdhury, political leaders,
diplomats, high civil and
military officials, journalists and
elite of the city, reports BSS.

Strike in CU
passes 2nd day

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept. 23:
The second day of the indefi-
nite strike in the Chittagong
University, enforced by the
Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and
the Chhatra League, passed
peacefully today, campus
sources said. The student
strike in the university, how-
ever, coincided with that of
the varsity teachers that began
yesterday.

Yeltsin declares presidential polls June 12

Rutskoi forces plan armed assault

MOSCOW, Sept. 23: Forces
from the Russian parliament
are preparing to make an armed
assault on the buildings of the
Defense Ministry and the
General Staff of the Armed
Forces, Itar-Tass news agency
said Thursday, report AFP, AP.
The report, quoting to

day. A government order signed
by Prime Minister Viktor
Chernomyrdin on Wednesday
also said that civilian
"volunteers", to be paid by the
Interior Ministry, should be
employed in supplementary
patrols, the report said.

MOSCOW, Sept. 23: A group of
army's press service, said "all
measures" had been taken to
counter "any provocation in-
cluding an armed provocation."

Military sources and Russian
television reported earlier that
all telephone lines to the build-

ing of the ministry and the
General Staff had been cut off.

Earlier, the Russian govern-
ment ordered Interior Ministry
troops and other security forces

to increase their presence in
streets and public places

throughout Russia to ensure
public order, Itar-Tass said to

the report, quoting to

JS debates polls under care-taker govt

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yester-
day witnessed a heated debate
between the Treasury and
Opposition benches over the
government's neutrality regard-
ing holding of local government
elections.

The Treasury bench mem-
bers maintained that the ques-
tion of any partiality in holding
elections did not arise especi-
ally when the ruling party had
accepted defeat in several by-
elections during the last three
years.

See Page 12 Col 3

Govt to award Jamuna Bridge contracts soon

By Sohel Manzur

The government has decided
to award the contracts for be-
ginning the Jamuna Multi-
purpose Bridge Project (JMBP)
works even before the signing of
credit agreements with the
donors so as to meet the bid
validity periods, according to
official sources.

The bid validity periods of
the four components of the
project will expire on
December 30 this year and
January 26 next year, while the
crucial negotiations for financing
the project are likely to
start on November 15 next.

According to concerned offi-
cials, the recent wrap-up meet-
ing of the joint appraisal mis-
sion of the World Bank, Asian
Development Bank (ADB) and

See Page 12 Col 7

The Overseas Economic Coop-
eration Fund (OECD) of Japan
agreed on almost all the issues,
although Japan is unwilling to
make any formal announce-
ment regarding its position
because of its own method of
dealings.

The OECD mission will make

the announcement through the
aid memoire which it would
prepare separately and submit to
the government within a short time,

the officials said.

Officials, however, men-
tioned the OECD delegation
agreed in principle with all the
issues agreed upon by the WB
and ADB, including the shares
of credit for the Jamuna Bridge
Project.

See Page 12 Col 7

The scheduled meetings of
the Jatiya Party and
Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the
BNP's students wing, at the
traffic crossing on the Feni
Trunk Road could not be held

See Page 12 Col 6

Sec 144 to avoid BNP-JP clash

From Our Correspondents

The authorities imposed
Section 144 in different parts
of the country yesterday to
prevent the Jatiya Party (JP)
and the ruling Bangladesh
Nationalist Party (BNP) from
holding rallies today and to-
morrow.

Since both the parties have
convened meeting at the same
venues, authorities took the
measure to avoid any clashes.

The district administration
has imposed Section 144 at
Jhikha in Haridwar thana of
Mangalpur district for an
indefinite period from 6 am
today. The meetings were
scheduled to be held at Jhikha
bazar premises at 3 pm today.

In Natore, the parties called
rival meetings at the North
Bengal Mills High School
premises at the same time yester-
day. No untoward incidents
were, however, reported fol-
lowing the imposition of the
order which prevents the as-
sembly of four or more per-
sons.

In Jhenaidah, Section 144
was imposed at the Moheshpur
pouara area from 9 am to 5 pm.
Natal Roy Chowdhury, a former
state minister and central
leader of the JP was sched-
uled to address a meeting there.

Abahani, whose attempt to
register a unique second hat-
trick of league titles was foiled
by Mohammedan Sporting's
successful quest for the league
championship after a lapse of
two years, led the first half 2-1 in a
rain-interrupted entertaining
but inconsequential encounter
under the flood-lights.

For all practical purposes,
yesterday's clash of the two lo-

cal Titans had only academic
and honorific interest as
Mohammedans had precluded

the league championship race
for 1993 with 30 points from 17
encounters, an unassailable po-
sition.

Abahani, Mohammedan's
nearest rivals, trailed them by
three points, a mathematical
hiatus that a win even by the
biggest of margins could not
close. But the bottom line of
yesterday's outcome was a con-
tinuation of the jinx for
Mohammedans and a consola-
tion for Abahani steeped in pride
and prestige.

Tipped as favourites for their
tremendous form, Mohammedans
once again let down their
relaxed but eager supporters
who thronged at the Dhaka

Stadium to see that the winners
took it all.

But in the end, they had
their spirits dampened consid-
erably as their negative record
of no win against Abahani in
league matches since 1987 re-
mained unscathed, though there
was no dearth of mud caused
by the elemental interference at
the stroke of the finale.

Abahani finished the year
one up as they recorded their
second win in the three encoun-
ters between the two most
popular teams of the country.
Earlier this year Mohammedans
beat Abahani 3-2 in the final to
win the DMFA Cup.

Abahani restored parity
when, despite being the under-
dogs, they beat fancied Moha-

See Page 12 Col 3

Former champions Abahani
Krra Chakra ensured enough
balm to soothe the pains of
losing the title when they beat
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