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NEWS BRIEFS

Saudi envoy hosts reception

The Charge d'Affaires of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in
Bangladesh, Ali Ahmad Abdul
Wahab, held a 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 mili-
tary 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
Defence Ministry and the
General Staff of the Armed
Forces, Itar-Tass news agency
said Thursday, report AFP, AP.

The report, quoting the

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-

ings 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-

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.
The government also took
control today of all assets and
buildings of the Russian parlia-
ment in a decree issued by
President Boris Yeltsin.
"The assets of parliament,
including reserves in rubles and
foreign currency, buildings and
See Page 12 Col 3

JS debates polls under care-taker govt

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yester-
day witnessed a heated de-
bate 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 espe-
cially when the ruling party had
accepted defeat in several by-
elections during the last three
years.

The Opposition bench, on
the other hand, referring espe-
cially to the Mirpur Parliamen-
tary by-election, claimed that
the government had developed
a tendency to manipulate polls
at different levels.

The debate, an unscheduled
one, began when Matur
Rahman Nizam of the Jamaat-
e-Islami, Bangladesh wanted to
know about the fate of his bill,
submitted to the Parliament
secretariat in 1991, seeking na-
See Page 12 Col 3

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 Harirampur thana of
Manikganj 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
pouza area from 9 am to 5 pm.
Natal Roy Chowdhury, a former
state minister and central
leader of the JP was scheduled
to address a meeting there.

A ban on meetings has also
been imposed in Barisal from
2 pm yesterday to 10 pm to-
day.

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

Govt to award Jamuna Bridge contracts soon

By Sohail Manzur

The government has decided
to award the contracts for be-
ginning the Jamuna Multi-
purpose Bridge Project (JMBP)
purpose 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 financ-
ing 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

the Overseas Economic Coopera-
tion Fund (OECF) 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 OECF 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 OECF 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

Abkhaz rebels hit a third plane

TBILISI, Sept 23: Abkhazian
rebels hit another passenger
plane at Sukhumi airport on
Thursday — the third in three
days — as the death toll in the
battle for the city soared and
bodies littered the streets, re-
ports AP.

It was not immediately known
how many people were killed
or injured when Abkhazian
anti-aircraft fire hit the Tu-134
plane as it was on the runway.

Rezo Egadze, chief spoke-
sman for Georgian leader
Eduard Shevardnadze, said the
plane was carrying mainly
refugees. But he did not know
how many passengers were
aboard, and it was not clear
whether the plane was taking
off or landing.
A plane landing in Sukhumi

on Wednesday was hit by rebel
fire and exploded, killing at
least 80 people. On Tuesday, 28
died when a Tu-134 was hit and
crashed into the Black Sea.
Georgian troops blamed
Abkhazian rebels, but they de-
nied shooting down the plane
on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, doctors said
corpses were scattered in
streets and buildings through-
out Sukhumi and a UN official
said up to 250 people — includ-
ing 95 civilians — have been
killed in days of fighting.

Battles raged Thursday
south of the Abkhazian capital
of Sukhumi, where a private
militia allied with Georgian
leader Eduard Shevardnadze
was trying to break the separa-
tists' stranglehold around the
city.

Sukhumi is the last govern-
ment stronghold in Abkhazia,
where fighting has killed more
than 3,000 people since the re-
gion's nationalist leaders de-
clared sovereignty from Sheva-
rdnadze's government a year
ago.

The fall of Sukhumi would
be a major blow to Sheva-
rdnadze's government, which
has been beset by ethnic
conflicts, political rebellions
and economic turmoil since the
breakup of the Soviet Union in
1991.

A commander of the UN
mission in Georgia, Brig Gen
John Hvidegaard of Denmark,
said by telephone from Sukhu-
mi that up to 250 Georgians
were killed around the city in
the last week of renewed
fighting.

Nusrat Bhutto asks Murtaza to withdraw from most of seats

KARACHI, Sept 23: Nusrat
Bhutto, co-chairperson of the
Pakistan People's Party (PPP),
Thursday called on her son to
withdraw from most of the
seats he is contesting against
party candidates in next
month's polls, reports AFP.

At a press conference here,
she appealed to Murtaza
Bhutto to contest only a few of
the 17 provincial and six
National Assembly seats for
which he had filed nomination
papers as an independent.

The widow of executed
former prime minister Zulfikar
Ali Bhutto, Nusrat has been
campaigning for her son, who
has been in self-exile in Syria
since the overthrow of his fa-
ther in July 1977. She did not
specify the number of consti-
tuencies.
Murtaza was pitted against

several party stalwarts in the
family's strong hold of south-
ern Sindh province.

Senior party sources said
reason behind Nusrat's dra-
matic appeal was to dispel the
confusion created among
Bhutto fans as to who should
they vote for.

It embarrassed party co-
chairperson and former pre-
mier Benazir Bhutto, Murtaza's
sister, as Nusrat was herself
leading his campaign.

Analysts said Murtaza was
likely to concede as he would
have very little choice. The de-
cision reflected Nusrat's desire
to prevent a rift within the
family and an inevitable split in
the party's vote bank, they
said.

Meanwhile high level PPP
sources in Islamabad said
Nusrat Bhutto could step down

as party co-chairperson after
the October 6-9 elections.

She shrugged off questions
pertaining to her statement
Wednesday in which she said
she would commit "suicide" if
her son was not elected. She
attributed the statement to
electoral rhetoric in the heat
of the moment and said she
had no intention of commit-
ting suicide.

Murtaza was accused of in-
citing terrorism in his capacity
as the leader of the Al-Zulfikar
organisation and could get a
14-year jail term if found
guilty.

Non-bailable warrants of ar-
rest are awaiting him as the
caretaker government of
Moeen Qureshi has ruled out
amnesty for Murtaza.

A spokesman for Murtaza
See Page 12 Col 8



Abahani defender Masud Rana makes a sliding tackle to stop Mohammedan Sporting's Russian forward Jivotnikov in yesterday's Star Premier Division League encounter at the Dhaka Stadium.

Abahani's coup de grace

By Chandrashekhar Das

Former champions Abahani
Kirta Chakra ensured enough
balm to soothe the pains of
losing the title when they beat
their arch-rivals and newly-
crowned Mohammedan Sport-
ing Club 3-2 in the last
scheduled encounter of this
year's Star Premier Division
football league at the Dhaka
Stadium yesterday.

Abahani, whose attempt to
register a unique second hat-
trick of league titles was foiled
by Mohammedan's successful
quest for the league champi-
onship 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 consolati-
on for Abahani seeped in pride
and prestige.

Tipped as favourites for their
tremendous form, Mohamm-
edans 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 unswayed, 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

Because they fear divorce!

LONDON, Sept 23: British
women who move in with their
lovers and even have children
with them are avoiding marriage
for fear of divorce, a study
published on Thursday found,
reports Reuters.

One in three believed mar-
riage could only end in tears
and opted to remain unmarried
even after becoming a parent.
Others were reluctant to tie the
knot because they felt weddings
were too expensive or because
they did not believe in marriage.
The survey, by the London-
based Policy Studies Institute,
found that people tended to see
living together as a prelude to
marriage, but increasing num-
bers of couples did not bother
to make legal ties.

"Our research suggests that
marriage is fast becoming a step
that people take when and if it
suits their own personal cir-
cumstances, not those of the
church, the state or social con-
vention," said Susan Macrae,
author of the report.

More than 300 women with
children over the age of four
were interviewed for the study.

Hartal observed in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 23: A
half-day hartal was observed
today (Thursday) in the district
protesting the killing of four
people in police firing at Mata-
rari village under Moheshkhali
thana on September 15, reports
UNB.

The District Nagorik Adhikar
Committee called the hartal in a
meeting on Wednesday de-
manding judicial probe into
the incident, punishment of
responsible policemen, and
withdrawal of cases lodged by
police against 15 villagers.

Petro Bangla shelves blacklisting Saipem

By Inam Ahmed

Petro Bangla's move to
blacklist Saipem, the Italian
construction firm of the con-
troversial North-South Pipeline,
may face difficulties because
the latter is likely to go for
further claims against the govern-
ment, legal advisers said.

Petro Bangla was actively
considering blacklisting Saipem
in Bangladesh from participat-
ing in any future work. The de-
cision was taken following
Saipem's arbitration suit against
Petro Bangla in the Interna-
tional Court of Arbitration of
the International Chamber of
Commerce in Paris.

As part of its action, the
government agency had sought

opinion of its legal advisers
about possible effects of its
move.

But sources said the plan is
being shelved for the time being
to further scrutinise the sub-
ject.

Blacklisting, an administra-
tive decision, is enforced so that
the party against whom the de-
cision is taken is not considered
for awarding of any future con-
tracts.

Petro Bangla's legal advisers
had expressed the opinion that
once the measure is taken,
Saipem could be expected to
add a further claim in its arbi-
tration suit for "prospective loss"
See Page 12 Col 6

Gross irregularities in Public Works Deptt

Works Minister Barrister
Rafiqul Islam Miah yesterday
paid a surprise visit to a num-
ber of stores and godowns of
the Public Works Department
(PWD) in the city and detected
gross irregularities, widespread
corruption and wastage of pub-
lic property and resources, re-
ports BSS.

Barrister Rafiq, who is also
the joint secretary general of
the BNP, detected major irregu-
larities, widespread corruption
and wastage of public resources
amounting to more than Taka
100 crore at the PWD main-
tenance division here in 1989-90.

Additional Chief Engineer
Mohibur Rahman told the
Works Minister that some cor-
rupt officials had purchased
materials and equipment worth
Taka 27 crore by 28 fake letters
of allocation of the Finance

Ministry during 1989-90 and
there was no record now in the
ministry in this regard.

Barrister Rafiq, during his
visit to the EM Division-Eight at
Mirpur, asked an employee
about the purchasing price of
hydraulic pump shaft oil seal.
The employee said the purchase
price was shown at Taka 450
per piece although the market
price was less than Taka 40. A
total of 373 pieces were pur-
chased in 1989-90 but only five
pieces had been used so far, he
told the minister.

When asked by the minister,
another employee said the price
of the B gear boxes pur-
chased during 1989-90 was
shown as Tk 36,000 although
market price at the time was
less than one third that
amount.

See Page 12 Col 7



Sydney to host 2000 Olympics

MONTE CARLO (Monaco),
Sept 23: Sydney was selected to
host the 2000 Olympics on
Thursday, beating out favoured
Beijing for the Summer Games
in a choice of First World reli-
ability over the political uncer-
tainties of China, reports AP.

The decision to return the
Games to Australia for the first
time since the 1956 Melbourne
Olympics was announced live to
a worldwide television audience
by International Olympic
Committee president Juan
Antonio Samaranch after secret
balloting by the committee's 89
voting members.

Sydney won the fourth and
final round of voting 45 votes to
Beijing's 43, according to John
Coates, the Australian Olympic
Committee chairman.

In the third round, Beijing
had 40 votes, just five from vic-
tory, IOC sources said. Sydney
had 37 and Manchester 11.

Istanbul dropped out after
the first round and Berlin after
the second, the sources said.

"We regret that there is only
one winner," said IOC president
Juan Antonio Samaranch be-
fore announcing the Millennium
Games host in a glittering cer-
emony in the Louis II Stadium.

Sydney officials immediately
leaped to their feet in joy and
embraced each other. Those
from Beijing, who had been
considered front-runners, clapped politely.

Sydney's victory, after un-
successful Australian bids for
the 1992 and 1996 Games.

FBUTA demands ouster of 3 ministers

By JU Correspondent

The university teachers
yesterday demanded resigna-
tion of three ministers for
their alleged inaction in curb-
ing campus violence and for
bringing 'false charges' against
teachers in Parliament.

The demand was made on
the concluding day of the
teachers' strike called by the
Federation of Bangladesh
University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) yesterday
morning at the Dhaka
University Teachers-Students
Centre (TSC) auditorium.

The FBUTA leaders criti-
cised Home Minister Abdul
Matin Chowdhury for his fail-
See Page 12 Col 6

Hasina concerned at terrorist acts by Jamaat-Shibir

The Leader of the Opposition
in the Jatiya Sangsad and
Awami League chief Sheikh
Hasina, yesterday expressed her
deep shock and concern at the
recent acts of terrorism and
killing by the Jamaat-Shibir in
different educational institu-
tions, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina, now under-
going treatment at a Singapore
hospital, in a statement urged
the government to arrest the
persons responsible for making
the educational arena a place of
terrorism and give punishment
to them.

The Awami League chief de-
scribed the terrorism unleashed
by the Jamaat Shibir as an
"unpardonable act" which, she
said, had belittled us before the
civilised society.

She demanded a judicial en-
quiry into the incidents and the
role of the law-enforcing agen-
cies.

SSC, HSC results to be computerised

The answer-scripts of the
SSC and the HSC examinations
will be coded and results will
be fully computerised beginning
1994, an official release said in
Dhaka last night, reports BSS.

A meeting to this effect was
held yesterday at the conference
room of the Ministry of Edu-
cation with Education Minister
Barrister Jamiruddin Strear in
the chair.

Education Secretary Md
Irshadul Haq, Vice-Chancellor
of the BUET Professor M
Shahjahan, chairman and con-
trollers of the country's educa-
tion boards and high officials
attended the meeting.

It was informed in the
meeting that in order to codify
the answer-scripts and comput-
erise the examination results, a
nationwide structured training
and mass publicity programme
would be launched soon.