

## Inside Today

### Article

#### Do Our Leaders Bother to Lis- ten to US

by Monirul I Khan  
Page 4

### International

Sharif launches 'long  
march on Islamabad  
to topple Benazir  
soon'



Top two FIS leaders  
released, placed under  
house arrest  
Page 5

### Business

Prospect of revenue  
earning thru trained  
personnel abroad  
bright

India must open up  
textile market, says  
US envoy  
Pages 6, 7

### Women On The Move

Fashion vs style: Women's  
struggle; Housing for  
garments workers;  
and Learning the  
way of life  
Page 8

### Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Learning about Life the  
Hard Way  
Page 3

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Khaleda to visit drought-hit areas

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will visit the drought-affected areas of Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Thakurgaon districts today. She will also hold meetings with the local people, district officials and water development officials, reports UNB.

### Ministry renamed

The Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Ministry has been renamed as the Ministry of Water Resources. A government handout said yesterday the order would take immediate effect, reports UNB.

### BUET classes resume Sept 19

Classes of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will begin on September 19 while its dormitories will be reopened on September 18. The ban on all kinds of processions, rallies, slogans, picketing on the campus will remain in force even after opening of the university, reports UNB.

### 2 Shantibahini men held

RANGAMATI, Sept 14: Security forces today arrested two Shantibahini men while they were collecting tolls at Tulabana area of Baghaichhari thana. Police also recovered Tk 14 thousand and receipts of subscription form Aboni Chakma alias Ashish and Tripit Ranjan Chakma. During interrogation, they reportedly confessed having looted a licensed gun of local chakmas about a month ago, reports UNB.

## Opposition conditions for negotiation

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition parties in Parliament yesterday put forward a number of preconditions for resumption of dialogue with the ruling party to end the present political impasse.

"The ruling party should create an atmosphere for dialogue by clarifying in writing its position on the caretaker government issue," Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad told a press briefing at the Sangsad Bhavan.

He said that the letter which Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury had given on September 9 was 'incomplete and a bit vague' as regards the caretaker

issue. "I will soon send a reply asking him to elaborate his position," Samad Azad said after a closed door meeting of the opposition allies.

He said that in order to create an atmosphere for dialogue, the government should release all opposition leaders and workers arrested during the 'Dhaka siege' and three days of hartal.

The government has to form a judicial probe body to investigate into the 'attack' on Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, he said. Besides, cases against the opposition leaders and workers will have to be withdrawn before the

dialogue begins, he added.

Awami League leaders Sajeda Chowdhury, Shalauddin Yousuf, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Tofael Ahmed and Col (ret'd) Sawkat Ali, Jatiya Party's Moudud Ahmed, Anwar Hossain Manju and Monirul Huq Chowdhury, Jamaat's Sheikh Ansar Ali and Gana Forum's Shamsuddoha were present at the press briefing.

Samad Azad said the Opposition parties have been boycotting Parliament sessions for the past six months but the government has taken no initiative to resolve the crisis.

"Parliament has lost its effectiveness. It is convened only See Page 12 Col 8

### JS session prorogued

## No alternative to talks, says Badruddoza

By Staff Correspondent

The 16th session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad (JS) was prorogued yesterday with Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury urging the boycotting Opposition to come forward to end the present political impasse through dialogue.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, who was in the chair, read out the prorogation order of President Abdur Rahman Biswas at 8:00 pm.

The deputy speaker told the closing sitting of the 10-working day session of the JS that the House had been deprived of valuable Opposition views in enacting various legislations, especially the Company Act, 1994, during the session.

He hoped that the treasury and the Opposition benches would be able to resolve the present crisis through dialogue and resume discharging their respective responsibilities in the House soon.

Earlier, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury called upon the opposition parties, who have been boycotting JS proceedings since March in demand for constitutional provisions for holding national elections under a caretaker government, to come forward with an 'open mind' to end the present deadlock.

I have repeatedly urged the boycotting Opposition to come to the negotiation table and proposed, both verbally and in black and white, an agenda for a possible dialogue. But the Opposition has taken to the streets to materialise its demand", Prof Chowdhury said.

He also informed the House that the agenda he had proposed for a dialogue included, "The caretaker issue and three Opposition-sponsored bills relating to a caretaker administration, the ways of improving the electoral process and the See Page 12 Col 7

### Hasina's charges motivated, says

## Home Minister

By Staff Correspondent

The Home Minister yesterday refuted allegations made by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina that she was kept under surveillance by the government.

"The allegations were completely baseless, fabricated and politically motivated," Abdul Matin Chowdhury said while making a statement in the Jatiya Sangsad on the allegations made by the leader of the opposition at a press conference on Tuesday.

Sheikh Hasina had alleged that her telephones were being bugged, letters censored and that she was being kept under watch by the members of the intelligence agencies.

Terming the allegations a travesty of truth, the home minister sarcastically observed that if the leader of the Opposition did not want the normal security measures provided for her, then there was scope to reconsider it.

Seven uniformed armed police personnel were placed at See Page 12 Col 1

### Jamalpur gets gas

JAMALPUR, Sept 14: Jamalpur, an economically backward district, was brought under the gas distribution network today to speed up the pace of development in the area, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally switched on a gas burner at the police line ground here in the afternoon, saying social and political stability is necessary for development activity, investment and progress in the country.

"This is why we are proceeding with patience and tolerance. The people are the source of our strength in this regard. The country's development programmes are being run with people's continued support and participation. We will march ahead along with the people," she told a function See Page 12 Col 2

## Khaleda's call to resist politics of hartal

JAMALPUR, Sept 14: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today lashed at the Opposition agitation and urged the people to stand against the politics of hartal, destruction, anarchy and indiscipline hindering development programmes, reports UNB.

"The opposition programmes like hartal, blockade and siege are injustice to the people," she said, adding all should refrain from these anti-development activities for the sake of maintaining the present trend of development.

She was addressing a mammoth public meeting at the Government Ashok Mahmud College ground here.

The Prime Minister's comment came in the wake of a series of action programmes simultaneously launched by the

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami to press their common demand for a caretaker government to conduct national elections.

She blamed a political party, without naming it, for joining hands with the autocratic force to destroy democracy and halt development efforts of the BNP government and urged the people to reject that combine and cooperate with the government to continue the development drive.

Referring to the September 10 Dhaka siege programme, she said the 'failed' programme proved that the people were no longer with those pursuing destructive activities, they were now with the politics of development and production.

See Page 12 Col 1



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated the supply of natural gas to Jamalpur at a function in the district town. — PID photo



### C'wealth Secy-Gen due today

The Commonwealth Secretary General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, arrives in Dhaka today on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

This will be Anyaoku's first official visit to Bangladesh since he took over as Secretary General in July 1990.

He will be accompanied by senior officials from the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Anyaoku is expected to discuss with government leaders about Commonwealth's role in various political, social, economic and environmental issues as well as ways and means to further strengthen the existing functional cooperation between Bangladesh and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

He will also exchange views on various issues before the See Page 12 Col 6

## Riyadh arrests several political reformists

NICOSIA, Sept 14: Saudi police have rounded up several leading campaigners for political reform in a wave of arrests over the past few days, a Saudi human rights organisation charged on Tuesday.

The Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) said in a statement sent to AFP from its London base that religious leader Sheikh Salman Al-Awda, 39, was the latest in a string of arrest when he was detained early Tuesday.

A thousand police had surrounded his home in Buraydah, 300 kilometres (190 miles) northwest of the capital Riyadh, the statement added.

### BMA's protest programme

The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) will enforce a shutdown on all administrative offices of the Health Department today to press its demands, reports UNB.

The BMA has called for closure of the offices, including the Health Directorate and Civil Surgeon's offices, demanding implementation of its 21-point demands which include removal of the Health Secretary, cancellation of the vigilance team and reinstatement of a dozen doctors suspended for absconding from duty.

Two days earlier Awda had given a fierce speech in front of hundreds of supporters denouncing arrests of several religious leaders and teachers, sympathetic to the CDLR's ideas.

Among those held were founder member Sheikh Sefr Al-Hawwalli, a lecturer at the religious University of Mecca, and Mohsen Al-Awaji, a teacher in Agronomics at the King Saud University in Riyadh, the group said.

The group, who say they base their action on Islamic principles, was banned by Riyadh several days after it was formed in May 1993 with the aim of fighting 'oppression and injustice, in the Kingdom'. In its statement it said the arrests were a declaration of war on Islam by the ruling clique, and called on "Muslims in the Arabic peninsula to voice their support for those arrested by holding demonstrations."

It said that because of the growing number of arrests "a high-level US delegation is expected in the next few days in Saudi Arabia."

The same delegation was recently sent by US President Bill Clinton to he Kingdom to ask King Fahd to "make concessions to the people in the area of human rights, by bringing in political, social and economic reforms."

### Prices of rice, edible oil rise

By Staff Correspondent

Over the past few weeks, the price of coarse rice has risen by Tk two to three per kg, ending a long-sustained price stability at the retailer's level.

The prices of edible oil, and onion have also gone up, according to retailers.

"There is a shortage of rice supply from the countryside, a retailer at the New Market said yesterday.

"And the price has been climbing steadily for the past two weeks."

The prices of coarse rice or irri, which had remained steady at between Tk 9 and 10 per kg for the last two years, have gone up to Tk 12.50 to 13 per kg.

See Page 12 Col 3

## Arafat puts Jerusalem issue on hold

JERUSALEM, Sept 14: Israel and the PLO put their peace process back on track with a new accord sweeping aside disputes over Jerusalem and renewing an oath to end violence, speed up aid and devolve power to the Palestinians, reports AFP.

The 15-points Oslo declaration announced overnight wiped the slate clean a year after the declaration of principles launched autonomy for Gaza and Jericho.

"We have the feeling that everything is starting off again in a very positive way," said a senior aide to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who signed the accord.

Yasser Arafat appeared very

moved, he spoke a few words in Hebrew, repeating Shalom over and over," the aide added.

The key lay in the PLO chairman dropping his demand to have development projects for East Jerusalem funded by international donors in the framework of autonomy, officials said here Wednesday.

The demand had scuppered a donor meeting last Friday in Paris, the latest in a long series of clashes and delays over the first 12 months of putting autonomy into practice.

Any fears that it would poison the peace concert celebrations in Oslo marking the September 13 signing in

See Page 12 Col 4

## Indo-Pak cricket clash today

### Sports Reporter

Bitter rivals and neighbours India and Pakistan clash in a crucial tie of the ongoing four-nation Singer World Series one-day cricket tournament in Colombo.

Bangladesh Television will telecast the day-and-night encounter live, starting at 2:25 pm BST.

Apart from its traditional spicy flavour, the matchup of the subcontinental superpowers holds significant bearing as far as this tourney is concerned after hosts Sri Lanka made their way to the final, leaving the fight for the other slot wide open.

Statistically, India are in a better position with one victory.

See Page 12 Col 2

## ECNEC approves Tk 271 cr Rly project

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) at a meeting yesterday approved Tk 271 crore second phase railway rehabilitation project, reports UNB.

The project, involving foreign exchange component of Tk 205 crore, which will be provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), is aimed at procuring locomotives and railway coaches.

The project is expected to be completed by 1998-99, said a PID handout.

The meeting was informed that Bangladesh Railway under its another project has procured 21 broad gauge passenger coaches costing Tk 33 crore involving Danish assistance of Tk 21 crore.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman presided over the meeting held at the Secretariat cabinet room.

Agriculture Minister M Majid-ul-Haq, Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam, Religious Affairs Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali, State Minister for Planning Dr A Moayed Khan secretaries concerned and members of the Planning Commission attended the meeting.

## 4 die in N'ganj bus plunge

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 14: Four persons, including a college teacher were killed and 30 others injured when a mini bus skidded off the Dhaka Munshiganj highway and fell into a ditch at Char Syedpur this morning.

Two of victims trapped into the sunken minibus were identified as Prof Hasna Banu, 45, head of the Bangla Department of Haraganga Government College, Munshiganj and Dilip Sheel, 25, a medical representative of a pharmaceutical company. The two other deceased, both female aged about 25 and 50, could not be identified immediately.

According to police and witnesses, the minibus fell into the eight-feet-deep ditch while awaiting another bus to pass if from behind.

The Munshiganj-bound mini bus from Dhaka met with the accident at about 8:30 in the morning.

All the bodies were sent to the Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy.

## Forex retention quota raised to 15 pc of FOB

Foreign exchange retention quota for the merchandise exporters has been raised from the current 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the FOB (free on board) value of their exports, reports UNB.

This quota can be retained in foreign currency accounts by the exporters with the commercial banks in Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Bank announced yesterday.

Funds from these accounts may be freely used by the exporters for export promotion and other genuine business purposes.

The retention quota, introduced in June 1992 as part of the liberalisation programme, so far allowed the exporters to retain 10 per cent of the FOB value of their export earnings in foreign currency accounts.

Retention quota in respect of low domestic value addition and service sector will remain unchanged at 5 per cent.