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NEWS BRIEFS

2 killed in Feni road mishaps

FENI, Sept 16: A young woman and a minor boy were killed and five others injured in two accidents on the Feni bypass today. Witnesses said a truck hit a tempo at Mohammad Albazar at about 11:30 am killing one of its passengers Fatema begum, 35. Another truck ran over Saiful, 8, at Mahipal in Sadar thana. Police seized the trucks, but the drivers fled away, reports UNB.

Cedras to 'step down if US drops invasion plan' Clinton's final warning to Haiti's military leaders



President Clinton addressing nation yesterday.

WASHINGTON, Sept 16: The Clinton administration said today the US invasion of Haiti could come within days and when it does, the main military mission would be over "in a matter of hours," reports AP.

Haiti's top army commander was defiant, pledging resistance, after President Clinton's final plea before an invasion. But there were new reports the coup leaders have been looking for a way out.

Baby Doc Duvalier, Haiti's former "president for life," has been enlisted as an intermediary by the military junta, sources familiar with the contacts said. US officials said they would not negotiate anything except how the rulers would leave power.

Clinton scheduled a meeting at the White House with the man he intends to restore to power in Haiti, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In an effort to highlight the international support for his plans, he also invited representatives of the 24 countries who have pledged assistance after the initial US assault.

But overnight polls and morning interviews indicated that many Americans and members of Congress remained opposed to military intervention in Haiti and unconvinced that US interests are threatened.

In a sign of impending action, Clinton cancelled a Sunday political trip to California that would have kept See Page 12 Col 4

Clinton praises Bangladesh

WASHINGTON, Sept 16: US President Bill Clinton in a televised speech from the Oval Office today appreciated more than 20 countries from around the globe including Bangladesh, which has agreed to join his country in leading the international effort to restore democratic government in Haiti, reports Reuter.

The US President in his speech to the nation said in the face of continued defiance and with atrocities rising, the United States has agreed to lead a multinational force to carry out the will of the United Nations.

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EASY PICKINGS: With bricks costing as much as they do these days, two friends here help themselves to some easy pickings along the south and western walls of the Ramna Park which was partially torn down by opposition agitators during last Saturday's Dhaka Siege. The iron grilles have long since been carted away, perhaps to one of such roadside shops in the older part of the city (inset), may be to be washed to the City authorities. — Star photo

Sharif's interview with Washington Post

Pak army planned heroin trade to finance secret operations

ISLAMABAD, Sept 16: The Pakistani military, which prides itself for its oft-evoked image as the country's only "clean" institution, is mired in allegations that it planned to trade heroin in order to finance covert operations, reports AFP.

Newspapers today pored over the scandal, which erupted earlier this week after the Washington Post published an interview with former prime minister — and current opposition leader — Nawaz Sharif.

Sharif said the Armed Forces' two senior-most officers, the Chief of Staff and head of military intelligence, went to see him in early 1991 to seek his approval for the alleged scheme, according to the Post.

Under it the military would launch a wide-ranging trade in heroin, and use the proceeds to fund secret operations, the report said. Sharif said he ve-



toed the scheme, it said. Sharif, prime minister from 1990-93, has already triggered a political storm since his fall from power, in alleging last month that Pakistan already

had a nuclear weapon.

Then — as now — his reported statements have been repeatedly and angrily denied by the Pakistani authorities. Sharif himself accuses the Post of concocting the interview, in a supposed attempt to strip him of the backing of the Armed Forces, a key player in Pakistani politics.

But political analysts say the shock report could have a series of troubling after-effects, especially in the light of Pakistan's unenviable reputation as a major producer of heroin.

Pakistan, with an estimated heroin output of 70 tonnes per year, ranks just behind Myanmar, according to US narcotics experts. The country is regularly criticised in international forums for its performance in fighting drug use, and Pakistani nationals are subject to See Page 12 Col 8

Education Day today

By Staff Correspondent

Different student organisations will observe Education Day throughout the country today.

On this day in 1962, student leaders Mostafa, Babul and Wajullah and rickshaw-puller Sundar Ali were killed during agitations against the anti-people Hamudur Rahman Education Commission report.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) will gherao the Shikhya Bhaban at 11 am today to press for its demand for introduction of a secular, scientific and pro-people education policy, according to BCU sources.

The BCU programmes for the day also includes demonstrations at the divisional headquarters.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) will hold a rally and bring out a procession on the Dhaka University campus at 10.30 this morning in observance of the day.

Bangladesh Chhatra Federation has also taken up a similar See Page 12 Col 6

Liberians beat up, strip coup leader

MONROVIA, Sept 16: Liberian civilians today captured, beat and stripped the leader of Thursday's failed coup attempt and handed him over to African intervention troops, witnesses said, reports Reuter.

Former armed forces of Liberia (AFL) chief Charles Julue, disguised as an Arab, was seized near the US embassy in the capital Monrovia, witnesses said.

Julue, well known to most Liberians and hated for his brutal suppression of unrest under former president Samuel Doe, escaped a land and sea bombardment of the executive mansion late on Thursday and slipped through a cordon of 1,000 troops of the See Page 12 Col 2

City water crisis to persist at least another decade

Star Report

The water crisis in the capital is likely to continue for the next one decade, according to experts and WASA sources.

For a city of eight million people, having a demand of no less than 140 crore litres of water per day, the present WASA infrastructure is capable of supplying only half the requirement.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, WASA Chairman Nazir Ahmed said "Water crisis will continue till the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant is completed."

The plant, scheduled to be completed in three phases by 2010, will supply water from the Sitalakha river. Financial evaluation of the nearly Tk 3000 crore project is now going on.

The WASA Chairman however, saw light at the end of the tunnel and said, "The plant, when completed will supply 200 Imperial Metric Gallons per day (IMGD) as

against the present requirement of 128 IMGD. WASA presently supplies around 70 IMGD.

The water supply situation in Dhaka and Narayanganj has worsened in the present dry season due to over exploitation of sub-soil water reserves, which continue to decrease alarmingly.

The recent weeks, water supply has declined sharply in several areas of the city including Gopibagh, Shantinagar, Eskaton, Moghbazar, Malibagh, Gulbagh, Siddheswari, Mugga para, Motijheel and adjacent areas, according to residents of the areas.

Experts feel that there is no likelihood of any dramatic improvements of the situation in the near future as almost the entire water requirement in the city is met by a battery of deep tubewells.

The experts say only surface water-based plants could help See Page 12 Col 1

Opposition wants specific agenda for dialogue

By Nazmul Ashraf

The Opposition parties in Parliament have expressed their willingness to sit for a dialogue with the government if and when the latter agrees to a specific agenda — national elections under a caretaker government — and creates of an atmosphere conducive to such talks.

The Opposition views were communicated to the government yesterday in response to the ruling party's proposal for a dialogue to end the present political impasse.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad sent the reply to the letter he received September 9 from his treasury bench counterpart Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury.

When contacted last night over telephone, Samad Azad said the reply was prepared in consultation with the leaders of all Opposition parties in Parliament.

"I will also contact the Deputy Leader of the House," he told The Daily Star.

"We are now awaiting government steps on the issue",

he said in reply to a question. Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury could not be contacted last night.

According to Opposition sources, Samad Azad's reply to Prof. Chowdhury's letter said that the government proposal for a dialogue was vague and did not mention anything about the two leaders' August 31 talks. The sources pointed out that Samad Azad had cate-

Hasina goes to Munshiganj today

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina goes to Munshiganj today to visit the areas affected due to erosion by the Padma.

According to a party press release yesterday, she will go to Sylhet tomorrow to address a public meeting on the day as part of her campaign for holding of general elections under a caretaker administration.

Blockade can't be part of democratic process: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday criticised the Opposition, saying programmes like rail-and-road blockade cannot be part of a democratic process, reports UNB.

"Democratic programmes do not mean holding the people hostage and causing suffering to them," she said of the Opposition's countrywide programme for a rail-and-road blockade on September 27.

Begum Zia was addressing a

function at her Hare Road office last night to mark the joining of the BNP by a large number of Awami League and Jatiya Party workers of the Cantonment area of the capital.

Food Minister Lt Col (Retd) Mir, Shawkat Ali, Maj (Retd) Kamrul Islam, MP and BNP Vice-Chairman Tanbir Ahmed Siddiqui also spoke on the occasion.

Begum Zia said the Opposition does not have any pro- See Page 12 Col 7

Muktijoddha booters win in Qatar

Sports Reporter

Striker Mizan's 53rd minute goal kept Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in contention for a berth in the semifinals of the Qatar Independence Cup invitational football tournament.

The Federation Cup champions of Bangladesh edged past the Yemen national team at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha yesterday, according to Star TV monitored here last night.

After a goalless first half, the lanky Mizan leapt to nod home a cross from the right by speedy winger Mamun Joarder.

The Bangladeshi team which was unexpectedly mauled by an Indian selection in their opening match on September 14, put up a vastly improved performance, particularly in the second session yesterday.

Coach Salahuddin, quick in learning lessons, played substitute custodian Arun Dewan instead of the regular Mohsin whose faulty goalkeeping had largely contributed to the team's downfall.

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PM to address public meetings from Sept 23

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address a series of public meetings beginning September 23. The meetings will be held as part of a campaign to drum up support "to dispel misgivings generated by the opposition on the caretaker issue," a spokesman at the Prime Minister's office said last night.

The Prime Minister will begin her public meetings immediately after her return from Bhutan, where she would be visiting for two days beginning September 21 as Chairperson of the SAARC.

The public meetings will be held at Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Khulna.

Begum Zia will address a public meeting at Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on October 1. Her other meetings will be at Sylhet on September 23, Khulna on September 25 and Chittagong on September 28.

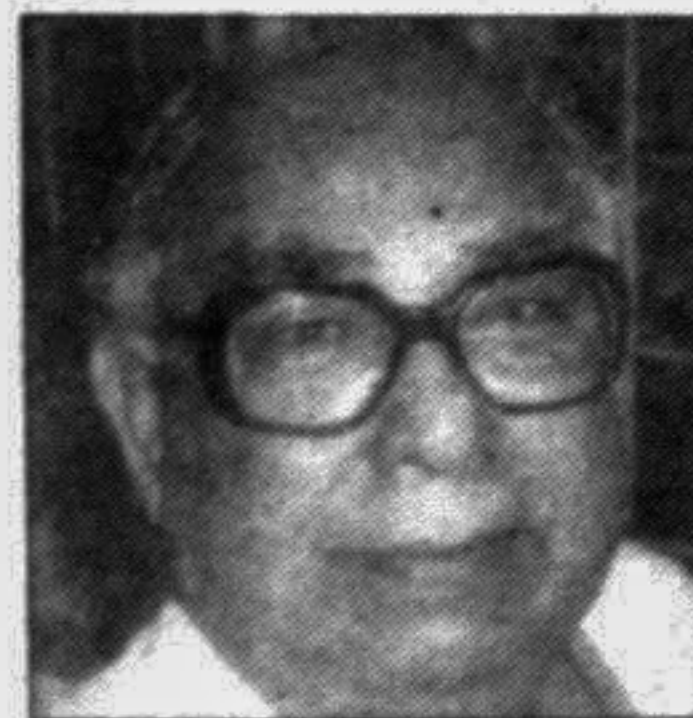
28 injured in Khagrachhari clash

KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 16: Twenty eight people, including 10 policemen, were injured as supporters of a peasants' organisation clashed with police at Manikchhari here today, witnesses said, reports UNB.

They said the clash erupted when police resorted to baton charge to disperse the supporters of Bangladesh Kri-Shak Kalyan Parishad, who put barricades on a road at Tintuhur Amtal bazar violating section 144 this afternoon.

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Qul khwani



Qul khwani of M.A. Basir, former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, will be held today (Saturday) at 31, Shantinagar after Asr prayers. Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend.

Mrs. Zinnat Ara Basir, Raina Iftekhar, Nazneen Rashid, Shamim Hasnain and Naushin Hasnain

NATO to give air support to UN troops in Bosnia

ZAGREB, Sept 16: NATO has agreed to give air support to UN peacekeepers in Bosnia who come under attack from areas of Croatia controlled by rebel Serbs, a UN source said today, reports Reuter.

The decision would give additional protection to UN troops in the Muslim Bihac pocket of northwest Bosnia.

Serb forces have been attacking the pocket, where French peacekeepers are deployed, from surrounding Bosnian and Croatian territory this month.

UN commanders can already call up NATO support, when their men are endangered in Bosnia but the rules of engagement have not previously included Croatia.

Approval for the change will be needed from the UN Security Council.

The source, who did not wish to be named, said NATO would be allowed to attack any ground targets in the parts of Croatia under rebel Serb control if the UN troops were directly targeted from there.

"The NATO close air support would involve any life-threatening fire coming from the (self-declared) Republika Srpska Krajina (RSK) in Croatia," the source said.

"It is very important for the UN at times artillery fire comes across the border and lives of UN peacekeepers are in danger," the source said.

AFP adds: Bosnian Serbs and Croats traded artillery fire in the strategic Posavina corridor in the Broko region in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina Thursday, a UN Protection Force spokesman said.