



The Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed, a British-aided NGO in Savar, brought out a wheelchair rally in the city yesterday with disabled persons carrying colourful banners and placards inscribed with slogans against road accidents.

— Star photo

## Govt ready for talks

From Page 1 Col 8  
for doctors, and increased autonomy for the medical colleges.

Besides, the BMA is demanding removal of the Health Secretary, cancellation of the vigilance system and withdrawal of the suspension orders against some doctors at Tongi and Gazipur hospitals who were found absent from duty.

Regarding the demands of the doctors, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said, some demands have already been implemented while 18 other demands were being considered.

He admitted that a number of demands can not be met due to what he said, practical limitations.

When asked why the government had not taken any action against the strikers, the minister said "Until now, it is very difficult to take any action against them."

Responding to a question on the legality of the strike, Kamal Yusuf avoided a clear answer, saying only "This strike is very unkind."

During the press conference, the Health Minister was assisted by Deputy Minister for Health Serajul Hoque and Health Secretary Syed Shamim Ahsan.

Referring to the suspension of the doctors, Kamal Yusuf



## 21 BCL activists sent to jail

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 22: Twenty-one BCL (S-P) activists were sent to jail after the Special Tribunal Court rejected their bail petitions today and Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said 28 BCL activists of Mansur Ali College have been sued for their alleged involvement in a clash that left a JCD activist injured on December 21, 1992.

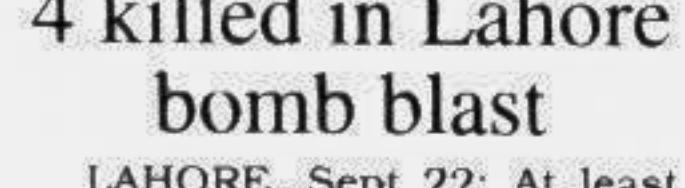
## 117 RU teachers urge opposition to join JS

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 22: One hundred seventeen teachers of the Rajshahi University have expressed their grave concern over the chaotic political situation in the country created by three major opposition political parties on the caretaker government issue.

In a joint statement today, the teachers said "due to their unjustified and unusual activities" not only the normal life of the people was being disturbed but also economic progress was being hampered and people's confidence in politics eroded.

They said the issue of the caretaker government and other issues could be solved only in Parliament and as such the teachers appealed to the opposition members to respect the democratic norms by joining the Parliament session for solving the national issues in greater national interest."



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## Decision to gear up agri rehabilitation in drought-hit areas

A review meeting on the emergency measures taken by the government for facing drought situation yesterday took decision to accelerate agricultural rehabilitation work, reports UNB.

The meeting, presided over by Agriculture and Water Resources Minister M. Majid-ul Haq, specially discussed the agricultural rehabilitation programme for recouping crop loss due to the untimely drought in the country's northern region.

It decided that as emergency measure, BADC would hand over its godowns and other infrastructures to the Ministry of Industries without any rent for the preservation and distribution of fertilizer properly at fair price in the drought-affected areas.

A joint meeting will be held within two days between the fertilizer producing and marketing agencies of the Ministry of Industries and the Agriculture Ministry to accelerate the process of rehabilitation.

The meeting also discussed the process of fertilizer marketing and distribution fairly under the supervision of deputy commissioners and agriculture officials of drought-hit districts.

Discussion was also held on the emergency storage of fertilizer in the districts of southern region and increase of fertilizer supply in the country's hill districts at fair price.

Agriculture secretary M. Akhtar Ali and concerned high officials were present in the meeting, held at the Secretariat.

## Rly to transport drought relief on priority basis

Railway Secretary and Director General, Bangladesh Railway Dr. Masihur Rahman has directed railway officers and workers to transport food-grains and other essential commodities to the drought hit northern districts on priority basis, reports BSS.

The Railway Secretary was visiting Bahadurabad and Teestamukhghat of Bangladesh Railway to see the position of railway wagon ferry crossing between these two points yesterday.

Dr. Rahman later visited Teestamukhghat and Bonapara railway junction and saw the wagon movement arrangements there.

## Israel trying to escape from accord: Arafat

CAIRO, Sept 22: PLO leader Yasser Arafat said in an interview published today that Israel was trying to escape from an agreement to redeploy troops on the West Bank, reports Reuter.

He said this was possibly because it had second thoughts about letting Palestinians in Jerusalem vote in elections.

The Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho impatient with the Israelis, has unilaterally approved plans to begin preparations for general elections within three months.

But Israel, which should redeploy its troops before elections take place, says the PLO must first agree on details of the elections before it takes any steps.

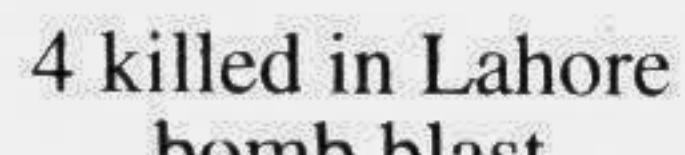
"If there is not agreement on all of the early stages prior to the holding of the elections, the elections will not be able to be held," Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Israeli daily Al-Hamishmar this week.

According to the official figures, the ADP implementation rate was 94 per cent during 1993-94.

During the meeting, the leader of the IMF delegation briefed the finance minister on the outcome of his delegation's visit to Bangladesh.

The team arrived in Dhaka September 15 to discuss the post-ESAF (enhanced structural adjustment facility) programme as the IMF-prescribed ESAF programme has already completed.

Hicklin praised the expenditure control measures of the government and discussed the scope of foreign investment in Bangladesh.



4 killed in Lahore bomb blast

LAHORE, Sept 22: At least four people were killed and five injured when a bomb exploded in a steel-melting factory in a nearby town of Gujranwala today, police said, reports AFP.

The blast occurred when factory workers off loaded scrap into the furnace.

Because of the strike, 18 patients were discharged from the children's ward and 11 from the gynaecology ward. Some 32 patients were discharged from other wards.

At least five patients left the hospital voluntarily while the total number of patients admitted to the hospital till yesterday evening was 528.

The minister said about Tk 5000 crore was invested in the industrial sector of the country during the last three and a half years.

Safur Rahman said the government has also achieved significant success in the social sector by improving the living condition of the rural people.



Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto (R) and United States Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary smile during a meeting in Islamabad yesterday. O'Leary, who arrived here Wednesday on a four-day official visit, said that her mission was clear — to support specific business opportunities, identify potential barriers and streamline joint ventures and sustainable technologies. — AFP photo

## NATO planes bomb Serb positions

SARAJEVO, Sept 22: NATO warplanes struck at Serb positions just outside this besieged capital on Thursday in retaliation for a Bosnian Serb attack on UN peacekeepers, a UN official said, reports AP.

The official, who refused to be identified, said the attack followed a Bosnian Serb assault on a light tank manned by French soldiers on UN peace-keeping duty just northeast of the Bosnian capital.

Maj Herve Gourmelon, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo, confirmed the earlier UN report from Zagreb that an air strike had occurred, but refused to provide details.

Besides its mandate to protect UN peacekeepers, NATO is also authorised to attack any heavy weapon not under UN control within a 20-kilometre (12.5-mile) zone around the Bosnian capital.

There was no immediate confirmation from NATO.

APF adds: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Wednesday criticised the UN Bosnian commander, Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, for threatening to use force against Bosnian Muslims. OIC Secretary General Hamid Alqabid said he was "surprised" by Sir Michael's warning on Sunday of force to halt fighting inside the 20-kilometre (12.5 mile) heavy weapons exclusion zone around the Bosnian capital.

The Serbs hit the French tank with four rocket-propelled grenades shortly after it moved to observe fighting between government troops and the Serbs around Sedrenik, just northeast of Sarajevo. A French soldier was wounded in the attack.

The UN source could not immediately say what Serb target was attacked and whether the air strike was successful.

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