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# The Daily Star

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### NEWS BRIEFS

**2 killed in Lahore mosque blast**

ISLAMABAD, Sept 23: A grenade exploded in a mosque in the eastern city of Lahore, killing two worshippers and seriously injuring four others. The state-run news agency reported Friday. Two masked men on a motorcycle tossed the grenade into the mosque as 40 Muslim faithful began evening prayers on Thursday, reports AP.

**New MD of BBC World Service**

Sam Younger has been appointed Managing Director of BBC World Service. Currently BBC World Service's Director of Broadcasting, Sam Younger, becomes a member of the BBC's Board of Management in his new role, starting on November 1, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

**Dutchman hanged in Singapore**

SINGAPORE, Sept 23: A 59-year-old Dutchman was hanged at Singapore's Changi prison yesterday morning, a Dutch embassy spokeswoman said. Johanna Van Damme was the first Westerner executed by the city-state for violating its tough anti-drug laws. Van Damme, convicted of heroin trafficking, went to the gallows after last Dutch legal and diplomatic appeals to win a stay were rejected by Singapore authorities, reports Reuter.

**Tributes paid to Pritilata**

CHITTAGONG, Sept 23: Different organisations today recalled the supreme sacrifice of Pritilata Waddader, a revolutionary against the British rule and paid tributes to her memory. Pritilata Waddader, one of the main associates of Masterda Surya Sen, who took part in the Chittagong Juba Bidroha (rebellion), attacked European Club at Pahartali successfully on this day and immolated herself by taking poison, reports BSS.



The Rowing Federation organised a traditional boat race in the Buriganga river on the city's waterfront yesterday. — Star photo

## Plague kills 100 in Surat, sparks mass exodus

SURAT (India), Sept 23: Tens of thousands of people were fleeing this western Indian city Friday in an exodus sparked by a killer plague that left at least 100 people dead, reports AFP.

Residents locked up their homes and packed railway and bus stations, ignoring government appeals not to panic and stay put, witnesses said.

The 700-bed new civil hospital and other infirmaries, where doctors and nurses have been working round the clock, were crowded by anxious relatives of suspected plague victims.

Doctors at the civil hospital said they had set up three isolation wards with 120 beds to treat cases of the disease transmitted by rat fleas and passed on from person to person through cough droplets in the air, causing pneumonia.

Earlier press reports said 57 people had died. The Gujarat state government, which administers Surat put the

city emerged outdoors with clothes covering their faces.

Doctors, voluntary organisations and other sources said up to 8,000 people may have been affected by the pneumonic plague detected Thursday as the cause of a fever outbreak in the city.

The first relief efforts were

launched Friday with volunteers and government workers handing out preventive medicines and antibiotics.

At least 100 people have died of the deadly disease, deputy municipal commissioner for health, Saroj Kumar Mohanty, told mid-day newspaper published from Bombay. 270 kilometres from this city.

Earlier press reports said 57 people had died. The Gujarat state government, which administers Surat put the

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## PM addresses public meet at Sylhet today

SYLHET, Sept 23: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting tomorrow (Saturday) at the Alia Madrassah ground here at 3 pm, reports UNB.

Begum Zia will arrive here by a Biman flight at 2 pm. She will be accompanied by some ministers, MPs and senior leaders of BNP.

While outdoor patients at the city hospitals failed to draw the attention of doctors yesterday, more indoor patients left those due to deteriorating services.

The indoor departments are exempted from the strike.

The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) called the indefinite strike to press home a 21-point demand including higher allocation for the health sector, removal of the health secretary, cancellation of vigilance system, withdrawal of suspension order against 12 doctors, more job opportunities and promotions for doctors and increased autonomy

train carrying Hasina fired at

## AL-BNP clashes leave 100 hurt at Ishurdi, Natore

NATORE, Sept 23: Gunmen fired shots at the train in which Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina was travelling on a campaign for a neutral caretaker government through a "train march" in the northern districts today, reports UNB.

Witnesses claimed several gunshots were fired at the inter-city train Rupsha when it reached the Ishurdi and Natore stations this evening. However, Hasina was unhurt.

At least 100 people, some with bullet wounds, were injured during the clashes in Ishurdi and Natore.

The journey of democracy

cannot be stopped by resorting to such armed violence and terrorism ... the people will give an appropriate reply by ousting the autocratic regime of Khaleda," Hasina told her agitated workers and supporters at the violence-ridden Ishurdi and Natore stations.

She said, "We'll be compelled to start one-point 'Oust Khaleda' movement, if ruling BNP ignores the popular demand for caretaker government."

Several bombs were exploded when Hasina was addressing a crowd of about 5,000 people at Ishurdi station from a compartment of the

train. Armed police was deployed at the station.

Witnesses said at least 60 people were injured, some with bullets, when armed activists, allegedly of the BNP, attacked Awami League supporters who were proceeding towards the rail station a few hours before Hasina reached there at about 6:20 pm from the south-western Khulna district.

Police reportedly opened fire to control the situation. The injured included a magistrate and a policeman. Magistrate Tofazzal Hossain and constable Fazlul Haq were

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### DU student dies from bullet injury

By Staff Correspondent

A Dhaka University student, Sarwar Hossain Mithu, died from bullet injury he received near the Fazlul Haq Hall on the campus yesterday.

Mithu, an MSc first-part student of Demography Department, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) around midnight Thursday with a bullet in his chest. He expired in the early hours.

Witnesses said, Mithu was wounded in an exchange of gunfire between two groups of students near a pond beside the dormitory building.

They said there was an altercation among some students including Mithu earlier during dinner time in the dining room.

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### Soldier shot as Shantibahini attacks patrol

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 23: One soldier was injured when armed Shantibahini men launched a sniper attack on a security patrol this morning at Naniarchar under Rangamati district.

According to official source, Sukku Ali, 25, received bullet wound when the tribal rebels in violation of a ceasefire, fired on the security patrol from inside a jungle while it was proceeding from Moksum Tila towards Kutubchhari area under Naniarchar thana.

Following the attack the securitymen and the rebels had a brief exchange of fire and later the insurgents fled into deep forest.

## Govt yet to decide on signing GATT accord

Star Report

The government is yet to decide whether to ratify the GATT agreement, according to official sources.

The Ministry of Commerce sought opinion from the Law Ministry in this regard immediately after the signing of the document in April this year during the Uruguay Round global trade summit in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh.

However, according to an official of the Law Ministry, the ministry is yet to go through the huge draft of the GATT accord and examine the necessity or otherwise of its ratification.

Out of 125 signatories to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), 26 countries have already ratified the accord in their respective parliaments as of September 12.

However, in the Bangladesh Parliament, the accord is yet to be taken up as an agenda as per the provisions of the Constitution.

Under Article 145A of the Constitution, the draft of any international agreement signed by the country has to be submitted to the President who is then supposed to refer

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	Taka in Crore
Sponsors (Subscribed and Paid in full)	5.00
Foreign Investors (Subscribed and Paid in full)	
Bank Indonesia B. Fund	1.00
Regent South Asia Fund	30
Indonesia Dragon Fund	20
Smith New Court Far East Fund	50
Total Foreign Investors	240
Now Offered to Public	
Reserve for ICB	50
Offer to General Public	2.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10.00</b>

ACTUAL	PROJECTED
1994	1995
Jan-June	Jul-Dec
30.45%	38.74%
32.37%	35.37%
30.45%	37.89%
12.45%	11.19
12.45%	38.84
12.45%	70.48
12.45%	139.33
12.45%	185.42

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requests to enforce the exclusion zones or to protect the UNPROFOR troops, he noted.

AP adds: Bosnia's prime minister on Thursday praised the US government for setting a deadline after which the administration will seek the lifting of an international arms embargo against the embattled country.

Bosnia has its own plant producing heavy water, at Haling some 200 kms (125 miles) west of Bucharest, but sources there said three of its four production units had been closed down for safety checks following reports that several workers had died in accidents there.