

## Inside Today

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Foreign fishing trawler seized

**BAGERHAT, Sept 25:** Bangladesh Navy ship Surma seized a foreign fishing trawler from the south of Hiron Point and arrested all of its 12 crew-member yesterday. The Navy ship seized the trawler during routine anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and fishery protection patrol and recovered about seven maunds of hilsa fish from the trawler, reports BSS.

## Sarbahara man arrested

**PATUAKHALI, Sept 25:** Police arrested an outlawed Sarbahara partymen and recovered some ammunition from his possession from the village Gachhali under Dashedina thana of the district recently. Police on a tip-off raided a house of the village and arrested him, reports BSS.

## Blast kills five children in Turkey

**ISTANBUL, Sept 25:** Five children were killed and another injured when one of them pulled the pin of a grenade they found in the garden of a house in Genc, southern Turkey. The Anatolian news agency reported today. The children's ages and identities were not released, reports AFP.

## WHO director meets Badruddoza

The visiting World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director, Dr Utan Muchtar Refei, called on the Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad and Chairman of National AIDS Committee (NAC) Prof. A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury at the latter's official residence in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

## Teacher mugged

**By Staff Correspondent**  
A teacher of Dhaka Teachers' Training College — Kishwar Kamal Khan was robbed of her gold bangle and a wrist watch in the city yesterday morning. She was waylaid by two muggers at Road No-8, Dhan-mondi, around 9 in the morning when she was going to the college by a rickshaw.

# Malaysia to hire 50,000 Bangladeshis a year

Star Report

Malaysia has agreed to recruit at least 50,000 workers including a good number of doctors and nurses from Bangladesh every year.

An agreement in this regard was reached at the formal talks between Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and the visiting Malaysian Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Dato Megat Junid bin Megat Ayob at the state guest house Meghna yesterday afternoon.

Briefing newsmen after the 90-minute talks, Matin Chowdhury termed it 'very fruitful'.

The talks were dominated by the issues related to recruitment of manpower for Malaysia while some problems faced by the Bangladeshi workers also came up for discussions.

The home minister said that the issue of Bangladeshi workers now stranded in Malaysia was also discussed and he got the assurance from Dato Megat that such cases would be considered sympathetically.

Some 1,300 Bangladeshi workers are now detained at different camps in Malaysia for illegal entry and unlawful employment in that country.

During the talks, Bangladesh requested regularisation of these workers and Malaysia responded positively.

Both the countries also agreed to severely deal with the unscrupulous manpower recruiting agencies for whom the innocent workers suffer.

Malaysia also agreed to share her experiences with Bangladesh on drug detection.

prevention of drug abuse and treatment of the drug addicts," said Matin Chowdhury.

Malaysia will also provide training to senior police officials of Bangladesh, he said.

Bangladesh put forward some specific proposals to simplify the visa procedures between the two countries and Malaysia assured its consideration.

Dato Megat led his country's eight-member team at the talks which included senior government officials and Malaysian High Commissioner Ahmed Fuzi bin Abdul Razak.

The Bangladesh team led by the home minister included high officials from the ministries of home, foreign affairs and labour and manpower.

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## BNP response to Samad Azad's letter soon

By Asiuazzaman

Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury will shortly communicate to his Opposition counterpart Abdus Samad Azad the ruling party's views on the Opposition pre-conditions for a dialogue to end the current political standoff.

Prof Chowdhury will reply to Samad Azad's letter to him in response to a communication from him earlier this month formally proposing a dialogue.

The text of the reply, to be sent in a couple of days, was finalised at a meeting of the ruling party leadership yesterday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair at her office, sources concerned said. Details were not available.

Prof Chowdhury, Chief Whip  
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## Goods train wagons plunge into river

From Our Correspondent

**MYMENSINGH, Sept 25:** A goods train derailed and five of its wagons plunged into a river at Kaoraid this morning, snapping rail link between the capital and the northern part of the country.

Thirteen wagons of a Mymensingh-bound goods train went off the track on a bridge over the Sutta river near Kaoraid station, 30 kms from here, at 10:30 am.

Witnesses said at least four persons were injured, including the guard on the train Sheikh Abdul Mannan.

The three others, all members of the public, were hurt seriously when the wagons tumbled off from the train and fell upon them. Two of them, Abdul Aziz of Gazipur and

Humayun of Mymensingh, needed hospitalisation at the Sreepur health complex and the Railway Hospital in Dhaka. Both were stated to be in critical condition.

Other witnesses said one person who happened to be passing under the bridge on a boat at the time was killed. However, no official confirmation of this was available.

Railway officials said the accident occurred due to a 'technical fault' and refused to elaborate.

The railway control room here said all trains travelling on this route between the capital and the northern districts, as well as to Jessore, Khulna and Kushtia, had been

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## 10 Haitians killed in clash with US marines

**CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti, Sept 25:** US Marines killed 10 armed men outside a police station in the first deadly clash between Haitians and American occupation troops sent to pave the way for democracy, reports AP.

American servicemen said the Haitians opened fire first in the gunbattle Saturday evening in the northern coastal city of Cap-Haitien.

It wasn't clear whether the dead men were police or "attachés," civilian strongmen backed by the police.

The gunfight was followed by a long siege, as Marines tried to persuade two men inside, believed to be policemen wounded in the shooting, to give themselves up.

Marines had cleared the  
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## Opposition's barricade programme tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Three major opposition parties — the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — are planning to close all the entry points of the capital as part of their road-rail barricade programme tomorrow.

The parties will organise demonstrations at the Kamalapur railway station and the inter-district bus terminals at Syedabad, Mohakhali and Gabtali to enforce the dawn-to-dusk barricade programme to press home their demand for general elections under a caretaker administration, party sources said.

The three parties will organise similar programmes in other cities and towns. However, the movement of vehicles, and the functioning of business establishments and public and private offices within the cities and towns will be exempted from the programme, said Prof Abu Syeed, AL information and research chief, talking to The Daily Star last night. However, this could not be confirmed from other AL leaders, as most of them are outside the city.

The three opposition parties will lay sieges at 2,000 points all over the country during tomorrow's programme, Abu Syeed said.

Leaders of the three parties will also address meetings.

The next course of action will be announced from separate rallies in the city Wednesday.

## Saifur leaves for Madrid to attend IMF, WB seminar

Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman left Dhaka yesterday for Jeddah en route to Madrid to attend a seminar to mark the 50th founding anniversary of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) beginning September 29, reports BSS.

Rahman, who is also the chairman of the board of governors of the IMF and the WB, will inaugurate the two-day celebrations.

Besides, attending a meeting of the interim committee and development committee of the group of ten industrialised countries from October 1 to 3, the Finance Minister will also preside over the four-day annual meeting of the joint board of governors.

## Dawn-to-dusk strike at Mymensingh today for divn

From Our Correspondent

**MYMENSINGH, Sept 25:** A day-long strike will be observed here tomorrow to drum up support for the creation of an administrative division in Mymensingh.

The Mymensingh Division Implementation Council and some other organisations of the district have called the strike.

A torch procession was brought out in the town this evening demanding a government announcement making Mymensingh a division with the six districts of Greater Mymensingh — Mymensingh, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrakona and Kishoreganj. Presently all these districts are part of the Dhaka Division.

## India puts up fence along Dinajpur

**BARBILLA (North Dinajpur, India), Sept 25:** The delayed barbed wire fencing work along the Indo-Bangladesh border has taken off with the laying of fences on a 12.4 km stretch in North Bengal, reports PTI.

The fencing along the border will cover the north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, besides West Bengal and would facilitate patrolling by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in an area where smuggling and trans-border crimes are rampant.

Checking alleged infiltration from Bangladesh, in some of the north-eastern states, is stated to be one of the objectives expected from the Rs 400 crore project, an official of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) said.

A border road along the barbed wire fencing is also being constructed to increase the mobility of the BSF and curb border crimes. Work in 202 km out of a total 732 km in North Bengal has already been completed.

The commandant of BSF's 85 battalion, Gur Avtar Singh,

told newsmen recently on a visit to this village in the Kishanganj area, considered one of the more vulnerable points, that contraband goods worth Rs 15.34 lakh were recovered in his sector in August this year. Such recovery would be many times more once the road and the fencing were completed.

The measures were much needed in view of the fact that smuggled goods worth Rs 5.79 crore were seized in North Bengal, which shares a 1055-km long border with Bangladesh since the beginning of this year, according to a BSF officer of the North Bengal frontier.

The PWD, entrusted with the work of fencing and road construction, is facing problems in acquiring land for the purpose. At some places work was left incomplete as owners of land either demand high compensation or do not wish to shift their residence.

Still others, who live in the large number of villages dotting the international border, resent government efforts as they feel insecure for their

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Japanese women in traditional dress walk with flags during rehearsals yesterday for the 12th Asian Games that will be held in Hiroshima from October 2 to 16. Organisers stressed the value of peace with the Games helping to deepen friendship and mutual understanding among the peoples of Asia.  
— AFP photo

## PM distributes grants to 67 youth bodies

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday handed out government grants to 67 private youth organisations for supporting their self-reliance ventures, reports UNB.

She handed over cheques for about Tk 10 lakh as part of a government scheme at a simple ceremony at the International Conference Centre last night to those who have completed training in various self-employment trades under the aegis of Youth and Sports Ministry.

The projects include computer training, livestock, sewing, poultry, dairy, pisciculture, mini garments and handicraft.

Congratulating them, Begum Zia hoped that the unemployed youths would use the money properly in productive ventures.

"It could contribute to alleviation of poverty if the grant is used properly," she hoped and assured further expansion of grant in future.

The Prime Minister said her government had under-

taken a massive programme to alleviate poverty and remove unemployment from the country and was providing training to build the youth as skilled manpower.

So far, the Ministry of Youth and Sports has given training to some 2.30 lakh unemployed youths and women in various trades. Of those, 60 per cent have already had self-employment.

Begum Zia recalled that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had established separate ministry to turn the youth force into skilled manpower and introduced training. But the initiative was seriously hampered due to nine years of misrule by the autocratic regime.

The BNP government again has given importance to youth development because the fledgling generation is the main workforce of the country, the Prime Minister said.

She said her government was increasing allocation in this sector since its assumption.  
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## Deaths from plague fall in Surat

**SURAT (India), Sept 25:** The number of people dying of the plague here each day is falling, government officials said today but the hundreds of thousands of people who fled the city could spread the diseases to other areas of India, reports AP.

At Civil Hospital, Surat's plague treatment center, 36 people were admitted and three died Saturday night and Sunday morning, said Kundan Lak, a city administrator.

That was far less than the number of admissions and deaths that have been reported at the hospital each night since the first plague victim died Thursday in the western Indian city.

"The situation is settling down. Mortality has reduced. The rush of new patients has also decreased," Dr Rajesh Parmar, a senior physician at the hospital said in an interview.

But few doctors or govern-  
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## Patients continue to suffer

By Staff Correspondent

Patients at government hospitals and health complexes across the country continue to suffer as the doctors' indefinite strike passed its fifth day yesterday.

The number of patients at the hospitals further declined yesterday.

At least 22 patients left the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday while 42 were discharged. The total number of patients stood at less than 1300 as against the usual over 1400.

A 'substitute outdoor' section run by the striking doctors, however, 'admitted' 73 patients.

The outdoor section remained closed and scheduled operations were not performed.

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) called the strike in demand for higher allocation of fund for the health sector, more job opportunities and promotion for doctors, withdrawal of vigilance system.  
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## Shilpakala introduces colour slide system to select art works

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy for the first time is accepting colour slides of art works for selection of the original works for display at the national exhibitions.

This move is aimed at easing the selection process and relieving the artists residing outside Dhaka of the trouble of carrying their weighty works just for selection purpose, Academy sources told The Daily Star.

Artists from now on will have to submit mounted colour slides (35 mm) or colour photographs (5R:12.7x17.8 cm) of their original works, the sources said.

The Eleventh National Art Exhibition due to begin in the first week of December will



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follow this rule.

Artists intending to participate in the exhibition have to submit slides/photographs to the Director, Fine Arts, of the Shilpakala Academy at its

Segun Bagicha office on or before October 20.

In case of mail or courier services also those must reach the authorities before the deadline, otherwise those will be considered rejected. A completed entry form along with a short biography of the artist is obligatory.

Any Bangladeshi artist aged 22 and above is eligible to submit three colour slides/photographs — one each of his recent works (1993-94) excluding those already exhibited in the Sixth Asian Art Biennale. For sculptures, three slides/photos for each work is required.

All slides and photos must have serial numbers and an  
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Jubilant processionists celebrating the declaration of Sylhet as a separate administrative division in the city yesterday. — Star photo