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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Cabinet meet held

The regular weekly meeting of the cabinet was held yesterday at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair. Ministers, State Ministers in charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister were present, reports UNB.

### 10 BCL (S-P) activists hurt in clash

From Staff Correspondent, BARISAL, Sept 26: At least 10 students of the Pirojpur Suhrawardy College were injured in a clash between two factions of the Chhatra League (S-P) this morning. Former VP of the college students union, Akhteruzzaman Manik, was admitted to the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital with serious wounds. Most of the injuries were caused by police action.

### Pirates attack fishing trawler

From Staff Correspondent, BARISAL, Sept 26: Armed pirates swooped on a fishing trawler in the Bay of Bengal and looted fishes, and nets worth about Taka two lakh early today. Seven fishermen were injured in the attack. The trawler MV Abul Bashar was engaged in fishing, 30 km off the Mohipur sea beach in the southern part of the Bay of Bengal, when the pirates attacked on it.

### Antique recovered

KHULNA, Sept 26: The preventive team of the Khulna Customs, Excise and VAT Collectorate headquarters recovered a thousand-year-old 'gourpatra' on Sunday. The recovered antique weighs 52.50 kg and is divided into three parts. The approximate price of the antique in the present international market is Taka 30 lakh, reports BSS.

## Commonwealth Secy General issues press release

# Khaleda, Hasina agree to a dialogue

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina Wazed have agreed to a Commonwealth-brokered dialogue on the basis of an open agenda to reconcile their political differences, a Commonwealth press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Announcing their agreement to direct talks, the Commonwealth Secretary General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, said "I put forward a three-point plan for talks" to them and added: "I am happy to say that I have now heard from both the Prime Minister and Sheikh Hasina, indicating their agreement to these proposals".

The Commonwealth Secretary General who, during his recent visit to Bangladesh, earlier this month, had a series of talks with both the

sides, said: "I am therefore in touch with the parties and hope it will be possible for the talks to begin without delay and lead to a negotiated resolution of the current impasse."

Under the three-point proposal, he said, "For my part, I undertake to despatch to Bangladesh my envoy who would be available to facilitate discussions between the parties in any way that might be necessary."

The two other points in his proposals are as follows:

"The governing party and the principal opposition party agree to commence a dialogue in good faith and on the basis of an open agenda, which would include any topics raised by either side such as strengthening of the Election Commission, the question of a caretaker government, and

proposals for an overall code of conduct to guide political activity."

"On the commencement of such talks, and given the intensity of feelings on the matter and as a confidence-building measure, the parties agree that at the conclusion of each session of their talks they should issue to the press and public an agreed joint statement only, with the participants otherwise refraining from further public comment."

The agreement for the talks followed the personal intervention of the Commonwealth Secretary General, who has just concluded a visit to Bangladesh where he had a series of talks with all the parties concerned, the Commonwealth press release sent to BSS by fax said. See Page 12 Col 1

## Opposition's barricade programme today

The mainstream Opposition parties have called for a dawn-to-dusk road and rail barricade across the country today to put pressure on the government to accept their demand for a caretaker government to hold the next parliamentary polls, reports UNB.

The Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, which had boycotted the last three sessions of Parliament, simultaneously called for the barricade from 6 am.

Train service throughout the country and roads and highways leading to the cities, districts and thanas will come under the day-long blockade programme. But life and activities within the cities and towns will not come under the programme.

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina See Page 12 Col 5

## Docs stop private practice in Ctg

By Staff Correspondent

The striking doctors stopped private practice in Chittagong yesterday while the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) is considering suspension of private practice by doctors all over the country.

The indefinite strike by doctors at all government hospitals and health complexes across the country to press home their various demands passed its sixth day yesterday. Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong reported that the BMA, Chittagong unit, decided to stop private practice by the doctors in the district as a means to intensify their on-going strike.

Meanwhile, BMA Secretary General Dr Gazi Abdul Huq told The Daily Star last night "we have not yet suspended private practice in Dhaka or elsewhere in the country except in Chittagong. The matter is still under consideration of the

BMA central Committee."

The private practice during the strike became the subject of an intense debate with most of the BMA district units opposing this.

The BMA secretary general admitted that several district units have proposed suspending private practice during the strike.

"The central committee cannot do much in this regard because all BMA units enjoy autonomy," Abdul Huq said, adding that the units could unilaterally decide on the issue.

The contention of the BMA secretary general contradicted a BMA press statement issued earlier in the evening saying "a vested quarter" was engaged in propaganda against private practice.

"We had decided to allow private practice considering See Page 12 Col 8

## Ex-JP MP to die for murder in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 26: A former Jatiya Party MP, Gous Uddin, has been sentenced to death on a charge of killing a noted businessman and Juba League leader Afroz Bakht.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge, First Court, Sunil Chandra Paul, also sentenced two other accused — Aklam Hossain and Gousal Alam Gedu — to life in prison. Arun Chowdhury and Mainuddin were acquitted.

Afroz Bakht was shot dead at hotel Gulshan of Sylhet town in the small hours of May 17 in 1990. Police submitted chargesheets against five persons, including the then Jatiya Party MP Gous Uddin, hotel owner Mainuddin and two other businessmen — Arun Chowdhury and Gousal Alam Gedu.

The court heard 52 witnesses from the prosecution and one from the defence.

Gous Uddin and Arun Chowdhury were tried in absentia as they have been absconding since the murder.

## Hartal observed at Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Sept 26: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed here peacefully today demanding the government declare greater Mymensingh an administrative division.

The hartal called by the Mymensingh Bibhag Andolon was supported by the local units of the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami.

During the day-long hartal, motor vehicles and rickshaws were off the roads and the public and private offices, banks, commercial establishments and educational institutions remained closed.

See Page 12 Col 2

## 8 CCC woman commissioners

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 26: The election of women commissioners of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) was held today.

Of the 8-zones under the CCC comprising 41 wards, the candidate of zone-1, Jobaira Nargis Khan, was earlier elected uncontested. In today's polls seven women commissioners, out of 21 candidates, for seven zones were elected.

They are Hasina Begum for zone-2, Shakina Akter-zone 3, Tapati Sengupta-zone 4, Nilufar Rahman-zone 5, Sabiha Nahar Begum-zone 6, Hasina Mannan-zone 7 and Nur Nahar-zone 8.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Chittagong was the returning officer. The election was held at his office at the Chittagong court building.

## \$ 120.8m WB loan for gas project

The World Bank will provide Bangladesh with a credit of 120.8 million US dollar for implementation of its Gas Infrastructure Development Project, reports UNB.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the credit was signed in the US capital of Washington on September 23 between the lender and the recipient, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

## PM asks aides to begin process for talks

By Nurul Kabir

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night asked her main political aides to immediately establish contacts with relevant opposition quarters to fix a date for starting a dialogue under the formula suggested by the Commonwealth Secretary General.

The Prime Minister called some of her cabinet colleagues to 30 Hare Road last night to discuss the three-point formula proposed by the Commonwealth Secretary General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, yesterday.

The meeting, followed a communication from the Commonwealth Secretariat in London yesterday, sent to both Begum Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

In his letter to the two leaders, Chief Emeka offered his good offices for facilitating negotiations between the ruling BNP and the main opposition Awami League to end the current 'confrontational' situation in the political arena. There was, however, no mention of the Jatiya Party or the Jamaat in Emeka's communication.

In his identical messages, Emeka informed both camps of the agreement by Begum Zia and Sheikh Hasina to sit for talks, "in good faith" which, if necessary, are to be moderated by a personal envoy of the Secretary General.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, one senior minister See Page 12 Col 7

## Hartal, barricade contrary to democratic system: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said it is the duty of both the government and Opposition to lead their political activities within the established democratic norms and practices, reports UNB.

"Both the country and the people will be benefited if we all follow democratic norms and practices," she told the elite of the city's Khilgaon, Shahjahanpur and Basaboo areas who met with the Prime Minister at her Hare Road office last night.

Referring to the hartal and barricade programmes of some political parties, Begum Zia said these "anarchic programmes" are not in conformity with the democratic system. See Page 12 Col 7

## 'Increased private investment can push growth rate to 7-8 pc'

By Staff Correspondent

A seven to eight per cent annual rate of growth is quite feasible in Bangladesh with a higher level of investments, said the newly appointed World Bank Resident Mission chief yesterday.

Pierre Landell-mills was addressing a press conference at the local office, while releasing the 1994 World Bank annual report. "We believe the four to five per cent growth rate in the recent past is not enough, the target should be higher" to make a dent on the poverty level, he observed.

A seven to eight per cent growth rate, he said, is perfectly feasible. "The key would be to raise private investment but the overall investment rate still remains very low."

He emphasised that action needs to be taken to create a more supportive environment for private investment — specially judicial and administrative reform and much improved management of public utilities.

Even the Bank's annual report mentioned the low rate of investments in the country, while noting that the fiscal stability continued. "Although buoyant revenues helped increase public savings from 2 to 2.4 per cent of the GDP, the expected increase in public investment lagged as a result of continuing delays in project implementation," it said. Landell-mills pointed out that the ongoing process of structural reforms still has some ways to go.

Replying to a question on the pace of reforms, he said "the important issue is what is politically feasible. We are not a good judge of that, the pace of reforms should be dictated by the politicians."

He admitted that the ongoing jute sector restructuring programme, funded under a 250 million dollar bank credit, is "clearly facing political difficulty in implementation."

The Bank is holding discussions with the government regarding the delay in implementation, he said and added that it is imperative the government should continue the programme as the huge losses in the jute sector could have better use elsewhere.

He said that it was encouraging that the government had recently approved a reform plan for the power sector and added that the Bank would consider resuming loans to the sector if management reforms are implemented.

Responding to another question, the Bank mission chief said he was surprised at See Page 12 Col 3

## No new deaths from plague in Surat

SURAT, Sept 26: Paramilitary soldiers ferreted out suspected plague patients today, as officials in the western city of Surat reported 56 new cases but no new deaths for the first time in six days, reports AP.

Since pneumonic plague was first reported in Surat on Tuesday at least 51 people

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have died, more than 450 have been hospitalised and an estimated 400,000 people have fled the city.

South of Surat, officials in the state of Maharashtra today reported 31 cases of a different strain — the bubonic plague that ravaged 14th century Europe and Asia — from the city of Beed.

This development makes us worried", said Ramanand Tewari, Maharashtra's health secretary. Bubonic plague broke out in 31 villages around Beed last month but no deaths were reported although 93 people were treated for the disease.

In Surat city of Gujarat state, soldiers in blue-gray fatigues and blue berets drove in See Page 12 Col 1



Women set fire to heaps of uncleared garbage left to rot on a roadside yesterday in Surat, India where an epidemic of pneumonic plague has killed some 75 people. — AFP photo

## More foreign investment in Dhaka share market likely

By Staff Correspondent

More foreign investment in the country's share market is expected as a two-member delegation from a Swiss company, United Bank of Switzerland (UBS) Securities Limited, is now to negotiating with some local and multinational firms for this.

The delegation led by Niall Shiner, Managing Director for the Indian sub-continent of the company's Hong Kong branch, arrived in Dhaka Sunday night on a five-day visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of HMMS Financial Consultancy and Services Limited.

The Swiss firm has already completed negotiation with the Square Pharmaceuticals Limited for share purchase and will negotiate with four other companies during their stay here. Managing Director of See Page 12 Col 6

## Mother, child killed in road mishap

By DMCH Correspondent

A young mother and her one-year-old daughter were killed in a tragic road accident near the Khilkhet Bus Stand on the Airport road yesterday.

The mother, whose name could not be confirmed immediately, fell victim to a speeding bus around 6 in the evening when she was reportedly crossing the road with the baby in her lap.

Meanwhile, the victims were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors on emergency duty confirmed their deaths.

## World Tourism Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The World Tourism Day, is being observed in the country, as in other parts of the globe, today.

The theme of this year's tourism day is "Quality staff, Quality tourism."

To observe the day in a befitting manner, the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC), the national tourism body, has See Page 12 Col 2

## Hasina warns govt at Ctg rally Accept demand or face 'one-point campaign'

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 26: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina said here today that a one-point agitation would be launched to dislodge the BNP government if the demand for a caretaker government was not fulfilled immediately to ensure impartial polls.

"We will have only one point, one demand — removal of Khaleda Zia from power if she does not accept the demand for a caretaker government," Hasina said.

The Awami League chief was addressing a public meeting at Laldighi Maidan in the afternoon as part of her week-long mass campaign in support of the demand for a caretaker government. She arrived here 11:30 am ending a 24-hour 'train march' from Dhaka.

Hasina said the Prime Minister often in her speech claims massive developments during her rule and asked then where lies the trouble to hold election under a caretaker government? "Let us fight unitedly for restoration of people's rights in the country."

The AL chief also called for making a success tomorrow's road-rail barricade programme

to force the government to accept the demand for a caretaker government.

"BNP does not want to give up power in any case and that is why 'vote-dacoty' has become its habit," she said.

Hasina alleged that the BNP government fuelled terrorism in the country but failed to solve the problems faced by the people.

This government has totally failed to run the country, she said. Explaining this, she said that thousands of workers and employees had been thrown out of employment by this government in the name of 'golden handshake'. Most of the mills and factories had been ruined due to its inefficiency and wrong policies, she added.

"Besides, BNP used to reject whenever we raised the issues of people's rights and their problems in Parliament". It had deviated from its commitments made before the last general elections, Hasina alleged.

The AL chief said while the people in the northern districts were facing starvation, the BNP government claimed See Page 12 Col 8

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন

আপনার শিককে টিকা দিন

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের এলাকায় চলমান সকল বাণিজ্যিক ভিত্তিক যান্ত্রিক যানবাহনের (যেমন বাস, টাক্সি, মিনিবাস, মিনিটাক্সি, টেম্পো, ট্যাক্সি, বেবী টেক্সি ইত্যাদি) মালিকগণকে এই মর্মে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন অফিসালারের বিধান মতে উল্লেখিত সকল প্রকার গাড়ীর জন্য ট্রেড লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ করা বাধ্যতামূলক। লক্ষ্য করা যাইতেছে যে, প্রচলিত আইন উপেক্ষা করিয়া উল্লেখিত গাড়ীর মালিকগণ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ব্যতীতেই তাহাদের ব্যবসা চালাইয়া যাইতেছেন যাহা দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ।

২. অতএব, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের রাজস্ব আয়ের বৃদ্ধির স্বার্থে উল্লেখিত গাড়ীর মালিকগণকে তাহাদের নিজ নিজ গাড়ীর জন্য বাণিজ্যিক ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, রাজস্ব অঞ্চল-৫, ফুলবাড়ীয়া সিটি করপোরেশন মার্কেটেব তিনতলা হইতে অবিলম্বে গ্রহণ করিতে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে, অন্যথায় আইন অমান্যকারী সংশ্লিষ্ট গাড়ীর মালিকগণের বিরুদ্ধে করপোরেশন অফিসালারের ১৫০ ধারা অনুযায়ী ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট আদালতে মামলা দায়ের করিতে কর্তৃপক্ষ বাধ্য হইবে।

৬/৯/৯৪/স্মারক/১১৮/৯৪-৯৫

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প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।