

## Haitian parliament sits tomorrow

### Amnesty for coup leaders may be considered

WASHINGTON. Sept 26: Haiti's exiled president Jean-Bertrand Aristide said Sunday he would convene an extraordinary session of parliament Wednesday to consider granting amnesty for the military rulers who ousted him, reports Reuter.

In a statement issued by public relations firm, McKinney and McDowell Associates, Aristide said parliament would be convened "to study a draft of the amnesty law," as called for in the September 18 agreement under which Haiti's military rulers agreed to give up power.

Gwen McKinney, a spokeswoman for Aristide, said the parliamentary session would

take place in Haiti, even though several Aristide supporters in the parliament are currently in exile in the United States.

Meanwhile, Haitian military leader Raoul Cedras Sunday accused US troops in Haiti of atrocities after they killed 10 people in a gunfight outside police headquarters in "Cap Haïtien."

AP from New York adds: President Clinton is prepared to support immediate lifting of sanctions against Haiti, administration officials said Monday.

Clinton may announce the move in his address to the General Assembly of the United Nations, his second as president.

### Only dialogue can solve present political crisis:

#### Badrudoza

Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof AQM Badrudoza Chowdhury said only dialogue between the Opposition and the government could solve any problem of the country including the present political impasse, reports BSS.

The Deputy Leader was addressing as chief guest a public meeting organised by Mirpur thana BNP unit at Mirpur in the city last evening.

With Abdul Malek, convenor of Mirpur thana BNP, in the chair, the meeting was addressed by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khan-daker Mosharraf Hossain, Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, State Minister for Finance Mojibar Rahman, Sayed Mohammad Mohsin MP, general secretary of Krishan Dal Shamsuzzaman Dudu, ward commissioner Ehsanul Hoq Setu and Chhatra Dal leader Ansar Ali Joy.

#### Plague

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With doctors into the filthy shantytowns from where most of the plague cases were reported, and helped bring back the patients to hospital.

Soldiers, armed with automatic weapons also stood guard at the main entrance to the Civil Hospital to ensure no patients fled before they were cured.

At least 60 have fled before the federal government on Sunday sent 800 paramilitary soldiers to Surat from its Rapid Action Force, which has been used in natural disasters and to stop Hindu-Muslim riots.

"No deaths in 24 hours, that is since 5 pm on Sunday until 5 pm today, said Kundan Lal, a city administrator.

But Lal also told The Associated Press that two patients from neighboring villages died at the hospital Sunday afternoon, the first plague victims from outside Surat city.

#### Khaleda, Hasina

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Since the 1991 elections, declared by a Commonwealth monitoring group as a triumph for democracy, Bangladeshi politics have become increasingly confrontational, culminating in street protests and an Opposition boycott of Parliament, the Commonwealth press release said.

Announcing the agreement of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to have direct talks, the press release quoted the Secretary General to have made the following statement:

"During the course of my discussions with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, members of her government, and the Leader of the Opposition, I formed the view that there existed sufficient common ground between the parties which would allow for a meaningful dialogue between them.

"In the belief that the parties would wish the Commonwealth to assist in the consolidation of democracy in Bangladesh, given its active support for the 1991 transition from military rule to multi-party democracy, I put forward a three-point plan for talks. The details of the proposals which are attached speak for themselves.

"I am happy to say that I have now heard from both the Prime Minister and Sheikh Hasina indicating their agreement to these proposals. I am therefore in touch with the parties and hope it will be possible for the talks to begin without delay and to lead to a negotiated resolution of the current impasse," the Secretary General said.

The names of two other opposition political parties, who are in line with the Awami League, were not mentioned in the Commonwealth press release.

### 31 AIDS victims found in Bangladesh

A total of 31 persons have been infected in Bangladesh with the AIDS virus "HIV" so far and out of them two have died, reports BSS.

This was disclosed yesterday at the 26th meeting of the National AIDS committee at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The meeting was informed that during the last six months eight persons were infected with HIV virus, according to an official handout.

The committee recommended that the army, BDR and police personnel while going abroad and coming back should be tested for HIV antibody.

The meeting also approved a media sub-committee to strengthen the publicity on prevention and creation of awareness about AIDS.

### Thousands of Hindu protesters held in Hyderabad

NEW DELHI. Sept 26: Scores of people were injured Monday when police armed with clubs attacked Hindu nationalists who tried to hold a banned rally against a Muslim-owned slaughter house, reports AP.

Police arrested thousands of protesters when they tried to enter a Hindu temple in a village outside the southern city of Hyderabad to hold the protest, then march toward the slaughter house and destroy it, United News of India news agency reported.

The confrontation between Hindu militants and police could heighten communal tensions in Hyderabad.

#### Hartal

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A number of processions were brought out in the district headquarters demanding new division.

Due to the hartal, the local Bar Council had to shift its programme to accord a reception to Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed from 10 am to 7 pm.

The Mymensingh Bibhag Andolok organised a rally in the afternoon and decided to stage a mass hunger strike in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office on October 10.

Held in front of the local Press Club, the rally was chaired by Anisur Rahman and addressed by among others, Shamsul Haq, MP of AL, Parusabha Chairman Dewar Hossain Khan, Prof. Tafizul Hossain Chowdhury and Amir Ahmed Choudhury.

#### Tourism Day

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drawn up an elaborate programme.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan and the secretary general of the World Tourism Organisation have given messages on the occasion.

The programmes of the day include holding of seminars and cultural shows and food festivals at the BPC's commercial units throughout the country.

The BPC, in collaboration with the National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh, arranged a discussion meeting at the Hotel Abakash in the capital yesterday evening.

### 5 receive bullet injuries as rival JP men clash in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET. Sept 26: At least five activists of the Jatiya Party received bullet injuries in a clash between two rival groups at the Sylhet railway station in the early hours today. The clash started when the Matin-Azam group reached the railway station to receive the central leaders. Police later brought the situation under control.

The injured were admitted to private clinics.



Filipino President Fidel Ramos received Professor Md. Younus, Managing Director of the Grameen Bank, at the Presidential Palace in Manila September 22 last.

### Rabin okays new Jewish settlement in West Bank

JERUSALEM. Sept 26:

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who curbed Israeli construction in the occupied territories two years ago, has approved new housing for a Jewish settlement just inside the West Bank, officials said today. reports Reuter.

The decision helped win Israeli vital loan guarantees totalling 10 billion US dollars from the United States — which had, described settlements as obstacles to peace — to fund a wave of Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union.

30 Tamil rebels killed in clash with troops

COLOMBO. Sept 26: At least 30 Tamil rebels and two Sri Lankan soldiers have been killed in fierce fighting in the Jaffna peninsula in the north, a senior military officer said today, reports Reuter.

"It is on the 'seam,'" said Rabin spokesman Oded Ben-Ami, asked about a report in the Haaretz newspaper that Rabin had given permission for new housing in the Alfei Menashe settlement, three kilometres (two miles) inside the West Bank.

He said the term 'seam' was

a reference to areas just 100 metres or so" across the pre-1967 war border with the West Bank.

"We received intelligence reports of a rebel build-up outside our forward defence lines, so we decided to launch an operation to clear it," Brigadier Gemunu Kulatunga said.

The two-and-a-half hour

meeting, presided over by President Ramos was also attended by the Ministers of Finance Roberto S. De Ocampo and Planning Cielito F. Habito, and the Acting Governor of the Central Bank.

President Ramos announced his endorsement of the Grameen Bank approach as the main thrust of the poverty alleviation strategy in the Philippines.

The meeting decided to create an independent trust fund of 4 billion peso (160 million US dollars) to support implementation of the programme.

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