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NEWS BRIEFS

Labour leader shot
dead in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 10: Mouze Ali, 35, a labour leader of Boyra CSD ghatu, was shot dead at Noornagar under Khalishpur thana this evening. According to police, some unknown assailants attacked him and his supporters with arms and hand bombs in which he died instantly. At least seven others were injured.

Gulistan Hawkers
Market ransacked

At least 10 people were injured when hoodlums fired shots, blasted crackers and looted shops at Gulistan Hawkers Market yesterday. shopkeepers and police said. They said a group of 'mavans' who were earlier refused tolls attacked the market at about 9:30 am, ransacked 10 shops and snatched cash and valuables. The shopkeepers estimated that the mawans took away cash Taka 10 lakh and damaged or looted property worth over Tk 50 lakh, reports UNB.

Arms recovered
in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 10: The detective branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) in separate drives recovered two pistols, three cartridges and two rounds of bullet from two places of the city last night. One person was arrested in this connection, reports BSS.

Bandit kills 5 in
Tamil Nadu

NEW DELHI, Oct 10: Five people were hacked and shot to death in southern India by the country's most-wanted bandit who has been described as a 'menace to humans, wildlife and the environment,' the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. The outlaw, Veerappan, and his men killed their victims late Saturday and hung their bodies from trees in the Periyar jungles of Tamil Nadu state after the tribes people reportedly refused to feed him. PTI said, reports AFP.

Salam Talukder tells press

Term of Anti-Terrorism
Act won't be extended

By Staff Correspondent

as the upshot of nine-year au-
tocratic rule.The ruling Bangladesh
Nationalist Party has decided
that the two-year term of the
Anti-Terrorism Act will not be
extended on its expiry November 5. BNP Secretary General
Abdus Salam Talukder announced yesterday.The law and order has
considerably improved during
the past two years because of
proper application of the law.
So it has been decided that its
term will not be extended," the
BNP leader and LGRD minister
told a press conference at the
party central office.Sub-Clause 1(2) of the Act
stated that if not renewed, the
law will not be in force after
two years.Salam Talukder said that
promulgation of such a law had
become necessary in 1992 when
the rate of crime soared

bunals, he added.

He said that currently 420
cases were under trial and
these would continue until final
verdicts as per provision of
the law.The law, initially an ordinance
promulgated by the Home
Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury
and Information Minister Nazmul Huda.
The press conference was also attended
by BNP leaders Labour Minister
Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Telecommunication
Minister Tariqul Islam and Energy Minister
Dr Khandaker Mosharrif.In reply to a question whether
there is any political motive
behind the decision, Salam Talukder said
"If the decision creates a soothing effect
on the present situation, then there will obviously be
some political implications of this decision."He told another questioner
the date of the proposed dialogue
with Oppositions will be
finalised after the arrival of
See Page 12 Col 7No plan to
scrap 'Special
Powers Act'BNP secretary general Barrister
Abdus Salam Talukder said
the Special Powers Act (SPA) of 1974 is still needed,
saying that the government has
no plan to scrap it, reports UNB."Certainly it (SPA) is required
and that's why it is yet to be annulled," he said in reply
to queries from reporters
on the controversial law at a
press conference at the BNP
office yesterday afternoon.He parried a question on
whether the BNP did not consider
SPA as a black law and
disagreed with a questioner
that the scrapping of SPA was
one of the election promises of
the BNP.Salam said annulment of the
SPA would depend on the
need for doing so.Being pressed that it was
envisioned in BNP's election
manifesto, he said, "We are yet
to implement our entire manifesto."PM begins four-day tour of
Malaysia today

By Staff Correspondent

in labour intensive enter-
prises.During her stay in Malaysia, the
Prime Minister is sched-
uled to deliver a key-note
speech at a seminar on
"Investment and Trade
Opportunities in Bangladesh".The seminar organised by the
National Chamber of
Commerce and Industry of
Malaysia (NCCIM) is likely to
generate interest among potential
Malaysian entrepreneurs to undertake
investments in Bangladesh.To underline the importance
being attached to attracting
business investment, the
Prime Minister's entourage
will include 25 leading figures
from different segments of
trade and industry. The busi-
ness delegation is expected toAn agreement was reached
on September 25 in Dhaka between
Malaysian Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Datuk Megat Junid and Bangladesh
Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury for taking 50,000
workers to that country every year. During the forthcoming
See Page 12 Col 1AL, Jamaat
welcome BNP
decision

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition parties,
especially the Awami League (AL) and the Jamaat-e-
Islam, yesterday welcomed
the ruling party's decision not
to seek extension of the tenure
of the Anti-terrorism Act after it
expires on November 5.Malaysia is the second
largest employer of
Bangladeshi manpower after
Saudi Arabia. More than one
lakh skilled and semi-skilled
Bangladeshis are employed in
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Malaysian Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Datuk Megat Junid and Bangladesh
Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury for taking 50,000
workers to that country every year. During the forthcoming
See Page 12 Col 1Advanced team
for dialogue
arrives

By Staff Correspondent

The Commonwealth-bro-
kered political dialogue is
likely to start on October 15. The
election of six female ward
commissioners to Khulna City
Corporation (KCC) will be held
tomorrow.According to the returning
officer, polling will begin at 10
am and continue till 4 pm.Sixteen candidates are con-
testing for six seats. Both the
ruling party and the combined
opposition groups have fielded
candidates in each of the six
constituencies.There will be straight fight
between BNP and the opposition
in four of the six seats. The other two seats have four
contestants each. There are two
independent candidates in
two seats, who are being
described as BNP supporters.The KCC mayor and 31
elected ward commissioners
will elect six female commis-
sioners."If it is not on 14th, the
dialogue will start on the
See Page 12 Col 6KCC female
commissioners'
polls today

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 10: The election
of six female ward
commissioners to Khulna City
Corporation (KCC) will be held
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described as BNP supporters.The KCC mayor and 31
elected ward commissioners
will elect six female commis-
sioners."If it is not on 14th, the
dialogue will start on the
See Page 12 Col 6Durga Puja
begins

By Staff Correspondent

The five-day Durga Puja, the
greatest festival of the Hindu
community, began throughout
the country yesterday with
traditional enthusiasm and relig-
ious fervour.On the first day, members
of the Hindu community
invoked the goddess Durga by
unveiling the cover of the idol
erected in about 100 pandals
in the capital and in 10,000 to
12,000 pandals all over the
country.The five-day Sharadiya
Durgotsav will culminate with
the immersion of the images of
goddess Durga on the Dashami,
the last day of the festival on
Friday.President Abdur Rahman
Biswas, Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia, the Opposition
leader Sheikh Hasina and the
State Minister for Environment and
Forests Goyeshwar Roy in separate
messages yesterday congratulated
the members of the Hindu community on
the occasion of the Durga Puja.In Narayanganj the five-day
long Durga Puja began yester-
day amid great enthusiasm.

A total of 74 puja mandaps

Iraq claims pullback from border

US troops land in Kuwait

KUWAIT, Oct 10: The first
contingent of American soldiers
landed in Kuwait on today as part of a 54,000-strong
force sent to counter a buildup of
Iraqi troops near Kuwait's border, reports AP.In New York, Iraq's UN
ambassador said Baghdad has
ordered its troops to withdraw
from the border and that soldiers
were pulling back. It was the
first indication that after a
five-day buildup, Iraq might try
to dislodge the crisis.But there was no immediate
confirmation of a withdrawal.Earlier today, 300 US soldiers
carrying backpacks and
rifles, touched down at Kuwait
City airport. The soldiers were
the first elements of a 4,000-
man contingent from the 24th
Mechanized Infantry Division
arriving from the United
States. They will be quickly
moved north to reinforce the
border.The troop deployment in
Kuwait followed the arrival of
the aircraft carrier USS George Washington and its
battle group in the Red Sea.
With a naval task force in the
Persian Gulf and the doubling
of US air and missile firepower
in the region, Iraq effectively
was sealed in a vice.US naval forces are now
deployed on both sides of the
Arabian Peninsula to counter
the 5-day-old Iraqi military
move.Iraq has massed 64,000
troops near Kuwait, includingof US air and missile firepower
in the region, Iraq effectively
was sealed in a vice.US naval forces are now
deployed on both sides of the
Arabian Peninsula to counter
the 5-day-old Iraqi military
move.The instructions have al-
ready been issued and the
troops are already on the
move," Hamdoon said."We only hope that the
council will focus on the sub-
ject of the sanctions," he said,
referring to the embargo imposed
after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. "This has always
been the concern of the Iraqi people."Earlier, Kuwait's crown
prince told an emergency ses-
sion of Parliament that his
countrymen had nothing to
fear with American troops on
the way to the emirate and the
Red Sea.The military situation has
changed a lot in Kuwait's favour,
and it will continue doing so in
the coming hours," said Sheik Saad al-Abdullah al-
Sabah, who is also prime minister.But in Kuwait, there were
signs of concern among the
1.3 million people.New newspapers
have to buy
imported
newsprintThree thousand metric tons
of newsprint — 75 per cent of
the monthly domestic produc-
tion — will be earmarked for
the newspapers, reports UNB.
Newspapers to be published
in future would have to meet
their requirements of news-
print through private sector
import.The decision came from an
inter-ministerial meeting held
yesterday with Information Min-
ister Barrister Nazmul Huda
in the chair.The meeting was informed
that there was shortage of
newsprint in the country due
to rising number of dailies,
weeklies, fortnightly and
monthly newspapers, and in-
creasing activities in the publica-
tion sector. Implementation
of expanding education pro-
gramme and ban on govern-
ment import of newsprint.It was also informed that
the production capacity of the
only newsprint mill in the
See Page 12 Col 6Two killed in
city clashesBy DMCH Correspondent
Two youngmen were mur-
dered in the city's East Jurain
and Mirpur areas in separate
incidents yesterday.Mamun, 25, was shot dead in
a cross firing between two
groups of local bullies at East
Jurain yesterday evening. A bus
driver, Razzak, 30, who was
stabbed Sunday evening at
Mirpur, succumbed to his
injuries at the Dhaka Medical
College Hospital (DMCH) at 10
in the morning yesterday.Witnesses said, two rival
groups were locked in a fierce
clash at Jurain around 5:30 pm
leaving Mamun killed and ten
others injured.He died on way to the
DMCH.Of the injured, Sultan, a
businessman, underwent a
surgery at the DMCH last
night. The two groups fired
gunshots and exploded crack-
ers while chasing each other
for over an hour.The bus driver, Mohammad
See Page 12 Col 3Ershad to
reappoint
lawyersDeposed president Hussain
Muhammad Ershad, who only
two months ago withdrew
lawyers from all cases, has de-
cided to reappoint counsels to
defend him in a number of
cases — most of which are re-
lated to corruption or misuse
of his official position, reports
BSS.Ershad told this to the First
Additional Sessions Judge
Jinat Ara yesterday during the
hearing of special case No 50
of 1993 in the city. The case is
known as Jatiya Party office
case.Ershad, former works min-
ister Mostafa Jamal Haider and
former acting works secretary
M A Rouf are accused in this
case.When asked by judge Jinat
Ara whether he would cross
examine prosecution witness
4, the former president said
See Page 12 Col 4

LDF calls