

Inside Today

Article

An Appeal to Begum Zia
Column : Enrichion
by Wahid Rahman
Page 4

Focus

Brief commentary and reflections on Finance Bill '96; and Enclaves: Islands of miseries
Page 5

International

Yeltsin withholds approval of Lebed's peace pact for Chechnya
Iraq warns US to keep out of its Kurdish north
Page 8

Business

Lack of appropriate law slows down FDI process in Bangladesh
223 cr more money injected into capital market
Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index	249.90
Market capital Tk	8652.83 cr
Transactions in volume	770009
Transactions in value Tk	16.72cr

NEWS BRIEFS

PM goes to Ctg tomorrow

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 1: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is due to arrive here on September 3 on a day's visit, official sources said.
During the visit Hasina will go to the mazar of Hazrat Shah Amanat (R) to offer *fateha*.

Besides, the Prime Minister is expected to attend a civic reception to be organised by the Chittagong City Corporation and the Janmastami function of the Hindu community at the J. M. Sen Hall, official sources added.

Report on Pvt EPZ Bill submitted

A special committee, formed to scrutinise the Bills placed in the House, submitted its report on the Private Export Processing Zone Bill 1996. Committee chairman Advocate Rahmat Ali suggested approval of the Bill with certain amendments. Since its formation, the committee submitted six reports to the House, reports UNB.

Samad Azad leaves for Myanmar Sept 3

A Bangladesh delegation led by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will visit Myanmar from September 3 to September 5 at the invitation of the government of that country, an official press release said in the city yesterday. During the visit talks will be held on bilateral issues including repatriation of Myanmar refugees and trades and investment possibilities between the two countries, reports BSS.

JS session adjourned till 3 pm today

Parliament session was adjourned till 3 pm today. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury announced the adjournment at 8:10 last night, reports UNB.

Janmastami Sept 4

Janmastami, the birth day of God Sree Krishna will be observed on September 4, in a befitting manner throughout the country. Mahanagar Sarbanjanin Pujya Committee said in a press release in the city yesterday. A three-day programme has been chalked out to observe the day, reports BSS.

Nine Shibir activists hurt

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Sept 1: Nine activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), the student of Jamaat-e-Islami, were injured when some armed youths allegedly attacked them on the Puthia College campus today. The ICS has blamed the Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) workers for the attack. According to police, a Shibir activist was beaten yesterday by some youths.

Budget passed

By Staff Correspondent

The national budget for fiscal 1996-97 was passed by the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday by voice vote.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria introduced the Appropriation Bill 1996 in the House earlier in the day, seeking approval for the government to spend Tk 25,306 crore 14 lakh and 55 thousand for the year ending on June 30, 1997.

Earlier on August 3, the House passed grants of Taka 8,435 crore 38 lakh and 18 thousand in advance to meet the partial expenditures of the current financial year. The grant was allowed in the form of a provisional budget by a Presidential Ordinance.

The Finance Minister had placed the budget in the House on July 28 proposing revenue expenditure of Tk 12,103 crore and development expenditure of Tk 12,500 crore. The minister estimated revenue receipts of Tk 17,120 crore.

The Appropriation Bill was approved by the House in the morning sitting of yesterday's session with the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami benches empty. Most of the

Cabinet members were also absent at that time.

The Finance Bill seeking to give effect to the financial proposal of the government was passed by voice vote in the evening sitting in an

JS session may be prorogued today

The current session of the Jatiya Sangsad is likely to be prorogued today. The session began on July 14. The House passed the national budget for 1996-1997 financial year yesterday, reports UNB.

JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday witnessed two brief sittings lasting only 52 minutes.

The morning sitting continued for 16 minutes from 11:30 am while the evening sitting of 36 minutes concluded at 8:13 pm.

During the morning sitting, all the chairs of the Opposition BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami

See Page 12 Col 1

amended form. The bill, introduced by the Finance Minister, will come into force with retrospective effect from July 1, 1996.

Presence of the BNP lawmakers was thin during the passage of the Finance Bill yesterday evening.

Although the House took a couple of days to dispose of the demands for various grants under the proposed budgetary allocations, there was no detailed discussions on some important heads like education, health, defence, transport, energy and mineral resources.

The BNP lawmakers had submitted 1,024 cut motions, but only 324 were moved in the House while discussions took place on 17 demands. The motions were guillotined by the Speaker.

Most of the cabinet members were also absent in the morning sitting, although 10 out of 130 demands for grants on the proposed expenditure were passed in that sitting. Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed was seen giving proxy for his absent cabinet colleagues.

All 158 polling centres in Ctg 1 & 13 marked 'risky'

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Sept 1: Authorities identified all the 158 polling centres for the September 5 by polls in Chittagong-1 (Mirersharai and Chittagong-13 (Chandanaish-Satkania) as 'vulnerable and risky' as both BNP and Awami League are likely to take 'desperate' attempts to win the seats, sources concerned said.

The opposition BNP won both the seats in the June 12 parliamentary polls. The Mirersharai seat was vacated by the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia while the Chandanaish-Satkania seat by former minister Oli Ahmed.

The Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong, Nazrul Islam, who is also the returning Offi-

cer here, told The Daily Star that all preparations were being taken to provide strong security measures in all the centres of both the constituencies to prevent any trouble.

Campaign banned from midnight tomorrow

The Election Commission yesterday announced a ban on election campaign for 48 hours from midnight tomorrow for the September 5 parliamentary by-elections in 15 constituencies, reports UNB.

None will be allowed to convene, hold or attend any elec-

See Page 12 Col 1

He said 27 law enforcing personnel would be deployed in each centre for holding peaceful by-election. The forces to be deployed will include BDR, police and Ansars.

Official sources said 900 police would be deployed in 89 polling centres of Chittagong-1 (Mirersharai) constituency and 700 police in Chittagong-13 constituency in its 69 polling centres.

Besides, a mobile forces would be deployed and checkpoints would be set up, the sources added.

Meanwhile, hectic election campaign is going on both the constituencies, particularly by BNP and Awami League candidates.

See Page 12 Col 3

AL conspiring to snatch polls victory: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday charged the ruling party with a conspiring to snatch away her party's victory in the coming by-election, reports UNB.

She claimed Awami hooligans were letting loose a reign of terror and violence in the constituencies where by-elections would be held on September 5.

On her return to Dhaka, she issued a statement which summed up her experiences of election tour in the constituencies of Feni, Noakhali and Chittagong.

Alleging pre-election rowdiness and violence being let loose in Laxmipur under the patronage of the party in power, her statement said that people belonging to the BNP were being chopped off. These ill-fated BNP activists are victims of planned violence and terrorism of the ruling Awami League," it added.

Begum Zia said the Awami League was trying to destroy the election atmosphere by plun-

dering hats and bazaars, setting fire to residences and houses, issuing warrant of arrest against political opponents. In short, the party in power is not sitting at rest by killing people and letting loose repression.

It is trying to stifling the voice of dissenting parties in the 15 constituencies where by-elections are going to be held, Begum Zia said.

Giving a vivid account of her by-election tour, the Opposition Leader alleged that the rostrums set up for her to address projection meetings were destroyed by the Awami stormtroopers twice and on the third attempt a rostrum was built to enable her to address the meeting at Laxmipur.

"Such acts of terrorism have stunned the local people," the former prime minister said. Giving a harrowing account of the situation prevailing in Mirersharai, she said people there were beaten up by sticks and barrels of gun.

Making a pointed reference to an incident in which Salima

See Page 12 Col 8

BNP's founding anniversary observed

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday urged the party leaders and workers to save the country from imminent political adversity, reports BSS.

Speaking at a discussion in observance of the 18th founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at Shilpakala Academy auditorium, Prof Chowdhury said that the BNP had always played positive role to cater the needs of the people.

The BNP, its front organisations and different party units yesterday observed the day with a vow to safeguard the independence and sovereignty, protect democracy and ensure economic progress. The day's programmes including hoisting of national and party flags, holding discussion meetings, processions and rallies.

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia along with other senior leaders placed wreaths at the

See Page 12 Col 7

I failed as I ran country too softly: Ershad

By Staff Correspondent



HM Ershad

Former president H M Ershad said yesterday that he had run the country too softly which resulted in his failure as an administrator and that if he got another opportunity he would 'run it properly'.

Ershad, who took over power and imposed martial law in 1982 and ruled the country for nine years, spoke to newsmen about the past, the present and his thoughts about the future at the Sangsad Bhavan. He replied to various questions but parried some others. He is now attending the Jatiya Sangsad session on parole, being lodged in a sub-jail close to the parliament building. He an MP from Rangpur.

In reply to a question, Ershad said, 'About my many successes, you all know. But I failed because I was much too soft. I tried to run the country as a poet.'

Asked if he had taken any wrong decisions during his stay

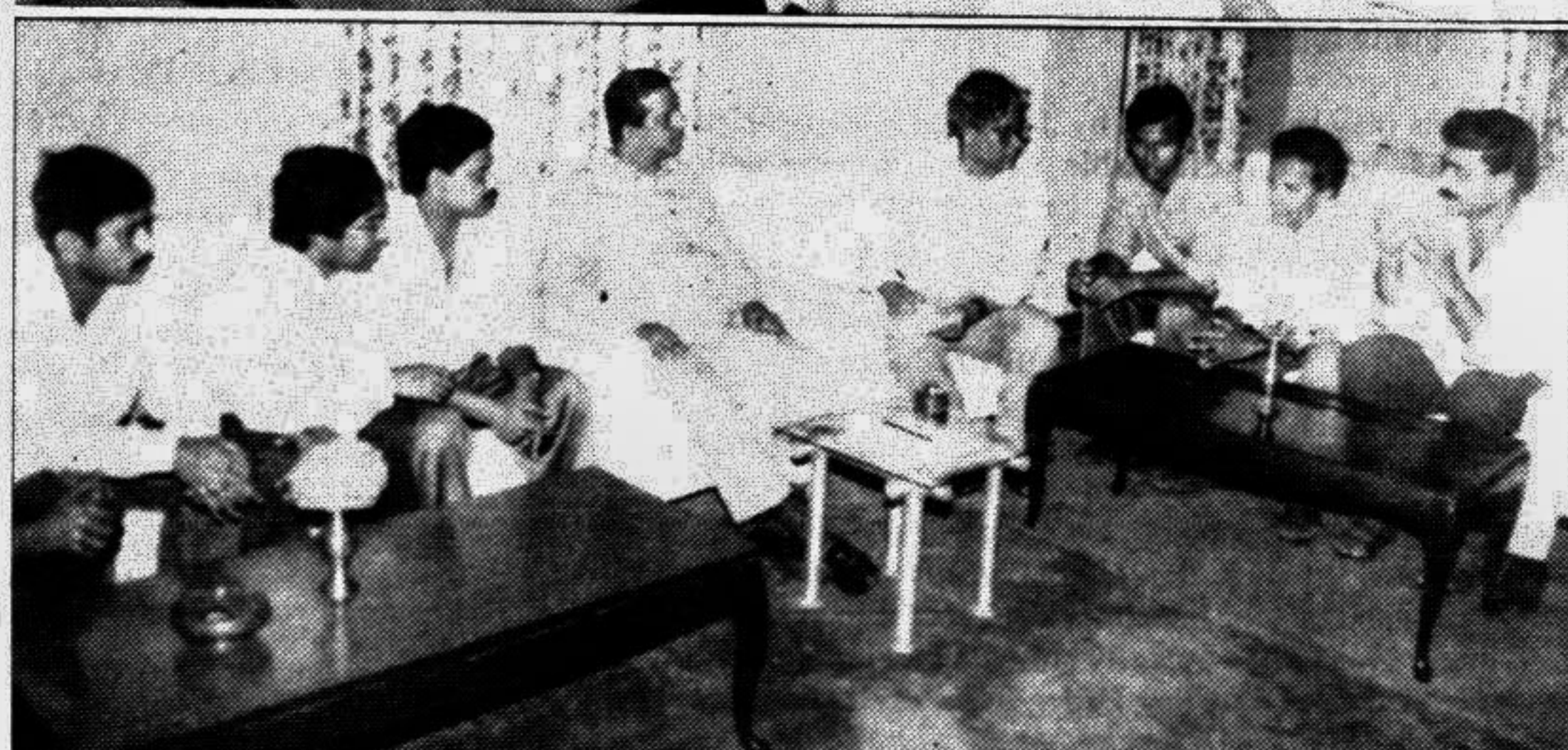
Ershad, who heads the Jatiya Party told another questioner, 'I am not going back to the Central Jail. I am staying here (sub-jail). I may, however, go to the PG Hospital for some days for treatment.'

When told that the government could send him back to the Dhaka Central Jail when the parliament session is over, he said 'Yes. That they are not sending me back is an act of generosity.'

Ershad refused to accept that he took over power forcibly from the then government. 'Sattar (the then president) willingly handed over power to me. The whole world knows that.'

The former president was highly critical of the immediate past BNP government and said they had deliberately harassed him. Referring to former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia, he said, 'She was a tough adminis-

See Page 12 Col 3



Newly appointed Acting Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof Shahiduddin Ahmed held separate meetings with the leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (top) and the Bangladesh Chhatra League (bottom) yesterday.

JCD acting president Pintu held

By DU Correspondent

Detective Police picked up Nasiruddin Pintu, the acting president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Central Committee from the Shishupark area of the city last night.

He was arrested on various charges including terrorism, murder and other criminal activities, according to police. Protesting the arrest, the JCD brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus late last night. They chanted slogans demanding his immediate release.

Some ten rounds of gunshots were heard from the JCD-dominated northern area of the university at around 10 pm.

Meanwhile, in a joint statement, Amanullah Aman and Khairul Kabir Khokon, the VP and the GS of DUCSU respec-

See Page 12 Col 7

VC meets DU student groups

JCD places 6-pt demand to withdraw strike

By DU Correspondent

Acting Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Shahiduddin Ahmed yesterday held separate meetings with the leaders of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and left-leaning Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) at his office in a bid to restore normalcy on the campus.

The VC made fervent appeals to them to show restraint and help the university authorities in bringing back a congenial atmosphere at the university.

Prof Shahiduddin took over as the acting VC on Saturday for a period of one month.

The VC, during his meeting with the JCD leaders urged

them to withdraw the on-going strike it called for August 26. JCD put forward a six-point demand and said it was ready to withdraw the strike if the demands were met.

The demands are release of the 57 arrested JCD activists including its president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney and withdrawal of 'false' cases against them, freeing residential halls from the 'grip of armed outsiders' and safe rehabilitation of students ousted by BCL activists, proper treatment of students injured in the recent 'police attack' and compensation to them, an end to 'illegal intervention' by the police in some specific dormitories, reopening of the main gate of Mohsin Hall which was al-

See Page 12 Col 6

Farooq placed on remand for another three days

Star Report

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) yesterday placed Col (ret'd) Farooq Rahman on remand for another three days following prayer from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Farooq was placed on remand for the third time yesterday on the expiry of a four-day remand. The CID first took him on a six-day remand on August 22, following clearance from the Home Ministry.

CID produced him before the CMM's court at around 10:00 am and prayed for another five days remand for further interrogation.

Three retired officers — Col Farooq Rahman, Col Shahar Rashid Khan and Major Khairuzzaman — were picked up by police from different areas in the city on August 13. They were sent to Dhaka Central Jail on a 30-day detention under the Special Powers Act of 1974.

Two cases were lodged against Farooq with the Cantonment Thana — one under the Arms Act and the other under the Special Powers Act. No cases were lodged against the other two.

Husband kills wife, surrenders to police

By Staff Correspondent

A young man appeared at a police station in the city yesterday to confess that he had strangled his wife to death at his house Saturday night.

After his confessional statement, Tejgaon thana police recovered the body of Farhana Tajnin Runa, 21, from their rented house at 382, East Nakhlaipara. She was an employee of Nurani Flour Mills at the Tejgaon Industrial Area.

An angry husband S A Bipul, aged about 29, said he had killed his wife because, according to him, she was having extramarital relationship with a man.

Runa refused to end her affair despite pressure and persuasion from him, he alleged.

On Saturday night, they had a quarrel over the matter and Runa threatened to divorce him next morning. This, he said, provoked him to kill his wife. Tejgaon thana police said referring to Bipul's statement.

See Page 12 Col 6

PM opens Fish Fortnight 'Stop rampant pesticide use, fry catching'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the rampant use of pesticides need to be regulated by introducing laws and illegal extraction of fry and mother fish be stopped to prevent a steady decline in fisheries output, reports UNB.

Inaugurating a Fisheries Fortnight campaign at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council premises yesterday morning, she also stressed setting up of fish sanctuaries for organic management of fish, besides the haors, haors, bills and other water bodies to increase fish production.

Sheikh Hasina also stressed the need for an integrated plan of land, irrigation, agriculture and fisheries departments for a steady increase in the open-water fish production.

The Prime Minister asked the authorities concerned to find out the factors hampering fish production in open water.

It should be remembered that the existence of law is not

enough, it should be implemented properly, she said emphasising the need for creating social awareness for preserving the fisheries resources.

She said increase of fish production and improvement of the socio-economic condition of the fishermen were mostly dependent on the proper management of thousands of open waterbodies.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria and Livestock Secretary Mohammad Ershadul Haq also spoke on the occasion. State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy presided over the function. Director General of Fisheries Department Mohammad Liaquat Ali delivered the address of welcome.

The Prime Minister said middlemen are not careful about resource since they remain busy extracting maximum benefit from it. They (middlemen) are also not inter-

See Page 12 Col 4

ADB plans to earmark \$1.25b for 16 projects

Chief of Asian Development Bank (ADB) office of environment and social development Dr K F Jalal yesterday said the ADB has been planning to earmark \$1.25 billion US dollars for Bangladesh in financing 16 projects during 1997-99 attaching high priority to environment, social development and growth, reports BSS.

Dr Jalal said out of these projects, ten would be environment and social development projects with an allocation of 593 million US dollars reflecting a shift of focus of the ADB financed programmes towards environment and development from traditional growth oriented projects.

He was addressing a meeting with members of Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) at ADB residence office here. ADB Resident Representative Bhanupol Horayangura, ADB Social Development Division Manager Ms Anita Kelles Vitanen, ADB NGO Coordinator Dr Gordon E Wilkinson, FEJB Chairman Ahmed Nure Alam, General Secretary Quamrul Islam

Chowdhury, former General Secretary Motunuddin Naser and Badiul Alam spoke.

Dr Jalal expressed his satisfaction at the achievement of ADB targets in disbursement of bank fund more towards environment and social projects for the betterment of the quality of life of the people in the past two years and forecast a far better scenario during 1997-99.

He said Bangladesh has also achieved its targets in this regard and the situation would further improve in next three years with the implementation of 16 new projects financed by the ADB in the country.

Ms Anita highlighted the ADB's growing emphasis on government-NGO collaboration and said the bank is starting with Bangladesh as some globally famed NGOs are working here.

Dr Wilkinson presented an overview of NGOs in the bank's current operational and policy environment, reviewed the bank's experience in NGO cooperation and presented a proposed framework for coopera-

See Page 12 Col 8

Another killed in mine blast near Myanmar border

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 1: A Bangladeshi was killed and two others were seriously wounded when a land mine allegedly planted by the Myanmar border security force exploded at a forest in frontier Nykhongkhari thana of Bandarban district today, reports UNB.

Abdul Gafur, 30, of Shaller Deba area in Ukhiya thana of Cox's Bazar district was killed in the explosion, local people said.

Of the wounded, Bulu, 25, was admitted to Ukhiya thana health complex and Jagnal, 18, to Dulahajara Christian Memorial Hospital.

Local people said the three fell into the trap when they went to Panichhara deep forest area to recover the body of a neighbouring woodcutter, Audhir Barua, who was shot dead reportedly by Nasaka men on Saturday. Nasaka also abducted nine people from the area, it was alleged.

Report on Maj (rt) Akhteruzzaman in next JS session

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury will submit report recommending measures against BNP member Major (rt) Akhteruzzaman for hurling abuses at the chair on August 25, reports UNB.

He told the House yesterday that Major (rt) Akhteruzzaman sprang from his seat and seized the microphone of another member to hurl extremely unpleasant and indecorous words at the chair.

The Speaker said each member of the Business Advisory Committee meeting held on August 27 condemned the gesture of Major (rt) Akhter. The committee entrusted the Speaker with responsibility of taking action as per Rules of Procedure by informing the House of the matter.

He said Major (rt) Akhteruzzaman had sent letters to all Members of Parliament, which seems that he does not repent for the wrongdoing.

"Such gesture of Major (rt) Akhter has created deep scar in the minds of all Members of

See Page 12 Col 3

N'ganj poura polls Eleven submit nominations for post of chairman

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 1: Eleven candidates yesterday submitted their nomination papers for the post of Chairman to the Additional District Magistrate, the Acting Returning Officer of the Pourashava election to be held on September 29.

The scrutiny will be held today and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is September 8.

Five candidates from BNP will contest the polls while Awami League and Jatiya Party has nominated one candidate each for the post of Pourashava Chairman.

Some 121 candidates, including two women, have submitted nominations for 24 ward commissioner posts in 8 wards.

Abu Hasnat Mohammad Shahid from AL and Alhaj Abdur Rashid from JP will contest the polls. The BNP candidates are: Alhaj Murad Mia, Anisul Islam Sunny, Atahar Hossain Shamsu, Abdul Majid, and Najir Hossain Pradhan.

14 injured in Khulna gunfight

KHULNA, Sept 1: A pre-dawn gunbattle between the villagers and soldiers in Rampal thana today left 14 people injured, two seriously, reports UNB.

Police said the fight erupted when a gang of robbers tried to loot shrimps from an enclosure, 'Mitai Matsa', at Satpukuria village.

Of the injured, Abu Daud, 35, the manager of the enclosure was admitted to a clinic at Mongla while Sultan, 30, a doctor was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital with serious wound.

Body to determine framework for local govt bodies

The government has formed a high-power commission for determining the framework of the local government bodies to accelerate the decentralisation process, reports UNB.

Advocate Rahmat Ali, MP, has been made Chairman of the commission while Secretary of Local Government Division will act as its Member Secretary. said a PID handout yesterday.

The other members of the commission are Fazley Rabbi, MP, Parliament Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir of Dhaka University noted social worker