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Hasimoto renews pledge to cut US bases in Okinawa Page 8

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British companies keen to invest in Bangladesh

The DSE and CSE price index maintained rising trend Pages 6, 7

### DSE MARKET

1622.26 DSE price index 11,303.88 c Market capital Tk Transactions in volume 28.39 Transactions in value Tk

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 5930,61 cr Market capital Tk Transactions in volume 205705 Transactions in value 7k

### Metropolitan



**NEWS BRIEFS** 

### Gujral leaves for home

Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral, left Dhaka yesterday morning for home at the end of a fourday official visit to Bangladesh. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Shafi Sami, and Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Dev Mukherji were also present at the airport, reports BSS.

### Biswas assents to four Bills

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday gave assent to the four Bills passed by Parliament. The Bills are: Law Commission Bill, 1996; Bangladesh Private Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Bill, 1996; Appropriation Bill. 1996; and Finance Bill. 1996, reports UNB.

### Talk on CTBT

A talk on "India and CTBT" will be held at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) auditorium tomorrow. Professor of Political Science of Kalyani University, West Bengal, Dr Tarun C Bose will open the discussion at 4:30 pm. BIISS Chairman Barrister AKH Morshed will preside, reports UNB.

### Father, son electrocuted

BRAHMANBARIA, Sept 9: An old man and his son were electrocuted at Poniout village of Sadar thana on Sunday. Police said Mosharraf Ali. 60. was electrocuted when he tried to save his son Khairul Islam, 8. who came first in contact of a electric wire. The bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital for Autopsy, reports UNB



DHAKA TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1996

### By-polls by and large fair: CEC DU classes resume

### No evidence in support of BNP complaints regarding 2 seats

By Morshed Ali Khan Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena has said the September 5 byelections in 15 Jatiya Sangsad constituencies were by and

more challenging conditions than that of the June 12 Parliamentary elections. "All steps were taken to avert influence of the ruling party on the administration because it becomes very difficult to conduct the election under a party government," Abu Hena said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star yesterday at his office. It may be mentioned that this newspaper in an editorial published on Sunday, asked the EC to make public detailed facts

large free and fair although

those were conducted under

about all the centres while complaints have been raised, especially those at Laxmipur and Mirersharai. The CEC said that on August

13, he had written a letter to Prime Minister and Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina advising her that no Minister or State Minister should visit the centres under any protocol. "I told her that if they wanted to go, they should keep away from all state facilities," the CEC

added. The CEC said that he had

also issued instructions to all

DCs, SPs and TNOs not to ex-

tend any facilities to them ex-

cept ensuring their personal se-

curity from a distance. This

also applied to opposition MPs, especially the Chairperson of BNP. Begum Khaleda Zia, he The CEC expressed his satisfaction at the respect shown to his letter and said that when the Prime Minister went to Bogra and Mirersharai she did not

use any state facility. A handful of others who went to different See Page 12 Col 7

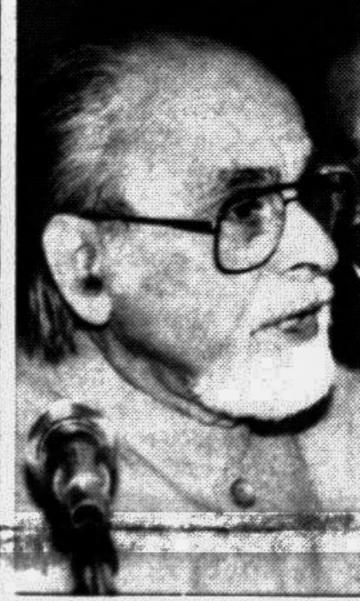


Mohammad Abu Hena

# A new chapter in Indo-Bangla ties has opened: Gujral

No polls can be free, fair

under AL govt: Khaleda



Classes resumed at the Dhaka University yesterday.

Indian foreign minister IK Gujral at the press confce yesterday

PM's directive

for timely

implementation

of dev projects

Hasina vesterday gave directive

for timely implementation of

development projects in the

greater national interest, re-

meeting with the secretaries.

Members of the Planning

Commission and other senior

officials at her office in the city

the pace of work, projects were

not implemented in due time

and foreign loans and assis-

tance were not utilised in

the need for making the admin

bring smile in the faces of teem

ous policy matters. The secre-

taries and other senior officials

put forward various proposals

on policy matters. Minister as-

sured them of taking proper

steps in these regards as soon as

ministration would not be

politicised any longer and

called upon them to perform

their duties treely and without See Page 12 Col 1

Sheikh Hasina said the ad-

istrative machinery dynamic to

The meeting discussed vari-

The Prime Minister stressed

proper time," she pointed out.

There was retardation in

She gave the directive at a

ports BSS

ing millions

Prime Minister Sheikh

Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral has said there is an enormous amount of political will on the part of the two new governments in Dhaka and Delhi to take initiatives to enhance mutual understanding

and cooperation.

"I am now going back with the belief that a new chapter in our relations has opened up... We should not be prisoners of the past. Both the governments do not carry the baggage of the past," Gujral told a press conference prior to his departure for home vesterday morning at the end of a four-day official visit to Bangladesh.

Mentioning that during his stay here he had meetings with the "entire gamut of Bangladesh leadership," including the President-elect, the Prime Minister and leaders of various political parties, he said he found a common response to the idea of building closer relationship between the two neighbours for the mutual benefit of the two

Leader of the Opposition in

Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia

yesterday said that no elections

would be free, fair and neutral

under the present government.

the representatives of the Dis-

tressed Hawkers' Association at

her Minto Road official resi-

dence. Begum Zia said Septem-

ber 5 by-election was held under

a pre-planned design where the

results were prepared before-

barred from casting their votes

women voters were threatened

in different ways and the ter-

rorist activities were carried

out by the ruling party in a

Rangpur by the Jativa Party.

Beguin Zia said even the ally of

the ruling party had observed

hartal to protest the vote rig-

The hawkers told Begum Zia

about their suffering due to al-

leged extortion of tolls, eviction

from the footpath and repres-

the association Kamal Sid

diqui, the meeting was ad

dressed by BNP secretary gen-

eral Abdul Mannan Bhyian MP.

Presided over by president of

Referring to the hartal at

planned way

sions by police

She said the voters were

Speaking at a gathering of

By Staff Correspondent

-- Star photo

Guiral said that there was a feeling that SAARC must immediately do something and there was tremendous anxiety, "that we must catch up fast as a

Asked how close was a solution of the water-sharing issue, he replied," as close as my

Responding to questions on the issue, he said he was hopeful that an accord on the watersharing could be reached "even before the next dry reason." When asked if Bangladesh

had sought a specific quantum

of water and how much could be agreed upon in an accord, Gujral evaded a direct reply and said experts would decide that. Pressed further, he said the quantum of water will be decided by the experts on the basis of three factors. They would ex-

amine what was Bangladesh's

exact requirement, how much

was available and what was the

'actual ground reality on both

BNP office secretary Nazrul Is-

lam Khan, former minister and

adviser of the association

Shahjahan Siraj, BNP leader

Rabeya Siraj, and Hawkers' As-

sociation leaders Talukder Ab-

dul Naser, MA Rab and Makbul

and solidarity. Begum Zia

mentation of the five-point de-

mands of the hawkers' associa-

the hawkers families

rural areas also

welfare activities.

and injustices

tion to ensure the livelihood of

party had not confined its re-

pressions and injustices to the

capital only, but expanded it to

extend its cooperation to the

government provided it

(government) would deliver the

But the ruling party, she

Begum Zia said her party

good to the people and carry out

said, had now been forcing the

BNP to take to the streets be-

would go for action pro-

grammes if the government

continues its acts of repressions

peasants, she said, were now

See Page 12 Col 1

The students, women and the

cause of its repressive acts.

She said the BNP wanted to

Begum Zia alleged the ruling

called for immediate imple-

Expressing her sympathy

sides' during the dry season.

after 20-day

closure

By DU Correspondent

versity resumed yesterday after a 20-day unscheduled closure. Earlier administrative ac-

tivities at the university re-

trative activities at the Univer-

sity remained suspended fol-lowing a series of clashes be-

tween the student fronts of the

ruling Awami League and Op-

position BNP over gaining con-

have already postponed all on-

going examinations till September 12 and deferred the

examinations scheduled to be-

gin on September 15 till

signed among Jatiyatabdi

Chhatra Dal (JCD). Bangladesh

Chhatra League (BCL) and Gano-

See Page 12 Col 4

A "peace agreement" was

The university authorities

trol of the residential halls.

All academic and adminis-

sumed on Saturday.

September 23.

Classes at the Dhaka Uni-

The Indian minister said that during his visit he had talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other leaders on all major issues that concern Bangladesh, including water, trade and commerce.

Asked if transit was discussed, Gujral replied, "I have not discussed the issue transit with anybody. This government (of India) has never demanded transit. I do not know about the

He, however, added. "Bangladesh is a sovereign state. And it is the policy of the government and people of Bangladesh to decide what is in their best interest."

Replying to a question if he had found any difference in the attitude of the present and past governments in Bangladesh. Gujral said he did not. I do not differentiate be-

tween parties. It is an internal affair. What party is good, it is See Page 12 col 6

# Armed Forces had no link with murder of Bangabandhu: PM

BOGRA, Sept 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here today said her government is pledgebound to build a modern, welltrained and disciplined armed forces to protect independence and sovereignty of the country. reports UNB.

"We want to train up the armed forces as national asset. not as partisan," she told the jawans of the 11th Division at a Darbar in Bogra Cantonment this morning.

The Prime Minister said the

present government would formulate a transparent and appropriate administrative policy to modernise the armed forces by removing bureaucratic complexities of the British period.

She said the armed forces as the symbol of independence and sovereignty must be kept above unwanted interference from any guarter, she said.

It is quite essential to keep the army free from any political influence in order to give it an institutional shape, the

Prime Minister added. "The Army is a national in-

stitution," she said, adding that her government would do everything to restore its image and make it professionally skilled. Hasina said the government would not allow any quarters to

use the armed forces for political purposes. She said her government and her party believe that some miscreants were involved in the assassination of Bangabandhu and the armed forces as such

conspiracy. The vested quarters, the Prime Minister said, tried to link the killing with the armed

had no connection with the

Referring to a "campaign" that the Awami League would not help strengmen the armed forces. Hasina said: "I want to make it clear that the Awami League is determined to build a modern, educated and well-disciplined armed forces as dreamt See Page 12 Col 1

### BNP to gherao EC office today By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in scheduled to aherao the office of the Election Commission in the city today to press its demands which in-clude resignation of the Chief

Election Commissioner. The party will hold a rally at the Bangla Motor crossroad at around II in the morning and the march towards the EC Secretariat at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar to lay a siege.

The programme is being organised to protest against alleged 'vote rigging' and 'terrorism' in the just held by-election and press for re-election in two constituencies of the Jatiya Sangsad - Laxmipur-2 and Chittagong-1, and immediate stepping down of the CEC for what it called him failure to hold the by-polls in a free and

fair manner. The programme was announced by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP at a rally in the city on Sat-

urday last. Earlier, soon after the bypolls on September 5, BNP held a rally in the city protesting 'rigging" in Laxmipur-2 and Chittagong-1 constituencies. It had also organised rallies and brought out processions in different parts of the country on September 8.

### Salman committed suicide, says autopsy report

By Staff Correspondent The autopsy report of film star Salman Shah said that his death was a case of suicide, according to a senior police offi-

Police got the autopsy report from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital vesterday, the official said.

cial here vesterday.

Meanwhile, the Detective Branch (DB) has taken up the unnatural death (UD) case which was lodged by Salman's father Kamruddin Ahmed Chowdhury with Ramna thana in connection with the death An assistant commissioner of the DB started investigating the case yesterday, police sources

Chowdhury Md Shariar alias Imon, who was known as Salman Shah, died at his 10th lloor apartment at Eskaton Plaza under Ramna thana in the city Friday noon.

Police sources added that Salman's wife Samira was now staying with her father in their relative's house in Dhanmondi area in the city. However, police kept vigilance on Samira. Abul Hossain, who was private secretary to Salman and two maids who were reportedly in the flat when Salman allegedly committed suicide.

It was earlier reported that Salman had conflict with his wife for the last couple of months because of his alleged relationship with a film ac-

### JCD activist in Sylhet remanded

SYLHET, Sept 9: Arif Hossein Oli, arrested from near the venue of reception to Speaker Humaun Rashid Chowdhury Sunday, was taken on a fiveday remand by Kotwali thana police today

granted the remand when he was produced in the court today.

Police on suspicion arrested Arif, reportedly an activists of JCD, on Sunday morning from the premises of the shrine of Hazrat Badruddin, during the

against Arif.

# Move to reactivate JSAC programme

### Hafiz Textile Mills will be privatised soon: Tofael Industries and Commerce decision as we need money " he previous government." Tofael

Minister Tofael Ahmed has added disclosed that a state run jute mill will be disinvested quickly as an urgent step to reactivate the stalled privatisation process, reports UNB

He told a seminar in the city yesterday that the government has deputed three ministers to negotiate with the workers of Hafiz Textiles Mills, a unit of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), for its privatisation.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Agriculture and Food Minister Mativa Chowdhury and State Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan have been given the task, he said, to persuade the workers of the mill

Totael said every worker of the Chittagong-based jute unit would get at least Tk 1.30 lakh as benefit under the proposed golden handshake programme We want to take some quick

justment Credit (JSAC). The Bank suspended the

credit line, after releasing only 50 million dollar following the government's failure to go ahead with the privatisation of a number of jute mills. The government has been asked to disinvest the Hafiz jute unit to make operational the credit programme which is due to expire by the end of this year.

Earlier, the previous government had slated the mill for privatisation and accordingly an entrepreneur, who wanted to buy the mill at a cost of Tk 8 crore, was awarded the bid. But the cabinet never approved the

This was for sheer lack of efficiency and capability of the

told the seminar on the Stateowned Enterprises and the Free Market Economy held at the Institute of Engineers confer-Announcing that the state-

owned enterprises (SOEs) disinvested to encourage private initiative, the Industries Minister said the government would take steps so that the privatised SOE's could operate profitably. Referring to the nationali-

sation of industrial units. Tofael said the post liberation Awami League government had to takeover some abandoned mills and factories and nationalised some others responding to the socialist ideals which was popular at that time. But most of the industrial

units registered profit during the 1972-75 period, he said. adding that the loss margin of the SOEs is still not so big as is often projected. "It's still small See Page 12 col 5

### DMC reopens today

Dhaka Medical College (DMC) will reopen today after a 25-day closure, reports UNB. The decision was taken at

the Academic Council meeting of the college held on the campus vesterday. But the decision to open the dormitories for the residential students will be taken after formulating new

regulations The 1st, 2nd and 3rd professional MBBS examinations of the college will begin today. Classes will, however, commence on September 28.

The college was declared closed following a clash between pro-Awami League Chhatra League and pro-BNP Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal on August 14.

### DU Senate elects VC panel Sept 25

By DU Correspondent

The acting Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof. Shahiduddin Ahmed has called a special meeting of the Senate on September 25. The VC called the meeting as per Article 21(2) of the Dhaka University Order 1973.

A three-member VC panel will be elected in the Senate session, according to Article 11(2) of the DUO, 1973, says a DU press release.

### One murdered in city

By DMC Correspondent One person was murdered in Rayer Bazar area under Dhanmondi thana in the city yester-

A mobile Police team found the body of Anwar Hossain Pintu, 40, near Tali Office crossing at about 3am. Police suspect he was stabbed to death. The tendons of his hands and legs were also cut police said.

Pintu, father of two, resided at Mitali Road in the locality. The reason behind the killing could not known immediately. However, police said, Pintu, who was unemployed for a long time, had enmity with his step brother, Amjad Hossain, over a land dispute.

nection with the murder. Police said they were interrogating The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy. A murder case has been filed with

Dhanmondi police arrested

one Mohammed Ali, 32, in con-

Dhanmondi thana in this con-

nection, police said.

### Heading JS standing bodies Proposal to amend rule

# to be discussed today

South African President Nelson Mandela with his newly

declared love Graca Machel, widow of late Mozambican

president Samora Machel, speaking to passers-by in the

street of Houghton, a northern suburb of Johannesburg

- AFP/UNB photo

The JS body nominated a

with non-minister MPs head-

ing them. Headed by State Min

ister for Law. Justice and Par

liamentary Affairs Abdul

Matin Khasru, the sub-commit

tee members included Chief

Whip of the Opposition Khan-

daker Delwar Hossafn and

Treasury bench member Rah-

Abdul Matin Khasru on Sat

By Nurul Kabir constituted by the House during The parliamentary standing its first session which ended

committee on the Rules of Proearlier this month. cedure of the Jatiya Sangsad is likely to finalise today its prothree member sub-committee posal for an amendment to a at its first meeting last month rule, seeking to make nonto prepare the draft of an minister MPs heads of JS amendment seeking formation standing bodies on the minof the parliamentary standing istries, sources in the Sangsad committees on the ministries

The 12-member standing

yesterday.

committee, headed by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury is scheduled to meet at 11:00 this morning to consider the is-The committee would also consider a proposal for an in-

Secretariat said

crease in the number of members of standing bodies on each ministry from 10 to 12, the sources added The Speaker is the ex-officio Chairman of a 12-member parliamentary standing body meant for taking care of the JS

from both Treasury and Opposi-

tion benches of parliament, was

urday said that the sub-committee had already submitted its report to the Speaker. If the full-fledged committee accepts the sub-committee report, it would be placed in the Rules of Procedure. The stand-House for final approval ing body, comprising members

mat Ali

We have proposed that the See Page 12 Col 2

# From Our Correspondent

The Sadar thana magistrate

reception. Three cases, including one under the Arms Act, were filed

#### Privatisation of Hafiz Textiles Mills is a test case for get ting the rest 200 million US dollar of the World Bank's 250 ence room. million dollar Jute Sector Ad-