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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**1500 more return home from UAE**  
More than 1,500 deported workers were flown back home from the Gulf state of the United Arab Emirates yesterday. Immigration officials at the Zia International Airport said the illegal immigrants were carried to Dhaka by Biman and several other international carriers, including two special flights of Russian Airlines. The authorities have geared up airlifting of the deported Bangladeshi workers amidst the UAE government's September 30 deadline for the illegal immigrants to leave, the Emirates, reports UNB.

**Case against 21 BNP, JCD, Jubo Dal men**  
From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, Sept 27: District BCL general secretary Tariq Bin Islam filed a case today against 21 leaders and workers of the BNP Jubo Dal and the JCD. The case was lodged with the Kotwali Thana accusing them of ransacking BCL office during the hartal hours yesterday.

**15 killed in Algerian blast**  
ALGIERS, Sept 27: Suspected Islamic fundamentalists detonated a car bomb today near a bustling market outside Algiers, killing 15 people and wounding 78, relatives of the victims told AFP. Security services previously put the toll in the town of Boufarik at seven dead and 20 wounded.

**Megawati's HQs sealed off**  
JAKARTA, Sept 27: The Jakarta authorities today sealed off the new headquarters of Indonesian opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri, a reporter at the site said. "It is now closed down and there should be no activities here pending negotiations between city authorities and their side," said Rajak Gogi, head of the east Jakarta Law and Order Department.

## Mullah Rabbani heads 6-member interim council to establish strict Islamic state Taliban capture Kabul, hang Najibullah

KABUL, Sept 27: The fundamentalist Taliban movement captured the Afghan capital Kabul and formed a provisional government today, summarily executing the country's former communist president Najibullah and vowing to establish a strict Islamic state, reports AFP.

The Taliban met minimal resistance from forces loyal to Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and President Burhanuddin Rabbani when they swept into Kabul about 1 am (2:30 GMT) to take the Presidential Palace in the city centre.

The whereabouts of Rabbani, Hekmatyar and their government's top military commander, Ahmad Shah Masood, were not clear.

It was the crowning moment of a lightning two-year crusade by the student-led militia to impose Islamic law on the war-ravaged country.

Former communist president Najibullah and his bodyguard were dragged out of the United Nations office where they had sheltered for the past four and a half years and hanged on a public street.

Najibullah had been under UN protection since his six-year iron rule, which began under Soviet occupation, ended with sweeping Mujahideen victories in 1992.

Tens of thousands of people rushed to see the bodies after

they were strung up in the main Ariana square. The Taliban said Najibullah was executed for being a murderer and a communist.

The United Nations sharply condemned the hanging.

The three-day battle for the city left several hundred people killed or injured and hospitals were over flowing in the city of one million inhabitants, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Loud explosions were heard in the night as retreating government forces blew up stocks of ammunition they could not carry away to their strongholds in the north.

Jeep-loads of Taliban drove north out of Kabul today in

search of fleeing government commanders.

The presence of the Taliban in Kabul was announced from the loudspeakers of mosques.

The Taliban, Sunni Muslims who preach a strict Islamic code including amputation of robbers' limbs, has won widespread support from Afghans fed up with four years of factional war and suffering.

Taliban chief Mullah Muhammad Omar today appointed a six-member interim government in a special decree issued from his headquarters in the southwestern city of Kandahar.

He said the former government had "collapsed" and the new six-member council would look after government affairs during the interim period.

He stressed that Afghanistan would now have a "complete Islamic system."

Mullah Muhammad Rabbani has been named as acting chief of the council which includes several key Taliban leaders, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said.

Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai conceded that his government had been defeated by the Taliban, who emerged two years from the Quranic schools of Kandahar.

He indirectly accused Pakistan of complicity in the Taliban offensive, adding, "We can see Page 12 Col 4



Najibullah

### Jyoti for 'a little more water' for Dhaka

**Star Monitoring**  
Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal, has expressed his willingness to give Bangladesh "a little more water" but also underlined the problems of his own state regarding the water-sharing issue. BBC said last night.

It is my wish to give Bangladesh a little more water, but I also have my own problems," BBC quoted Basu as saying.

Expressing optimism about his proposal to start direct bus service between Calcutta and Dhaka, Basu said, "Trade between India and Bangladesh has increased manifold." He, however, said that solution to the Ganges water-sharing issue see Page 12 Col 8



Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation and Dhaka University Tourists Society jointly organised a colourful rally in the city on the occasion of World Tourism Day yesterday. Star photo

### CU tripartite meeting suggests probe body on campus crisis

**From Staff Correspondent**  
CHITTAGONG, Sept 27: A tripartite meeting held tonight at the residence of Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University suggested that to convene a meeting of the CU Syndicate by September 30 for constituting a probe body to enquire into the prevailing campus crisis.

Chaired by VC Prof Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, the over 4-hour meeting was attended by Pro-VC of the university, and representatives of two feuding student organisations — Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS). The DC and the SP of Chittagong were also present.

Mayor of the city Mohiuddin Ahmed was scheduled to attend the meeting but did not turn up.

A series of clashes between activists of pro-Awami League BCL and Jamaat-backed ICS forced the authorities to suspend classes and postpone all scheduled examinations of the university from September 18.

The tripartite meeting suggested that the probe body would look into allegations and counter-allegations by BCL and ICS against each other and submit its recommendations to the university authorities soon.

The authorities would take measures to resume classes and hold postponed examinations as early as possible after taking the probe committee's report into consideration, it was decided.

The meeting also discussed various points raised by the feuding student bodies in separate memoranda. It also stressed the need for gearing up security measures on the campus and ensuring distribution of seats in the halls according to merit.

On September 18, BCL and ICS activists clashed with each other and then BCL enforced an indefinite strike on the campus and Shibir activists occupied halls and put up barricades on roads.

### Mugger killed in police firing

**By Staff Correspondent**  
An alleged mugger was killed in police firing in Kamalapur area in the city yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Babu Dhali, police said.

A constable, Abdul Gani, was also injured there as a gang of three muggers in an autorickshaw hurled bombs when chased by police at about 7 am.

Patrol police opened fire when the gang hurled bombs and tried to flee after snatching gold ornaments from some women in another autorickshaw, police sources said.

The muggers, chased by police, reached Distillery Road see Page 12 col 6

### Gold haul at ZIA Businessman held in city, taken on remand

Police yesterday arrested a businessman from the city suspecting his involvement in the recent ever-biggest gold haul at the Zia International Airport, reports UNB.

Detective Branch police said they arrested Abdul Awal Patwari, owner of Hotel Mergona at Topkhana Road in the city, from the Gulshan area early in the morning. He also has shipping business, the DB said.

Earlier, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, following a Detective Branch prayer, the court allowed a four-day remand.

Police sources said the DB personnel conducted at least five raids in the city from late see Page 12 col 6

### Arafat urges Israel for peace move 3 Palestinians shot dead at Al-Aqsa Mosque compound

JERUSALEM, Sept 27: Israeli police shot dead three Palestinians at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound here today and at least three people were killed elsewhere in a third day of Israeli-Palestinian clashes which have left more than 60 dead and 1,000 injured, officials said, reports AFP.

An official at Makassed hospital in East Jerusalem said three Palestinians died from gunshot wounds after Israeli police stormed the compound surrounding Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, following today's prayers.

There are three dead, all young men between the ages of 20 and 30," said a hospital official. "They all died of head wounds from live ammunition."

He said 50 Palestinians were hurt in the clashes from live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas.

Five Israeli policemen were also reported hurt by stones in the clashes, which came after two days of armed battles between Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which left more than 50 Palestinians and 11 Israeli troops dead.

Fighting resumed today in Gaza and the West Bank. One Palestinian man and one Israeli soldier were killed in the northern West Bank town of Tulkerem and a 20-year-old woman was slain by Israeli forces in Jericho, near the Jordan border, official sources said.

Clashes were also reported in the northern West Bank towns of Jenin, where 10 Palestinians were wounded, and Qalqilya where 15 were hurt, Palestinian President

### AL gears up party activities for council session

**By Reaz Ahmed**  
Hectic organisational activities have begun at all levels of the ruling Awami League keeping the scheduled national council session in view.

Party frontliners will start moving out of the capital on organisational tours shortly while the process of holding meetings of the party units across the country have already started.

In the capital, the Secretary General, the Secretary for External Relations and the Secretary for Internal Relations are busy with the preparations for the session.

Rescue of Kalpana Chakma and punishment to her abductors, probe into the recent massacre of woodcutters at Bagaichhari and trial of the killers, political dialogue on CHT problem, constitutional recognition of ethnic minorities and start of a process to end land problem were among the recommendations made at the concluding session of the two-day seminar and open dialogue on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

See Page 12 Col 1

### Series of action programmes Injured IU Shibir activist dies

**From Our Correspondent**  
KUSHTIA, Sept 27: A Shibir activist at the Islamic University (IU) succumbed to bullet injuries on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) late Thursday night.

Aminul Islam, hailing from Jessore, was a third year student of Al-Quran and Islamic Studies Department of the University, campus sources said.

He received bullet injuries in his chest during a clash between pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir on the campus on Thursday. During the clash over 100 activists of Shibir and BCL were injured.

Aminul was earlier admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

Others seriously injured have been sent to Dhaka for treatment. The condition of eight BCL activists, who were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital was improving.

Meanwhile, in protest against the alleged killing and dastardly attack on Shibir by BCL, Shibir activists brought out a procession today in Kushtia town. It paraded the main streets of the town shouting slogans against BCL's arms attack on them and silent role of police.

Shibir also announced a series of programmes including a half-day hartal at the Jhenidah and Kushtia towns tomorrow to protest killing of Aminul.

They will gear up the VC's office on Sunday, Kushtia DC office on Monday and the Jhenidah DC office on Tuesday (Oct 1).

They also demanded immediate reopening of the university and judicial enquiry into the incident and punishment to see Page 12 Col 8

### Wrists of 2 alleged terrorists severed in city

Angry people of East Jurain in the city yesterday caught two alleged terrorists and severed their wrists of both hands, police said, reports UNB.

According to them, local people nabbed Washim and his brother Khokon at about 11:30 am and cut their wrists after beating.

Hearing the news, police rushed to the spot and recovered them from the hands of the people. Later, both Washim and see Page 12 col 6

### Kidnapped minor girl rescued

**By Staff Correspondent**  
A six-year-old girl who was kidnapped from Joydevpur in Gazipur district Wednesday was rescued by police from a house in Malibagh Chowdhurypara in the city yesterday.

Shahina Akhter alias Shimu, daughter of Nazrul Islam of Rothkhola in Joydevpur, was kidnapped reportedly by one Selim, her father's acquaintance, police said. The reason behind the kidnap could not be known immediately.

Shahubajgh police, after receiving a search warrant from Gazipur court, raided a house in Malibagh Chowdhurypara at about 3 am yesterday and rescued the girl, police said.

Shahina was handed over to their parents, police added.

### WB experts suggest Dhaka should sell gas to boost its economy

Bangladesh should sell its natural gas in the international market to fuel the national economic development, World Bank experts suggested yesterday.

Talking to BSS the World Bank experts on energy Per Ljung and Arun Banerjee viewed that the country should build up a well-coordinated network to sell its natural gas in the international market.

Ljung who is based in Washington said Bangladesh should make major efforts to quickly develop its gas resources. Besides fertile land and water Bangladesh has gas as its major natural resource he said adding but this sector has not at all been exploited as much as it should be.

The visiting expert said it is not like putting money into the bank which will increase in time even if somebody did not use the money. But in the case of gas nothing is added if you keep it underground. "Better to take it out now from the ground, sell it, get the money and do useful investment with it," he said adding this way the economy of the country would develop.

Banerjee said the growth of the Indonesian economy had see Page 12 Col 7

### Parliament dissolved in Japan

TOKYO, Sept 27: Japanese parliamentary Speaker Takako Doi dissolved the Lower House today, setting the stage for the first election in almost three and a half years, reports AFP.

The dissolution followed a decision by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, formally endorsed at a morning Cabinet meeting.

The Japanese Cabinet endorsed Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's plans to hold general elections on October 20, Jiji Press said.

The decision came an hour after the Lower House of parliament was dissolved, setting the see Page 12 Col 3

### DSE share price index rises by 92.36 pts

**Star Report**  
Share trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) surged again last week and all market indicators went up after some stability in the previous week.

The All Share Price Index of DSE rose by 92.36 points while its market capitalisation experienced a growth of Tk 646.19 crore compared to the previous week's closing-day position.

The All Share Price Index and market capitalisation closed at 1655.02 points and Tk 11579.45 crore respectively on Thursday, the closing day of the week.

Prices of shares of 53 companies increased, 48 suffered loss while shares of 5 companies remained unchanged. On an average, 106 issues were traded daily.

The turnover both in volume and value increased during the week as more than 8 lakh 40 thousand shares and debentures valued at about Tk 20 crore exchanged hands against an average transaction of 5 lakh shares and debentures worth about Tk 15 crore in the previous week.

Although bullish trend prevailed in the market almost everyday during the week, the market indicators experienced slight fall on Thursday On Sunday last, the DSE All Share see Page 12 Col 4

### Tea garden manager murdered

**From Our Correspondent**  
MOULVIBAZAR, Sept 27: Manager of Tparachhara tea garden and two labourers were killed yesterday by some labourers of nearby Kejurichhara tea garden in Srimongal yesterday.

According to police of Srimongal thana, a group of agitated labourers of Kejurichhara tea garden came to Tparachhara tea garden to take revenge when they heard that two of their colleagues were murdered by the labourers of Tparachhara. The agitated labourers killed Iteker Hassan, 38, manager of Tparachhara garden see Page 12 Col 8

## Babri Mosque crucial election issue in Uttar Pradesh

**By Kunai Ganguly, in New Delhi**

With the upcoming assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh — India's most populous and politically important state — the issue of the appalling destruction of the 16th century Babri Mosque, has come into sharp focus.

It was in Ayodhya, in central Uttar Pradesh when on Dec 6, 1992, a mob of over 300,000 Hindu radicals demolished the mosque in order to make way for a Hindu temple. In the riots that followed, over 1,500 people were killed throughout India.

Muslim vote will be an important factor in Uttar Pradesh where they make 1.9 crore of the state's 15 crore people. Therefore, the issue of the mosque's restoration is a crucial factor.

Almost all political leaders campaigning in Uttar Pradesh for the Sept 30 to Oct 7 elections are trying to court Muslim voters for whom and Muslims around the world, the reconstruction of the mosque is a very important issue.

The elections will be a test of sincerity for all the politicians who are in favour of the mosque reconstruction, except the rightwing Hindu fundamentalists Bharatiya Janata Party, which wants a Hindu temple to be constructed at the same site.

The issue of Babri Masjid has always remained a big tangle for whichever party came to power in Uttar Pradesh. But the three governments of rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party, Mulayan Singh Yadav's Socialist Party and Ms Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party have not been able to come up with a solution that is acceptable to both the Hindus and Muslims. Hindus are majority in India, making up about 82 per cent of the 960 million people.

All the parties including the Congress, which was in power in New Delhi at the time of the demolition, and the current coalition have not come up with a solution. They have referred the issue to the country's Supreme Court, which also has conveniently told them to find a solution.

But there is every possibility that after the elections in the state, Muslims all over the India will press for the reconstruction and the centre left government in New Delhi will not be able to sidetrack the issue for long.

But if the BJP comes to power, it will deliver a big blow to the Muslim's aspirations.

Every Hindu wants a Ram temple to be constructed at Ayodhya and the BJP's position on the issue remain unchanged," said Atal Bihari Vajpayee of BJP about Babri Masjid.

The election, besides the issue of the Babri Masjid, will also be a test for the low caste politicians of India.

The question is whether they can return to power or not. The low caste factor has always struck a political cord with the decision makers of the country. In 1995, Ms Mayawati, a low-caste Hindu and a former school teacher, was given the reins of chief ministership in the state.

See Page 12 Col 8