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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**JP observes UZ day today**  
By Staff Correspondent

The Jatya Party has drawn up programmes to observe 'Upazila Dikaa' today. The party will organise discussion meeting and bring out processions in all thana Head Quarters demanding re-introduction of the upazila system, said a party press release yesterday. The Bangladesh Upazila Bastabayan Parishad the Upazila Chairman Samity and the Social Democratic Forum have also drawn up different programmes to observe the day.

**Six injured in Patuakhali clashes**  
From Staff Correspondent

**BARISAL, Oct 22:** Six people including four women, were injured in two incidents at Itbaria village under Kalapara thana of Patuakhali district today police and witnesses said. 'Abdul Khaleque, 40, Sahida Begum, 20, Mansura Begum, 35 and Jainab, 22 were injured in a clash between two rival groups in the morning. In another incident Para Begum, 30 and Nurul Haq 13, were injured.

**Child strangulated**  
From Staff Correspondent

**BARISAL, Oct 22:** A ten month old child was allegedly strangulated to death by two persons at Bakerganj last night. Police and witnesses said the body of Salma was recovered from a bush.

**1 killed as terrorists fire on villagers**  
From our Correspondent

**KUSHITIA, Oct 22:** One person was killed when terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the villagers of Asannagar under Mirpur thana on October 20 night. Earlier on Oct 17, the terrorists demanded toll from Mokbul Hossain and Kiamuddin of the village. But no money was given. In retaliation, they came to the village on Oct 20 and started firing. The body has been sent to Kushiya General Hospital for autopsy.

## DESCO being set up to privatise DESA

By Inam Ahmed and Sharier Khan

The government has finalised a plan to set up Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO) which will pave the way for gradual privatisation of the city's power supply and billing and reduce system loss.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) for privatising Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) by forming DESCO has been 'finalised', according to sources in the Energy Ministry.

DESCO is being formed as part of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) conditionality for the 9th power project.

The memorandum and an article of association for setting up DESCO have already been sent to the Joint Stock Company for registration, the sources said.

By December, the authorities would appoint a board for DESCO in consultation with the ADB and by then negotiations between the government and

the Bank regarding DESCO and 9th power project will be finalised, they added.

Initially, half of the Board members of DESCO will be from the private sector. DESA board lacks any private representation.

With the formation of DESCO, distribution of power in the city and billing would ultimately go to the private hands. Dhaka consumes more than one third of the total power supplied across the country, official sources pointed out.

Employees of DESA will be offered a choice to join DESCO. If they do not, new employees will be hired, the source said. It has already been agreed that initially, Mirpur Zone will come under DESCO instead of DESA and another zone Savar will be transferred to the Rural Electrification Board (REB). DESA currently has six zones in the city.

Initially, DESCO will be

fully owned by DESA, but later the shares of the new company will be off-loaded through the share market to privatise it," an official said. DESCO will be headed by a managing director appointed from the private sector who will also have separate pay package, he pointed out.

DESCO which will be gradually replaced by DESCO was formed by separating a component of the Power Development Board (PDB) in 1991. This was done as per a condition of the World Bank because PDB's system loss was over 40 per cent and it could not be brought under control. At the same time, WB had pressed the then BNP government to increase power tariff.

DESCO buys power generated by PDB power plants and collects bills in six zones in Dhaka.

This time, ADB similarly pressed the government to in-

## Warm welcome to Hasina in US

**NEW YORK, Oct 22:** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived here today to a warm welcome on an eight-day visit during which she will address the 51st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and meet the US investors, reports BSS.

She was received at the John F Kennedy International Airport by Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, ambassador to the United States Humayun Kabir, a US State Department representative, president and general secretary of the US branch of Awami League Nurul Islam Anu and M A Salam, president of New York branch of Awami League Nuruzzaman Shahi and member secretary of the mass reception committee Farzana Khan.

A large number of Bangladeshis were present at

the airport to greet their leader. Sheikh Hasina will make her first address at the UNGA on October 24 coinciding with the 'United Nations Day'.

Her illustrious father and the nation's founding leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the first head of Bangladesh government to address the UNGA in 1974 after Bangladesh became a member of the United Nations on September 17 the same year. Bangladesh official sources in New York said that the Prime Minister, during her stay in New York, will seize the opportunity to meet the US investors and explain to them the steps so far taken by her government to attract foreign investments.

Sheikh Hasina will meet chief executives of big energy firms Unocal Corp, Halliburton, American International Group (AIG) and Coxon. Besides, she

## PCJSS proposes resumption of talks

**From Zahoorul Huq KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 22:** The Parbatyia Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) has proposed resumption of talks with the government on the Chittagong Hill Tracts problems and extension of the on-going truce in the area, according to the DC of Khagrachhari.

The truce expires on October 31. In a letter sent to Hanga Dhang Chakma, Convener of the Liaison Committee, yesterday, the PCJSS urged the government to give the newly set up National Committee on CHT necessary powers to arrive at a solution to the problems in the hill tracts. It however suggested that members of both the Treasury and Opposition benches in the Jatiya Sangsad should be in the National Committee.

The PCJSS letter was in response to the Liaison Commit-

## Tight Israeli security angers Chirac



French President Jacques Chirac pushing an Israeli security man as he protests angrily over tight security surrounding his visit to the Arab Part of Jerusalem's Old City yesterday. He arrived Jerusalem yesterday for a three-day visit to Israel and the autonomous Palestinian territories.

**JERUSALEM, Oct 22:** French President Jacques Chirac protested angrily today after heavy Israeli security disrupted his tour of Jerusalem's Arab old city, further marring an already troubled visit to the Jewish state, reports AFP.

"This is a provocation, it must stop," Chirac told the large number of Israeli security agents who formed a tight cordon around him on his walking tour of the old city, preventing virtually all contact with Palestinian residents.

"What do you want? Do you want me to go back to my plane?" said a visibly furious Chirac after a series of shoving incidents between the dozens of Israeli police surrounding the French leader and reporters and members of the official French delegation accompanying him on the second day of his visit.

The president's spokeswoman, Catherine Colonna, said Chirac had filed a formal protest with Israel "about the behaviour of Israeli security forces who caused an unacceptable disturbance, preventing journalists from doing their job".

Israeli officials said the

## Fire Service against reinstatement of ex-DD Star Report

The authorities of the Fire Service and Civil Defence department has requested the Home Ministry not to reinstate a former senior official of the department, Jahangir Kabir who lost his job almost 10 years back allegedly for tampering with his annual credential report, according to official sources.

Kabir was given forced retirement in 1986 for alleged corrupt practices and tampering with his annual credential report by falsely showing himself a graduate, the sources said. Kabir lodged a case and the Supreme Court in its recent verdict said that the order issued by the government was illegal as it was signed by a deputy secretary instead of the secretary of the ministry.

## Movable property of Col Rashid seized

The movable property of retired army officer Abdur Rashid, one of the 'self-confessed killers' of Bangabandhu, were seized yesterday following an attachment order, reports UNB.

Police sources said the property were seized from the village home of the absconding accused of assassination of Mujib at Chhaygharia in Chandina thana of Comilla district.

Chandina police went to the house of Col (ret'd) Rashid at about 11 in the morning and seized his belongings at the directives from the Deputy Commissioner.

The seized articles include television, aircooler, furniture and crockeries. However, it could not be confirmed if police picked up anyone from the house.

Police said Col Rashid fled the country after the Awami League was invited to form government following the June 12

election. Rashid also contested the election, but, in fact, supported one of his rivals to defeat the Awami League candidate in his constituency.

He, however, was elected MP of the short-lived controversial Sixth Parliament through the February 15 election.

Police sources said the on-duty security personnel at the Zia International Airport had tried to refrain Rashid from fleeing the country when he reached there.

But, a police official on condition of anonymity said, telephone from the then top level asked them to allow Rashid to leave the country.

Police on Sunday and Monday also raided twice the home of another self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu, Major (ret'd) Noor, and seized some movable property.

Noor is also one of the al-

## 2 killed, 4 shot in Chittagong

**CHITTAGONG, Oct 22:** Two young men were killed and four others suffered bullet injuries in three incidents related to Durga Puja in the district, police said, reports UNB.

Badiul Alam, 18, died when a speeding truck carrying the idol of Durga for immersion in the Bay hit him at Ghosaidanga in Bandar thana in the city today.

Badiul, a hawker, met with a tragic end of his life while crossing road at about 3 pm. In another incident, Salauddin Talukder, 21, of Madyapara village in Rangunia thana was stabbed to death as he came forward to stop a quarrel between two men.

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## Kidnappers free businessman: 9 arrested

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Amir Karim son of Anwar Karim, a businessman, was released by kidnappers reportedly after the payment of ransom money of Tk 3 lakh yesterday. Amir, kidnapped from his furniture shop in Gulshan market in the city at around 2 pm Monday, was released early yesterday, according to police and relatives of the victim.

The victim is also a close relative of Morshed Khan, the former Special Envoy of former

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## Docs in Rajshahi relax strike programme

**From Our Correspondent**  
RAJSHAHI, Oct 22: The doctors in Rajshahi district have relaxed their strike programme at a meeting tonight.

Meanwhile, the doctors abstained from their duties for the third day today protesting the assault on Dr Taimur AK Mahmud by extortionists.

Earlier, a joint meeting of

## 'Water accord with India must have a guarantee clause'

By Staff Correspondent

Participants at a seminar on 'water sharing between Bangladesh and India - crisis and possibilities' yesterday emphasised resolution of the problem keeping in mind the national interest.

They also called for exploring regional cooperation in harnessing water resources involving Nepal and China.

They expressed the view that there should be a consensus on the issue before the two coun-

tries could resolve the lingering problem. There is a strong possibility of a breakthrough in the Ganges water sharing negotiations soon and none should torpedo it, they said, adding that it should not be linked with other issues.

The seminar was arranged by the Jatiya Press Club. Prof Anum Nishat of Water Resources Department of BUET, who is also a member of the JRC, presented the key note paper. Former secretary Asafud-dowla and senior journalists Sadek Khan, Bazdur Rahman and Amanullah Kabir participated in discussions. Khan-daker Mamur Alam, General Secretary of the Club, conducted the seminar.

Giving a rundown of the water sharing issue Prof Anum Nishat said a breakthrough in this regard is likely in the next 70 days.

Prof Nishat suggested that there should be a basin wide plan to harness the Ganges water for the benefit of the nations sharing the basin. There could be a basin-wide plan and a commission could be formed after ensuring participation of all countries of the basin. We could also involve Nepal and China

in it. Some of the sources of the Ganges are flowing from Nepal and Tibet in China," the expert observed.

He said given the goodwill and friendship, there is a possibility of an accord with India on sharing the Ganges water.

But there must be a long-term agreement and with a 1977 like guarantee clause ensuring minimum flow for Bangladesh, and providing for a review of the accord to prevent India from unilaterally withdrawing the water. In this connection we should take up the provisions in the Mahakali river agreement between Nepal and India that leaves room for arbitration by international expert, he

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## Dominating issues on pre-election agenda

### Campaign for rediscovering moral values, ban on handguns in UK

Neville Stack writes from London

While the leaders of all three British political parties tussle over their competing claims to the 'moral high ground', the bereaved families of two ghastly tragedies have taken a poignant initiative - and now dominate the pre-election agenda.

Mrs Frances Lawrence, whose headmaster husband was fatally stabbed while trying to protect a pupil from a youth gang, is calling for a national movement to promote good citizenship.

And the parents of the children massacred in a Dunblane primary school are stepping up their campaign for a total ban on handguns.

Lawrence's key demand is to open a national debate on standards in society. She foresees a grassroots campaign led by parents, teachers and police "dedicated to healing our fractured society and banishing violence".

three episodes of a soap opera. We have a duty to our children to explain how tough those moral choices sometimes are."

Her ideas will almost certainly be adopted, for prime minister John Major, Labour leader Tony Blair, and Paddy Ashdown, of the Liberal Democrats, have all come out in her support.

Major said: "We have all admired the courage and dignity that Frances Lawrence has shown on the face of the tragic murder of her husband."

## Woman chopped to death in city

A woman was killed and her son and daughter-in-law were injured in an attack reportedly by her relatives in Sutrapur area early yesterday, reports UNB.

Police said Nazma Begum, 45, was chopped to death while trying to save her son and daughter-in-law from an attack at their house at Satish

Chandra Lane at about 1:30 am. Injured son Zahid Hossain Tipu alias Ripon 26, and his newly married wife Sazia, 20, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Sazia's father, step-mother and two brothers were arrested in connection with the killing.

Police said Tipu returned home from Malaysia a month back and married his maternal cousin, Sazia, secretly. Sazia started living at her in-laws' house from last week.

This angered Sazia's family. According to police, Selim Alam Guddu, brother of Sazia, along with his associates went to Tipu's house at Satish Chandra Lane in the dark of night.

They reportedly first stuck Tipu with sharp lethal weapons. The group also stabbed Sazia as she tried to save her husband from the attack.

## Businessman murdered in Narsingdi

**NARSINGDI, Oct 22:** A businessman was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants near his residence at Khippara in Polash thana of the district early today, reports UNB.

The dead, Nazim Uddin, 47, President of the Pubali Bazar Bank Samity of Ghorashal, was a leading businessman of Polash thana.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Customs, Excise & VAT Commissioner**  
Dhaka (South), Segunbagicha, Dhaka  
**Emergency Notice**

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that in case of services taken from printing presses against local or international tender by govt, semi-govt or autonomous organisations, provision has been instituted vide General Order No. 6/VAT/96, dated 19-9-96 of the National Board of Revenue to realise, deduct the applicable VAT from the bill payable by the service taking organisation and deposit in Treasury Challan underhead "14-A VAT".

As per the above general order, such organisations as may get done calendar, diary & any other printing work (except text book, periodical, newspaper) are requested to deduct the applicable VAT from the bill prior to payment & deposit in government treasury and thereby to send copy of the challan to the respective area Customs, Excise & VAT Circle office.

**Abdul Quaiyum**  
Commissioner  
Customs, Excise & VAT  
Dhaka South, Dhaka.

DPP-23484-16/10  
G-1308  
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