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## Exams of 6686 HSC candidates to be cancelled

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Sept 5: The decision of Rajshahi Education Board to cancel examination of 6,686 HSC candidates for alleged irregularities has been approved by the Education Ministry, highly placed sources in the Board said today.

Of the total, examinations of 6,230 candidates were cancelled for changing colleges without legal Transfer Certificate, 206 for changing their names and address in the registration card and 250 for appearing before expiry of their terms of expulsion or other punishment, the sources said.

Controller of examinations of the Board M Mozammel Haque, when contacted, said that the decision was taken in early August to take action against the examinees and the colleges concerned. It was sent to the ministry for approval.

## Mosque built on runway of Tejgaon airport

By Staff Correspondent

A group of people has built a mosque on the runway of Tejgaon old airport, sources in the Military Estate Office (MEO) said.

The mosque was built overnight recently on the extreme northern side of the runway, mainly used by Aero Bengal and Air Force planes.

The MEO had recently evicted several other occupiers from the runway but spared the mosque.

"We will write to the ministry concerned to see what they say about it and then act accordingly," said an official, alleging that the occupiers were aided by the local ward commissioner.

## SAFF Football

## Maldives hold Bangladesh 1-1

From Al-Amin

KATHMANDU, Sept 5: Bangladesh were held 1-1 by the Maldives in their opening Group B encounter of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship at the Dharhar Stadium here this afternoon.

Bangladesh striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib broke the deadlock ten minutes into second half.

The Maldives hit back in the 59th minute through Irumug Saed.

The result left both teams on one point.

Tomorrow Pakistan take on Sri Lanka at 3:45 pm (BST).

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## US Open

## Chang moves in semis

From Tawfik Aziz Khan

NEW YORK, Sept 5: The lone American survivor of the Open crash wilted from the strain of a "heat-seeking" Chilean sobbed and prayed as he made the semifinals where others, more worthy, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi had failed.

Michael Chang, in his brilliant best, wavered too, and almost crashed out with a two set lead. The calm, ponytailed number 10 seed Marcelo Rios of Chile, played his hand to the best of his ability but in the end the more experienced and bouncy Chang prevailed 7-5, 6-2, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3. Rios had never crossed the quarter-final stage which he reached in Australia.

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# Mother Teresa passes away



Mother Teresa — champion of the world's poor — died of cardiac arrest in Calcutta yesterday. — File photo

CALCUTTA, Sept 5: Mother Teresa died today of cardiac arrest in her religious order's headquarters in eastern India, an order spokeswoman said, report agencies.

The spokeswoman for the missionaries of charity said the Roman Catholic nun died at 9:30 pm (1600 GMT).

Known as the "saint of the gutters," she became an international byword for devotion to the poor, destitute and dying during nearly 50 years of work.

She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for bringing hope and dignity to millions of unwanted people. "The poor must know that we love them," was her simple message.

When told, in 1979, she had won the Nobel Peace Prize, she said: "I am unworthy."

Mother Teresa, who was 87, said her divine call to work among the poor had come in 1946. She opened her first Calcutta slum school in 1949.

She took the name Teresa, after France's saint Therese of the child Jesus. In mainly Hindu India, she was simply "mother."

The legendary nun, handed over the reins of the missionaries of charity, the religious order she founded in March because of her fragile health after 47 years of service to the "poorest of the poor."

She leaves behind an organisation with around 4,400 sisters and brothers in 600 homes across the globe.

This same nun, years ago, was described as "a novice who would not even know how to light a candle."

The diminutive Mother Teresa, however, has never worried about what others

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## PM addresses Indonesian businessmen Dhaka seeks massive investment in power, gas & oil sectors

JAKARTA, Sept 5: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said her government has taken a series of reform measures to bolster the market-oriented economy, laying importance on the private sector, reports UNB.

Addressing a luncheon hosted by the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN) at Borobudur International Hotel, Hasina said the government has liberalised its policies and has been offering attractive incentives to the foreign investors.

Inviting the Indonesian investors to avail this opportunity, she said, "Let me take this opportunity to invite the business and industrial entrepreneurs of Indonesia to visit Bangladesh and see for themselves the opportunities for trade and investment."

"Please extend to us your

hand of support to forge fruitful partnership as we step towards the new millennium."

The Prime Minister said that except for a handful of fields, like arms and ammunition, nuclear energy, forest resources, security printing and minting, "We have opened all other fields" to foreign investors.

"Some of the areas, where we specially welcome investment, are export-oriented industries like textile, leather goods, electrical and petrochemicals, agro-based industries, green jute, pulp, paper, rayon products, frozen foods, tourism, agriculture, light industries, software and data processing," she said.

"We also welcome foreign investment in high tech products," she said, adding that considering the energy sector as the

engine for rapid economic growth, "we welcome foreign direct investment in a massive way in power generation, oil and gas sector in the country."

A special body, the Board of Investment, has been set up to guide and help the investors. Hasina said, adding that the essential function of the Board is to provide one-stop service to the investors so that they do not face any hassle in their routine transactions.

"We also endeavour continuously to reduce time and costs of such transactions," she said.

The Prime Minister said the package of incentives offered by the government to foreign investors include foreign ownership without limit, legal protection to investors against nationalisation and expropriation, generous tax holidays and

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holding exclusive talks with Indonesian President Soeharto in Jakarta yesterday. — PID photo

## Remarks by Khaleda, Saifur politically motivated: Kibria

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, in a renewed appeal yesterday urged all concerned to refrain from making comments that might tarnish the image of the country and undermine its growth prospect.

Talking to UNB about the recent comments on country's economy by the BNP leaders, particularly by Begum Khaleda Zia and Saifur Rahman, he said, "Those are baseless statements and such politically motivated remarks will harm the country."

"I am really sad that responsible persons like the former prime minister and the former finance minister can make this type of comment," Kibria said.

Commenting on opposition leader Begum Zia's interview with VOA wherein she said that the country's economy was on the verge of collapse, the finance minister said these remarks are "part of a calculated and orchestrated campaign to create an artificial sense of crisis in the country."

Reacting to BNP leader Saifur Rahman's similar comment that the economy would collapse within months, he said it is difficult to believe that someone, who was the finance minister of the country and is holding a responsible position in the opposition party, can make such a comment.

About Saifur Rahman's

statement that there had been a shortfall of Tk 900 crore in revenue collection during the first two months of the current fiscal year, Kibria said the government has exceeded the target of August by Tk 43.07 crore.

Quoting figures, he said, the target of August, 1997 was Tk 1,106.33 crore and the collection was Tk 1,149.40 crore. In 1996, the revenue collection of August was Tk 868.46 crore.

Admitting a shortfall in July, he said the total amount collected in July and August was Tk 1,930.27 crore against the target of Tk 2,121.93 crore. The actual shortfall during the first two months of the fiscal is Tk 191.66 crore and not Tk 900

crore as stated by Saifur Rahman.

Kibria said, "I have already provided facts and figures about bank loans and I don't see why the BNP leaders are crying hoarse on something which just doesn't exist."

He said the latest position of liquidity with the banks as was stated by the Governor of Bangladesh Bank is over Tk 2,300 crore, "about Tk 900 crore more than what is needed for smooth operation."

Similarly, he said, the loans and advances are also running at very satisfactory rates and industries also getting adequate supply of working capital.

## 126-km funeral procession today

# No one will ever forget Di : Queen

LONDON, Sept 5: Queen Elizabeth paid a glowing tribute to Diana, the Princess of Wales, who she described as 'exceptional and gifted' in an unprecedented live broadcast to the nation today, report agencies.

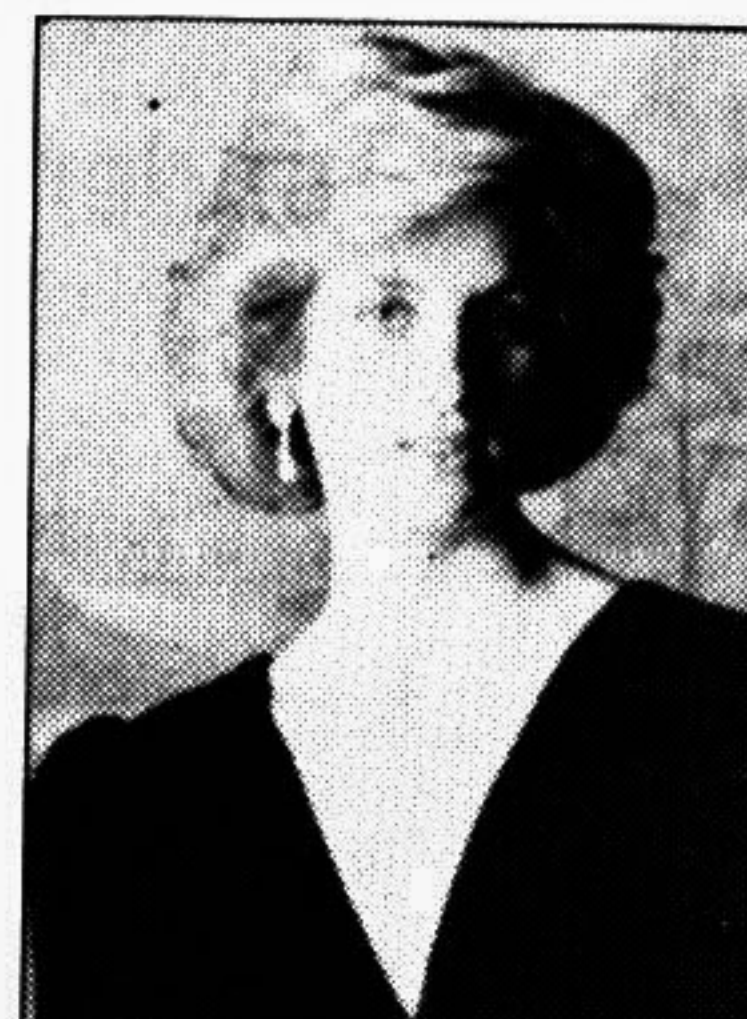
Meanwhile, Diana's funeral cortege will begin tomorrow at Kensington Palace, where she lived in an apartment amid an array of royal neighbours.

The funeral procession bringing the late Princess to her final resting place will cover some 126 kilometres before arriving at Althorp in Northamptonshire, northwest of London, where she will be buried next to her ancestors.

In the live broadcast to the nation, the Queen said she was speaking to the nation 'as your Queen and as a grandmother' and 'from my heart.'

Speaking from Buckingham Palace, with the crowds paying tribute to Diana in the background, the Queen said: 'Since last Sunday's dreadful news we have seen, throughout Britain and around the world, an overwhelming expression of sadness at Diana's death.'

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## BTV to telecast funeral live

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast live from BBC World Service the funeral of Princess Diana at 1:45 pm today.

BTV sources told The Daily Star that the programme would be telecast in full. Due to this, there will be no 4 pm news bulletin today.

BTV had telecast live the wedding of the Princess Diana and Prince Charles on July 29, 1981.

## None to represent Dhaka at funeral

By Staff Correspondent

None from Bangladesh will represent the country at Princess Diana's funeral today, Foreign Ministry sources said last night.

As the occasion would not be a state funeral and Princess Diana had never visited Bangladesh, Dhaka did not receive any invitation for representation at the funeral.

The British Foreign Office had said that invitations had been sent 'primarily on the basis of close personal association with the Princess' and to countries Diana had visited.

Dhaka, like several other countries, would be represented by the Dean of Diplomatic Corps in Britain and the Secretary General of Commonwealth.

## Last gifts

LONDON, Sept 5: Princess Diana gave boyfriend Dodi Fayed a gold cigar clipper with a tag inscribed 'With love from Diana,' the Fayed family said Friday, reports AP.

And he gave her in return, the family confirmed, a magnificent 205,400 diamond solitaire ring shortly before they were both killed in a Paris

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## Formal talks Two accords with Jakarta to be worked out soon

JAKARTA, Sept 5:

Bangladesh and Indonesia today agreed to forge greater cooperation in all fields for the mutual benefits of the peoples of the two countries, reports BSS.

This was resolved during the official level talks held here this morning at the Merdeka Palace.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Ali Alatas, Foreign Minister of Indonesia, led their respective sides at the talks.

They discussed the promotion of existing bilateral relations between the two countries particularly in the field of economic, trade and commerce.

The two sides agreed to conclude agreements on avoidance of double taxation and promotion and protection of investments. They agreed that the two sides would work out the

See Page 12 Col 7

## Hasina-Soeharto exclusive meeting

JAKARTA, Sept 5: Indonesian President Soeharto and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held an exclusive meeting at the Presidential Palace here this morning, reports BSS.

The two leaders discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and measures to strengthen the ties further.

Briefing newsmen after the nearly two-hour talks, Press Secretary to the PM Jawadul Karim said the Prime Minister also spoke about the micro-credit programme in Bangladesh and how it was helping the economy of the country.

Sheikh Hasina mentioned the excellent relations with the neighbouring countries. She said the water sharing treaty with India and giving transit to Nepal are some of the positive steps taken by the present government.

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## BB suggests steps to improve BOP

By Inam Ahmed

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has suggested a number of steps including a prudent monetary and credit policy to improve the balance of payment (BOP) situation.

With the dwindling of foreign exchange reserve, now at around 1.6 billion dollars, becoming a major concern for the government and donor agencies, the central bank has come forward with a five-point solution to stem further slide in reserve.

It has also identified the reasons behind the fall and the finance ministry is already taking steps to reverse the situation. The central bank made these suggestions in a recent report to the finance ministry.

In support of the prudent monetary and credit policy, the

Bank has said the lagged effect of domestic credit expansion has a diametrically opposite impact on foreign exchange reserve.

During 1994-95 and 1995-96, total domestic credit expanded by 17.56 per cent and 20.42 per cent respectively. The lagged effect of such high credit expansion had a draw down impact on the reserve.

The central bank also observed that increasing foreign aid disbursement can effectively raise the reserve position in a short time and has suggested that the foreign banks should be given permission to bring funds from international foreign exchange market for term lending.

The government is thinking

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## Launch movement against Village Council Bill: BNP

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has said the government has intensified its effort to establish a one-party rule and send democracy into exile by passing the controversial Village Council Bill in parliament on Thursday, reports UNB.

"The government is not conducting the House neutrally. The standing committees are not being constituted even after 14 months. As a result, the parliamentary democracy is turning into autocracy," he told a party meeting in the city yesterday.

More than 100 leaders and workers of the Jatiya Ulema Party led by its city president Hafez Maulana Abdul Kader joined BNP's front organisation

Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal at a meeting at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition.

Referring to the passage of village council and union council bills, he said without any discussion, media publicity and election, forming village council with nominated members is nothing but politicisation at the villages.

"It will not only endanger democracy, but also increase conflict, clash and terrorism in the villages."

Terming the Bill 'anti-people,' he called upon the village people to launch an united movement against it.

Bhuiyan said the village council bill is another form of BAKSAL, which was established in 1975.

## Search for more bodies continues at Shayestaganj

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 5: No other body could be recovered today from the river Khowai at Shayestaganj in Habiganj district where three persons were killed when hit by a train on the railway bridge yesterday, according to district administration sources.

Fifty others had jumped into the river to escape being crushed by the inter-city train — Parabat Express — on the bridge.

The Deputy Commissioner of Habiganj, talking to The Daily Star said that the rescue teams did not find any other body during their day-long search. The teams were sent upto a distance of 24 km on both sides of the bridge, he added.

The teams will carry out further search tomorrow, he said. Meanwhile, traffic move-

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## 5 including a DU student killed in road accidents

At least five persons, including a student of Dhaka University were killed and 22 others injured in separate road accidents at Dhamrai, Tongi and in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Manikganj police said Delwar Hossain alias Ratan, 23, of Ghior thana and a final year student of Statistics Department of DU was killed and 21 others were injured at Bathui under Dhamrai thana on Dhaka-Aricha Highway at 10 am when two buses collided.

Of the injured 12 were admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital while nine others to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In another accident, two persons were killed on the spot and another was injured in front of Hossain Market under Tongi Thana on Dhaka-Mymensingh road at 11:30 am when a Dhaka-bound bus hit an auto-

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## Jubo Dal worker shot dead in Feni

FENI, Sept 5: An activist of the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal was killed by some miscreants at Birinchi village here today, police said, reports UNB.

A gang of miscreants called Mainuddin Bablu, 24, son of Faez Ahmed, out of his residence in the afternoon and shot in his chest by sawed off rifle. He died on the spot.

Local units of BNP and Jubo Dal have blamed the ruling Awami League for the killing.