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# The Daily Star

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**Crackdown on unauthorised visitors to Secretariat**  
By Morshed Ali Khan  
Strict security measures kept unauthorised visitors away from the Secretariat Thursday.

Office rooms, corridors and lifts usually swarmed with visitors during office hours — were seen almost deserted.

Plainclothes and uniformed policemen moved from building to building in search of 'visitors without valid pass.'

A police official of the Bangladesh Secretariat Security said, "Security at the Secretariat was stepped up since August and last month alone we

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**PM leaves for Calcutta this morning**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka this morning for Calcutta to attend the funeral of Mother Teresa, reports BSS.

She will be accompanied by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan.

The funeral will be held at the Netaji Subhas Basu Indoor Stadium.

**Queen Sophia visits Dhaka on way to Calcutta**  
Queen Sophia of Spain arrived in Dhaka last night on her way to Calcutta to attend the state funeral of Mother Teresa, reports UNB.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury received her at the Zia International Airport at 8:30 pm.

Later, Queen Sophia joined a dinner at Sonargaon Hotel, which was hosted by Honorary Consul General of Spain to Bangladesh Jalaluddin.

Green Bank Managing Director Prof Muhammad Yunus and Bangladesh's Chief of Protocol A K M Farooq also attended the dinner.

The Spanish Queen will leave for Calcutta this morning.

**Sahara Cup Indo-Pak clash on opening day today**  
Sports Reporter  
Arch-rivals India and Pakistan renew their rivalry in Toronto when they meet in the five-match Sahara Cup one-day cricket tournament opener in the Canadian city today.

Pakistan, who won the inaugural tourney in the North American venue last year 3-2, will be skippered by Rameez Raja while Sachin Tendulkar will lead the opposition.

The match, which will be telecast live by Entertainment and Sports Programme Network (ESPN), will begin at 6:30 BST.

The other four matches of the series are billed for September 14, 17, 20 and 21.

**SAFF soccer final today**  
From Al-Amin  
KATHMANDU, Sept 12: Favourites India will take on high-flying Maldives in the first South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship final at the Dasarath Stadium here tomorrow afternoon.

The match, which will be relayed by Bangladesh Betar, will kick off at 2:45 pm (BST). India, the pre-tournament favourites, made their way to

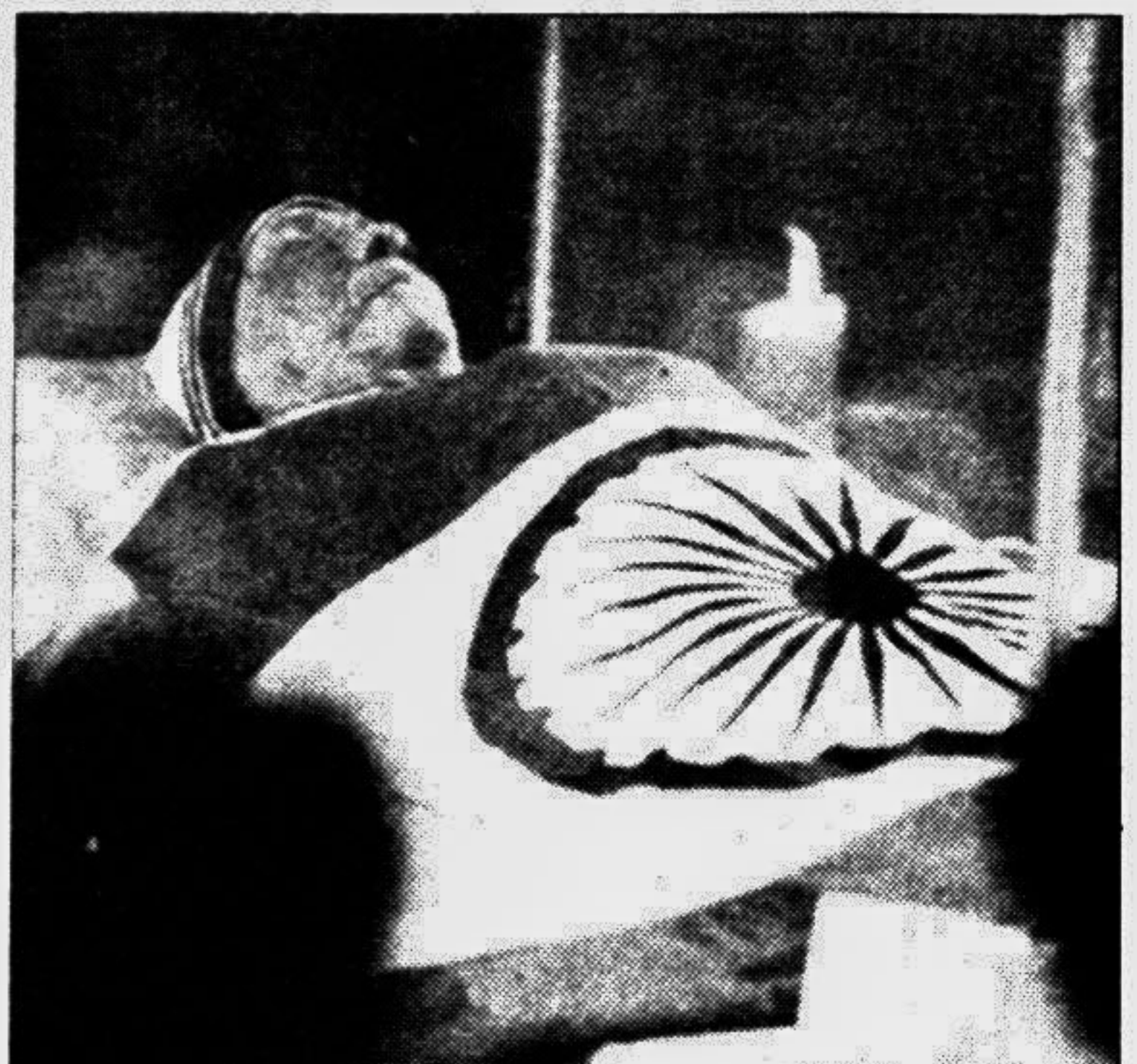
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## Mother Teresa's funeral today



A candle's reflection shines on the glass enclosure where Mother Teresa lies in state at St. Thomas Church in Calcutta while mourners pass by to pay their last respect yesterday.

— AFP/UNB photo

CALCUTTA, Sept 12: As India and the world prepared to say a final good-bye to Mother Teresa, her successor said today that the work started by the frail woman who came to be known as the saint of the gutters would continue and her order grow, reports AP.

Hundreds of people were turned back from a central Calcutta church as the huge wooden doors were closed early in the afternoon so that the Missionaries of Charity and the military could prepare for tomorrow's state funeral followed by a private burial.

Throughout the last day of public viewing, thousands of people stood in line despite intermittent rain and 30 degree Celsius temperature to be close to Mother Teresa, to touch a

See Page 12 Col 1

**BTV to telecast funeral live**  
Bangladesh Television will telecast live the funeral of Mother Teresa through the CNN International at 9 am today, a BTV press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

## Dhaka-Calcutta bus service may start from Dec

By M Anwarul Haq  
Direct bus service between Dhaka and Calcutta is likely to begin from mid-December after the signing of a motor vehicle agreement between Bangladesh and India, according to official sources.

Around one lakh passengers are likely to avail of this service within one year.

A 6-member team of officials from India's Surface Transport Ministry is due to arrive in the city on September 22 for working out details of the bus link. The envisaged bus route besides linking Dhaka and Calcutta is likely to subsequently connect the Bangladesh capital with the Indian capital and stretch upto Ameer for the convenience of pilgrims visiting the *dargah sharif* of Khwaja Mainuddin Chishti.

The two sides are likely to sign a MOU at their two-day meeting in Dhaka for opening the bus route. The MOU will later be signed into a 'Motor Vehicle Agreement' between the two countries, the sources said.

Buses having Bangladesh and Indian registration will be allowed to operate directly and passengers will not need to disembark at any point between Dhaka and Calcutta.

Although every traveller

will require passport and visa, provisions will be made speedy customs and immigration check at the no-man's land, requiring between 10 and 15 minutes, the sources said.

A maximum of 10 hours may be required to reach Dhaka from Calcutta, taking into consideration the Daulatdia-Aricha ferry crossing. Efforts will also be made to have special facilities for the buses plying on the Dhaka-Calcutta-Dhaka route.

## Nurses' strike continues

By Staff Correspondent  
The indefinite strike by nurses at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (formerly PG Hospital) which began on August 12, continued yesterday.

All operations in the hospital are now postponed due to the strike. Nurses in the emergency unit are however working.

A nurse while talking to this correspondent said, "None of us are willing to join duty unless the government withdraws its decision to turn the hospital into an autonomous body. De-

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The proposed Motor Vehicle Agreement is intended to initially limit to the plying of passenger buses between the two countries. There would be no provision for plying of trucks and heavy duty vehicles, the sources said.

The proposed agreement envisages only one route for the passenger buses — Dhaka-Aricha-Daulatdia-Jessore-Benapole on the Bangladesh side and Petropole-Calcutta-Delhi and Ameer on the Indian side.

Sources in the Ministry of Communications said that it would be possible to start Dhaka-Calcutta-Dhaka bus service shortly as the road condition on the Bangladesh side is "sufficiently good." It may, however, take a considerably long time to introduce bus service from Calcutta to Ameer as the road condition requires to be improved. Besides, train link from Calcutta to Delhi is quite good.

Karar Mahmudul Hasan, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Communications, will lead the Bangladesh side at the bus service talks in Dhaka while B Bhatti, Joint Secretary in India's Surface Communication

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## Vote-buying scandal Court upholds charges against Rao, 17 others

NEW DELHI, Sept 12: An Indian court today upheld bribery charges against former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and 17 other politicians in a vote-buying scandal, reports AFP.

Judge Jaspal Singh of the Delhi High Court dismissed petitions by the accused seeking to quash the charges against them. The judge said there was "enough evidence" to proceed with the case.

The sordid facts... show that the secret of success lies, at least with regard to some, in mastering the art of transferring one's own bulging wallets into the eager pockets of others," Singh said.

The judge ordered the accused to appear before a special trial court on September 19 to answer the charges.

Singh also struck down a claim of constitutional immunity

## N'ganj OC shot while chasing muggers

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, Sept 12: The Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Narayanganj thana was bullet-hit while chasing three alleged muggers in Hajiganj area this afternoon.

The OC, Ashrafur Rahman, was hit in his left leg as a mugger fired a pistol shot. He was given first aid for minor injury, police said.

Three young men, riding a motorcycle, snatched at gunpoint four gold bangles and a gold necklace from two women going by a rickshaw at Majhdair under Fatulla thana at about 1:30 pm. Chased by police, the gang exploded cocktails and fired a pistol shot. Police fired four shots and caught one of the muggers, Tajul Islam.

The bangles and necklace were recovered from him.

The two others — Kamrul and Samir — managed to escape with the pistol and motorcycle.

## Manju remains tight-lipped

By Staff Correspondent  
Anwar Hossain Manju, secretary general of Jatiya Party and a member of the cabinet headed by Sheikh Hasina, remained tight-lipped on party chief HM Ershad's reported announcement about his (Manju) quitting the government.

Ershad was quoted as saying at a public meeting in Tangail yesterday afternoon that he had already asked his party's secretary general to quit the cabinet and "he pledged to do so."

When contacted late last night, Manju, however, declined to make any comment on Ershad's reported announcement.

Meanwhile, the JP leader- See Page 12 Col 8

## BNP preparing to observe 'protest day'

By Staff Correspondent  
The major Opposition BNP is preparing to observe 'protest day' on Monday throughout the country.

The protest-day observance will be preceded by a country-wide mass-contact programme tomorrow.

The programmes were announced earlier on August 31 when BNP organised a march towards the Jatiya Sangsad.

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## US considers Bangladesh a close friend: Inderfurth

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Karl F Inderfurth have underscored the need for peace and stability in the region for uninterrupted development, reports UNB.

They expressed the identical view when Inderfurth called on the Prime Minister at her official residence at Ganobhaban yesterday officials said.

The Prime Minister appreciated the US official's commitment to further consolidating relations between the United States and the countries in South Asia, particularly Bangladesh.

Inderfurth said his country considers Bangladesh a close friend and hoped that Dhaka-Washington ties would be further strengthened in the future. He said he has great interest in South Asia.

The US Assistant Secretary of State laid emphasis on bolstering bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic front.

The Prime Minister said her government, during its short period in office, have taken a number of positive measures to alleviate poverty. "We want to develop our natural resources," she said.

Hasina listed the steps taken

See Page 12 Col 8

## 'Manju agreed to quit cabinet' JP won't back this govt any more, says Ershad

TANGAIL, Sept 12: Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad today castigated the Awami League government for failure to run the country and said his party would not support it any more, reports UNB.

"The Awami League in its 14-month reign didn't do a single good work... There is no scope to support this government," he told a public meeting at Delduar thana parishad ground here.

"We supported AL to save the country from BNP's tyranny and hoped that it would work for the welfare of the people," he added.

He said JP will now play an opposition role, it will not only protest the government's misdeeds, but also launch resistance movement. "I have already told my party's Secretary General to quit the Cabinet and he pledged to do so."

"I'm neither pro-Awami League nor pro-Indian. We are pro-Bangladesh, Bangladeshi," said the JP chief.

The former President alleged that the AL government breached its pre-elections pledge for fixing jute price at Tk

The Daily Star on the Internet  
<http://www.dailystarnews.com>

## Directive to complete ACR of officials

By Shehab Ahmed  
The Establishment Ministry has asked government officials concerned to complete the Annual Confidential Report (ACR) of last year as soon as possible to help free a log jam in evaluation of services of a number of officials for promotions or punishment.

A highly placed source in the Establishment Ministry told The Daily Star yesterday that it noted with concern the relevant officials' failure in completing the ACRs of last year.

As per rules, ACRs are to be completed by December 31 each calendar year. It must reach the departments concerned by March.

He said in a pyramid structure- See Page 12 Col 3

## Results of 600 JB examinees withheld

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, Sept 12: Jessore Education Board has withheld results of some 600 HSC examinees of Lalmoan Government Shabbazpur Degree College of Bhola district for alleged irregularities at the centre during the examination on May 8.

On that day, 52 examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means. Then the agitating students manhandled the on-duty magistrate and a jeep was set on fire.

Following the incident, DC of Bhola shifted the examination centre to Bhola Government College the next day.

## Body to probe RB irregularities

From M A Ali  
RAJSHAHI, Sept 12: A three-member enquiry committee has been formed to investigate into the alleged irregularities by some HSC examinees of Rajshahi Board this year, sources said.

Results of 6686 HSC examinees were withheld due to the alleged irregularities.

The committee will identify the irregularities and find out whether the authorities of colleges concerned or board officials were involved. The enquiry committee will start its work after the Rajshahi Education Board Committee concludes its meeting. The Board Committee met on September 9 and will sit again on Monday.

Action will be taken against the persons responsible for the irregularities on the basis of the report of the enquiry committee.

## Extortionists damage shops at Gopibagh

Extortionists damaged several shops at Gopibagh in the city yesterday as the shop owners refused to pay tolls, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said about 25 youths, led by Sajju and Sohail, went to the shops at about 4 pm and demanded tolls.

But the shop owners' refusal prompted the group to go on a rampage. They damaged several shops including Bananya Confectionary, Image Tailors and JK Confectionary and looted money.

Police from Motijheel, Sutrapur and Sabujbagh stations rushed to the spot as the area is a link point of the three thanas, but could not arrest anybody.

The shop owners alleged that the group is involved in the terrorist activities for a long time.

## Girl gangraped in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Sept 12: A teenage girl was allegedly gangraped by three local mastans at South Mogadia village under Mirersharai thana last evening, police said.

Taslima Aktar, 13, was forcibly taken to the nearby jungle by the mastans while she was returning home with her father Harunur Rashid, police said.

Taslima was later rescued when the mastans left her alone in the jungle, police added.

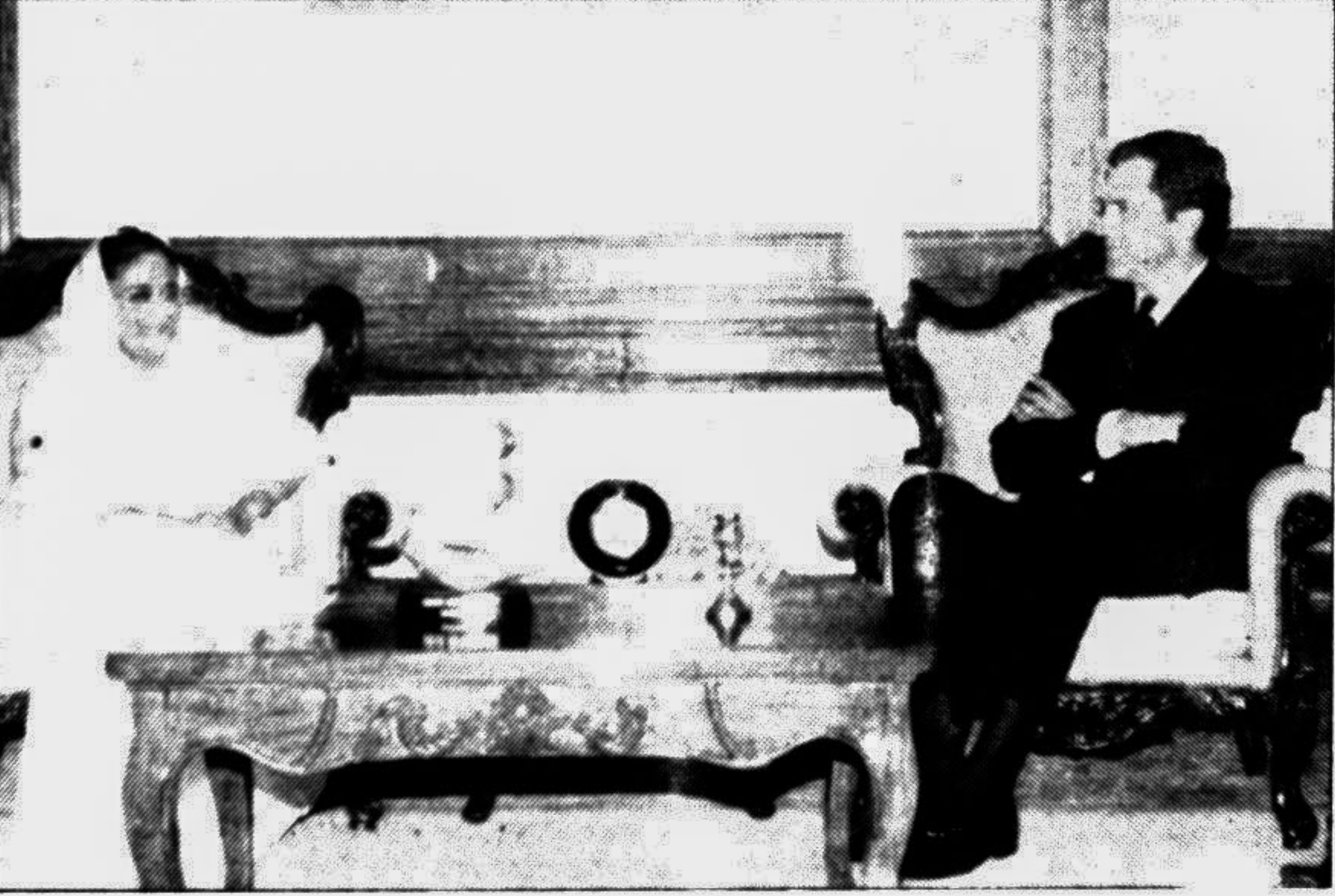
The victim's father filed a complaint with Mirersharai thana g three persons.

## Shops gutted in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Sept 12: Around 100 shops were gutted in a fire at Kanungopara bazar in Boalkhal thana last evening, police said.

Loss of property was estimated at about Taka one crore.

Police said the fire that had originated from a jewellery shop at 10 pm soon engulfed the whole area.



US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Karl F Inderfurth called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence yesterday.

— PID photo

## Scots vote for own parliament

EDINBURGH, Sept 12: Scots voted by 74.29 per cent for their own parliament and by 63.48 per cent to give it tax-raising powers in Thursday's referendum, complete results showed early today, reports AFP.

The result was well beyond the simple majority required to approve the two proposals for a 129-member assembly with limited law-making and taxation powers.

The assembly will be the first Scottish parliament for 290 years.

"I am absolutely delighted that the Scottish people have backed our plans," Prime Minister Tony Blair declared early today.

Two out of 32 districts, the Orkney Islands in the north

and Dumfries and Galloway on the southern border with England, voted against tax-raising powers, according to AP.

Britain's battered Conservative Party, virtually the sole opponents of the four and a half month-old Labour Party government's plan, conceded defeat. The Tories vowed to battle on to avert what it said were plans by Scottish nationalists to use the parliament to precipitate independence.

"It's been a decisive result. As a party we accept that," Jackson Carlaw, deputy chairman of the Conservative Party in Scotland, acknowledged in the early hours today. "We don't want to see this parliament hijacked by anybody who favours indepen-

ence."

The Scottish and Welsh assemblies were a key pledge of Blair's winning platform in May 1 national elections. However, Blair regards the Scottish Parliament as a way of keeping Scotland in the United Kingdom, and the nationalists do not.

"We have embarked on a journey and the end of this journey will be independence," declared Alex Salmond, whose Scottish National Party gets about one-fourth of the Scots' vote in national elections.

In 1979, the Scots and Welsh rejected separate assemblies. But sentiment has changed, partly because of 18 years of Tory rule until May which was

## Accidents in garments units Formation of 'tripartite mobile court' suggested

By Staff Correspondent  
A seminar on 'Accidents in Garment Industry and Prevention' in the city yesterday made three suggestions including formation of 'tripartite mobile court' like labour court with first class magistrate to check accidents in garments factories.

Another suggestion is for formation of observation committees comprising representatives of the government, owners of garments factories, workers, NGOs, women's organisations, ILO and Unicef.

The seminar, held at the Jatiya Press Club, was organised by the Bangladesh Garments Workers Federation and attended by representatives of the BGMEA, ILO, NGOs and professional organisations.

UNB adds: Addressing the seminar, State Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan urged the owners of garments factories to strictly abide by the safety laws to avert accidents.

The state minister emphasised on creating awareness

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