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## PM's directive

### Prepare to face any eventuality

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night gave directives to the cabinet secretary and the chiefs of three services to take all preparations for rescue and relief operations in case of any eventuality owing to the cyclonic storm in the north Bay, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister also personally talked to the deputy commissioners of the coastal districts and heads of different departments related to rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations.

She also ordered evacuation of the residents from the 'danger areas'.

Emergency round-the-clock information centre has also been opened at the Prime Minister's office to be contacted over the phone numbers 815000 and 328359.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister also made a fervent appeal

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## City AL plans to make Sept 30 meet a success

By Staff Correspondent

An extended meeting of the city unit of Awami League last night discussed ways of making a success its planned public meeting at the Outer Stadium in the city on September 30 and evaluated the 'anti-hartal' activities of the party.

The meeting was held at the central office of the party with its city unit president and Mayor Mohammad Hanif in the chair, party sources said.

Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to address the public meeting. The Outer Stadium is one of the seven venues in the city, newly designated by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) for holding public meetings.

Leaders of all front organisations of AL and its 11 district units will meet tomorrow at the party central office to discuss ways to ensure a big gathering at the meeting, the sources said.

At yesterday's meeting, party

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## Mayor begins dialogue on meeting venues

By Staff Correspondent

City Mayor Mohammad Hanif begins meeting city unit leaders of various political parties today to decide venues for holding public rallies in the city, amidst pre-conditions put forward by the major opposition political parties.

The Mayor is scheduled to meet leaders of Awami League today and those of the Left Democratic Front and Gano Forum tomorrow.

The Mayor had invited presidents and secretaries of the city units of some 30 political parties for the meeting. But Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party (Z-M) imposed pre-conditions for the discussion.

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## Inside Today

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## Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a one-page special supplement on the World Tourism Day '97  
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## Business

Hartal pushes share prices down  
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# Cyclone may hit coastal areas early today



The satellite picture taken by SPARRSO at 16:30 hrs yesterday shows the cyclone centre located at latitude 20.3° N & longitude 89.8° E, about 300 km off Khulna, 260 km from Chittagong and 170 km from Cox's Bazar. The maximum wind speed in the cyclone could be 150 km/hr. It was located at 22:30 hrs about 160 km from Chittagong and 100 km from Cox's Bazar.

### Star Report

The authorities sounded a red alert along the south-eastern coastal areas of the country yesterday as a cyclonic storm packing winds up to 150 kmph, whipping storm surges rising to four metres was poised to strike Chittagong, Noakhali coast in the early hours of today.

Reports from the coastal districts said at mid night last night the tip of the storm began probing the areas, triggering heavy rains and high winds, in undulating low-lying areas with at least three to four feet water.

Troops from the Army and the Navy sailors were ordered to help evacuation of people from the coastal belt and off-shore islands as the storm roared across the North Bay.

Authorities also ordered the aircraft and vessels of the Air Force and the Navy out of Chittagong base and port as a precautionary measure. Troops were also put on alert to help post-cyclone rescue operations.

Chittagong Port authorities ordered ships from the jetty to outer anchorage and suspended all cargo handling at 2 pm. In Mongla port, the ships were also ordered to moor safely and cargo handling was closed at 8 am. The Daily Star Correspondents from Chittagong and Khulna reported.

Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent reported last night that all precautionary measures were taken by the district administration. It lost telecommunication contact with Kutubdia island at 7:30 pm. High winds accompanied by rains created fears among the people, who rushed to cyclone shelters and concrete structures as the red alert was sounded.

Barring about 50 fishing boats, all the boats were back to safety, said Kabir Ahmed, President of Fishing Boats Owners Association.

Red lanterns and flags were hoisted atop roofs and trees. Red Crescent volunteers with megaphones and officials were warning of the impending danger.

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# Indonesian plane crash kills 234

JAKARTA, Sept 26: An Indonesian airbus A-300 crashed as it approached an airport on the smog hit island of Sumatra today and burst into flames, killing all 234 people on board, officials said, reports AFP.

The domestic Garuda Airlines flight from Jakarta came down in trees as it approached the town of Medan in a hilly region shrouded in thick haze from forest fires that have spread smog over southeast Asia.

An official from the state airline told a news briefing at the company headquarters here that flight Ga-152 from Jakarta to Medan had 222 passengers on board and a crew of 12 and none of them survived.

The cause of the accident was being investigated, the official said.

The dead included two Americans and six Japanese, Antara news agency said.

An Indonesian television station reported that the plane

## The Daily Star on the Internet

<http://www.dailystarnews.com>

## 2 youths beaten to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two young men were beaten to death at Uttara under Cantonment thana in the city early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Imran, 22, and Dulal, 20. Both of them were the residents of Uttara. A group of people beat them up suspecting that they were snatchers.

Police found fatally injured Imran and Dulal lying on a road at Uttara Sector No. 1 at about 2 am.

They were immediately taken to a nearby clinic, but the on-duty doctors declared them dead. The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A murder case was lodged with Cantonment thana. However, none was arrested till last night.

## Female students assault proctor, house tutors of Monnujan Hall

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 26: Several hundred female students of Rajshahi University gheraoed the official residence of Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque for about 4 hours this morning demanding removal of Monnujan Hall provost and proctor of the university.

During the gherao the angry students assaulted Proctor Prof M Mukhlesur Rahman and three house tutors of Monnujan Hall.

The students of Monnujan Hall also ransacked the provost office last night for her (Dr

See Page 12 Col 3

## KSA deports 1800 Bangladeshi, Pak, Indian nationals

KARACHI, Sept 26: A ship carrying 1,800 Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi nationals deported by Saudi Arabia for illegally entering the oil rich Kingdom is awaiting permission to berth at the Karachi Port, officials said today, reports AFP.

Al-Madina, with 732 Pakistanis and more than 1,000 Indians and Bangladeshis, arrived here from Jeddah late Thursday and was anchored outside the Arabian Sea port at Karachi.

It is still awaiting for a berth, a senior official said.

Saudi authorities expelled them for allegedly by passing the Kingdom's rules and regulations of immigration, local officials said.

Sources here said the captain of the ship had told the authorities that several passengers were sick while an unconfirmed report said two departed.

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## Rape: policeman closed, but victim missing

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 26: The police constable who allegedly raped a housewife at Nabadanga village was closed, but the victim has been missing since yesterday.

Constable Mujibar Rahman was handed over to the Rajpara thana after the villagers caught him red-handed and beat him up on Thursday night.

Police, however, today said the victim gave a statement that she was not raped, and she was sent to her village home. But her neighbours on the village said she did not reach home yet.

Condemning the incident, city BNP president and district general secretary, in a joint statement, demanded punishment to the offender.

# Fertiliser sale 'dull,' traders surrendering dealership

By Govinda Shil

Frustrated fertiliser traders are for the first time surrendering their dealerships, blaming the government's 'inconsistent' policy, while the agriculture minister calls them 'seasonal birds'.

Too many dealers, price control, low price for farm output and huge supply of fertiliser are seen as key factors for business being unattractive, leading the dealers to call it quits.

The dealers believe the government's projection for urea demand is too high for this year — 25 lakh tonnes — which has made urea business 'unattractive.' According to market sources, sales have gone down

by as much as 30 per cent.

"This demand is over-estimated," said Bangladesh Fertiliser Association's executive secretary Abdul Baten.

He told The Daily Star, a total of 400 dealers have surrendered their dealership so far because 'farmers are not buying urea.'

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury claims the number of dealers who have surrendered their dealership so far is less than 100.

Traders say they are getting nothing out of their security deposit with the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC). A total of Tk 80 crore came from approximately 3,800 dealers to the corporation's coffers.

Besides, they say, their profit margin fell 'drastically' this year due to low sales and low prices of urea.

"Why will the farmers buy urea when the prices of paddy and jute are quite low?" asks Baten.

BCIC officials back Baten, but do not endorse the dealers' behaviour.

"Withdrawal of trading license does not indicate a professional behavior," one official said. "Every business has its lean and peak seasons. Sometime you will do good business and sometime you won't." Some 1,000 dealers have taken new licenses, which reflects there is a business, the official added.

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## Picasso & others go on display from today

By Staff Correspondent

Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall and many other European master painters all are in Dhaka now. The original art works of world-class artists will be put on display at a week-long painting exhibition that begins in the city today.

The show titled 'Picasso and Others' would be held at Shipangan, a contemporary art gallery, with the assistance of 'Galerie Daniel Bessieche' of France, says a press release. The exhibition is considered as the 'biggest art extravaganza' ever held in Dhaka.

A total of 124 original art works of 45 painters and sculptors will be put on display. The master artists include, Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Salvador Dali, Gianni Bertini, Pierre Courtois, Paul Gen, and other maestro.

Beginning at 4:30 pm today at Shipangan at Dhanmondi the show will run through October 3 from 10 am to 8 pm every day.

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# Attack on Jubo Dal confce: 50 injured

JAMALPUR, Sept 26: A conference of Melandaha thana Jatiyatadabi Jubo Dal was foiled today in a terrorist attack that left some 50 people injured, reports UNB.

Seven of the injured, including district BNP convenor and former deputy minister for health Sirajul Haq and local correspondent of the Dainik Inqilab, were admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital.

The condition of Inqilab correspondent Nurul Alam Siddiqui, who was stabbed repeatedly during the attack, was said to be critical.

Former state minister and Jubo Dal general secretary Goyeshwar Chandra Roy and

some other central leaders also received minor wounds during the melee.

Central Jubo Dal and JASAS leaders at a press conference at the press club here tonight blamed ruling Awami League and Jatiya Party for the attack.

The press conference was addressed by Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, Rezaabuddin Chowdhury, Wasimul Bari Rajiv, Khaled Rakib, Khandakar Illias Mortaza and Shahida Akter.

Police later arrested four people, including Melandaha thana Jatiya Party president Kismet Pasha, the district administration sources said.

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## Poet Benazir dead

By Staff Correspondent

Poet Benazir Ahmed died of old-age complications at his Nandakumar Dutt Road residence in the city yesterday. He was 68, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons, two daughters, eight grandsons and grand daughters, and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Chawkbazar Shahi Mosque after Zohr prayers today.

Benazir Ahmed has two books to his credit and he was editor of a monthly health magazine for a few years.

## শনিবারেও ব্যাংকিং সেবা

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের সুবিধার্থে আজ থেকে প্রতি শনিবার সকাল ৯টা হতে দুপুর ১২টা পর্যন্ত আমাদের শাখাগুলো খোলা থাকবে।

এনসিসি ব্যাংক - উত্তম সেবার প্রতিশ্রুতি

ন্যাশনাল ক্রেডিট এন্ড কমার্স ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

NCC BANK



Police were deployed at the spot where a group of DU students yesterday broke part of the wall that separates the campus from Kataban market.

## 10 DU students hurt in clashes with Kataban shop owners

By DU Correspondent

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between a group of students of Dhaka University allegedly led by some Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists clashed with shop owners and employees at the adjacent Kataban market which belongs to the DU.

Witnesses said the students damaged some shops and vehicles during the hour-long clash at around noon. Some 10 shots were fired during the incident, mostly by shop owners.

Witnesses and sources in the halls said that the clash erupted when JCD leader Monir Hossain was assaulted by a shop owner at the Kataban market. Being informed, of this some students of Jasimuddin Hall rushed to the spot and they also

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