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## 7-party stages demonstration Wednesday

By Staff Correspondent  
The BNP-led seven-party alliance yesterday decided to observe 'demonstration day' on Wednesday in the city to protest arrests of four opposition leaders.

KM Obaidur Rahman, MP and Nurul Islam Manzur of BNP and Shah Moazzem Hossain of Jatiya Party (Z-M) were arrested on Tuesday on charges of their involvement in murders in Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975. Another alliance leader, Shaful Alam Prohan of Jagpa, was arrested on Saturday while leading a demonstration against the arrests of the three.

The planned Wednesday demonstration, also to protest filing of 'false' cases against other opposition leaders and

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## UNCTAD rules violated: BGMEA Foreign shipping lines raise terminal charges

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Oct 4: Enhancement of terminal handling charges (THC) by foreign shipping lines on import and export cargo forced the garments sector to incur additional expenditure of over Tk 14 crore per month.

This was said by First Vice President of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Mahub Ali at a press conference here today.

Mahub alleged that the foreign shipping lines had unilaterally enhanced the THC in violation of international code of conduct envisaged by UNCTAD (United Nations conference on Trade and Development).

BGMEA had already protested such moves taken by foreign shipping lines, he said.

The foreign shipping lines did not follow the UNCTAD rule of issuing any notice 150 days before enhancement of freight and other charges, he pointed out.

"It is an international conspiracy hatched by our competitors to destroy the country's booming garments sector,"

He called for government intervention by calling a joint meeting of shipping and commerce ministries to resolve the issue of enhancement of THC.

The charges were raised ranging from 300 per cent to 500 per cent by the foreign shipping lines like IPBC conference lines (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Celine conference lines) and TSA conference lines, Mahub said.

He pointed out that TSA conference lines imposed the enhancement of THC on the country's garments sector.

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## Bangladesh-bound rice trucks held up in India

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, Oct 4: Some 1500 Bangladesh-bound trucks loaded with different kinds of goods, mostly rice, have remained stranded on way to Benapole since October 1, reports from across the border said.

The trucks, carrying goods imported by Bangladesh, were held up by Indian exporters, Border Steering Committee and Truck Owners Associations who complained of 'high handedness' of officials of the Indian Ministry of Commerce.

According to a reliable source, the officials from enforcement department at Indian Commerce Ministry said 13 trucks carrying rice heading for Bangladesh didn't have valid papers and therefore detained them. The detained trucks were later handed over to the

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## Alternative steps if PCJSS sticks to demand: Minister

The government would look for alternative steps to form the Regional Council for Chittagong Hill Tracts if the PCJSS continues to reject the government nominations, reports UNB.

"If they continue to reject the nominations to the interim Regional Council, the government will have to think alternative steps," Minister for Hill Tracts Affairs Kalparanjan Chakma told newsmen after a meeting with the three chairmen of hill districts.

He said: They should not oppose the government nominations ... they should have respect to the Prime Minister for her relentless efforts to resolve the long-running CHT crisis.

However, the minister said he would not sit with Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) leaders today to discuss the deadlock.

Describing the conflict between the PCJSS and government as unexpected, he said behaviour of the PCJSS leaders went against the spirit of the peace agreement.

The PCJSS has rejected the nominations of three Bangalee leaders to the interim Regional Council to be led by Jyotindra Bodhipria Larma popularly known as Shanthu Larma.

Demanding nomination of its selected leaders, the PCJSS accused the government of violating the 'unwritten part' of the

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## Highest wickets for Healy

RAWALPINDI, Oct 4: Australia's Ian Healy recorded the highest number of Test dismissals in cricket today when Pakistan's Wasim Akram became his 356th victim, reports Reuters.

Healy caught Akram as Pakistan struggled to stage off an innings defeat at the Pindi ground.

He equalled Rodney Marsh's previous record of 355 victims when he caught Mohammad Wasim in Pakistan's first innings on Thursday.

(More on Page 13)

## OMS of rice in flood-hit areas soon

The government has completed all arrangements for launching open market sale (OMS) of rice in the flood affected areas reports BSS.

This was informed at a meeting of foodgrains procurement, distribution and monitoring committee yesterday.

Adequate quantity of rice would be allocated for maintaining the OMS operation every month side by side with the allocation of foodgrains for vulnerable group feeding (VGF) programmes throughout the country.

The meeting, presided over by Food and Agriculture Adviser to the Prime Minister M Anisuzzaman, was attended by Industries and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury and Minister of State for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleque.

The meeting was told that preparatory measures for test relief and food-for-work programmes and development of rural infrastructure by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) are being finalised rapidly. These programmes would create massive income-generating job opportunities in the rural areas.

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STILL PLENTY OF WOES: With the roof top of their house washed away by flood waters, these women in the city's Rajarbagh area have to cook food under open sky.

## Peace deal at AJM: Rivals doubt prospect

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, Oct 4: A tripartite meeting among police, labour leaders and Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) officials today agreed to work together for restoration of normalcy in the trouble-torn jute manufacturing plants.

A two-and-a-half-hour 'peace meeting' unanimously adopted a set of resolutions aimed at freeing the AJM from terrorism and restoring peace and congenial working atmosphere in the mill premises.

After the meeting, however, leaders of all the three major workers' groups, backed by the ruling Awami League and the opposition BNP and Jatiya Party, expressed their doubts about peace prospects.

But police officials hoped that proper implementation of the agreement would help avoid clashes between the rival groups.

The peace initiative followed Monday's armed clashes between the supporters of AL and JP and a police raid Saturday when 11 alleged terrorists belonging to both groups were arrested and arms and ammunition in large quantities were recovered.

ASP Emadul Haq, AJM Manager (Labour) SM Haroon and representatives of three workers' groups -- AL-backed CBA leader Ismail Hossain, pro-BNP labour leader Abul Khair and JP-supported workers' leader Delwar Hossain -- led their respective sides.

The meeting, initiated by police, was held at Siddiganj thana office. The deal carried signatures of the representatives from all the five sides.

The meeting agreed on the following issues: maintaining law and order in the mill area, helping the police recover illegal arms and nab terrorists, ensuring coexistence of the members of rival groups and free movement of all workers in the mill premises.

To this end, the meeting decided, leaders of all the three labour groups would move around together on the mill campus to create a harmonious atmosphere for peaceful coexistence of the members of rival groups, fighting against each

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## Jail Killing Case Court order didn't specify division for arrested 3

By Staff Correspondent  
The CMM's Court order did not specify which division the three arrested leaders -- KM Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Manjur and Shah Moazzem Hossain -- were entitled to while they were sent to Dhaka Central Jail on Saturday.

The court in its order did not specify anything about their division," said the DC of Dhaka, who is also the District Magistrate. He, however, did not elaborate.

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## Two depressions over Bay likely

Two depressions are likely to form over the Bay this month and one might turn into cyclone, weathermen said, reports APB.

A long-range Met Office forecast says the monsoon will die out within October 15, giving place to pre-winter dry-wet weather.

Predicting rain the weather office said Chittagong, Sylhet and Barisal divisions could have the highest fall of 200-250 mm each against normal 213, 197 and 234 mm respectively during the current month.

Dhaka division may receive 150-200 mm rain against normal 167 mm, Rajshahi 100-150 against normal 132 mm, and Khulna 120-170 against normal 146 mm.

## AL activist shot dead in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, Oct 4: An activist of Daulatpur Thana Awami League was gunned down by some unidentified assailants at Thukrh village under Dumria thana early this morning.

The victim, Zakir Gazi, 30, came under attack while he was returning home from a puja mandap.

Police later recovered his body from a marshy land.

Police said, the deceased was wanted in connection with a case lodged with Daulatpur thana on 25 August, 1998 suspecting his involvement in the murder of five armed cadres of an outlawed party.

## Rouf alleges pressure to withdraw, vote buying

By Staff Correspondent  
FBBCCI presidential candidate M A Rouf Chowdhury complained yesterday of vote-buying and continued 'pressure' to withdraw from the ensuing election.

"Unlike any other election before, this election has been turned into an arena of dirty tricks," Chowdhury, chairman of Bangladesh Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association, told a press conference at the National Press Club.

"One presidential candidate Kazi Shalig has been forced to withdraw from the race, I, the only remaining candidate, have been put under enormous pressure to step down. Encouraged by their earlier success the forces are still at work," Chowdhury said.

Chowdhury, however, refused to identify 'the forces' which were putting pressure on him. "I will not name anybody. I leave it up to the press to find out. I would like to see the press play the role of the watchdog of the national conscience in the holding of a free and fair election."

He also complained that his opponent was turning down proposals of a joint question-and-answer session.

## Tactics to win elections, says A Awal Mintoo

By Staff Correspondent  
FBBCCI presidential candidate Abdul Awal Mintoo yesterday denied allegations of putting pressure on his rival MA Rouf Chowdhury to withdraw from the race calling it "a tactic to win the election."

He also denied allegations of vote buying and behind-the-scenes move to force his rival to withdraw.

"Why should I pressure him to withdraw? He cannot prove what he is saying. He is saying all these for getting publicity and using as a tactic to win the election," Mintoo told a group of journalists at a panel projection meeting yesterday.

If elected, Mintoo said he would fight for accelerating private sector growth, creating a data bank and a strong FBBCCI secretariat.

He said the country was moving from a strictly regulated economy to a free market economy. "Open market policy and privatisation are in the manifesto of every political party and yet the process is slow and being delayed."

He said the FBBCCI needs strong leadership "at this stage" to deal with these issues emphasising on resolving the port and power problems.

"If the growth target is set at seven per cent, then the power sector should have a growth of 10 per cent to attain that growth," Mintoo said.

Mintoo's 15 executive member panel consists of Abu Alam Chowdhury of Advertising Agencies Association of Bangladesh, Obaidur Rahman of

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## Visit to a char in Rajshahi Widespread complaints of inadequate relief

From Naimul Haq and Abdul Wadood  
RAJSHAHI, Oct 4: Thousands of flood-hit people in the bordering Godagari thana are badly in need of relief. Many of them complained that what they got so far was too inadequate. In the absence of any work, they depend only on relief.

During a visit to Char Asharidaha, people were found sitting idle with no work to do. Most of the agricultural lands were not yet fit for sowing of seeds. Over 95 per cent of the kutcha houses were completely damaged by the devastating floods. "I have never witnessed such a flood," said 62-year old Jahanara.

There is hardly any construction material to re-build the kutcha houses. Most of the people were living in open space. "I have taken shelter in the open in Bhuban Para about 10 days ago. Water has not receded completely from there," said Kaiser, a day labourer.

Though officials claim proper distribution of relief, most of the villagers deny that. "We did not get any relief in the last couple of days," said Awal, a boatman.

Meanwhile, there are widespread allegations of improper distribution of relief. The ruling party members reportedly have been given responsibility of distributing relief. However, many people alleged looking of relief.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Md Mizanur Rahman Minu said, "As per my observation and information, proper distribution of relief is not taking place." He said, "As per the allocation, each flood victim is supposed to get Tk 1100, 34 kg of rice and a lungi or saree for every 6-7 days. But people were not getting that."

The Mayor said, "I have insisted on army intervention for proper relief distribution. In the 1988 and 1991 floods, army distributed relief. Why not use army for relief distribution now?"

He also mentioned the problem of floating people in Rajshahi city. "More than 80,000 floating people arrived here in the last 60 days from neighbouring districts," he said.

## Prophan, 14 others sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent  
Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (Jagpa) president Shaful Alam Prophan and 14 of his associates were sent to Dhaka Central Jail while one of them was granted bail by the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday.

The Jagpa president and 15 others were arrested by police Saturday afternoon from the city's Bijay Nagar on charges of damaging government property and attacking police.

Motijheel police yesterday produced the 16 Jagpa activists before the CMM's court at around 3:30 pm yesterday.

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## BCL, BNP activists clash at Barisal: 45 hurt

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, Oct 4: At least 45 people, including 16 policemen were injured during a clash between the activists of ruling party-backed Chhatra League and main opposition BNP in the town today.

The clash erupted at about 11:30 am when the supporters of BNP and its front organisations attacked a BCL procession near the BNP office.

BNP arranged a protest rally in front of its local office on Sadar Road as part of its central programme to hold rallies and demonstrations in five divisional headquarters today protesting filing of 'false cases' against party leaders and workers and demanding release of its central leaders KM Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur.

BCL brought out the procession demanding punishment to those involved in the jail killing. Several gunshots were heard during the hour-long clash. The offices of BNP and Jubo Dal were also ransacked.

Police lobbed 21 tear gas shells to disperse the clashing groups.

BNP claimed that at least six of its activists, including General Secretary of Barisal College Students Union, received bullet injuries.

Police picked up three persons -- Abdul Mannan, Jasimuddin and Siddiqur Rahman -- from the spot.

Armed police were deployed in the town to avert further clash.

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## Delhi plans death sentence for rapists

NEW DELHI, Oct 4: Hemmed in by increasing protests over the rape of four Catholic nuns in a village convent, India's hard-line interior minister announced today the government would amend the law to lay down the death sentence for rapists, reports AP.

India's present laws are inadequate against rapists and declining moral values led to the rape of a 90-year-old woman and a four-year-old girl in two recent incidents. Lal Krishna Advani was quoted as saying by United News of India.

Touring the central state of Madhya Pradesh -- where the nuns' rapes allegedly took place

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## Hartal observed at Balaganj

From Staff Correspondent  
SYLHET, Oct 4: A six-hour hartal was observed at Balaganj thana headquarters today protesting attack on BCL leader Sirajul Islam Taslu.

Taslu was staffed lastnight by the activists of party's rival faction.

The attack triggered off violent clash between the two fac-

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