

## Top AL leaders not bothered by Khaleda's call

By Nazmul Ashraf  
Senior leaders of the ruling Awami League are "not at all concerned" by opposition leader Khaleda Zia's announcement yesterday that she was launching her "one-point, oust-government movement".

They said that the latest opposition campaign was "bound to fail due to lack of public support for it".

At a public rally in the city, the BNP chief made the declaration after a hard-hitting speech denouncing the government. Other opposition parties also announced identical programmes.

"We're not concerned at all. She has the right to launch such a campaign. But we're not bothered because people are not with her and they will not respond to her call," said AL acting chief Amir Hossain Amu.

"We have been elected by the people under caretaker government for five years. The government will complete its full term," said Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed.

"Anyone can make any announcement. It is her prerogative. But it is the people who will decide our fate," Tofail said.

The minister said the BNP had been trying to dislodge the AL government "since the very first day" the parliament began functioning. "But the parliament and its standing committees are functioning smoothly. Ours is a transparent and accountable government working under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with continued support of the people."

Under Hasina's leadership, he said, the country's interna-

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## SC orders Unocal, Occidental to maintain status quo for 6 months

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday rejected Occidental's petition for stay on the injunction stepped on its transfer deals with Unocal, reports UNB.

In its order the court asked both the US oil giants to maintain status quo for six months. Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman of the Appellate Division after hearing both the parties rejected the application, upholding the High Court Division's injunction given on September 20.

Barrister Mouded Ahmed appeared for Unocal's petitioners while barrister Raque-ul-Haq with advocates Ahsanul Karim, Manjur Hasan and Faheemul Haq appeared for plaintiff-respondents.

Following an application of Maxwell Engineering Works Limited, a local agent for Occidental, the High Court Division on September 20 passed an interim order of injunction directing Occidental and Unocal to maintain status quo on transfer of shares of the former to the latter in Bangladesh.

It also directed Petrobangla not to make any payments to Unocal against the gas supplied by Occidental to Petrobangla. The prohibitive order has been given for six months.

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#### Prayer Timings

September 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	5:00
Juma	12:15	1:30
Asr	4:30	4:45
Maghrib	6:00	6:04
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Indian HC summoned, protest lodged

# BSF kills 2 BDR men in C'nawabganj

RAJSHAHI, Sept 22: Two members of Bangladesh Rifles were killed and two others abducted by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Shibganj border in Chapainawabganj district Tuesday night, reports UNB.

The BSF, however, returned the bodies of the abducted BDR members and their arms and ammunition following a battalion commander level meeting this afternoon.

The dead were identified as sepoy Laxman Chandra Sen, 25, and sepoy Rafiquddin, 34. Officials said four BDR men

of Zahurpurtek border outpost (BOP) in Shibganj thana while on regular patrol on river Pagla seized a boat with huge copper and brass being smuggled to India.

Hearing the news, the BSF personnel reached the spot by another boat and tried to snatch away the seized boat and smuggled goods, the BDR officials said.

As BDR men tried to resist their bid, the BSF personnel opened fire on the BDR patrol party, killing sepoy Laxman on the spot and injuring sepoy Rafiquddin.

Later, the BSF took away the body along with seriously wounded Rafiq and two other BDR men — havildar Nurul Islam and sepoy Rezaul — first to BSF camp at Bazitpur and later to Narukhaki camp in India.

Sepoy Rafiquddin succumbed to bullet injuries at the Narukhaki camp.

The boatman of the BDR boat managed to escape during BSF firing.

Being informed of the incident, BDR 34 Rifle battalion Commander Lt Col Maksudul Haq rushed to the spot and pro-

## Countrywide hartal Oct 3

# BNP to lay siege to EC office Sept 30

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chief Khaleda Zia yesterday declared the beginning of the "one-point" movement against the 39-month Awami League government "to topple it from power immediately".

"Now our movement is to oust Awami League and save the country," she told a mammoth public meeting at Patan Majdan in the city in the afternoon.

"From now there will be no other demand. The one-point movement will continue until the fall of this autocratic and subservient government," she said as the AL completed its 39 months in power yesterday.

The Dhaka city unit of BNP organised the meeting as part of the nationwide "Demonstration Day" observed yesterday by the BNP-led four-

party opposition alliance. Thousands of people braved heavy rains to hear Khaleda speak.

Khaleda also announced that her party would "lay siege to the Election Commission office" on September 30 and enforce a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal on October 3.

"The AL government, sending its downfall, is roaring. Nothing will work because the people of the country have become united to topple it from power immediately."

"Bombs, bullets, teargas shells and armed goons cannot stop us," she said.

"I'll not stop until giving farewell to the betrayers... the corrupt and subservient government... the Indian agents."



Many city roads went under knee-deep water due to incessant rains yesterday. Picture shows premises of the GPO. — Star photo

## Non-govt school, college teachers' strike today

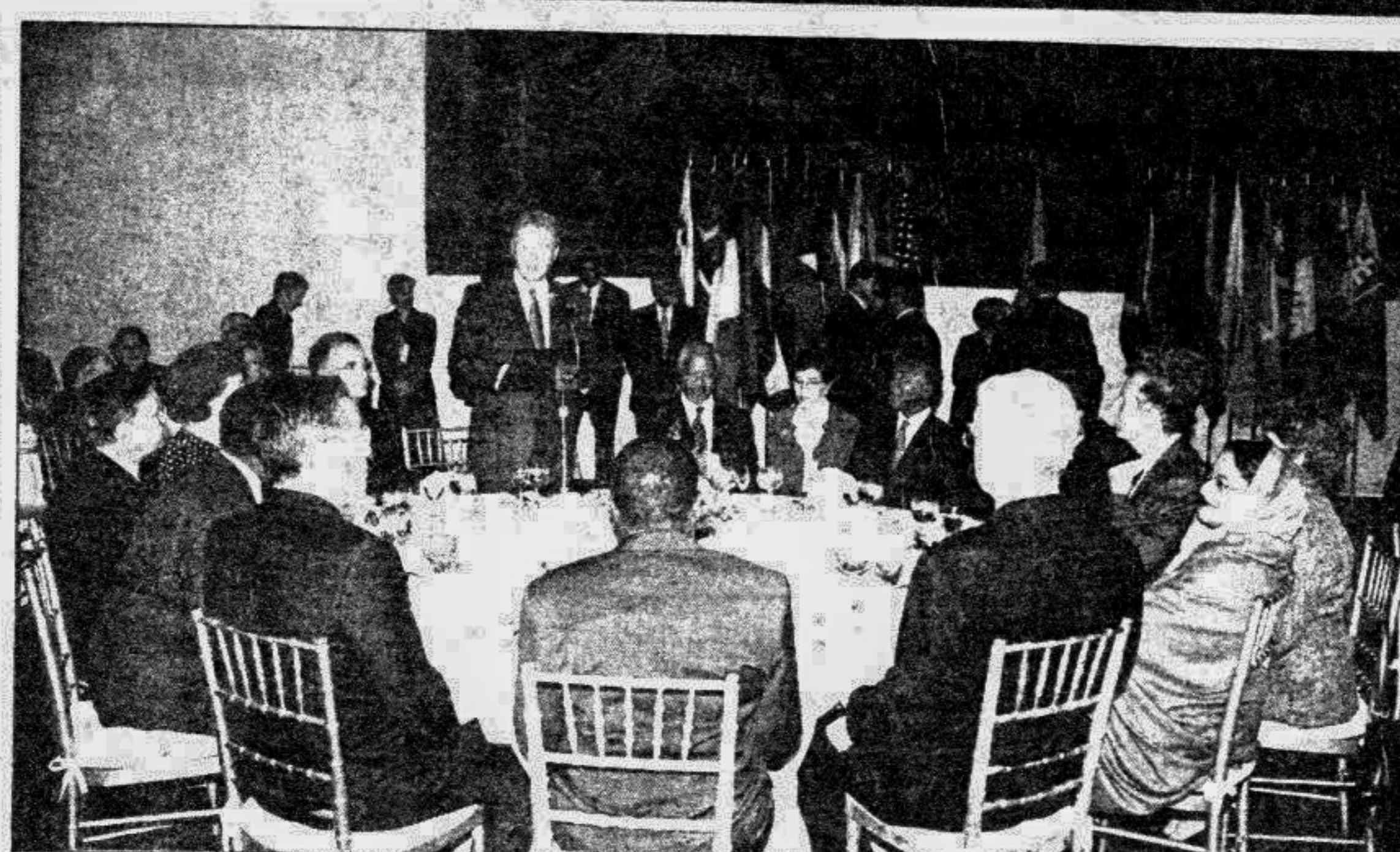
By Staff Correspondent

School and college teachers all over the country will observe a work abstention programme today to press home their 15-point demand, including payment of 100 per cent salary to non-government teachers as per government commitment.

The work abstention programme was announced by Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Association (BFTA) following an emergency meeting of Bangladesh College Teachers Association (BCTA), a member of the BFTA with Principal AKM Zahurul Islam in the chair, said a press release.

The teachers demand includes implementation of seven-point recommendation for checking malpractice in public examinations.

The BFTA leaders urged the teachers and employees of schools, colleges and madrasahs to make today's programme a success.



US President Bill Clinton speaks at the luncheon in honour of heads of state and government attending the 54th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York Tuesday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended. — PID photo

## Hasina tells press in New York

# My govt is always ready for dialogue with Opposition

By Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Sept 22: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government is always eager to solve any problem through discussion and will again invite the opposition to talks to resolve all disputes, reports UNB.

"I am not afraid of the opposition's repeated threat, because I have nothing to lose. I will call them again to sit for discussion after returning home," she said, addressing a press conference at Grand Hyatt Hotel Tuesday evening.

"The opposition parties are calling hartal without issues and killing people in the name of movement. Even they called hartal when I was coming to US to attend the 25th anniversary of the country's joining the United Nations.

"If it was not the 25th anniversary I would not come," the prime minister added.

Hasina said she talked with President Clinton and he is keen to visit Bangladesh. His visit is being delayed because of India and Pakistan, as he wanted to visit the three countries at a time.

Clinton hoped to visit Bangladesh by the beginning of the next year, she added.

Referring to the legalisation of expatriate Bangladeshis, the prime minister said she had discussed the matter with the US government.

About the 25th anniversary of joining the UN, she said Bangladesh joined the world body in 1974 under the leadership of Bangabandhu. "I have come to the 25th anniversary

celebrations. It is a great pleasure for me."

Coming back on the opposition is so restless. The next general election will be held under a caretaker government. They could go to power if the people elect them, she said.

"I am doing positive things and trying to build up the country and working for the people." About the opposition movement, Hasina told the journalists, laughing, "She (Khaleda Zia) is following me, but she is making a mistake. I am trying to help the country."

About the proposed Public Security Act, she said: "BNP had passed a terrorism control act to curb the opposition. But we are trying to pass it to ensure

## Rain: Many city streets flooded

By Special Correspondent

Intermittent rains since Tuesday evening flooded low-lying areas and streets in the city and elsewhere in the country as a late monsoon rained again.

Starting late Tuesday evening the rains driven by occasional high winds continued almost throughout yesterday with a brief respite in the afternoon.

It totalled 125 mm in the city in the last 24 hours, ending at 6 p.m. yesterday, widely disrupting the normal life of citizens.

Clogged drains and incomplete storm drainage system once again accentuated the plight of a metropolis evidently unable to cope with extra rains.

Pedestrians and vehicles found it difficult to negotiate through the flooded streets where only tricycle rickshaws could ply, ignoring floating, stinky debris.

Motor vehicles found it quite a challenge to move around places like Rajarbagh where knee-deep water gathered, flooding even the Rajarbagh police lines.

Many vehicles broke down and lay stranded in the flooded streets. Long queues were formed on flooded streets, as comparatively luckier ones moved cautiously.

Bazaars had less than normal supply of day to day essentials and perishables. Pools of water and slime also made it difficult for the people to procure essentials.

It was a bad day for the city's legions of poor. They found the rains hampering their daily bread winning by working as day labourers, pedalling rick-

## Have blood test when you feel feverish

By Naimul Haq

Doctors and immunologists have called for laboratory examination for presence of the two virus and malaria parasite if and when one feels feverish or has similar symptoms.

"If one has fever the best thing to do now is to test the blood," said a leading physician of the city.

He said, "In case of children, blood tests should be done without delay. Because, when children acquire the virus or parasite, it gets active and invades faster than in the case of the adults. One, therefore, should not ignore sickness in the case of children."

Four people have died in the city of suspected cerebral

malaria and Japanese Encephalitis virus attack putting the local experts in a state of confusion.

The equally dangerous Dengue virus was also found in four people in the city after testing ten blood samples at IEDCR.

Local experts say that usually dengue and Japanese Encephalitis are not prevalent in city areas although its transmitters, mosquitoes are commonly found in the city areas.

"That is why we are so concerned," said a senior government physician.

Institute of Epidemiology and Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) at Mahakhali

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## Smugglers disclose names of some persons, places

By Staff Correspondent

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) is hopeful of tracing out local agents of the international drug trafficking racket who were linked with the biggest ever drug smuggling into the country, sources in the DNC said.

Three Pakistanis were arrested along with 24.1 kg of heroin from Hotel Razmoni Isa Kha in the city on Monday. They are Ibrahim and Alekzan from Peshawar and Rais Khan from Karachi.

They were taken to the DNC head office at Shegun Bagicha yesterday and interrogated, the

sources said.

"Investigation is going on and we will be able to unearth the racket soon, DNC DG Modabir Hossain Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

Several telephone numbers in Bangladesh were recovered from them. These are being checked, one source said but declined to disclose for the sake of investigation.

The smugglers also disclosed names of some persons they met and places they visited in the city, the source said.

The heroin was swept at sev-

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## Clinton talks with Hasina, to fix date for visit soon

NEW YORK, Sept 22: US President Bill Clinton said he would visit Bangladesh to personally see the development activities now going on in the country, reports UNB.

He made the comment while talking to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a luncheon at the UN headquarters hosted by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in honour of heads of the states and the governments on Tuesday.

President Clinton said the Bangladesh Prime Minister has done so many good things in her country and he wants to see these things personally. He said he would shortly fix up the date of his visit.

Prime Minister Sheikh

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## Dhaka, Paris for expansion of economic cooperation

NEW YORK, Sept 22: Bangladesh and France yesterday stressed the need for expansion of economic cooperation further for the benefit of the two peoples, reports BSS.

The unanimity was expressed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her French counterpart Lionel Jospin when they held a meeting at the UN headquarters.

Jospin said Bangladesh's development initiatives drew their attention. "The political relations between our two countries are excellent, but our economic cooperation should be further expanded," he said.

Sheikh Hasina told her French counterpart that Bangladesh goods should have more access to European markets including France.

The issues of French investment in Bangladesh and French assistance for flood protection in Bangladesh also came up for discussion, during the meeting.

Jospin lauded the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and paid his tribute to the great leader of Bangladesh.

## 600 slums, 108 godowns on rly lands demolished in Khulna

KHULNA, Sept 22: A joint team of Police, BDR and Ansar personnel, and railway officials removed a number of slums, godowns and business establishments from ghat areas in the city today, reports UNB.

The team with the help of 40 labourers bulldozed 600 slums and 108 godowns and business establishments at ghat number 4 and 5.

The slum dwellers and businessmen illegally erected their slums and establishment on the lands of Bangladesh Railway.

The slums were believed to be the safe den for city's top terrorist Ershad Shikder.

Haji Mohammad Selim MP, KCCI President SM Nazrul Islam and businessman Abdus Sattar were among the owners of the godowns.

About 15 employees of Madina Traders, owned by Haji Selim, tried to prevent police from demolishing its godown. They were seen trying to contact by mobile phone with Haji Selim.

## Sister-in-law of Rubel cross-examined

By Court Correspondent

Sister-in-law of Rubel was cross-examined in the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka

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## Den of terrorists, abductors? DU demolishes shops near ZH Hall

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday demolished shops at Polashi adjacent to Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall following two alleged kidnapping incidents on the campus.

The demolition was carried out at around 10am in presence of the university officials and a huge contingent of police personnel.

At least six business establishments, including a telephone and fax centre, a hair-cutting saloon, a courier service centre, a restaurant and some tea stalls were raged to the ground during the three-hour swoop. A bull dodger of Dhaka City Corporation was used for the drive.

Earlier in the morning, police asked the shop owners to remove their equipment and

## Jessore-Benapole track to be restored by mid-Oct

By Shehab Ahmed

Bangladesh Railway is all set to restore the 32 km section of the Jessore-Benapole broad gauge track to connect the rail head between Bangladesh and Indian sections at the border point for freight trains by mid-October.

Work on restoration of the railway track that had fallen in to disuse since 1976 was completed in December last at a cost of Tk 20 crore.

"We hope to run one train a day, hauling goods from the Benapole border point," railway sources said, adding that it would ease congestion at the terminus currently served by trucks from India, delivering imported cargo at customs bay.

This will be the fourth rail head to be linked between the two countries apart from the Darshana, Rohanpur and Birol points.

It is likely to boost the Rail-

way's revenue earning from freight services to and from India currently totalling about Tk 34 crore.

On Sept 18, a locomotive and few trolleys carrying top rail officials and engineers made a trial run on the track, which needed fresh rails, sleepers, earth filling, ballast and signal links.

Further testing on the line continues. The telecom links are also being checked before the trains start running on the rolling stock, the sources said.

An inter-ministerial meeting recently reviewed all aspects of co-operation between the railway, customs, revenue, immigration and other concerned departments. Only a few formalities on trade protocol between Bangladesh and India remained to be sorted out, which are expected to be completed by mid-October.

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