

The Daily Star

TOSHIBA AC

MADE IN JAPAN
The Perfect Combination of Style and Performance

RANGS GROUP

BUY NOW — PAY LATER



Whirlpool
HOME APPLIANCES USA
Refrigerator
Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

VOL. IX NO. 251 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

ASHWIN 21 1406 BS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 6, 1999

JAMADIUS SANI 25, 1420 HIJRI

16 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

Defamation Planned law to sue media people dropped

Star Report

The government has finally abandoned the idea of having a new law empowering Public Prosecutors to sue media people writing and publishing 'defamatory' articles on the VIPs.

While signing the minutes of the Cabinet meeting concerned recently, the PM 'withdrew' the item from the agenda under which the issue was discussed at the Cabinet in the first week of September, sources told the Daily Star.

The Home Ministry proposed to the government a few weeks ago for providing Public Prosecutors (PPs) with legal authority to sue media people for writing as well as publishing 'defamatory' articles on the President, the Prime Minister, Ministers and other state VIPs including top civil servants. The ministry to this end sought

See Page 11 Col 6

PM's directive to unearth corruption in Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust units

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to unearth corruption and irregularities in various enterprises under Bangladesh Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister's directive came at the 61st meeting of the Board of Trustees at her office.

The Prime Minister presided over the meeting.

Sheikh Hasina, who is also chairman of the Board of Trustees, asked the authorities concerned to submit a report on irregularities and corruption in various units of the trust in the next board meeting.

She further directed to allocate necessary fund in the supplementary budget of the current fiscal for implementation of her government's decision to enhance the monthly allowance of the injured freedom fighters and the family members of the martyrs from 40 per cent to 60 per cent.

Sheikh Hasina asked the authorities concerned to set up a modern hospital for the freedom fighters at Mirpur and also complete the construction work of 'Muktijoddha Palli' there.

The meeting approved, for the first time, service rules of the officers and employees of the Kalyan Trust and its units.

The Board of Trustees agreed in principle to utilise unused land under different units of the trust for commercial utilisation to enhance the income of the organisation.

CEC to consider Siddiqui's request for gamchha

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday assured Kader Siddiqui, Bir Uttam that the Commission would actively consider his request to allocate him Gamchha as his election symbol in the up-coming parliamentary by-elections in Tangail-8 constituency.

Kader Siddiqui, who applied for Gamchha (a thin towel that is popular in rural areas and usually produced by handloom factories) a few days ago, called on the CEC yesterday.

Abu Hena assured Kader Siddiqui that he would consider

See page 11 Col 3

Bangladesh may get 8 Chinese fighters

By M Anwarul Haq

Bangladesh is expected to acquire eight Chinese F-7 MB fighter aircraft shortly, highly placed sources said.

The Air Force is already using several such supersonic fighters that serve both attack and defence purposes, but intended to acquire more of the multi-role fighters for which the government gave a policy approval in October 1997.

The F-7 MBs are specially designed for Bangladesh with the last initial B standing for Bangladesh, the sources said.

At that time, recognising the Air Force's need for augmenting its depleting fleet capacity by two more squadrons from its previous strength of five, the government decided to go ahead with the procurement of eight Russian MIG-29s and eight

Chinese F-7 MB fighters.

Meanwhile, as the process of purchase through the office of Director General, Defence Purchase (DGGP) was going on, the Russian government offered an inter-government deal at a 'cheaper price and on convenient financial terms' for the MIG-29s.

The government then decided to go ahead with the inter-governmental deal first. However, the purchase of Chinese F-7 MBs were deferred for two years 'for financial reasons'.

Dhaka subsequently negotiated a state-to-state deal with Moscow to procure eight MIG-29s at a cost of 124 million US dollars inclusive of aircraft hardware, primary armaments and ammunition, training,

transportation and technical services.

The agreement on purchase of MIG-29s was on easy financial terms since payments are spread over a nine-year period, sources said. The first payment of 10 per cent was made in last June, the second, 20 per cent, in September while the remaining 70 per cent would be paid in seven financial years beginning from fiscal 2001.

However, sources said the Chinese government is offering to supply eight F-7 MBs on a 'deferred payment basis' considering the 'friendly ties' between the two countries.

Meanwhile, 10 pilots, 10 engineers and 60 technicians of Bangladesh Air Force left for Russia last month for a three-

See Page 11 Col 8

UCBL: Status quo to continue

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday extended its stay on a district court order that put on hold a district court judgement restraining Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and four others from continuing as UCBL chairman and directors.

In a fresh order yesterday the court also said that the status quo granted earlier will also continue for two more weeks from the day of the opening of the High Court on October 22.

On September 19, 1999 Aktheruzzaman Chowdhury Babu filed a revision petition with the High Court against an order of the District and Sessions Judge that had stayed an ad-interim injunction passed by a sub-ordinate court -- The Fourth Assistant Judge -- on September 16, 1999.

The Fourth Assistant Judge had passed the order after Babu and four others pleaded for an

See Page 12 Col 5

Monsanto abandons its 'terminator technology'

By Reaz Ahmad

World's leading biotechnology multinational Monsanto Corporation, USA, yesterday announced stoppage of pursuing the infamous 'terminator technology' after years of noisy opposition from pro-environment activists throughout the world.

According to a BBC radio bulletin last night, a Monsanto spokesman declared that the company would not pursue the terminator technology showing respect to the concerns expressed by farmers and environmental groups worldwide.

Monsanto along with four other top multinationals account for 23 per cent of the commercial seed market and 100 per cent of GM seed market worldwide. Monsanto's business volume was worth 1,800 million US dollars in 1998.

'Terminator technology' is

seen by pro-environment groups as 20th century's greatest evil for systematic extinction of resource-poor third-world countries' rights to preserve and grow their respective homegrown seeds.

The BBC radio said that this technology sterilizes seeds' capacity to grow naturally and forces farmers, that otherwise save their own seeds for next season, to depend wholly on multinationals.

It has been learnt from international sources that many terminator seeds were in the pipeline of being patented. If allowed to be marketed these seeds would force farmers to use multinationals' prescribed pesticides and herbicides unless they want to see their crops to be mutilated.

The Ambassador said he

See Page 11 Col 8

Dialogue can only discuss one-pt demand, Khaleda tells Holzman

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said her party was willing to have a dialogue with the government only to work out its resignation.

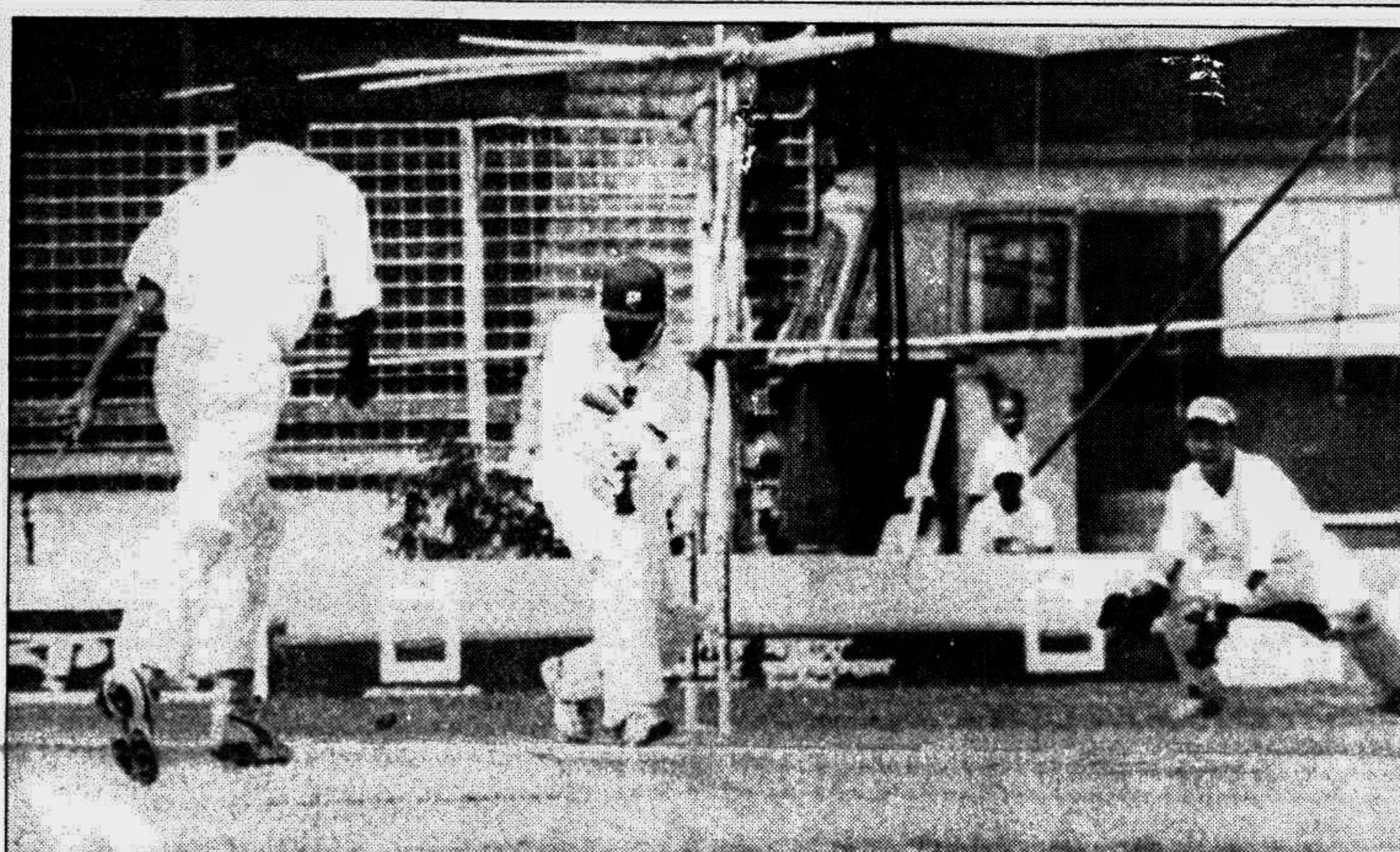
She said this when US Ambassador John C. Holzman called on her at her official residence in the evening.

Talking to newsmen after the one-hour talks, Holzman said that he had asked in Parliament about her reaction to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's offer for talks on some 'specific demands'.

Khaleda Zia told him that her party did not get any official offer for talks. 'If we get such an offer, talks may be held on modalities of implementation of the one-point demand,' the US envoy quoted her as telling him.

The Ambassador said he

See Page 12 Col 1



Beating the best: Brian Lara's leg stump is sent flying by medium-pacer Monjurul Islam yesterday. —Star photo

Bangladesh fare fairly: Enamul bags 5 wkts

By Sports Reporter

A freakish delivery from Brian Lara partly spoiled what could have been a successful second day yesterday, marked by a fantastic five-wicket haul by Enamul Hoque, for Bangladesh in the Dutch-Bangla three-day match against the visiting West Indies at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Bangladesh were comfortably placed at 59 for two in their second innings after bowling out the powerful West Indies for 249 when an odd ball from Lara struck Naimur Rahman's

off-stump, which left the home-side with their works cut out for saving the match.

Naimur was taken by surprise as the fifth delivery from the West Indies captain kept very low and rattled the stump after taking a couple of bounces. The sad dismissal of Naimur left Bangladesh with a lead of only 30 runs and seven wickets in hand.

Aminul was batting on 22 at the other end when stumps were drawn for the day after Naimur's dismissal.

Bangladesh's cause was not helped by the news that opener Mehrib Hossain, who sustained a shoulder injury while fielding, is unlikely to bat in the second innings.

Apart from the last-minute disappointment, the Bangladesh bowlers performed laudably to restrict Lara's men to a lead of only 20 runs. They were dismissed for 249.

See Page 11 Col 7

Indians dominate but Darsha dazzles

KATHMANDU, Oct 5: India dominated the 8th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, but Sri Lanka provided the individual star with sprint queen Damayanthi Darsha taking three gold medals all in record time, reports AFP.

Hosts Nepal were second in the overall medal tally, with 31 golds compared to India's 102, while also winning praise for the facilities and organisation of the 10-day event, which ended here Monday.

Darsha, the golden girl of the Asian Games last December, more than made up for the void caused by the absence of a number of top sprinters here, among them her fellow countrywoman Susanthika Jayasinghe.

She set SAF Games records in the 100m, 200m and 400m, confirming the growing stature of Sri Lankan sprinters.

Pushing Darsha for headline status were the Indian trio of Sunita Rani, Jaspal Rana and Nisha Millet.

While Darsha was the sprint queen, Rani was in charge of the longer distances with record-shattering back-to-back performances in the women's 10,000m and 1500m.

In the 10,000m, she clocked 34min 38.72sec to break the previous Games record by more than a minute. A few hours later she was back on the track to take the 1500m in 4:14.23, clipping more than five seconds off the previous mark.

Rana was equally dominant in shooting events where he bagged 10 gold medals, and Millet reigned in the swimming pool, being unchallenged in the women's freestyle and backstroke events.

For Nepal, in addition to the performances of its athletes, one of the main benefits of the Games was the improvement to infrastructure.

The country now boasts sports facilities capable of hosting major international events.

See Page 11 Col 8

Train crash kills 26 in London

LONDON, Oct 5: Twenty-six people were killed and 160 injured, at least 20 seriously, when two high-speed trains collided today near London's Paddington station during the morning rush hour, transport police said, reports AFP.

One train derailed and carriages caught fire after the crash shortly after 8:00 am local time.

Police said the death toll could rise. Up to 100 people are probably trapped in the wreckage, more than four hours after the crash, they said.

The injured were being ferried to six London hospitals in a fleet of ambulances, while others were being treated at the scene. A nearby supermarket was being used as a makeshift first-aid centre.

A packed commuter train heading into Paddington collided with a train that had just left the station. The cause of the crash is not yet known.

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott, who is also minister for transport, was at the scene. He said there would be a public inquiry.

Prime Minister Tony Blair described the incident as a 'truly dreadful tragedy'.

The London fire service launched its major incident

procedure and a spokeswoman said 74 firefighters were at the scene.

Firefighters said the blaze was quickly brought under control.

Hospitals were put on alert and extra staff called in.

The collision took place near Ludlow Grove, around two miles outside Paddington, which serves trains from the southwest of England. The route is used heavily by commuters travelling into London.

The station has been closed, causing chaos for London's commuters.

A BBC journalist who was on one of the trains said: 'There was an almighty bang and it felt like the train was lifting into the air.'

See page 11 Col 2

60 hurt as jute mills workers clash with BDR, police

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 5: At least 60 people were injured, ten of them seriously when the workers of three jute mills clashed with BDR and police in Fulbari Gate area in the city today.

The seriously injured — five BDR personnel and five jute mills workers — were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

The clash took place at around 11 am when a truck carrying about 29 BDR men came under attack near a barricade put up by the workers of Ajax, Ail and Sonali Jute Mills on Jessore-Khulna Road at Fulbari Gate demanding arrear wages and reopening of the mills.

They swooped on the BDR personnel apprehending that

See Page 12 Col 8

Inside Today

Article

China's 50th anniversary

Facing Challenges of Change
by Harun ur Rashid
Page 4

Focus

Values, Democracy and Development,
Humanitarian catastrophe in East Timor.
A test for Clinton doctrine?
Page 5

Prayer Timings

October 6

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	5:00
Zohr	12:45	1:25
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:50	5:55
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

TOSHIBA TV
RANGS GROUP

GMG AIRLINES
First Class All the Way

Official Partner of BANGLADESH TEAM

Pak govt to strictly monitor activities of madrassahs

KARACHI, Oct 5: The Pakistani government plans to strictly monitor activities of religious colleges following last week's bloody sectarian violence which left around 30 people dead, officials said today.

'We will be strict with those madrassahs which are involved in brainwashing and branding rivals as infidels,' the chief of police in southern Sindh province, Rana Maqbool told AFP.

'Every bearded man is not a troublemaker and every madrassah is not a breeding ground for Islamic extremists, but the real trouble-mongers will be dealt with strictly,' he said.

The authorities would check the funding and syllabuses of religious schools and take action against those involved in militancy, he said.

Sources here say more than 1,500 madrassahs are operating

in Karachi alone and some 200 of them will be investigated for allegedly advocating militancy.

Officials said provocative speeches would be banned, sectarian literature would be screened and 'poisonous' graffiti prohibited to curb violence.

A wave of sectarian attacks hit Pakistan this month.

Twenty people have been killed in Karachi alone since Friday's storming of a Shiite mosque in Karachi by masked men that left 10 people dead. Others were gunned down in central Punjab and North West Frontier Province by unknown motorbike riders.

Analysts said the upsurge in sectarian violence triggered concern among security officials in addition to criticism by political leaders and several Sunni and Shiite scholars that the government had failed to protect people.

Religious schools are largely run by two groups of Jamiat

Ulema Islam (JUI) headed by Maulana Fazal-ur Rehman and Maulana Sami-ul Haq.

But other Sunni and Shiite groups also have set up centres for imparting religious knowledge.

Muslim militant groups Lashkar-i-Tayyaba and Harkat-ul Mujahideen, whose guerrillas have been fighting Indian forces in Kashmir, also run their madrassahs here and in other parts of the country.

According to one estimate, some 8,000 to 10,000 such Islamic colleges functioning in the country have links with Afghanistan's Taliban Islamic militia and other international Islamic organisations.

They are accused of recruiting Pakistani youths for Jihad (holy war) in Kashmir or fighting alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan.

However, Islamic party leaders deny involvement in

See Page 12 Col 8

Ershad Shikdar to be remanded today

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 5: Notorious terrorist Ershad Shikdar is set to be taken on a 14-day police remand at Khulna tomorrow.

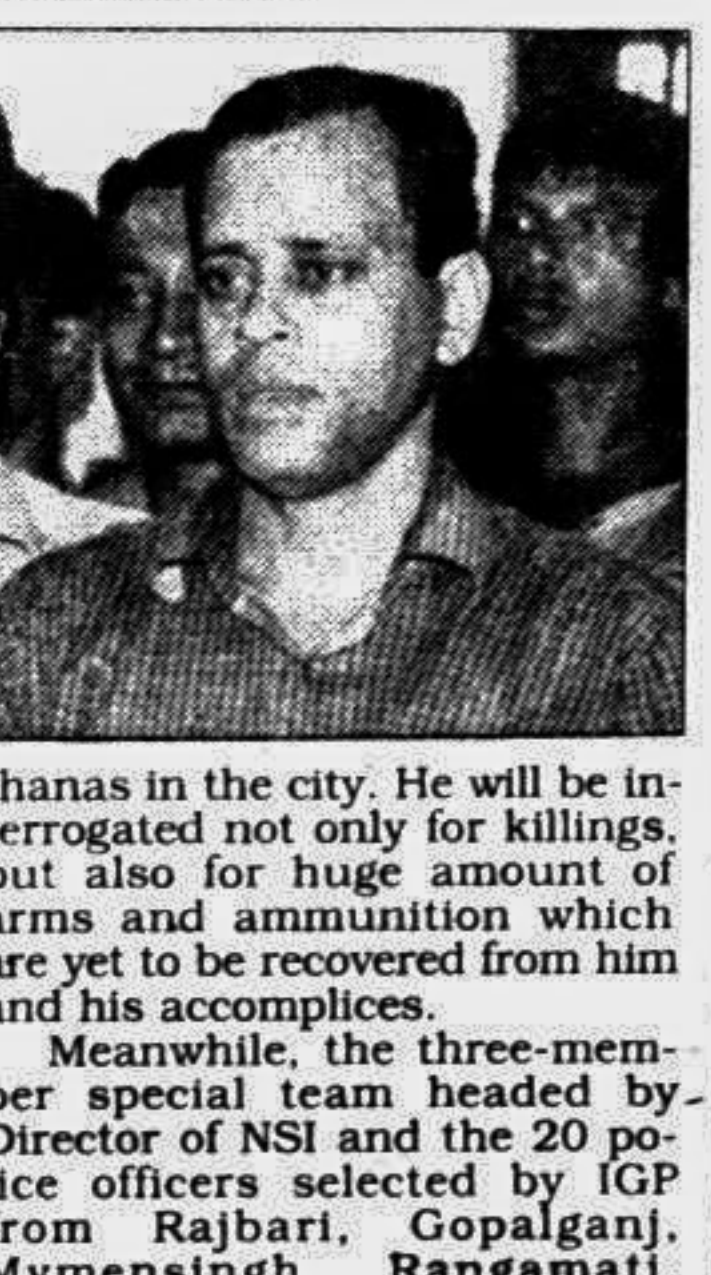
A strong contingent of BDR, police and APSN personnel will escort Shikdar from Jessore Central Jail to Khulna District Jail.

A source in the Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) said police officers selected for questioning Ershad Shikdar will only be allowed to meet him during the remand.

The KMP is maintaining strict secrecy about the place where the three-member special team formed by the Home Minister and 25-member team selected by the IGP will question him.

From Khulna jail he will be taken to the Additional District & Sessions Judge's Court in connection with Panna Murder Case and Zainal Murder Case.

Shikdar is facing as principal accused 13 murder cases recorded so far with different



জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
সাভার, ঢাকা।

শুরুত্বপূর্ণ টেলিফোন/ফ্যাক্স নম্বর পরিবর্তনের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্প্রতি এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত টেলিফোন/ ফ্যাক্স নম্বর পরিবর্তন হয়েছে।

অতএব, সকলকে পরিবর্তিত নতুন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলোঃ-

আগের নম্বর	পরিবর্তিত নতুন নম্বর
উপাচার্যের বাসভবন	৮৮০৭৯০ → ৯৩৩০৭৯
জা.বি. ফ্যাক্স নম্বর	৮৮০-২-৩৩০৪৪ → ৮৮০ ২-৯৩৩০৬৯

ডেপুটি রেজিস্ট্রার (প্রশাসন)

GD-908

See Page 11 Col 8