

## PM leaves for New York tonight

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves for New York at midnight tonight to attend the UN Millennium Summit beginning September 6, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr SA Samad, Foreign Secretary CM Shafiq Sami and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Jawadul Karim will accompany the Prime Minister.

The delegation of the Prime Minister also includes Siddique Hossain, ANM Shafiqul Huq, Golam Qudus, Liakat Ali Lakhi, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullatif, Mohammad Salman Ehsan Tariq, Sajib Wazed, KM Hossain, Sayma Hossain and Miss Mahbub Ara Begum Gony.

The largest-ever gathering of leaders at the UN headquarters is designed to chart new course of activity for the 188-member United Nations to meet the challenges of 21 century. The

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## Inside Today

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Buck Stops with RSS Chief  
Column: Between the Lines

by Kuldip Nayar

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Commission: Some relevant extracts  
Ninth instalment  
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### Business

Cement manufacturers ask govt not to allow new factories  
DSE, CSE price quotations  
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Sun Rises Sun Sets  
Sept 3 6-14 pm  
Sept 4 5-41 am

### Prayer Timings

September 3

Azan	Jamaat
4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45
Asr	4-45
Maghrib	6-25
Esha	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation



Udyan in sorry state: Weeds have taken over Osmany Udyan, one of the few parks in the city of millions, due to lack of proper care and attention. Will the city fathers, please, come to its rescue? — Star photo by AKM Mohsin

## Laying of fibre optic at pvt EPZ BTTB asked to explain its mysterious silence

By M Shamsur Rahman

The Private Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Cell under the Prime Minister's Office has asked Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) to explain within seven days why it 'ignored' a proposal from a private EPZ to lay a fibre optic cable.

Chittagong Industrial Park Ltd, sponsor of Rangunia private EPZ, gave the proposal to lay a dedicated submarine fibre optic cable to link the zone with international market to help investors in IT avail competitive prices.

The Cell had referred the proposal to BTTB about four

months back for its opinion. Getting no response, the Cell sent a letter to BTTB on Monday seeking explanation, sources said.

The Rangunia Private Export Processing Zone (EPZ) is being developed on the northern side of Karnaphuli river, about 30 km from Chittagong city. Forty per cent of the units to be set up there will be high-tech industries and 60 per cent agro-based.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation of the private EPZ in October last year with a call to foreign and local entrepreneurs to take ad-

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## College girl found dead at Uttara

By Staff Correspondent  
A college girl was found dead at the residence of her maternal aunt in Uttara yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

Police recovered the body at about 1.30 pm from the residence and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The victim, identified as Khurshida Akhter Liza, 21, is suspected to have been poisoned to death by close relatives following dispute over a land owned by Liza, hospital sources said.

The victim is the daughter of a government officer stationed outside the capital, sources said adding that Liza was residing with one of her relatives at Uttrakantha area under Uttara police station.

The Uttara police said that the inmates of the house misbehaved with them when they went to the place of occurrence.

## Ctg Board HSC Exams 1998

## Results of 2 students securing first, 18th positions cancelled

CHITTAGONG, Sept 2: HSC results of two students who stood first and 18th respectively at the exams, were cancelled as per recommendations of a probe committee.

"Stern action", which is yet to be decided, would be taken against Deputy Controller of Examination Mujibul Rahman, assistant controller of examinations Abul Kalam Siddiqui and Assistant Zahid Hossain and Professor Saidul Hasan Khan of Cantonment Public School and College.

With Prof Ahmad Hossain, a teacher of Economics of Mohsin College, as chief, the committee was formed in December 1998.

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## Non-govt pry teachers on strike

By Staff Correspondent

Teachers of 23,000 non-government primary schools went for an indefinite strike yesterday demanding nationalisation of their institutions.

Bangladesh non-government Primary School Teachers Association called the strike as the government did not respond to their demand despite repeated request to the Prime Minister and the Education Minister, said a press release of the association.

The agitating teachers will lay a siege to the UNO offices at thana headquarters on Tuesday and submit memorandum.

The association will also hold a grand rally at Paltan Maidan on September 10 where Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia will be the chief guest. Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Prof. Golam Azam and Chairman of Islami Oikya Jote Moulana Azizul Huque will attend the rally as special guests.

## What caused the tidal surge

By Special Correspondent

A well-marked low coinciding with the 'Amabashya' (last day of dark fortnight) whipped up an unusual surge in the Bay of Bengal along with high winds and heavy rains, causing extensive damage along the coast and in the offshore islands on Tuesday, meteorologists said yesterday.

The tidal surge up to 5.7 metres ripped embankments, flooding low lying coastal areas and offshore islands. Sandwip was the worst affected, where 12,000 people became homeless.

An Indonesian ship MV Accord carrying 7,000 tonnes of cement was swept into Sandwip channel when swift current tore it off the anchor at outer anchorage of Chittagong port. The ship was left stranded 14 miles west of Patenga and four miles of east of Sandwip.

Scarcity of drinking water became acute in the affected areas as at least 20 tubewells went out of order and most of the ponds were inundated with saline water.

Sources said two to three feet

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## Criminals are using licensed arms!

Some owners of firearms are renting those, police say

By Staff Correspondent

Monitoring of licensed firearms by police administration has become almost non-existent and taking advantage of the situation many owners are

allegedly using their arms in various crimes.

According to police sources, the Officer-in-Charge of each thana is supposed to maintain a file with detailed information about licensed arms within the thana.

But with 'increasing responsibilities' of the OCs and their colleagues, the practice has virtually been abandoned, especially in the cities where crime rates are much higher than in other places, the sources said.

A senior police official said they are certain that many of the licensed arms are used by criminals. These help them carry out 'precision executions' because these are 'purposefully made weapons' and are much more 'dependable and accurate' than locally made ones.

He went on, "As per our information, some owners of the firearms simply rent the weapon for a period of time and it is the responsibility of the user to procure ammunition. I

Only few years ago, the OC of a thana was required to issue a certificate to an applicant for a licence, but now the DC's office issues licenses without any

law and order cannot be improved unless use of licensed arms as well as illegal arms by criminals is stopped, police officials noted.

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