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## Internal feuds weaken AL hope for consecutive term

By Reaz Ahmad and Abul Kalam Azad

Internal feuds among ministers, senior party leaders and district level leaders are demoralising workers, making Awami League's prospect for a second consecutive term appear bleak.

A fact-finding mission found that the AL high command knew of the squabbles but preferred to maintain status quo of sorts fearing backlash. Eighteen teams comprising 100 former and present leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League were dispatched to all 64 districts on September 1 to survey party popularity and current status of the organisational activities.

Former BCL leader Abdur Rahman, who will submit the survey reports to AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has asked all those who failed to meet the September 10 deadline to finish their reports within a day or two.

Some 20 student leaders who visited different districts disclosed some of their findings to The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

Though people appreciated many welfare-oriented works of the government, the student leaders said, many local leaders earned a bad name for the party for engaging in power struggle ignoring party interest.

The rivalry between Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has vitiated AL politics in Sylhet district. Besides, several groups of its student front are at loggerheads.

Of the 19 parliament seats in six constituencies in greater Sylhet, AL has 15 seats and except in Habiganj, there are squabbles everywhere.

In Sunamganj, Abdus Samad Azad and prime minis-

ter's parliamentary affairs advisor Suranjit Sengupta patronise two rival AL groups. Suranjit's position is not so well at the moment and if he is to regain his seat in Sunamganj contentious issues between Samad Azad and Suranjit have to be resolved, according to a report.

In the absence of a committee for the last seven years, district unit of BCL is in a shambles, the report said.

There are two groups within the party in Moulvibazar as well and there has been no meeting of the party unit for quite a long time now.

In Habiganj, the party runs the risk of losing its seats if the leadership conflict in the district goes unabated.

The morale of party workers in Khulna is currently very low due to internal feuds starting from union up to district level.

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## WFP opposed to rations for military, cops

By Mustak Hossain

The World Food Programme (WFP) has suggested the government to stop distribution of rations among government employees to give the poor more access to food.

"Why does the government have to give food to people like the military, police and other groups who get salaries?" WFP Country Representative Dr Werner Kiene asked.

"That is not necessary. The military needs to be paid good

salaries but the use of food is not appropriate," Kiene told The Daily Star in an interview on Friday.

"So we said go away from using food as a budgetary instrument or as salary supplement for people who need it for the poorest people who need it for better development," he said.

"Food is a special development instrument. It should not be used or abused for other

purpose. We are pushing for realignment of food assistance. It should not in any way be given to those who are not poor."

The WFP is advocating realignment of the food assistance as Bangladesh has now achieved a 'much more secured food supply situation'. Therefore time has now come to 're-assess the way food assistance is used in the country in order to close the remaining food

access gap', said Kiene who is leaving Dhaka shortly on completion of his assignment here.

The country's food production rose to 25.7 million tonnes in fiscal 1999-2000 from about 15 million tonnes in 1980-1981, he mentioned.

Bangladesh should continue its efforts to produce more food as half of its 125 million people live below the poverty line, he said. "One quarter of the

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## PMO okays armymen in bank boards

Star Report

The Prime Minister's Office yesterday gave the final go ahead to a plan to appoint army officials in the boards of state-owned banks and financial institutions, sources said.

Brigadier Talibur Rahman, Brigadier Ismat Ahmed Chowdhury, Brigadier Md Manjur Alam, Brigadier Ahmed Mukhtar Arif and Brigadier Abul Hashim Khan are on the proposed list.

Earlier, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) had rejected a Finance Ministry proposal to make defence personnel directors on the board.

The BB rejected the proposal on the ground that they do not conform to the policy of having persons with relevant background and knowledge who can play meaningful roles in financial institutions.

The Bank Reform Committee in its report had specifically mentioned that people with adequate knowledge about the banking system and those who can contribute to the development of banks should be put in the board.

## Assault on women Bangladesh ranks second among a dozen states

Bangladesh ranks second among a dozen countries with higher percentage of women assaulted by male partners, according to a UN report, says UNB.

The State of World Population Report 2000 says that in Bangladesh, the percentage of adult women reporting physical assault by male partners is 47 and it is 67 in Papua New Guinea. The percentage is 45 in Ethiopia, 45 in India and 34 in Egypt.

The report, released globally by UNFPA yesterday, calls for partnerships between governments and non-government organisations, among governments, civil societies and international bodies to end massive global violation of human rights and ensure equal place for women in the society.

United Nations Population Fund's representative in Bangladesh Janet E Jackson released the report at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club. Assistant representatives Nurul Ameen and Tahera Ahmed also analysed some aspects of the report.

The report titled 'Lives To-

## Hoogenband snatches Popov's crown

SYDNEY, Sept 20: Dutch and US swimmers dominated the Olympic pool today, but the battle raged worldwide elsewhere with 14 countries sharing the 18 golds that were contested, reports AFP.

The pick of the day was Dutchman Pieter van den Hoogenband who asserted himself as the new king of the pool as he took gold in a race billed as the greatest men's 100m freestyle of them all.

Van den Hoogenband, who set a new world record by becoming the first man ever to swim the 100m under 48sec on Tuesday, was only one part of yet another Double Dutch in the pool as Inge de Bruijn set a world record before taking the women's 100m gold.

Van den Hoogenband's unseating of Russian Alexander Popov as king of the Olympic 100m was his second gold medal winning performance of the week. Earlier he defeated Thorpe in 200m free.

Van den Hoogenband's defeat of two-time defending champion Popov came moments after American Misty Hyman dethroned Australia's Susie O'Neill, in the 200m butterfly, stunning O'Neill's hometown crowd.

O'Neill, the world record-holder and undefeated since her triumph in Atlanta, was the overwhelming favourite to cap her Olympic career at home with a gold in her signature event.

O'Neill announced her retirement following the defeat. Outside the Aquatic Centre

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## Sabrina 38th among 42

SYDNEY, Sept 20: Bangladeshi shooter Sabrina Sultana ended her Sydney Olympic campaign on an utterly frustrating note, finishing 38th among 42 in her favourite event - women's 50 metre rifles three position - at the International Shooting Centre in Cecil Park here today, reports UNB.

Sabrina, the SAF games gold medalist in the event, scored 554 points from three positions - prone, standing and kneeling - worsening her previous best of 560, made in the Olympic qualifier in March this year.

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American cyclist Marty Nothstein makes a victory lap with his son Tyler, 5, on his bike to celebrate his victory in the men's sprint competition yesterday on the track of Dunc Gray Velodrome during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. - AFP photo

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## AL to keep its election pledge of autonomy for radio, TV

By Staff Correspondent



The prime minister replying to questions yesterday. - PID photo

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that as per Awami League's election pledge, her government would give autonomy to the state-run Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television on the basis of recommendations of the Radio-TV Autonomy Commission.

The Prime Minister was replying to questions from people from the National Betar Bhaban last night. She appeared for the first time in the live radio programme titled 'Peoples' Question: Prime Minister's Answer'. The state-run BTV and private television channel ETN also telecast the hour-long programme in which people from across the country asked questions over telephone.

The process of giving autonomy to the Betar and BTV was being delayed because these were in a pitiable condition when AL came to power. These problems were being taken care of first, Hasina noted.

"We will of course keep our election pledge. The past government had neglected Radio and TV. We have modernised these with Japanese assistance," she said.

Besides, "We have done something which was not our election pledge. We have allowed private television channel Ektushey TV."

The PM said the commission formed to recommend autonomy to Radio-TV submitted its

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Rajuk demolished yesterday parts of Segunbagicha Jame Masjid (mosque) built illegally on the under-construction Stargate-Notre Dame road at Segunbagicha with the consent of the mosque committee. Rajuk officials and local people alleged that the mosque was built to grab about five katha of public land. - Star photo

## Raushan likely to chair joint rally in Mymensingh

By Rezaul Karim

Despite strong opposition from within BNP, Jatiya Party's senior vice-chairman Raushan Ershad is tipped to preside over the joint public meeting in Mymensingh town on September 25.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, JP Chairman HM Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam and Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Azizul Haq will address the joint meeting at Mymensingh Circuit House ground.

Sources said the JP has been requesting the BNP to allow local MP Roushan Ershad to chair the meeting in

Mymensingh arguing that there is serious infighting within the local chapter of BNP.

But BNP had vehemently opposed the JP contention, saying that there has been no committee of JP in Mymensingh for a long time. Moreover, BNP is the largest opposition party in the country with committees in everywhere and so the president of the BNP unit in Mymensingh town should chair it.

Being the largest opposition party, BNP leaders presided over the joint public meetings already held in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna.

Khaleda herself was averse to the idea of allowing a JP leader to chair the meeting. She told central and local leaders that AKM Mosharrar Hossain MP, President of Mymensingh (South) unit of BNP, would be the man for the job.

Before leaving for Saudi Arabia on September 13, the BNP chief had assigned Standing Committee member Dr Khan-daker Mosharrar Hossain MP and vice-chairman M Shamsul Islam MP representing the party in the Central Liaison Committee to settle the issue with JP.

She also instructed them to

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## Cancer Hospital limping with shortage of docs, equipment

By Shehab Ahmed

The National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) is finding it too hard to cope with patients seeking treatment as it is limping with shortage of doctors and technicians and non-functioning equipment.

Set up in the early eighties with assistance from the Rotary Club at Mahabiali in the city, NICRH is the only one of its

kind in the country. There is a heavy rush of patients who require hospitalisation but most of them are unable to find place in the 50-bed hospital. They are being referred to other hospitals, mostly to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, NICRH sources said.

Those lucky to be admitted to NICRH also do not get proper treatment as most of the

equipment cannot be operated due to shortage of technicians or those need repair or replacement.

The sources further said the outpatient department of NICRH where about 100 patients turn up daily is also facing problems. A good number of the patients seek treatment for ear, nose and throat (ENT)

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## 10 killed as bus, truck collide in Gazaria

By Staff Correspondent

At least 10 people were killed and more than 20 others were injured when a passenger bus and a truck collided at Viti-kandi of Bhabarbar in Gazaria near Daudkandi yesterday evening, eyewitnesses said.

The accident occurred when a speeding truck hit the bus from Dhaka at about 6 pm. Three people died on the spot.

Police said the injured passengers were taken to different hospitals in Dhaka and nearby Bhabarbar Health Complex in critical condition. Seven people succumbed to injuries.

Police said the identity of the dead passengers could not be known immediately.

Police seized the truck and the bus. The drivers of both the vehicles, however, managed to escape.

## Election to DU VC panel today

By DU Correspondent

Election to the Vice Chancellor Panel of the Dhaka University will be held at a special session of the University Senate today.

According to Dhaka University Order '73, a three-member panel would be elected by the 84-member DU Senate, the highest policy-making body of

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## সত্যকীরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্প্রতি আমরা লক্ষ্য করছি যে, ইবনে সিনা ফুড এন্ড কেমিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড নামক একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান "ইবনে সিনা ডেরড্রোজ", "ইবনে সিনা-সি ভিটিমিন" এবং আরও কিছু পানীয় ও খাদ্য সামগ্রী বাজারজাত করছে।

তাছাড়া, উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান সারা দেশে থানা ও জেলার ডিলার ও বিভিন্ন পদে লোক নিয়োগের জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করেছে এবং জামানত নিচ্ছে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহক সতর্কানুযায়ী ও সর্ব সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, উক্ত ইবনে সিনা ফুড এন্ড কেমিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেডের সাথে ইবনে সিনা ট্রাস্ট এবং ইবনে সিনা ফার্মাসিউটিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড বা এই গ্রুপের কোন সম্পর্ক নেই।

ফলে উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের ডিলার হয়ে বা চাকুরীর জন্য জামানত দিয়ে কেউ যদি শারীরিক ও আর্থিক ভাবে কোন প্রকার ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হন সে জন্য ইবনে সিনা ট্রাস্ট, ইবনে সিনা ফার্মাসিউটিক্যাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিমিটেড বা এই গ্রুপের কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান দায়ী থাকবে না।



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### NOTICE

Regarding submission of income tax return for individual category of tax-payers

- The last date of submission of income tax return for individual category of tax-payers is 30-09-2000. The honourable finance minister has announced in his budget speech that the date for submission of income tax return will not be extended further.
- "Self-assessment" will have to be written on the income tax return submittable in self-assessment system.
- The directors of company can submit income tax return in self-assessment system irrespective of number of shares.
- Statement of asset and liabilities will have to be submitted with the return if total income is more than 3 (three) lakh taka.
- The acknowledgement receipt in case of submission of return in self-assessment system given by tax office will be regarded as the order of fixation of tax for that year.
- The income tax return form will be available free of cost in the concerned tax office. The photocopy of income tax return form will also be regarded as acceptable.
- For detailed information regarding submission of return and payment of tax, it is requested to contact Tax Consultant Centre, 133 & 133/3 Kakrail, New Bailey Road, Dhaka, Phone: 415369 or Second Secretary (Income Tax Law & Regulations), National Board of Revenue, Phone: 406593 or concerned tax office.

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