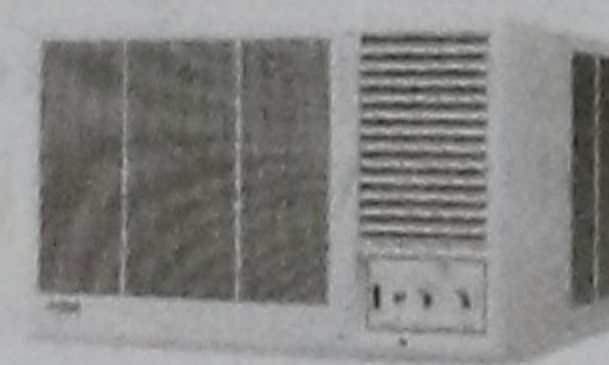


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## 'Vested Property Act must go'

By Staff Correspondent

A ruling party leader yesterday expressed grievances at the slipping away of vested properties from the government's grips and continuous migration of minority Hindus because of deprivation.

Speaking at a book-launching programme in the city yesterday Awami League leader Advocate Shudangshu Shekhar Haldar said that at least 60 per cent land under the Vested Property Act (VPA) had gone out of the government's possession and were grabbed by lessees.

The book, *An Inquiry into Causes and Consequences of*

*Deprivation of Hindu Minorities in Bangladesh through the Vested Property Act: Framework for a Realistic Solution*, authored and edited by Dhaka University Professor Dr Abul Barkat, was formally launched at the auditorium of the Academy for Planning and Development.

Other discussants joined Haldar to express resentment at the unnecessary delay in scrapping the much-controversial law and appreciate the author for revealing political identities of the illegal occupants of the vested properties.

"The leaseholders, who pay Tk. 26 per annum to the government for vested properties at Nababpur, have built up a 14-storey building there and earn more than Tk. 14 crore a year," said Advocate Haldar. "These are the people who threatened Dr Barkat with his life."

The lessees were getting united to fight back any gov-

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### Corruption

## 7 BB officials jailed in Khulna

KHULNA, Sept 21: A court here on Wednesday sentenced seven Bangladesh Bank officials, including a Joint Director, to three years rigorous imprisonment in a corruption case, reports UNB.

The court also fined them Tk 1.21 lakh each, in default, to suffer nine months more in jail. Six of the convicts are Joint Director Abul Hossain Shah, officers Badrul Alam, M Abul Hossain, Champak Kumar Biswas, Enamul Haq Mollah and Mirza Safiuddin Hassan.

The case history in brief: The convicts withdrew Tk 7,25,400 through four fake cheques in the name of Agriculture Extension Department forging the signature of the District Accounts Officer, Bureau of Anti-corruption filed a case against them on Sept 30, 1993.

The accused again withdrew Tk 7,69,144 in the name of Family Planning Department through fake cheques and a case was filed against them on Sept 19, 1994 with Kotwali thana.

After examining the records and witnesses, the Judge found them guilty and handed down the verdict.

## DU senate elects VC panel

By DU Correspondent.

The three-member panel of Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University was elected yesterday with the incumbent VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof. Shamsul Huda Harun of Department of Political Science and Prof. RIM Aninur Rashid, provost of Salimullah Hall and President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA).

The election was held at the special session of the university senate, the highest policy making body. Eighty out of the 84 senate members took part at the session with Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

According to Dhaka university Order 73, the three-member panel was elected for the appointment of a Vice Chancellor for a four year tenure. Chancellor of the University, President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will appoint the VC for the next term soon.

Pro Awami League "Blue Panel" and BNP-Jamaat supported "White Panel" contested the election while the left leaning "Pink Panel" did not vie for it.

Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury got the highest 64 votes, Prof. Shamsul Huda Harun bagged

36 votes while Prof. RIM Aninur Rashid secured 31 votes. All were from the "Blue Panel". Besides, the candidates of "White Panel" were Prof. Mahmud-ul-Amin, Prof. Wakil Ahmed and Prof. Mohammad Asaduzzaman.

Registered graduate representative in the Senate Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury proposed the name of "Blue Panel" candidates and teachers representative which was supported by Prof. Kazi Shahidullah. Teachers representative Prof. SMA Fayez proposed the names of candidates of "White Panel" and teachers representative Prof. Md. Khalilur Rahman supported him.

Held at the Conference Room of the administrative building in the morning, the meeting observed one minute silence in memory of all the teachers, students, officers and employees of the university died since the last session of the Senate.

The meeting thanked the incumbent VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury for maintaining peace on the campus during his four-year term that expires on September 29.



Reliving Comaneci

Romanian Andrea Raducanu performs on the balance beam on her way to winning the all-around gold in women's gymnastics at the Sydney Olympic Games. Raducanu led a Romanian sweep at the Superdome yesterday with a score of 38.893 points.

- AFP photo

## 3 confess involvement in bomb planting

Three accused have confessed their involvement in the bomb planting incident at Kotlari, police sources said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The accused would make confessional statements before a first class magistrate in this regard on Sunday, or Monday next, CID police said.

The accused are Mohammad Gazi Khan alias Gazi, alias Abdul Wadud alias Mehedi Hassan, Marfat Ali alias Wasim Akhter and Anisul Haque, a younger brother of Mufti Abdul Hannan, the alleged mastermind of the bomb planting incident.

Police said they were already 'shown arrest' in the treason charge for planting bombs at Kotlari to kill the Prime Minister and her cabinet colleagues.

CID police is interrogating the accused at the CID head quarters here taking them on a ten-day remand from a first class magistrate court of Gopalgarh.

Gazi Khan and Marfat Ali were arrested recently from

## Three stabbed by muggers in city

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers stabbed three people in two separate incidents in the city yesterday and took away Tk 75,000 from them.

The first incident took place at Alu Bazar while the second at Gulshan.

At Alu Bazar, the muggers stabbed a cashier of a private firm and took away Tk 50,000 from him.

The victim Shohag, 27, cashier of Abdur Rashid Enterprise, came under attack when he reached at Alu Bazar in an autorickshaw at around 1.30 pm.

A gang of three muggers stopped the autorickshaw and asked Shohag to give his valuables.

As Shohag refused to comply with their demand, they started beating him. At one stage, the muggers stabbed in his right hand and took away Tk 50,000.

The victim was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Kotwali police admitted the incident, but no case was filed till filing of this report at 8 pm.

The second incident occurred at Gulshan.

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 22		5.55 pm
Sept 23	5.48 am	

### Prayer Timings

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-15
Juma	12-15	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-08
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## In 'disgrace' away from home

### Rohingyas want to go back to peace and freedom

By Rezaul Karim, back from Cox's Bazar

Most of the Rohingya refugees in two camps - one in Ukhiya thana and the other in Teknaf thana - want to return home but urge the authorities to ensure peace, security and freedom of movement on their return home in Arakan province of Myanmar.

The Rohingyas said they were forced to take refuge in Bangladesh in the face of unbearable repression, forced and unpaid labour, violation of women, persecution, extortion, forced eviction and killings by the Myanmar troops.

They said although they are getting adequate food, clothing, shelter and medical facilities here, it is disgraceful for them to live as refugees in another country for such a long time. Many of them said they have nothing to do in the camps other than getting married and expanding families.

The refugees further said although there was never any pressure on them to return home, the very status of refugee

gave them a feeling of 'disgrace'. They are also worried about their future and apprehend that the day is not far when Bangladesh government, UNHCR and others will stop their activities and supply of relief.

"We are worried how long UNHCR will give us relief and how long we will get good food and hospitality," said Mohammed Rafiq of Kutupalong camp in Ukhiya. He added that he wants to go back to his motherland as there has been no major disturbance by troops in Arakan now.

They have to know that the Rohingyas already repatriated are now living in a better situation than in the past because the UNHCR is monitoring the situation also in Myanmar.

There are now about 8,000 refugees of 1,356 families at Kutupalong camp. Of them, 4,769 were born in the camp in recent years while 743 died since the camp was set up on February 2, 1992. The Myanmar authorities have given

clearance to 2,412 refugees of 403 families for their return home, the remaining are yet to be given clearance and they have been denied citizenship of Myanmar.

The camp situated on a 0.25 square km area has 1530 units of accommodation. The camp authorities identified five-member families as 'small families' and allotted a 10x12 feet room for each of those. Extra room or space is provided if a family has more than five members. There are 41 tubewells, 285 latrines, six primary schools (from K to class VI) with 1442 students including 601 girls and seven mosques in the camp.

But there is a common allegation that many families have yet to get extra room or space. Kitchen is also inside the specified room and no one is allowed to change its structure. The height of the room is quite less, it has only one door and no window or ventilation system.

Health condition of the refugees, especially of the children, seemed better than that of the slum dwellers in Dhaka and other cities as there are adequate medical facilities and supplementary feeding programme for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Each family has one ration card and the camp authorities have not issued any new card for long. In case of newborns or marriages, new names and number are added with those in the old ration cards of respective families.

"We do not want to lead an idle life depending on relief in the camp. We want to work and live with dignity and liberty," said Mohammad Hossain (40). He said his father and grand father were born in Arakan and also died there, but the authorities denied them citizenship of Myanmar, evicted them from their own land and looted all their moveable property.

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### Net profit!

Some foreigners and their local associates have grabbed around Tk 200 crore from the people through networking business, reports UNB.

A team of SB Police investigating the growing networking business submitted its report to the Home Minister yesterday, recommending immediate steps to check the growth of such business in the country.

Investigation revealed that at least 18 networking business organisations have already grabbed some Tk 200 crore. They allured people of small investment with promise of windfall profit. They have flourished with quick expansion in districts.

GGN, the largest networking business organisation operating in the country, has already grabbed Tk 34 crore.

The police report apprehended that at least 70 thousand people put in money.

## Conscious community for safer roads

### Deaths from accident only second to those from diseases

By Staff Correspondent

Community participation is a must for safer roads in Bangladesh where number of deaths from accidents is second only to those from diseases, participants said in a national consultative group meeting on Community Road Safety Pilot Initiatives in the city yesterday.

Expressing concern over the country's precarious road condition and worsening traffic situation, the participants also stressed the need for community mobilisation, proper training of drivers and community traffic policing to improve

the situation.

The day-long programme, presided over by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Chairman Azizul Haque Bhuiyan, was also attended by Operations Advisor of the World Bank Nancy Zhao, Chairman of Bangladesh Transport Foundation (BTF) Capt (ret'd) Nurul Haq, transport leaders and representatives of different organisations.

About 60 percent of the total road accident victims in 1998 in Dhaka city were pedestrians while 14 percent was rickshaw

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## Expatriate from US manhandled, robbed at Sylhet Airport

By Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 21: An expatriate from US was manhandled and robbed of his valuables, passport, dollars and other travel documents by a gang of criminals at the Sylhet Airport this afternoon.

Mohammad Rahim of village Changadia of Beanibazar arrived Sylhet Airport by the Bangladesh Biman flight at 1-30 PM from New York. After completion of Customs formalities, when he was about to cross the lounge and reached the staff gate number 2, a gang

## BNP condemns abduction

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders at a press conference in the city yesterday condemned abduction of Advocate Nurul Islam, Joint Secretary of Luxmipur District Unit of the party and said people are not safe in the hands of Awami League government.

Criticising the government for failing to maintain law and order in the country, they said it would be difficult to hold the next parliamentary election if the present situation continues. The opposition leaders alleged that police and local administration all over the country are giving shelter to the killers and terrorists belonging to the ruling party instead of nabbing them.

Deputy leader of the Opposition in parliament Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury, acting general secretary Ashraf Hossain, Abdul Motin Chowdhury, Barrister Moudud Ahmed.

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## Former secys Mokammel, Sirajuddin join AL

Former secretaries M. Mokammel Huq and Mohammad Sirajuddin yesterday called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office and joined Awami League showing allegiance to her leadership, reports UNB.

Addressing a function to welcome two former secretaries to her party, the prime minister called upon the AL leaders and workers to work unitedly for building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh as dreamt by Bangabandhu.

Mokammel Huq now serves the Board of Investment (BOI) as its chairman with the rank of a minister.

Awami League presidium member Abdul Momen, Forest and Environment Minister Syed Sajeda Chowdhury, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil were present at the function.

## Mannan Bhuiyan admitted to Singapore hospital

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan was admitted to the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore yesterday morning for his heart treatment.

Dr Charles Toh, heart specialist of the hospital, examined Bhuiyan at 11 am yesterday, said a party press release. Physicians at the hospital informed that the BNP leader will go for a non-surgical heart investigation (Angiogram) today.

Leaders and activists of BNP and its different front organisations saw him off at Zia International Airport on Wednesday night. Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Col (Ret'd) Akbar Hossain, Ashraf Hossain, Haris Chowdhury and Sadek Hossain Khoka were

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## Khulna Jubo League activist gets 10 yrs' RI under PSA

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 21: A Jubo League activist Mahtabur Rahman Utshab has been sentenced to 10 years RI and fined Tk 15,000, in default to suffer one year more RI in a case under PSA.

The judge of the tribunal Saeed Kamal Mohammad Ansari Rahman delivered the judgement today.

The case in brief is that the accused looted Tk 12,000 from the shop of Ziaur Rahman on the night of June 7 and caused

See page 11 col 5

## Clinton, Chirac, Blair guilty of war crimes!

### Belgrade court sentences Nato leaders to 20 years in prison

BELGRADE, Sept 21: Fourteen NATO leaders, among them US President Bill Clinton, French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, were each sentenced today to 20 years in jail for war crimes committed in the 1999 campaign against Yugoslavia, reports AFP.

Belgrade court's presiding judge Veroljub Rakitic also said arrest warrants had been issued for the 14 leaders, tried in absentia, who may appeal the verdict two weeks' after they receive the sentence.

From the start of the trial last Monday, proceedings have taken place with 14 empty chairs, bearing the names of the accused - including US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and other US, European and NATO officials - placed in front of Rakitic's podium.

The court also decided that the 14 "will be detained upon

the arrest," while the sentence would become valid "from the date of the arrest."

The 14 were charged with "inciting an aggressive war, war crimes against the civilian population, use of banned combat means, attempted murder of the Yugoslav president (Slobodan Milosevic), as well as with the violation of the country's territorial integrity."

They were sentenced to all five charges.

Each of the sentences read by Rakitic were followed by applause from the public present at the main Belgrade courtroom.

"Our human criminal law has not anticipated higher sentences, because none could have anticipated such crimes might be committed," Rakitic said, sitting below a photo of Milosevic and the Serbian and Yugoslav state symbols.

The defendants were "found guilty for five criminal deeds which are socially the most

dangerous ones," he explained.

They "must pay the costs of the trial in a 15-day period, under threat of forced execution," said the verdict, which is to be delivered to the defendants and their defence lawyers.

At the start of the trial, Rakitic said the accused had all been sent a translated list of the charges through diplomatic channels.

It took three hours for Belgrade prosecutor Andrija Milutinovic to read the 183-page indictment against the leaders, followed by the names of 890 alleged victims of NATO bombings - 503 civilians, 240 soldiers and 147 Serb policemen.

However, Rakitic said in the verdict that the 14 were guilty for acts that "caused the death of 546 soldiers, 138 policemen and 504 civilians, among them 88 children." No explanation was given for the difference in the figures in the indictment and the verdict.

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Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

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**STUDY TOUR - 2000**  
 Like every year, recently a 53 member Study Tour Team consisting of Students and Teachers went on a 4 days study tour. During the tour they visited various important places of Chittagong, Rangamati and Cox's Bazar.  
 After successful completion of the study tour all members of the team expressed gratitude to Almighty Allah for vivid tour experience and safe return.