

## JU JCD calls strike

**FROM PAGE 12** enters its 46th day today. SURR has been agitating since August 5 for realising their seven-point demand including cancellation of studentship and certificates of all rapists, introduction of anti-sexual harassment law, amendment to some proctorial rules, and withdrawal of expulsion order and show cause notices issued to SURR activists.

Both the student organisations have threatened to paralyse all activities on campus until their different demands including resignation of the VC are met.

The JU authorities have postponed today's Syndicate meeting in the wake of threats from JCD that they would resist Syndicate members from attending it.

Meanwhile, examinees have fallen into a fix, as the fate of this year's finals as well as other annual exams is uncertain. The university authorities did not issue any notice as regards the different annual

examinations scheduled for today and the next few days. Earlier, the authorities had postponed all examinations till October 11.

"We cannot decide about the examinations as the agitating students have locked all offices where all our files are kept", Registrar Mohammad Ali said.

Higher officials however told this correspondent that examinations would remain postponed until October 18.

JCD has blamed the JU administration for failing to break the long-drawn-out deadlock and has vowed to unseat the highest officials if it holds responsible for nepotism, irregularities, abuse of power, and patronisation of rapists, killers and terrorists.

General students apprehend that the fresh agitation programmes would deepen the crisis and greatly compound the existing session jams. About 200 annual examinations have been postponed since the SURR-enforced strike.

## Body of a listed terrorist found at Kaliakoir

BSS, Dhaka

Savar police yesterday recovered the body of a listed terrorist from under a bridge at Kaliakoir of Gazipur district.

Police said Alamgir, 32, an accused in 27 criminal cases, was allegedly kidnapped by his rivals from a place near Savar Thursday night.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

## Flood situation in Gaibandha worsens

UNB, Gaibandha

The overall flood situation in the district further deteriorated as more areas went under water following rises of water level in the rivers.

Road communications between district headquarters and other upazilas remained snapped. Mohimaganj Bridge was washed away by flood waters while Gobindaganj upazila headquarters went under two feet water.

About 50,000 people of 15 unions in the district have been marooned, officials said.

## US warns of action

**FROM PAGE 12** -- a mix of individuals, organizations and businesses -- said government officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

The new list would follow up on a Sept. 24 order by President Bush, authorising a freeze on the assets of 27 people and organisations suspected of conducting or financing terrorist activities. The list included 12 individuals, counting Osama bin Laden; 11 organizations including the al Qaeda network; three charities; and one business.

On Thursday, the Bush administration announced that roughly 24 million dollar in assets, including some belonging to bin Laden, had been frozen by the United States and other countries since last month's terror attacks.

The US has been working closely with other nations to block the flow of money to terrorist networks, something Bush has said goes to the heart of America's anti-terrorism campaign.

Of the 24 million dollar frozen since the attacks, nearly 4 million dollar was blocked by the United States, the Treasury Department said. The rest was frozen by other countries.

The US government considers bin Laden, estimated to have a personal fortune of around 300 million dollar too be the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Besides the nearly 4 million

## World leaders greet

FROM PAGE 1

"I have the honour to extend my warm congratulations to you on your assumption of the office of Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh once again," the UN secretary general said in a message to Khaleda Zia.

Annan, who won the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday, said the confidence reposed in Khaleda Zia by the people of Bangladesh is testimony to her leadership and to the strength of democracy in the country.

General Musharraf in his message to Khaleda Zia expressed the confidence that the relations between the two countries would be strengthened in the coming days.

He said Bangladesh and his country had many shared interests and values and that Pakistan had always worked for the promotion of fraternal and cooperative relations with Bangladesh in the best interest of the peoples of the two countries as well as for peace, stability and prosperity in the South Asian Region.

The Chinese Prime Minister Zhu

## 2 Feni AL activists

**FROM PAGE 1** unconscious state and rushed him to Feni hospital. Nabi succumbed to his injuries at the hospital at about 6 pm.

Police handed over Nabi's body to his family after autopsy.

No case was filed with sadar thana in connection with the killing.

UNB from Rajshahi adds: Unidentified assailants killed a 35-year-old man at village Ratoal in Tanore upazila on Thursday.

The victim was identified as Nareh Chandra Das, 35, son of Narendra Nath Das. Local Awami League claimed that Nareh was a Jubo League activist.

Police said Nareh remained missing since Thursday and his body was found yesterday morning. It was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with local police station accusing three people.

Rongji also congratulated Khaleda Zia expressing the hope that the existing friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would be further consolidated and strengthened during her tenure.

Felicitating Khaleda Zia, the chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Than Shwe has expressed his desire to work closely with the Bangladesh Prime Minister to further strengthen the traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

In another message, Prime Minister of Thailand Thaksin Shinawatra mentioned that Khaleda Zia's assumption of the office of the Prime Minister, following a landslide electoral victory, reflected the trust and confidence of the people on her.

He hoped that Bangladesh would continue to progress towards peace and prosperity during her tenure and also expressed his desire to work closely with her for the mutual benefit of the two countries and peoples.

## US Scare from anthrax Suspicious white powder found on plane in Florida

AFP, West Palm Beach

As FBI agents conducted a criminal probe of three cases of anthrax in Florida, officials yesterday investigated an aircraft after an airport employee complained of skin irritation after finding an unidentified white substance, authorities said.

The woman, who worked for a cleaning crew was taken to a hospital and initial tests indicated the substance "did not appear to be biological in nature," a spokeswoman for the West Palm Beach Sheriff's office said.

The incident occurred at West Palm Beach International Airport, close to Boca Raton, where three cases of anthrax, one of them fatal, have emerged.

Authorities said there was no evidence linking the cases to the September 11 terrorist attacks, but have also warned further acts of terror, possibly using biological agents, may be planned.

Police officials in West Palm Beach also said there was no indication Friday's incident was in any way linked to the anthrax cases.

The woman was cleaning a bathroom of a Continental Airlines

plane, when "she came in contact with a white substance. She became irritated in the face area," said Sheriff's office spokeswoman Diane Carhart.

She was taken to a local hospital, where "she was medically screened and is now in a stable condition," Carhart said.

Police and hazardous materials teams were immediately deployed to the plane, flight 1731 to Houston, which was delayed.

The scare emerged as authorities were expected to announce results from hundreds of tests of people who worked or spent time in the American Media Inc. (AMI) building in Boca Raton, where three employees were found to have been exposed to the deadly virus.

FBI agents and health officials wearing biohazard suits have been conducting a thorough search of the three story building after anthrax spores were found on the keyboard of photo editor Robert Stevens, 63, who died last week, apparently after inhaling the bacteria.

Ernesto Blanco, a 73-year-old mailroom worker at AMI -- which publishes the Sun and other tabloid newspapers has been undergoing

hospital treatment after a nasal swab showed he too had been exposed to the bacteria.

The third case, co-worker Stephanie Dailey, 35, was detected Wednesday. Dailey, who has not shown any symptoms of the disease, is being treated with antibiotics.

Sources close to the investigation said the anthrax spores found in the AMI building were probably not of a naturally occurring strain and were likely produced in a laboratory.

Thursday, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the sudden appearance of the anthrax bacteria "remains an issue of concern for the federal government."

Florida Governor Jeb Bush, has issued a decree ordering authorities in the southern state to stockpile medicines and vaccines that could be issued rapidly in case of a chemical or biological attack.

"We are in wartime conditions and the only responsible thing to do is to make sure there are antibiotics and vaccines available to cover any event," the governor's spokeswoman, Katie Baur, said.

## AL: Oath-taking

**FROM PAGE 1** results and holding of fresh election. It also announced that the party lawmakers would not take oath and would not also join parliament sessions.

But a day after the hard stance taken by the AL central leadership on October 3, grassroots level leaders and workers of the party came to Dhaka and strongly advocated showing restraint. They also expressed fears of AL's alienating itself from the masses if it went for tough programmes right at the moment.

The AL leadership then did not

stick to its earlier stand of launching 'non-cooperation movement' from October 11. Instead, the leadership decided to reorganise the party itself and further examine the reasons behind the party's poor performance in the election.

However, party moderates' desperate plea for a soft line is now getting less attention from the high command because of unabated attacks on the partymen across the country and damage of their property, sources said.

AL central leadership is now too concerned and agitated at the post-polls violence against party leaders and activists and for this the issue of revising party's hard stance is not coming up prominently for the time being, they pointed out.

## EC earns Tk 1cr

**FROM PAGE 12** also withheld following a court order.

Among this year's contestants, all from the left-leaning 11-party alliance including Bangladesh Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon failed to reach the 12.5 per cent mark to qualify for a refund.

Seventeen candidates belonging to the BNP-led four party alliance and one from the AL also failed to reach the mark.

Others who lost their deposit money includes 207 from H M Ershad-led Islamic Jatiya Oikya Front (IJOFF), 60 from Communist Party (Khaquezzaman-Mahbubul Haq), 33 from Krishak Sramik Janata League, 127 from Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), 31 from Workers Party, 26 from Khelafat Andolon, 17 from Progressive Party, 14 from Gano Forum, 11 from Ganatantri Party, 10 from Islamic Shashantatra Ain and seven from Janata Party.

Most of the 490 independent candidates also lost their deposit money. Six however won seats in the election.

## Zinjira

**FROM PAGE 12** time are said to be behind the large-scale racket for producing spurious commodities of many kinds and marketing them all over the country.

There were reported cases of production of adulterated vegetable ghee, fake dry-cell batteries bearing well-known brand names, products like tetracycline capsules, mustard, and soyabean oils, spurious Chinese-made transistor radios and locks.

We thus find that Zinjira is as much a centre for production of good quality goods as for spurious and low-quality ones.

However, the overall situation at Zinjira has been rapidly changing. The road communication there has improved with the opening of the China Friendship Bridge and lately a second bridge from the Baburbazar point over the river Buriganga has further improved communication. The internal road communications has reportedly also improved.

Against this backdrop, it is felt that the stigma attached to the name of Zinjira may die down if stern measures are adopted to check with a heavy hand the growth of any enterprise that may be engaged in the production of spurious and adulterated goods of any kind.

## Agailjhara

**FROM PAGE 1** munity and asked for huge amounts of money to allow us to stay home" Gain said.

Ramesh Chandra Das, an AL leader and UP Chairman of Raziar, said he had gone into hiding on October 2 as BNP supporters attacked his house. He was staying with a friend till October 6 and then his friend asked him to leave and save his life.

"At around 3:30 in the morning, I managed a rickshaw and started for Ramshil," Das said. But on his way, he was stopped by some hoodlums at Kodaldohra and badly assaulted. Some 'elderly' locals then rescued him from the grip of those 'political activists.'

"I do not know what to do now, we are living in total uncertainty," he said.

Many of the 'refugees' said if such atrocities continue, they would have no option but to leave the country.

Ananda Chandra Chakma, a teacher at Torky Bandar Secondary School, said if the government fails to ensure security of the minority, he would leave the country.

The number of displaced persons taking shelter in Kotailpara is unofficially estimated to be about 5,000. The authorities however said their number is about 500.

Meanwhile, students from the Hindu community have kept off their schools and colleges throughout the district, fearing attacks, teachers and other sources said.

## Saudi prince reiterates remarks that angered NY

AFP, Riyadh

Billionaire Saudi Prince Al-Walid bin Talal bin Abdul Aziz yesterday reiterated remarks on US policy in the Middle East that prompted New York's mayor to return his 10-million-dollar donation for victims of the World Trade Center attack.

"It is time the United States was fair with the Arabs, chiefly with regard to the Palestinian cause," Prince Walid told AFP.

He said Mayor Rudy Giuliani's rejection of the donation to the Twin Towers Fund would "not affect" his huge investments in the United States.

Giuliani turned down the donation Thursday after Prince Walid condemned the September 11 terror attacks which destroyed the World Trade Center, but suggested the US should rethink its policy in the Middle East.

"The Palestinian cause should command more attention in order to reach a just settlement of the Middle East conflict and restore the Palestinian people's rights in keeping with UN Security Council

## Hasina

**FROM PAGE 1** describe such brutality," the AL president told newsmen at the hospital.

She alleged that for creating an atmosphere for rigging the polls, BNP-Jamaal had resorted to torture and killings to eliminate dedicated AL workers.

Hasina was at the hospital for about an hour from 11:30 in the morning. She saw the victims of violence including Qamruzzaman of Gafargaon, Abdul Based Khan Bachchu of Demra, Tamim of Sylhet, Haris Mia of Comilla, Ishaq and Shamsul Alam of Pabna, Habibur Rahman Jitu and Jahangir of Chandpur, Borhanuddin of Shaikupa, Arif of Tangail, Prafulla Kumar Debnath of Noakhali and Shanti of Tongi.

She inquired about their treatment and tried to console members of the victims' families.

Terrorists cut off all the fingers of Qamruzzaman because, he said, he had voted for AL in the October 1 election. Borhanuddin lost both his legs while hands and legs of Tanim were damaged by terrorists because he caught four fake voters.

Sheikh Hasina said the post-polls situation has become unbearable and hoped, "people would build up resistance against such repression."

She alleged that members of the minority community in the country have no security and they are being rendered homeless.

## 15 killed

**FROM PAGE 1** road yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

Sources said the accident occurred at about 2 pm when a three-wheeler tempo collided with a passenger bus, leaving two passengers of the tempo dead on the spot.

The injured persons were admitted to Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

The bodies of the unidentified youngmen were taken to Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the bus and lodged a case with Gazipur Sadar thana in this connection.

In Pabna, three people were killed and 15 others injured in a collision between a bus and Nosimon, shallow engine driven vehicle, on Pabna-Nagorbari highway in Sujanager upazila last night, according to UNB.

One of the victims was identified as Liton, 25. They all were the passengers of Nosimon.'

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when the bus rammed the Nosimon in Driapur area at about 9 pm.

Police seized both the vehicles.

## DMC: JCD threatens

FROM PAGE 1

Some DMC teachers, when contacted yesterday, refuted the allegation, though.

However, a number of college teachers said they received unsigned hand written letters warning them that they had better not have any association with the BCL anymore.

On Wednesday, some JCD men went to Dr Fazle Rabbi Hall and locked rooms of four students who were believed to have close links with the BCL. None of them were in their rooms at that time.

Barely two days after the general election, the JCD men allegedly took control of the halls and barred their BCL counterparts from entering them. They also issued threats on a number of college teachers an allegation members of the JCD dismissed as 'baseless.'

During a visit to the college and the adjoining hospital premises yesterday, many medical interns expressed grave concern at the 'unpleasant' situation prevailing on the college campus.

An intern, who wished not to be named said, "We apprehend break out of violent clashes between (Jatiyatabadi) Chhatra Dal and (Bangladesh) Chhatra League any time. The environment at the college and hospital is not peaceful."

Meanwhile, the JCD has put up a notice on the walls at the college asking all members of clubhouses and organisations to discontinue

Resolutions 242 and 338," Prince Walid told AFP.

"I am a Muslim, an Arab, a Saudi and a nationalist," he said. "I am interested in my nation's causes and I condemn terrorism."

"I love America, and the American is my friend but the Palestinian is my brother," he added.

Prince Walid, a nephew of Saudi King Fahd, said he had made the donation to the fund set up to help families of emergency service workers killed in the September 11 attack in order to "show that we are against terrorism."

## Number of women

**FROM PAGE 1** Besides, the ministers in these two categories have also been given less important portfolios and status.

Sheikh Hasina picked two women cabinet ministers, namely Sajeda Choudhury and Motia Choudhury, and a state minister, Zinnatunnesa Talukdar. And all of them ran important ministries.

Sajeda held the Ministry of Forest and Environment while Motia ran two ministries Food and Agriculture for most of the time. However, she was later relieved of the food portfolio.

Zinnatunnesa was first given the charge of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and then the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

Khaleda Zia has inducted her elder sister Khurshid Jahan Haq, the only woman minister, into her cabinet, giving her the women and children portfolio. State Minister Selima Rahman has been given the charge of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Ministers belonging to the minority community have also been given less important portfolios and status.

Hasina's cabinet had two full ministers representing the minorities, Satish Chandra Roy and Kalpanaraj Chakma, who ran their ministries independently. Roy first managed the fisheries and livestock ministry and then the primary and mass education ministry while Chakma was in charge of the Ministry of CHT Affairs.

Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu was a deputy minister first in the shipping ministry and later in the food ministry.

Khaleda's cabinet accommodates no full ministers representing the minorities. Gautam Chakravarti has been made a state minister who will work under Water Resources Minister LK Siddiqi. Moni Swapan Dewan has been made a deputy minister for the Ministry of CHT Affairs, which is held by the prime minister herself.

## EC move

**FROM PAGE 12** in some 90 Pourashabhas where voting could not take place for various reasons, including legal tangles.

The EC officials have started studying the relevant files and the authorities concerned being directed to settle the disputes pending with the High Courts.

The idea of local governance through Upazila Parishad was introduced by HM Ershad's government and abandoned by Khaleda Zia's government. However, Sheikh Hasina's government revived it as a part of its four-tier local government body to decentralise the administration.

Afterwards, the government decided to hold election to Upazila Parishad. But the polling could not take place as the then opposition BNP boycotted all elections under Mohammed Abu Hena, former chief election commissioner.

In May last year, when MA Syed took over as chief election commissioner, he started preparation for national election, as the BNP had been demanding that parliamentary election be held first.

Election to Zila Parishad, the highest tier of the local government, will follow Upazila Parishad elections since representatives elected in Upazila Parishad will elect the Zila Parishad.

their activities. Sandhani, Leo and Rotractar clubs, Computer Club, Medicos Theatre, debating club and some other small organisations carry out their activities at the DMC. Supporters of the BCL run most of these clubs and organisations, sources said.

On October 4, the JCD activists allegedly took Dhaka Medical College Hospital intern Bijoy Datta, 27, to Dr Fazle Rabbi Hall and roughed him up. He is now under treatment at Banghabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

A member of the Academic Council of DMC said, about a month ago election of the student union of the DMC was held. The BCL swept the election, as JCD did not take part in it. An installation ceremony was supposed to be held and a budget presented immediately after the polls. But there has been uncertainty over whether these two events will all at one place.

About 600 signatories, said to be supporters of the JCD, submitted a memorandum to the principal of the college termed the election illegal and demanded that union be scrapped. However, at a recent meeting the Academic Council failed to arrive at any decision in this regard.

Principal of the college Prof. Quader Khan could not be contacted till writing of this report.