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## BOMB THREAT

### WB Country Director leaves Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Bank Country Director Christine I Wallich has left Bangladesh after receiving a death threat on Tuesday, an official with the multilateral lending agency said yesterday.

A letter was sent to her Gulshan residence marking her as the next target of bomb attacks that prompted her to leave Dhaka the same night, sources said.

Wallich, an American citizen, is the first foreigner known to have received a death threat since the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally that killed 20 people.

Contacted, the World Bank local office could not give more details about her hurried departure. "All I can say is that she has left the country after a bomb threat," an official said.

Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury told BBC Radio last night: "We have no idea if she (Wallich) has received a bomb threat. The threat could be for fun or real."

He alleged a vested quarter is trying to destabilise the country through such threats and grab headlines, targeting foreign

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## Opposition to start simultaneous agitation tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mainstream opposition parties, including the Awami League (AL), announced three weeks of simultaneous demonstrations from September 12 including a grand rally in Dhaka as part of their out-governments movement.

The demonstrations also announced by 11 left parties, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and National

Awami Party (NAP) include formation of human shields, march to parliament, rallies in district headquarters and demonstration in Dhaka and other cities.

The simultaneous announcement of the agitation marked the left coalition's return to the out-governments movement after days of intra-grouping wrangling over the agenda and strategy of the movement.

No other party of the grouping, except for the Workers Party, supported the main opposition AL and its allies in the last nine-day agitation that ended on September 9.

As part of the programmes, the opposition parties will march to the Jatiya Sangsad tomorrow, the opening day of the 13th session of the Jatiya Sangsad and form a human shield from Tongi to Narayanganj

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## JIC to quiz TNT smugglers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The three men including two Indians snared Thursday by border guards for sneaking into Bangladesh through Noakot border with plastic explosives were sent to the capital yesterday afternoon to be quizzed by the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC).

Earlier, in the morning, police produced them before a magistrate's court in the northeastern divisional headquarters of Sylhet with a prayer for 15 days' remand. The court granted a 10-day one.

Tipped off, a patrol team of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) nabbed the three with four packets of 'India-made' explosives containing TNT (trinitrotoluene) and five fuses Thursday morning at Chhanbarthighat.

The paramilitary border security force later handed over the men and the explosives to Comptanjanj police.

BDR also lodged two cases in this connection. Nayek M Nure Alam of Noakot Border Outpost filed one for illegal entry into Bangladesh against the two Indians - Chandan Hajong, 35, and Suresh Hajong, 32. The other case accused the three including the 17-year-old Bangladeshi, Kalaganju, of trafficking high explosives.

Border security sources said Kalaganju confessed to BDR interrogators that they had been engaged in smuggling contraband items into Bangladesh across the border for long.

This time they were instructed to

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## Interpol team inspects Hasina's car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Interpol investigators yesterday examined the vehicle of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina that received several bullet and grenade splinter-hits on August 21.

Meanwhile, an Interpol team member, terrorism expert Xin Hu, left Bangladesh Thursday night. His colleagues - fire tool-mark examiner Robert Thompson, explosives enforcement officer Frev Bredford, public safety and security specialist Marash Vucilaj and public safety and terrorism expert Jeffery Eyles - will carry on with the probe.

Yesterday, for the first time in its nearly two-week stay in Dhaka, the Lyon-based International Criminal Police Organisation team went to

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## Jubo League leader hurt in Aug 21 grenade attack dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Kalam Azad, a city Jubo League leader and one of the victims of the August 21 grenade attack on Awami League (AL) rally, died at a city hospital yesterday, raising the death toll to 20.

Azad, 42, joint general secretary of Jubo League Barante unit under Cantonment Police Station, received injuries to the head, intestine, chest, throat and back.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on August 21 and shifted to Metropolitan Medical Centre Limited at Mohakhali the following day where

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## MORSHED'S COMMENTS

### Delhi summons envoy, expresses dismay

STAR REPORT

India yesterday expressed its "surprise and dismay" over the remarks by Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at a recent seminar of journalists in Dhaka.

Our Delhi Correspondent Pallab Bhattacharya says, Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran summoned Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Hemayetuddin to the External Affairs Ministry and asked him to

convey to Dhaka that Morshed's remarks "could have a negative impact on bilateral relations and on the spirit of goodwill and friendship that has hitherto characterized these relations."

A statement issued by the spokesperson of Indian External Affairs Ministry said Morshed made the remarks in the presence of diplomats, including the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh

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## Food for Work scheme starts a month ahead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to start a Food for Work (FFW) programme from the current month advancing the schedule by one month considering the plight of the poor due to the month-long deluge.

A high official in the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management said the local administration is already asked to start the programme from September instead of October, the normal time for the FFW programme to start.

The ministry allocated 40,000 tonnes of rice and Tk 85 crore in the first phase for starting the FFW programme immediately, the source said.

Of these, 30,000 tonnes of rice is allocated for 42 flood-hit districts and 10,000 tonnes for the rest of the districts. Tk 65 crore has been allocated for those flood-hit districts and Tk 20 crore for the rest.

The government allocates both food and money for the programme this year to get an idea which is more effective, the official said. It was observed in the past that the FFW programme was dissipated due to corruption in the local administration.

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## Youth arrested with bombs in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A youth was arrested with four bombs from a house in the city yesterday, police said.

The arrestee was identified as Biplob Biswas, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

A bomb disposal team of Kotwali police recovered the bombs and nabbed Biplob while he was packing the explosives in packets of sweetmeats. The team defused the bombs.

Witnesses said local people and owner of the house on Sreenath Chatterjee lane found Biplob along with the bombs under the ground floor staircase of the building. They caught him and informed police.

A case was lodged with Kotwali police under the explosives act and the arrestee was being quizzed.

Biplob however denied possessing the bombs, saying he was passing by as he was passing by the house and stopped to see a crowd.

City and district units of the BCL claimed the bomb recovery was a stage-managed drama to implicate BCL and its activist Biplob in the case as part of a political conspiracy.

## JCD activist stabbed to death in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was stabbed to death by unknown assailants in the city yesterday.

The victim, Zakir Hossain, 30, came under attack at about 4:30pm, while he was taking rest at the residence of Ali Akbar alias Jashim, a painter, at Chumnu Miah's colony in the city's Kalbakhani area.

A gang of four reached the spot by two motorbikes and asked Zakir to get out of the room. As he declined, they dragged him out of the room and stabbed in different parts of his body.

The assailants left the spot, leaving Zakir in a pool of blood. Zakir was rushed to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Son of late Mokbul Hossain of Bagbari area of Chhatrak upazila headquarters. Zakir was a close associate of Ward Commissioner Abdul Kadir Shomsu.

The reason behind the murder could not be known. Shomsu was preparing to file a case against murder.

## VHP vows to do an Ayodhya re-run in Maharashtra

REUTERS, Mumbai

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) plans to pull down the controversial tomb of a 17th century Muslim general tomorrow, in a grim echo of the 1992 razing of a mosque that sparked some of India's worst religious riots.

Thousands of police personnel have been deployed around the tomb near Mahabaleshwar, a hill resort about 250 km from Mumbai, to prevent communal violence as tensions rise ahead of Maharashtra

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## Jubo Dal leader murdered in Sitakunda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Jatiyabadi Jubo Dal leader was chopped to death following an altercation with a Samik Dal leader in Barokunda in Sitakunda upazila yesterday morning.

Activists of the Jubo Dal, youth wing of ruling BNP, blockaded the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at 9:00am for one hour to protest the killing.

Md Harun, vice-president of Barokunda unit Jubo Dal, locked in an altercation with Samik Dal leader Shah Alam over sharing of profit they had made from the sale of scrap items, sources said.

At one stage, they attacked each other with sharp weapons, resulting in a gory clash that left Harun dead, the sources added. Police arrested a wounded Alam after the incident.

Locals alleged the situation occurred as Kamal Uddin, an influential local leader, took initiatives to restart closed Anowara Jute Mills and employed Alam to that end.

However, Alam had started embezzling machinery and other scrap items of the mill, developing enmity with Zahir group, backed by Harun, leading to yesterday's killing, they added.

## Defeated in polls, chamber leader loots nomination papers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

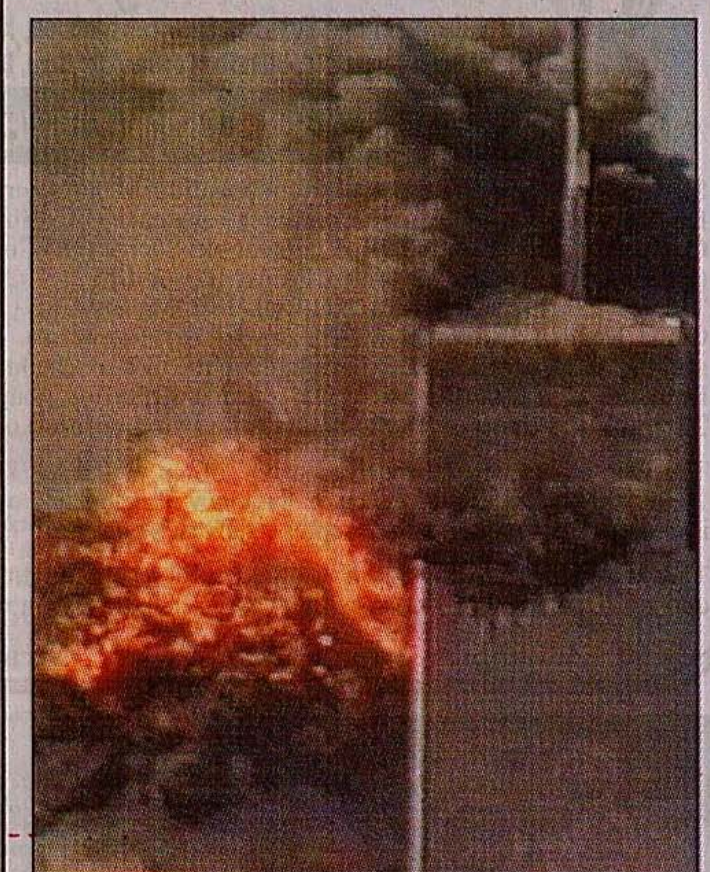
An outgoing vice president of Barisal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), who is also a local BNP leader, Thursday night looted all the nomination papers filed for the recently concluded BCCI executive committee (EC) election, apparently to foil the election results.

According to chamber and police sources, Sheikh Abdur Rahim, joint secretary of district BNP and outgoing VP of BCCI, called BCCI Office Secretary Muhammad Ali Khan from his house and forced him to open the chamber office at Nazir Pool at about 8:00pm Thursday night.

He then took away all the nomination papers including his own from the office.

Abdur Rahim, who refused to accept the election results and the

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FILE PHOTO

This September 9, 2001 television image courtesy of CNN shows an explosion coming out of one of the World Trade Centre Towers after an airplane flew into it. Two aircraft have flown into each of the World Trade Centre Towers.

## SEPT 11 ANNIVERSARY

### Al-Qaeda warns US of defeat

AGENCIES, Dubai

Two days before the third anniversary of September 11, Osama bin Laden's right-hand man warned for the first time in a year to warn Americans of imminent defeat for their armies in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With Americans needing no reminder of their vulnerability to potential terrorist attack, al-Qaeda number two Ayman al-Zawahiri was shown on Al-Jazeera television late Thursday doing just that.

"(Americans) will no longer be safe while their government does not stop committing its crimes against Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine," said the fugitive Egyptian cleric, shown on the tape with an assault rifle at his side.

"The American defeat in Iraq and Afghanistan has become just a question of time. God willing," he told the world, nearly three years to the day since the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

"In the two countries, the Americans are between two fires: if they remain there they will bleed to death, and if they withdraw they will have lost everything."

Zawahiri said that armed Islamists he described as al-Qaeda's Mujahideen had foiled US forces in Iraq and left them hiding in the trenches in Afghanistan.

The US death toll in Iraq hit the 1,000 mark earlier this week as American troops battle a deadly insurgency that has also set its

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## Jubo League leader shot dead in India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Unknown assailants gunned down a Jubo League leader on Tentulia Bridge in Swarnapagar thana of 24 Parganas in West Bengal Thursday night.

Victim Khan Alamgir Kabir alias Alam, 38, general secretary of Dumuria unit Jubo League and also second-in-command of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBPC), was a listed top criminal, Khulna police said.

Alam, son of Jahatap Khan and chairman of Gutudia Union Parishad, was killed as he was about to board a train bound for Kolkata at 11:30pm.

A leading Kolkata daily said Alam and his wife Nasrin Alam with two children were hiding in a rented house in Muchkundapur village in 24 Parganas for the last two months. Police held two suspects, as learnt from Indian electronic media ETV.

Alam was charge-sheeted accused of six murders, two abduction and eight other criminal charges, police said, adding he was sentenced for life in 2001 in an arms case.

Police said Alam was the prime charge-sheeted accused in Molla Sirajul Islam murder case. Sirajul, general secretary of district unit Jubo Dal, was killed last year.

Son of a farmer, Alam joined the Jubo League in 1986 as a worker and became its general secretary in 1997. He joined the NBPC the same year.

The superintendent of police of Khulna said Alam earned huge money by extorting the shrimp farmers in Dumuria and Batiaghata, robbery and abduction.

Before his escape to India, Alam was in possession of huge arms and ammunition and evaded arrest by joint forces thrice, getting advance information over cellphone from his beneficiaries in Dumuria Police Station, reliable sources said.

## Customs revenue flags for soaring writ petitions

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN, back from Chittagong

Revenue collection by the Chittagong Customs House is dropping by Tk 5 crore to 7 crore a day because of filing of a large number of writ petitions with the High Court challenging tax officials' valuation of imported goods.

Top officials of the customs house said about 10 writ petitions were being filed a day and 9,376 cases involving over Tk 600 crore revenue were pending before the court since 1991. Of the petitions, 426 were filed this year.

Customs officials follow a har-

monised system of commodity description code, commonly known as HS Code, to calculate tax of any item on the basis of the government's duty structure specified for each item.

In case of any disagreement on the valuation, aggrieved importers can file appeals with the commissioner or the Appellate Tribunal for tax relief.

"But most importers like filing writ petitions with the High Court, often to get stay on an interim order that directs the customs house to release the goods," said Deputy Commissioner of Customs Syed Mushfequr Rahman.

He said importers often pray for immediate release of their goods, citing the 'risk of financial loss' in case of delay. They also submit a bank guarantee assuring the parties of paying off in case the verdict goes against them.

The cases keep piling up as the customs officials find it difficult to quickly act on the court directives, as they have to submit their explanations through the attorney general's office, Mushfequr said.

"In case of filing a civil miscellaneous petition with the Supreme Court we have to go through the solicitor's wing under the Ministry

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## Rab nabs Ctg top terror

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Ahmedul Haq Chowdhury alias Ahmudya, a top-notch criminal of the district, and his 10 accomplices in Satkania yesterday.

In another drive on the same day, members of the elite force nabbed Shibir cadre Md Ramzan alias 'Bhagina' Ramzan, with one AK-47 assault rifle in Fatikchhari of the district.

Sources said a Rab team nabbed Ahmudya and his 10 accomplices when they were coming out of Aeochia Union Parishad (UP) office at Deodighirpur under Satkania upazila after Juma prayers. Ahmudya is the incumbent chairman of the union parishad.

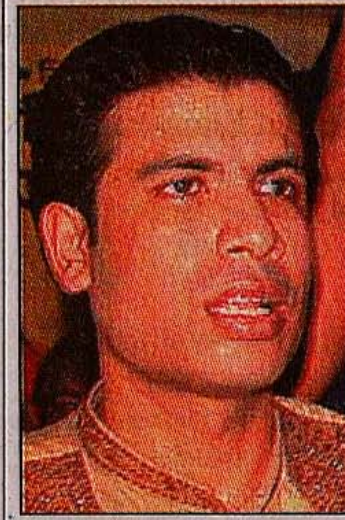
Ahmudya and his two accomplices were killed in a shootout with Rab at about 9:00 last night, sources said. Rab said Ahmudya did not die, but was critically injured in crossfire.

They were going to a workers' rally of Satkania BNP in South Dharmsha.

A former cadre of Jamaat-e-Islami, Ahmudya was wanted in over 15 criminal cases. He was also reportedly evading 17-year rigorous imprisonment (RI) awarded in an arms case before he joined the ruling BNP in July this year.

Eight of the 10 arrested accomplices of Ahmudya have been

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Ahmudya

## Blazing start for NZ

SPORTS REPORTER

New Zealand posted a thumping 210-run victory in their opening ICC Champions Trophy match against the USA at The Oval in London yesterday.

The American minnows were bowled out for 137 in the 43rd over in one of two opening day matches. Paceman Jacob Oram captured five wickets.

Earlier, the Black Caps, after losing the toss, scored a huge 347 for four with dashing opening batsman Nathan Astle hitting 145 not out and Craig McMillan scoring a whirlwind unbeaten 64.

The Kiwi total broke the previous Champions Trophy record of 316-5 amassed by South Africa against Kenya in Colombo 2002.

Elsewhere, hosts England had

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