

### EU parliament urges speedy restoration of democracy

**STAR REPORT**  
The European Parliament (EP) has urged the caretaker government to act in accordance with the rule of law and speed up the restoration of democracy.  
The EP also expressed deep concern over the authorities' actions including "the disproportionate response of the military and the police against the student protests which erupted in late August at Dhaka University".

### ACC finalises service rules for its staff

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday finalised the draft service and recruitment rules for its employees. The draft will be forwarded to the Cabinet Division today for approval.  
"Today the draft has been finalised and we will send it to the Cabinet Division tomorrow," ACC Secretary Mukhlis ur Rahman told a private television channel yesterday.

"The drafts need approval from the ministries of establishment, finance and law. We hope the rules would be approved within 15 days," said the ACC secretary.  
The process of creating 351 posts under the ACC organogram will start soon, he added.  
So far the ACC ran as per the service and recruitment rules for the government employees.  
Meanwhile, ACC Chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury will fly for England on September 12 to attend a seminar of Transparency International.

### Sharif urged to scrap return plan

**AFP, Islamabad**  
Saudi Arabia and an influential Lebanese politician yesterday joined calls by Pakistan for former prime minister Nawaz Sharif to scrap plans to return to the country next week.  
Saad Hariri, son of assassinated former Lebanese prime minister Rafiq Hariri, and Saudi intelligence chief Miqrin bin Abdul Aziz said Sharif must honour the deal that sent him into exile seven years ago.

# Weakening taka led to inflationary pressure

Says Prof SR Osmani at CPD dialogue

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Inflationary pressure has increased in the last five years as the country had to spend excess money on import of essential commodities due to huge depreciation of local currency.  
"Following some neighbouring countries, the central bank could check continued inflation by appreciating taka against dollar... Had it (central bank) spent some portion of its foreign currency reserve to save the people from persisting price spiral, it would not have been illogical"

This was said in the keynote paper presented by Prof S R Osmani of the University of Ulster, UK, at a seminar organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in the capital yesterday.  
Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed however differed with Osmani's views and said, "Reserve manipulation and local currency appreciation are not the best way to achieving macro economic targets."  
There is no significant relation

between inflation and foreign currency reserve or exchange rate, he told the seminar on 'Interpreting Recent Inflationary Trends in Bangladesh and Policy Options'.

CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan moderated the seminar held at Brac Centre Inn.

"First of all, in the present stagflation, we have to go for policies for recovering economic trends along with reining in inflation," Salehuddin said.

The central bank governor also refused to compare Bangladesh's inflationary pressure with that in India. India is definitely a success story in terms of checking inflation. But there are some tight measures that India follows but Bangladesh cannot, he said.

Prof Osmani, also a visiting professor at Brac University, said the main reason behind increasing inflation in Bangladesh is price hike in international market. Another significant reason is repeated depreciation of taka against dollar, he added.

When Bangladesh repeatedly depreciated its currency, currency of

neighbouring India, the main source of Bangladesh's essential imports, remained stable, Osmani said.

"Therefore, value of taka declined not only against dollar but also against Indian rupee. As a result, Bangladesh had to pay extra money in importing essential commodities," he said. Extra expenditure results in extra inflationary pressure, he noted.

Speaking as guest of honour Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said to check continued inflation, there is no alternative to becoming self-sufficient in food production in the long run.

He also stressed building a buffer stock of food items for curbing inflation. If the government has a huge quantity of food stocks, so-called syndicates cannot manipulate their market prices, he added.

The government organisation concerned should act as a market friendly one but it is not possible for the existing Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), the renowned economist said.

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Two aspiring migrant workers asleep on luggage trolleys at Zia International Airport yesterday. Their travel agent called them to the airport saying their flight to Dubai was on Tuesday but later postponed their departure till midnight Sunday.

### 85 pilgrims killed in India truck crash

AP, Nagbavji, India

Rescuers in India recovered the bodies of 85 pilgrims yesterday from the mangled wreckage of a truck that plunged into a ravine in one of the country's worst-ever vehicle accidents, police said.

Some 200 people were crowded on the truck travelling to a religious fair in the desert state of Rajasthan in western India.

Apart from the deaths, some 61 people were in three hospitals, many of them seriously injured, police said.

"People have been taken out of the gorge," said police superintendent Rupinder Singh in Rajasmand district, where the accident occurred after dark on Friday. "Eighty-five bodies have been recovered."

A large number of the dead were women, said police, adding that about 50 remaining passengers were believed to have survived unhurt or with minor injuries.

A witness told AFP that a crowd of motorcyclists jammed the road by the ravine where the truck fell, and piercing screams and cries could be heard as survivors called for help.

"I stopped the car and saw a truck lying upside down in the ravine," said Udaipur district official

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Prayer Timing		
September 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

### Coordination needed for fighting graft

BBC Sanglap told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap yesterday said there should be coordination among different government agencies and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in combating corruption.

Referring to the recent remark of Army Chief of Staff Gen Moeen U Ahmed that fresh list of corrupt people would not be prepared from the next month, the speakers said as the ACC is independent, the matter should be left to the anti-graft body.

"If the advisers and chiefs of

### US judge fines Iran \$2.65b for 1993 US barrack bombing in Beirut

Tehran trashes fine as 'baseless'

AP, AFP, Washington/ Tehran

Iran must pay \$2.65 billion to the families of the 241 US service members killed in the 1983 bombing of the US Marine barracks in Beirut, a federal judge declared Friday in a ruling that left survivors and families shedding tears of joy.

US District Judge Royce C Lamberth described his ruling as the largest-ever such judgment by an American court against another country. "These individuals, whose hearts and souls were forever broken, waited patiently for nearly

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# Flood-hit students fail to take college admission

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, from Sirajganj

Hundreds of students who passed SSC examinations this year from different schools in Sirajganj district could not get admitted into colleges since their families had to grapple with the recent flood during the admission period.

The young learners feel utterly frustrated about their future.

According to sources in the District Education Office, about 40 percent of the students who passed SSC exams in the district failed to get admission into colleges.

Students and sources at several colleges said August 5 was the last date for admission according to the

government schedule. But almost all colleges in the district town and nine upazilas were unofficially closed midway of the admission as floodwaters inundated most of the areas. Educational and other official activities at these colleges remained suspended until the second week of August.

This disturbance in getting admission in the HSC classes may mean the loss of a year for a lot of students.

Many students claimed that they went to different colleges for admission after floodwaters receded and the colleges reopened but could not get admission since the scheduled last date already expired.

Monowara Khatun, a student from Chak-Kobdashpara in Sirajganj

town, told The Daily Star that when she went to Maolana Bhashani Degree College for getting admission, she was refused as the government declared last date for admission already passed.

The principal of the college told her that he had nothing to do unless the government considers extending the time of admission.

Talukder Mostafizur Rahman, an assistant professor at the college, said last year at least 200 students were admitted in HSC classes, but this year the number of students admitted is just 56.

Students and college teachers in the district have urged the government to extend the time for admission for the sake of hundreds of students.

# Laden mocks US as 'weak' in new video

AFP, Washington

Elusive al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden mocked the United States as "weak" and vowed to escalate



fighting in Iraq in a new video, his first such appearance in nearly three years.

The al-Qaeda leader discusses current events but issues no direct threats in the video, released Friday. His appearance appears to be timed to mark the upcoming sixth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

Bin Laden appears with his beard trimmed and apparently dyed black to hide streaks of gray seen in previous footage.

There are two ways to end the Iraq war, bin Laden says, according to a transcript released by the US-based SITE Intelligence Group which monitors Islamic militant websites.

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# England take series with easy win

AFP, London

England beat India by seven wickets to win the seventh one-day international at Lord's here Saturday and complete a 4-3 series win.

England, chasing a modest 188 for victory, collapsed to 10-2, but Ian Bell (36) and Kevin Pietersen (71 not out) led the recovery.

Life would have been simpler still if Pietersen hadn't run out Bell, calling him for a quick single before changing his mind and leaving Bell stranded.

Collingwood (64 not out) though came to the crease and he and Pietersen saw England home with nearly 14 overs to spare.

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