

Debapriya made  
envoy to UN  
Geneva office

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), as the next ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh to the UN offices in Geneva, said an official announcement.

Born in 1956, Debapriya studied at St Gregory's High school in Dhaka and at Dhaka College. He did his MSc (economics) with distinction and PhD (economics) from the Plekhanov Institute of National Economy, Moscow.

He was a post-doctoral fellow at the Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford.

Prior to joining the CPD, Debapriya worked as a senior research fellow at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Debapriya was a senior

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BANGABANDHU CASE  
SC order on Sept 23  
on leave to appeal  
of condemned  
prisoners

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed September 23 for order on applications by the condemned prisoners seeking leave-to-appeal against their death sentences confirmed by the High Court in the Bangabandhu murder case.

After closing the arguments and counter arguments made by the defence and the state lawyers, a three-member bench of the

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UNGA SESSION

## CA's speech to feature reform, duty-free export

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Duty-free access of products from developing countries, free labour movement and the caretaker government's reform programmes will feature in Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed's speech to the 62nd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Thursday.

Fakhruddin will leave for New York tomorrow to attend the UNGA, where he will meet a number of global leaders, including Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and Afghan President Hamid Karzai, on the sidelines.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury revealed the chief adviser's programme for the trip to the press at a briefing at the foreign

ministry yesterday.

Fakhruddin will also attend a high-level UN panel on climate change, as well as deliver speeches to the Asia Society and at the Columbia University.

In his address to the UNGA, Fakhruddin will demand for least developed countries duty-free access to developed countries' markets, as well as ask for the free movement of labour across countries.

He will also outline the caretaker government's reform programmes and the roadmap to general elections.

Iftekhar said the chief adviser would also call on member states to ensure the UN plays a central role in global affairs as well as the

expansion of the peacekeeping activities.

He will attend receptions hosted by US President George W Bush, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, and expatriate Bangladeshis in New York.

The chief adviser will also hold bilateral meetings with the Italian prime minister and former European Union commissioner Romano Prodi, and also meet Afghan Prime Minister Hamid Karzai and Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klose. Fakhruddin is scheduled to return home on September 30.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar will hold talks with the foreign ministers of Britain, Sri Lanka, Malta, and

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AL Presidium  
meets today to  
discuss reform  
talks with EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) Presidium meets today to discuss various issues including sitting with the Election Commission (EC) for dialogue and fixing a date for holding a meeting of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC).

The meeting of the highest policy making body of the party will be held at the Gulshan residence of AL Acting President Zillur Rahman at 11:00am.

"As one or two of our senior

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2 JP factions  
hold separate  
meetings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two factions of Jatiya Party (JP), one led by Rawshan Ershad and the other by barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, held separate meetings yesterday and said they would hold separate party council meetings.

Acting JP Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud, appointed by HM Ershad, and self-proclaimed chairman Rawshan Ershad blasted each other's faction at the meetings.

The Anisul-led JP at the meeting decided not to join any political alliance for the time being and to contest in the upcoming elections from all 300 constituencies.

"JP will give nomination in the next general election for all 300 constituencies and preparations are going on in this regard," Anisul Islam Mahmud told reporters after the presidium meeting held at the

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PHOTO: STAR

Shop owners of Baitul Mukarram market in the capital closed their shops and gathered on a nearby street yesterday protesting the authorities' allowing hawkers to run their business around the market ahead of Eid. They claimed it reduced the number of their customers.

## Musharraf sets polls date October 6

Laden tape declares war on Pakistan

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf will seek re-election on October 6, officials said yesterday as the embattled US ally faced a declaration of war from al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden.

Opposition parties immediately vowed to quit parliament over Musharraf's plans to win another five-year term in uniform. He

announced earlier this week that he would step down as army chief, but only if he wins the poll.

Musharraf, whose popularity has nosedived in recent months, must also hope the Supreme Court does not uphold any of the legal challenges that political rivals have filed against his eligibility.

Meanwhile Bin Laden's threat to Musharraf and his army, in a new message to be released shortly,

highlights the threat he faces from Islamic fighters who have killed scores of people in recent attacks.

"Nominations must be filed by September 27, the scrutiny of the nominations will be on September 29 and October 6 will be the election," the election commission's secretary Kanwar Dilshad told AFP.

The vote is not by Pakistan's 160 million people but by a ballot of the

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Delwar questions  
EC's right to  
register parties

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday questioned the authority of the Election Commission (EC) to register the political parties.

"EC has no jurisdiction to register the political parties. It is the function of parliament to decide which parties should be registered with the Election Commission," said Delwar at his residence.

The views of the BNP leader came when his attention was drawn to the statement of Election Commissioner Sohul Hussain that no election symbol would be reserved for any political party unless it is registered with EC.

Delwar said the Election Commission does not need to think about BNP with regard to its election symbol. BNP is united under the leadership of its Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

About the council meeting proposed by Mannan Bhuiyan

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Ganotantri Party  
asks EC not to  
register Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ganotantri Party yesterday urged the Election Commission (EC) not to give registration to Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and called for a ban on religion-based politics in the country.

Participating in the electoral reform talks with EC, the party also sought disqualifying identified war criminals of 1971 from contesting parliamentary elections.

Since the beginning of electoral reform talks between the EC and

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PHOTO: STAR

A truckload of hay being taken to flood-affected northern part of the country where an acute fodder crisis prevails. The photo was taken from Ranirhat of Nandigram upazila in Bogra yesterday.

Get Prayer times from Warid Menu

Iftaar

Sehri

5.59 PM

4.27 AM

Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Sep	Sehri	Iftar
8	21		5-59
9	22	4-28	5-58
10	23	4-28	5-57

Prayer Timing		
September 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-27	4-37
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-59	6-14
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Rejoinder

The Ministry of Agriculture in a rejoinder to a report headlined "Govt ups prices of fertiliser" published in The Daily Star on September 20 said it has not taken any decision on increasing the price of any kind of fertiliser.

In fact, there was no meeting of the fertiliser pricing and monitoring committee on last Thursday or at any other time of this month, the rejoinder said.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation had earlier proposed a price increase of TSP and MOP, but the ministry summarily rejected the proposal and directed to continue with the existing prices. So, the prices of TSP and MOP (potash) remain unchanged--Tk 17.50 and Tk 15.50 per kg, the rejoinder said.

## Bangladesh make Pakistan sweat

AFP, Cape Town

Pakistan laboured to a four-wicket win over Bangladesh at Newlands Thursday to earn themselves an ICC World Twenty20 Championship semifinal date at the same ground this weekend.

Pakistan's win ensured they finished top of Group F in the Super Eights stage with three wins in three matches.

Australia were the other semifinal qualifiers from the group after beating Sri Lanka by ten wickets in the first game of a double header at Newlands. Australia will have to travel to Durban for their semifinal.

Two of South Africa, New Zealand and India will qualify from Group E, depending on the result of the final Super Eights match between South Africa and India in Durban later Thursday.

Newcomer Zunaed Siddique made an aggressive half-century to play virtually a lone hand for Bangladesh after they were sent in to bat.

Opening batsman Siddique, who was named man of the match, blasted 71 off 49 balls but Bangladesh were bowled out for 140 in 19.4 overs.

Pakistan seemed set for an

easy win but they suffered a middle order batting collapse.

Opening batsman Imran Nazir, who had earlier retired hurt before scoring, returned at the fall of the fifth wicket and hit 27 not out to guide Pakistan home with six balls to spare.

Siddique, 19, a tall left-hander, marked his international debut with a sparkling innings which included six fours and three sixes.

He showed a fearless approach at the crease. Even when three wickets fell in successive overs in mid-innings he slammed two successive sixes over mid-wicket off off-spinner Mohammad Hafeez.

But his penchant for the lofted stroke over midwicket caused his downfall when he was caught in the deep off Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik.

Nazir retired hurt before a run had been scored by Pakistan when he was hit in the abdomen by a ball from Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

But the hard-hitting Shahid Afridi, opening the batting for the first time in the tournament, added 59 in quick time with Mohammad Hafeez.

Afridi slammed 39 off 15 balls with five fours and two sixes, while

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