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**Three secys transferred**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday transferred three secretaries, a member of Planning Commission and rector of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC).

A PID handout yesterday said Establishment Secretary Abdus Salam Khan was made BPATC rector while Land Secretary Mosleh Uddin was transferred to the establishment ministry and AKM

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**Ex-ambassador Nazim sued for embezzlement of govt fund**

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday sued former Bangladesh ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Nazim Ullah Chowdhury for embezzling Tk65lakh of government funds.

ACC Deputy Director Abdullah Al Jahid filed the first information

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**Sehri, Iftar timings**

| Ramadan | Sep | Sehri | Iftar |
|---------|-----|-------|-------|
| 1       | 2   | 4-19  | 6-19  |
| 2       | 3   | 4-19  | 6-18  |
| 3       | 4   | 4-20  | 6-17  |

**Prayer Timing**

| September 1 |       |        |
|-------------|-------|--------|
|             | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr        | 4-30  | 5-05   |
| Zohr        | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr         | 4-45  | 5-00   |
| Maghrib     | 6-23  | 6-26   |
| Esha        | 7-45  | 8-15   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Politicians welcome proposed RTI**

**Pledge to include it in poll manifestos**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Welcoming the caretaker government's move to formulate the right to information (RTI) law, leaders of different political parties yesterday promised to include in their election manifesto pledges to implement it.

Such a law will help ensure political parties' accountability towards the people, and transparency in their decision making and financial management, if they are

brought under the purview of the law, some of the leaders noted.

They were attending an opinion exchange meeting organised jointly by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and People's Empowerment Trust in the capital yesterday.

GM Quader, a former Jatiya Party lawmaker, presented the keynote speech on 'Right to Information: Commitment of Political Parties within Election Manifesto and Its

Implementation', with MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam in the chair.

Pointing out a trend in developing countries where political parties turn into profit mongering business type institutions, Quader said dictatorial leadership and secrecy in decision making and financial management result in corruption of politics through recruitment of criminals who later start controlling the parties.

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**EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS**

**Lax in publishing probe reports dents HR situation**

**Observe rights bodies**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's reluctance in publishing probe reports on extra-judicial killings and punishing the offenders has been the key impediment to improving human rights situation in the country, observed rights bodies.

Human Rights Forum (HRF), a group of 17 human rights organisations that prepared a summary report for the United Nations (UN) on the country's human rights

situation, yesterday said this.

At a programme titled 'UPR Report Sharing at the National Level' held at the National Press Club the HRF said it would present the report to the UN soon.

Human rights organisations yesterday expressed this while revealing the summary report that would be presented to the UN soon. The UPR (Universal Periodic Review) is prepared by governments and NGOs of member

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**'Establishment' not opposed to my candidacy**

**Says Zardari**

PTI, Islamabad/ London

Eyeing presidency after the Pakistani army's very own Pervez Musharraf's departure, Asif Ali Zardari, the ruling PPP's candidate for the top post, says the 'establishment' is with him in his quest to succeed the former military ruler.

He said the 'establishment' -- a euphemism for army in Pakistan -- has not opposed or expressed reservations over his candidature in the September six presidential poll.

"The establishment has its own sensitivities which we keep in view while taking decisions," Zardari told 'The News' daily at the Prime Minister's House annex, where he has shifted for security reasons

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**Iceland president visits Sundarbans**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

President of Iceland Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, who is on a three-day visit, toured the Sundarbans yesterday.

Grimsson, accompanied by Raja Debashish Roy, special assistant to the chief adviser, was flown to the Mongla naval base from Dhaka by a helicopter at about 11:00am.

Divisional Commissioner Md Yunusur Rahman, Area Commander of Navy MM Rajib, Deputy Commissioner of Bagerhat Shahidul Islam, and Superintendent of Police AKM Shahidur Rahman received Grimsson at the naval base.

He was taken to Harbaria at the Sundarbans by 'Banrani', a watercraft of the Sundarbans Forest Division.

Grimsson left Mongla for Dhaka at about 5:00pm.

**Dhaka, Delhi focus on insurgent outfits**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has sought New Delhi's cooperation in taking preventive measures against the anti-Bangladesh insurgent outfits and criminals operating from Indian territory.

During the concluding day of the home secretary-level talks between the two neighbouring countries yesterday, Bangladesh has reaffirmed its stance on the issue, expressing the hope that India would take steps to curb the anti-Bangladesh elements.

In a joint press statement issued after the talks, the Indian side also sought Dhaka's cooperation to

trace the presence of Indian insurgent groups allegedly based in Bangladesh.

The two nations have agreed to take action against the militants, insurgent outfits and their leaders on the basis of real time and actionable information to be exchanged between the nodal points.

They also agreed not to allow each other's land for criminal activities but disagreed on the issue of handover of convicted criminals.

"Criminals who have taken shelter in either country to evade the process of law, both sides agreed to continue efforts to find them out and send them back

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**45-day amnesty for foreigners to regularise stay in Kuwait**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kuwait on Saturday declared a 45-day amnesty for foreigners living in the gulf country without proper documents. This allows them to regularise their status or leave the country without paying a fine, reported Arab Times yesterday.

The amnesty, which takes effect today and ends on October 15, is a humanitarian gesture by the Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of Ramadan, the newspaper reported quoting Kuwait's official news agency, KUNA.

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A mob vandalises a pickup truck of Power Development Board used in an eviction drive by Chittagong Development Authority at Muradpur area of the port city yesterday.

**Five injured in clash over eviction drive**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

At least five people were injured yesterday in a clash between police and locals over an eviction drive by the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) at Mirzarpool in the port city.

The mob put up barricade on the Panchlaish-Muradpur road bringing the traffic movement on the road to a halt for two hours.

Several vehicles including a PDB pickup truck were also damaged during the clash.

Sources said a CDA team went to Mirzarpool to demolish a two-storey building that houses a number of shops and factories at around 11:00am.

The clash between locals and police ensued after the law enforcers

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