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## Barisal BNP factions clash; 35 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Supporters of reformist and pro-Khaleda faction of BNP engaged in a clash Friday at Gauranadi in Barisal that left at least 35 people including a policeman and a journalist injured.

Traffic movement on Barisal-Dhaka highway was disrupted for hours and a number of shops and vehicles were vandalised at Gauranadi Bus Stand during the clash.

After the clash Nur Alam Howladar, Gauranadi municipality mayor and upazila BNP president, resigned from his party post. Barisal north district BNP President Abdur Rob told The Daily Star that upazila BNP vice-president Abul Hossain Mia will take over from Alam.

Witnesses, police and party

## Khaleda talks of democracy on Eid day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia Thursday called for efforts to restore democracy in the country.

She was talking to reporters after exchanging Eid pleasantries with diplomats, professional bodies, educationists, cultural activists and party leaders at the Ladies' Club on Eskaton Garden Road in Dhaka.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, US Ambassador James F Moriarty, Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdullah Bin Faisal Al-Busairi, acting British High Commissioner Duncan Norman, officials from the Indian and Pakistani high commissions, former foreign secretary Shamsheer Hossain Chowdhury, among others, attended the programme.

"I know people are celebrating Eid out of misery. I hope that they'll be able to celebrate next year in an open environment under an elected government," Khaleda said.

She said she was not happy that she had to spend the day without

## July export jives with knitwear feat

Marks 84pc rise over last year's

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The knitwear sector recorded a sharp exports growth fetching \$640.50 million in July, an 84.72 percent rise over the corresponding period of last year, while the total export grew by 71.01 percent.

According to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), total export this July was \$1.543 billion. It was \$902.33 million in July 2007 when knitwear export was recorded at \$346.74 million.

Knitwear export was recorded at \$603 million in June this year. In fiscal year 2007-08, export for the sector was estimated at \$5.532

EXPORTS IN JULY		
Major sectors	Earnings	Growth
Knitwear	\$640.50	84.72%
Woven	\$547.30	58.55%
Frozen food	\$64.06	39.47%

billion with a 21.24 percent growth, exceeding the \$5.465 billion target, the EPB data show.

The EPB has not yet announced the export target for fiscal year 2008-09.

EPB Vice Chairman Shahab Ullah said, "We will announce the

annual export target for different sectors after the Eid and Puja vacations."

According to the EPB, the export price index increased by 5.28 percent in July while export volume rose by 65.73 percent.

The export price index for primary products increased by 5.68 percent while the export volume rose by 22.88 percent. In the manufacturing sector, the index increased by 5.25 percent and export volume by 69.39 percent.

"The export figure of July is a good one. Upcoming months will see more exports as different

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## 10 Hizb ut-Tahrir men freed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The 10 Hizb ut-Tahrir leaders and activists arrested on September 18 were released from Rajshahi Central Jail Tuesday night.

They were arrested in Rajshahi on suspicion of their involvement in militancy and inciting anti-state activities.

The release came after police submitted before a court a discharge report. Based on the report, the Rajshahi District and Sessions Judge's Court earlier that day granted them bail. Hizb ut-Tahrir had threatened of waging a movement to oust the government.

In the discharge report, police said nothing was found to sue the Tahrir men. Police only two weeks ago told the media that they would

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## Emergency to stay until elections

CA tells Time magazine; his remark kicks up a political uproar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed has said the caretaker government wants to continue with the state of emergency until the general elections to "retain control" over the old problems of money and muscle power during polls.

Meanwhile, political parties yesterday expressed mixed reaction to the comments of the chief adviser on the emergency.

"One of the problems with the election process has been that money and muscle power were



used in the past; in order to control that, I think emergency rules will help," he said in an interview with the Time magazine in New York during his recent participation to the 63rd UNGA session.

Replying to a question whether Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina would be allowed to stand for the election, he said "Well, that will depend on the Election Commission. The law under which elections will be held stipulates certain conditions for anyone to submit a nomination. Anyone who

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## AL prepares for polls next week

BNP working on election manifesto

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) will formally start election preparations next week by finalising draft election manifesto, proposing amendments to the party constitution to get registered with the Election Commission and holding talks with components of the 14-party combined byit.

Meanwhile, BNP has started the groundwork to prepare an election manifesto.

AL has already started preparing campaign materials for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

"We will start formal election preparations after the Puja holiday (October 9)," AL presidium member Motia Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked about this, AL acting President Zillur Rahman said, "We will begin election preparations after our party leaders, currently staying in their constituencies,

return to Dhaka."

Meanwhile, the AL has drafted electoral manifesto with a wide range of polls pledges that include good governance by ensuring accountability and transparency, strengthening the Jatiya Sangsad, establishing rule of law by conducting anti-corruption and anti-terrorism drives, economic development through setting up of EPZs at different places in the country, introducing science-based education, poverty alleviation through employment opportunity to at least one member of each family.

AL advisory council member AMA Muhith said the election manifesto would be finalised before party President Sheikh Hasina returns home from the US.

Hasina might return at the end of this month, and the manifesto would then be placed before the AL Central Working Committee meeting.

AL acting General Secretary

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PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

The usual heavy traffic is missing at Farmgate in the capital yesterday as most city dwellers are yet to return from their Eid holidays.

## Dhaka still in holiday mood

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The hustle and bustle of Dhaka came down for a few days relieving the city of nagging traffic congestion and persisting load-shedding following Eid vacation and exodus of a huge number of residents.

The capital looked most vibrant as people in colourful dresses were seen roaming on the streets, visiting their relatives and amusement parks as the weekend added an extra holiday to the Eid vacation yesterday.

The running week is expected to witness a comparatively low traffic and fewer crowds as the Durga Puja, a prime religious festival of the Hindus, begins from today.

"I wish we had always a vacation with such festivity and peace and a city with all its streets free from chaos," said Jamil, a high school student, who was walking on the streets with his friends.

"No load-shedding and no traffic congestion in the capital. The days are passing just like dreams. I want to travel the streets as much as I can and don't want to spend my time in leisure to miss this opportunity," said Mohiuddin who was riding a CNG-run three-wheeler and reached Gendaria

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## Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the biggest religious festivals of the Muslims, was celebrated across the country on Thursday, marking the end of a month-long fasting.

The main Eid congregation was held at National Eidgah in the capital at 8:30am while the biggest one at Sholakia in Kishoreganj.

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, Deputy Speaker Akther Hamid Siddiqui, advisers to the caretaker government, Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, judges, political leaders and people from all walks of life offered Eid prayers at National Eidgah.

Acting Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Mufti Nuruddin conducted the prayers seeking divine blessings for peace and progress of the country.

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## Barapukuria graft charges okayed

Charge sheet to be placed in a couple of days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on Tuesday approved submission of charge sheet against former premier and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, 10 ex-ministers of her cabinet and five others in the Barapukuria coal-mine case.

ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal told The Daily Star,

"The commission has formally approved the charge sheet and the investigation officer is likely to submit it before the court on October 5 or 6."

The commission in the last week of September decided in principle to press charges against the 16 following submission of the investigation report by the IO.

The case was filed against the 16

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## 36 die in accidents during holidays

STAR REPORT

At least 36 people including a Rab member were killed and about 200 others injured in road and launch accidents across the country in the last five days.

Six people were killed in the capital and two others in Narayanganj and Mymensingh in separate road accidents.

Five of the deceased were identified as Siddik Khan, 28, Mizanur Rahman, 35, Rubel, 30, and Ekhas, 35, of Haluaghat in Mymensingh and Harihar, 40, of Rupganj in Narayanganj.

Autopsies were conducted on seven of the victims at the Dhaka Medical College morgue and the other at the Mitford Hospital.

Of the victims, Siddik, Mizanur and Rubel were killed in road mishaps at Jatrabari, Motijheel and Shahbagh in the capital.

Our Kushtia correspondent reports: Four people including a woman were killed and two others injured in road accidents in Meherpur and Kushtia on the Eid day and yesterday.

Police said a truck hit a rickshaw van carrying four people on

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PHOTO: STAR

Large number of devotees offer Eid prayers on the street in front of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital following to find room inside.

## 2 'criminals' killed in Rab encounters

STAR REPORT

Two suspected criminals including an outlawed party leader were killed in the capital city and Gaikula upazila of Pabna in separate encounters between the thugs and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) early yesterday.

The man killed in Dhaka was Aminul Islam, 35, while in Pabna

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## 8 murdered in city in 5 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least eight people, including three women, were murdered in the capital in the last five days.

Police said a housewife was allegedly beaten to death yesterday by her in-laws at Malitola in old Dhaka. They recovered the body of Rebeka Sultana, 17, wife of Monir Hossain, in the morning.

All her in-laws went into hiding after the incident, police said. Quoting their neighbours, police said Monir married Rebeka about 10 months ago.

In another incident, criminals shot dead the driver of a private car and took away the vehicle at Gulshan-2 on October 1.

The victim was identified as Rubel Haolader, 30, of Kuratoli in

the capital.

Sources said criminals shot Rubel at Gulshan-2 in the night and hijacked the car.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

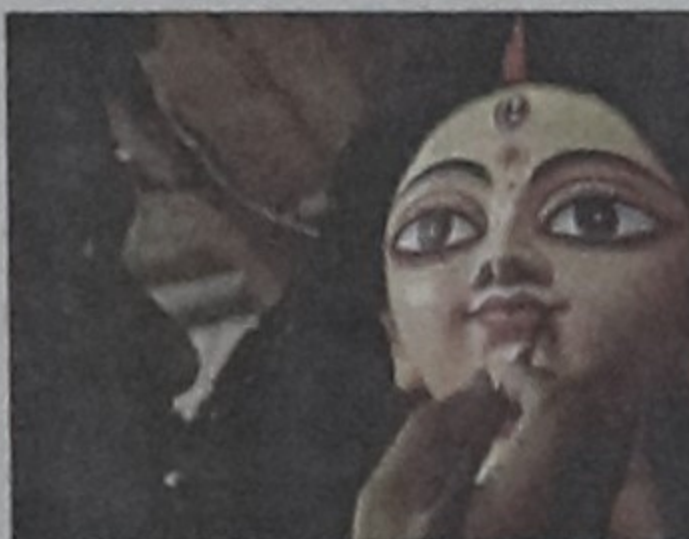
"My husband was killed on his way home after dropping his boss businessman Nurul Islam," said victim's wife Sharmin Akter Hasi.

Hospital sources said Rubel received a bullet in his head. A day labourer was killed in the city's Uttara on October 3.

Gulshan police arrested Mohammad Sajib, 22, another day labourer, on charge of killing Mahfuz, 15.

Police said Sajib scuffled with

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## Durga Puja starts today

22,000 mandaps set up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five-day long Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of Hindus begins today through the Mahashashthi puja.

Around 22,000 mandaps have been set up in the country including 165 in Dhaka on the occasion.

Leaders of Bangladesh Puja Udayan Parishad said the government has taken adequate measures

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## Business, not as usual

The Daily Star does not carry Star Business today as the Eid vacation has slowed business activities. We will catch up on coverage in our next edition tomorrow.



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