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School children wade through knee-deep water in Agrabad CDA residential area in Chittagong yesterday. The waterlogging is caused by water spilling over from the adjacent Moheshkhali canal, bottom right. Due to regular waste dumping and encroachment, the canal has gradually lost its depth and it easily overflows at high tide during full moon and new moon.

PHOTO:  
ANURUP KANTI DAS/FILE

## COP, WIFE MURDER Jony arrested as 'instigator'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Jony

Oishee Rahman's fugitive friend, who allegedly instigated her to kill her parents Special Branch of police inspector Mahfuzur Rahman and Swapna Begum, was arrested in the capital's Badda area on Wednesday night.

The Detective Branch of police arrested Asaduzzaman alias Jony, who had been on the run for a month, at a house in DIT project area at Merul Badda, said Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

A Dhaka Court yesterday placed Jony on five days' remand for the police to interrogate him.

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## Hasina-Manmohan to talk on UN sidelines

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is scheduled to go to the US on Sunday, will hold a bilateral meeting with her Indian counterpart on the sidelines of the 68th UN General Assembly (UNGA).

During their talks scheduled to be held on September 28, the two premiers will discuss bilateral issues and review the implementation of pledges made by the two countries, foreign ministry officials said.

Hasina was due to pay her second visit sometime this month at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

But she is now unlikely to make the trip ahead of the country's next general polls where she was hoping to sell a done deal on the Teesta and land boundary agreements to her voters.

"We have no indication from Bangladesh that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be visiting," said a source at the India's External Affairs Ministry.

The officials in Dhaka said Hasina's visit to India does not make any sense as the land boundary and the Teesta agreements are not going to see the light of day before polls in both the countries.

They also said India had been insisting on holding the meeting between the two premiers on the

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## Govt victim of propaganda PM talks about religious fanaticism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said a vested quarter is hindering the country's progress through spreading religious fanaticism and propaganda.

Despite advancement in different sectors like industries, the economy and education, her government is being made a victim of malicious campaigns, she said in her address to army personnel after raising the flag of 99 Composite Brigade at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

"They claimed 2,500 people were killed and 1.5 lakh rounds of bullets were fired at

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MORE ON PAGE 5

## Assad to give up chemical arms in a year

AFP, Damascus

Syria's President Bashar Al-Assad has vowed to surrender its chemical arsenal and said it will take at least a year to do so, as Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was confident but not 100 percent sure that Syria would stick to its commitments.

In a confident interview with US network Fox News, Assad insisted Syria was not gripped by civil war but was the victim of infiltration by foreign-backed al-Qaeda fighters.

His latest appearance came as UN envoys debated a draft resolution that would enshrine a joint US-Russian plan to secure and neutralise his banned weapons in international law.

The plan is to be discussed at a meeting in The Hague

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PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Buses set alight by Jamaat-Shibir pickets on C&B Road in Barisal yesterday.

## CEC denies talks with Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday rejected some media reports that said he had a telephone conversation with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Tuesday.

"I did not have any conversation with her (Khaleda). I do not know where you (journalists) discovered the concocted story from," he told reporters at the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat in the capital.

Some newspapers and news portals have recently run reports that BNP standing committee member Abdul Moyeen Khan held two and a half hours meeting with the CEC at the latter's office on Tuesday.

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## WAR CRIMES TRIAL Charges against Subhan accepted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday accepted charges of crimes against humanity against Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Abdus Subhan.

The charge framing hearing in the case against the Jamaat leader will begin on October 2, announced Justice ATM Fazl Kabir, chairman of the three-member tribunal.

Vice-president of the Pabna Peace Committee during the Liberation War, Subhan was involved in at least nine incidents of crime against humanity including genocide, abduction, murder, confinement, torture and arson, according to the charges. The accused was present at the tribunal yesterday.

"We have perused the formal charge, statements of witnesses and other documents annexed with the formal charge. After going through these documents, it appears that there is a strong *prima facie* case against the accused for the commission of offence during the Liberation War in 1971," said Justice Kabir.

The tribunal chairman directed the prosecution to submit a copy of the formal charge with other documents to the defence today.

He also asked the defence counsel to file applications, if any, for privilege communication within next two or three

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## Khaleda replies to Kerry's letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Wednesday wrote back to US Secretary of State John Kerry, saying the people of Bangladesh, like the world leaders, are concerned over holding of the next general election.

In separate letters to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia, John Kerry on September 8 expressed concern over the political situation in Bangladesh.

He also requested the

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PRAYER TIMING September 20	
Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40 5-15
Juma	12-30 1-15
Asr	4-30 4-45
Maghrib	6-05 6-10
Esha	7-30 8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

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**The Daily Star**  
Integral Energy Limited  
**ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree with Transparency International UK that defence sectors of Bangladesh and 20 other countries are at very risk of corruption?

Yes (89%)  
No (11%)  
TOTAL VOTES: 237

**TODAY'S POLL**  
Do you think the government decision not to charge the reckless drivers for intentional killing is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

## The clock is ticking

Earth can support life for 1.75b years

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The end of the world is coming -- but not for a while yet. That's according to a new study indicating that we have 1.75 billion years left until Mother Earth gives up the ghost.

Researchers from the

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