

Coalition govt in Kremlin

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the roads to the plotters." Gorbachev and Yeltsin announced the appointments of proven reformers Friday after purging some top officials for their roles during the failed coup.

Among those fired was Soviet parliamentary Speaker Anatoly Lukyanov.

Additionally, Gorbachev and Yeltsin announced that the new KGB chief was Vadim Bakatin, who was fired as interior minister last year for his moderate views. Bakatin was replaced as interior minister last year by Boris Pugo, one of the key coup plotters.

The new defense minister, the commander of the Soviet air force, who refused to obey the orders of the eight-member coup committee.

As deputy defense minister, Shaposhnikov named Lt. Gen. Pavel Grachev, the paratrooper commander who also opposed the coup. Yeltsin said that Grachev is Chairman of the Russian legislature's committee on defense issues.

The new interior minister is Viktor Baranikov, the Russian Federation police chief who has been a staunch Yeltsin backer.

The coup plotters included the former defense minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, and former KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov. Yazov and Kryuchkov are under arrest and face possible treason charges. Pugo committed suicide Thursday.

Yeltsin read the list of appointments to a crowd of demonstrators in Moscow's Lubyansk Square, according to the state-run Tass news agency. Gorbachev later read them in a nationally televised session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet legislature.

He said that in future if he became incapacitated, Yeltsin had the authority to act in his name, and vice versa.

Former Warsaw Pact Chief of Staff General Vladimir Lobov was appointed Chief of Army General Staff in place of General Mikhail Moiseyev, whom some newspapers accused of supporting the coup.

But Gorbachev was clearly at a loss — before tens of millions of television viewers — when Yeltsin produced a decree temporarily banning the Russian Republic's Communist Party and said: "On a lighter note, shall we now sign a decree suspending the activity of the Russian Communist Party?"

Yeltsin then signed it with a flourish.

Gorbachev had just confirmed that Yeltsin had jurisdiction over all Russian — as opposed to Soviet — organisations in the giant republic.

The Soviet President stated that the decision should be confirmed by a parliamentary vote, adding that there was little chance that the deputies would back it.

"In spite of all the respect I have for you, Boris Nikolaevich, I should say it," Gorbachev said. "Not all members of the Russian Communist Party unanimously supported the coup d'etat. To ban the CP

would be an error." "Let's be democrats all the way, and everybody will be on your side," a clearly irritated Gorbachev added, after Yeltsin signed the decree in front of him.

"It's not a ban. It's suspension of party activities during the investigation" into the party's role in the three-day coup against Gorbachev, Yeltsin retorted.

He added that the Russian Communist Party, formed last year, "has still not been officially registered".

The proceedings were being televised live from the Russian parliament.

Communist office buildings were seized in Moscow and in several Soviet republics, and top republican leaders announced their resignation from the party's ruling Politburo.

Yeltsin also declared he was seizing the property of Pravda and other main communist newspapers, and sacking the conservative heads of Tass news agency and the state broadcasting corporation.

Gorbachev, speaking before many former colleagues who had broken with him because of his government's conservatism, was forced to concede that many of the men he had promoted in their places had betrayed him.

Yeltsin, clearly relishing his new authority, interrupted the Soviet leader several times.

He forced Gorbachev to read out minutes of a meeting of the Soviet cabinet on Monday, when it appeared the coup had succeeded, clearly showing that most of them had backed or at least failed to oppose the eight-man emergency committee.

Gorbachev tried to defend one or two members of the government. But the deputies, some of whom manned barricades against tanks during the coup, were having none of it.

Finally he conceded to cheers "I think the correct approach would be for the entire government to resign."

"Everything has got to change — the authority, the federation, the economy, our attitude, our relationship with property, and the position of the individual," he said.

Related stories on pages 5, 6

One shot dead by BSF in Chapainawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Aug 23: One Bangladeshi national was shot dead and another injured seriously when Indian Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly opened fire near Poladanga in Hakimpur Wednesday night, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Aminul Islam (26) of Baligram village in Sadar upazila of the district. The body has been brought to Nawabganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Seriously injured Manzur Ali, also of the same village, was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Punitive steps

From Page 1 Col. 7 through holding of meetings, processions and chanting of slogans were not desirable in the interest of flourishing newly acquired democratic atmosphere.

The press note drew the attention of employees to the Public Servants (special provision) Ordinance, 1979, Public Servant Discipline (regular attendance) Ordinance, 1982 and Government Employees (discipline and appeal) Rules, 1985. Under these ordinances and rules, the activities of these employees hampering discipline and working atmosphere in social life, offices and courts were punishable offences, it added.

It further said these ordinances and rules contain provisions of suspension from service, dismissal, demotion, reduction of salary as well as deduction from salaries and other punishments depending on the seriousness of offences.

It reminded all concerned that the business of the government is conducted jointly by the co-ordinated efforts of all officials and employees. But if the desired atmosphere was hampered by the activities of some, the government would reluctantly be compelled to take punitive measures against the concerned personnel under these ordinances and rules, the press note further said.

The press note pointed out that earlier the government had announced the new pay scales after holding several rounds of consultations with the representatives of the government employees on their three main demands. The new pay scales were announced for the officials and the employees after giving sympathetic and due consideration of the various problems of specially low paid employees, and reviewing the overall situation and financial capability of the government. In 80 per cent of basic salary and other allowances have been raised at the lowest level. Secondly, the office timing for Dhaka has been revised from 8 a.m. to 2-30 p.m. For division, district and upazila levels the office timing will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For Thursday the office timing has been reduced and fixed up to 2 p.m. it said.

Thirdly, the press note added, the government has decided to constitute a high-powered committee for making recommendations for the promotion of employees of all levels after review. The government thinks that all the demands of the employees have been fulfilled logically through the announcement of the new pay scales, refixing of the office hours and the constitution of a high-powered committee for promotion.

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Prof Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, addressing a conference of guardians at the TSC on Friday. —Star photo

Failure to grasp Soviet events Delhi tries to cover up embarrassment

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: India is trying to live down its diplomatic embarrassment over its failure to stand by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his reformist charter in his hour of trial, reports AFP.

As another foreign policy debate opened, critics slammed the government for a perceived display of opportunism during the Kremlin crisis which opposition MP George Fernandes said had shamed the people of India.

"Our heads hang in shame before the people of the Soviet Union," Fernandes said, calling it India's duty to have sided with Gorbachev when hardliners mounted the ill-fated effort to overthrow the reformist Soviet President.

India had tried clumsily not to take a stand during the crisis, saying its close and time-tested relations with the Soviet Union, bound by a 1971 Friendship Treaty renewed August 9, would not be affected by a leadership change.

Individuals were not paramount, interests were. Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro had said Monday in India's first reaction.

Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao said the attempted coup was a warning to reformers to proceed with caution, a comment that to his critics sounded like disapproval of Gorbachev's reforms, which India has always praised.

Rao, a former foreign minister, made no attempt to condemn the coup, and his two-month-old government was

content with statements that it was watching the situation unfold.

He made belated amends Thursday, hailing Gorbachev's reinstatement as Soviet President as a matter of "great satisfaction."

Western plot

Meanwhile, Reuters adds: India's hardline communists who had welcomed the coup attempt against Gorbachev as a positive development, said on Thursday that it now appeared to have been part of a Western plot.

"It looks like a Western plot to push Gorbachev towards Yeltsin," said Sitarum Yechury, spokesman for the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPM).

Yeltsin, the populist president of the Russian republic, led the successful resistance to Monday's right-wing coup attempt.

Yechury said the CPM was not embarrassed over its support for the coup attempt.

"But we are disappointed that Yanayev didn't carry out what he said he would. The whole exercise has helped George Bush. It has put Gorbachev in line to toe (Bush's) world order," he said.

Our earlier stand was based on our concern for upholding socialism in the USSR and safeguarding the unity of the country.

"Any step that will strengthen these objectives will find our support any step that undermines this, we will oppose," Yechury said.

West cold-shoulders Gorbachev

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economy, and a top administration official on Thursday cautioned against euphoria.

Just because the coup failed, there is "no reason to think it will be the last", the official told reporters at Bush's vacation home at Kennebunkport, Maine. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Western nations on Thursday lifted a freeze on aid to the Soviet Union but Germany was the only economic power immediately to call for more assistance to bolster Gorbachev.

Gorbachev told Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti on Thursday that the West must now "aid me even more," according to the premier's spokesman Mastrobusti.

On Friday the Foreign Ministry said: Italy plans to appeal for special IMF help for Moscow.

The plan will be put forward at the IMF/World Bank annual conference in Bangkok in October where Italy will also press for the Soviet Union to become a full IMF member, a ministry spokesman added.

Italy will propose an issue of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) — the currency of the IMF — which fund members would use to support the Soviet Union as it presses on with economic reform after the failure of this week's headline coup.

No further details of the Italian plan, or the amount, were immediately available.

Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek of The Netherlands, current president of the European Community, cautioned against throwing money at Soviet problems.

"Unless the system is changed, our money would be like a drop of water on a hot stove," he told a special session of the European

Parliament in Brussels.

Surprisingly, Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, told a news conference here that accelerating aid to the Soviet Union without further study would be premature.

Attali, who has been a strong proponent of increased Soviet aid, also said he was no longer lobbying actively to lift a three-year cap on the bank's lending to Moscow.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryturo Hashimoto said today Japan remained cautious about giving financial aid to the Soviet Union in the wake of a failed coup attempt against President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Hashimoto told reporters that "there was no change" in the Soviet economy since December, when an international report assessed it as not being ready for a large-scale assistance.

Babri Masjid, Kashmir out of purview

Bill prohibiting conversion of places of worship introduced in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: A bill seeking to prohibit conversion of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947 was introduced by the government in the Lok Sabha today amidst a walk out by BJP members, reports PTI.

The bill introduced by Home Minister S B Chavan, exempts the Ram Janam Bhoomb-Babri Masjid from operation of the proposed act.

According to the statements of objects and reasons of the bill, the government felt the need to prohibit conversions of places of worship in view of the controversies arising from time to time.

In order to foreclose any controversy in respect of any place of worship which existed on August 15, 1947, it was considered necessary to provide for maintenance of religious character of such places

of worship.

According to the statement, all suits or other proceedings pending as on July 11, 1991 with respect of any of such places of worship may abate and also further suits or other proceedings may be barred.

July 11, this year is proposed as the commencement date of the act as on that day the President addressed parliament making such a declaration.

"However, since the case relating to the place commonly called Ram Janam Bhoomb-Babri Masjid forms a class by itself, it has become necessary to exempt it entirely from the operation of this act," it said.

As per the provisions of the bill, the proposed act will be applicable all over the country except the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The statement further said

BNP calls off strike in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 23: The rebel group of BNP city unit today has called off their tomorrow's strike considering the inconvenience of the SSC examinees, reports UNB.

It was disclosed by General Secretary of Bandar Thana unit of BNP Sahadat Hossain Selim at a press conference, held at Chittagong Press Club this evening.

They took the decision after getting assurance from the party central leaders.

Earlier, the Unit gave the call to press-home their demand for replacing party nominated candidate Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury against the Chittagong-8 constituency for the coming by-election.

They proposed the names of central leader Zahir Uddin Khan and BNP Chittagong City Secretary Ekramul Karim as their candidate.

The last date for withdrawing nomination papers is August 26.

Communication Minister Oli Ahmed met with local BNP leaders at the Bandar Rest House this afternoon to solve the crisis. The meeting was continuing till this evening.

It was also attended by State Minister for Forest and Environment Abdullah Al Noman, Member of BNP Standing Committee Dr ASN Yousuf and six MPs.

T & T employees announce work stoppage

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Telejojobaj Sramik Karmachari Parishad Friday announced a 11-day programme to realise the demands of officers and employees of Telephone and Telegraph Board.

Three hour work stoppage would be observed from August 24 to 28, followed by a full day programme and a protest rally on August 29 at 11 am. Work would be stopped again for three hours from August 31 to September 4 and a fresh programme would be announced in September 3, the Parishad leaders told a press conference at the National Press Club.

The Parishad's demands included higher pay and benefits, change of office time and promotions. Syed Inatubur Rahman and Mohammed Rafiqul Islam, President and General Secretary respectively of the Parishad addressed the press conference.

Refixation of fuel price at pre-Gulf war level demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity has demanded refixation of price of fuel at pre-Gulf war level and withdrawal of taxes and fees imposed on road transport sector.

The samity in a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club on Friday said if no steps were taken by August 26 to meet the demands it would go for protest rallies all over the country and submit memorandum containing its 19-point demands to the local administration.

The samity withdrew its call for strike on August 25. It, however, said it would announce its "final programme" later.

The samity demanded refixation of price of diesel at Taka 6.90 which was raised to Taka 14.00 following the start of Gulf war. It said as the price of fuel in world market had come down to even lower than the pre-Gulf war stage and as there was sufficient stock of fuel in the country there was no reason to keep the price of fuel at the present rate. It demanded withdrawal of "VAT" from transport accessories tyres and tubes.

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China

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In a sign of deepening anxiety among China's ageing ideologues, the Peoples Daily carried a signed commentary today predicting socialism would overcome its difficulties to triumph over capitalism and unite the world.

"He to whom heaven has given a great task must suffer greatly to accomplish it," the Peoples Daily said, quoting ancient Chinese sage Mencius, a disciple of Confucius.

The newspaper's commentary presented a detailed analysis of Marxist theory that it said proved communism was still the path of the future and the only political system for China.

"The socialist system will replace the capitalist system," the commentary said. "This system, after trials and tribulations of all kinds, will ultimately unite the world."

China's leaders, who used troops and tanks to crush pro-democracy protests two years ago, have not allowed the media to convey a sense of the scale of Soviet popular opposition to the coup attempt.

The Midnight File

S African ship brought relief for cyclone victims

SUEZ, Aug 23: The first South African ship to transit the Suez Canal in decades sailed through the international waterway on Friday to deliver food to Sudan. A Canal official identified the vessel as the Drackenberg, a supply ship with the South African Navy. Earlier, the Drackenberg had delivered relief supplies to cyclone victims in Bangladesh and Kurdish refugees in Turkey, reports AP.

Seven kidnapped by Naxalites

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: Maoist guerrillas kidnapped seven people in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh today in retaliation for the arrest of three guerrillas earlier the same day. Of the seven taken hostage, in Andhra Pradesh's Warrangal district, a Naxalite stronghold, five were village chiefs while two were state government officials. The People's War Group (PWG) has claimed responsibility and asked for the unconditional release of their three members, said PTI, reports AFP.

Albanian anti-communists demand 'real democracy'

VIENNA, Aug 23: With Moscow's hard-liners in retreat, Albania's three main anti-Communist parties Friday demanded "real democracy" and the purge of Stalinism from security forces, media and diplomacy. Friday's statement demanded the removal of all public emblems of Communist rule and the rehabilitation of those "condemned for their political convictions during...the Stalinist-Enverist regime," reports AP.

SPORTS ... LATEST

Sports Reporter

Sri Lanka had replied with 75 for two at close of the rain-marred second day of the one-off cricket Test match against England at Lord's on Friday, according to BBC monitored by Dhaka late last night.

This is in reply to England's first innings total of 282 all out about 75 minutes before the close, extended by an hour due to interruptions caused by rain and bad light earlier in the day.

Sri Lankan skipper Aravinda De Silva had reached a brilliant unbeaten 42 with the help of seven boundaries after England paceman Philip DeFreitas had taken two quick wickets, dismissing both Brendon Kuruppu and Asanka Gurusinha for two and four runs respectively.

It was then that De Silva chose to take the attack to the Englishmen by lashing out at their bowlers with some superb shots. He and Hathurusinghe, not out on 19, added the last fifty runs in only 31 minutes of exciting batting.

Earlier, Alec Stewart, not out on 95 overnight, remained unbeaten on 113 as medium-pacer Ramesh Ratsnayake, who finished with figures of five for 69, restricted England to 282 all out.

River transports go on strike for indefinite period

By Staff Correspondent

All private sector riverine engine vessels went on indefinite strike Friday night demanding reduction of fuel prices to pre-Gulf war level.

Six owners associations covering various motorised inland water transports jointly called the strike.

"Passenger launches, cargo vessels, oil tankers, tugs, trawlers, private ferries and barges have already stopped plying," KMM Rahman, President of Bangladesh Launch Owners' Association told the Daily Star over telephone Friday night.

He said all the private-owned passenger launches were removed from the Sadarhat BIWTA terminal. A barricade with launches will be created today on the river Buriganga at Fatullah so that no private motorised transport could reach the BIWTA terminal violating the strike, he added.

Speaking at a public meeting at Tungipara Barni High School field she said that parliamentary form of government should be firmly established to ensure rule of representatives of the people for this wellbeing.

Hasina also criticised the ruling party for not passing the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill in the Parliament. Her party would continue movement to get the bill passed because that would help establish rule of law by unravelling the scope for punishment of the killers, she said.

She alleged that the government was oblivious of the plight of masses in the rural areas. Farmers were selling jute at below the production cost. She demanded of the government to fix minimum price of jute at Taka 500 per mound.

Sihanouk appeals for flood aid

BANGKOK, Aug 23: Prince Norodom Sihanouk, acting as head of Cambodia's reconciliation Supreme National Council, appealed Friday for urgent international aid for victims of heavy flooding in his homeland, reports AP.

BSC

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month, while the offer of a foreign company is about Tk 80 thousand. Even the Bangladesh private ship owners offer 2000 US dollars equivalent to Tk 74 thousand to a Bangladeshi captain. The Burmese officers are being paid Taka 45,000 per month.

A BSC source told The Daily Star that the corporation was ready to offer up to 2000 US dollars to a Bangladeshi captain if he accepted the job on contract basis. The source, however, said that none applied for the job when it was advertised in the past.

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation has 22 ships, for which 581 officers are required. At present, BSC is plying its vessels with only 417 officers.

The source said that the shortage of 164 officers in these ships caused operational difficulties on many occasions. The officers who are trained at a huge cost in Marine Academy leave the BSC jobs violating the contract. But the government is keeping its eyes shut and no action has been taken in such cases of defections. Sometimes the Bangladeshi officers abandon a BSC ship on the high seas and BSC has to hire foreign officers on an emergency basis to pilot the ship to its destination the source said.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), representing the majority shareholders of the Bank there, is expected to arrive soon in Dhaka to hold discussions with the Bangladesh authorities about the Bank's future. The government approached earlier the authorities in Abu Dhabi for taking some moves to untangle the BCCI knot. Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman discussed the issue with the majority shareholders of the Bank during his recent visit to the UAE. Before that, a senior official of Ministry of Foreign Affairs also went to Abu Dhabi and discussed the issue there with its majority shareholders.

The forthcoming visit of the delegation from the UAE will take place in response to the initiative taken by the government to find out ways to solve the BCCI tangle, the source said.

Hasina's call to vote in favour of parliamentary democracy

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Aug 23: Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina today called upon the people to vote for parliamentary form of government in the September 15 referendum.

Speaking at a public meeting at Tungipara Barni High School field she said that parliamentary form of government should be firmly established to ensure rule of representatives of the people for this wellbeing.

Hasina also criticised the ruling party for not passing the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill in the Parliament. Her party would continue movement to get the bill passed because that would help establish rule of law by unravelling the scope for punishment of the killers, she said.

She alleged that the government was oblivious of the plight of masses in the rural areas. Farmers were selling jute at below the production cost. She demanded of the government to fix minimum price of jute at Taka 500 per mound.

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BANGKOK, Aug 23: Prince Norodom Sihanouk, acting as head of Cambodia's reconciliation Supreme National Council, appealed Friday for urgent international aid for victims of heavy flooding in his homeland, reports AP.

BCCI

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the same sources explained. However, the question of giving some relief to such FC account holders with the BCCI is under active consideration of the concerned authorities, the sources added while noting that the final decision in this connection will depend on clearance by the government.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), representing the majority shareholders of the Bank there, is expected to arrive soon in Dhaka to hold discussions with the Bangladesh authorities about the Bank's future. The government approached earlier the authorities in Abu Dhabi for taking some moves to untangle the BCCI knot. Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman discussed the issue with the majority shareholders of the Bank during his recent visit to the UAE. Before that, a senior official of Ministry of Foreign Affairs also went to Abu Dhabi and discussed the issue there with its majority shareholders.

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