METROPOLITAN/NEWS

The Daily Star

PM ASKS ARMY TO KEEP VIGIL 'Risk could come not only from outside but also from within'

the role of the Armed Forces during

the War of Liberation and said that

the people would always remem-

ber their glorious role and sacrifice.

every time disaster hit the country

and in every hour of their need

during post-independence days,

She noted with satisfaction that

"I am here to thank you person-

Mentioning various programmes

implemented by her government for

modernising and enhancing skills of

the army, she said the government

100 injured in Pirganj

over polls result row

Supporters of Abdur Rahman,

who was defeated by Hafizur

Rahman by 205 votes, rejected the

result and urged the Upazila Nirbahi

Officer (UNO) to hold fresh election.

manipulation and corruption against

the returning officer and two presid-

Rahman entered the office of

Pirganj UNO on Monday night

breaking the grill and collapsible

gate open and ransacked several

rooms of the office demanding fresh

ing officers.

election.

UNB, Dhaka

of the country, Met Office said.

5:47am tomorrow.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

They brought an allegation of

Police said supporters of Abdur

They also stood by the people

Gazipur.

continued, she said

new times, she added.

on her arrival at the cantonment.

Pirganj Police Station said.

control, the OC said.

Finally, we fired rubber bullets on

When contacted, Returning

them to bring the situation under

Officer Azizur Rahman told The

Daily Star that the allegation of

manipulation was baseless and has

DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

UNB, Ghatail, Tangai

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday asked army personnel to keep a vigil, saying that attacks on independence and sovereignty could come not only from outside but also from within the country.

"Internal clash and anarchy she said. could be the reason," the prime minister said while addressing an they earned the love and admiration army Darbar at Ghatail of the countrymen for their role as sentinels in protecting national Cantonment. She said army members coopersovereignty, status, democracy and

ated a lot in developing sociothe public rights. economic condition of the country and also in forming skilled, powerful ally for your support and cooperaand modern Armed Forces for tion," the prime minister told the protecting country's independence assembly of army officers and the rank and file and sovereignty. They also help the government in

developing the professional standard of the forces. she added. The prime minister mentioned

COP-MOB CLASH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

At least one hundred people, includ-

ing 15 policemen, were injured

during a series of clashes over row

on election results at Baroalompur

in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur on

people were hospitalised at Pirganj

Upazila Health Complex and differ-

bullets on the villagers and brought

the situation under control after four

Alampur Union Parishad election

that was held on Monday caused

the clash between police and villag-

Autorickshaw

dawn-to-dusk

drivers observe

ent private clinics in Rangpur town.

At least 35 critically injured

Police fired tear shell and rubber

Row over the results of Boro

Monday night.

hours of efforts

ers.

2nd S Asian Confce on Sanitation begins today ABDUL JALIL BHUYIAN, from Islamabad

A two-day Second South Asian Conference on Sanitation will begin at Islamabad in Pakistan today to accelerate the progress of sanitation and hygiene works in South Asia.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat has also taken initiative to modern-Aziz will inaugurate the conference ise the country's main fighting force, infantry. New production line has as the chief guest, environment also been opened for manufacturing ministry sources said.

firearms at the ordnance factory in The goal of the conference is to improve the standard of living of the The process of increasing and people of this region in fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals modernising the quality of other corps of the army is also being (MDG) and the commitments made in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in Keeping the demands of the new century and millennium in mind, the 2002.

The conference will also review the progresses made in implementation of the Dhaka Declaration of the 1st South Asian Conference on Sanitation.

Minister for Environment Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat at a briefing at Marriott Hotel told the journalists that 80 crore, out of 140 crore people in South Asia, have no access to sanitation.

About 300 foreign delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka and 150 from Pakistan will participate in the conference, he

Leaders from non-government organisations, business firms and other major groups will focus the region's attention and direction towards meeting the difficult challenges to ensure access to safe sanitation facilities through articulated policies and concrete action plans.

Faisal said this high profile conference will enhance the level of awareness about health and other social and economic issues related to insufficient and inappropriate sanitation system.

NCBs asked to submit reports of default loans by Oct 31

The chiefs of Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs) yesterday expressed their concern over the liquidity crisis the banks are now facing due to huge amount of default

In response to their concern, the finance ministry at a review meeting instructed the NCBs to send detailed reports of default loans in their banks by October 31. Additional Secretary Abdul



a bouquet at the AL party office at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Sharing power with Ershad will be a big mistake

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sharing power with dictator Ershad in a government will be a 'big mistake', said the politicians and academics at a roundtable yesterday.

They said it will breed corruption and indulge in politics of immorality in the country. The roundtable titled 'Revisiting

the Mass Upsurge of '90' was organised by Shaheed Doctor Milon Sangsad at the National Press Club in the city.

It was held in memory of the 49th birth anniversary of Dr Shamsul Alam Milon who was killed by the Ershad administration during a mass upsurge on November 20, 1990.

The speakers said the political parties willing to rehabilitate Jatiya Party President Ershad by forgiving the military ruler will have to take the responsibility of all his misdeeds.

They said the main crime that Ershad committed was to grabbing state power, but no charge sheet was framed against him in this connection Gono Forum President Dr Kamal

Hossain termed the interest of different political parties to include Ershad in their alliances a 'sac affair'

All the ill forces are to be driven

out of the country through mass upsurge, he said, adding that people Chowdhury said it would be another great mistake if he (Ershad) is rehatoday are so annoyed by rampant bilitated in the politics. corruption and price hike that they will surely remove corrupt people President Hasanul Huq Inu said from power. Ershad is being released from

Demanding immediate separation of the judiciary from the executive. General Secretary of Shaheed Doctor Milon Sangsad Dr Mahbubur Rahman said there are allegations that some political parties have influenced the judiciary to release Ershad from corruption cases. "Politics of those who support Ershad should also be stopped," he added.

Dr Mahbub said Ershad is not only a person, he is a symbol of shameless opportunism' in politics. He demanded cancellation of all the laws including 7th and 8th

amendments to the constitution that justified the military rule of Ershad. He also demanded full implementation of the declaration of

three-party alliance of '90. Jahangir Sattar Tinku and Dr General Secretary of the Milon's mother Selina Akter also Communist Party of Bangladesh spoke at the roundtable. Mujahidul Islam Selim said Ershad was expelled from power for his Sangsad President Prof MA

economic policy of looting and Mazed, the roundtable was modcorruption erated by former general secre-Expressing deep concern over

the interest of some political parties tary of Ducsu Dr Mushtaq in Ershad, Prof Serajul Islam Hossain.

Political conflicts hurting economy

recover operational costs

rates are still high

continues in many areas.

business high," she said.

ment, large payment arrears and

the absence of a pricing policy to

ling to her Bang

"Poor infrastructure, weak

AmCham President Andrew L

governance and limited access to

finance make the cost of doing

Fawthrop and USAID Country

Director Gene V George also

spoke on the occasion. AmCham

Executive Director A Gafur was

Hua Du told the meeting that the

Bomb explodes in front of **DUJA** office **DU CORRESPONDENT**

A small bomb exploded in front of Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) office at TSC yesterday just before beginning of a DUJA procession organised to mark the 21st founding anniversary of the association.

An unknown caller has threatened DUJA president and general secretary over mobile phone that they would face dire consequence if they do not withdraw the case filed against 12 BCL activists responsible for the attack on iournalists at Modhu's Canteen on Saturday.

The procession, inaugurated by DU VC SMA Faiz, did not start in time due to the explosion. However, surrounded by a huge number of police members, the procession began after some time and ended peacefully.

Members of the security forces said BCL activists might have orchestrated the incident in a bid to create panic among the journalists. A number of police has been deployed in and around of DUJA office to ensure security of the iournalists.

Witnesses said the bomb exploded at 10:40am when the DUJA members were taking preparation to begin the procession.

DU VC SMA Faiz and Proctor AKA Firoz Ahmed visited the spot after the incident and ordered the police to arrest the 12 BCL activists mmediately.

Later, the procession began in presence of DU VC, Proctor, DU eachers Golam Rahman, Robayet Ferdous and former and present members of DUJA

The disgruntled BCL leaders alleged that they are also receiving death threat from the activists loyal to the president and the general secretary of the organisation.

A group of BCL activists foiled a press conference of its' disgruntled group at Modhu's Canteen on Saturday and attacked five journalists, leaving them injured seriously.

Mobile court fines two restaurants STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined two restaurants for selling stale food and storing raw ingredients in an unhy gienic way in the city.

The Khushbu on Elephant Road was fined Tk 60,000 for storing stale meat and fishes in three refrigerators, said a Dhaka City Corporation official who accompanied the court.

The court fined Anging Chinese Restaurant Tk 20,000 for its unclean kitchen.

It also fined General Medical Hospital Ltd on Elephant Road Tk 10,000 for not renewing its licence

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE PM donates programmes in collaboration with other donor agencies including Tk 5 lakh to 6 families UNB, Dhaka

Police rushed to the spot but the They also condemned police action on the innocent villagers. infuriated supporters swooped on the police. Police first lobbed 20 round tear gas shells on the mob. said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of

WEATHE

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary

gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna. Barisal and

Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, it said.

some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Max

33.0

32.8

34.8

33.4

33.5

35.5

28.5

Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over southern part

Day temperature may fall slightly over southern part and remain

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.5 degree Celsius was

The sun sets in the capital at 5:57pm today and rises at

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

Mir

25.3

24.5

26.5

24.5

26.2

25.0

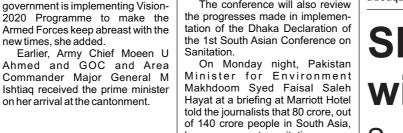
25.3

recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 24.0 degrees at Srimangal.

Temperature

In Celsius

no ground, adding "All polling agents signed on the result sheet So, their allegation has no ground." Abdur Rahman's supporters staged a demonstration on the upazila office premises throughout the day yesterday demanding cancellation of the election result. STAFF CORRESPONDENT



strike in city

Bangladesh Autorickshaw Sramik League (BASL), a platform of autorickshaw drivers, enforced a countywide dawn-to-dusk strike yesterday to press their ten-point demand including provision of a daily deposit of Tk 300 to the owners, savs a press release

The demands include an end to repression of the drivers by police and owners, repatriation of the twostroke autorickshaw drivers who suffered due to a ban on two-stroke engines, providing appointment letters to the drivers, stopping corruption in Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and arrangement of parking space for the autorickshaws

During the strike, autorickshaw drivers held a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue where BASL President Md Shah Alam Chowdhury, General Secretary of Jatiya Sramik League Roy Romesh Chandra and other leaders spoke

a two-day strike on October 11 and 12 in the city if their demands are not met by October 10.

They also threatened to enforce

Money-laundering

FROM PAGE 1

The BB had framed the 45 cases on the basis of some primary investigation soon after the Anti Money Laundering Act (AMLA) was made effective in 2002. But due to various bureaucratic and policy tangles. the central bank could not proceed further with these cases. Till date no one has been formally charged in the cases

The US government expressed its concern at the total stagnation of the cases and about the future direction of Bangladesh's antimoney laundering drive.

At the Cox's Bazar meeting held at a local hotel, it was decided that the central bank would review the 45 cases and forward those to the CID for further investigation. And on behalf of the BB, the CID would file the cases with the court under the AMLA, 2002.

A CID official will be tagged with the BB on deputation to facilitate doing this job. In future, the CID will file first information report (FIR) on behalf of the BB when a new case is ready.

The US officials said they want to see that by June next year,

Bangladesh has completed trial of at least one case and enforced the verdict.

Bangladesh's initiative for preventing money laundering activities was hammered by the US government from 2002 as part of America's global drive to check terror financing. At that time, militant activities in Bangladesh came to the notice of the US government and it asked Dhaka to investigate these cases and put an end to the avenues through which the mili-

tants receive money. Side by side, other money launderers including smugglers and big criminals should also be brought to book.

Under US pressure, the government amended then existing antimoney laundering act and enacted the AMLA, 2002. In 2005, a law was drafted to check terror financing, and forwarded to the cabinet for its approval.

This draft law, still unapproved, seeks to set up an independent unit of Financial Crime Investigation and Prosecution Office and also a Financial Intelligence Unit with the BB. The government has now

decided that the financial part of

this draft will be incorporated in the AMLA by amending it. The law and order part of this draft will be translated into an Anti-Terrorism Act to be drafted by the home ministry.

Sources said the four-party alliance government will not however make any move to frame these new laws or make amendments during its tenure that expires next month.

Humidity in

Morning Evening

69

72

68

93

88

56

87

percentage

71

83

87

65

87

66

77

A source, who was present at the Cox's Bazar meeting explained why it took place in Cox's Bazar amid secrecy, saying, "It is very difficult to coordinate schedules of all the officials of different departments concerned in Dhaka. We gathered at Cox's Bazar and that

gave us exclusive focus on solving the problems."

The US government is pursuing anti-money laundering drives across the countries and it is motivating all nations. As part of this, it has sent many teams to Bangladesh including the DOJ delegation, he added.

azid chaired the n Till June 30, four nationalised

banks had loans totalling Tk 11,000 crore, including Tk 7,000 crore default loans, said NCB sources. Due to huge default loans. NCBs often fail to fulfil Bangladesh Bank's Statutory Liquidity Requirement (SLR) and eventually pay fines, the sources added.

Involve planners in public sector dev projects BIP urges govt STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) yesterday urged the government to involve planners in public sector development projects for their proper implementation.

At a view-exchange meeting with journalists in the city, BIP, a forum of professional planners, also urged the government to recruit qualified planners giving them a scope to apply their academic knowledge in executing public sector works.

The inclusion of a planner is a must to carryout any project involving land as the country specially the big cities have huge scarcity of land, said Dr Toufiq M Seraj, president of BIP.

" For every one lakh people one planner is required, where as there are only 10 planners for entire Dhaka, a city of nearly two crore people," said M Akter Mahmud, assistant professor of urban and regional planning department at Jahangirnagar University. He said there are only two

planners under Chittagong Development Authority, five planners under Khulna Development Authority and two planners under Rajshahi Development Authority.

But there are 300 planners for executing various projects in Kuala Lumpur city and 400 planners for Tokyo city, he added.

Prof Gulam M Firdos, vicepresident of BIP, said three public universities of the country produce 80-90 planners every year, but they cannot utilise their academic knowledge as the government does not recruit them.

Thus the nation is being deprived of getting service from the planners, he pointed out.

major challenges confronting the economy, Du said adding that the ADB will continue to assist Bangladesh in realising its full potential

Developing infrastructure, intro-

ducing quality education and

nsuring good governance are the

FROM PAGE 16

Weak governance continues to get in the way of faster growth and poverty reduction, she pointed out and added that the Anti-Corruption Commission should be made fully operational to boost both domestic and external confidence in it.

Du said the ADB is playing a major role in energy, transport, education and integrated urban development in line with its present country strategy and programme. She noted that despite some progress the power sector contin-

ues to falter due mainly to high present among others. systems losses, inadequate supply capacity, weak financial manage-ADB has undertaken a number of

Hefty investment carrot

FROM PAGE 1 massive investment proposals to

transparent fashion.

follow-up press report from the US revealed that it is basically a onebag deals in a similar nonman company, having no background

Cadogan-Manning is a similar case of zero profile. Cadogan Consultants Ltd was formed by a management buy-out of Rendel Palmer & Tritton (Scotland) Ltd in 1997. Manning Industries is a company based in Texas mainly involved in retrofitting used equip-

The latest in the line is South Korean Luxon Global company that signed a MoU last year on investing \$ 1 billion in coal mining, power plant, fertiliser plant, gas transmission and infrastructure development sectors. Quoting energy ministry officials Bangladeshi press last year and again in recent weeks reported that Luxon is incorporated in Seoul, and is a globalising corporation operating in various areas of South Korea and other countries of the Asian region.

But a source quoting his business connections in South Korea said this company is yet another one-man show where a handful people are trying to build a business using their high connections in the Korean government. The Luxon chief apparently used his connections to obtain courtesy letter of interest from some reputed Korean companies and submitted those to the government to create a

Japan Bank of International Co still considered a low-income operation (JBIC) country with a per capita income of

Implementation of the project only \$482. The social development aimed at railway sector developchallenges remain to be daunting ment including setting up a double while maternal and child mortality track railway line between Dhaka and Chittagong would take over In spite of an overall improvement, the quality of education is still \$800 million in phases, she told the poor while gender discrimination iournalists

infrastructure development

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

different cases at the direct interven-

"The judges who are involved in

the release of Ershad will be brought

to book when time comes." Inu said.

adding that non-implementation of

the declaration of the three- party

alliance of '90 was a historical and

Haque Prodhan, Dr Milon's class-

mate Dr Shakil Akter, Bikalpa

Krishak Dhara Convenor Chashi

Enamul Haque, former president

Association Dr Moazzem

Hossain, cultural activist

Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu, Dr

Presided over by Dr Milon

of Bangladesh Medical

JSD Joint Convenor Nazmul

political mistake.

tion of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The ADB representative said she expects the projects to get the nod from Ecnec shortly.

The macroeconomic and social development achievements of the country have been guite impressive, she said adding that health and education indicators have improved, gender parity has been achieved in primary and secondary education and poverty incidence has steadily declined.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday donated Tk 5 lakh to the family members of six victims of terrorist attacks that took place in Chuadanga in different time.

Families of four people, who were killed in the attacks. received Tk one lakh each while two injured people got Tk 50,000 each

The prime minister handed over the cheques to Atia Begum, wife of late Shafiqul Islam, Fatema Khatun, wife of late Abul Hashem, Anwara Begum, wife of late Haider Ali, Halima Khatun, wife of late Abdul Haq, and injured M Jahangir Alam and Kalimuddin.

positive impression. All Internet web-links of Luxon, Cadogan-Manning, Asia Energy and Global Vulcan appear only linked with Bangladesh. They have no other record of involvement with any other country.

The Bangladesh embassy in Seoul on August 25 held a meeting with the Korean vice minister of energy and the chief executive officer of Luxon. The vice minister said the one-year MoU expired in July and it needed to be renewed. And he would like to visit Bangladesh next month (this month) to expedite Luxon's proposal. The Korean side is 100 percent more than ready but we have not heard of any progress from Bangladesh's side," the embassy wrote to Dhaka quoting the vice minister. Though Luxon in its MoU had

committed to start feasibility study within six months of signing of the MoU and complete it by another six months, it actually did not do anything. On the contrary, the Luxon chief on August 14 met the Bangladesh ambassador telling him about his interest in investing \$6 billion, not just 1 billion, on the basis of the MoU. The embassy has recommended to the government renewal of the MoU and going ahead.

During the signing of the MoU last year, Luxon Global chief Seung

Youb Lee said his company targeted developing Asian countries, including Bangladesh, and for this wanted to invest in different sectors as the region still requires investment in infrastructure development and power production

"We are interested to invest in Bangladesh for its vast quantity of unexplored coal and cheap and available labour forces," he said.

According to the MoU, Luxon will invest \$150 million in coal mining, \$350 million in coal-based power plant, \$150 million in gasbased fertiliser plant, \$200 million in developing NGL/LNG (natural gas liquids/liquefied natural gas) and gas transmission, and \$150 million in infrastructure development.

"For inexperienced companies like Niko Resources or Asia Energy, Bangladesh is a guinea pig which helps them bag extra funds from share markets in their own countries. Other companies like Chinese Harbin also use Bangladesh as a guinea pig to gain work experience by delivering foul products as in case of the malfunctioning Tongi 80 MW plant. This has become possible because since coming to power, the BNP-led alliance government has virtually closed all open tenders and opted for only shady deals," noted an energy industry expert.

Energy, US, proposed to invest \$1.6 billion in fertiliser, coal and power production. In 2004. US-Irish joint venture Cadogan-Manning proposed to build 450 MW Meghnaghat-3 power project.

In October last year, Asia

Energy proposed to invest \$ 2

billion in Phulbari coal mining,

where it claimed to have invested

more than \$20 million in studies of

the mine. In May 2005, Vulcan

Finally, in July last year, a South Korean company named Luxon Global Company signed a MoU on investing \$ 1 billion in coal and power production, seeking coal mining licence.

All these companies in their proposals claim to be big and competent.

In reality, none of these companies has any experience in the energy sector. These do not have any profile and apparently they were created only to bag unsolicited deals in Bangladesh with the

help of a section of policymakers. According to a briefing of the Board of Investment (BoI), Global Vulcan Energy International posed to be a large company owned by Bill Gates' associate Paul Allen. But a press statement from Paul Allen in Seattle, US, ruled out his links. A