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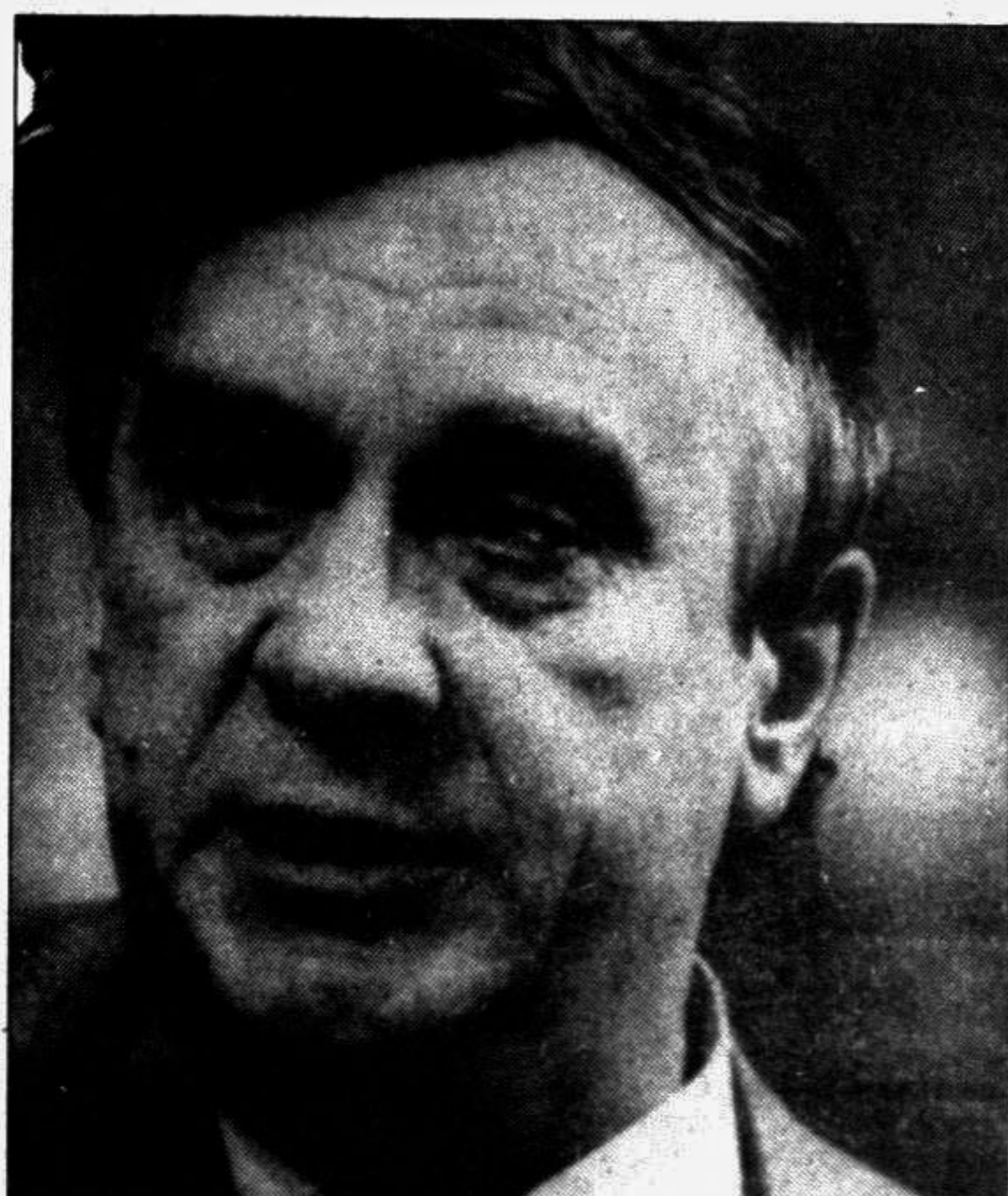
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Gorbachev toppled



Gorbachev: The 'great experiment' did not work



Gennady Yanayev: Acting President



V S Pavlov: Prime Minister



Marshal Dmitri Yazov: Defence Minister

Yanayev Acting President: Emergency declared: 8-man body to run govt: Tanks roll in Moscow

Inside Today Article



Citizens of Leningrad have voted to change the name of their city to St Petersburg. But for other citizens, especially those who were there during the dark days of World War II, Leningrad achieved a symbolism all its own

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Yanayev was a little known party official before becoming Gorbachev's personal choice for the job of Vice-President
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Gorbachev's removal rocks markets around the world
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Dhaka Day by Day



Many of the actors were facing the lime-light for the first time and were visibly nervous but the audience had an evening of laughter and delight
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MOSCOW, Aug 19: President Mikhail Gorbachev, who changed the face of the Soviet Union and the world with his radical reforms, was ousted today by hardliners who said his policies had led the country into chaos and anarchy, reports Reuter.

A statement by a new eight-man state emergency committee, including police and military chiefs, said that Gorbachev was unable to function as President 'for health reasons' and his powers had been passed to Vice-President Gennady Yanayev.

The committee declared a six-month state of emergency in certain unspecified parts of the country.

"A mortal danger has come to loom large over our great motherland... the country has in fact become ungovernable," said the committee, which included KGB Chairman Vladimir

Kryuchkov, Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov and Interior Minister Boris Pugo.

The takeover caught Gorbachev, 60, on holiday at his Pitsunda villa on the Black Sea. There was no immediate word on his fate.

The dramatic move came just one day before Gorbachev was due to preside over the signing of a new union treaty, a first step to dissolution of the old Soviet Union and creation of a new federation grouping some or all of its 15 republics.

Statements by the new committee made clear that fear of the disintegration of the country and the possible breakaway of some republics as independent states was one of the main motives behind its action.

It said its aim was to overcome "the profound and comprehensive crisis, political, ethnic and civil strife, chaos

and anarchy that threaten the lives and security of the Soviet Union's citizens and the sovereignty, territorial integrity, freedom and independence of our fatherland."

But the leader of the country's largest republic, Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, denounced Gorbachev's ousting as a right-wing coup and called for a general strike to win his reinstatement.

The move also caused widespread concern abroad. NATO officials were due to meet later today to discuss the situation and the European Community called a meeting of foreign ministers for tomorrow.

In his six years of power, Gorbachev had won huge support in the West for his policies which helped to end the Cold War and wind up Third World conflicts as well as

putting the Soviet Union on the road to a market-oriented democracy.

Groups of tanks and armoured personnel carriers were seen moving into the city but there were no signs of any unusual police or military activity on the streets around the Kremlin.

Tourists queued at the red-brick walls of the ancient citadel, unaware of the committee's announcement, first made by a black-suited television announcer reading slowly from a prepared text.

Soviet radio departed from its normal programme to broadcast solemn music and the announcement by the Crisis Emergency Committee every half hour. Television showed folk dancing and a film on all channels.

In its first decree, the committee announced it would clamp down on the press, ban

demonstrations and introduce a curfew where it met resistance.

The body, known as the 'State Committee on the State of Emergency in the USSR' said the KGB security police and Interior Ministry had strong powers to fulfil its orders and prevent 'fratricide and civil war' in the country.

Hardliners in the Communist Party, of which Gorbachev has remained leader until now, have long accused him of causing national disintegration as well as betraying Marxism through over-hasty economic reforms and concessions to the West.

Ethnic conflict has cost hundreds of lives in the south and the military has been alarmed by attempts by the strategically-placed Baltic republics to secede.

Gorbachev's popularity has also dropped radically among

the general population as food supplies dwindled in shops and industrial production dipped.

In an earlier address to the Soviet people, the committee said it intended to 'restore law and order straight away, end bloodshed, declare a war without mercy to the criminal world...'

It also promised to hold a 'nationwide discussion' of the draft new union treaty, a move which appeared to mean the document would be delayed and perhaps changed but not necessarily scrapped altogether.

Acting President Yanayev, in a statement of his own addressed to foreign governments and the United Nations Secretary-General, called the measures temporary.

The temporary emergency measures by no means affect

Under arrest or at rest?

MOSCOW, Aug 19: Acting President Gennady Yanayev said that Mikhail Gorbachev, whom he replaced earlier today, was 'resting in the Crimea' and that he could resume his position 'after he is restored to health,' reports AFP.

"Mikhail Gorbachev is currently in the Crimea and he is resting after the accumulated fatigue of the past years. We hope that after he is restored to health he will be able to resume his position and that the policies launched in 1985 will be continued by us," Yanayev told a press conference.

A spokesman for Russian President Boris Yeltsin said however, that Gorbachev was 'under a state of arrest at his official residence.'

Bush calls it a disturbing development, halts aid World leaders stunned

LONDON, Aug 19: World leaders were stunned Monday after the Soviet announcement that Mikhail S. Gorbachev had been ousted by hard-line conservatives, report Agencies.

President George Bush on Monday called the stunning coup "a disturbing development" and questioned whether the Soviet people would surrender newfound freedoms to a military regime.

President Bush said all US aid to the Soviet Union was on hold and that he expected Western allies to adopt a similar stance.

The President also wondered aloud whether the Soviet people would still fight for a military takeover after several years of glasnost and reforms.

Bush delivered a cautious statement about the coup but pointedly said: "It is also important to note that coups can fail. They succeed at first and then run up against the will of the people... what hasn't been heard from yet is the people in the Soviet Union."

UN Secretary-General

Javier Perz de Cuellar said today he was "very surprised" by the news.

"For us it is very important because the support of the Soviet Union for the forces of peace and for the United Nations is indispensable," he told Portugal's Independent TSF radio by telephone from the southern beach resort of Sagres, where he is on holiday.

Britain said today Mikhail Gorbachev's removal, President of the Soviet Union was an extremely disturbing development with serious implications for East-West relations and world peace.

"It's very worrying... very disturbing," Foreign Office Minister Lynda Chalker said in an interview on British radio. She said Gorbachev's departure could be "the turning back of the clock" for the Soviet Union and had serious implications for East-West relations. Asked if his departure made the world a less safe place, she said, "Sadly, yes."

On whether Gorbachev's removal could lead to chaos in the Soviet Union, she said, "I

think this is always a possibility... I think many people in the Soviet Union know they don't want the old communist system, therefore they may seek to resist the turning back of the clock and that means there is likely to be real difficulty in the Soviet Union."

British Prime Minister John Major said Mikhail Gorbachev had been removed as Soviet leader today by an "unconstitutional seizure of power" but hoped this would not signal a return to the Cold War.

In other early British reaction, ex-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher urged Soviet people to protest on the streets for democracy. She said NATO should suspend defence cuts.

She said there was "an old-fashioned style attempt at a coup belonging to the Stalin and Breznev era."

Major said the West was not forewarned about action to remove Gorbachev but "clearly we always realised the possibilities."

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Dhaka hopes Gorbachev's policy won't be disrupted

Bangladesh is closely following the development in the Soviet Union and expresses the hope that the process, initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev, will not be disrupted by the development, reports BSS.

Asked to comment on the reported replacement of President Gorbachev by a state emergency committee, a Foreign Office spokesman said the Soviet Union had undergone "dramatic" transformation under Gorbachev.

His policy of democratisation of the society, liberalisation of the economy and process of general restructuring have brought about a totally new orientation in the country, he said.

The spokesman said Gorbachev's bold initiatives in the foreign affairs witnessed the end of cold war, spectacular breakthrough in the field of disarmament, improvement of relations with the United States and a general reduction in tension around the world.

Lauding these initiatives, the spokesman expressed the hope that the development would not disrupt the process.

Political circles give cautious reaction

By Staff Correspondent

The ouster of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has caused mixed reactions in the political circles in Dhaka.

The news came as a surprise to many political leaders while some Left parties welcomed the change.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), which has strong pro-Moscow connection, was very cautious in giving comments on Gorbachev's removal.

Saffuddin Ahmed Manik, General Secretary of the CPB expressed concern over the incidents in Moscow. "We are observing the incidents cautiously", Manik told The Daily Star, but declined to elaborate.

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina said, "We are watching the situation." She said this to UNB declining further comment on the developments in the Soviet Union.

Bimal Biswas, General Secretary of the United Communist League (UCL), termed the fall of Gorbachev as the logical consequence of the line he was following.

He told The Daily Star that Gorbachev was following the path of bourgeois democracy instead of socialist democracy which created obstacles in the way of building a socialist system.

"The party of Lenin and the true communists had been fighting against this line," he added.

Hailing the removal of Gorbachev, the UCL leader said that the Soviet Party had taken this step to save socialism.

Saiful Haque, a politburo member of the Workers Party welcomed the change of leadership in the Soviet Union saying, "Gorbachev's removal was

See Page 12 Col. 5

VC hints at quitting if he fails to reopen DU

By DU Correspondent

Prof Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University Monday hinted that he may resign his post if his last effort to reopen the University goes in vain.

The Vice-Chancellor said that he was trying to reopen the University within two weeks.

Prof Maniruzzaman was addressing students demonstrating in front of his office under the banner of Dhaka University Education Action Committee (DUEAC) since the closure of the University.

The Vice Chancellor informed the student that the Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) and the Academic Council were against reopening before getting assurances of a violence free campus from all concerned.

He, however, differed with them as he felt that nobody could fully guarantee a violence free campus.

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Yeltsin says reactionary coup, calls strike

MOSCOW, Aug 19: Radical Russian President Boris Yeltsin climbed on a tank outside his parliament today and called on supporters to resist the 'State Emergency Committee' that has taken power from Mikhail Gorbachev, reports Reuter.

"Strikes have already begun in Leningrad and some factories in the Urals have walked out. Wherever my appeal for a strike is heard, people back it," he said, to cheers from supporters gathered outside the white building on the Moskva river.

Yeltsin, dressed in a grey suit, looked calm and talked without raising his voice to a crowd of some 200, many waving red-white-blue Russian tricolours and shouting 'No to fascism.'

Soldiers, part of a column of about 12 light tanks drawn up in front of the building, remained in their vehicles.

The white-haired Yeltsin stood on the flank of a mud-caked tank, holding in his hands a two-page statement calling for a general strike against the committee.

He said he had been told Gorbachev, whose perestroika reforms have transformed the Soviet Union and slashed the once unchallengeable power of the Communist Party, was being held on the Crimean Black Sea peninsula where he had been holidaying.

Earlier report said Yeltsin in a statement in Moscow denounced the removal of Soviet President Gorbachev as a right-wing coup and called for a general strike to win his reinstatement.

He called on the armed

forces to refuse to take part in the 'coup' and demanded the immediate summoning of the national parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies.

Yeltsin said the State Emergency Committee which announced Gorbachev's removal was illegal.

The statement was also signed by Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev and acting head of the republican parliament, Russian Khasbulatov.

"Whatever reasons are given to justify his (Gorbachev's) removal, we have here a right-

wing, reactionary, unconstitutional coup," it said.

Gorbachev had been due to return to Moscow to preside over the signing tomorrow of a new union treaty that would eventually end Moscow's tight hold on its 15 republics.

Supporters standing outside the Russian parliamentary building, many holding Russian flags chanted "Troops back to barracks," and "Fascism will not triumph."

Armoured cars took up position on the bridge overlooking the building but there

where no reports of shooting.

Yeltsin was elected president of the Soviet Union's largest republic in June after the first ever direct presidential elections.

Some people tried to tear the camouflage from armoured personnel carriers and cover up the windows of the armoured vehicles.

"Go back home to your barracks or you will never be able to wash the blood from your hands," one woman screamed at a tank driver. His face

See Page 12 Col. 2

BNP announces nominations for by-elections

The parliamentary board of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Monday announced nominations to contest the by-elections to all the 11 Jatiya Sangsad seats on September 11, reports BSS.

According to a BNP press release, the nominated candidates to the by-elections are: Rahimuddin Bhara (Rangpur-1), Mohammad Elias Advocate (Rangpur-2), Nurul Huda Sultan (Rangpur-3), Shah Mohammad Abu Saïk (Rangpur-4), Mohammad

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