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VOL. 1 NO. 210 REGD. NO. DA 781

# The Daily Star

BHADRA 7, 1398 BS,

DHAKA FRIDAY AUGUST 23, 1991

SAFAR 11, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00



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Private water transports will stop plying from Friday night and Bangladesh Electrical Association demands enforcement of government order, restricting import of electric meters. Reports on  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Gaddafi invites Khaleda**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has been invited to attend a "great ceremony" in Libya on August 28, official sources said Thursday.

**JP candidate changed**

Jatiya Party has changed its nominee for the bye-election in Rangpur-2 constituency. Parlosh Chakravarti will now be the JP candidate instead of Begum Mansura Mohiuddin, a JP press release said Thursday night.

Gorbachev moves to tighten grip on power : Coup leaders arrested : Yazov, KGB chief, Dy Defence Minister fired : Yeltsin bans party cells in armed forces : Jubilation in Moscow

## Hardliners face purge



Soviet President Gorbachev arrives back in Moscow Thursday following his ordeal in the Crimea where he was held during the failed coup. His wife Raisa (back-R) who is reported to be suffering paralysis in her left hand, assists their granddaughter Xenia. — AFP photo

MOSCOW, Aug 22: President Mikhail Gorbachev, moving to tighten his newly regained grip on power and punish the hard-liners who briefly deposed him, declared Thursday that the Soviet Union had survived "the most difficult trial" of his 6-year-old reform movement, report agencies.

Meanwhile, Boris Yeltsin, emerging more powerful than ever after leading the resistance to the coup, triumphantly rallied 100,000 jubilant supporters to mark the end of "three dark days" of the hard-line takeover.

The 60-year-old Gorbachev, at his first news conference since the coup against him collapsed on Wednesday, condemned on Thursday the failed hard-line takeover as being against "the people, against democracy."

Earlier, he told reporters

he would have killed himself rather than submit to any forced arrangement with the coup leaders. "I said I wouldn't make any deals," he said then. "Otherwise, I would have had to commit suicide."

At the news conference Gorbachev sounded and appeared relieved.

MOSCOW, Aug 22: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said today he could have done more to prevent this week's abortive coup and regretted he had chosen as his Vice-President the man who became one of the chief plotters.

Gorbachev made the admission in a 15-minute broadcast to the nation over Soviet television, according to a late night Reuter report.

peared furious with the coup leaders. He described his house arrest in the Crimea. He scoffed at their contention that he was giving up his power because he was ill. "Their own hands were shaking," he said derisively.

But the Soviet President stood by the Communist Party

saying it had to be purged of reactionaries but could still contribute to reform.

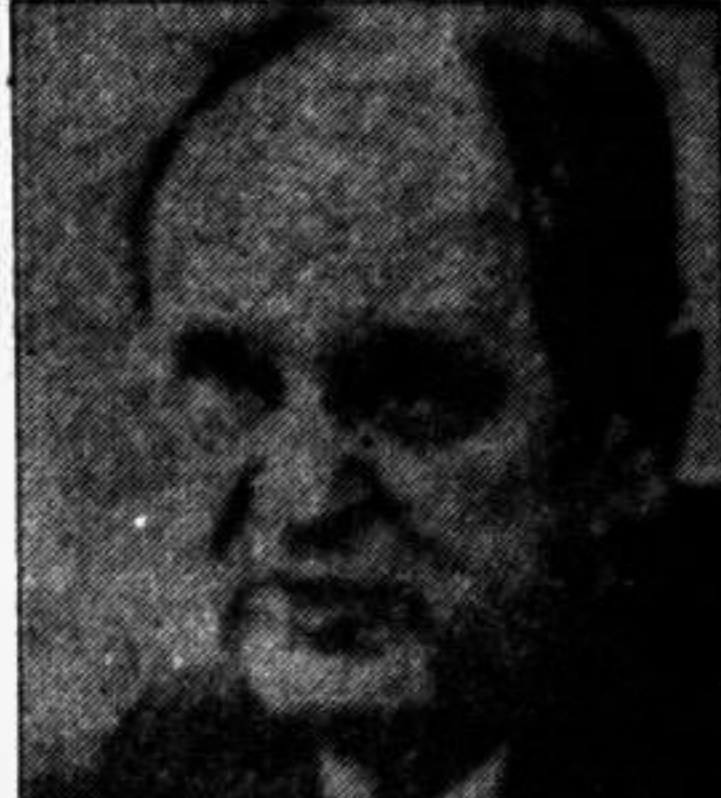
"I see as my duty to fight while it is still in my power to do away with all obstacles to removing all reactionary forces from the Communist Party," he told a news conference.

MOSCOW, Aug 22: Soviet Interior Minister Boris Pugo, a member of the State-of-Emergency Committee who mounted a failed coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev, committed suicide today, Russian officials said at the republic's parliament, reports AFP.

Confirmation that Pugo, 54, had shot himself in the head with his service revolver at his Moscow home came after the Russian Information Agency (RIA) broke the news of his suicide.

His wife had also tried to kill herself, and was in a serious condition, the Russian officials said.

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**Pugo commits suicide**

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### West rethinking about help

LONDON, Aug 22: The Western leaders who were adamant and unanimous in seeking Mikhail Gorbachev's return to power face new decisions about how to help the Soviet Union along the path of reform, report agencies.

Prime Minister John Major said Thursday that "circumstances have changed now" in the Soviet Union and that "we will want to look again" at the question of aid.

However, Major said in an interview with BBC radio that what is "most needed is assistance on how to do things" rather than cash.

The board of directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development was to meet later Thursday to consider what action it should take.

"A board meeting has been specially convened to discuss the situation in the Soviet Union and what the bank is going to do," said bank spokeswoman Laurence Blow.

The bank, whose aim is to help Eastern European countries develop democratic market economies, currently restricts lending to the Soviet Union to the amount the country contributes to the bank.

European Bank President Jacques Attali for several months has been lobbying the banks 39 member countries to ease that restriction.

Following the coup, the EC had frozen some 480 million dollars in technical assistance, and credit guarantees worth about 600 million dollars for the Soviets to buy food. Only 300 million dollars in humani-

tarian aid had been left intact.

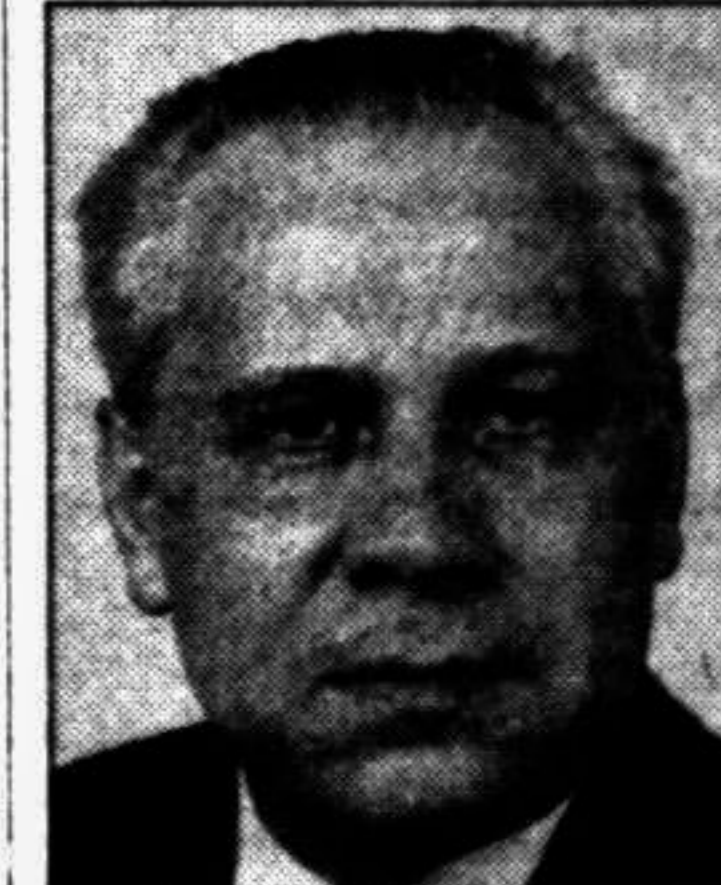
However the West as a whole remained unsure about a massive new injection of aid to bolster the Soviet reform process.

"We must rethink our technical assistance and try and reorientate it towards the republics," an EC official said in Brussels.

As Western aid severed by the 60-hour coup began to come back on stream, Britain unfroze its 83 million dollar "know-how" fund, which provides technical assistance to Soviet businesses and economists.

Japan resumed a package that included a 100 million dollar loan to buy food and 250 million dollars in trade insurance.

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**Lukyanov brain behind coup?**

MOSCOW, Aug 22: The Prime Minister of Russia today accused Anatoly Lukyanov, Speaker of the Soviet parliament and a college friend of President Mikhail Gorbachev, of being the leading force behind this week's coup attempt, reports Reuter.

"Since you will be passing some decisions on Comrade Lukyanov, I want to inform you that he was the chief ideologue of the junta, Prime Minister Ivan Silayev told parliament.

Lukyanov was not a member of the eight-man State Emergency Committee that setled power on Monday but he has emerged as a leading target of the wrath of the victorious Russian democrats who led the resistance.

### Employees announce new action programme

## Resource constraints toughen Govt stance on demands

The government is going to maintain a tough stance on the new national pay scales and will not accommodate any further hikes in salary and other allowances than what has already been announced, a reliable source told The Daily Star.

The budgetary resources will not permit giving any more benefits to the employees at this stage. The bulk of the contingency provision of Taka 600 crore, shown as unexpected expenditures in the revenue budget for 1991-92, will be used for meeting the

Star Economic Report

salary hikes. There will be no budgetary cushion to meet any unforeseen expenditures, in the event of natural calamities or other extraordinary circumstances after implementation of the new pay scales, the source added.

Explaining the tight resources position, the source said, even a five per cent hike in the house rent allowance for the government employees would mean an additional financial involvement of Taka 100 crore a year. "A 50-taka hike in the pay scale for Class

IV employees may appear to be a marginal amount but its total impact on recurring expenditures will be quite substantial because of the number of employees involved," he added.

Any new upward adjustments in salary structure and allowances will have only two options, either investment cutback in public sector development expenditures of fresh taxes, for the government to foot the bill for the same, the source said while noting that both options would have under-

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### Shahabuddin, Khaleda greet Gorbachev

The Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia have felicitated Mikhail Gorbachev on his return to power, reports BSS.

In a message to Gorbachev yesterday the Acting President said "Your restoration to authority with the overwhelming support of the Soviet people is a development of far-reaching significance, which we in Bangladesh sincerely welcome."

The Acting President extended warm felicitations to Gorbachev and wished his continued success in the cause of the "great nation."

In her message Begum Khaleda Zia said...

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### US to probe workers' rights in Bangladesh

Star Economic Report

Bangladesh is one of the seven countries where the United States will investigate workers' rights. If abuses are found, the seven could lose duty-free treatment for some exports to the US.

This was stated by the US Trade Representative's Office in Washington on Wednesday, according to an agency despatch.

The countries on the list for investigation include Sri Lanka, Panama, Thailand, Mauritania, El Salvador and Syria, besides Bangladesh.

The news agency reports said that the US Trade Representative's Office acted on complaints from the US

trade union and human rights groups.

The office said that it would review workers' rights in Sri Lanka, Panama, Thailand and Mauritania and would continue investigations into workers' rights in Bangladesh. El Salvador and Syria.

Public hearings would be held in October and decisions taken next October, the US trade office said.

It also announced reviews of protection of intellectual property rights such as copyrights and patents in Malta and Guatemala.

"Nations must abide by US workers' rights standards and

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### Bush aide fears more coups in Soviet Union

KENNEBUNKPORT (Maine), Aug 22: A top Bush administration official on Thursday questioned Mikhail Gorbachev's choice of a new military chief and said the Soviet President could well face another challenge to his power, reports AP.

The senior official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said Moscow should let the Baltics "determine their own future."

The official questioned one of Gorbachev's first post-coup steps — the naming of Gen. Mikhail Moiseyev to replace coup plotters Dmitry Yazov as defence minister.

Moiseyev was at best ambivalent during the three-day coup, and the official said, "I wouldn't want that guy behind me in a dark hall now."

The official cautioned against a euphoric attitude about the immediate future of the Soviet Union, saying that just because this coup failed, there is "no reason to think it will be the last" one attempted.

### HSC exams held peacefully : Over 2000 examinees expelled

Over two thousand examinees were expelled throughout the country for adopting unfair means on the first day of this year's Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) examinations Thursday.

The examinations were held peacefully.

The numbers of expelled examinees under the Dhaka, Rajshahi and Jessore Boards were 394, 953 and 64 respectively, according to sources in the Boards.

Out of the total 394 expelled under Dhaka Board 235 and 46 students were from

By DU Correspondent

Mymensingh and Gazipur while the numbers in Narshingdi, Manikganj, Jamalpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Shariatpur and Munshiganj were 11, 7, 15, 13, 3, 9 and 7 respectively.

Expulsion was highest in Rajshahi Board, where 347 and 231 students were expelled from only two districts, Dinajpur and Gaibandha respectively.

The numbers of expelled examinees in other districts under Rajshahi Board were Nilphamari-41, Panchagarh-23, Naogaon-20, Thakurgaon-73, Nawabganj-14, Rangpur-

143, Kurigram-51, and Naohata of Rajshahi district-10.

Out of total 64 expelled examinees under Jessore Board, 23 were from Kushtia Islamia College centre while the numbers in other centres were Meherpur Govt College-3, Barisal Ershad Islamia College-5, Prozapur Govt College-3, Bhola Govt College-1, Satkhira Govt College-1, Jhalokathi Govt College-3, Patuakhali A K M College-1, Khulna BL College-4, Dowlatpur College in

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### FM goes to India Monday 'First political level contact'

Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman leaves for India Monday to make "the first political level contact" between the two newly elected governments in Dhaka and Delhi, reports UNB.

A Foreign Office spokesman told reporters Thursday the four-day visit will take place at the invitation of Indian Minister for External Affairs Madhav Singh Solanki.

Mustafiz, leading a five-member delegation, will be accompanied by his wife. The delegation includes Additional Foreign Secretary A H Mahmud Ali.

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### Gorbachev comeback muffles CPB hardliners

By Moinuddin Naser

The hardliners in the CPB, emboldened by the military coup in the Soviet Union on August 19, have weakened with the reinstatement of Gorbachev in power.

The CPB, shadowed by both hardliners and liberals, is preparing for its October 3-8 congress, when the party's main document blended with "Glasnost" and "Perestroika" would be placed.

During the last few years hardliners in the party criticised the Gorbachev initiatives on economic and political reforms aimed at abandoning Marxism and Leninism and

creating a market economy.

The hardliners in the party described the moves as "counter revolutionary", backed by the capitalist world.

Majority of the party's mid-ranking workers sided with the hardliners and they believed that "Glasnost" and "Perestroika" would in no way yield any benefit to a country like Bangladesh.

In a move to redefine the party manifesto the CPB formed a three-member commission headed by its centrist leader Ajoy Roy.

On the basis of the report of

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## Beijing will respect choice of Soviet people

BEIJING, Aug 22: Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said today that China would respect the choice "the Soviet people made", following the reinstatement of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, reports AFP.

His comments signified China's first official reaction to the reversal of a conservative coup that briefly toppled the reform-minded Soviet leader.

"We believe that with the

resumption of President Gorbachev of his duties, the good-neighbourly and friendly relations between China and the Soviet Union will continue to develop on the basis set forth in the 1989 and 1991 Sino-Soviet joint communiques, a Chinese foreign Ministry spokesman quoted Qian as telling Soviet Ambassador Nikolay Soloviev.

Bilateral communications after summit meetings in May

1989 and May 1991 called for friendly relations based on peaceful coexistence.

Gorbachev had instructed the Soviet Ambassador to brief Chinese leaders on recent developments in the Soviet Union and on the restoration of political and social stability in the country, a Soviet embassy spokesman said.

Soloviev told Qian that Gorbachev's health condition is normal and that the cabinet of

ministers of the Soviet Union will be working on measures to ensure the restoration of the Soviet economy, the Soviet spokesman said.

The Chinese Foreign Minister told Soloviev that Beijing has consistently advocated and always maintained that the internal affairs of the Soviet Union should be handled by the Soviet people themselves, the Western spokesman said.

This response as unsurprising as it was in line with Beijing's professed non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, such as the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe and a military coup in Thailand this year.

In reacting to Gorbachev's reinstatement, however, the government very nearly repeated its response to his dismissal. In both instances China was among the last of

the world's major powers to comment officially.

The brief resurgence of orthodox Communists in the Kremlin had met with tacit satisfaction in Beijing, where hardliners have had little sympathy for Gorbachev's political reforms.

But Chinese leaders were careful not to gloat, however, as they apparently waited to see how the coup attempt would play out.

### Russia demands separate army, changes flag

MOSCOW, Aug 22: The Russian Federation "should have its own national army", Russian President Boris Yeltsin said today cheered by more than 100,000 supporters outside the federation parliament building, reports AFP.

He said Russian Vice President Alexander Rutskov "has been asked to study the matter."

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