Launching of DESA may be delayed further

The launching of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority scheduled for September 1, is likely to be delayed further...

Official sources told UNB Wednesday that deferring the launching of DESA was now under active consideration in political circles of the establishment in view of lack of arrangement for adequate administrative facilities and to avotd posstble backlash. But the policy makers are also unlikely to take any decision without informing the World Bank, which has not yet been

With only three days to go before inception of DESA authorities could hardly arrange adequate legistic supports, including manpower, for the proposed company.

Five thousand workers and employees of PDB, who now look after the power transmis sion in greater Dhaka, were due to be transferred to DESA But, according to sources, the transfer is yet to take place.

Also Chairman for DESA has not yet been appointed. although PDB's member, Distribution, has been designated for the post.

Floating DESA is a major pre-condition of donors, particularly World Bank, for future lending to Bangladesh power

Rajshahi, Jessore **Board HSC exams** rescheduled

The HSC examinations under Dhaka, Rajshahi and Jessore Education Boards from September 10 to 16 will be held now from September 21 to 28 as the bye-elections to 11 Jatiya Sangsad seats and referendum will be held on September 11 and 15 respectively, reports BSS.

According to an official handout, the examinations of September 10,11,12,14,15 and 16 will be held on September 21, 23, 24,25,26 and 28 respectively.

The time table of the examinations will remain unchanged. The handout said adding that the changed schedule of the HSC examinations under Comilla Board will be announced by the Board

Biman's ATPs go into service August 31

Star Economic Report Bangladesh Biman's two ATPs will go into operation from August 31.

The decision to this effect was taken following an agreement between Biman and British Aerospace.

British Aerospace and the engine manufacturer Pratt and Whittney of Canada are giving full engineering and operational assistance to Biman un-

der the joint agreement.

British pilots and engineers will fly and maintain the ATP aircraft for six months during which they will give intensive training to Biman pilots and engineers.

These services will be provided free by British

Aerospace.

Besides Biman, the ATP has also been chosen by nine other airlines in Europe, North America and the Asia Pacific region.

In the past three weeks, airlines in Indonesia and Turkey placed orders and options for 13 ATP aircraft confirming the ATP's suitability for operations in Asia.

British Airways also reordered the ATP last week with commitments for 11 aircraft to add to its fleet.

12 Mujahideen killed in mine explosion

ISLAMABAD, Aug 28: Twelve Afghan guerillas fleeing an upsurge of fighting between Mujahideen groups were killed when their vehicle hit an anti-tank mine in northwest Pakistan on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The vehicle, carrying guerillas from rebel-held Asadabad in eastern Afghanistan, was destroyed in the blast at a village in Pakistan's Bajaur

tribal agency, the official APP news agency reported today. Six guerillas were injured.

It was not clear which side in the fighting they belonged to.

The World Bank suggested DESA with an idea to separate power transmission from generation which, it argues, would slash unabated electricity theft pushing systems loss to world's highest 42 per cent.

Since early last year, the administration has failed thrice to launch DESA in the face of stiff opposition from PDB workers and employees'

A senior official viewed if the authorities further failed to stand by the commitment given to World Bank, there might arise a severe "credibility" crisis for the new government before the donors.

He cautioned flow of funds, not only to the power sector but also to other sectors. would possibly be affected.

According to a World Bank estimate, about 500 million US dollar in aid from various donors to different on-going projects in the power sector has been withheld.

Apart from World Bank, other donors to power sector are Japan, Asian Development Bank (ADB), KFW of Germany and ODA of Britain.

Meanwhile, all the five employees and workers' unions, including the pro-BNP one. have threatened to go on strike from the day DESA goes into operation.

Rao: Khaleda

From Page 1 Col. 6

looking forward to meeting her during the Commonwealth heads of governments meeting and also the SAARC summit.

Bangladesh and India have signed two agreements relating to Rupees thirty crore credit facility and avoidance of double taxation. Mostafizur Rahman and Indian External Affairs Minister Madhavsingh Solanki signed the agreements on behalf of their respective governments in New Delhi on Tuesday night.

Making a statement on the occasion Solanki said Bangladesh has emerged as India's eleventh largest market and emphasised the need for identifying sectors in which joint ventures could be established.

According to Solanki, the convention on the avoidance of double taxation would not only ensure that business enterprises are shared the inconvenience of meeting the fiscal obligations imposed by both the countries on the same transaction but would also help reduce the incidents of fiscal evasion. The immediate beneficiaries of this agreement will be the airlines and shipping companies. Investment in each other's country will also be facilitated

Mostafiz thanked the government of India for the assistance extended to Bangladesh He also thanked India for its help for the rehabilitation of the cyclone victims.

Kuwaiti team

From Page 1 Col. 4 reemployment of Bangladeshi

The Kuwaiti team will mainly consist of officials from Ministries of Electricity, Water Supply, Communication and Works - the four sectors im-

build the war-torn country. Of some 70,000 Bangladeshis pushed out of jobs by Iraqi aggression in Kuwait 13 months ago, nearly 15,000 have been re-employed so far, the officials said.

plementing massive recon-

struction programmes to re-

Govt vessels

From Page 1 Col. 4

the barricade was withdrawn after talks between the water transport owners associations and the Shipping Minister, the Secretary and Chairman of the BIWTC and the BIWTA Wednesday.

The talks will resume today (Thursday) the press release said adding the co-operation and gesture by the associations' leaders had paved the way for ending the deadlock through discussions.

The motorised riverine transports in the private sector went on an indefinite strike since Friday night demanding reduction of fuel prices to the pre-Gulf war

Meanwhile, the Steering Committee of the Council of six Water Transport Owners' Associations in a statement refuted government's claim that fuel would be smuggled across the border if its prices were reduced.

Editor ; S. M. All

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a big public meeting at Daulatkhan upazila in Bhola district on Wednesday. - PID photo

Guard against enemies of democracy: Khaleda

BHOLA, Aug 28: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today asked the government officials to stand guard against the "enemies" of democracy. reports UNB.

"Beware so that the enemies of democracy cannot raise their heads once again, she said addressing the district officials at Borhanuddin Upazila headquarters this morning.

The Prime Minister asked them to utilise the opportunity created by the present democratic process of integrating common people with development activities.

BSS adds: The Prime Minister expressed the hope the administration would play its due role in making the coming referendum a great

"You should ensure that people participate in the referendum in large numbers, she also told the officials.

Principal Yunus Khan, State Minister for Education, Tarigul Islam, State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs, and local MP and Organising Secretary of Awami League Tofael Ahmed, also spoke on the occasion. Mrs. Selima Rahman, MP and Mrs Rawshan Ara Hena, MP were present.

Begum Zia said the administration had played a neutral role during the parliamentary elections in February this year "I hope you will also play similar role so that the coming bye-elections are held in a free and fair atmosphere," she told

Prime Minister referred to the relief and rehabilitation activities following the devastating cyclone in the coastal areas and lauded the service of

the government servants, NGOs, Members of Parliament. She said there had been no corruption regarding the distribution of relief materials. This had earned appreciation from home and abroad, she added.

Yunus Khan said the present government wanted make the coming referendum a success through active participation of the people.

Tarigul Islam who was incharge of the relief operation after the cyclone in the district, said that everybody appreciated the relief operations. He said the opposition member in the Sangsad, Tofael Ahmed, also praised our efforts while speaking in the Jatiya

Tofael Ahmed, on behalf of the people welcomed the Prime Minister to Bhola and wished her all success in running the government. Ahmed drew attention of the Prime Minister to some of the problems of the district.

Tofael Ahmed said the members of the opposition would extend all out support to pro-people initiatives of the government under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

Begum Zia addressing two separate meetings at Daulat Khan and Borhanuddin upazilas of the district today called upon the people to elect the BNP nominees in the coming bye-elections to ensure peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

"I have kept my world, she said adding this is the reason why the people had given us the responsibility to run the

Editorial on page 4

Opposition in Parliament

criticised the ruling BNP for

its alleged failure to solve the

problems of peasants and

workers and said it was ruling

the country in "autocratic

style" giving rise to "unrest,

party's demanded for mini-

mum price of jute at Tk 500

per maund, supply of agricul-

tural inputs at low cost, ex-

emption of agricultural loans

and setting up of new indus-

Hasina reiterated her

and chaos.'

Vote for 'boat' : Hasina

RANGPUR, Aug 28 (UNB): Sheikh Ilasina today called upon the people to vote for "Boat" in the September 11 bye-elections and support Awami League's struggle for economic emancipation.

"We are committed to bring about economic emancipation of the exploited masses and will not cease our struggle until achieving the objective," she told a big election meeting at Taraganj High School premises.

The Awami League President addressed nearly two dozen public rallies and wayside gatherings Gangachhara, Taraganj and Mithapukur upazilas on the first-day of her three-day byeelection campaign in Rangpur

district. The meetings were also addressed by Kader Siddigi, a valiant freedom fighter, and Awami League candidates Majibur Rahman Pramanik from Gangachhara, Anisul Haq Chowdhury from Taragani, Ashiqur Rahman from Mithapukur And Matiur Rahman from Pirgani.

trial units in rural areas to boost the country's sluggish economy. She claimed that, Agricultural inputs were supplied at low cost, small industries set up and 11,000 primary schools nationalised by the Awami League government during

> Bangbandhu's time. She also called for establishing rule of law and step politics of the killing and said her party moved the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill in Parliament with this end in views.

> Democracy will be in peril, if the bill is not passed in the House, she warned.

Hasina, also Leader of the Former VCs discuss campus terrorism

Lack of cordiality between govt, political parties responsible

By DU Correspondent

Former Vice-Chancellors of different universities at a discussion meeting on Wednesday stressed the need for cordiality of the government and the political parties in rooting out a terrorism from the educational institutions.

The former Vice-Chancellors urged the political parties to create tolerance among themselves and said that terrorism on the campuses was the result of the impatience of the political parties.

The discussion meeting organised by the Liberty Forum was addressed by Prof Shamsul Huq, Prof Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, Dr Kamaluddin Ahmed, Dr M A Bari, Dr M A Naser, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Prof Syed Ali Ahsan, Dr Muslehuddin Ahmed and A K M Aminul Islam with Dr Innas Ali in the chair.

Justice Abdur Rahman

Chowdhury delivered his welcome address at the meeting. Prof Shamsul Huq former

Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University held the politicking of a section of teachers and students responsible for terrorism and proposed that it decided again how much the teachers and the students should be allowed to do poli-

Prof Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, another former Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University, said terrorism never resulted because of any crisis of the University. It was always the result of a political crisis, he added.

Dr M A Bari, former Chairman of the University Grants Commission, stressed the need for an allout effort by all concerned in order to remove the deadlock in the educational institutions.

Nazrul's 15th anniversary of death observed

By Staff Correspondent

The 15th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was observed throughout the country in a befitting manner on Wednesday.

Different socio-cultural organisations organised seminars and cultural functions on the occasion. Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television put up programmes on the poet. The day's programme

started with the laying of floral

wreaths at the mazar of the National Poet beside Dhaka University Central Mosque. Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor M Maniruzzaman Miah, members of Nazrul Academy, Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy,

Parishad and Shishu Academy placed wreaths at the mazar. Nazrul Institute organised a discussion meeting in the institute premises on Wednes day, the concluding day of its

Nazrul Institute, Nazru

three-day programme. Education Minister Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury was the chief guest at the meeting which was presided over by director of the institute Dr. Mohammad Maniruzzaman.

Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury stressed the need to evaluate the works on Nazrul properly Bangla Academy organised a seminar on "Nazrul sangeet

the reasons for its popularity" Eminent Nazrul researcher Dr. Karunamoy Goswamy presented his paper. Director General of Bangla Academy Professor Muhammad Harunur-Rashid delivered the welcome speech. Muhammad Jahangir and Muhammad Nurul Huda participated in the discussion. Professor Muhammad Maniruzzaman presided over

the meeting. Professor Harun-ur-Rashid said Nazrul was the only poet in this country who represented the heritage and spirit of both the Muslims and the Hindus. It was a difficult task in his time, Professor Rashid

Dr. Karunamoy Goswamy said Nazrul's personal charisma, his rebellious and uncompromising attitude contributed to the vast popularity of his songs.

Muhammad Jahangir stressed popularising less known songs of Nazrul. He called upon the government to take steps for wide publicity of Nazrul's songs.

Muhammad Nurul Huda said Nazrul succeeded in arousing rebellion and aspirations among the people. Nazrul's popularity was not limited to only one community, he observed.

Professor Muhammad Maniruzzaman said the writings of Nazrul provided us inspiration in overcoming vari ous crisis in our national life.

He said Nazrul's writings inspired us during anti-British movement, War of Liberation in 1971 and anti-autocracy movement in 1990. He urged the government to take steps to make Nazrul's works known to the foreigners.

The seminar was concluded with rendering of Nazrul sangeet by eminent Nazrul singers Khalid Hossain, Nilufar Yasmeen, Rafigul Islam, Fatema-tuz-Johra and Yasmeen Mustari. Bangladesh Shishu Academy

organised a discussion in the academy premises. Commerce Minister M K Anwar was the chief guest at

the discussion. Educationist and literature Dr. Abul Kalam Manzur Mor-

shed and the Director of the Academy Golam Kibria participated in the discussion which was presided over by Academy Chairman Kazi Anwara Mansur. The Commerce Minister called upon the people to folation." low the ideals of the national

poet to build a society free from all sorts of injustice, discriminations and oppressions. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organised a cultural function at the academy auditorium in the evening. Khur-

shid Hassan Khan, Manash

Kumar Das, Shelu Barua

Shamima Parveen Shimu ren-

Editorial on page 4

Nazrul.

dered Nazrul songs. The artists The Criminal Investigation of the academy presented a dance based on the poems of

and some other austerity moves will provide the cushion for the government to absorb the effects of the pay-hikes for its employees, the sources

The pay-hikes will involve an additional expenditure of about Taka 400 crore out of the revenue budget alone in 1991-92. Another Taka 500 crore will be needed in the next fiscal year to implement the allowances part of the overall new pay and allowances structure for about seven lakh government employees. Available indications suggest

that the key multilateral fundgiving agencies are not convinced about the rationale of the new pay structure at a time when the government needs to conserve more resources for supporting development programmes in the public sector The development budget of the government will be forced to bear the brunt of the payhikes, the donors felt.

The concrete reforms programme under ESAF with a specified set of targets for different areas of overall economic management for 1991-92 were drawn up by the government in May last in cooperation with the staff of the IMF and the WB.

Under the three-year ESAF, such specific targets are to be set up annually with semi-an nual disbursements of funds (at about 47 million US dollars under each instalment of tranche) conditioned on fulfillment of the targets.

The ESAF was approved for Bangladesh in June last. So far three instalments have been disbursed. The next disbursement is due in December.

Informed sources told The Daily Star that the announce ment of the new national payscales involving a large amount of current expenditures were not envisaged under the reforms programme for 1991

The policy-based lending programmes of the World Banking sectors like finance and banking and energy are also related to the overall economic management by the government in more or less the same line as that of ESAF. This is the reason for the WB's 'concern' over the implemen tation of the pay scales with its 'adverse impact' on overall resource management, the sources said.

Both the IMF and the WB according to sources, have also sought clarification from the government about the impact of the pay-scales on the finan cial position of about 50 au tonomous bodies and nation alised commercial banks and financial institutions which meet their salaries, wages and allowances bills from their respective budgets. How will such bodies and institutions meet the increased overhead costs and what will be its ef fect on their borrowings from the banks, contributions of profits to the public exchequer, operational deficits or pricing policies? — these are the questions which both the IMF and the WB have raised

according to sources. Some circles have likened the present situation to that of 1980-81 when the IMF with drew its support under the then extended credit facility to Bangladesh on grounds of credit bust beyond the agreed

Collision course

From Page 1 Col. 7 Yeltsin ordered today that all Soviet foreign exchange operations be carried out only with the approval of his Russian republic.

An instruction made public by the Russian Information Agency today, but dated August 25, also applied to precious metals and stones.

It also ordered the Russian republic's Interior Ministry to take over responsibility for the security of precious metals and stones belonging to the state. AFP adds: Ukraine has decided to transfer its nuclear

potential to the Russian federation, Yeltsin said today. He made the statement in an exchange at the Russian parliament with 350 delegates of Russian origin who are at-

tending the first international

congress of compatriots here.

Asked by a delegate what would be done with the nuclear weapons of breakaway Soviet republics such as Ukraine, Yeltsin replied, 'Ukraine has declared itself a nuclear-free power, and agreed to move all its nuclear potential to the Russian feder-

Main suspect From Page 1 Col. 8

Momin Uddin Ahmed of village Crokerchar in Shibchar thana of Madaripur district. Nannu along with his accomplices was involved in terrorist activities in different parts of the city including the Dhaka University campus, police said.

Department (CID) has already filed charges against him in connection with the murder of Dr. Milon.

WB, IMF funds From Page 1 Col. 3

Body to review ban on wet-blue leather export

The Government on Wednesday formed a seven-member high-powered committee to review the existing ban on export of wet-blue leather. The committee, headed by Nazim Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, Commerce Ministry comprises Abu Naser Wahid, Director-General of Export Promotion Bureau, Abdullah Haroon Pasha Additional Secretary, Industry Ministry concerned Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, President of Bangladesh Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, President of Bangladesh Finished Leather Exporters' Association and President of Bangladesh Tanners' Association, says a PID handout.

150 arrested in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Aug 28: Police arrested 150 persons on various charges from 12 districts of Chittagong range today under their Operation Doorbar-91. Police also recovered three single barrel guns and two pipeguns during the operation, re-

Bus plunge kills 53 in Turkey

ANKARA, Aug 28: A lebanese tour bus plunged into a ravine in eastern Turkey today, killing 53 people in a crash blamed on a speeding driver reports Reuter. Most of the dead were Shi'tte Moslem pilgrims on their way to shrines in Iran. The bus, carrying 54 passengers, fell 20 metres (60 feet) after failing to round a bend at 8.30 am about 18 km (11 miles) from the town of Dogubeyazit on the Iranian border, reports Reuter.

Gorbachev orders probe into KGB

MOSCOW, Aug 28: Soviet President Mikhail S Gorbachev on Wednesday ordered an investigation into the activities of the KOB, the secret police agency that terrorized the Soviet population for decades.A committee was appointed to examine the role of the KGB in the coup that Kept Gorbachev captive for three days, the Tass news agency reported. It also will write a restructuring plan and legislation to regulate the agency's future activities, Tass said, reports AP.

Envoy to Czechoslovakia new Soviet FM

MOSCOW, Aug 28: Soviet Ambassador to Czechoslovakia Boris Pankin was today named Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union by President Mikhail Gorbachev, Soviet television announced, Pankin, who was named Soviet Ambassador to Czechoslovakia in May 1990, replaces Alexander Bessmertnykh, who was sacked by Gorbachev for his stance during last week's abortive coup, reports AFP.

Soviet govt

From Page 1 Col. 5

Baklanov, deputy chief of State Defense Committee; Alexander Tizyakov, president of Association of Soviet State Enterprises, and industrial Construction, Transport and Communications Facilities; and Vasily Starodubtsev, chairman of Soviet Farmers' Union.

The eighth committee member, Interior Minister Boris Pugo, was found fatally injured from a gunshot wound when officials came to arrest him last week. Initial reports said he committed suicide, but those who found him said he may have been murdered. Also charged Wednesday

were Politburo member Oleg Shenin, Valery I Boldin, the president's chief of staff; Deputy Defense Minister Gen. Valentin I. Varennikov; Lt. Gen Yuri S Plekhanov, head of the KGB bodyguard service; Plekhanov's deputy, Vyacheslav Gerneralov; and Vladimir Grushko, deputy chief of the

in another development, the Soviet Central Bank froze all Communist Party accounts on Tuesday to prevent the party from hiding assets ordered seized by President Gorbachev.

A statement by Gosbank, reported by Tass news agency, said the freeze was imposed after it became apparent the party was investing some of its financial wealth in various ven-

"In order to to prevent the concealment of party funds from the people, Gosbank has issued instructions to halt all operations involving the accounts of the Soviet Communist Party and organisations subordinate to it."

Gosbank said it had information that party funds, gen erated largely through membership dues, were being invested in joint stock companies, joint ventures, commercial banks and other profitmaking bodies.

authorities in the Baltic republic had adopted similar measure, banning all financial operations involving funds of the Communist Party and organisations affiliated to it. Today Gorbachev also dissolved the ruling board of the

Latvianradio reported that

KGB as part of efforts to restore his authority after last week's failed coup, a KGB spokesman said. The spokesman said Gorbachev issued a decree dissolving the KGB collegiumessentially the board of direc-

tors of the once-feared security police. One of its members, Deputy Chairman Viktor Grushkov, had been arrested while others may remain at their departmental desks with

reduced powers. The collegium had consisted of departmental heads, deputy chairmen and the KGB chairman.

Gorbachev has also ordered the transfer of hundreds of thousands of KGB troops, formerly controlled by the collegium, to the Ministry of

Defence. The destruction of the collegium removes a major power structure and potential centre of resistance to command from Gorbachev's newly- appointed

KGB chairman Vadim Bakatin. In a bitter speech to parliament Gorbachev promised to reorganise the KGB and the armed forces, nothing that despite reservations and even resistance by some officers considerable military hardware was put on the streets to back

the coup. Related stories on pages

and Russain President Boris

Yeltsin on Sunday en route to

China. Major will be first

Western leader to visit USSR

since last week's attempted

danger of chaos in the Soviet

Union and called on the coun-

try's leaders to formulate a

clear plan of action for the way

Major said today there was a

Major visits USSR Sunday

US may recognise Baltic ranublice tomorrow republics willorrow

ne), Aug 28: President George Bush is still waiting for the dust to settle in Moscow, but aides say US recognition for the Baltic republics could come Friday, report agencies. Bush planned to discuss

KENNEBUNKPORT (Mai-

both the Baltics and the question of Western aid for the stumbling Soviet economy with British Prime Minister John Major, who was arriving late Wednesday for a three-day stay.

The botched Soviet coup and the unsettled events in Moscow have given a new slant to what was primarily a social visit by Major, his wife and two children to the President's vacation home. Major, the man on aid to

and meet with Soviet

President Mikhail Gorbachev

as mayor the Soviet Union for the seven major industrialised democracies, will visit Moscow Sunday

ahead.

The US government has delayed action on the Baltics while waiting for the Soviet parliament to grant them independence. Mahmudul Islam

From Page 1 Col. 4 Jatiya Party during his tenure Harunur Rashid Khan, Act-

ing President of JP city unit and Jahangir Alam, General Secretary in a joint statement condemned the arrest and demanded Chowdhury's immediate release.