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Global focus has to be on people: The chief author of the much discussed Human Development Report 1991, Dr. Mahbubul Haq, outlines his views on environmental priorities
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NEWS BRIEFS

UN members okay Cambodia deal

PATTAYA, Aug 30: The five United Nations Security Council permanent members gave qualified approval today to a deal by Cambodia's government and its guerilla foes to disband most of their armies, reports Reuter.

Germany seeks meet on troops

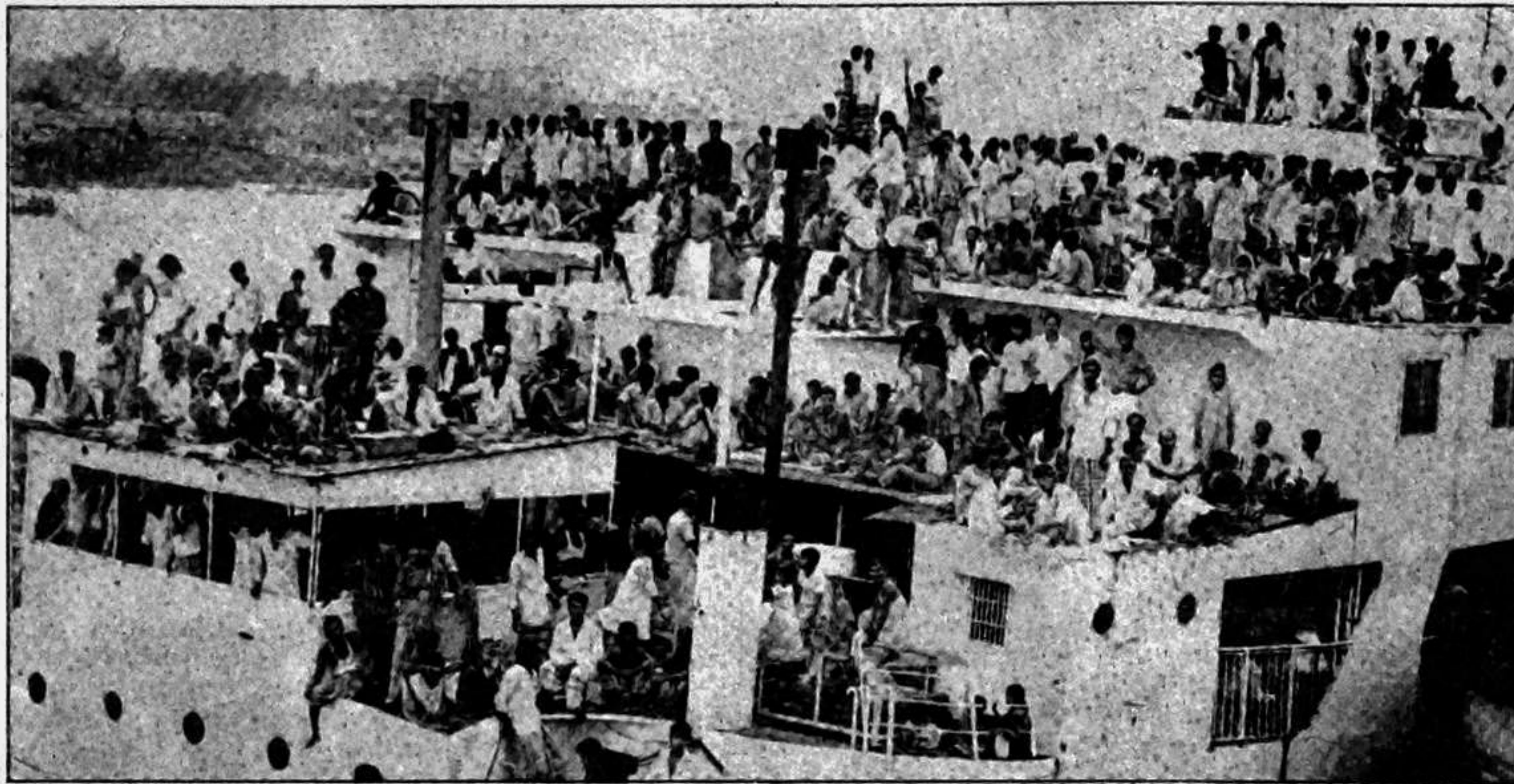
BONN, Aug 30: Germany has called a special meeting of the United States and five other allies to renegotiate 36-year-old agreements government the stationing of foreign forces in this country, the Foreign Ministry said Friday, reports AP.

Another Lankan minister resigns

COLOMBO, Aug 30: Another minister resigned today, raising to three the number of key ruling party men defecting to support moves to overthrow President Ranasinghe Premadasa. Junior Labour Minister Lakshman Seneviratne joined his senior Labour Minister G M Premachandra and Education Minister Lalith Athulathmudali who resigned earlier Friday saying they were fed up with Premadasa, reports AFP.

Biman to open new route to New York

Biman will open its new route to New York by April, 1992. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan said this Friday at a press briefing on the resumption of ATP aircraft, reports UNB.



With private water transport strike continuing, people crammed a BIWTC steamer sailing for Barisal from Dhaka terminal Friday. Story on page 12 —Star photo

Lukyanov arrested : Another coup feared

Gorbachev bans political bodies in military, KGB

MOSCOW, Aug 30: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has banned political organisations in the Armed Forces, KGB troops, Interior Ministry forces and the railway system, Tass news agency said today. The move was included in a presidential decree signed Thursday, it said. Gorbachev announced Saturday he would halt the activities of Communist Party cells in the Armed Forces and the police. On Thursday the Soviet Parliament voted to suspend party activities of all kinds indefinitely. Meanwhile, new Soviet

Defence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov said he thought there was a case for individual republics setting up their own "National Guards," but said a united Soviet armed forces should be preserved. Writing in the army daily Krasnaya Zvezda, Marshal Shaposhnikov said he thought "the creation of armed formations like National Guards for use by the republics is justified in the framework of strengthening true sovereignty." If they were indeed set up, these forces should become a sort of reserve for the Armed

Forces in the event of military operations," he added. Three leading reformers, Eduard Shevardnadze, Alexander Yakovlev and Moscow Mayor Gavrill Popov have decided to turn down an offer from Gorbachev to join the Soviet President's National Security Council, Popov said today. He refused to give further details at a news conference here. In another development, Anatoly Lukyanov, the former Speaker of the Soviet parliament accused of complicity in the attempted overthrow of

Gorbachev, has been arrested, the unofficial Interfax news agency said today. Deputies of the Supreme Soviet, meeting in emergency session, had voted Thursday to lift Lukyanov's parliamentary immunity, opening the way for his arrest. Interfax gave no further details. Lukyanov, 61, was not present at Thursday's session of the Supreme Soviet, or parliament. The measure was proposed by Soviet Prosecutor-General Nikolai Trubin, who investigated last week's three-day

More farm loans soon, Khaleda tells Rangpur people

Don't fall into trap of Ershad cronies again

RANPUR, Aug 30: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said Ershad cronies made false promises to the people of Rangpur and elsewhere across the country during the February elections and urged the electorate not to step into their "trap of lies" again, report BSS and UNB. Addressing huge public meetings at Pagla Pir, Taraganj and Pir Ganj here, the Prime Minister pleaded vote for BNP candidate in September 11 bye-elections to improve the lot of the commonman. "Avail the opportunity of carrying out development works in your areas by electing the right persons ... elect BNP

nominees for ensuring unhindered development and resolving the local problems", she told the people and urged them to avoid taking any wrong decision while casting ballot which might hinder the pace of development in their respective areas. The Prime Minister said the autocratic government of Ershad had talked about rural development but during his tenure a large number of certificate cases were instituted against the farmers. Besides, Ershad did not fulfil the demands of the poor people including the farmers and labourers although he procured huge amounts of money

from abroad in their name, she said. She said the overall development of the rural areas also remained a far cry during Ershad's tenure as the patronised corruption in every level of administration to cling to power illegally. Begum Zia announced that jute purchasing centres would be opened soon to ensure fair price to the poor growers. She said the BNP government believed in the people's welfare and it would do everything possible to ameliorate their sufferings. She said agricultural loans would be given to the farmers. See Page 12 Col. 4

High-powered Japanese team in city, keen on investment

A high-powered Japanese mission led by Kikuo Ireda called on Foreign Minister ASM Mustafaizur Rahman Friday, reports BSS. The Foreign Minister briefed the delegation about the excellent investment opportunities provided by the government to the foreign investors. Rahman assured them of providing all facilities and protecting their investments in Bangladesh. The leader of the Japanese mission expressed hope that the business community of

Hasina's call not to elect hired people

BADARGANJ, Aug 30: Awami League President Sheikh Hasina today called upon voters for electing local people, "not hired and corrupt politicians", reports UNB. Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, criticised Jatya Party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury who is contesting from Rangpur-5 constituency. "He (Mizan) is corrupt" and was expelled from the Awami League government by Bangabandhu for "misappropriating relief goods" she told the rally. Hasina was addressing a big public meeting at the local Dak

Banglaw Maidan, on the third day of her whirlwind electioneering in Rangpur district. In the day-long campaign, the Awami League President today addressed six public meetings and over a dozen wayside rallies. Awami League leaders Abdul Jalil and Kader Siddiqui, and party candidates Ashiqur Rahman and Anisul Haq Chowdhury also addressed the meeting. Hasina sought a clear verdict in the ensuing bye-elections strengthening the position of her party in parliament to enable it fight with more See Page 12 Col. 8

Two foreigners killed in road accident

By Staff Correspondent
Three persons including two foreign nationals were killed and another two were injured in three separate road accidents in the city late Thursday night. Ravi Kundarmal an Indian and Nimal Jiwanan a Sri Lankan, were injured when their Gulshan-bound private car hit and rolled over the island divider, struck a parked bus and over turned near the Mohakhali bus stand at around See Page 12 Col. 8

Premadasa suspends parliament

COLOMBO, Aug 30: Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa suspended parliament today until September 24 as political crisis in the country deepened with the resignation of two senior ministers, reports AFP. State-radio announced the proroguing of parliament, which effectively delays debate of an opposition motion impeaching Premadasa with the backing of dozens of government See Page 12 Col. 7

Ershad, JP very popular in rural areas: Mizan

By Staff Correspondent
Former President Ershad and Jatya Party were very popular in rural areas, Jatya Party Acting President Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said on Friday. Addressing a number of electoral meetings in Rangpur, Chowdhury said the party which came to power through election following ouster of former President Ershad failed to fulfil its promises to the people. See Page 12 Col. 7

Bangladesh now a transit route for deadly cocaine



After heroin, Bangladesh is now being faced with the trafficking of a more dangerous drug, cocaine. Five cases of cocaine trafficking were detected in one year in which a total of 3 kg 345 grammes of cocaine were recovered from Chittagong and Dhaka. The latest recovery was made in August 15. Officials in the Narcotics Department have said they have been "alarmed and surprised" at the presence of this dangerous drug. They have no report yet about addiction of cocaine in Bangladesh. "May be, the country is being used as the transit point for the trafficking of cocaine. But its presence may gradually lead to addiction, as happened in the case of heroin", they apprehended. The officials be-

lieve that the recovery of more than three kg cocaine indicates the presence of more of this drug in Bangladesh. Alarmed with the presence of cocaine in the country, the Narcotics Department has alerted concerned officials particularly at the seaports and the Dhaka airport. Authorities believe that the drug is getting entry into the country through these points. Cocaine was first traced in Chittagong city one year ago. On a tip off, a special squad of narcotics Department recovered one kg cocaine in July last year and arrested four persons in this connection. One more kg of cocaine was recovered in November last year followed by another one kg in last January this year in See Page 12 Col. 7

JCD-BCL gunbattle in BAU: 50 rooms ransacked

From Our Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, Aug 30: About one hundred students were injured and at least fifty rooms of residential halls were ransacked in gun fight between the activists of Jatyaabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at the Mymensingh Agriculture University today. The injured included Waliullah, President of BAU unit of BCL and Shahidul Islam a member of BAU Central Students Union (BAUCSU) who were admitted to Mymensingh hospital. Both the groups used firearms and crackers during the fight, which started in the morning. Mymensingh district ad- See Page 12 Col. 6

Longest track record goes

TOKYO, Aug 30: World athletics crowned a new king of track and field when American Mike Powell shattered the 23-year-old long jump record here Friday, reports AFP. "King Mike" dethroned Carl Lewis, unbeaten in the long jump for a decade, with a leap that will be talked about for almost as long as the jump made by the previous record holder Bob Beamon in Mexico City in 1968. Details on Page 10

Kuwait sinks Iraqi gunboat

KUWAIT, Aug 30: Kuwait's air force clashed with Iraqi gunboats off the emirate's Bubiyan island after the Kuwaiti coastguard intercepted Iraqi fishing vessels loaded with ammunition, Western security sources said on Thursday, reports Reuter. They said Wednesday's clash, which Britain called the most serious violation yet of the Gulf war ceasefire, began after the coastguard stopped five fishing boats and found they were carrying ammunition collected from the island. "Iraqi gunboats and speed-

Solidarity government resigns in Poland

WARSAW, Aug 30: Polish Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki announced the resignation of his eight-month-old Solidarity government today, reports Reuter. Bielecki told Parliament the government was stepping down in protest at a demand for its removal by ex-Communist deputies. He made the announcement shortly before the lower house, the Sejm, was due to vote on the motion.

Taj Mahal was a Hindu shrine : VHP

NEW DELHI, Aug 30: Hindu revivalists have threatened to stake a claim to India's Taj Mahal, saying they have evidence the fabled marble mausoleum, built by a Muslim emperor for his wife, masks a desecrated Hindu shrine, reports Reuter. "There are convincing arguments to support our view and historians have even proved this," Acharya Giriraj Kishore, a leader of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), world Hindu organisation, said in a telephone interview on

Thursday. The VHP's historians were including the Taj Mahal in a long list of Indian Muslim monuments that the organisation might seek to reclaim on the grounds Muslim invaders built them from or over the ruins of Hindu temples, Kishore said. The tens of thousands of tourists who come to India to see the Taj Mahal each year are told the 17th century Mughal Emperor Shahjahan built the monument with the aid of Hindu craftsmen as a

testimony of love and grief for his dead wife Mumtaz Mahal. Some Hindu historians say the perfectly proportioned white marble monument, built on the banks of the river Jamuna at Agra, some 200 km (125 miles) south of Delhi, masks the site of the temple of Chandramauleshwar, honouring the major Hindu deity Shiva. Others say Shahjahan just converted a Hindu monument into the mausoleum. More than 2,000 people have died in the past two years in India in Hindu-Muslim riots

sparked by similar VHP claims to the site of a mosque in the northern holy town of Ayodhya. The VHP is pressing its claims to Ayodhya and two other mosque sites, in the northern towns of Mathura and Varanasi, by listing all the sites it says were desecrated by Muslim invaders who began arriving in India in the 11th century. It said it might not press claims to the Taj Mahal and others on the list if the Ayodhya, Mathura and Varanasi sites are handed over for Hindu worship.

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