'Strike to continue if diesel price not lowered

By Staff Correspondent

The indefinite strike by the private riverine engine vessels will continue till lowering of the fuel price, the owners said

"We stick to our demand and are determined to carry on the strike till the price is lowered to the pre-Gulf war level", Abul Kalam, Convenor of the Diesel Price Reduction Materialisation Committee. told The Daily Star over telephone.

However, sources in the Shipping Ministry after talks Friday while talking to The Daily Star claimed that a solution was in sight and a settlement may be reached today (Saturday). The striking owners have become "softened" on the demand, the sources in the ministry claimed.

During the second day's talks Friday Shipping Minister M Keramat Alt offered that the enhanced terminal tax, berthing tax, mooring tax and the charge for deployment of ansars at the launches could be withdrawan but fuel price could not be reduced. All the taxes were earlier enhanced by

40 per cent on an average. Shipping Ministry officials also held another meeting Friday afternoon with the leaders of the water transport owners over the facilities of-

Commenting on reported operation of private vessels at some river routes defying the strike, Abul Kalam said it was a "conspiracy" against their movement. "A few owners may, resume operation of their vessels, but the bonafide owners were still keeping their vessels docked","he said.

The countrywide strike passed its seventh day Friday leaving the people using river transports in immense sufferings and affecting normal business. The strike also has pushed up prices of essentials, particularly perishable food items like vegetables in the city markets.

Plying of the governmentowned vessels, contributing a little to the overall water transportation, failed to case the situation.

Bangladeshi women in grip of Pak mafia'

By Staff Correspondent

Women traffickers in Pakistan are doing brisk business with Bangladeshi women in a "mafia style."

This was stated by Zia Ahmed Awan, President of the Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid of Pakistan yesterday at the National Press Club.

Zia Ahmed, who is now visiting Bangladesh, also showed a documentary video film on Bangladeshi women toiling in different clandestine camps in

Pakistan. Zia Ahmed Awan said that his organisation has so far recovered 46 such women from different parts of Karachi alone and claimed that at least 1500 more were in different jails in

Pakistan. Zia said the women he salvaged from the hands of buyers and pimps were very much ea-

ger to return to Bangladesh. Zia, who is also a Council Member of Human Rights Commission in Pakistan, said no official efforts were taken to salvage the Bangladeshi women who fell victim of the 'mafia' in different clandestine camps. He said Bangladesh government should take up the matter immediately with Pakistan to bring them back and help stop the trafficking.

Mr Zia Ahmed said, the women lifters use the road communication through India to take Bangladeshi children, to different border areas of Pakistan and sell them to pimps at the rate of 5 to 6 thousand Pakistani rupees per head. He said that this practice had been increasing for the last few years and it might go unchecked if both Pakistan and Bangladesh governments failed to check it. He, however, said that this problem in no way could be linked up with the problems of stranded Pakistanis here in Bangladesh.

Besides, more than two lakh Bangladeshis are passing their days in a sub-human con-

dition in Karachi. He claimed that more than eight lakh Bangladeshi men and women were staying in Pakistan, who were facing various problems. More than two lakh were passing their days in sub-human condition in Karachi, he added.

Zia Ahmed said that many of the Bangladeshis who had been staying there for long wanted to live in Pakistan as Pakistani citizens.

When asked whether the lawyers association in Pakistan could assist them obtaining citizenship. Zia said that was not the jurisdiction of his association.

His attention was drawn to a commitment by one lawyer from Lahore during his visit here last year that he was trying to help Bangladeshis to obtain citizenship in Pakistan. Zia said that he did not know anything about it.

Mr Shahid Jamal, husband of the daughter of Shurawardy, when came to Dhaka had said that the Bangladeshis who were staying in Pakistan since before Liberation War, have all the rights to become citizens of Pakistan.

Zia expressed his ignorance

25 Croats killed BNP founding in fierce fighting anniversary BELGRADE, Aug 30: Heavy

tomorrow casualties were reported today in Croatia in renewed clashes The founding anniversary of which shattered a brief lull fol-Bangladesh Nationalist Party lowing new diplomatic efforts will be observed befittingly all to end the bloodshed, report over the country on September l, a party press release said

Serbian fighters said they Friday, reports BSS. killed 25 Croatian National BNP Secretary General and Guards in Topusko, a town Minister for LGRD and close to the republic's border Cooperatives Abdus Salam with Serbia, late on Thursday, Talukder called upon the party units and the front organs to the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said. observe the occasion through hoisting party flags and hold-Croatian television said the ing milad mahfils, discussions breakaway republic's forces

and public meetings at respecrepelled attacks on Topusko and other villages. In the city, the day's programme will start with hoist-Local radio said two women were killed in an overnight ing of party flags in the central tank and mortar attack by office and other offices of the Serbian guerillas and the fedparty and its front organs. eral army on Croatian villages Then the leaders and workers south of the republic's capital will visit the mazar of shaheed

president Ziaur Rahman, who founded the party on One guardsman was wounded in shooting around September I in 1978. the strategic east Croatian Prime Minister Begum town of Osijek, where an Khaleda Zia will address a pub-Industrial zone came under machine-gun fire and army mortar attacks, the radio said.

seven Croatian guardsmen

were taken prisoner, four

Serbs wounded and five miss-

Casualty figures given by

The important town of

the warring sides vary widely

and the latest reports could

not be independently con-

Vukovar near Ostjek remained

besieged by Serbian guerillas

and army units for the sixth

day and a military build-up

ing at Topusko.

firmed.

continued.

lic meeting at Manik Mia Avenue at 4 pm on the day. Other leaders of the party and its front organs will also ad-The Tanjug report said

Abdus Salam Talukder called upon the leaders and workers of BNP's front organs to make the programme on the day a success.

Dhaka city unit of BNP at a meeting Thursday decided to take part in the public meeting on September 1 taking with them banners from all

units of the party in the city. They also took several programmes in this connection which included postering in each mahalla today, ztarat at

Editor: S. M. All

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing members of the local administration of the Rangpur Circuit House on Thursday. -PID photo

Khaleda's directive to gear up party activities

RANGPUR, Aug 30: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the partymen to strengthen party activities and mobilise public opinion in favour of the nationalist forces of BNP, reports BSS.

She was talking to the leaders and workers of different front organisation of BNP at Rangpur Circuit House here this evening.

Begum Zia said you.should project the aims and ideals of the party to the people so that they could rally round it and strengthen the party for overall development of the na-

She said the uncompromising attitude of the nationalist forces had forced the autocratic regime to resign.

Japanese team

From Page 1 Col. 6 Japan would come forward in a big way to participate in the fields of trade and investment.

They also discussed measures for further strengthening and improving trade and investment relations between the two countries.

An earlier UNB report says: A high-powered Japanese economic mission arrived in Dhaka Friday to explore new ways and means for further promoting trade and investment between the two coun-

The team is headed by Kikuo Ireda, special assistant to the Japanese Foreign Minister and Counsellor of the Nippon Koei Company Limited

During its three day stay her the mission will call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and exchange views with high government officials on increasing the volume of trade and investment between Dhaka and Tokyo

The mission which consists of representatives of companies affiliated with the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will also hold Japan Bangladesh Economic Forum to be held in the capital.

The visit of the mission comes as part of Japan's follow-up efforts to Prime Minister Katfu's trip to

Bangladesh in May last year.

Details on page 7 Azerbaijan declares

independence MOSCOW, Aug 30: Azerbajan today became the ninth of the 15 Soviet republics to declare independence from Moscow or announce their intention to secede, reports Reuter.

Following is a table of the breakaway republics: Azerbaijan declared inde-

pendence on August 30, 1991. Moldova declared independence on August 27, 1991.

Byelorussia declared independence on August 25, 1991. The Ukraine declared independence on August 24. 1991, subject to a referendum on December 1.

Latvia declared indepen dence on August 21, 1991. Estonia declared independence on August 20, 1991.

Georgia declared independence on April 9, 1991, but said it would be achieved in stages.

Lithuania declared independence on March 11, 1990. Armenia has announced its intention to secede according to the five-year process laid down by the Soviet

Constitution. The remaining republics are Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenta and Tatikistan.

Aoun in France

MARSEILLES: (FRANCE) Aug 30: Lebanese General Michel Agun arrived here early today to begin a five-year exile after being granted amnesty by the Lebanese government, reports AFP.

More farm loans soon

From Page 1 Col. 8

to ensure increased production in the fields. She urged the people to utilise the facilities provided by the present government and increase agricultural production to attain self-sufficiency in food.

The Prime Minister said her government would re-start the canal digging and mass literacy programmes which were initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

She said the government would also revamp the Jatiyatabadi Mahila Sangstha and the Shishu Academy to bring them in the manifold of the development activities of the country.

Begum Zia said that extraction of coal and cotton cultivation would be taken up soon. Referring to the passage of

the 12th Amendment Bill by

the Jatiya Sangsad, she said

their verdict in favour of the parliamentary system of government in the coming refer-Begum Zia told the audi-

the people would now give

ence to remain vigilant against any conspiracy to foil peaceful atmosphere in the country. The Prime Minister also

addressed two street meetings at Boiragigani and Mithapukur.

Communications Minister, Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed, former minister Dr RA Ghani, Mrs Farida Hasan, MP, Azizul Huq, MP and Kazi Mohammad Yahya Khan, also addressed the public meetings.

The BNP nominees for the by-elections in the district Rahimuddin Bharasa, Advocate Mohammad Elias and Shah Mohammad Salek also addressed the meeting in their respective constituencies.

ATP takes off today

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman's ATP aircraft, which remained grounded for eight months, resumes operation today (Saturday).

One of the two ATPs starts

flying on Biman's domestic

route this morning while the other is expected to begin operation within a week. "ATP is totally safe. Its airworthiness cannot be questioned", said State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism

Abdul Mannan at a press conference held on Friday evening at a local hotel. behind grounding of the ATPs in December last year and narrated the justification for

putting them again into opera-Biman bought three Advanced Turbo-Prop (ATP) last year at a total cost of 50 million US dollars from British Acrospace. Two ATPs were delivered to Biman in October last year while the other was scheduled to reach Bangladesh

The two ATPs were put into operation immediately after their arrival in Bangladesh. But both the aircrast were grounded when an engine of one ATP caught fire at Rajshahi

From Page 1 Col. 5

Lukyanov, according to

Trubin, agreed to the creation

of the state-of-emergency

committee that carried out the

August 19-21 coup, and thus

participated in the seizure of

would "contribute" to parlia-

ment's appreval of the com-

mittee's demands, Trubin said

Lukyanov issued a statement

on August 19, the first day of

the coup, violently attacking

the union treaty which was to

have been signed the following

Yeltsin has ordered that all

property of the Soviet and

Russian Communist Parties lo-

cated within Russian territory

be turned over to the Russian

decree dated Sunday and ap-

plied to "all property" belong-

ing to the Russian and Soviet

parties, including real estate

and "financial assets in Rubles

surance policies, securities,

joint ventures and other

"institutions and organisations"

on Russian territory and

abroad were to be placed un-

der control of the Russian re-

cated from aboard would be

shared by the country's various

republics under an agreement

after these republics signed a

new union treaty, the decree

flight from Moscow, Yeltsin

was in the Baltics today to dis-

Meanwhile, after a secret

Soviet party assets confis-

public under the decree.

All assets held in banks, in-

and foreign currency."

The order was made in a

Russian President Boris

That was why, Trubin said,

Lukyanov also promised he

coup against Gorbachev.

airport on December 28 last

About the Rajshahi incident the State Minister said that one of the ATPs made emergency landing at Rajshahi airport due to mechanical fault in the aircraft. As a precautionary measure, both the ATPs were grounded temporarily and an enquiry committee was formed by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) to probe the incident.

The State Minister said that after reviewing the enquiry report, it was found that the ATP He dwelt on the reasons which met accident, was airworthy and the Rajshahi acci dent was not unnatural in flight operations.

He mentioned that the Biman was incurring heavy financial loss due to grounding of ATPs and the national airliner was facing problem to operate flights on regional and domestic routes with only two

"So, it has been decided to operate the ATP aircraft with the help and assistance from British Acrospace", the State Minister added.

He said that some modifications have been made in the ATP engines and all the engines are totally safe.

cuss independence issues with

the breakaway republics, his

He declined to give Yeltsin's

exact whereabouts, but said he

had gone to the Baltics on an

unannounced flight on

In Latvia, member of par-

liament Janis Krumins said

Yeltsin had flown to Giga on

Thursday and later held talks

with President Anatolijs

Gorbunovs and Prime Minister

Yeltsin had come to discuss

issues related to indepen-

dence, and that details of the

visit were being kept secret

week's attempted hardline

coup Lativia, Estonia and

Lithunia have all seized the

chance to claim back the in-

dependence they lost in 1940

on being incorporated into the

ments have so far recognised

Foreign Minister Borts Pankin

said in an article on Thursday

the danger of a coup remained,

and the KGB Security Police

deserved dissolution for in-

competence as well as its

to ask one another: When and

how many hours before the

danger was over did you speak

out against the coup? But the

danger is far from over,

"It seems now to be a sport

"monstrous" nature.

them as independent states.

About 30 Western govern-

Newly-named Soviet

In the turmoil following last

Krumins said he understood

spokesman said.

Soviet Union.

Thursday.

Ivars Godmanis.

for security reasons.

Soviet Union.

Gunbattle

Mostafiz leaves

for NAM

FMs' meet

tomorrow

Mostafizur Rahman leaves

Dhaka Sunday to attend the

10th Foreign Ministers

Conference of the non-aligned

countries which will begin

Monday in Accra, the capital of

the Foreign Minister will lead

a four-member delegation

which includes Director General (International

Organisations) at the Foreign

The Foreign Ministers'

Assembly of the NAM will re-

view the current political and

economic conditions across

the world, with particular ref-

erence to the member coun-

Alert in China

over 'foreign

plots'

is on the alert for possible for-

eign plots to instigate

peaceful changes" in the

country following the current

Soviet upheavals, an indepen-

dent newspaper here reported

ument by the Chinese

Communist Party to cadres at

all levels, was based on a 24

Chinese character *slogan

written by senior leader Deng

Xiao Ping following two recent

meetings of the party polit-

The document orders

"strict prevention of foreign

political forces instigating any

peaceful changes in China," the

that amid "the current un-

favourable international atmo-

sphere, ... the West, led by the

United States, was planning to

'absorb' Eastern Europe and

the Soviet Union before 1995,

and would concentrate their

efforts to bring about peaceful

changes in China after 1995,

the report said, quoting no

Beijing's power core felt

buro, the Ming Pao Daily said.

The alert, issued in a doc-

Thursday.

paper said.

HONG KONG, Aug 30: China

At the six-day conference,

Chana, reports UNB.

Ministry Ruhul Ameen.

tries, officials here said.

Foreign Minister ASM

From Page 1 Col. 5 ministration posted BDR and Police in the campus where a tense situation is prevailing.

UNB adds: JCD activists put a siege on the VC's residence urging the authorities not to close the university.

The trouble started when some BCL workers tried to evict a JCD activists from a room of the Suhrawardy Hall Thursday night. The JCD reported by driving out all BCL workers from the hall who then took shelter near Nazmul Ahsan Hall and regrouped to fight again. JCD activists also took position on Lake Bridge near Suhrawardy Hall.

The JCD workers raided Isa Khan Hall at about 6 am today, set fire to at least six rooms of BCL activists and ransacked several others.

BSS adds: Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh has not been closed down, according to official sources in Dhaka Friday night.

The sources also described as incorrect that 100 (one hundred) students were injured in an armed clash there.

Gorbachev bans parties Pankin wrote in an opinion

article for the Swedish daily

Svenska Dagbladet. The spokesman said the Valentin Falin and other Russian leader was travelling hardline Communist Party through Lativia, Lithuania and deputies of the Supreme Estonia, all of which have de-Soviet complained today that they are being harassed amid clared independence from the the crackdown on party activi-

> ties in the wake of the coup. Yeltsin, meanwhile, warned against "witch-hunts" of former communist officials and said the show trials of the country's Stlinist past must not be al-

lowed to recur. Speaking to deputies, Flain, a Secretary of the party's central committee and former ambassador to Bonn known for his orthodox views, said his Moscow apartment and country Dacha had been searched "illegally" Thursday by a group

of five men. Moldovan police snatched the leader of the breakaway Soviet republic's Russian minority in a daylight raid in the Ukrainian capital Kiev, a Moldovan Interior Ministry spokesman said today

Four plain clothes officers setzed Igor Smirnov as he was coming out of his hotel on Thursday and took him back to Kishinyov to face accusations of supporting last week's abortive coup in Moscow.

News of Smirnov's arrest, broadcast on local television, raised tensions in the Dnestr region, where the predominantly Russian population have rejected the Moldovan parliament's declaration of independence last Tuesday.

Related stories on pages 5, 6 Editorial on page 4

The Midnight File

Russia, Kazakhstan sign border agreement

MOSCOW, Aug 30: Russia and Kazakhstan, the two biggest Soviet republics, agreed Friday to respect their common borders and to work at preventing the "uncontrolled disintegration" of the Soviet Union. The agreement signed in the Kazakh capital, Alma-Ata, by Russian Vice President Alexander Rutskoi and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, urges all 15 republics, regardless of their secessionist drives, to negotiate a new economic agreement, reports AP.

Soviet Defence Minister for united army

MOSCOW, Aug 30: The new Soviet Defence Minister, Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, said Friday that the crumbling union must keep a united army, but that the force eventually could be mostly volunteer. Shaposhnikov, an air marshal, said in an interview with the Desence Ministry's Krasnaya Zvezda newspaper that the republican forces would have to remain small and that there must be a united Soviet Army, reports AP.

Yugoslavia, Croatia accept EC plan

BELORADE, Aug 30: Yugoslavia's federal government on Friday backed a European Community proposal for an international peace conference on Yugoslavia and the deployment of Western cease-fire monitors. The embattled republic of Croatia also has endorsed the EC peace plan, leaving the largest and most powerful republic of Serbia the last key player on the Yugoslav political scene still undecided on it, reports AP.

Bush, Major end talks on USSR

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, Aug 30: President Bush and British Prime Minister John Major on Friday concluded two days of talks exploring how the West should respond to the momentous changes in the Soviet Union. "We've done an awful lot of business here, talking about the future," Bush said, reports AP.

G-7 leaders discuss Soviet crisis

PARIS, Aug 30: Deputy finance ministers of the Group of Seven industrial nations sought common ground Friday to respond to the tumultuous changes of the past two weeks in the Soviet Union. The meeting at the Ministry of Finance was held behind closed doors and, as is customary at lower-level G-7 talks, few details leaked out, reports AP.

Perez a tool in US hands'

BAGHDAD, Aug 30: The Iraqi press accused UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Thursday of being a tool of US intelligence and of wanting to harm Iraq, after he met with an opposition leader in Geneva, reports

"The attitude of the Secretary General proves once more that he carries out the ignoble objectives of the American secret services aimed at harming Iraqi security and sovereignty," said Ath-Thawra, the ruling Baath Party

Cocaine From Page 1 Col. 4 the same port city.

In Dhaka city, cocaine was first detected last month when 45 grammes of the drug was recovered from a person in Lalbagh area. And on August 15, police found 300 grammes of cocaine in possession of a man in Sabujbagh of the city.

Cocaine, which is a costlier drug than heroin, is produced only in Columbia, Peru, Bolivia and some other South American countries. It is produced from coca leaf and the drug is of powder form. It appears like heroin, but with some difference in colour. Cocaine's harmful effect on health is same as that of heroin.

Presence of heroin was traced in Bangladesh about a decade ago. Initially, the country was used as transit point for trafficking of the drug produced in the Golden Triangle Area located on the north of Burma and Thailand. Traffickers used Bangladesh for transit purpose since the country was near to the Golden Triangle. After ten years, Bangladesh has become a market of heroin and its abuse is a big problem for the country

Ershad, JP From Page 1 Col. 8

He refuted an allegation that he was involved in killings. Chowdhury said he hated all political killings.

Jatiya Party Secretary General Shah Moazzem Hossain called upon the people of Rangpur to vote for Jatiya Party nominees in September 11 bye-elections to save former President Ershad phys-

ically and politically. Shah Moazzem said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia tried to threaten the people of Rangpur by calling upon them

not to commit mistake again. Jatiya Party Secretary General appealed to all to think about the future instead slinging mud on the past.

Premadasa

From Page 1 Col. 7 ment MPs.

The move came hours after Education Minister Lalith Athulathmudal and Labour Minister G M Premachandra said they were confident of mustering enough ruling party legislators to overthrow

Details on Page 5

China frees 23 Vietnamese **POWs** BEIJING, Aug 30: China handed over Thursday its last 23 Vietnamese prisoners of

war, more than 12 years after

the Sino-Vietnamese border

conflict, official reports said, reports AFP. The remains of an unspecified number of soldiers were also passed to Hanoi officials at friendship Pass in the border, the reports said adding that Hong Kong-based representa-

tives of the international Red Cross were present. "All Vietnamese war prisoners have been released," the Xinhua news agency said, adding that China was" acting

in the accordance with the spirit of humanitarianism. State-run television showed the young Vietnamese soldiers shaking hands with their Chinese counterparts before

crossing the Pass. Relations between the rivals have improved rapidly with a settlement nearing in Cambodia, the cause of the

Sino-Vietnamese split.

Foreigners From Page 1 Col. 6

2 pm, police said. Both the men were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where Kundanmal died soon after being admitted Parayani succumbed to the injuries around

noon Friday. A case was registered with

the Gulshan police. In another accident, a WASA worker was struck by a speeding private car in Green Road at around midnight Thursday. Police said Farook (21) died after being admitted to DMCH.

A case was lodged with the Dhanmondi police. However, the car managed to flee from the scene of the accident.

An unidentified pedestrian was hit by a Dhaka-Bhuapur bus (Tangail-Bha-178) near the Dhaka-gate in Banani Friday noon. He was admitted to the PG hospital in serious condition, police said.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 8 vigour to realise just demands of the people.

"If the Awami League is further consolidated in the legislature, it will be able to fight with more vigour for the causes of the deprived multi-

She also bitterly criticised ruling BNP for its "failure" to resolve various problems faced

by the country. "The country has been turned into a market for foreign goods but the government has failed to check smuggling.

Hasina said Indian sugar is being smuggled into the country affecting production in the local sugar mills. Narrating a grim picture of rural areas, she said the people

were passing their days "unfed

or half-fed" due to lack of jobs and unusual rise in commodity prices. The opposition leader also

blamed the government for "growing unemployment ? as well as unrest in industrial sector."

tude", she said.