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Inside Today

International

The November 7 Red Square military parade, one of Soviet Union's principal commemorations of the 1917 communist revolution, has been cancelled
Page 5

Article

The abortive coup in the Soviet Union: Some lessons for Bangladesh
Page 4

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Award winner Mira Karim enjoys creative work. Block prints sell well
Page 2

Business

Twenty killed in Ghoratal urea plant in 20 years. Faulty design and sub-standard equipment are the causes of accidents
Page 7

Tomorrow

In an exclusive interview to The Daily Star the Indian Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh talks about the state of his country's economy and prospects of regional cooperation in South Asia.

Gorbachev terms 70 years of communist rule as a failure

Soviet Govt recognises independence of Baltics

MOSCOW, Sept 6: The Soviet government today officially recognised the independence of the three Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the official Tass news agency reported, say agencies.

The decision was made at the first meeting of the newly-created executive State Council, chaired by President Mikhail Gorbachev and attended by the leaders or representatives of 10 republics, Tass said.

A spokesman for the presi-

dency said the decision was made in the form of a "resolution" but no details nor the text were immediately available.

Estonian and Latvian officials said in recent days that the executive would recognise the independence of the Baltic states by declaring the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact illegal.

It was under secret protocols of the pact between Hitler and Stalin that the three states, Lithuania, Estonia and

Latvia, were annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

The West never recognised the annexation, and most Western countries had recognised the independence of the three states in the past week.

The meeting was attended by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian and Turkmenistan President Saparmurat Niyazov.

Six other republics sent

lower-level representatives to the meeting.

The new head of the KGB, Vadim Bakatin, also attended as did Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev, Gorbachev aide Yevgeny Primakov, Defence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov and the radical market economist, Grigory Yavlinsky.

The three Baltic states, beginning with Estonia, renewed their push to break from the

See Page 12 Col. 3

PM assures equal development of all areas

RANGPUR, Sept 6: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said the BNP government was determined to develop all areas of the country with equal priority and called for people's cooperation to materialise the objective, reports BSS.

Begum Zia said the government would implement various village-oriented programmes to change the lot of the people. "If you extend your support, inshallah we shall be able to develop the country," she told huge public meetings at Gangachara and Badarganj.

Begum Zia said the government would take up massive programmes under which new mills and factories would be set up in the country to generate employment. She said programmes would also be drawn up to associate women in national development efforts so that they could become self-reliant and bring happiness to their individual and family life.

Flood Control, Water Resources and Irrigation Minister

Majdul Haq and BNP nominees for the Jatiya Sangsad by-elections Rahimuddin Bharasa and Advocate Mohammad Illias, among others, spoke on the occasion.

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mia, State Minister for LGD and Cooperatives Kabir Hossain and T and T Minister Shamsul Islam were also present on the occasion.

The BNP chairperson said the previous autocratic regime had made a lot of promises but did not fulfil any. It plundered the national wealth and wasted public fund in the name of so-called development only to benefit themselves and their cronies, she said.

The government would take up the 10-point programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman who had close links with the toiling masses and had initiated it to bring about their welfare.

See Page 12 Col. 1

SKOP urges Govt to accept its demands by Sept 27

By Staff Correspondent

The Sramik-Karmachari Otkya Parishad (SKOP) at its national convention Friday called upon the government to accept its five-point demand by September 27.

The SKOP will convene a national conference of the country's workers and employees on September 29 when a 48-hour countrywide strike from October 21 would be declared, if the demands were not met by the deadline.

A declaration adopted at the convention said, in the next phase, the SKOP would announce a greater action programme to realise the demands.

Central leaders would visit the industrial areas in district to intensify the movement for realising the five-point demand, the declaration added.

Held at the Tahir auditorium (Bangabandhu Avenue) in the city, the convention was chaired by Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury and attended by 75 leaders of different trade and basic unions of the workers

See Page 12 Col. 5



Sheikh Hasina addressing a mammoth public meeting at Manik Mia avenue in the city on Friday.

— Star photo

'Dilly-dallying in passing Indemnity Repeal Bill won't be tolerated'

Opposition's cooperation not reciprocated by BNP: Hasina

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Friday warned that the dilly-dallying by the BNP Government in passing the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill would not be tolerated by the people. She said that her party had

extended hands of cooperation towards the ruling party, but the latter did not reciprocate.

Referring to the September 11 by-elections, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament accused the BNP Government

of violating the code of conduct.

Sheikh Hasina was addressing a mammoth public meeting organised by her party at the Manik Mia Avenue Friday afternoon. The meeting was also addressed by other AL central leaders including Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Abdul Mannan, Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdul Jalil, Amir Hussain Amu, Mohammad Nasim, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Abdur Razzak and Matia Chowdhury.

AL candidates in the ensuing by-elections in two Dhaka city constituencies, Alhaj Makbul Hussain and Advocate Shahara Khatun were introduced by Sheikh Hasina in the meeting with an appeal to the people to vote for 'boat'.

Referring to her recent visit to different constituencies, where by-elections will be held Sheikh Hasina said that a

See Page 12 Col. 5

DU teachers urge publication of full inquiry report

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) in a statement on Friday demanded publication of the full report of the judicial probe on May 27 incident at the DU when Jamaat leader Mattur Rahman Nizami was assaulted.

The DUTA said some vested quarters and a section of the press have been implicating the teachers to violence saying teachers often took partisan attitude in politics on the campus.

This was "a motivated propaganda" to vitiate further the country's educational institutions and to serve their interests, the DUTA said. Such an attitude deserves condemnation, it said.

The teachers have a glorious tradition. They have been trying to create mass consciousness against terrorism and no question of any covert involvement of teachers in campus violence arise at all, the DUTA said.

It said that the Dhaka

See Page 12 Col. 5

Govt, parties blamed for campus violence

By DU Correspondent

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, former Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Friday stressed the need for united effort by the government and the political parties to root out terrorism from the educational institutions.

Prof Siddiqui held the government responsible for continued campus violence and said it could be stopped much earlier if it had taken sincere and prompt steps taking the political parties along with it. Formation of a Parliamentary Committee was proposed during the last budget session but it did not come about, he said, adding, this reflected a half-hearted attitude by them.

He was addressing a discussion meeting at the TSC auditorium organised by Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) on campus violence.

The meeting, presided over by Dr Innas Ali, was addressed among others by Atzul Haq, former director of CIRDAF, AFM Shahullah, Mrs Nurjahan Morshed and Dr Baten Khan.

Prof Zillur Rahman expressed grave concern over the deterioration of the situation at the educational institutions and said if the situation continued, the nation would face an intellectual bankruptcy. He also suggested the university authorities to stop special admission for the student leaders. This was one of the factors for terrorism, he observed.

Dr Innas Ali said the "internal weaknesses" of the university authorities and the political parties' desire for supremacy on the campus were the two causes of terrorism. But government had the prime role in this regard, he said.

Atzul Haq said all political parties used students for this purpose and an ideal situation could not be thought of if continued. While attributing the cause of campus violence to government's "inactivity", he also called upon the student community not to be used by political parties.

Clash in Inqilab: Press laid off

By Staff Correspondent

The Kadertia Publications limited, printer of the Daily Inqilab on Friday announced lay-off of its press section following clashes at the Inqilab Bhaban late Thursday night.

Police said two persons Monayem, a security guard and Parimal, an air-condition operator were injured during the clashes between the press workers and representatives of the owners at around 2 am.

See Page 12 Col. 2

Boats ply in Mymensingh town

From BAU Correspondent
MYMENSINGH, Sept 6: Overnight heavy rain flooded the Mymensingh town and its suburban areas causing damage to stored up foodgrain and kutchas houses and pressing boats into service in low lying areas.

194 millimeter rainfall was recorded till 9 am today which caused two to three feet water on roads bringing life to a near halt in the town.

Hundreds of maunds of rice in Mechhua Bazar, Natun Bazar, Charpara Bazar and Shanki Para Bazar were damaged as rainwater entered the godowns. Different kinds of industrial raw materials were also damaged in the rain.

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Invitation of applications for enlistment of private importers of fertilizers under ADB credit fund

Applications are invited from bonafide fertilizer distributors/importers for enlistment and selection as importers under ADB assistance who can fulfil the following criterion for enlistment as private importer of fertilizers under \$ 35.00 million ADB credit fund. The applications should reach the following address on or before September 11, 1991 within Govt. office hours (Office closes at 2-30 P.M.).

Criterion

1. Documentary evidence showing presence in the domestic market as a fertilizer distributor indicating quantities lifted from different local factories/ports during the last two years.
2. Provide evidence of available logistic facilities in the form of storage capacity (tonnage), transport capacity (number and tonnage), and marketing network (number of dealers).
3. Certificate of credit worthiness from a schedule commercial bank specifying positive and unconditional commitment to finance of fertilizer import. Maximum of financial commitment should be certified by the bank.
4. A list of the prospective importers will be prepared based on the above criteria.
5. Selected importers would be required to follow ICB procedures for obtaining bids.

Chief of Party
IFDC

JBC Tower Building (18th floor)
10, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000
Phones: 281508, 864518, 864519, 259642

D-94