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Inside Today

International



A mother demands an investigation into the death of her son, one of the many deaths of Red Army conscripts under suspicious circumstances
 Page 5

Article

Against a backdrop of successive waves of political changes in the USSR and Eastern Europe, China's concentration on economic advance stands out in conspicuous contrast
 Page 4

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Innocent boys are being pushed to selling bear, whisky, wine and even champagne in camouflage
 Page 3

Feature

Banking and Finance

Export Processing Zones: Better Climate for Investment
 Page 8

Business

Change in functional objectives needed to make Bangladesh Jute Corporation profitable
 Page 7

NEWS BRIEFS

PM addresses nation today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address the nation today. Radio and television will simultaneously broadcast and telecast the speech of the Prime Minister at 7.30 in the evening, says a PID hand-out.

RMC reopens October 5

RAJSHAHI, Sept 11: Rajshahi Medical College will reopen on October 5, a college press release said today. The decision was taken at a meeting of the academic council today, reports BSS.

Relief for flood victims

The Ministry of Relief has so far sanctioned 215 tonnes of wheat, 120 tonnes of rice, 3650 pieces of saree, 3650 pieces of lungie, 4915 tins of cartons of biscuits and Taka 5,55,000 as gratuitous relief for the flood affected people, an official handout said, Wednesday night, reports BSS.

Troops overrun Tamil base

COLOMBO, Sept 11: Sri Lanka troops overrun a major Tamil rebel base in the dense jungle of the northeast after two weeks of fierce fighting in which hundreds of guerrillas have been reported killed, a military spokesman said today, reports Reuters.

Jatiya Party leading in four Rangpur constituencies, Awami League in two

BNP bags 3 seats, leads in 2



Women casting their votes at a polling centre at Rampura in the by-election in the city Wednesday.

—Star photo.

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) looks certain to consolidate further its position in the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) as its candidates bagged three seats and were leading in two out of the eight other constituencies in Wednesday's by-elections.

Reports reaching Dhaka till our going to the press late last night showed that the BNP gained in the by-election as it captured the Bhola-2 seat vacated by AL leader Tofael Ahmed.

The BNP has poised to retain all four seats vacated by Prime Minister and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

Candidates of the Jatiya Party continued to lead in the four constituencies of their strong hold Rangpur. These constituencies were vacated by JP Chairman and deposed President H M Ershad.

The Awami League appears to be the loser in the by-elections, because its candidates failed to retain the three seats vacated by its leaders. The AL lost the Bhola-2 seat, its candidates were however leading in the Madaripur-1 and Madaripur-2 constituencies. The AL looks certain to win the two seats.

In the Dhaka-5 constituency, BNP candidate Zamiruddin Sircar was unofficially declared elected.

In the Dhaka-9 Constituency Major (Retd) Qamrul Islam of BNP was unofficially declared elected.

In the Bhola-2 constituency, Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan of the BNP was also unofficially declared elected.

Late night tally

Following are the provisional results:

Dhaka-9 Candidates	Party	Votes polled	Result
Alhaj M Makbul Hossain AL		30,276	
Zamiruddin Sircar	BNP	38,776	Elected
M Shaful Islam	JP	2656	
Dhaka-5			
Sahara Khatun	AL	48,295	
Bahuddin Ahmed	JP	12,667	
M Qamrul Islam	BNP	52,100	Elected
Bhola-2			
Anwar Hossain Bhuiyan AL		32,124	
M Siddiq Mia	JP	857	
Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan	BNP	50,826	Elected
Madaripur-1			
Nur-e-Alam			
Chowdhury Liton	AL	39,048	
Mosir Hossain Siddiqi	BNP	31,602	
Md Makul Hossain	JP	1,039	
Madaripur-2			
Aliqur Rahman	BNP	30,978	
Alhaj Ferdous Jamadar	IND	19,621	
Shahjahan Khan	AL	48,638	
Rangpur-1			
Alhaj Rahimuddin Bharta	BNP	8,921	

See Page 12 Col. 5

Shahabuddin

visits city

polling centres

The Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday visited eight polling centres in two constituencies in the city where by-elections are being held, reports BSS.

The Acting President went to Kakoli High School and Dhanmudi Boys High School in Dhanmudi, Residential Model College at Mohammadpur, Sher-e-Bangla High School at Argargaon, Shaheed Anwara Girls School and Adamjee Cantonment College at Cantonment, Nawab Habibullah High School at Azampur in Uttara and Gulshan Model High School centres to see for himself the progress of polling there.

Justice Shahabuddin talked to the presiding officers, polling agents of the candidates contesting the by-elections and the waiting voters.

Salam Talukder accuses AL of resorting to terror

BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder Wednesday night accused Awami League of resorting to widespread terror, intimidation and violence in different polling centres in and outside Dhaka where by-elections to the Jatiya Sangsad were held, reports BSS.

Addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Dhanmudi office of BNP, Talukder said reports from different polling centres in Bhola, Madaripur, Chittagong and Rangpur districts revealed that Awami League tried to influence the polling by "muscle power".

Barrister Salam Talukder said at several centres in and outside Dhaka the polling agents of BNP were not allowed to enter the polling centres. At places the Awami League activists exploded

See Page 12 Col. 7

PM's dissatisfaction over voters' list



Prime Minister Begum Zia casting her vote at the Adamjee Cantonment College polling centre in the city.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday expressed her dissatisfaction over the voters' list and asked the concerned authorities to look into the matter, reports UNB.

Begum Zia went to the Adamjee Cantonment College on Wednesday morning to cast her vote for the by-election in Dhaka-5 constituency. The parliamentary seat was vacated by her.

Major (Retd) Qamrul Islam of BNP and Advocate Sahara Khatun of Awami League are the main contenders in this constituency comprising Gulshan and Cantonment police stations.

It was found that the name of the Prime Minister's mother, Begum Tatyeba Majumdar, was missing from the electoral rolls. She went to the polling centre too in the morning but could not cast her vote.

Begum Majumdar had been enlisted as a voter in the same constituency and cast her ballot at the same centre in the city.

—Star photo

See Page 12 Col. 8

Hasina alleges attempt on life during polling



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing an impromptu press conference at Bangabandhu Bhaban.

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina Wednesday alleged attempt on her life during her visit to a city polling centre.

By Staff Correspondent

She also alleged "terror" and "intimidation" by BNP activists in some centres in the city, in

See Page 12 Col. 1

Poll violence in Ctg, Dhaka: 75 injured

At least 75 persons were injured, nine of them seriously in explosions and shooting incidents during by-elections

By Staff Correspondent

in two Jatiya Sangsad constituencies in Dhaka and Chittagong cities on

See Page 12 Col. 3

More areas go under water

By Staff Correspondent

With the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and their tributaries overflowing, more northern areas of the country have gone under water.

In the 26 districts affected so far, the flood waters claimed at least 25 lives, marooned thousands and displaced as many besides disrupting rail and road links and destroying transplanted aman lands and homesteads.

Flood Information Centre of Water Development Board warned further rise in water level of major rivers which may worsen the flood situation.

A bulletin issued by the centre indicated that flood situation in and around Dhaka city and Narayanjanj would deteriorate with swelling of the Buriganga and the Lakhya.

The bulletin warned severe flooding in Dinajpur, Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Pabna, Kushtia and Faridpur. The situation in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj, and Manikganj will also aggravate, it said.

Our Rangpur Correspondent reports: Rangpur's rail and road links with Lalmonirhat and Kurigram remained snapped as the overall situation deteriorated. Road link with Nilphamary, Thakurgaon and Dinajpur were also snapped.

Three ansars and a police constable were missing since Tuesday evening when an engine boat carrying 20 people capsized in the Jamunswari river in Badarganj upazila swelled by flood water. A group of twenty people including police, ansars and officials were carrying ballot papers for the by-election. After the accident, 16 people along with the ballot papers and boxes were rescued, but four others

See Page 12 Col. 1

Soviet Union to withdraw troops from Cuba

MOSCOW, Sept 11: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, moving to solve a 30-year irritant in Moscow's relations with the United States, said today his government would begin talks immediately on withdrawing 11,000 troops from Cuba, reports agencies.

"We will soon begin discussions with Cuban leaders about the withdrawal of the Soviet training brigade in Cuba," the Soviet President told a news conference.

He was speaking after several hours of talks with US Secretary of State James Baker, the highest ranking American official to visit Moscow since the abortive August 19 coup that almost toppled Gorbachev from power.

The visit seemed extremely warm and cordial, with the two men publicly exchanging gifts afterwards, and Gorbachev thanking Baker for US support during the three

crucial days in which the coup began and then collapsed. Baker thanked Gorbachev for the announcement about Cuba, regarded by Washington

MOSCOW, Sept 11: Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev announced his resignation today, effective next Monday, as head of the Soviet provisional government, Tass news agency reported

Silayev, who made the announcement to the National Economy Committee, gave no reasons for his resignation, reports AFP.

as a dangerous hotbed of communism for 30 years. He called it a "very substantial gesture."

Baker met Gorbachev in the margins of a meeting of

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