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NEWS BRIEFS

Indefinite strike at CU

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 12: An indefinite strike started at the Chittagong University today at the call of All-Party Students Unity (APSU) CU unit, to press their 10-point demand.

Question paper not leaked

The news item published in a national daily that the question paper of Bangla of the HSC examinations under Comilla Board had been leaked out was baseless, according to an official handout issued in Dhaka Thursday night, reports BSS.

Aquino accepts defeat

MANILA, Sept 12: President Corason Aquino has accepted defeat in her battle with the senate to keep US troops in the Philippines, senators said after meeting the President today, reports Reuters.

Cops jailed for intimidation

NEW DELHI, Sept 12: The Supreme Court has jailed six policemen for harassing a magistrate and has issued instructions to protect judges from police intimidation, reports AP.

Death toll rises by 40 : Dinajpur town inundated : Communications in N. region disrupted

1m marooned in Rangpur



PID photos released last night show (left) Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia talking to inmates of a relief camp in Dinajpur town and devastation (!) on the right.

By Staff Correspondent
With a further rise of the major rivers, the flood situation in the country aggravated Thursday. More areas in the northern region and also in Kustia, Madaripur and Manikganj were engulfed by flood waters.
Forty more deaths were reported from the flood affected areas of the northern region. Twenty died in the five districts of greater Rangpur, eight in Chapainawabganj, four in Thakurgaon, three in Panchagarh and five in Dinajpur. Most of the victims were drowned while others died in roof collapses.
The whole of the Dinajpur town remained inundated by the flood waters till Thursday. The situation worsened in Rangpur area where about one million people were marooned in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts.
Rail and road communications in the northern districts remained disrupted. Crops on at least seven lakh acres of land in the affected areas have been damaged, official sources said.

Farakka effect : Siltation makes flood more devastating

From Mostafa Kamal Majumder
CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Sept 12: With both the Ganges and the Mahananda crossing the highest flood level of 1988, the flood situation in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts has taken a serious turn today.
The two rivers are in spate due to the onrush of waters from the upper catchments of the Ganges in India. No immediate improvement of the situation is in sight because of heavy downpour in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, according to experts.
The floods that have come after a three-year recess since 1988, have affected all the five upazilas of Shyrganj, Chapainawabganj Sadar, Gomastapur, Bholarhat and Nachal in Chapainawabganj district and Godagari and Rajshahi Sadar upazilas in Rajshahi district.
The river Mahananda at Chapainawabganj is now flowing 1.13 meters above the danger level. The Ganges in Rajshahi

PM addresses nation over referendum Give institutional shape to democracy through 'yes' votes

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday called upon the people to cast 'yes' vote in the referendum to make the democratic process a success, reports BSS.
In a nationwide address over radio and television Thursday evening, the Prime Minister said, "We want your verdict in favour of parliamentary system instead of presidential form of government on September 15 referendum to give an institutional shape to democracy."
She said the new journey on the road to democracy and development would begin after getting the verdict of people in the referendum. She called upon all to take part in the referendum and said "Let this journey be auspicious and great and brings us welfare."
Praying to Almighty Allah Begum Zia said, "Let it be proved once again through the referendum that people are the source of all power. Let it be proved again that it is people who will decide how the country will be run."
She said the referendum would work as a pointer in our national life in its journey to democracy.

All help to flood victims assured

DINAJPUR, Sept 12: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today visited the flood-affected areas of Dinajpur town and assured the people that her government would take all possible measures to provide them relief, reports BSS.
Begum Zia who visited Ghazipur, Kuthi Bari, Eidganj Bastee, Ghaghra Bastee, Pul Hat, Sikdar Hat, Nim Nagar Balu Bari, New Town, BSCIC Industrial Area and Paharpur, directed the district administration officials to reach relief materials the needy.
"You must ensure that relief distribution is carried out properly, if necessary we will send more relief," she said.

Alleged attempt on Hasina's life AL calls half-day hartal Saturday

By Staff Correspondent
The Awami League at a rally on Thursday called for a half-day (6 am to 12 noon) hartal tomorrow (Saturday) in protest against what it called attempt on the life of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina during the by-elections in the capital on Wednesday.
The AL programme is the first of its kind since the ouster of President IIM Ershad following a united movement by the opposition parties including the BNP and the AL.
Shots were fired Wednesday at a polling centre in the Dhaka-9 constituency allegedly by pro-BNP youths when Hasina reached there.
The public rally, was held at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city by the metropolitan branch of the Awami League.
Addressing the rally, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and AL president member Abdus Samad Azad strongly condemned the 'armed attack' on Hasina and blamed the ruling party for the 'heinous' act. The attempt on the opposition leader was part of a conspiracy against institutionalising

Bus falls into swirling waters: 35 missing

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, Sept 12: At least 35 passengers were missing as a passenger bus fell into swirling waters on Thursday from a flooded road at Bairagiganj, about 12 km away from Rangpur town.
Eyewitnesses said the Rangpur-bound bus (Rangpur Ja-36) was carrying at least 60 passengers from Bogra.
At least 25 passengers of the bus managed to reach at dry land but the fate of other passengers, mostly women and children, were not known.
It was feared that many passengers remained inside the bus and some of them were washed away by the flood waters.

BNP gains absolute majority



A Freedom Party worker came under attack Thursday when he was distributing party leaflets opposing parliamentary democracy, at the Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

EC worried about referendum in flood-hit areas

By Staff Correspondent
The Election Commission is now working out the modalities to facilitate voters in the flood affected areas in casting their votes in the referendum on Sunday for a parliamentary form of government.
The Election Commission is worried about the deterioration of flood situation in 22 districts of the country and has expressed its concern about the holding of referendum there.
See Page 12 Col. 7
Lankan FM due in city today
The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Harold Herat, arrives in Dhaka today to extend a formal invitation to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to attend the next SAARC summit in Colombo, reports BSS.
He would carry the invitation from President R. Premadasa.
During his three day stay in Dhaka, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister will have talks with Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman on SAARC matters as well as bilateral affairs.
He will be accompanied by Foreign Secretary Bernard Tikaretnne.

AL, JP have gained popularity : Moudud

By Staff Correspondent
Jatiya Party on Thursday alleged that the by-election was not free and fair, and the ruling party resorted to violence and rigging in the polls.
Senior Vice-President of the party Moudud Ahmed told a press conference that popularity of JP and Awami League had increased but BNP's sharply declined. And his was demonstrated in the election, he claimed.
"We don't think it was a fair election," Moudud said adding "that had it been fair, BNP would lose at least one seat in Dhaka."
The BNP Government used official facilities for campaign in favour of their candidate, and tried to intimidate the voters in different places particularly in Rangpur.
Moudud, who was Vice-President during the regime of deposed president Ershad said, "we should develop a system to hold all elections under a neutral government."
He however argued that considering Jatiya Party's popularity its chairman HM Ershad should be released immediately and unconditionally.
The JP leader said that his party was still undecided about

1 killed, 100 hurt in Gopalganj gunbattle

GOPALGANJ, Sept 12: One person was killed and some 100 were injured in a gunbattle between two rival groups at Paikandi bazar in Sadar upazila this morning.
The dead was identified as Feru Sheikh (50), a shop-keeper of the bazar.
Ten of the injured were in a critical condition. Five of them sustained bullet wounds, hospital sources said.
The ten were named Mesbauddin Chowdhury (20), Tuhin Chowdhury (20), Nobil (17), Bulu Chowdhury (30), Tulu Sikder (24), Sekendar Kazi (25), Awlad Kazi (35), Kazi Jashim (15), Sekendar (50), Hitu Mollah (25).
They were admitted to the Sadar Hospital and other clinics.
The clash erupted during a victory procession, and both sides were said to have used firearms and other lethal weapons.

6 injured as JCD, BCL clash at Ctg Medical College

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 12: At least six students of Chittagong Medical College (CMC) were wounded in an armed clash between the activists of pro-BNP Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A) in the college premises Thursday morning.
Police arrested four persons, all belonging to JCD, in connection with the incident and recovered from their possession one gun, one light gun and 15 rounds of bullet.
The injured persons, belonging to both the student groups, could not be identified immediately.
JCD leaders alleged that their procession brought out on the college campus to celebrate the victory of the BNP candidate in the Chittagong-8 by-election, was attacked by their rivals of Chhatra League.

Gorbachev fires two top officials in shakeup of KGB

MOSCOW, Sept 12: President Mikhail S. Gorbachev fired two top KGB officials Thursday in his attempt for house cleaning of the secret police agency following the failed coup in August, the Tass news agency said today, reports agencies.
Chairman Gennady Titov was removed from a committee investigating the KGB's role in the coup and dismissed from the post of deputy chairman and chief of the Second KGB chief Directorate, Tass reported. The Second Directorate is in charge of operations within the Soviet Union.
He was on the Investigating committee by Anatoly Oleinikov, the news agency said.
Gorbachev also dismissed Maj Gen Valery Lebedev. A week after the failed coup, Gorbachev appointed the committee to conduct an investigation into the KGB's role. Charges of high treason have already been filed against former KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov and four top KGB Generals accused of helping lead the coup.
Gorbachev appointed radical reformer Vadim Bakatin to replace Kryuchkov. Bakatin has promised to curtail the KGB's enormous powers, fire its millions of paid informants, cut back on eavesdropping and its political control of the populace and the government.
The KGB and its predecessors have operated as powers unto themselves for much of Soviet history, executing "counter-revolutionaries," waging bloody purges and terror in the 1930s, and fabricating charges against dissidents with impunity.
The KGB, with a staff estimated at 700,000, had been trying to clean up its image since Gorbachev rose to power in 1985. It handles espionage, major domestic crime-fighting tasks and surveillance of its own citizens.
Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev denied today that he had announced his resignation as head of the interim Soviet government committee for managing the economy.
"I did not make this statement. I am not the source of this rumor," Silayev told reporters after holding talks with US Secretary of State James Baker.
This question is up to the State Council, he added, referring to the new Soviet executive grouping Gorbachev and leaders of the republics. The council is to hold its second meeting Monday.
The official Tass news agency reported Wednesday that Silayev, 60, had announced he was quitting as head of the Economic Committee, which is effectively the interim Soviet government.
Silayev said that Grigori Yavlinski, a radical market economist who is also a member of the Economic Committee, would present a detailed report to the State Council Monday, after which the committee would be dissolved.