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NEWS BRIEFS

PM's Secretariat

By Staff Correspondent
 The old Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Bhaban now used as the President's Secretariat will be turned into the Prime Minister's Secretariat after the election of a new president on October 8.

Riaz Rahman takes over

Riaz Rahman took over Thursday as Foreign Secretary. He succeeded Abul Ahsan who is due to leave for Washington today (Friday) to head the Bangladesh mission in the United States, reports UNB.

India, Pakistan fight battle

NEW DELHI, Sept 19: Indian and Pakistani troops fought a pitched battle on the Kashmir frontier today, leaving at least six soldiers dead on each side.

Argentina quits NAM

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 19: Argentina announced today it was withdrawing from the Non-Aligned Movement, which it joined in 1973. President Carlos Menem said he had notified the President of Yugoslavia, which currently chairs the movement, of the decision to withdraw from the organization, reports AFP.

Khaleda as PM, 21 ministers, 15 state ministers, 3 deputy ministers sworn in Parliamentary form of govt in effect



Begum Khaleda Zia being sworn in as Prime Minister under the amended Constitution by Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban yesterday. — Star photo

B Choudhury, 2 state ministers dropped

By Staff Correspondent
 A new cabinet headed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia took oath on Thursday marking the country's switchover to parliamentary democracy after 16 years of presidential rule.
 Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed administered the oath to the Prime Minister, 21 cabinet ministers, 15 state ministers and three deputy ministers.
 Talking to newsmen immediately after the 25-minute oath-taking ceremony at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban Begum Khaleda Zia said this was a victory of the people who had suffered repressions for upholding the cause of democracy.
 She said she looked forward to cooperation of all including the political parties to set democracy on firm footing.
 The simple but impressive ceremony was attended by former presidents Justice A S Khaleda Zia and Justice A S Khaleda Zia.
 See Page 12 Col. 7

Portfolios

The Prime Minister last night distributed following portfolios among the ministers, according to an official announcement, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia	Defence, Establishment and Cabinet Division.
Mirza Golam Hafiz	Law and Justice.
M Majedul Huq	Agriculture, Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Development.
A S M Mustafizur Rahman	Foreign Affairs.
Safur Rahman	Finance.
Abdus Salam Talukdar	Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperative Communications.
Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed Choudhury Kamal	Health and Family Welfare.
Ibn-e Yusuf	Industries.
Shamsul Islam Khan	Post and Telecommunications.
M Keramat Ali	Commerce.
M K Anwar	Social Welfare and Women Affairs.
Tariqul Islam	

See Page 12 Col. 7

Presidential poll Oct 8

The first presidential election under the parliamentary form of government will be held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on October 8, the Election Commission announced Thursday, reports BSS.
 Polling will be held between 2 pm and 5 pm in the Assembly Hall of the Sangsad Bhaban. The President will be elected by the members of the Jatiya Sangsad.
 The Chief Election Commissioner will conduct the presidential election as the 'Nirbanchani Karta' under Section 3(1) of the Presidential Election Act, 1991.
 The Election Commission, in a gazette notification issued Thursday announced detailed schedule for holding election to the office of President. The schedule has been issued up to the office of President. The schedule has been issued up to the office of President. The schedule has been issued up to the office of President.
 See Page 12 Col. 4

Can Shahabuddin now be called a neutral President?

Star Report
 Can Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed be still called a neutral President? With the 12th Amendment to the Constitution coming into force and oath of the new BNP Government under it, Justice Shahabuddin has been reduced to a titular President who is constitutionally obliged to act on advice of the Prime Minister.
 He is now protected by the constitutional provision that the incumbent President will continue in his office until an elected President enters upon his office. He will continue in his office until an elected President enters upon his office. He will continue in his office until an elected President enters upon his office.
 See Page 12 Col. 4

Diarrhoea spreads further, death toll rises to 261

By Staff Correspondent
 The diarrhoea situation in the flood affected districts aggravated further and another 60 deaths were reported Thursday raising the death toll to 261.
 Nearly 4,000 people were attacked by diarrhoea in 24 hours till Thursday evening. According to an official report about 15,000 people have been attacked since September 1 in the flood affected areas.
 All the 16 districts in the northern region and Kishoreganj, Manikganj, Kushtia, Narail and Magura were affected by diarrhoea.
 In Nilphamari, 13 people died of Diarrhoea Wednesday while over 500 more were attacked.
 In Gaibandha five more people died and another 20 were attacked by the disease.
 Our correspondent reports from Kishoreganj: Ten more people have died of diarrhoea in the district during the last 24 hours and another 162 people were attacked by it following the floods.
 Three of the deaths were in Bajitpur, one in Itna, one in Milki, one in Karimganj and four in Patladi upazila. Six of the dead were children.
 The total number of deaths due to the disease has already reached 48. However, the official figure is 36. The total number of diarrhoea affected people is 804, official sources said.
 There is an acute shortage of drinking water, food and medicine the flood affected areas. The village medicine shops have almost doubled the prices for the treatment of diarrhoea.
 Meanwhile, seven temporary hospitals have been set up in Bajitpur, the worst affected upazila, for treatment of the patients.
 BSS adds: the overall flood situation in the country particularly in the northern districts marked improvement following recession of water level in the major rivers Thursday.
 Flood waters which entered Madaripur district town also started receding.

Hasina demands white paper on relief

NILPHAMARI, Sept 19: Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina today asked for adequate relief and rehabilitation operation to save suffering humanity in the flood-hit districts of the country, reports UNB.
 Hasina, touring flood-stricken northern region, criticised the government for what she said its failure to provide succour to flood victims, resulting in starvation, disease and death.
 "When thousands of people are suffering, the government should issue a white paper on relief."
 See Page 12 Col. 5

AL, JP leaders absent

By Staff Correspondent
 The swearing-in ceremony of the new cabinet yesterday was marked by the absence of frontline leaders of the Awami League and the Jatiya Party, the second and the third largest parties in parliament.
 The swearing-in of the new cabinet marked the country's switchover to a parliamentary democracy on the basis of national consensus. The opposition Awami League and the Jatiya Party had voted for the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill which provided for the switchover.
 A five-party alliance leader told The Daily Star immediately after the oath-taking ceremony that it was unethical on the part of the leaders of the two parties to stay absent from the function. It was more so for a party which had claimed that introduction of parliamentary system was its own agenda.
 The five-party leader said that such attitude could only inspire the forces opposed to democracy.
 A Jamaat MP who attended the function also deplored the absence of the MPs belonging to the two major political parties.
 Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda immediately after the oath-taking ceremony.
 See Page 12 Col. 6

Textile accord with US signed

Star Economic Report
 Bangladesh and the US signed in Dhaka on Thursday the bilateral textile agreement on nine categories for next three years beginning February, 1992.
 The agreement was signed following a three-day textile negotiations between the two sides held at the Ministry of Commerce. The negotiations concluded on Thursday.
 Vice-Chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau immediately after the signing ceremony.
 See Page 12 Col. 5

Procedure for foreign investment in stock market delayed

Star Economic Report
 About half a dozen foreign investment companies have so far shown interest in investing their funds in the securities (shares and stocks) markets in Bangladesh.
 The investment funds or companies that made queries to Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) about investment opportunities are from Japan, Australia, Holland, Hong Kong and the USA.
 Disclosing this at a press conference at Hotel Sonargaon on Thursday, DSE Chairman Aminul Islam Khan observed that the delay in announcement of the detailed procedural arrangements for facilitating investments by the non-resident foreigners in the country's stock market would however lead to 'erosion' of interest on the part of potential investors from abroad.
 The government, he recalled, announced its decision in early June to allow non-resident foreign nationals including foreign investment finance companies to invest their money in the securities market in the country under relaxed terms for repatriation of dividend income and dividend.
 "This is a well-justified move," he said but noted that its implementation had not yet been made possible because the concerned authorities were not able to frame detailed instructions for the purpose over the last three months' time.
 He added, some existing legal provisions will also have to be amended by the Controller of Capital Issues (CCI) for implementation of the decision about foreign investment funds, besides the follow-up actions by the central bank.
 The DSE Chairman said, the stock exchange functionalities met the concerned authorities urging speedy actions to facilitate the implementation of the decision. "But necessary instructions and other formalities are still not complete and we are quite concerned over the delay," he observed in reply to a question.
 The decision to allow non-resident foreign investments in the country's securities market was to be made effective from July 1, 1991.
 About the future disinvestment programme of the government, the DSE chairman suggested that the modus operandi for the upcoming disinvestment programme should be decided by the government.
 See Page 12 Col. 3

Report on lifting Hasina's security not correct, police say

The Police Department is always vigilant and active in ensuring personal security of the Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.
 Explaining the fact to remove misgivings from the minds of the people in regard to a news item published in different newspapers that a new order had been issued for withdrawing personal security of the Leader of the Opposition, the Police Department said.
 See Page 12 Col. 5

B Choudhury congratulates Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent
 Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury former Minister for Education congratulated Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and the people for the ultimate victory of democracy marked by Thursday swearing-in ceremony.
 See Page 12 Col. 5

WB, IMF to admit USSR

TOKYO, Sept 19: The Soviet Union will receive associate membership in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank by the end of September, Japan's leading economic newspaper reported Thursday, reports AP and AFP.
 The special status will encourage full-scale integration of the Soviet economy with the international economy, with the help of the West, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported from London, quoting unnamed international financial sources.
 The Soviet Union has applied for full membership in both the World Bank and IMF and is awaiting a decision.
 The Group of Seven industrialised nations — Britain, Italy, Canada, the United States, Germany, France and Japan — recommended associate membership at their summit meeting in London in July.
 The group's Finance Ministers also agreed in principle last week in Dresden, Germany, that associate membership should be given to the Soviet Union to help it make effective economic reforms.
 Nihon Keizai said.
 US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady met Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev today for talks centering on the state of the Soviet economy, the official Tass news agency said.
 The meeting comes after Washington agreed to accelerate loans to the Soviet Union for the purchase of US food products, according to Ivan Silayev, head of the Soviet Economic Steering Committee.
 Brady was in the Soviet Union on a fact-finding visit following Gorbachev's meeting with the heads of State and government of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialised democracies in London last July, Tass said.
 US Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan was also visiting the Soviet Union. The two were accompanied by a group of some 50 US banking and finance experts, Tass said.
 Silayev, who met Brady Wednesday, said afterwards that the United States had also promised to consider the possibility of giving the entire 500 million dollars scheduled for October, in September.

জরুরী খাত বাতী

- দুর্গত এলাকার বাড়ী ঘরের পানি চলে যাওয়ার সাথে সাথে বাড়ীর আশপাশের ময়লা-আবর্জনা পরিষ্কার করুন।
- মরা পচা জীবজন্তু, পচপাখী মাটির নীচে পুতে ফেলুন যেন পানি ও আবহাওয়া দূষিত করতে না পারে।
- যেখানে সম্ভব কষ্ট করে হলেও টিউবওয়েলের পানি সংগ্রহ করুন এবং এই পানি খাওয়া ও খালাবাসন ধোয়ার কাজে ব্যবহার করুন।
- বর্তমান পরিস্থিতিতে টিউবওয়েলের পানি পাওয়া না গেলে পানি শোধক বড়ি বা কিটকিরি দিয়ে পানি নিরাপদ করে নিতে পারেন।
- ১৫ মিলিগ্রামের দুইটি ছোট বড়ি ১০ লিটার বা মাঝারি সাইজের এক কলসী পানিতে দিয়ে রাখলে আধঘণ্টা পর ব্যবহারের উপযোগী হয়।
- এছাড়া এক কলসী পানিতে চা চামচের পূর্ণ এক চামচ কিটকিরি মিশিয়ে ১ ঘণ্টা পর ব্যবহার করা যায়।
- মলত্যাগের জন্য পায়খানা ব্যবহার করুন। পায়খানা না থাকলে পর্ড করে মলত্যাগ করুন এবং হাই বা মাটি দিয়ে ঢেকে দিন।
- এই সকল বাতী দুর্গত এলাকায় জনগণের নিকট প্রচারের জন্য কর্মরত সকল স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণকর্মী, মেডিকেল টীম ও স্বাস্থ্যসেবী সংগঠনের সদস্যদের অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা বুরো, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর

ক্রিঃসংখ্যাঃ ১০৬৭০-১২/১

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