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International Business and National pages dropped to accommodate Rajshahi Board SSC results

## Badrul Haider claims JP support, seeks votes of BNP MPs

**Star Report**

Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, a presidential candidate promoted by Awami League, Friday claimed that the Jatiya Party would back him in the poll.

However, when contacted, JP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed said the party would take decision after September 30, the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

Earlier, Monturul Haque Chowdhury, Secretary of the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party, hailed the nomination of Justice Chowdhury and termed him as a national consensus candidate.

Justice Chowdhury, talking to The Daily Star, said, both the Awami League and the Jatiya Party would support him. He said he had already started contacting the MPs of different political parties including those of the BNP to win their support. He explained to them that none would lose membership of the Parliament if he voted against the presidential candidate in the presidential election. Because, he said, Article 70 of the 12th Amendment to the Constitution relating to floor crossing was not applicable to election of the President.

Meanwhile, an executive committee meeting of Awami League Friday hailed the nomination of Justice Chowdhury as a consensus candidate. The meeting is adjourned till 6 pm today.

But Awami League leadership confided to The Daily Star that there was still doubt whether Badrul Haider Chowdhury would contest the election or withdraw his candidature if he could not con-

firm majority votes.

Awami League, which wants it not to go "unchallenged" has decided to wait till the last date of withdrawal. This has also been communicated to Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, the party leadership said.

Justice Chowdhury further said that the Jamaat-e-Islami was also considering the proposal to elect him as a consensus candidate. But they did not give any commitment to him as yet, he said.

When asked Jamaat leader Moulana Mathur Rahman Nizami said that the party had not yet taken any decision.

He, however, indicated that this time Jamaat would prove that "it does not follow any big party." He said that Jamaat would take an absolutely independent stand regarding presidential election.

Justice Chowdhury said that he has also contacted some MPs of the ruling BNP. The BNP MPs who are unhappy because of their exclusion from the cabinet may ignore the party decision, if their membership of the Parliament is not cancelled, he claimed.

BNP sources said that it would convene a meeting of the parliamentary party very soon to discuss the matter.

The Workers Party of Rashed Khan Menon has taken a different stand from the Five Party Alliance. The Five-party Alliance on Thursday criticised both the BNP and the Awami League for their failure to come to a consensus. But the Workers Party in a release issued to the press on Friday said that Badrul Haider Chowdhury was a party candidate,

but the Awami League was trying to brand him as an independent candidate which was not fair. Rashed Khan Menon, the only MP of the Five Party Alliance, has left for North Korea. He will return on October 7 to cast his vote in the presidential election.

NDP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury also told that he had, not yet decided about the presidential election.

### More changes in Foreign Office likely

Some changes are likely in the Foreign Ministry in near future, reports UNB.

Ministry sources said Ambassador Farooq Sobhan is expected to return from Beijing early October to join as Additional Foreign Secretary (Multilateral).

He will replace Reaz Rahman who assumed the office of the Foreign Secretary last week.

The Ministry is reportedly facing difficulties in finding a suitable replacement of Dr Toufiq Ali, Director General (Economic Affairs), who will soon be leaving to take up his new assignment as Minister in the Embassy in Washington.

Another Foreign Ministry official, Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, Director General (SAARC), will proceed shortly to Colombo to head the Bangladesh Mission there.

Muhammad Zamir, Director General (Europe), is also expected to leave for Jeddah soon to join the OIC as one of its directors.



MAGNIFYING THE WANT OF CITY AMENITIES: Underprivileged children play on the roof of a shed inside the newly built park near Sonargaon Hotel. —Star photo

## 30 injured as rival workers clash at Adamjee

**From Our Correspondent**  
NARAYANGANJ, Sept 27: At least 30 persons were injured when rival groups of workers clashed at the Adamjee Jute Mills late Thursday night.

The clashes between the Jatiya Party-backed Adamjee Jute Mills Sramik Union and the BNP supported Adamjee Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal flared up at around 1pm and lasted till about 3pm.

Witnesses said at least 70 to 80 cracker blasts and numerous rounds of gunfire were heard during the clashes in the area. The clashing workers used knives, daggers, rods and other weapons, witnesses added.

The rival groups blamed each other for instigating the clashes.

Most of the injured were released after first aid at local clinics.

No arrests were made in connection with the clashes. Siddharganj police said the situation remained calm in Adamjeeganj.

## Call for half-day hartal at Rangpur today

**From Our Correspondent**  
RANGPUR, Sept 27: Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Insu)-backed Chhatra League here called a half-day hartal in Rangpur district tomorrow (Saturday) in protest against the killing of its worker, Habibuzzaman Habib on Thursday.

Habib was killed in a gun fight between the workers of Chhatra League (Insu) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Workers of the Eight-party and the Five-party alliances brought out processions in the town today in support of the hartal. They chanted slogans against the JCD, the ruling BNP's student wing.

A tense situation is prevailing in the town and police is patrolling the main thoroughfares.

Authorities have brought in reserve police forces from Rajshahi and Bogra to face the situation.

Meanwhile police searched the two closed hostels, Pinnu and Mukta of Rangpur Medical College Friday and recovered some arms and ammunition.

The recovered arms and ammunition include one rifle, one country made pistol, one shot gun, two pipeguns, four rounds of rifle cartridges, one shotgun cartridge, three cocktails and about ten daggers of different kinds.

## 64.46 per cent pass Rajshahi Board SSC examination

The results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination of the Board of Secondary and Intermediate, Rajshahi, held in May this year was published Friday, reports BSS.

Gazi Abdus Salam, chairman of the board, announced the results at a press conference.

A total of 1,03,931 candidates appeared in the examination, of them 66,999 came out successful.

Of the total passed students, 7821 passed in the first division while 27,982 in the second division and 31,196 in the third division respectively.

Of the total appeared students, 29,103 were female and 74,828 males, 60,146 regular and 2567 private.

The percentage of pass is 64.46.

In general science group, 31,641 came out successful, out of 41,218. The percentage of the group is 76.76 while in social science, 35,358 passed in the examination, out of 62,713. The percentage of the group is 56.38.

The percentage of the female is 70.28 and male 62.19 while the percentage of regular students is 57.35 and private is 33.54.

Following is the combined (male-female) merit list in general science group of the first ten students:

1. Abdullah-Al-Mahmud, roll-Rang (Cant) 1, of Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College securing 850-marks with six letters.
2. Mohammad Moshfiqur Rahman, Rang (Cant) 2, Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College securing 851 with six letters.
3. Mehdi Masnad, Raj (Cadet) 26, Rajshahi Cadet College, 848 with six letters.
4. Abul Khayer Mohammad Kowar Habib, Raj (Cadet) 3 See Page 12 Col. 7

## 71 sacked so far Tk 1 crore of CU due with teachers staying abroad

**From Nurul Alam**

CHITTAGONG, Sept 27: Chittagong University has so far paid over Taka one crore in salaries and other benefits to its teachers who had gone abroad on study leave but did not return.

The amount has fallen irrecoverable.

Such teachers were paid on prior agreements that they would rejoin the university after higher studies. But they stayed back violating the agreements.

The university authority has dismissed 71 teachers so far See Page 12 Col. 5

## Formation of 'left front' uncertain

**Star Report**

The formation of the much talked about broad-based 'left front' has become uncertain.

Differences on what would be the approach towards the major political parties like BNP and Awami League are now the major problem standing in the way of uniting the left political parties on a single platform.

The front, initiated by the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), National Awami Party (NAP-M) and some components of the 5-party alliance, was scheduled to be launched on September 25. But it was deferred and efforts are there to make a formal announcement about the front on October 10.

The 5-party components are waiting for the outcome of the forthcoming 5th congress of the CPB. Five-party sources said that their final decision on forging unity with the CPB would depend on the party's policy on the proposed front to be adopted at the congress.

CPB, NAP(M), Samabadi Dal and Gano Azadi League have already reached an understanding on forming the front and are working together on certain issues. The parties have See Page 12 Col. 1

## Diarrhoea spreads unabated

**By Staff Correspondent**

Forty more people died of diarrhoea in the country's flood-hit areas on Friday, raising the death toll since September 1 to 588.

The official number of people attacked with the disease during the period was over 2900 and the number of total affected persons was more than 37000.

The unofficial figures of the dead and the affected were far above the official figures.

Official sources said in Dhaka that they were keeping the records of only 23 districts hit by the flood. The affected areas of Kishoreganj, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Netrokona, and parts of Sylhet, where diarrhoea had already spread are yet to come under government's monitoring network.

Till Friday, Dinajpur was the worst-hit district, according to the official statistics. Seven persons died while 276 were attacked with the disease.

In Nilphamari four people died and 558 were attacked during the period.

Five persons died and 120 were attacked in Kishoreganj district during the time but the unofficial sources put the figure at over 500.

Officials recorded four deaths in Pabna and 329 attacked in Kurigram.

Our Kishoreganj Correspondent said, the death toll in the district due to diarrhoea rose to 96 with five fresh deaths Friday. The number of persons attacked with the disease was 120 officially and over 500 unofficially on the day. The total number of people attacked till Friday was 1,875 officially and over 7,000 unofficially.

The worst-hit areas by the disease are Bajitpur, Katiadi, Nikly, Itna, Kulliarchar, Karimganj and Sadar under the district.

Meanwhile, the overall flood situation in the country continued to improve gradually with the fall of water level.

According to a flood forecasting and warning bulletin of Water Development Board, all See Page 12 Col. 6

## Number of female lawmakers falls

GENEVA, Sept 27: The emergence of democratically-elected parliaments in Eastern Europe has been accompanied by a sharp drop in the number of female lawmakers in these countries, according to a survey published Friday, reports AP.

The study by the Inter-parliamentary Union said the average percentage of women represented in national parliaments worldwide fell to 11 percent in June, down from 12.7 percent in 1989 and 14.6 percent at the start of 1988. In 1975, the figure was 12.5 percent.

Only 3,081 of 28,019 legislators in 131 countries surveyed in the June poll were See Page 12 Col. 2

## We're prepared to enforce resolutions: Bush UN inspectors still under Iraqi guard

BAGHDAD, Sept 27: UN Arms inspectors remained blocked by authorities in a Baghdad carpark early today as their leader said local officials were unaware of an agreement reached in New York Thursday that should have ended the standoff, reports AFP.

The 44 inspectors were still under Iraqi guard in the parking lot of an Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission building, four days after authorities prevented them from carrying away documents and videotape, the inspectors say reveal key aspects of Baghdad's nuclear weapons programme.

Iraqi officials assert the documents are personnel records concerning its peaceful atomic energy programme and say release of the information could leave these scientists prey to US or Israeli intelligence agents.

At UN headquarters in New York, Iraqi officials agreed Thursday to permit the inspectors to leave with the material once a full inventory of the seized documents was See Page 12 Col. 4

## Truckers force-stop Aricha-Nagarbari ferry service

MANIKGANJ, Sept 27: Truck drivers enforced a strike at Aricha ferry ghat Friday morning halting road communication of the capital with 17 north western districts of the country, reports UNB.

The strike was called by Inter-District Truck Drivers' Union protesting the alleged attack on its members by ghat workers at Nagarbari ghat on Wednesday. At least 10 people were injured in the incident.

Strikers blocked ferrying of all modes of transport, including trucks and buses, on Aricha-Nagarbari route.

Some 800 trucks and a large fleet of inter-district buses and mini-buses with some 5,000 passengers were stranded at the Aricha ghat till this evening.

According to the strikers, the Deputy Commissioner of Pabna is likely to meet the representatives of the truck drivers' union and the ghat workers at Pabna today (Saturday) seeking a solution of the problem.

# Miners force Iliescu to accept demands

BUCHAREST, Sept 27: Clashes flared between thousands of Bucharest residents and security forces at the presidential palace today after rioting coal miners left town having forced Prime Minister Petre Roman's resignation, reports Reuter.

Riot police and anti-terrorist troops fired rubber bullets, tear gas and deafening firecrackers to break up a crowd of up to 5,000 people who hurled stones and bottles over the palace wall and shouted for President Ion Iliescu to resign.

The crowd, mostly local workers organised by trade unions, yelling "assassins, assassins," fled downhill and regrouped to hurl abuse but security forces dispersed them with tear gas.

Several petrol bombs were thrown over the palace wall and soldiers extinguished the fires. Ambulances ferried away injured demonstrators.

Earlier, 3,000 coalminers from West Romania's Jiu valley had left the spot after their leader Miron Cosma told them Iliescu had agreed their grievances over pay and work conditions would be met. Iliescu will go to the coalfields next Monday.

About 8,000 miners went to Bucharest on Wednesday and Thursday and stormed Roman's Victory Square headquarters in bloody clashes in which at least four people were reported killed.

Cosma said Iliescu had agreed with him that Roman was to blame for the two days of violence involving the miners. There was no word on Roman's whereabouts.

The executive committee of Roman's ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) party issued a call for snap elections to end the crisis and some opposition parties echoed the proposal.

Special Interior Ministry soldiers pursued demonstrators into nearby public gardens and completely dispersed the protesters, who fled with their eyes bumped by the teargas. Police then took up positions around the palace.

The crowd earlier had ignored an appeal to go home by a leader of coal miners.

The Front's executive bureau said in a radio statement the protesters were not representative of the Romanian people.

We ask the Constituent Assembly to fulfill its mandate of drafting the Constitution as soon as possible, to give the country necessary guarantees for the existence of the state of law," it said.

"At the same time, the NSF executive bureau unanimously considers it is urgently necessary that a new legislative assembly be constituted through immediate elections."

Roman denounced what he called a communist coup attempt as the National Salvation Front Government faced its worst crisis since political violence 15 months ago which also involved miners — that time on the government's side.

## Two drowned at Gazipur

**From Our Correspondent**  
GAZIPUR, Sept 27: Two passengers drowned on Thursday evening at Gaur village, of Sadar upazila when two mechanised boats collided head on. The victims were identified as Mamta Begum (32) and her child Razia (9). The bodies were recovered on Friday morning.

**\$1.21 million for misprinted stamps**

NEW YORK, Sept 27: Two blocks of US stamps which had been printed upside down by mistake in 1918 were auctioned off for 1.21 million dollars. The much-coveted 24-cent stamps sold Wednesday were issued to mark the first US Airmail delivery