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# The Daily Star

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 97, BAITUL MUKARRAM, DHAKA.

VOL. 1 NO. 255 REGD. NO. DA 781 ASHWIN 22, 1398 BS, DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 8, 1991 RABIUL AWAL 28, 1412 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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**Business**

BCIC's fertilizer and newsprint units suffer continuous losses  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Cabinet meet held**

The regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet was held Monday at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair. Ministers and state Ministers-in-charge attended the meeting, said an official handout, reports UNB.

**Kazi Zafar granted 7 days' parole**

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, former prime minister, was released Monday evening on seven days parole from the prison cell of PG Hospital on recommendation of a 10-member medical board. Doctors recommended that Zafar should be treated in "family atmosphere". Following the recommendation, Home Ministry ordered his immediate release. Zafar's family sources said, reports UNB.

**BNP MP's asked to be present in JS**

A meeting of the Whips of the Treasury Bench in Parliament, at the Sangsad Bhaban Monday, requested the members of the BNP Parliamentary Party to be present at the Committee Room Number One of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at 12 noon today (Tuesday) for participating in the presidential election, a Jatiya Sangsad press release said, reports BSS.

**ALPP meet today**

The adjourned meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will resume at 12 noon today (Tuesday) at the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, reports BSS.

## Writs seeking stay of presidential poll rejected

Star Report

Two Writ petitions seeking limited stay of the election of President on the ground that the Election of President Act 1991 was ultra vires of the Constitution were rejected by a Single Bench of the Supreme Court on Monday.

In his judgement, Judge Habibur Rahman Khan said, "Considering the balance of convenience and inconvenience at this stage I do not consider it proper to pass an ad-interim order staying the election of President of Bangladesh scheduled to be held on October 8, 1991."

The judgement has cleared the way for smooth election of the President under the parliamentary form of government.

The Single Bench comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan of the High Court Division heard the 'stay part' of the Writ petitions for three days before delivering its judgement in a crowded courtroom at 5 pm.

The Writ petitions were filed by the Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad and others, and Barrister Moudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party.

The original petition of Abdus Samad Azad and others had challenged the Election of President Act, 1991 as well as the Election of President (amendment) Ordinance promulgated on September 28. In their petition Abdus Samad Azad and others had prayed for both stay and rule.

When the case was moved on October 2, the Single Bench referred it to the Chief Justice for order since the Bench did not have the jurisdiction to deal with the 'rule part' of the petition, and a Division Bench competent to hear both the stay and the rule parts of the case could be there after the end of the Court's present vacation on October 20.

The Acting Chief Justice in his order passed on October 3 asked the Single Bench to hear the 'stay part' of the case and fixed October 5 as the date of hearing.

Subsequently on October 6 Abdus Samad Azad and others submitted a supplementary petition making two more prayers challenging the convening of meeting of the Bench on October 7.  
 See Page 12 Col. 7

## Abdur Rahman Biswas, Badrul Haider Chowdhury fight straight battle for presidency

# Presidential poll today

By Staff Correspondent

Three hundred and thirty members of the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) will elect a president to become the titular head of the state today. The presidential election will be held in an open ballot at the Sangsad Bhaban.

An Election Commission announcement said that all arrangements have been made to hold the presidential election smoothly. The voting will take place at the parliament house for three hours from 2pm. Four vote counters have been set up for the purpose. Only the two presidential candidates, MPs, relevant officials and journalists holding the security passes issued by the Election Commission secretary will be allowed to enter the Sangsad Bhaban, the announcement added.

There will be a straight fight between the ruling party BNP candidate, former speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas and the Awami League nominee, former chief justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury. Both the BNP with a strength of 170 members and the

Awami League having 92 members in the parliament were engaged in the last-minute hectic lobbying to enlist support for their respective candidate.

The Jamaat-e-Islami represented in the parliament by its 20 members may abstain from the election race. The meeting of AL candidate Justice Chowdhury and BNP nominee Abdur Rahman Biswas with Prof Golam Azam, de facto leader of the Jamaat, at his Maghbazar residence a few days ago had triggered off a political storm. The AL high command came under fire at the party Parliamentary group meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban Sunday as the party-backed candidate Justice Chowdhury met Golam Azam to seek his blessings.

The meeting of Justice Chowdhury with Prof Golam Azam created strong resentment among the Awami League allies also, including the CPB. The CPB leadership is sharply divided over voting to vote for Justice Chowdhury. A strong  
 See Page 12 Col. 7



Abdur Rahman Biswas, presidential candidate of the ruling party. —Star photo



Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, Awami League nominee for presidency. —Star photo

## Last-minute efforts to create consensus in Opposition

By Moinuddin Naser

In a bid to create a consensus in the Opposition, leaders of Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami met Monday night in three separate meetings to work out strategies on the Presidential election.

The meeting between the Awami League and the Jatiya Party was going on till the writing of this report late last night.

The Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and the Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury led their respective sides in

the meeting. Earlier at around 9.30 pm Jatiya Party and Jamaat leaders held an exclusive meeting at the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party office at the Sangsad Bhaban.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Maulana Muttur Rahman Nizami, leader of the Jamaat Parliamentary Party, led their respective sides in the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by the NDP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, JSD leader Shahjahan Siraj, Islami Otkya Jote leader

Maulana Obaidul Haque.

Before the Jatiya Party-Jamaat meeting, the Jamaat leaders also held a meeting with the Awami League leaders.

During the meeting between the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat, the Jatiya Party was represented by Moudud Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Monirul Haque Chowdhury and others.

The Jamaat was represented by Maulana Abdus Sobhan, Sheikh Ansar Ali, Abul Ahsan Mujahid and  
 See Page 12 Col. 1

## Badrul calls Salam liar

By Staff Correspondent

Presidential candidate former Chief Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury yesterday blasted Secretary General of the BNP at a press conference, for what he called lying about the job offer by the Prime Minister himself which was reported in different newspapers.

Justice Chowdhury in his maiden press conference welcomed the journalists cordially, offering twigs of 'rajanigandha' to each.

But he flared up in a fit of agitation when asked to comment on Salam Talukdar's statement that he was not offered job by the Prime Minister.

"This is a lie. Who is Salam Talukdar? He was not present at that meeting. I do not feel like making any comment on his statement. Mattin Chowdhury was there and he did not give any rejoinder."

Justice Chowdhury also said that he did not see Salam Talukdar at his court during the last twenty years of his service as judge in the High Court and Supreme Court.

In his written statement Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury hoped that the people's representatives will vote for him in tomorrow's crucial presidential election as "a candidate of national consensus" to uphold democratic rights.

After the press conference Justice Chowdhury went to MP hostels at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar to seek votes. He also met the women MPs at the women MP hostel and sought vote.

The BNP MPs however appreciated his courage but said  
 See Page 12 Col. 3

## Shelter for all by 2000, hopes PM

The government would take effective steps to ensure shelter for the homeless and create living environment for all to fulfil the people's constitutional rights, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said Monday, reports UNB.

She was addressing the inaugural function of a seminar in observance of the World Habitat Day-1991 at the Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI), Mirpur.

World Habitat Day-1991 was observed in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the World this year's theme being "Shelter

and the Living Environment". Begum Zia said directive had already been issued to the concerned authorities to ensure improved habitat, secure housing, hygienic water supply and sewerage, electricity and roads to improve the living environment.

She stressed on expanding the civic amenities not only in urban areas but also in the districts, upazilas and unions to improve the habitat and living conditions for all.

The Prime Minister hoped that despite limited resources, the government  
 See Page 12 Col. 5

## UAE freezes Abedi's assets

ABU DHABI, Oct 7: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has frozen assets held here by the founder of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International and other BCCI officials, as prospects for the bank's liquidation grew, banking sources reported today, reports AFP.

They said all UAE banks had received letters from the central bank ordering them to take the action against Aga Hassan Abedi, a Pakistani.

The order targeted 18 other BCCI executives, still in custody in the UAE, and former BCCI treasurer Ziaduddin Akbar, according to the sources.

"The central bank's circular cited an order by the Justice Ministry," one source said. "It asked the banks to take the

necessary action to freeze those accounts and inform the Justice Ministry and the central bank within two weeks," he added.

Bankers said, they did not know how much money the 20 BCCI officials — all Pakistanis — had in the UAE, which groups Abu Dhabi, the largest shareholder in BCCI, and six other emirates.

"There is no way to know the size of these funds. But I don't think they keep much money here," one source said. But another banker suggested that Abedi and the other executives could have considerable sums here to avoid taxes at home.

"In Pakistan, America and many other countries, there is a tax on such deposits. In the UAE there is no such tax," he

said. "I will not be surprised if these BCCI people have substantial funds here."

Abu Dhabi owns 77 per cent  
 See Page 12 Col. 5



## Yugoslav planes bomb Croatian President's office

ZAGREB, Oct 7: Two Yugoslav Air Force planes bombed the offices of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman here today in the first raid on the Croatian capital, the Croatian Hina news agency said, reports AFP.

A huge cloud of smoke could be seen rising from the historic old quarter of Zagreb where the Croatian parliament and presidential offices are located and loud explosions were heard during the 3 pm (1400 GMT) raid.  
 According to Hina, the

Banski Dvori Palace where Tudjman has his offices was hit.

A resident of the area told AFP by telephone that windows in the parliament building had been shattered but it was unclear if the building itself had been hit.

The first raid by the Yugoslav Air Force on Zagreb's city center came just hours after General Andrija Raseta, a top Yugoslav Army General, threatened to launch a large-scale attack on the capital of

the breakaway republic. Vice-President Branko Kostic also said Monday that the Yugoslav army would use force to life a siege on army barracks in Croatia by Croatian forces.

Kostic, from the republic of Montenegro, said some 25,000 soldiers and their families have been trapped in barracks for more than two months and the army had decided to free them.

"We have decided to liberate them through force," the

official Tanjur news agency quoted Kostic as telling the parliament of the southern republic. "It is no longer a military question but a moral question."

Serbia and its allies seized control on October 3 of the collective federal presidency headed by Stipe Mesic, a Croat.

Yugoslav army troops fired four surface-to-surface missiles today against Croatian positions in the Croatian capital Zagreb, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjur reported.

Tanjur, citing military

sources in the town of Glina, about 60 kilometers (37 miles) south of Zagreb, said that the missiles were fired at two Croatian barracks, a Croatian National Guard base and a base for special units of the Croatian Interior Ministry.

The military sources did not say if the targets were hit or of what kind of missiles were used in the attacks on the capital of the breakaway republic.

Earlier report adds: The Soviet Union called for "unconditional observance" by

the Yugoslav federal army of the latest ceasefire in Yugoslavia, warning that a major escalation in attacks against Croatia appeared imminent, the official Tass news agency reported today.

A message transmitted overnight by the Soviet Ambassador in Belgrade to civilian and military authorities said Moscow had received information that the Yugoslav army was planning imminent attacks on key industrial centres and the Croatian capital Zagreb, according to Tass.

## China keen to cooperate, Lu reassures

China will always be keen to cooperate with Bangladesh in its all-round efforts to attain development and self-reliance, reports BSS.

The visiting Chinese Vice Minister for machinery and electricity Lu Yian Sun told this to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia when he called on her at her residence.

The Chinese Vice Minister who arrived in Dhaka to attend the foundation laying ceremony of 210 megawatt power station at Raizan, Chittagong expressed his hope that Bangladesh would prosper and attain self-reliance under the able leadership of Begum Zia.

Lu also expressed the gratitude of the Chinese people and government to Bangladesh for its help to China during the  
 See Page 12 Col. 8

## Nobel Medicine Prize goes to Germans

STOCKHOLM, Oct 7: German Cell Physiologists Erwin Neher and Bert Sakmann won the 1991 Nobel Prize in Physiology today for their discoveries concerning "the function of single ion channels in cells," reports Reuter.

The two researchers "contributed to the understanding of the cellular mechanisms underlying several diseases, including diabetes and cystic fibrosis", the Swedish Karolinska Institute said in its official citation.

Neher works at the Max-Planck-Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Goettingen, Germany. Sakmann works at the Department of Cell Physiology at the Max-Planck-Institute for Medical Research in Heidelberg, Germany.

## CPB for national democratic front

By Staff Correspondent  
 The Fifth Congress of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) on Monday unanimously adopted its political resolution with a partial amendment.

The political resolution was placed before the delegates of the Congress on Sunday.

The Congress delegates also passed six amendments to the party constitution till yesterday evening.

A total of 462 proposals on constitution amendments were earlier received by the central committee of which 436 were placed before the Congress excluding 26 common proposals. Discussions on the rest of the proposals continued till late last night.

The political resolution expressed the CPB's commit-  
 See Page 12 Col. 3

## Armed student demos demand violence-free campus

By DU Correspondent  
 Arch rivals Jaityatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (BCL) brandished arms in a show of strength and then held separate processions and rallies at the Dhaka University on Monday calling for a violence-free campus.

Panteky students ran to safety during the armed demonstration in front of Shamsunnahar Hall. Clash was however avoided.

Activists of both JCD and BCL (S-A) later brought out processions and held rallies accusing each others of creating terrorism on the DU cam-  
 See Page 12 Col. 2

## UNO gheraoed for food, work in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Oct 7: About five thousand people led by Anjad Hossain Talukdar, an Awami League MP, gheraoed the Ulipur Upazila Nirbahi Officer at his office yesterday demanding food, work and medical aid for the flood-affected people.

They also shouted slogans demanding launching of test relief operations and formation of all party relief committees.