

## Mixed reactions in Soviet community

By Staff Correspondent

There was a mixed reaction in the Soviet community in Dhaka over the changes that took place in the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) on Monday.

"I cannot give any assessment", said one Soviet citizen who could not suppress his feeling of uncertainty.

"We are obviously not in a pleasant mood", said another citizen.

There are around 200 Soviet citizens working in the Soviet embassy, the Trade Mission, the Soviet Cultural Centre, and some specialists working at the Ghorasal power plants, and an electric manufacturing plant in Chittagong.

A foreign office spokesman told The Daily Star that no contact had been established with the Bangladesh Embassy in Moscow since the reported changes.

Bangladesh was looking forward to an era of improved relations between the two

countries, following the Moscow visit of Foreign Minister Col (Retd) ASM Mustafizur Rahman in the second week of July.

It was the first Foreign Minister-level visit since 1974 when the then Foreign Minister of the Awami League government Dr Kamal Hossain visited the Soviet Union.

### Demonstrations in Moscow

MOSCOW, Aug 19: Special Soviet interior Ministry troops sealed off all access to Red Square after forcing a growing group of demonstrators to clear the area, witnesses said, reports AFP.

Several thousand demonstrators on Manezh Square outside the walls of the Kremlin used their own vehicles, buses and a crane to block the accesses to the square.

Demonstrators, waving Russian flags and portraits of the republic's President Boris Yeltsin, climbed onto the vehicles, stopping their advance.

"Yeltsin President", the crowd shouted, "Army look out."

The demonstration was called by the Democratic Russia Movement to protest against Gorbachev's ouster and gathered momentum after a column of troop transporters and trucks carrying soldiers attempted to pass.

Reuters adds: Some 5,000 people gathered outside the Russian Parliament Monday in response to radical leader Boris Yeltsin's appeal for public support.

### Yeltsin

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After Yeltsin climbed down from the tank, a young Lieutenant-General shouted to the crowd that the army was obeying its orders.

"But just because we are in uniform... doesn't mean that we can support any kind of measures taken against the people", he said to subdued cheers.

Demonstrators put yellow flowers in the barrels of the tank guns in scenes reminiscent of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968.

The driver of one armoured car emerged from its turret and accepted a cigarette from people gathering around.

The young soldier, clearly not a Muscovite but from the provinces of Russia, expressed surprise when told that Gorbachev had been overthrown.

"We got out orders this morning to come here and that's all I knew," he said.

An Afghan war veteran watching the swelling crowd of thousands outside the Russian parliament appeared pessimistic.

"The army will do as it is told. I did what I was sent to do when I was sent to Afghanistan," he said.

"People will be against what is happening but they will do nothing."



Tanks occupy the area near Spassky gate (L) entrance to the Kremlin and St Basil's Cathedral in Moscow's Red Square following President Gorbachev's removal Monday. — AFP photo

## Declaration of State of Emergency Committee Gorbachev's reforms have entered a blind alley

MOSCOW, Aug 19: The following are extracts from the English-language text of the address to the Soviet people from the newly-created federal State-of-Emergency Committee —

The text was reported in full by the Tass news agency, reports AFP.

Compatriots, Citizens of the Soviet Union,

We are addressing you at the grave, critical hour for the destinies of the motherland and our peoples. A mortal danger has come to loom large over our great motherland.

The policy of reforms, launched at Mikhail S Gorbachev's initiative and designed as a means to ensure the country's dynamic development and the democratization of social life has entered for several reasons a blind alley.

Lack of faith, apathy and despair have replaced the original enthusiasm and hopes.

Authorities at all levels have lost the population's trust. Politicking has replaced in public life concern for the fate of the motherland and the citizen.

Malicious outrage against all state institutes is being imposed. The country has in fact become ungovernable.

Having taken advantage of the granted liberties and encroaching upon the first sprouts of democracy, there

have emerged extremist forces that have embarked on the course towards liquidating the Soviet Union, ruining the state and seizing power at any cost.

The results of the nationwide referendum on the motherland's unity have been trampled upon.

Cynical speculations on national feelings are merely a smokescreen to satisfy ambitions.

Neither today's misfortunes of their peoples, nor their tomorrow worry political adventurers. In creating an atmosphere of moral and political terror and seeking to hide behind the shield of popular trust, they condemn and disrupt were established on the basis of far broader popular support which, besides, has passed the centuries-long test of history.

Today, those who are in fact working towards the overthrow of the constitutional system should be brought to account before mothers and fathers for the death of the hundreds of victims of inter-ethnic conflicts.

The fate of more than half a million refugees is on their conscience. They are to blame for the loss of tranquillity and the joy of living of tens of millions of Soviet people who only yesterday lived in a united family but today found themselves living as outcasts in their own home.

People should decide what

social system should exist, but attempts are being made to deprive them of this right.

Torrents of words and piles of declarations and promises only underline the scanty and meager nature of their practical deeds. The inflation of authority is destroying our state and society in a more frightening way than any other.

The power crisis has had catastrophic effects on the economy. The chaotic, spontaneous slide towards a market provoked an explosion of egoism — regional, departmental, group and personal.

The war of laws and encouragement of centrifugal tendencies spelled destruction of the integral national economic mechanism that has been shaping for decades. The result includes sharp drops in the living standards of the vast majority of the Soviet people, and the blossoming of profiteering and the shadow economy.

It is high time people were told the truth: If urgent and decisive measures are not adopted to stabilise the economy, hunger and another spiral of impoverishment are imminent in the near future, from which it is just a step from mass manifestations of spontaneous discontent with devastating consequences.

An offensive is underway on the rights of working people. The rights to work, education, health, housing and leisure are in jeopardy.

### All but nine newspapers banned

MOSCOW, Aug 19: The leaders of the coup Monday banned the publication of all but a few national newspapers.

A decree issued by the State Emergency Committee said only nine newspapers, all of them right-wing except for the liberal Izvestia, could be published until further notice.

The State of Emergency Committee issued a decree Monday saying that parliament, elected officials and political parties that fail to obey its orders will be suspended, reports AP.

The decree also banned all demonstrations and strikes that "hinder the normalization of the situation."

It ordered all "illegally-kept" firearms, explosives and military equipment be turned over to the authorities.

It said the KGB, Defense Ministry and Interior Ministry would enforce the decree, and a curfew could be imposed if necessary.

It also said that the committee would establish complete control over the mass media, through a special committee.

Prices of certain industrial goods and food products would be reduced and then frozen in a week's time, the decree said.

Troops with armoured cars surrounded the offices of the official Soviet news agency TASS Monday after the overthrow of Gorbachev, a journalist in the building said.

AFP says: The KGB has taken over the pro-reform Moscow city radio station.

## World leaders

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German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the West's top supporter of Gorbachev, canceled his Austrian vacation Monday and rushed back to the capital to deal with the fallout of the Soviet President's ouster.

A German television report said the situation in Moscow was "particularly sensitive for the Germans because there are still 3,30,000 Soviet soldiers based in Eastern Germany."

Bonn's Foreign Ministry also declined to comment. A spokesman there said Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had cancelled a planned day trip to East Germany to remain in Bonn.

NATO said today the removal of President Gorbachev from power could put an end to reform in the Soviet Union and decided to call an emergency meeting of Foreign Ministers.

NATO sources said ambassadors from the 16 nations of the western alliances agreed in Brussels to call an emergency meeting of foreign ministers this week.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) sources said the Foreign Ministers would meet on Tuesday or Wednesday, but final detail had still to be arranged.

NATO had pinned its hopes for peaceful reform in the Soviet Union on Gorbachev after he opened the road to drastic arms cuts and allowed the overthrow of communism in Eastern Europe — revolutions which led to the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and brought an end to the Cold War.

Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said the reports were "very worrying" and visiting Baltic leaders, including the Estonian Prime Minister, could remain in Sweden if needed.

Estonian officials said Soviet ships blockaded the harbour of their capital, Tallinn, on

Monday after the announcement of Gorbachev's ouster.

Arthur Hartman, US Ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1981-1987, told BBC television he didn't think the hard-liners would ultimately succeed but it was a setback for reforms.

"The really dangerous situation is that there is a large part of the Soviet army still sitting in Germany," he said.

"If they start cracking down now, if people begin to get shot on the streets of Lithuania, it does call into question all of the agreements we have signed and all of the hopes we have had for cooperation," Hartman said.

The official Xinhua news agency was swift and exhaustive in reporting developments in the Soviet Union as they were announced earlier Monday by the Soviet news agency Tass.

The Japanese Cabinet convened an emergency meeting Monday evening, and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said he was seeking clarification from his embassy in Moscow.

Philippine President Corason Aquino, who has weathered seven attempted coups herself, said she viewed events in the Soviet Union with "grave concern."

India, which recently renewed a 20-year friendship and cooperation treaty with the Soviet Union, said today the political changes in Moscow would not affect Indo-Soviet ties. It said however New Delhi was "closely watching" the situation in Moscow following the replacement of President Mikhail Gorbachev by Vice-President Gennady Yanayev.

Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, today said the developments in the Soviet Union was a warning of all those who want to bring about change.

## Cautious reaction

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In his preliminary reaction to the fall of Gorbachev, he said that by introducing 'Perestroika' and 'Glasnost' policy, Gorbachev virtually turned the Soviet Communist Party into a social-democratic party.

Giving an instant reaction to the change in the statecraft of the Soviet Union Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) said that this was a change in the centre of power but nothing had yet been reported whether there was any ideological change. "We are waiting for further information," he added.

Termining the steps taken by Gorbachev as counter-revolutionary for the total socialist movement the BSD leader said that he abandoned the path of socialism and tried to follow capitalism.

The promises to the Soviet people made by Gorbachev during his counter-revolutionary steps proved to be futile, he said adding that the situation in the Soviet Union became intolerable.

He said that under the leadership of Gorbachev the whole country plunged into uncertainty, regional conflicts, processes of disintegration, inflation, unemployment and capitalist vices were spreading.

The BSD leader said that the vested interest quarters had also penetrated the state caucus.

He said that the steps taken by Gorbachev also subdued the patriotism of the people of the Soviet Union as it lost its image as a superpower in the world politics.

Leader of Krishak Samik Samajbadal Dal Nirmol Sent said that Gorbachev was the victim of his own creation.

He said that the forces he unleashed could not be contained and he failed to realise that phenomenon. "It is better to reserve further comment", he said.

UNB reports: Mizanur

Rahman Chowdhury, Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party said, "We have to wait and see how the new government enunciates its state policy."

"This is unprecedented in the history of the Soviet Union", said JSD (Inu) leader Hasanul Huq Inu commenting on declaration of the state of emergency which ousted Gorbachev.

But this is an internal affair of that country, he said, adding, "We have to wait for its impact on global politics."

Inu hoped the people and the Communist Party of Soviet Union would maintain their policy of international cooperation and lead the country towards peace and progress.

"It's like going from light to darkness ..... the coup d'etat has taken away the rights and liberty of the Soviet people", said Suranjit Sengupta, MP and leader of Ganotantri Party.

He said no people having respect for democracy will support the unconstitutional, undemocratic and uncivilised takeover. "This is a violation of human rights as well as freedom and liberty."

Giving his reaction to the changeover in the Soviet Union, Awami League leader Abdur Razzak said, "This was obvious as Gorbachev had failed to fulfill his commitment to the people to change the country's economic and political structure."

He (Gorbachev) should not have switched over to the sudden reforms, said Razzak, who is also a member of parliament.

"This is nothing surprising", said Badruddin Umar, scholar and political thinker. "This is the result of Gorbachev's total surrender to the United States and other western countries."

The manner in which Gorbachev had acted enraged many hurt by his policies," Umar said adding that those forces, backed by the military, ousted him.

## The Midnight File

### India, Pakistan to solve problems peacefully

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: India and Pakistan renewed their willingness today to peacefully solve their bilateral problems as Islamabad said there was an "urgent need for a serious and constructive dialogue" for the purpose. The views were exchanged when Shahryar Khan, Pakistan Foreign Secretary and Special Envoy of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, met with Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and Foreign Minister Mahavish Singh Solanki here separately, reports AFP.

### Y'slav army unit take up combat positions

BELGRADE, Aug 18: Yugoslav army units took up combat positions today in a new conflict zone in Croatia despite a warning from the leadership of the rebel republic that fresh attacks would be repelled. The army, whose jets strafed Croatian positions in the area of western Slavonia on Saturday, dug in in a woodland near Stara Gradiska after rolling into the republic from neighbouring Bosnia, eyewitnesses said, reports Reuter.

### Gunmen kill murder suspects

ISLAMABAD, Aug 19: Gunmen opened fire outside a court in northeast Pakistan as 10 murder suspects were being led out, killing at least 12 people. Seven of the accused, a three policemen and two onlookers died in the blaze of gunfire outside the special terrorist court in the Punjab city of Gujranwala, Pakistan Press International (PPI) reported, says Reuter.

## Private jute mill owners' SOS to govt

Star Economic Report

The private sector jute mills have sent an SOS to the government, calling for effective corrective steps to help them overcome the adverse effects caused by the recent Indian moves to boost its exports of jute goods.

Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA), representing the jute mills in the private sector, fears that all the operational units in the sector will be closed down within a week's time without urgent government steps to 'save' the industry from an extremely uneven competition from India.

The association has apprised Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia, the Finance and Planning Minister, the State Minister for Jute and the senior government officials about the adverse impact of the recent Indian steps on the Bangladesh jute industry.

The BJMA pointed out that devaluation of the Indian currency by about 24 per cent in last two months and the recent introduction of Export Replenishment Permit (ERP) at 30 per cent of total export earnings would lower the export prices of Indian jute goods and adversely affect Bangladesh jute industry. The ERP in India is also saleable at a premium between 40 per cent and 50 per cent, it noted in its SOS message.

The BJMA sources said that the recent withdraw of the Minimum Export Price (MEP) and decontrol of export prices for jute products would not help solve the problems.

Explaining the reasons, the sources said that costs of production were higher than the MEP for "a variety of factors" like high costs of labour, power, and bank rates which were not under the control of the jute mills.

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### DUVC

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He said that violent incidents were taking place on campus since long and it would take time to remove terrorism from the campus.

That's why the University authorities should reopen the University without waiting for any guarantee, he added.

The Vice-Chancellor reportedly said that he was under pressure from some quarters regarding all these matters.

The DUEAC earlier threatened the university authorities to go for a greater action programme if the authorities failed to make an announcement on the reopening date by August 19.

## Bangladesh Shilpa Bank

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2. The following persons are the directors of the company:

(i) Major Rafique Hasan Farook (Rtd.), (ii) Mrs. Zeenat Rehana, and (iii) Mrs. Zarina Begum.

3. Schedule of Property:

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4. Tender schedule containing the details of the assets and properties (along with the list of machinery) may be obtained from the Law Department BSB, Head Office, Dhaka on cash payment of Tk. 250/- (Taka two hundred fifty) only (Non-refundable).

5. Intending tenderers/buyers may drop their tenders/offers in sealed cover along with earnest money (refundable) 5% of the quoted value in Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank in the tender box kept at the BSB Head Office on 25-9-91 at 12:00 Noon.

6. On acceptance of offer, the successful bidders/tenderers shall have to deposit 50% of the bid or tendered money within 7 (seven) days and the balance within 30 (thirty) days from the date of acceptance of tender. In case of failure in making payment of the bid amount within stipulated time, the earnest money or the tender money (as the case may be) shall be forfeited and the mortgaged property may be resold.

7. Tenders will be opened on 25.9.91 at 12.30 P.M. at the Law Department, BSB, Head Office in presence of the tenderers (if any). For further information, if any, the undersigned may be contacted. Bidders may purchase the above mentioned movable and immovable property in a lot or separately.

8. The BSB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender/offers without showing any reason.

Law Department,  
Phone: 236682

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