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Inside Today Article

With the removal of Mikhail Gorbachev from the presidency of the Soviet Union many will be looking back on other dramatic changes in Kremlin. One such change was the downfall of Khrushchev in 1964
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While Russians love vodka, Gorbachev liked endless talk
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Focus on Soviet Union

It's a coup to install Stalinist dictatorship, says Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi
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Dhaka Day by Day

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Business

Oil prices surged amid fears that production would be interrupted in the Soviet Union, world's number one crude oil exporter
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NEWS BRIEFS

Soviet envoy calls on Mostafiz

By Staff Correspondent
 Yuri K Alexeev, the Soviet Ambassador in Bangladesh called on Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman Tuesday afternoon at his office. The Soviet Ambassador briefed the Foreign Minister about the political developments that took place in Soviet Union Monday, it is reliably learnt.

Code of conduct for Pak press

ISLAMABAD, Aug 20: The Pakistan Government may introduce shortly a code of conduct for the press to check the tendency to publish "baseless" reports, an aide to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said in an interview published today, reports AFP.

NATO meet on USSR today

BRUSSELS, Aug 20: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Foreign Ministers will hold a special meeting on the Soviet situation here tomorrow at 2.30 pm (1230 GMT).

Bush backs Yeltsin to reinstate Gorbachev: Curfew follows massive demonstration in Moscow



LEFT: Thousands of citizens march along one of the main thoroughfares of Leningrad Tuesday following a call by the city's reformist mayor to support a general strike called by Yeltsin. RIGHT: A man throws himself under a Soviet army tank driving in front of the Russian Federation building in Moscow on Monday following the coup against Gorbachev. The man was pulled away unharmed.



Soviet troops, tanks close in on Russian parliament

UNDATED, Aug 20: Russian President Boris Yeltsin told British Prime Minister John Major today that a curfew had been imposed in Moscow and tanks were rolling towards his parliamentary headquarters, report Agencies.
 Yeltsin spoke by telephone with Major, who said: "He told me he believed he had not very much time left."
 Major said Yeltsin broke off the telephone conversation, saying he could hear Soviet tanks bearing down on the Russian parliament in Moscow.
 Little before Yeltsin called Major, Moscow's Deputy Mayor Sergei Stankevich warned that Soviet troops were about to attack the Russian parliament building and called on women and children to evacuate the premises.
 In an announcement car-

ried by loudspeakers, Stankevich called on "all women and children to leave the building within five or 10 minutes, to ease the minds of those who have decided to defend" the parliament.
 Deputies inside the parliament said Soviet troops had demanded that barricades placed around the white marble building on the Moscow River be removed, said the radio station, Moscow Echo.
 Thousands of demonstrators were still at the building when the warnings were given, and they were told to divide into groups of 100, the radio station said.
 Soviet troops also demanded that barricades be removed from around the Parliament building or else they would attack, the radio station reported.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has been inside the building since the coup Monday that toppled Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.
MOSCOW, Aug 20: Soviet Acting President Gennady Yanayev today told Russian leader Boris Yeltsin that he would cancel all orders to attack the Russian parliament building, the parliament's press service said, reports AFP late last night.
MOSCOW, Aug 20: Gennady Yanayev, Acting Soviet head of state since the overthrow of Gorbachev, today declared all decrees by Russian President Boris Yeltsin invalid and demanded obedience to the ruling "emergency committee", according to a late night Reuters report.
 President George Bush said today he assured Yeltsin in a phone call of U S support for restoring toppled Soviet President Gorbachev to power.
 At a news conference, Bush also said he had tried to contact Gorbachev by telephone today but was unable to get

through to him.
 Denouncing the overthrow of Gorbachev on Monday as "an illegal coup" by hardline communists, Bush said the soviet continued U S support for his goal for the restoration of Gorbachev as the constitutionally chosen leader," Bush told reporters after swearing in Robert Strauss as the new American Ambassador to the Soviet Union.
 He said Yeltsin was encouraged by the support of the Soviet people "and their determination in the face of these trying circumstances."
 Bush said Gorbachev's status was unclear. The coup leaders said they had taken over because of Gorbachev's health, but Bush clearly doubted that claim.
 "I twice tried to reach him by phone, including within the last hour, but so far have been unsuccessful," Bush said. "We continue to closely monitor the situation."
 Speaking in a solemn tone, Bush said the soviet

Union would not have normal relations with the United States, nor get the Western assistance it needs until the coup ends.
 "I have this morning spoken with Boris Yeltsin, the freely elected leader of the Russian Republic. I assured Yeltsin of

Bush said British Prime Minister John Major had tried as well to contact Gorbachev and failed, Gorbachev, Bush said, "is being prevented from seeing people."
 He called the claim by Acting Soviet President Gennady Yanayev of Gorbachev having health problems as an "old canard" an excuse to overthrow him.
 He said Yeltsin "told me he feels that if this medical claim has any validity to it, that the World Health Organisation should see and examine Gorbachev. Yeltsin doesn't believe it and I must tell you I don't believe."
 "We will continue to stand with Gorbachev as Yeltsin is doing," he said.
 The President said that in a flurry of telephone calls to

Implementation involves Tk 950 crore New pay scales for govt employees announced

By Moazzem Hossain
 The maximum will be Taka 10,000. The new allowances, other than the basic pay, will be effective from next June.
 The Government announced the decision around midnight Tuesday after about a four-hour long meeting with the leaders of the employees organisations.
 The Government side was represented at the meeting by Local Government Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Health Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf, State Minister for Labour Rafiqul Islam Miah and State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.
 The leaders of Government Employees Solidarity Council and the Employees Sangram Parishad and others attended the meeting as representatives of the employees.
 After long discussions, the employees leaders agreed to accept the new pay scales of-

Implementation of the new pay scales for about seven lakh government employees will directly involve an additional annual revenue expenditure of 450 crore in fiscal 1991-92. Taka 500 crore more will be required in next fiscal 1992-93.
 The government has decided for a two-year phased implementation of the new pay scales. The full implementation will involve Taka 950 crore as direct budgetary cost of the government. The scales will be implemented from July 1991. Some benefits under the scales will be staggered and effective from July next.
 The Council of Ministers in its meeting early this week approved the new pay scales for the government employees.
 The new pay scales, which will be effective from July 1 this year, provide a minimum basic pay of Taka 900 while

ferred by the Government. They also accepted the government proposed new office timing.
New office timings
 Government has reached the office timing for the government, semi-government and autonomous bodies, reports UNB.
 According to the new timing announced late last night, the offices will start from 8 am and continue till 2-30 pm, without any break from Saturday to Thursday.
 The new timings will be effective from August 24 (Saturday).
 However, the timings for district and mufassil offices will remain fixed from 10 am to 5 pm from Saturday to Wednesday, and upto 2 pm on Thursday.

Hot spell to continue for 3 more days

Country's current hot spell may continue for another two to three days, according to a Met Office expert night, reports UNB.
 The spell is the outcome of low pressure that formed over Central Bay and the adjoining North-East Bay, now moving from east to west. Another low pressure area also lies over Bihar, West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh.
 The scorching heat is the result of both these lows on land and sea which caused the wind to be practically calm and a clear and more or less cloudless sky all over Bangladesh.
 The spell is likely to continue for another two to three days and after that the low pressure over sea may turn into a monsoon depression and move west and north-westerly direction, he added.
 Dhaka experienced 36.2 degree Celsius on Tuesday, the highest temperature the city recorded to far this year.
 Dhaka had the maximum of 35.5 degree Celsius on August 19 last year.

Fresh popularity test for BNP, AL Nominations for bye-elections filed

Star Special
 With the filing of nomination papers Tuesday for the ensuing bye-elections to 11 Parliament seats the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Awami League are set to face a fresh popularity test.
 The bye-elections will be held on September 11. The parliamentary polls were held on February 27.
 Ten out of eleven seats were vacated by BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, ousted President Ershad, Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed and former BAKSAL leader now of the AL, Abdur Razzak, who were elected from more than one seat.
 Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and former President H M Ershad vacated four seats each while Tofael Ahmed and Abdur Razzak vacated one seat each.
 One seat fell vacant following the death of Awami League MP, Elias Ahmed Chowdhury.
 The elections in these seats were due in the first week of

June. The political parties decided in Parliament to defer the bye-elections by three months in view of the April 29 cyclone.
 The Jatiya Party will contest all the four seats vacated by Ershad in Rangpur, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Shah Moazzem Hossain, Acting President and General Secretary respectively of the JP are contesting from Rangpur.
 BNP sources told The Daily Star that the party would muster all its mite to retain the four seats vacated by Begum Khaleda Zia (two in Dhaka city and one each in Bogra and Chittagong).
 Besides, the party expects to put up a fight for two to three seats in Rangpur and Faridpur. The Awami League will vie for all the three seats vacated by its party members. Besides, the AL is expected to gain in some BNP pockets including one in the city and the

EC, Australia, Japan suspend assistance

LONDON, Aug 20: The European Community on Tuesday joined nations in suspending Soviet aid programmes, and NATO said military reductions could be slowed or halted if the new Kremlin regime reneges on troop withdrawal promises, reports Agencies.
 In financial markets Tuesday, stocks stabilised on most major exchanges after plunging when President Mikhail S Gorbachev was ousted Monday. The dollar and gold, popular investments in time of crisis, lost some

ground.
 Czechoslovakia restricted travel by Soviets for fear of a wave of Soviet refugees fleeing the new regime, the official CTX news agency reported.
 The 12-nation EC, meeting in The Hague, suspended 1.2 billion dollars in economic aid and cooperation with the Soviet Union, and condemned the coup.
 The United States and Australia had already frozen their aid to Moscow.
 Japan joined the growing ranks of Western governments today to threaten the Soviet

Union with economic sanctions in the wake of the overthrow of President Gorbachev.
 Chancellor Helmut Kohl wants Gorbachev to be restored as Soviet President, government spokesman Norbert Schaefer said today.
 Germany insists that the Soviet Union uphold its commitments under the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which enshrine democracy as the only form of government, as well as the rule of law and freedom of expression, he said.
 The EC also demanded

Gorbachev's reinstatement and called his ouster a "flagrant violation" of international treaties.
 The 12 EC foreign ministers called for an emergency summit meeting of European Community heads of state Friday to discuss the coup, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek said.
 The EC gave the Dutch Foreign Minister a mandate to seek information on Gorbachev's safety and wellbeing. The Dutch now hold the rotating EC presidency.
 An EC statement said the

Soviet Union must honour existing treaties on arms control, human rights and the withdrawal of 300,000 remaining Soviet troops from Poland and eastern Germany, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said.
 Manfred Woerner, the NATO Secretary-General, suggested the alliance's troop reduction plans will be affected by Soviet decisions.
 At a hastily scheduled meeting Wednesday, NATO foreign Ministers were expected to call on the new power brokers in Moscow not to slide back in a Cold War era of confronta-

tion, officials said.
 There was alarm in former Communist Eastern Europe, where leaders feared the change could lead to renewed Soviet influence.
 Australia froze the last 62 million dollars of the Soviet Union's 390 million dollars line of credit.
 In Budapest, Hungary, Pope John Paul II today warmly praised Gorbachev and said he was praying that the Soviet Union be "spared further tragedy." John Paul met with Gorbachev in 1989 and 1990,

VCs demand assurance of violence-free campus

By DU Correspondent
 Bangladesh Council of Universities Tuesday stressed the need for immediate reopening of all closed universities and demanded assurance of violence-free campuses from the government, political parties and student organisations.
 The Council at an emergency meeting said such assurances were necessary to create academic atmosphere on the campuses and to ensure that the institutions would not be closed again after reopening. They should give full security to the Vice-Chancellors and all concerned in the universities in performing normal activities, the meeting said.
 The meeting, presided over by Dr Sadaruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the Council and Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal University in Sylhet
 See Page 12 Col. 6

Shahabuddin addresses nation today

By Staff Correspondent
 Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will address the nation over radio and television today (Wednesday) at 7.30 pm.
 According to sources in President's Secretariat the Acting President is likely to appeal to the people to make the referendum a success.
 The President has called a referendum whether he should give assent to the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill providing for switching over to parliamentary form of government. The Parliament passed the bill unanimously on August 7.
 The Election Commission set the date for referendum on September 15 next.
 After the President's address to the nation today, the government will start official campaign and the ruling party will mobilise people to take part in referendum.

No rule of law without trial of Mujib killing, says Hasina

TUNGIPARA (Gopalganj), Aug 20: Sheikh Hasina Tuesday warned any delay on the part of government with the passage of Indemnity (Repeal) Bill would be retaliated with a greater movement, reports UNB.
 "Without trail of the killing, the rule of law can never be established and without bringing in the rule of law, democracy cannot be established," she said.
 The Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition, who is on a six-day tour of her home district, was addressing as chief guest at the freshers
 See Page 12 Col. 5

Ershad sick, hearing put off till Aug 25

By Staff Correspondent
 Hearing in Ershad's wealth amassing case, now being held at a special court, has been adjourned till August 25 due to illness of the accused.
 The civil surgeon, who examined Ershad said he was suffering from secondary infection and viral fever and hence could not attend the court.
 Prosecution counsel Attorney General Aminul Haque however argued that the case
 See Page 12 Col. 6

US visa under OP-1 Programme suspended

By Asiuzzaman
 The United States has stopped issuing visas to Bangladeshis under OP-1 Immigration Programme from Monday, a US embassy source said Tuesday.
 The source who did not want to be quoted said over telephone that the embassy received instruction from Washington to suspend the programme.
 So far about 6,500 visas have been issued from Dhaka, under the OP-1 programme,
 See Page 12 Col. 6