

# Jamaat threatens to quit alliance led by Sharif

LAHORE, Aug 27: The fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) party has threatened to quit Pakistan's ruling alliance led by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, citing differences over the government's policies, reports AFP.

The party's chief, Senator Gazi Hussain Ahmed, told a public meeting here late Monday the JI would review its links with the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) if Sharif failed to meet its demands within a couple of months.

"We would not like to travel

in a sinking boat," said Ahmed, adding his party would not tolerate any bargaining on Kashmir, Afghanistan, Palestine and the country's nuclear programme.

Ahmed demanded that the government make a constitutional amendment to ensure supremacy of the Sharia in Pakistan.

JI, which celebrated its 50th founding day Monday, wants the government to aid the Muslim uprising in Indian-administered Kashmir and also stands for a Mujahideen military victory in Afghanistan.

Strongly critical of US "pressures" against Pakistan's nuclear programme, JI advocates a tough line rejecting any compromise to secure aid from the United States, which has suspended about half a billion dollars in economic and military assistance.

Jamaat also opposes Sharif's alliance in the southern province of Sindh with the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), a group representing Urdu-speaking settlers, as well as the proposed inclusion of left-wing Awami National Party (ANP) in the cabinet.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited the Pangu Hospital on Tuesday to see Manir Hossain Kazal, Vice President of City College under treatment there following a road accident. —PID photo

## Truck procession demands reduction in fuel prices

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity (BSPS) on Tuesday organised a procession of buses, trucks, minibuses, tank-lorries and auto-tempos carrying slogan chanting transport workers in the city to press home its 19-point demand including reduction of fuel prices.

Several hundred vehicles made up the procession which started from Manik Miah Avenue and ended at Press Club where the Association leaders held a brief rally.

President of the BSPS Alhaj A K Jainul Abedin and Secretary General Ashraf Khan speaking at the rally urged the government to accept its demands by September 5. If it was not done they said that the Association would go for further programmes.

Later the leaders handed over a memorandum to the Communications Minister. Meanwhile, a BSPP press release said that the Communication Minister assured resolving the problems through discussions within a week.

## BNP bars

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making his election free from any controversy.

The Acting President accepted his resignation.

Replying to a question on giving equal opportunities to the candidates of all parties, State Minister for Information Nurul Huda, who was present, said that the government media was ensuring due coverage to the opposition. He also gave some instances.

State Minister for Food Barrister Nazmul Huda also attended the press conference.

## Tin Bigha handover

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"These people must have gone there due to some mistakes and misgivings. Now that we have an elected government and since all three members of Parliament from Chittagong Hill Tracts belong to the opposition their problem can be reflected inside parliament as well as out side," he said.

Solanki said that on the issue of tribal refugees Bangladesh governments approach was constructive and hoped that it would soon be possible for them to return to their homeland.

Mostafizur Rahman said that only about 80 kilometers of land boundary remained to be demarcated. As soon as Tin Bigha is handed over demarcation will almost be completed.

Mostafizur Rahman said Bangladesh would like to review negotiations on delimitation of maritime boundary at the earliest possible time. A proposal in this regard will be sent to the Indian side in due course and the question of joint survey of Talpatti island will also be taken up, he added.

Referring to the Ganges water issue, Bangladesh Foreign Minister said, as the dry season is approaching it has become urgent to reach a mutually agreed basis for sharing. This also applied for Teesta. We have an open mind and are ready to discuss the issue. We can take a look at the other rivers also. The important thing is that we have to bring political will to bear upon the question of sharing of river waters.

Solanki said some issues might be solved right now and some might be solved later which new issues might crop up. "This is how it goes on," Solanki added.

The first full day of Bangladesh Foreign Minister's four-day visit yielded agreements on an Indian line of credit and the avoidance of

double taxation, officials said. India will give Dhaka a 11.5 million dollar credit facility to buy such items as machinery for jute, sugar and paper mills and cement plants, while the double taxation agreement would mainly help shipping companies and airlines.

Rahman also paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, and called at today's meetings for expanding economic relations between the two neighbours, officials said.

The call was reciprocated by Solanki, who said greater economic interaction was necessary because "economic imperatives are altering political perceptions" in a changing world.

Indian Foreign Minister expressed the hope that trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh would receive greater fillip in the days ahead. He said it was necessary to increase exports from Bangladesh to India.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister welcomed the idea and said if India could also import tea from Bangladesh it would help in bridging the imbalance.

The two sides agreed to hold further talks to work out an agreement on the sharing of Ganges waters, and decided to summon the next meeting of a Joint Economic Commission by year's end.

Rahman's trip here marks the first political contact between India and Bangladesh after recent changes of government in the two countries.

The two foreign ministers also decided to initiate annual consultations at the level of Foreign Secretary's between the two countries. It was also decided to hold the next meeting of the Joint Economic Commission which is co-chaired by the two Foreign Ministers in Dhaka some time in December, this year.

## 7 killed in gunfire along Indo-Pak border

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: Indian troops shot and killed at least five Kashmiri militants who tried to sneak into India under covering gunfire by Pakistani troops at the border, the government said Tuesday, reports AP.

A government spokesman said two Indian soldiers were killed in the firing Monday at the border in Kirni village of the northern state of Jammu-Kashmir. Kirni is about 640 kilometers (395 miles) northwest of New Delhi.

"There was firing from the Pakistani post on our post... apparently to give covering fire to some militants who were crossing the border," said chief government spokesman Ramamohan Rao.

Indian troops fired back

and killed "five to six militants while they were trying to run back to the Pakistani post. From our side our officer and one jawan (soldier) were killed," he said.

India regularly accuses Pakistan of training and arming Islamic militants who are fighting for the independence from predominantly Hindu India.

Pakistan denies the charge, but militants in Kashmir admit they are trained and armed in camps located in Pakistan.

"The effort of the militants is to infiltrate wherever possible," Rao said.

Both India and Pakistan claim Kashmir, which has been at the center of a four-decade old dispute.

## Water transport

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sufferings of innumerable passengers and dislocation in the movement of cargo.

The owners will face legal action in the event of continuing the illegal strike, the Press Note said.

A spokesman of Bangladesh Inland Water Passengers Carrier Association (BIWTPCA) Shajahal Sikder told The Daily Star that they have now revised their demand. They want reduction in price of fuel to such a level which would enable them to operate vessels without loss. Sikder called upon the government to discuss the problem and resolve it amicably.

"Technically we are not on strike but unable to operate our transports as almost every one of us are groaning under the heavy burden of fuel price hike," Sikder said.

Citing an example he said that for every round trip between Dhaka and Barisal a motor launch sustains a loss of about Tk 7,000.

## Ctg port

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lowances.

Meanwhile the Combined Bargaining Agents (CBA) leaders held a meeting with the Port authorities for the implementation of their demands. But the meeting failed. As a result they have stuck to their programme of abstention. Port Employees Union sources said.

## Educate people

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Justice Rouf described the role of newspapers as extremely important in holding the referendum on September 15 in a fair and disciplined manner.

While admiring the role of newspapers in strengthening the base of democracy during the February 27 Jatiya Sangsad elections, the Chief Election Commissioner hoped that the newspapers would also adopt a similar role this time.

Highlighting various aspects of the upcoming referendum, Justice Rouf said that the Election Commission was undertaking special publicity drives to inform and educate the people about its importance.

## Students meet teachers for DU reopening

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University Education Action Committee (DUEAC) met the leaders of Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) on Tuesday and urged them to make efforts to reopen the university.

The DUEAC is a recently formed forum of general students of this university demanding its reopening.

The DUTA leaders assured them of their all out effort to reopen the university.

Dr. Hasna Baru, Dr. Shahadat Ali and Dr. Arefin Siddique, Acting President, General Secretary and Joint Secretary respectively of DUTA were present at the meeting.

## Khaleda visits house of City College GS killed in road mishap

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Tuesday visited the Elephant Road residence of Kamrul Hasan Mridha, General Secretary of City College Students' Union, who was killed in a road accident on Saturday night, reports BSS.

She expressed her profound grief and sorrow at the death of Mridha to the father and sisters-in-laws of the deceased.

Student leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were present.

Begum Zia also visited the Pangu Hospital to see the Vice President of City College Students' Union Manir Hossain Kazal who is undergoing treatment there following the road accident on Saturday.

State Minister for Food Barrister Nazmul Huda also attended the press conference.



AL chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a group of WASA employees who joined the party in the city yesterday. —Star photo

## Hasina

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with the prestige of the nation," she said.

Awami League, as the organisation of masses, can not remain a mute spectator amid chaos, unrest and discipline now sweeping the country in different sectors," Hasina said.

The Awami League Chief who had an extensive tour to remote areas in Gopalganj and Madaripur districts recently said that the villagers were leading a very miserable life due to price-hike and the law and order problem.

Killing, hijack and dacoity have become an everyday affair in rural areas, she added.

A party press release said 25 leaders and more than 1000 workers and employees of Dhaka WASA Srantik-Karmachari Union led by its President Abdul Karim and General Secretary Mia Mohd Jahangir Alam joined the Awami League-backed Jatiya Srantik League Tuesday.

Awami League leaders Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Momtaz Hossain, Abdul Mannan and Akhtaruzzaman were present.

## Students meet teachers for DU reopening

By DU Correspondent

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Syndicate meeting held Tuesday afternoon did not discuss anything about reopening of the university. It was a routine meeting, according to a Syndicate member.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) the student wing of CPB decided to boycott the meeting of Dhaka University Academic Atmosphere Council (DUAAC) scheduled to be held today (Wednesday).

Nastruddoza and Ruhin Hossain Prince, President and General Secretary respectively of BCU in a statement on Tuesday termed the holding of the DUAAC meeting at this moment as 'illogical and said that the previous meetings of the body had taken up various decisions which were not implemented.

## DCCI

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wages. While expressing satisfaction over the return to normalcy in government following the withdrawal of the action programme by the striking employees, Mahbubur Rahman noted 'democracy and anarchy cannot go together.'

The government, he said, should remain firm and not retract its announced policies. The government should hold discussions and dialogues well in advance of taking a decision. The decision once taken, it should not waver," he added.

The DCCI President observed that direct and indirect costs of the enhanced pay and allowances for the government employees would be much more than what was indicated by their impact on the revenue budget.

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## The Midnight File

### KGB seized control of communications during coup

MOSCOW, Aug 27: The KGB seized control of President Mikhail Gorbachev's "strategic communications network" and denied him any contact with the outside world, during last week's failed hardline coup. Recounting his detention at Foros in the Crimea, he said, "A special KGB group came to neutralise the presidential communications system and they did this, strategic communications network included, because even that was under KGB guard," Gorbachev told parliament here today, reports AFP.

### Coup leaders may face death penalty

MOSCOW, Aug 27: Leaders of last week's attempt to overthrow President Mikhail Gorbachev are being charged with "betrayal of the motherland" and may face the death penalty, the official Soviet news agency Tass said today. Members of the emergency committee behind the failed coup and others accused of involvement were being charged under Article 64 of the Russian Federation's Criminal Code, it said, reports Reuter.

### Kravchuk quits Communist Party

KIEV (USSR), Aug 27: Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk said Tuesday he was quitting the Communist Party. Kravchuk, a former chief of the Ukrainian Communist Party and the republic's current president, said he made his decision on Aug 19, the day that a failed coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev began, reports AP.

### Breakthrough in Afghan impasse likely

ISLAMABAD, Aug 27: A senior-ranking official said Tuesday "important developments" could hasten an end to the 13-year-old war between the Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan and the Muslim guerrillas. Akram Zaki, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Pakistan's chief foreign policy spokesman, said the failure of Soviet hard-liners to oust President Mikhail Gorbachev could eliminate a barrier to a political settlement, reports AP.

### 600 rockets fired at Croatian towns

VUKOVAR, Aug 27: Heavy fighting around the towns of Vukovar and Borovo Naselje in Croatia's eastern Slavonia region left one person dead and several injured. Yugoslav federal army troops had fired more than 600 rockets at the two towns since 6.00 am (0400 GMT) in their continuing battle against nationalist Croat forces, a Croatian Guard officer told AFP at the scene.

### Rains claim 57 in India

NEW DELHI, Aug 27: Torrential monsoon rains in north India have claimed at least 57 lives and inundated a large tracts of land in villages, reports AP.

## Jute price

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The notification said Bangladesh Bank would immediately report to the Monitoring Cell of the Jute Ministry if found certain grade of jute registered for sale at unusual price. A copy of daily sales registration will be forwarded to the Monitoring Cell.

It further said anyone found registered foreign sales of jute at unusual price may come under the mischief of the Jute Ordinance 1962.

The export price restriction imposed in 1962 was

## Zardari

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of-centre Pakistan People's Party have been arrested in connection with Junejo's slaying.

Ms Bhutto condemned the killing and denied any link with her Pakistan People's Party.

Zardari has been blamed by many, including some of Ms. Bhutto's supporters for the downfall of her government after only 20 months in office.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed Ms Bhutto and her administration in August 1990, charging it was corrupt, inept and incapable of change.

Ms. Bhutto is facing eight charges of corruption and abuse of power before special one-judge tribunals. If convicted on any charge, she could be barred from politics for seven years.

## PDB employees

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tage of self-billing system," said Hasan.

Asked why they were opposed to DESA, the employees' leaders said terms of employment of the employees and workers to be transferred to DESA were still not clear and, therefore, they suffer from uncertainty.

Moreover, DESA is the start of privatisation of PDB which the employees and workers can never accept, they said.

DESA, a company to look after power transmission in the greater Dhaka, is due to be launched on September 1. PDB's 5 thousand employees and workers will work under the company.

World Bank suggested the move to reduce the unabated systems loss in power distribution.

DESA launching is a major condition to receipt of donors future assistance to the power sector of Bangladesh.

Apart from Jatiya Bidyt Federation, all the other four workers' and employees' unions have also announced wildcat strike to resist DESA.

The PDB employees and workers observed three-day strike May 16-18 this year to press for scrapping the DESA Ordinance.

waived after independence, but reimposed after a couple of years following widespread allegations of misuse of the facility.

Meanwhile, reports from mufassil areas say jute was selling at distress prices ranging up to Tk 250 per maund in the absence of adequate buyers.

Government Jute Corporation owes Tk 40 crore to traders from the purchases it made last year. The Corporation responsible to ensure a fair price to the growers is yet to reopen purchasing centres in most of the jute growing areas.

Private exporters allege that banks were reluctant to finance them as most of them failed to repay the past loans.

A senior official told UNB the government was fully aware of the problems of the jute sector. These will be thoroughly discussed to find remedies at a cabinet sub-committee meeting scheduled for Thursday.

AL demonstrates

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tisan role of TV and Radio. The processionists were stopped by police who put up barricades at Rampura Bazar.

No untoward incident was reported during the sit-in that lasted for about three hours disrupting the traffic movement in Rampura-Mouchak-Malibag areas.

However, a group of AL leaders including Muzaffar Hussain Paltu, Advocate Shahara Khatun, and Mozaffar Hussain Maya were allowed to go to the TV station to submit a memorandum.

The memorandum handed over to the TV authorities demanded autonomy for Radio and TV saying, "This was the commitment of three alliances."

The city AL also urged for giving equal importance to government and opposition news in the Radio-TV bulletins.

Gorbachev

From Page 1 Col. 4

independence would soon do so.

"It is with deep emotion that I stand on the soil of free Latvia as official representative," Borch, who will later present his credentials to Lithuania and Estonia, told a news conference.

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were annexed by Moscow in 1940 as part of a deal between Germany and the Soviet Union.

A French government envoy was scheduled to arrive in Riga from the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius on Tuesday to discuss setting up diplomatic relations, a Latvian official said.