### 'Lanka's ruling party regains lost majority'

COLOMBO, Sept Lanka's ruling party today said it had regained the lost majority in parliament to defeat an unprecedented motion im-President peaching Ranasinghe Premadasa on a wide range of charges, reports

State-run Sunday Observer quoted United National Party (UNP) loyalists as saying that 116 out of the 125 of their MPs pledged their support to Premadasa who faces a revolt within the ruling party.

"As many as 116 of the total 125 Members of Parliament of the ruling UNP had given written assurances to the Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunga, that they had not signed an impeachment motion," the newspaper said.

Lalith However, Athulathmudali, former minister and one of the rebel UNP leaders told reporters Saturday the anti-Premadasa faction had the "solid backing" of 47 government MPs.

The motion entertained by Speaker Mohammad Hafiffa Mohammad has triggered a constitutional crisis with Premadasa suspending Parliament for a month to give him time to win over dissident government MPs.

longer had a majority in parliament after 47 UNP legislators supported moves to overthrow Premadasa. The rebel faction is hell bent on dismantling the French style executive

establishing a British-mod-

## BNP, AL strength

From Page 1 Col. 4

late General Osmani has a very good reputation within the BNP. However his joining the BNP greatly depends on the gesture of the BNP towards

the ruling party.

Prior to the February 27 Rahman's joining the BNP.

On the other hand, the Awami League has also focused its eyes on like-minded political parties.

ers of "Bangali nationalism" and ideals of Sheik Mujibur Rahman the Awami League has Razzak, who defected from the Awami League in 1983.

also trying to woo the Janata Mukti Party originally a fragment of the JSD led by Mirza Sultan Raja and Mahmudur

have also started talks with the Awami League on the question of a merger.

Besides, a good number of JSD (Inu) leaders including Kazi Aref Ahmed and Nuruddin Jahed Manju are also trying to cede to the Awami League on the question of unity of the believers of Bangali nationalism. Meanwhile, Shahjahan Khan of the JSD (Inu) is contesting byelection from Madaripur on the Awami League ticket.

Meanwhile, the former pro-Soviet left parties that include the CPB, NAP and Ganotantri Party are trying to forge a front on the basis of the theory of

October 8 has not yet given its consent on this question.

have hinted that quite a good number of elements in these parties intend to merge with the Awami League.

#### Fransport strike in Mymensingh called off

MYMENSINGH, Sept 1: A nonstop transport strike that paralysed road communications in 18 routes of the district for a week was called off Sunday unconditionally, reports UNB.

Leaders of Dhaka-based Kendriya Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation, Bus-Truck Owners Association, and Paribahan Sramik Union met the Deputy Commissioner this afternoon and announced end to the strike.

The strike was started on August 26 for an indefinite period at the call of the district Bus-Truck Sramik Union demanding unconditional acquittal of a convicted bus

driver. Driver Dulal was sentenced to five days imprisonment for a road accident on August 19 in which a minor boy was killed. He was also fined 500 Taka.

Athulathmudali, announcing his resignation from the edu cation portfolio Friday, de clared that the government no

Presidency in preference to elled parliamentary democ-

Press reports quoted Premadasa as saying over the weekend that only the people could change the present system of government in Sri Lanka hinting that any structural changes would require a nation-wide referendum.

#### CPB, which has already lost all connections with the Soviet

Union may also join the Awami

League after the party

sources, the next council ses-

sion of the party is being de-

layed due to a delay in the

completion of the unity pro-

cess with defecting political

ments the Five-Party left al-

liance, Oikya Prokria and United Communist League will

vie in politics with the present

communist theory which be-

lieves in adjustment of pro-

ductive forces on the basis of

On the other hand, the reli

gion-based Jamaat-e-Islami has

tively criticise the government

inside and outside Parliament

while pursuing its Quranic so-

that the Jatiya Party of de-

Political observers believe

The two centrifugal slogans

"Bangladeshi" and "Bangali"

nationalism. But political cir-

cles believe that this schism

ism may lead the nation to a

path of a different kind of

uncertainty. This kind of

uncertainty may embolden the

extra political quarters includ-

ing different social forces un-

less a national consensus on

4 killed, 50 hurt

in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

least four passengers were

killed and another 50 were

injured when a coach and a

minibus collided head-on near

Panchrukhi bridge under

Araihazar upazila on Sunday

on the spot and two others

succumbed to their injuries

while being taken to the Dhaka

Medical College Hospital, po-

Two of the passengers died

afternoon.

lice said

The

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 1: At

this basic issue is reached.

on the main issue of national-

lution to political problems.

said that it would construc-

Marxism and Leninism.

Amid all these develop-

According to Awami League

tial election in 1979 against

Ganotantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta under pressure from supporters in his constituency to become a Minister also tried to gain the sympathy of the ruling party. But because of pressure from his party central committee and his adversaries within the BNP Suranjit Sengupta has reportedly lost his touch with

parliamentary elections all the smaller components of the seven party alliance merged with the BNP. There is also a probability of K M Obaidur

posed President Ershad may In a bid to unite all believnot last for a long period. But during the tenure of the current Parliament the party may play a catalytic role in taking already made a successive different national decisions. move in taking back the BKSAL under the leadership of of this bipolarity in politics Mohiuddin Ahmed and Abdur centering the BNP and the Awami League will be

Now the Awami League is Rahman Manna.

The leaders of the party

social democracy. The CPB which will hold its

fifth plenum from October 3 to Insiders of all these parties

Narsingdi-bound minibus (Dhaka-Jha-5969) collided head-on with the Dhakabound coach (Dhaka-Cha-4145) coming from Sylhet near the bridge on the Dhaka-A very small fragment of the Sylhet highway at around 3 pm, witnesses said.

> On Saturday, a truck plunged into a road-side ditch close to the spot of the accident, near Panchrukhi Bazar killing 12 members of a family and injuring several others.

Two of the dead were identified as Shahjahan (35) o Narsingdi and Siddique (28), student of the Jagannath College in Dhaka. The other two dead persons remained unidentified.

## Seven injured

From Page 1 Col. 5 (25) was hit by splinters and Prince (28) got bullet.

They were admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Five others were released after first aid.

At around 9 pm, local BNP and its front organisations in a protest procession allegedly ransacked and set aftre the district Awami League office. Some nearby shops were also

ransacked. The protesters chanted slogans demanding punishment of the attackers.

Nizami condemns attack on Shibir at Islamic varsity

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General and leader of its Parliamentary Party Maulana Mattur Rahman Nizami on Sunday condemned the armed attack by a terrorist group on the Chhatra Shibir activists of the Islamic University in Kushtia recently.

This group is forcing the closure of one academic institution after another by creating terror on the campuses, he said in a statement. The terrorist group attacked the Shibir activists in order to close the only Islamic University in the country, he said and appealed to all to come forward to resist the 'conspiracy' to close the university. He called for immediate investigation into the incident and demanded arrest of those found guilty.

#### Mustafiz off to Ghana

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman left Dhaka Sunday for Ghana to attend the 10th ministerial level meeting of the non-aligned countries beginning today in Accra, reports BSS.

The Foreign Minister will lead a four-member delegation to the conference.

The ministerial meeting's main agenda is fixing venue and date of the 10th conference of the heads of government and state of the non-aligned countries, official sources said.



brated in the city on Sunday with a colourful religious procession including a devotee posing as Sri Krishna.

— Star photo

# Politics of intrigue

From Page 1 Col. 5 ment would do its best to show respect to the martyrs.

The meeting was also addressed by Mirza Golam Haftz, Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdus Salam Talukder, Majidul Haque, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Rafiqui Islam Miah, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Jamiruddin Sircar, Kamrul Islam, Sarwari Rahman, Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain, Mir Sawkat Ali, Iskander Ali, Gayeshar Roy, Amanullah Aman and Kazi Asaduzzaman.

Senior party leaders, ministers and state ministers were also present at the meeting attended by tens of thousands of people from all walks of life.

Khaleda Zia said that the people had given the BNP the mandate to rule the country for the next five years adding that the party would complete its full term and fulfill the commitments it had made.

She said that within fifteen days of its being in power the BNP had fulfilled three commitments including exemption of agricultural loans up to Taka 5,000, waiving of tax on land up to 25 bighas and relaxing the age limit for government job up to 30 years from 27

Khaleda Zia said that in future her government would start providing jobs to the unemployed youth. "All efforts will be made to provide our sons with jobs," she said. She added that the government had already implemented the report of the Pay Commission.

Giving a historical background on the formation of the BNP she said the party came into being to establish the rights of the people, ensure freedom of the press and the rule of law, shattered during the rule of the previous regime.

The BNP was the party of the people of this country, which she said was established by Shahid President Ziaur Rahman

Khaleda Zia said that the conspirators killed Ziaur Rahman when he started production in different sectors both in the agricultural and industrial fields. The conspirators later also disrupted the democratic process and established autocracy by ousting an elected government in 1982.

She said that after nine years of the democratic movement the BNP was again voted to power by the people of the country and now the government has again decided to begin the development programmes initiated by Shahid President Zia. She said that the BNP would again start canal-digging and mass education programmes to lead the nation to prosperity.

Khaleda Zia said those who forecast that the BNP would not get more than 10 seats were proved wrong.

The BNP bagged 165 seats and the conspirators became active to tarnish the image of her party, she added.

She said that the BNP believed in the politics of democracy but the conspirators wanted to destroy democ-

She said that throughout the democratic movement the BNP had said that parliament would take a decision on the form of government and the BNP brought the bill to switch over from the presidential form to the parliamentary

She urged the people to vote for the parliamentary form of government in the referendum on September 15 and strengthen the hands of the government of nationalist forces.

Referring to the speech by some associates of deposed President Ershad that they would come to power within a year, Khaleda Zia said that their dreams would never materialise because Ershad would have to stay in jail for the rest of his life for his corruption when in power.

She reminded Ershad's associates that within six months they would also have to go his way because they plundered

the whole economy by bribes and corruption.

Khaleda Zia said that just after 39 days of its being in power the BNP government faced a natural disaster when the people of the coastal areas lost their everything due to the cyclone.

She said that the BNP managed everything efficiently and the people of all walks of life came out with helping hands to face the disaster.

She said that in response to the call by the BNP government the world community responded to the crisis and sent materials, manpower to help overcome it.

She said that the international community responded to the call as there was an elected government in power.

#### national wealth and destroyed Coastal embankments

and baskets.

An integrated emergency rehabilitation streamlined by WFP included not only repair of 765 kilometres of damaged coastal embankments, but also a massive vulnerable group feeding programme, repair of important rural roads, afforestation and housing.

Simultaneously with these food for work programmes, the government and scores of Non-Governmental

Organisations (NGOs) launched their own relief and rehabilitation schemes which included free seed and fertilizer distribution, house building, supply of power tillers to meet the shortage of draft power, distribution of plough, yoke, ladder, dao and cash grants.

Heavy downpour of the rainy season washed away salinity from paddy fields. Cox's Bazar experienced about 1000 inches (3900 milimetres) of rainfall between May and August. Saline water was bailed out of most of the ponds providing for fresh water pisciculture.

A senior engineer of Bangladesh Development Board (BWDB) which shouldered the challenging task of repair of the coastal embankments said 'At the beginning we said it's an impossible task'. First of all the rainy season was on and it was difficult to do earthwork of

such a massive scale. The people of the affected areas who lost everything were also not willing to take up work so soon. Then there were no hoes

To attract labourers 60 per cent bonus over the normal rate of payment was announced. The labourers were given hoes and baskets free of cost and the repair of embankments ultimately started on May 15. With the repair of embank-

ments now almost completed about 70,000 acres of land has been protected from saline water of the sea in Cox's Bazar district alone. This includes the entire Kutubdia island, and large areas under Chakaria, Moheshkhali and Cox's Bazar sadar upazilas. By August 30 about 1.4 lakh acres of land was brought under transplanted aman cultivation in the district. The target is 1.63 lakh acres, according to the district administration.

In Chittagong district repaired embankment has made the cultivation of transplanted aman possible in over 91,000 acres of land in Sitakund Mirersharai, Anwara Banskhali, and Sandwip upazilas. The Chittagong Export Processing Zone, the steel mills, the airport and other important establishments in Patenga are now protected as the coastal embankment has been repaired.

### movement to change govt, says Mizan

By Staff Correspondent 'Jatiya Party Acting President Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Sunday said his party was not engaged in any movement to change the government.

tion of the present government, nor we are politicking to topple it. We just demand stopping of repression on our leaders and workers to ensure a democratic atmosphere in the country,\* Chowdhury told two bye-election rallies a Rangpur, according to a JP press release issued last night.

Mizan alleged that JP Chief and ex-President H M Ershad was imprisoned illegally and many party leaders and workers were being subjected to political repression and demanded immediate and to those acts.

He claimed Ershad was the only head of state in last 50 years who did the largest volume of development work in the country during his period. The JP leader also commented that Ershad is still the most popular leader and hoped the people would reelect Ershad and his party to power in the next general elections.

Held at Pagla Pari of Gangachhara upazila and Bairaithat of Mithapukur upazila, the rallies were also addressed by, among others, Ismail Hossain Bengal, Municul Haq Choudhury MP and Shah Alam MP.

#### Dhaka-Colombo it economic body meets today

A three-member Srt Lankan economic delegation led by P B Weerasekara, Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Commerce arrived in Dhaka on Sunday to attend the second meeting of Bangladesh Sri Lanka' Joint Economic Committee beginning today reports BSS.

#### AL-BAKSAL re-union function

A re-union function of the leaders of city Awami League and the now-defunct BAKSAL was held Sunday evening at the party central office at the Bangabandhu Avenue, reports

City AL leader Mozaffar Hossain Paltu presided over the function.

It was addressed, among others, by Abdur Razzak, MP, Ameer Hossain Amu, Molazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, M A Aziz, Akhterul Alam, Kamrul Islam Advocate, Faiz Ahmed, Khandaker Habibur Rahman.

> President From Page 1 Col. 2

implicated Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for "an underhand support" in it. A book, written by me, disqualifying women becoming Prime Minister might have angered her, Rahman told a press conference at the national press club Sunday.

Asked how he becomes President after September 16, he said people would overwhelmingly cast 'no' vote in the referendum thereby preferring presidential system and he being the only aspirant would declare himself President. The choice would be fall him at that moment because Acting President would be gone by that time, he said. Then, he would set up the

Presidential office at the Dhaka University mosque to be with the students because they support him. His first duty would be to pacify the tense and trouble-ridden university campuses.

He said he preferred presidential system because it is in the United States, the richest country in the world.



KUTUBDIA: A repaired portion of the polder embankment on the western side of Kutubdia. - Star photo by MK Majumder

# The Midnight File Iraq to reopen major shrines

NICOSIA, Sept 1: The Shi'ite shrines of Ali and his sons Hussein and Abbas, damaged during riots after the Gulf war, will open Monday following the first phase of their restoration. President Saddam Hussein ordered 35 million Iraqi dinars (112 million dollars) as well as 100 kilos (220 pounds) of gold and 200 kilos (440 pounds) of silver be used for reconstruction of the shrines in Najal and Karbala provinces,

#### Nepal team leaves for Delhi without Water Minister

KATHAMANDU, Sept 1: A Nepalese delegation left here Sunday for high-level talks in New Delhi without Water Resources Minister Shyam Prasad Adhikari. The Water Minister's absence apparently meant a delay in important talks on proposed hydroelectric, flood-control and irrigation projects in Nepal.

Opposition legislators, especially those from the Nepal Communist Party, have charged that the Nepali Congress government was preparing to negotiate water projects for the larger interest of India, reports AFP.

#### Reconfirmed Biman seats vanish

By Staff Correspondent Where have our reconseats gone, was the question asked by MA Rahim who had to return from the Zia International Airport on Saturday midnight. He along with three other members of his family were to fly to London by Biman flight No

A Bangladeshi businessman resident in London MA Rahim's family had been in Dhaka on a summer vacation. Rahim reported at the airport at 8-30 pm on Saturday along with his family but did not get boarding cards. He contacted senior officials of Biman. But all efforts failed.

An inquiry into the incident suggests that it was a case of failure of the customer service of Biman, Bangladesh Airlines. Sources say it's not due to lack of coordination but for adoption of unfair means by certain elements to give boarding cards to some other passengers for money. It was a case of mishandling by the traffic wing of Biman.

#### Spacious venue From Page 1 Col. 4

the Special Tribunal No 16 in the District Court. The Judge of the Special Tribunal has issued an order to the jail authorities to present. Ershad and Raushan Ershad in the Tribunal on September 10. But the authorities are scared to take Ershad to the District Court for security reasons. At this stage the government is thinking of shifting the venue

of trial for gold smuggling. Besides the two foreigners British national David Anthony Chalker and Bernerd Rudigard, the other accused in this case are Major (Retd) Ashraf, Magsudur Rahman, Taher, and now fugitive former chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority Comodore (Retd) Mainul Islam.

Both the Prosecution and the Defence lawyers told The Daily Star that it would not be possible to present all the accused at a time either in the District Court or in Ershad's present trial place. Under these circumstances they proposed arrangement of some other spacious place to hold the trials. Meanwhile, the CID investi-

gation team has already submitted the chargesheet regarding the scandal in the ATP purchase. The case is scheduled to begin tomorrow (Tuesday). Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu and Mosharraf Hossain reportedly involved in these cases have also sought protection of the police.

The ATP scandal case is likely to begin in Ershad's present trial place, but it would have to be adjourned further till the finding of a new place, sources said.

#### Janmastami celebrated By Staff Correspondent

The Hindu community Sunday celebrated Janmastami', the birth anniversary of Sree Krishna, in the city and elsewhere in the country with religious fervour and enthusiasm.

The day was a public holf-

Mohanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee and other sociocultural organisations of the Hindu community arranged various programmes and also brought out colourful processions which paraded the main thorough fares of the city.

The Sarbajanin Puja Committee procession which began from Dhakeswari Mandir premises was led by Major General (Retd) C.R. Dutta, Dr. Lalit Mohan Nath, Barrister Shudir Das, K.B. Roy Chowdhury, Dr. Nim Chandra Bhowmik, P.K. Haldar, Jayanta Sen Dipu, Anil Nath and Rathindra Nath Roy.

The processionists, attired in various colourful dresses befitting the occasion, displayed different activities of Lord Krishna, danced and also sang

devotional songs. The members of the Hindu community observed fasting the whole day, offered 'puja' to Lord Krishna in the evening and broke their fasting by distributing 'prashad'. Special prayers were also offered secking peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh and also

communal harmony. Mahanagar Puja Committee arranged 'Gitajagya', recitation of verses from the sacred 'gita' seeking divine blessings and welfare of the people and also staged a dance drama on Sr Krishna Sunday as part of its three-day programme. It will hold a seminar and cultural

#### Osmani From Page 1 Col. 8

function today.

Academy Sunday. Former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain was the chief guest while Abul Hossain Khawja presided over the seminar. Journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Shahjahan Scraf MP, Rashed Khan Menon MP Brig (retd) Hannan Shah MP Brig Feroj Salahuddin and Nurul Islam Khan spoke on the occasion.

Justice Kemaluddin said

Osmani not only took over the command of the war of liberation but also fought for establishment of parliamentary democracy. Referring to the passage of Constitution 12th Amendment Bill, Justice Hossain said people's sovereignty can be ensured through parliamentary democracy only. He called upon the ruling and opposition parties to honour people's consensus in taking any major decision in the parliament.

## Major in Moscow

From Page 1 Col. 8 today with a message of support from the Group of Seven

(G-7) leading industrialised

democracies after last month's

failed coup. The Soviet News Agency Tass said Major was welcomed in Moscow by Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev, the man charged by Gorbachev with running the country's economy until a new Government is

formed. Until now, Bush has declined to follow the lead of Canada, the European Community and other US allies in formally recognising the Baltics, saying Washington had 'special responsibilies' to move

cautiously. Although the United States never recognised the annexation of the Baltics by the Soviet Union in 1940 under a secret pact between Hitler and Stalin. it also has never established diplomatic ties or sent ambassadors.

waiting for the Soviet parliament to act on the independence declarations of the three republies.

National security adviser

US officials said Bush was

Brent Scowcroft said on Saturday that the Soviet legislative may consider the matter on Monday. Scowcroft said Bush would

subject on Monday' whether or not the parliament resolved the matter. "I just wanted to touch that base and we did and it went pretty well," the President

said of his conversation with

the Lithuanian leader.

have something to say on the

'I think he knows what our interest is - our interest is in the independence and freedom of Lithuania," Bush added Scoweroft, speaking on CNN television's 'Newsmaker Saturday programme, cited a possibility that no central authority would re-emerge to coordinate relations among the centre and the 15 republics, 11 of which have declared in-

Baltics. 'On the other hand, I think there are some obvious advantages to preserving a centre here," he said, adding that there would be "lots of complications' if the breakup were

dependence, including the

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JP not in a

the Iraqi News Agency said Sunday, reports AP. "We don't demand resigna-