

## Inside Today

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Foreign Ministers from more than 100 countries in the Non-aligned Movement are meeting in Accra to lay the diplomatic groundwork for the non-aligned heads of state and governments summit scheduled for 1992. Page 4

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Dhaka Day by Day



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## NEWS BRIEFS

Indo-Pak border calm

NEW DELHI, Sept 4: Indian and Pakistani troops held to a cease-fire Wednesday but stepped up patrols along the frontier where at least 11 people have been killed in sporadic firing, officials said.

Infants dying says Iraq

NICOSIA (Cyprus), Sept 4: The official Iraqi News Agency reported Wednesday that 76 newborn infants died in southern Iraqi city last month because of food shortages resulting from economic sanctions, reports AP.

14 killed in plane crash

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 4: Fourteen people were killed on Tuesday when a British made Shorts Skyvan crashed in dense jungle in Sarawak state. Six people survived. The plane had developed engine trouble before coming down near the border with Brunel. reports Reuter.

Five killed in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 4: Savage fighting between rival black factions killed five people, injured scores more and resulted in more than 100 shacks being set ablaze, police said Wednesday.

## More powers for CHT district councils soon

By Reazuddin Ahmed

Three district councils of Chittagong Hill Tracts — Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban — are expected to get maximum autonomy when administrative powers in 21 important areas, including recruitment of police, will be transferred to them within a couple of weeks.

The administrations of agriculture, primary education and health have already been handed over to the hill district councils.

A high-powered meeting held in Dhaka on Tuesday in-

structed all the relevant ministries to expedite the transfer of administrative powers to the hill district councils to fulfil the conditions for restoring peace in the area. A source in the President's Secretariat told The Daily Star that the meeting took stock of the situation in the hill tracts and decided to allow maximum autonomy to the districts councils as prescribed under an Act passed by parliament in 1989.

The new Act provides for bringing tribal people under the leadership of the district

councils. Accordingly, the chairmen of the three hill district councils must be elected from among the tribal people.

Shamirran Dewan, Chairman of Rangamati District Council, told this correspondent recently at his office that the new system was an improvement over the earlier arrangement and it had the full support of the people of the hill tracts. But he was dismayed by slow devolution of administrative powers to the hill district councils. He said that further delay would create

disrust about the intention of the government and the insurgents would have the scope to tell the tribals that the autonomy, promised by the government, would never come.

Shamirran Dewan, along with two other district council chairmen, is trying to convince the insurgents that autonomy could be achieved peacefully through district councils and not through armed insurgency.

During my recent visit to Rangamati I found the tribal people taking part in develop-

ment activities. Some of the leading Chakmas admitted that the Shantibahini people, who promised milk and honey for the people of the hill tracts, brought only miseries for them. People were losing faith in them, disowning them and were becoming aggressive against them.

One of them cited an example saying that the insurgents were mobbed by the tribals in an area and handed over to the law enforcing agencies only a week back. But he hastened to add that the

government was not doing its part to develop their conditions. He alleged that the people were facing acute unemployment and losing purchasing power. Many were facing starvation, he alleged.

When contacted, a source in the Ministry of Special Affairs told The Daily Star that already 4000 tons of foodgrains had been sent to the area besides allotting Taka six crore for the three district councils for development works. He said that the local government ministry

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SKOP discusses 5-point demand with Govt

Star Report

The Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) is mounting pressure on the Government to accept its modified five-point demand, which includes implementation of the agreement signed with the Ershad administration in 1984.

The SKOP leaders held a meeting with the State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Miah Wednesday on their demands so that they could decide at the SKOP convention tomorrow its next course of movement.

The meeting, held at the manpower office at Kakrabi was attended among other SKOP leaders by Abdus Salam Khan, Dr Nurul Islam, Abul Bashar, Mokhlesur Rahman, Iskander Ali, Abdullah Sarkar, Shafiqur Rahman Mazumdar, Pratap

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JP men fire on BNP poll camp: Four injured

Three leaders of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal of Dakkhinkhan Union and a BNP worker were injured Wednesday evening when a Jatiya Party procession attacked the BNP election office at Ashoknagar under Uttara Thana here, BNP sources said, reports BSS.

The sources said all the four received bullet injuries as the processionists opened fire on the election office at around 7.30 pm.

India committed to leasing Tin Bigha, Rajya Sabha told

NEW DELHI, Sept 4: The Indian government is committed to the leasing of Tin Bigha to Bangladesh in pursuance of our earlier agreements with Bangladesh, reports PTI.

This commitment was reiterated during the recent visit by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister to India from August 26-29, the Rajya Sabha was told today.

Necessary measures are underway to complete the required formalities for an early leasing of the corridor, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Eduardo Falero, told J P Mathur in a written reply.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a big public meeting at Chittagong Steel Mills market on Wednesday. — PID photo

## Hasina accuses BNP of misappropriating relief

said bribing and intimidating voters.

The Prime Minister herself is violating the election code of conduct by threatening voters that 'all developmental works will be stopped if the BNP nominees are not elected', she alleged.

"The uncompromising leader (Begum Zia) is now speaking in the language of authoritarian Ershad," Hasina said.

She alleged BNP had taken votes by making false promises and now was delaying in fulfilling those pre-election commitments.

Urging the people to elect Awami League candidates, she warned consequences will not be good if the ruling party resorts to rigging.

The Awami League leader alleged the people in remote rural areas were 'dying unfed'

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BNP using official facilities for by-election: Jamaat

By Staff Correspondent

Acting Amul of Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan Wednesday accused the ruling BNP of using official facilities for the by-election campaign.

He alleged that the Prime Minister and other Ministers were using public vehicles, wealth and also the state-owned media, particularly the BTV to campaign for their party candidates. He called for stopping this practice.

The Jamaat leader said the government, in its six-month rule, has proved 'useless' in tackling socio-economic problems and no plan or action was also in sight for their solution. It was trying to shift the blame on others, he alleged.

Overall law and order situation had deteriorated and

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## By-election campaign in city lacks enthusiasm

By Nazmul Ashraf

during the February elections.

Campaigning in favour of 14 candidates, seven in each constituency, has so far failed to draw the interests of the voters.

With new restrictions imposed by the Election Commission, election festivity is almost absent.

Seats in The Dhaka-5 constituency comprising Gulshan and Cantonment thanas and two mouzas of Shabujbagh thana and one union of Uttara thana and in the Dhaka-9 constituency covering the Dhamondi and Mohammadpur thanas were earlier vacated by the BNP chief and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Voters in the two constituencies seemed less enthusiastic than they had been

League.

Besides, leaflets were also being distributed among the voters by the two parties.

Jatiya Party activists were hardly seen involved in polls activities and in efforts to bag votes for their candidates while activities by supporters of other candidates were almost absent in the field.

Thinly-attended rallies, and house-to-house campaigns were organised by the ruling BNP and the Opposition Awami

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## Interest on defaulting loans may be waived

The Government is thinking of practical mechanisms to realise defaulting loans considering the genuine difficulties of the loanees and a sizable portion of the interest may be waived, Finance and Planning Minister Saisur Rahman said on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The hearing began at 10.45 am when the Chief Prosecution Lawyer Attorney General Arnulf Haque produced A T A M Ismail and allowed Defence Lawyer Strajul Haque to continue his unfinished cross-examination.

Strajul Haque cross-examined him for about one hour and fifty minutes. Following are the excerpts:

Strajul Haque (Defence Lawyer): Did you ever ask Ershad from where were the items recovered from Sena Bhaban bought?

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He said, as a developing country, we cannot afford to have sudden changes in our economic policies with the change of government. Economy has to be a continuous process and abrupt changes could affect both bilateral and multilateral relations, he added.

The entrepreneurs, after all, are Bangladeshis. Their legitimate interests will be looked after, though delinquent and wilful defaulters will have to rectify, Rahman said while exchanging views with the members of the Council of Editors at the Press Institute.

Sanaullah Noor, Chairman of the Council, DP Barua, Managing Director and Chief Editor of BSS, Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Editor, The Khabar and Anwarul Islam Bobby, Editor, The Morning Sun and Abdus Sobhan, Principal Information Officer, were present.

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## Legislators rebuff Gorbachev's proposal

scenes in the Kremlin, conservative deputies and Ukrainians concerned the law would violate their republic's independence declaration, opposed the draft or stayed away from the chamber.

The law, which is likely to be reintroduced tomorrow, possibly amended, would effectively abolish the existing Constitution and Congress and transfer sweeping powers to the rebellious republics.

But a separate resolution

backed by Gorbachev acknowledging in principle the rights of republics to secede and proposing a multi-tier union system did pass. As a resolution, it required only a simple majority.

Gorbachev's close adviser Alexander Yakovlev told Reuter that the Soviet leader would issue a presidential decree recognising the independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

"It will be issued, but

a Bangladeshi Scheduled Bank run on Islami Shariah. It's a joint venture bank of Al-Baraka Group Jeddah (60%), Islami Development Bank (10%), Bangladesh Govt (5%), Local Sponsor Directors (12.5%) and general public (12.5%). At Al Baraka innovative management, dynamic executives and efficient staff—all combine to offer you best possible services.

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