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**Inside Today**

**International**

 Yeltsin accuses former KGB chief Kryuchkov of being the main organiser of the abortive coup **Page 5**

**Article**


Details of the exclusive interview with the Indian Finance Minister by M Sayeduzzaman, our Guest Columnist **Page 4**

**Feature**

**Health**

Poorly controlled diabetes can be dangerous **Page 8**

**Sport**

 Monica Seles wins US Open to finish her Grand Slam season unbeaten **Page 10**

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**

One for sorrow, two for joy, three for letter **Page 3**

**Business**

BADC employees union announces nine-point demand, which includes halting of any decision to close the corporation and retrench employees  
 Renovated premises of State Bank of India branch of Dilkusha reopen. Bangladesh Bank Governor S B Chowdhury inaugurates the branch **Page 7**

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Khaleda back**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returned to the capital Sunday afternoon after a three-day tour of Madaripur, Rangpur and Bogra districts. Begum Zia addressed several public and street meetings in those districts. She also addressed the government officials in Madaripur and Bogra, reports BSS.

**BIWTC strike called off**

MANIKGANJ, Sept 8: Employees of BIWTC today called off their proposed indefinite strike at Aricha ghat on assurances from LGRD Minister Barrister Salam Talukdar that their demands would be considered soon, reports UNB.

**Pilot killed in Pak plane crash**

PESHAWAR, Sept 8: A Pakistan Air Force Mirage aircraft crashed today in a park in a residential district of this northwestern city, killing the pilot and injuring a civilian, police said, reports AFP.

## Accra Declaration endorses political pluralism

# NAM calls for expansion of UN Security Council

ACCRA, Sept 8: The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on Saturday called for expansion of the United Nations' elite Security Council to put more power in Third World hands, reports Reuter.

A declaration after a four-day NAM foreign ministers' conference in the Ghanaian capital Accra also endorsed political pluralism, giving official weight to the multi party issue for the first time since the movement was founded three decades ago.

The present membership of the Security Council should be reviewed with a view to reflecting the increased membership of the United Nations, and promoting more equitable and balance representation of the members of the United Nations," the declaration said.

"Reform of the organisation is of cardinal importance to member countries of the movement."

The Security Council, which gives permanent status to the United States, China, Britain and France, holds a veto on decisions made by the world body's General Assembly.

The call reflected a shift in focus from East-West tensions to the Gulf between the rich North and poor South as the 103-member group strives for a role after the end of the Cold War which inspired it.

Diplomatic sources said the move was proposed mainly by major Third World powers like India, Brazil and Indonesia, which hold great regional sway and want a bigger role on the world stage.

"They want to be world powers and are very dissatisfied with the UN where they are not permanent members of the Security Council," one source said.



TBLISI (Soviet Union): Local residents have a look at the map of the new Soviet Union to discuss the future of their republic Georgia during a rally Saturday to support their President Zviat Gamsakhurdi who has announced to sever his republic's relationships with the USSR. — AFP photo

### Kissinger meets Li Peng

BEIJING, Sept 8: Henry Kissinger, architect of the normalisation of Sino-US relations, met Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng today as head of a high-powered delegation of former US officials, reports Reuter.

Although the former Secretary of State's visit is described as private, Western diplomats speculate he may be preparing the way for a resumption of cabinet-level contacts between Beijing and Washington.

The United States suspended high-level visits after China's hard line communist leaders crushed pro-democracy demonstrations centred in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

The already-strained relations have been further tested by trade and human rights disputes.

"Despite of the difficulties now between us, I believe that with concerted efforts on both sides we can reach an understanding."

## Fourth Five-year Plan hangs in the balance

By Moazzem Hossain

The Fourth Five Year Plan (FFYP) still hangs in the balance. The government has not given its final approval to the plan. The fifteenth month is now running after the expiry of Third Five-Year Plan period.

Long delay in Approval of the FFYP has virtually left the country without any medium-term plan. The government has neither declared a plan holiday for the FFYP period, 1990-95.

The Planning Commission, headed by the Acting President, could not hold any extended meeting over the last ten months after the fall of the Ershad regime. So far, the National Economic Council, the highest economic policy-making body, met only once during this period to approve the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for 1991-92 along with the revised ADP for 1990-91. The ADP represents the annual phasing of public sector investments under the medium-term of five-year plan. However, neither the Planning Commission or the NEC considered the FFYP in any extended meeting in last ten months.

Sources in the Planning Commission could not tell when an extended meeting of either the Commission or the NEC would take place to decide about the FFYP. One indication however suggested that the Planning Commission would meet after the September 15 referendum. If the country switches over from presidential to parliamentary form of government after the referendum, the Planning Commission may be recast with the Prime Minister heading it.

The FFYP was approved earlier in an extended meeting of the NEC under the fallen Ershad regime. But, the agreed minutes of that meeting was not signed. The plan with its total size estimated at Taka 68,930 crore at 1989-90 prices, is still lying in its "revised draft form" without formal endorsement by the government. The total investment allocation under the FFYP included Taka 41,930 crore for the public sector and Taka 27,000 crore for the private sector, both the figures being in 1989-90 prices. The size of the plan was however termed "ambitious" by the World Bank.

The role of the Planning Commission in the context of the commitment by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) to "a market-oriented competitive economy" has not still been spelt out. In its election manifesto, the BNP committed itself to a pragmatic economic planning for poverty alleviation, human resources development and effective expansion of development expenditure. This commitment would only suggest a stronger and more effective functional role of the Planning Commission as in other fast growing developing countries in South East Asia like Thailand and Malaysia with strong private sector in their economies. Thailand and Malaysia announced recently new medium term economic plans.

While the new medium term plan in Bangladesh remains still undecided, the government will complete the by-elections.

## Ban on by-poll campaign from tonight

A 48-hour ban comes into effect from midnight tonight on all public meetings and processions within the area of 11 Jatiya Sangsad constituencies where bye-elections are scheduled for September 11, the Election Commission announced here last night, BSS reported.

The ban will remain effective till midnight following September 11 under Section 78 of the Representation of the Public Order, 1972.

No person shall be allowed to convene, hold or attend any public meeting and no person shall be allowed to promote or join in any procession within the area of these eleven constituencies within this 48-hour ban.

See Page 12 Col. 4

### Last minute by-election campaign

With only two days left, last minute electioneering campaigns reached their peak for next Wednesday's by-elections in the eleven Jatiya Sangsad constituencies in six districts, reports BSS.

The Election Commission has already announced a ban on public meetings and processions for 48 hours from midnight tonight in the by-elections areas.

Voters, numbering over 23.64 lakh in the constituencies are expected to go to 909 polling centers to choose their representatives from among 49 contestants.

The ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League have fielded their nominees in all the seats in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rangpur, Bogra, Madaripur and Bhola districts.

Election of the eleven members will complete the by-elections.

See Page 12 Col. 4

## DU reopens Sept 17: No guarantee for violence-free campus

By Nazmul Ashraf

No effective measures have yet been taken to ensure peace on the campus of Dhaka University, which is going to reopen on September 17 after a 48-day unscheduled closure.

The university was closed since die on July 30 when activists of two rival student groups — pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) — fought a running battle on the campus. The university was closed a day before a scheduled procession by the DU teachers, students and members of the staff to initiate peace on the trouble-torn campus ahead of the DUCSU polls due to be held on August 5.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Moniruzzaman Miah is still seeking the government's cooperation in guaranteeing adequate campus security prior to reopening the university, a member of the Syndicate said. He may seek interview with the Acting President, who is also the chancellor of the universities, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to discuss the campus situation, the Syndicate member said.

He said the VC was maintaining a low profile on the matter. The Syndicate member quoted the VC saying that he (VC) was in contact with the leaders of political parties both in the government and in the opposition following their commitments not to harbour terrorism on the campus.

Another Syndicate member said that the VC had told him that the Syndicate members would be informed of the outcome of his efforts at a meeting to be convened soon.

Since the closure of the university on July 30, various organisations, and quarters concerned repeatedly urged the government and the political parties to take a joint move to end campus terrorism which had already been identified as a political issue.

See Page 12 Col. 7

## Saifur leaves for Nepal today to attend JEC meet

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman leaves for Nepal today to attend the 8th meeting of the Bangladesh-Nepal Joint Economic Commission beginning there tomorrow (Tuesday), reports UNB.

The Minister is leading a three-member delegation to the three-day JEC meet, being held after one year.

The delegation include ERD (Economic Relations Division) Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury and Commerce Ministry Joint Secretary Kazi Golam Rahman. Bangladesh Ambassador to Kathmandu Syed Mohammad Hossain will also join it at the talks.

Bilateral economic issues, See Page 12 Col. 5

## Hasina's call to ensure free and fair elections

By Staff Correspondent

Sheikh Hasina Sunday called upon the people to vote for Awami League candidates in the ensuing by-elections to strengthen her party's struggle for economic emancipation, institutionalising democracy and establishing rule of law.

The Awami League chief also urged the administration to ensure free and fair holding of the September 11 by-elections and said her party candidates would win in all the seats if votes were not rigged.

She was addressing by-election rallies at Kochukhet, Asad Avenue, New Market and Badda in the city.

Awami League General Secretary Mrs Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, Lt Col (Retd) Shaikat Ali, MP, noted freedom fighter Quader Siddiqui, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Awami League candidates contesting from Dhaka-5, Advocate Shahara Khatun and from Dhaka-9 Alhaj Mokbul Hossain also addressed the meetings.

Sheikh Hasina alleged that conspiracies were being hatched to rig the by-elections through different ways including bribing the people and the election officials and supplying duplicate ballot papers.

She said the BNP government had utterly failed to serve the cause of the people during its five-month rule. She alleged that BNP chief who was

See Page 12 Col. 3

## Four left parties to form front

Leaders of CPB, NAP, Samyabadi Dal and Gana Azadi League at a meeting Sunday agreed in principle to float a political front with likeminded parties and individuals, reports UNB.

NAP leader Pankaj Bhatlacharya presided over the meeting held at his party office. Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Nurul Islam and Morshed Ali of CPB, Kamal Haider, Maulana Azmi and Principal Emdad of NAP, Dilip Barua and Abdur Rouf of Samyabadi Dal and Abdus Samad and Daniel of Gana Azadi League attended the meeting.

Sources said a draft containing the objectives, structure and programme of the proposed front was finalised at the meeting.

See Page 12 Col. 3

## 'Ershad's trial aimed to uphold rule of law, not to belittle Armed Forces'

By Staff Correspondent

Attorney General Aminul Haque yesterday told the Special Judge Court, trying deposed President Ershad, that the corruption case had been brought against him (Ershad) to establish rule of law and it had no connection with the image of the Armed Forces.

Ershad is facing trial for amassing wealth beyond known sources of income.

The Attorney General objected to a remark of Chief Defence Counsel Sirajul Haque while cross-examining the prosecution witness Lt Col Atiqur Rahman Munshi. Sirajul Haque said that Ershad served in the Armed Forces for 34 years and this corruption case against him was aimed not only to malign him but also to belittle the Armed Forces. Replying to a question regarding this, the Assistant Military Secretary to the President, Atiqur Rahman Munshi said that he did not know anything about this.

The Attorney General categorically objected to the word, "belittling" the Armed Forces. Lt Col Atiqur Rahman was recalled by the Defence Counsel for cross examination.

The following were the excerpts from the cross examination by Defence Counsel Sirajul Haque (Defence lawyer): Do you know from where the land cruiser which was found in the garage was bought?

Atiqur Rahman Munshi (ARM): No, I don't know.

DL: Were the gifts received by Ershad from home and abroad being displayed?

ARM: Yes. Those used to be kept on display at Sena Bhaban and Bangabhaban.

DL: Did you say anything when the prices of copies of the holy Quran were calculated?

ARM: No, I did not comment anything.

DL: Many prayer mats were found in the Sena Bhaban. Did you see them?

See Page 12 Col. 3

## Judge trying Zardari dies of heart attack

KARACHI, Sept 8: A Pakistani judge presiding over the trial of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's husband died of a heart attack today, police said, reports Reuter.

Wajhat Hussain Siddiqi, 62, was the second judge trying Asif Ali Zardari to die in recent months.

In June unidentified gunmen shot and killed Judge Nabir Sher Junejo with two bodyguards as he drove through Karachi.

Last month, gunmen also killed a senior police officer investigating cases against Zardari, who is charged with a number of offences including extortion and conspiracy to

See Page 12 Col. 4

## Kushtia town under knee-deep water

Kushtia town has gone under knee-deep water after heavy rains for the last eight days while overflowing water of the Ganges the Jamuna and the Gorai submerged crops in vast areas of Kushtia, Pabna and Sirajganj districts, reports reaching in Dhaka said Sunday, says UNB.

The Ganges swelled 6 cm above danger mark at the Hardinge Bridge point and Gorai was flowing 25 cm above flood level at the GK Ghat point Sunday.

Strong surges of the Ganges and the Gorai have caused breach at many points on the Raita-Mohiskundu and Nawda-Khadimpur flood control embankments.

In Pabna, the flood situation in seven upazilas worsened due to incessant downpour in the last 48 hours and onrush of waters from the Padma and Jamuna. The Padma was flowing 8 cm and the Jamuna 5 cm above their danger levels in Pabna.

Crops on some 15,000 acres of land have been submerged in the districts, according to official estimates.

About 5,000 people of Bera, Sujaganar, Iswardi and Sadar upazilas have become homeless in the flooding and erosion.

The Pabna Irrigation pump station built at a cost of Tk. 400 crore was said to be under threat of erosion by the mighty

See Page 12 Col. 1

## BNP-AL gunbattle in Pabna

PABNA, Sept 8: BNP and Awami League supporters were locked in a gunbattle in the town tonight, injuring an unspecified number of people, reports UNB.

Witnesses said activists of both the organisations used cut-rifle, pigenon and fired about 50 shots as the fighting erupted at Kalachanpara, following tension over the death of two student leaders earlier.

The trouble started on September 2 with Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing ruling BNP, claiming that its activist Serajul Hossain Shaheen had been beaten to death by Chhatra League (A-A) supporters. On September 5, pro-Awami League Chhatra

See Page 12 Col. 6

# Moscow appeals for \$ 100 billion Western aid

WASHINGTON, Sept 8: Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin appealed today for Western aid on the order of a 100 billion dollars, saying the upheaval in the Soviet Union affected the destiny of the world to at least the same degree as did the Gulf war, reports AFP.

In a Moscow interview with Cable News Network (CNN) television monitored here, Pankin said the Soviets would be taking up the question of aid and cooperation with the West in talks next week in Moscow with US Secretary of States James Baker.

"Very close cooperation" with the West was needed to further democratic processes and help the Soviet Union to "emerge from the tremors and shocks that have swept it," he said.

The Foreign Minister said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told British Prime Minister John Major when they met in Moscow a week ago that "100 billion dollars were found when the crisis in the Gulf struck."

"In this country we have an equally dramatic change, we have equally dramatic developments which affects the destiny of the world in at least the same degree," said Pankin, speaking to CNN through an interpreter.

"It is our hope that in this situation, similar amounts of money will be mustered," he said.

Baker's trip to the Soviet Union would be useful in giving him insight into the changes that have occurred in the Soviet Union since hardliners tried and failed to overthrow Gorbachev last month, Pankin said.

Baker is scheduled to visit the city of St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the newly-independent Baltic states as well as meet with Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Pankin said that besides technical assistance and short-term humanitarian aid, Moscow wanted to discuss "large scale projects, giant investments, loans and credits" from the United States and other Western countries.

The Foreign Minister reiterated that the Soviet Union would uphold its international commitments, including the withdrawal of Soviet military forces from eastern Europe.

Soviet troops continued to move out of Germany on schedule, said Pankin, who served as ambassador to Czechoslovakia before the coup attempt last month.

Although negotiations with Poland on Soviet withdrawal have not concluded, he said they would soon. "We don't have any political reasons to keep troops in these countries," he said.

"He said the Soviet Union would hold negotiations with the Baltics on issues ranging from economic and defense relations to the status of ethnic minorities living in their territory.

"Naturally, this process will be followed by the establishment of diplomatic relations just like we have done with all the other countries," he said.

**Cuba**

On Cuba the Foreign Minister said Soviet relations would be guided by "mutual profitability" but said that Havana "must decide its own course." Article on page 4

## APSU ultimatum to CU authorities

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 8: The Chittagong University (CU) Unit of All Party Students Unity (APSU) Sunday gave a September 11 ultimatum to the authorities for acceptance of its 10-point demand and called an indefinite strike in the districts educational institutions from September 12 for non-compliance.

The demands include: arrest of the killers of Faruk expulsion of 63 students earlier served with showcause notices by the CU authorities and

See Page 12 Col. 1