

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to

BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT

The House of Peace & Rest, The Place of High Class.

We Cordially invite you to try our Beautifully prepared and Beautifully presented authentic THAI CUISINE and SEAFOOD in the cosy atmosphere of a LOVELY HOUSE.

1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY ROAD, NASIRABAD, CHITTAGONG. RSVP CALL TEL: 226803

The Daily Star

25 years in Dhaka

Estd. 1901

Raddi

TOP NAME IN FOOTWEAR.

97, BAITUL MUKARRAM, DHAKA.

VOL. 1 NO. 228 REGD. NO. DA 781 BHADRA 25, 1398 BS, DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 1991 SAFAR 29, 1412 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

Inside Today

Article
By-election early test for government and opposition Page 4

International

Battles broke out again in Croatia after a day's lull Page 5

Feature

Science and Technology
Diagnosis through biomagnetism Page 8

Sport

Edberg is No 1 again with US Open title Page 10

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day
A woman's life in the Third World is closely related with nature Page 3

Business

More than 30 officials of BCCI including Swaleh Naqvi has been detained in Abu Dhabi Page 6

Simultaneous rise in water level in Ganges, Brahmaputra, Meghna basins worries weathermen

Late monsoon flood grips country

Star Report

Bangladesh is experiencing a late monsoon flood as all the three major rivers are in spate due to unusually heavy downpour and onrush of water from upper catchment across the border. The situation may worsen in a couple of days, indications say.

Vast area in ten districts — Sirajganj, Pabna, Chapainawabganj, Kushtia, Rajshahi, Manikganj, Netrokona, Sylhet, Brahmanbaria and Narayanganj have already been inundated by flood waters. Thousands were marooned in the affected areas while many rendered homeless due to river crossings. Standing crops on a large area were also submerged.

Diarrhoea broke out in the affected areas of Pabna and claimed 22 lives. One minor boy was drowned in the flood water in Pabna. Another three deaths were reported from Rajshahi.

The Ganges was flowing above danger level at all points Monday while other rivers — the Brahmaputra, the Karotoa, the Mahananda, the Goral, and the Surma have also crossed danger marks. Rivers in the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna basins registered further rise and most of them are close to danger levels.

Hydrologists and weather experts apprehend continued deterioration of the situation for the next few days. Flood Forecasting and Warning Division of Water Development



DISRUPTED CITY LIFE: Six-hour heavy downpour submerged many roads and low-lying areas of the capital yesterday. Water remained stagnant in many parts till evening. — Star photo

List damaged roads in 2 days, PM tells Mayor

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda-Zia Monday directed the City Development authorities to work with dedication to implement the uplift programmes aimed at ensuring all kinds of civic amenities to the city dwellers, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister said this while visiting different areas of the capital. Dhaka city Mayor Mirza Abbas and city BNP President Mir Shawkat Ali, MP, accompanied the Prime Minister.

It was a pleasant surprise for city dwellers particularly for those who reside in narrow lanes to find Begum Zia amid them.

The Prime Minister visited the areas to see the water logging problems and condition of roads after downpour in the capital Monday morning.

Begum Zia asked the city Mayor to take initiative for preparing a list of the dilapidated roads within two days which needed immediate reconstruction. She also advised the city Mayor to involve engineering and planning personnel of the concerned organisations to find out the root causes of drainage problems which result in water stagnancy in the city.

The Prime Minister directed the authorities to start construction and repair work of the roads and other structures immediately after the rainy season.

The Dhaka City Mayor told the Prime Minister that most of the damaged roads which were renovated just a year ago become dilapidated as they

See Page 12 Col. 6

Rains swamp city

By Staff Correspondent

A six-hour heavy downpour disrupted normal life in the Dhaka city Monday.

The incessant rainfall, measured 97 mm by the Met office, began at 6 in the morning. The rain caused water-logging at some parts and inundation of some low-lying areas of the city.

The office-goers and the students had to suffer most.

Water remained stagnant at most of the areas for several hours and at some places, till evening.

The worst affected areas were Monipurpara, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Malibagh.

See Page 12 Col. 6

Govt's indecision threatens \$475 m KAFCO project

By Moazzem Hossain

The government's indecision on issuance of Letters of Guarantees (LGs), covering foreign governmental export credits for Karnaphuli fertilizer project, seriously threatens the fate of the 475 million Dollars multinational export-oriented venture.

It may also cost the government heavily. The procrastination has already caused strong resentment among foreign co-financiers or partners for Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Limited (KAFCO).

KAFCO, the concerned circles said, faces imminent suspension of its construction contract with Chiyoda Corporation of Yokohama of Japan because of 'inordinate

delays' in issuing LGs. The suspension is likely to 'jeopardise' its 'viability' and cause KAFCO's entire financial structure to collapse. KAFCO already owes Chiyoda 65 million US dollars because of delays of the Government of Bangladesh to issue LGs for the export credit loans.

The suspension of the construction contract is likely to subject Bangladesh to 'damage claims' in excess of 160 million dollars, including 100 million dollars payable to the general contractor for accrued invoices and damages and 60 million dollars payable to the foreign investors to cover their equity and expenses. The investments of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), a public sector corporation, are already about Taka 160 crore in the project as one of its co-financiers and the entire amount may be lost if the project is folded up.

KAFCO involves governmental authorities in 12 countries. It is the largest commercially-financed multi-national private venture in Bangladesh for exporting fertilizer, to be produced at its plant with natural gas as its basic raw materials.

The government has not yet been able to decide either 'yes' or 'no' on the LGs which the foreign export credit lenders for KAFCO

See Page 12 Col. 7

By-elections to 11 JS seats tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

A fortnight-long hectic by-election campaign in 11 constituencies came to an end on Monday, midnight through house-to-house visits by candidates and their workers to attract voters.

The by-elections will be held tomorrow (Wednesday). Polling will start at 8 a. m. and continue till 5 p. m. The Election Commission has taken all preparations to ensure proper conduct of the elections.

The by-elections were held due to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and former President H. M. Ershad, who had been elected from five seats each in the February 27 parliament elections vacated four seats each, while Abdur Razzak and Tofael Ahmed of Awami League vacated one seat each. One seat fell vacant due to the death of AL MP Ilyas Ahmed Chowdhury.

The major political parties have concentrated in four constituencies of Rangpur Jatiya Party leaders Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Shah Moazzem Hossain are contesting from two of the four Rangpur seats, vacated by deposed President Ershad. There will be triangular fight in Rangpur constituencies. BNP, Awami League and Jatiya Party are locked in prestige battle in these constituencies. In other constituencies, BNP and Awami League are locked in a straight fight.

Following is the final list of

See Page 12 Col. 8

Motivate people for largescale participation in referendum: Shahabuddin

MYMENSINGH, Sept 9: Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said today that the referendum to be held on September 15 would be an act of patriotism as the people would give their verdict on a vital national issue, reports BSS.

He called upon the political parties, public representatives, members of intelligentsia, members of local Bar Association and officials to explain the significance of the referendum to the people as its success would strengthen democracy in the country.

The Acting President was addressing the members of Parliament, deputy commis-

See Page 12 Col. 6

Dr Milon murder: Obhi, Szal flee BCL burns vehicles as another accused held

By DU Correspondent

Masudur Rahman alias Masud, one of the accused in the Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon murder case, was shot in the leg and arrested from the Nazrul Islam hall of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Monday afternoon.

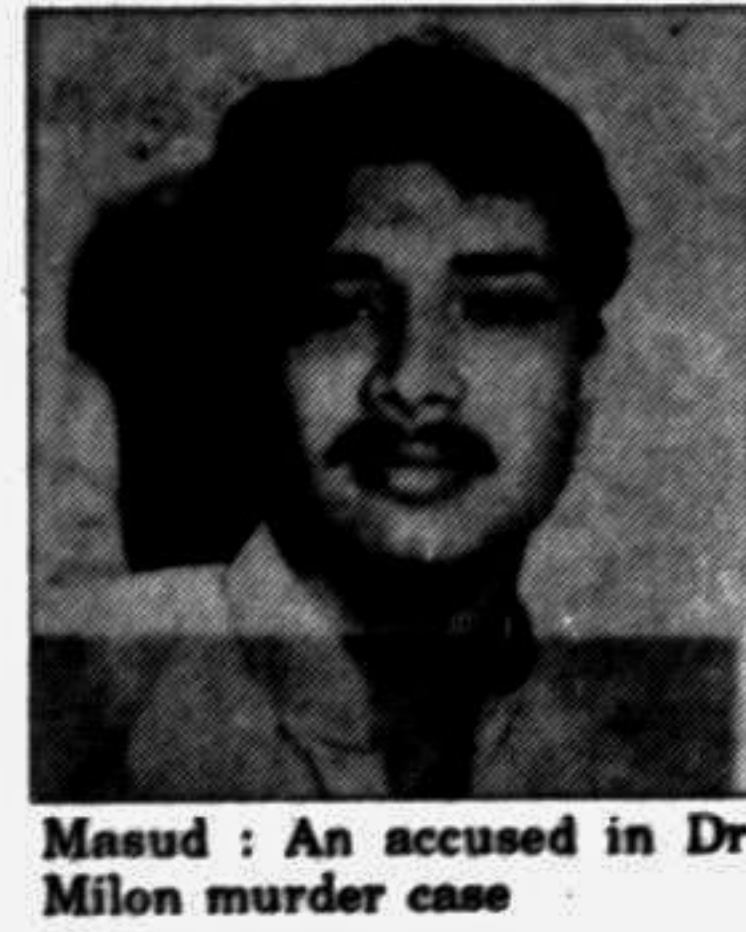
Two of his accomplices, Golam Farooq Obhi and Gazi Quamrul Islam Szal, also accused in the murder, managed to flee.

The arrest triggered off instant protest from his fellow Chhatra League (S-A) activists of the BUET who took to the streets and set afire five vehicles including an official car of State Minister for Establishment and a motor-

cycle of a sergeant.

According to police, from

See Page 12 Col. 4



Masud: An accused in Dr Milon murder case

Kuwaiti manpower recruitment team arrives today

By Staff Correspondent

A 7-member Kuwaiti manpower delegation is expected to arrive in Dhaka today on a four-day visit.

The delegation to be headed by an additional secretary of the Kuwait Ministry of Labour and Manpower will make an assessment of the availability of skilled and semi-skilled manpower in the country.

Labour and Manpower Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia told The Daily Star on Monday that his Kuwaiti counterpart had earlier informed him of sending such a delegation in response to a letter written by him.

He hinted that delegation was likely to look for highly technical personnel and experts to shoulder the task of

See Page 12 Col. 7

IDA credit freeze halts PDB expansion programme

The Power Development Board is planning to suspend all its expansion programmes following credit freeze by the donors, reports UNB.

About 600 million US dollars, meant for both ongoing and proposed projects in power sector has been clogged in the aid pipeline for the authorities failure to launch DESA in time.

Confirming the deadlock, State Minister for Energy Dr. Khandker Mosharraf Hossain told UNB that although the World Bank had only announced aid holdup so far, there might be a chain of reaction among the other donors.

The World Bank on September 3 announced freeze of all IDA credits. According to World Bank Resident Mission

sources, due to the suspension, about 320 million US dollar in IDA credit, including 80 million for ongoing projects, had been stuck up in the current fiscal alone.

Apart from World Bank, other donors to the power sector are Asian Development Bank (ADB), Germany, Japan and Britain.

Britain has already withdrawn its consultants from a technical assistance project for PDB, sources said.

PDB is not in a financial position to spend even Tk 10 crore for a project from its own fund and, therefore, it will be difficult to go with its ongoing and future expansion programme, the State Minister said.

Asked to what extent the credit suspension could affect power supply, the State Minister said there might not be any immediate adverse impact. "But obviously, there will be serious dislocation if the credit suspension continues for a longer period."

Country's power sector largely depends on funds inflow from outside.

The Bank and other donors have been asking for DESA to be launched since July 1990, pleading that the measure would reduce system loss, now running as high as 42 per cent. But the administration has deferred several times the floating of the company in the face of stiff opposition from PDB employees. The last launching date was September one.

See Page 12 Col. 6

Delhi may call out army to contain ULFA activities

GUWAHATI, Sept 9: Assam government was seriously considering the option of deploying army and para military forces in the state to contain the activities of the ULFA, reports PTI.

Making a statement in the Assam assembly, the Chief Minister, Hiteswar Saikia, today said that the government could not remain quiet in view of the continuing acts of violence by the ULFA.

Referring to the killing of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) engineer, TS Raju and an Amnesty International, Assam branch, convenor, Bipur Mahanta, yesterday, he said that the government would have to take stern steps and administrative measures to that effect would be taken.

Since July 1, he said, 24 people were killed by the ULFA and 148 senior members of the outfit arrested by security forces.

AFF adds: Thousands of employees of a state-run Indian oil company launched an indefinite strike Monday to protest the murder of the ONGC engineer colleague.

Nearly 40,000 employees of the ONGC went on strike across the country following a call by the Association of Scientific and Technical Officers (STO), officials and

strike organisers said.

The shutdown by more than 20,000 ASTO members and as many non-executive employees brought to a halt work at some 5,000 oil wells and seriously affected daily production of half a million barrels of crude oil, officials said.

The ULFA had demanded the release of several of its activists held under a tough anti-terrorist law, and news reports said the murder of Raju was a warning to the authorities.

Raju's body was found on a rail track early Sunday.

The ULFA, which wants independence for oil-rich Assam, is also holding five

other ONGC officials in its custody. In July, it killed a Soviet engineer employed in Assam when he tried to escape after being abducted.

"The entire ONGC is shut, an ASTO spokesman here said, adding that the association had urged the government to grant one million rupees (38,000 dollars) as compensation to Raju's family and pull out all ONGC workers from Assam.

The spokesman added that ONGC employees in New Delhi would march to the Prime Minister's office and presidential palace to submit a memorandum Tuesday, demanding immediate action in Assam.

It is really very depressing, said ONGC officer DN Awasthi, 'people are very incensed. The feeling is that the government has not done enough to have our (abducted) people released.'

An executive with another state-run oil company was abducted by Muslim guerrillas in Kashmir state and freed in August in a ransom swap after being held for more than 50 days.

The ASTO spokesman said the federal government had not taken as much interest in the case of ONGC officials abducted in Assam, as in the case of the oil executive in Kashmir.

ULFA has been in existence since the early 1980s, but came into prominence in 1990 with a series of abductions and murders.

Its growing clout prompted New Delhi to set the army after the well-knit group in November. The army has since been withdrawn from Assam, which is ruled by Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) party.

ULFA does not recognise the Indian constitution, maintains that Assam has historically never been a part of India, and has rejected peace talks with New Delhi, which it calls a colonial power.

China marks Mao's death anniversary with vow to fight Western plot

BEIJING, Sept 9: Only with Mao Zedong's teachings can China defeat western imperialists plotting to change the communist system here, the People's Daily said today on the 15th anniversary of the leader's death, reports AFP.

"Only armed with Mao Zedong thought can the imperialist plot of peaceful evolution be defeated," the article said, referring to the Maoist idea that the West is trying to subvert communism by peaceful means.

The Xinhua news agency

See Page 12 Col. 2

NEWS BRIEFS

Holiday in poll areas
The Government has declared September 11 as a holiday in Dhaka city and in areas where by-election will be held in the 11 vacant seats of the Jatiya Sangsad for the convenience of the voters, reports BSS.

DMP prohibition
Dhaka Metropolitan Police have prohibited the movement of all kind of transports within 400 yards of all polling centres in coming by-elections the areas comprising constituencies Dhaka-5 (Culshan, Uttara and Cantonment police stations) and Dhaka-9 (Dhanmondi and Mohammadpur) from midnight tonight to September 12 midnight. The DMP also barred carrying of all kinds of weapons, explosives and other injurious articles, reports BSS.

SSC results at end of 3rd week
The results of the SSC examinations under Dhaka and Rajshahi boards are expected to be announced at the end of third week of this month, an official handout said in Dhaka on Monday night, reports BSS.

Shantibahiniman surrenders
RANGAMATI, Sept 9: A self-styled sergeant of outlawed Shantibahini Uma Mohon Chakma alias Pribel Chakma, surrendered to the security forces in Khagrachari Sunday with two grenades and a set of uniform, reports UNB.

PAF jet crashes
QUETTA, Sept 9: A Pakistan Air Force jet crashed at Quetta Airport in southwest Pakistan today, mowing a man on the runway and injuring its trainee pilot.