

## Indian oil workers threaten strike

NEW DELHI, Sept 20: Indian oil workers have threatened a nationwide strike after an engineer kidnapped by Maoist separatists was found dead on Thursday, four days after the government pledged to secure his release, reports Reuter.

Officials in India's important oil producing Assam state in the northeast said police found the body of B P Srivastav, an engineer from the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), after security forces raided a rebel hideout.

His colleagues promptly threatened to renew a strike they called after the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) rebels killed another kidnapped ONGC worker B S Raju.

That strike, which paralysed cash-strapped India's oil industry last week, was called off when the government pledged to secure the safe release of Srivastav and six other hostages.

"We give the government 72 hours... to secure the safe release of our colleagues. If we

JN Hall student assaulted, ousted by BCL workers

By DU Correspondent

Bidhan Ghose, a resident student of the Dhaka University's Jagannath Hall, was seriously assaulted Friday morning allegedly by a group of the Chhatra League (S-A) supporters in his hall room.

His elder brother, a worker of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, earlier resided in that room.

The Chhatra League attackers also ousted Bidhan from his room (Number 277) in the south building of the hall.

### Bomb blast

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Later in the afternoon, Awami League held a rally at the Shahid Minar Square.

Addressing the meeting Abdu Samad Azad said Awami League had extended all cooperation to the government in the hope of consolidating democracy and bringing about people's welfare, but the government belied all the expectations.

### Miladunnabi

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the country's educational institutions in connection with the observance of the holy occasion. The competition will be held on various events including kerat, recitation, Haarmd and Naat.

Tamuddin Majlish has arranged a discussion on Miladunnabi today at 4 p.m. at the Bishwa Grantha Kendra auditorium. Eminent Islamic thinkers and educationists will take part in the discussion.

Bangladesh Ahle Sunnat will hold a religious rally this afternoon in front of the National Press Club. The Jamayat's other programmes include holding of milad and offering special prayer. The Jamayat will also bring out a religious procession after the rally to mark the occasion.

Nazrul Institute has taken up elaborate programmes including Milad Mahfil to observe the occasion in a befitting manner. The Institute will also hold a discussion on "Hazrat Muhammad (SM) in Nazrul's poem" and "Haarmd and Naat of Nazrul" today at 4 pm at "Kabi Bhaban".

Miladunnabi Uddjapan Committee of Salimullah Road, Mohammadpur has arranged an open recitation and kerat competition for children in observance of the holy occasion. The Committee will also hold a religious discussion (Waj mahfil) to be participated by eminent Islamic thinkers.

Bangladesh Seerat Mission, will hold Quran Khawani, Stratunabali Mahfil, Milad and special prayer after Magreb prayer at Patuatali Jam-e-Masjid.

Haqqani Anjuman and its branches through out the country have chalked out elaborate programmes including holding religious congregations, Ursuk Majlis and special prayers in observance of the occasion. The Anjuman's main programme will be held on September 22 at the premises of Haji Shahbagh Mosque adjacent to the maszars of the three national leaders where leading Haqqani ulema will take part in the discussion.

Nakhalpara Baitul Jannah Mosque has been holding a four-day programme in connection with the celebration of the holy occasion. The programme which began on September 18 with a religious discussion, will conclude through holding zikir, milad and special prayer tomorrow at the mosque premises.

don't get their safe release we will go on strike", the Delhi branch of the ONOC Officers' Union announced on Thursday.

### Kashmir

AFP adds: Muslim militants today suspended a 10-day general strike that crippled Kashmir but a shutdown gripped a neighbouring Hindu region to protest the abduction of a bank manager.

Life returned to normal across the Kashmir valley after a rebel group announced a four-day "relaxation" in the strike, called to demand removal of security pickets from downtown Srinagar, news reports said.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said shops, business establishments, banks and government offices reopened while private and public transport returned to the roads in the Muslim-majority valley.

The strike was called by the Al-Umer Mujahideen, one among the Muslim groups fighting to secede Kashmir from India. It paralysed life all over the valley.

### Silayev

From Page 1 Col. 4 Prime Minister that exports from the republic were down 51 per cent from last year, leaving the government short of hard currency for needed imports like grain.

Silayev said Wednesday he will quit as Russian Prime Minister once a new national council is formed to manage the chaotic Soviet economy. He has been appointed to head the new Inter-Republic Economic Committee, a new governing structure proposed in the wake of the failed Aug 18-21 coup.

Mikhail Gorbachev, intrigued by the idea of Americans coming to teach business techniques, favours an infusion of Western know-how over cash to solve the country's long-term economic problems, US officials say.

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**Divine blessings**

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Acting President sought divine blessings for peace and happiness of Muslims as well as the whole mankind.

He prayed to Allah for giving us the ability to become true followers of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM).

In her message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia wished happiness, peace and welfare of the Muslims throughout the world on this auspicious day. The Prime Minister also hoped that ties of friendship between people of the world would be further consolidated and strengthened. She urged all to forget all narrowness and differences and conduct themselves on the path of truth and justice followed by the Prophet (SM).

"Let Allah the all merciful give us the ability to do so," she said.

UNB adds: In her message Awami League President and leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina has greeted Muslims in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world on the holy occasion.

The ideals of Prophet Muhammad will inspire us to fight for truth, justice and peace by ignoring all fears, repression and torture, she said.

Hasina said the code of life taught by the Prophet contains the way for true emancipation of the entire mankind in this world of clash and conflict.

The Muslim Ummah had to face disunity and split because of deviation from the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SM), she said.

By following the Prophet's teachings and ideals, she added, the united Muslim Ummah could play its historic role in solving the problems of the present day world.

The Awami League President regretted that the message of the Prophet of Allah is crying in wilderness in Bangladesh, the second largest Muslim country of the world.

The objective of Eid-e-Miladunnabi would be meaningful only when the 90 per cent men and women now living below poverty level could be emancipated from the curse of poverty and deprivation.

"We are observing with shame and sorrow that a section of people using the name religion is deceiving the religious minded innocent people of the country. They also blackened the name of Islam by collaborating with the Pakistani army in killing, looting, arson and rape during the liberation war in 1971."

Hasina said this quarter is still trying to confuse and misguide people in the name of Islam.

We must remain alert against anti-people autocratic rulers on the one hand and about fake preachers of religion on the other."

She said, "Let the teachings of Allah and the Prophet be our guide."



Aerators adding extra oxygen to water in a pond of the Aqua Culture Farm Limited, the first scientific fish farm in Bangladesh.

Star photo by M K Majumder.

## Shrimp culture: two crops a year possible

From Mostafa Kamal Majumder

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 20: Modern shrimp farm in the suburb of Cox's Bazar town is expected to give a per acre yield of 2400 kilograms, almost ten times the average of 250 kg per acre, this year.

Owners of the farm — Aqua Culture Farm Limited — say they have already harvested a crop of 900 kg per acre. By December, another crop of 1500 kg an acre is expected.

Mohammad Nizamuddin, managing director and Imran Ahmed, director of the farm, say it was but for the April 29 cyclone that their first crop of the year was not above 900 kg an acre.

The cyclone-induced storm surge had not only flooded the nine ponds of the farm covering 29.1 acres, but also whipped up as many as 72 boats and barges into those. After the cyclone those vessels had to be taken out of the ponds by cutting their banks.

Since this farm is thoroughly mechanised it is possible to harvest two crops a year, in place one crop harvested in other farms. After harvesting a crop the bottom of each pond is cleaned and limed to obtain the required acidity and alkalinity balance before releasing fresh fries.

Imran Ahmed, who is also an AL member of parliament, told this correspondent that after starting the farm as an ordinary 'gher' he had read a newspaper article on scientific methods of shrimp culture and at the advice of a friendly Singaporean businessman he went to Indonesia to see for himself a modern shrimp culture project. We were con-

vinced that our farm could also be modernised to intensify shrimp production, he said.

First they tried to get loan from Bangladesh Krishibank, but failed. Then the Saudi company came forward with help. The project was then redesigned in keeping with the advice received from a Japanese expert. The first crop of the farm under intensive culture had suffered due to excessive rainfall in 1987.

In the process they have decided to opt for more locally available tools and equipment to make the project viable.

Imran Ahmed said, they had set up a hatchery along with the project following advice of foreign experts, but subsequently it appeared that the salinity of the water available from the nearby Bankkhali canal was inadequate for running a hatchery. Thus the hatchery component had to be dropped after spending Taka 25 lakh.

They are confident that the Taka 400 crore export earning in 1989-90 can be increased at least ten times through vertical expansion which can also take care of the long-term environmental aspect by stopping encroachment of forests and paddy fields.

In Taka per acre yield of shrimp is about 5000 kg a year, and a family owning an acre of shrimp farm can lead luxurious life. Nizamuddin said.

In Bangladesh, 300 thousand acres of land are now under shrimp cultivation, but productivity remains very low.

## Baker reports progress

From Page 1 Col. 5 politics in the occupied territories.

Baker met King Hussein on Thursday and both men urged the Palestinians not to miss the chance for peace, with the Jordanian monarch warning that the alternative is disaster.

"I only hope they will realise that time is short and the alternative to serious progress is only disaster," King Hussein told a joint press conference following talks with Baker.

"What other options are there?" he asked.

Baker echoed the King's remarks and stressed that the US-brokered peace conference, slated for October, was the best opportunity that has presented itself in a long, long time.

"It is going to be a long time before the bus ever comes by again," the US official added. "If this opportunity is missed, in my opinion, the Palestinians have perhaps the most to lose."

Baker, on a seventh tour of the region to set up the peace conference since the end of the Gulf war, has also been to Israel and to Egypt.

During each stop, except Cairo, he presented officials, including Palestinian figures, with letters of assurances outlining the scope of a Middle East conference jointly sponsored by Washington and Moscow.

Informed Palestinian sources have said that the document was "insufficient because it failed to mention the right of the Palestinians to self-determination on the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Baker also met with officials in Israel where several officials have accused US President George Bush of being a liar and of anti-Semitism over his orders to Congress this month to delay granting Israel 10 billion dollars in loan guarantees.

Arab countries believe that Israel will use the money to settle Soviet immigrants in the occupied territories.

President Assad on Thursday told the American network ABC that giving Israel the loan guarantees would obstruct the peace process to the extreme.

Syria has expressed readiness to participate in the peace conference but Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara said late Wednesday that the letter of assurances would be studied

It was referring to United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israeli withdrawal from the territories it occupied during the 1967 Arab-Israel war.

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### Hasina

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and people's cash donation to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund were not distributed properly in the affected areas.

Relief materials were either misappropriated or used for political purposes by the ruling party, the opposition leader further alleged.

Hasina said the so-called relief operation of the government was confined to state-owned radio and television only.

"People's well-being cannot be ensured merely by flying over the affected areas on board helicopters at public expense and showing the aerial trips on television."

This government came to power by making "false" election promises to the people, she said adding that although an announcement was made to exempt agricultural loans up to Tk 5,000, the decision has not yet been implemented.

On the contrary, she said poor farmers are being harassed after an official order that only those unable to pay the loan of Tk 5,000 will be exempted. "This order is fully aimed at serving the political purpose of BNP."

The Awami League chief said her party stood for establishing the rights of the deprived multitude. Awami League will not rest until economic emancipation of the poor and the deprived masses is achieved, she assured.

While Hasina was visiting different relief centres and affected areas, thousands of villagers rushed to her to tell their tales of woes.

People at many places complained that they have not yet received any relief material from the government. At Rabbari Maternity Centre, only 250 kg of rice were distributed for 955 inmates over the last 10 days, they said.

The Awami League chief asked the party units and workers to stand by the side of the suffering masses in floodhit areas through relief and rehabilitation work.

## Burmese military urged to remain united

BANGKOK, Sept 20: A senior Burmese leader has called on the armed forces to remain united and resist "destructive elements," according to an official radio report monitored here Thursday.

"Member of the defence forces, who are constructing national unit, must remain steadfastly united, and it is necessary for them not to be confused by divisive tactics and instigation by destructive elements," Major-General Myo Nyunt said in a speech to army officers and soldiers in Rangoon.

Myo Nyunt, a senior member of the ruling state Law and Order Restoration Council and Rangoon area commander did not elaborate.

A large proportion of the armed forces backed the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) in May 1990 elections.

The NLD won more than 80 per cent of the vote but the junta has refused to handover power, saying a new constitution must be drafted first, while numerous NLD members remain imprisoned on various charges.

Customs officials on Friday seized over 500 tolas of gold worth about Taka 45 lakh from a passenger arriving at Zia International Airport from Bangkok. The passenger, Abdur Rahim Khan, was also arrested.

According to Customs officials, when the Thai airlines flight TO-321 arrived from Bangkok the movements of the passenger aroused suspicion among the Customs Surveillance Team members on duty at the airport.

Customs officials challenged the passenger just when he was about to walk out of the red channel after completing the necessary baggage checks at the counter.

After he denied carrying any illegal items with him, a deputy collector on duty ordered a body-search on the passenger. During the search 50 gold bars of ten tola each and 20 gold chains weighing 20 tola were found wrapped in carbon paper with scotch-tape inside the thick canvas shoes the passenger was wearing.

Officials of other departments at the airport were also present during the recovery.

## The Midnight File

### Seven killed in Indian firing

ISLAMABAD, Sept 20: Indian troops opened fire into the Pakistani ruled sector of disputed Kashmir, killing seven civilians and injuring 20, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) news agency said today. It accused Indian troops of "unprovoked firing" on Thursday across a United Nations-monitored ceasefire line into Pakistan-ruled Azad (Free) Kashmir's Neelum Valley, reports Reuter.

### Koirala dismisses 47 civil servants

KATHMANDU, Sept 20: The four month-old Nepali congress government of Girija Prasad Koirala has dismissed 47 civil servants and promoted 44 others to the vacated posts, an official announcement said. The dismissed officials included three high-ranking secretaries, along with additional secretaries, first and second class officials and some junior officials, reports AFP.

### Perez de Cuellar won't stay on