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VOL. 1 NO. 241 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

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Inside Today

International



Yugoslav Navy lifted a blockade of Split at the same time the Croats restored supplies of water and electricity to Yugoslav Army barracks
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Article

With more and more republics declaring independence from Moscow the question of control of Soviet nuclear weapons is increasingly being debated. The issue of who has the finger on the nuclear trigger has become crucial for Western strategic analysts
 Page 4

Feature

Banking and Finance
Privatisation and Holding Company Operations: An Analysis
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Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



"For me it's 'no work, no pay,' so I try to put in as much work as I can," says Mukul, who repairs cane furniture
 Page 3

Business

Due to the internal political turmoil the Soviet Union did not buy tea from Bangladesh since December, adversely affecting tea exports
 Page 7

NEWS BRIEFS

PM visits Feni today

FENI, Sept 23: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will visit her parliamentary constituency Chhagalnaiya-Fulgazi today (Tuesday) and meet party leaders, workers and people from all walks of life. This would be her first visit to Feni after taking over as Chief Executive of the country on September 19 under the parliamentary system, reports UNB.

BSF team leaves for home

The nine-member Indian delegation left Dhaka Monday morning after the conclusion of the BDR-BSF director general level annual border coordination conference, according to a BDR press release, reports BSS.

CUTA election postponed

From Our Staff Correspondent
CHITAGONG, Sept 23: The election of the Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA), scheduled on September 26, was postponed today due to funds constraint and lack of conducive atmosphere.

World Bank Annual Report

Bangladesh faces uncertain prospects

Star Economic Report

Bangladesh, along with six other Asian countries categorised as "slower-growth economies", faces "uncertain or clouded prospects" for the first years of the new decade following "low and declining growth rates" in the 1980s, according to the Annual Report (1991) of the World Bank released on Monday.

The six other "slower-growth economies" in Asia are: Laos, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, The Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

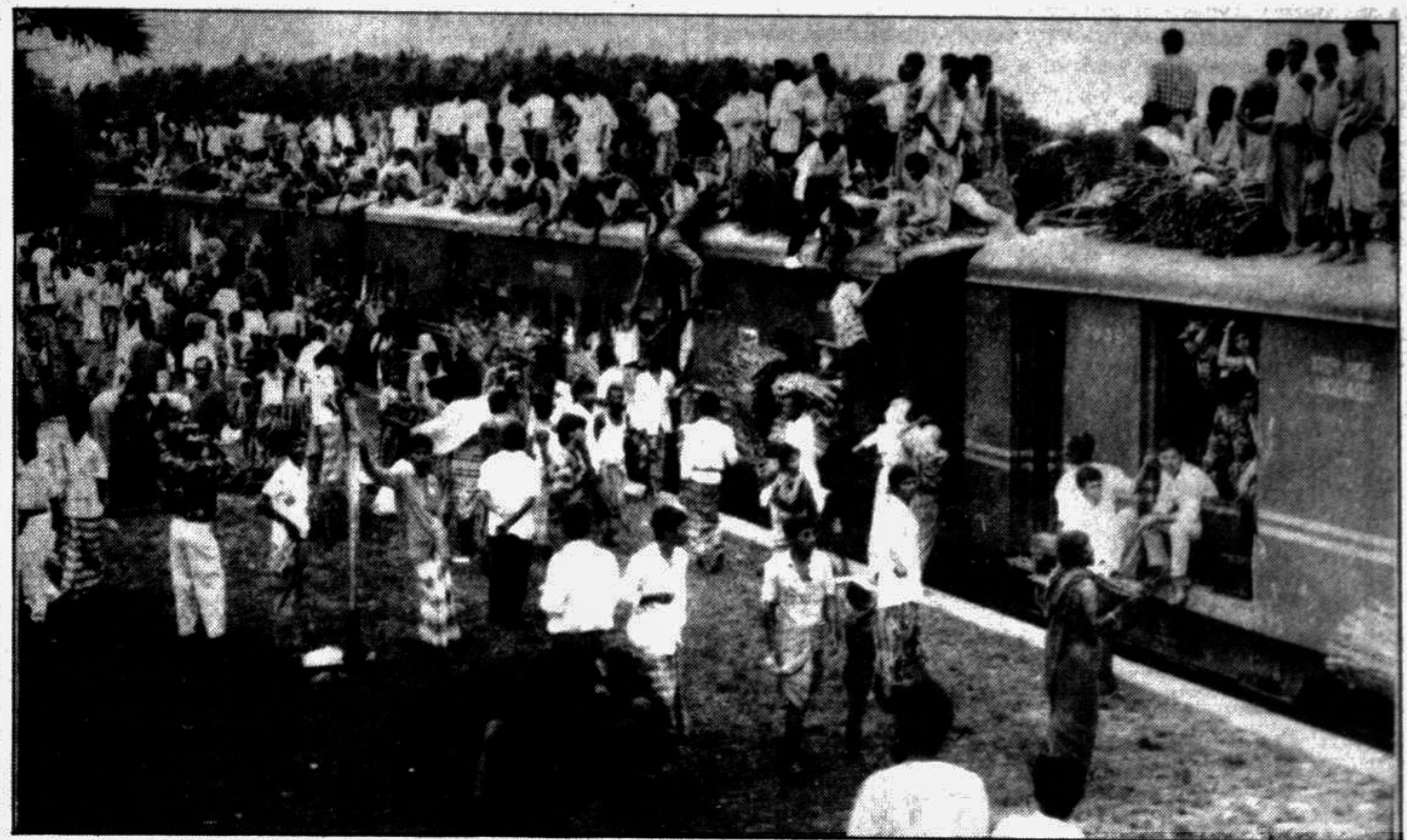
These economies all share, to some degree, "an ominous convergence of rapid population growth, ecological vulnerability, large numbers of absolute poor, and deeply rooted domestic and external macro-

economic problems, the report said.

It said the development constraints among the "slower-growth economies" of Asia vary in intensity and composition from country to country but there is the same "ominous convergence" of economic problems. "Exceptional skills will be needed in managing economic policy and infrastructure investments if these problems are to be addressed effectively. Resolute redirection of public expenditure towards family planning, rural social services and environmental rehabilitation and preservation of forests, soils and water is also needed in such slower-growth economies", the report noted.

Mentioning Bangladesh, the report said, economic growth in the country in 1991 was expected to be lower than in the previous year which was 6.2 per cent even before the April 1991 cyclone. It is now estimated to have been about three to 3.5 per cent in the year. It added that there had been a build-up of foreign exchange reserves recently on account of a slowdown of imports, partly reflecting sluggish growth.

"Some of the major tasks confronting the government", the report said, "include implementation of a prioritized public investment programme, focusing on key areas like social sectors and infrastructures". See Page 12 Col. 6



TRAINS OF WOODPILE: With none around to stop them effectively, bands of unauthorised woodcutters have long been trading in firewood from the Barind forest causing-casualty — the prized woodland to shrink. — Star photo

Biswas emerges as lone BNP presidential candidate

Star Report

The name of Abdur Rahman Biswas on Monday figured prominently among those being considered by the BNP leadership for nomination for the post of president.

BNP sources told The Daily Star that the party chief and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia discussed the matter with party leaders at a number of forums on Monday.

A final decision will be announced some time today (Tuesday), the sources said adding that the selection of Abdur Rahman Biswas as the candidate appeared to have been finalised.

An Awami League source said that the central leaders of the party now available in the

city are expected to meet today (Tuesday) to take a decision in this regard.

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina returned to Dhaka last night after her tour of the northern districts. She, however, was too tired to have any meeting.

BNP sources indicated that the party leadership has expressed within the party fold an opinion that Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz was indispensable to the Treasury Bench. Thus his nomination for the post of president appeared remote.

The sources said that the attitude of the BNP leadership towards Dr. Badruddoza

Chowdhury appeared to be cold Monday. Ranking leaders of the party were not happy with Dr. Chowdhury's handling of the situation arising out of his differences of opinion.

When contacted Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas said that he was not aware of any development centering on him. Neither did he contact anybody, nor was he contacted by anybody in this regard.

A veteran parliamentarian Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas emphasised that he was holding a very dignified position which he was very eager to uphold, clearly indicating that he just could not lobby for obtaining his nomination for the post of president.

Nizami, Menon Suranjit want consensus candidate

A senior opposition MP on Monday suggested that the President of the country should be elected on the basis of consensus, report UNB.

Rashed Khan Menon said the presidency under parliamentary system is a ceremonial post. So, he said, the President should be elected after consultations between the ruling party and the opposition in parliament.

Menon, General Secretary of Workers Party and frontline leader of the Five-Party Alliance, said "unfortunately, the ruling BNP did never consult the opposition on major national issues."

About the "open-ballot" See Page 12 Col. 4

Ministers to be executive heads of ministries

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

The Cabinet which had its first meeting Monday after the switchover to parliamentary democracy is learnt to have taken a decision making ministers executive heads of ministries.

Reliable sources say this was the only decision taken in the meeting which lasted three hours. So long secretaries were the executive heads of ministries.

The change was being discussed for quite some time. And a committee headed by Agriculture Minister Mag Gen (ret'd) Majidul Haq has already been assigned to change the Rules of Business accordingly.

In the changed circumstances each minister will be responsible for the activities of his ministry to Parliament, and the secretaries will be responsible for their activities to the minister.

Sources say there was lively discussion in the cabinet over the issue. And at one stage even some senior secretaries

present at the meeting spoke.

Monday's decision of the cabinet, the sources say, marks a major change in the administrative setup since the Liberation of Bangladesh.

Secretaries used to be executive heads of ministries during the first three and a half years of parliamentary democracy under the Awami League, they pointed out.

BSS adds: The first meeting of the cabinet after the reestablishment of the parliamentary form of government in the country was held on Monday at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, according to an official handout.

At the very outset of the meeting, recitation from the Holy Quran was followed by a munajat praying for the sustenance of hard-earned parliamentary democratic system in the country.

Cabinet ministers and state ministers-in-charge attended the meeting.

Chiefs of three services call on Khaleda

The chiefs of three services, Lt Gen Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan of Army, Rear Admiral Mohaiminul Islam of Navy and Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury of Air Force, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Secretariat office Monday morning, reports BSS.

They congratulated Begum Zia on her assumption of the office of the chief executive of the country under the new parliamentary system of government.

See Page 12 Col. 5

People won't forgive BNP if it fails to run govt: Hasina

SAIDPUR (Nilphamari), Sept 23: Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina today warned that the people would not forgive the BNP government if it fails to run the country in keeping with their aspiration, reports UNB.

People-oriented programmes including education, employment, industrialisation See Page 12 Col. 7

Kidnap attempt retaliated by stabbing on DU campus



Jasimuddin, a student of Dhaka University, with stab injuries. — Star photo

I have many things to say, but not now, says DU VC

By DU Correspondent

Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University today said violence on the campus was not due to any administrative failure but was prompted from outside.

The same causes which caused violence on the DU campus also gripped hundreds of other educational institutions in the country, he observed.

He said he had many things to say but could not say now because of his position as Vice-Chancellor. "My neutrality as Vice-Chancellor would be affected if I say these things now," Prof Moniruzzaman told a function of the DU Journalists Association arranged at the TSC to give farewell to its outgoing members.

The Vice-Chancellor termed as baseless some reports published in a section of press that he wanted to resign because of continued violence on the campus.

He said to him, the post of Vice-Chancellor was not more important than campus peace. See Page 12 Col. 8

By DU Correspondent

The agitated JCD workers then stabbed Jasimuddin, at the Science Annex compound.

Tension soon spread on the campus and a group of armed youths, allegedly JCD workers, came at the Madhu's Canteen premises riding on two private cars. They entered into the canteen and forced the Chhatra League workers to leave the place at gun point.

Sujan was assaulted by the agitated youths during that time. The incident created panic among the students and they ran helter-skelter for their safety.

Jasimuddin was treated in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later released.

Iraq rebuilding weapons: Bush

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 23: US President George Bush, warning that Iraq was rebuilding its weapons of mass destruction, said today there would be no compromise with Baghdad over inspection of the facilities, reports Reuter.

In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly, President Bush also said economic sanctions on Iraq must remain as long as Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein remains in power.

Saddam continues to rebuild his weapons of mass destruction and subject his people to terrorism. He continues his contempt for UN resolutions," Bush said.

"His government refuses to permit unconditional helicopter inspections and right now is refusing to let UN inspectors leave premises with documents related to an Iraqi nuclear weapons programme," Bush added.

"We must keep sanctions in place as long as he remains in power. We cannot compromise for a moment."

The President also called on the United Nations to repeal its 1975 resolution equating Israeli Zionism with racism, saying to equate the two is to "reject Israel itself".

Bush, in a 23-minute speech never interrupted by applause, stopped short of is-

suing an ultimatum for Iraq to comply with UN demands or face renewed US-led military action.

But he was clearly angered that Iraqi officials had detained UN inspectors who sought to leave the premises of an inspection site with documents they had seized.

A UN arms inspection team was forcibly ejected from a building in Baghdad after being denied permission to remove documents containing proof of Iraq's nuclear programme, a US State Department official said today in Washington.

The official said the team was released and Iraqi officials had promised them they

would have access to the documents on Tuesday.

He said the papers contained "documentary evidence that Iraq was engaged in a substantial nuclear weapons development programme."

Giving details of the latest clash between the Iraqi authorities and UN inspectors searching for weapons of mass destruction, Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee of France said the UN team found a "substantial amount of documentation related to Iraq's nuclear activities and to nuclear weapons."

He said the head of the UN special commission in charge See Page 12 Col. 6

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