

Inside Today

International



Gorbachev has sold his 74-page account of the failed August coup in the Soviet Union for reported 500,000 dollars to the HarperCollins Publishing Company

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Flower is a big business
COLUMN : From LDC to NIC by Shahid Latif

Political power behind the judge's winning smile
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Dhaka Day by Day



Ritu Singh, an Indian artist, painted her impressions of Bangladesh in an exhibition in Dhaka recently

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Abu Dhabi dashes hopes of restructuring BCCI in Britain
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Higher secondary science education in Bangladesh
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NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina returns home today

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina returns home today (Sunday) from Paris ending a 10-day tour of UK and France, reports UNB.

16 killed in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Oct 5: Nine militants, including two functionaries of an outlawed outfit, and three security personnel were among 16 people killed in Punjab since last night, four militants, including Lt Gen Karaj Singh and Area Commander Amarjit Singh, were killed in a fierce, 24-hour encounter in village Chung in Bikhawind area in Amritsar district.

5 Lankan Tamil bases destroyed

COLOMBO, Oct 5: Five major Tamil rebel bases were destroyed by security forces in Sri Lanka's eastern region in a three-day operation, the state-run Lankapuwa news agency said today. The agency said security forces backed by the air force broke through rebel defences in the jungles of Kandikudiharu and Lahugala in Amparai district. The operation ended on Friday, reports Reuter.

Bid to kill Akali Dal leader

AMRITSAR, Oct 5 : The Akali Dal (Badal) Vice-President, Parkash Singh Majithia today escaped an attempt on his life at his house in Majithia town of Punjab, police said here. Police said two militants, who entered Majithia's house to meet him, fired at one his gunmen, Charanjit Singh, Punjab police constable, wounding him seriously, reports PTI.

Jamaat decides not to pursue case after repeal of Ordinance

Hearing of writ begins

By Staff Correspondent

Hearing of the 'stay part' of the writ petition against the Election of President Act, 1991 began at the Single Bench of the Supreme Court on Saturday.

Barrister Amritul Islam, who along with other lawyers filed the petition on behalf of Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad and others was continuing his deposition when the court was adjourned till 2-30 pm today.

Making his deposition in the crowded court room of

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, Barrister Amritul Islam pleaded that the Election of President Act was passed due to inadequate understanding of the spirit of the Constitution.

Similarly, an ordinance was promulgated on September 28 amending the said Act even though there was no such necessity.

When Attorney General Aminul Haque pointed out that the ordinance had already been repealed, Barrister Amritul Islam retorted: 'I feel

the need of another ordinance to repeal Sections 11 and 12 of the Election of President Act, which provide for an open election.'

The Writ petition had originally challenged both the Ordinance and the Act. With the repeal of the Ordinance the petitioners are now challenging only the Act.

Jamaat leader Sheikh Ansar Ali, who also had filed a writ petition against the Act and the Ordinance through his lawyers Barrister Abdur Razzak

and others was not in the court as the party had decided not to pursue the case since the Ordinance had already been repealed.

Petitioners Abdus Samad Azad, Motia Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, Awami League leaders, including Amir Hossain Amu, some members of parliament belonging to the BNP and eminent lawyers were present in the court room when the Judge heard the deposition on behalf of the petitioners.

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Saifur calls for more help

Post-flood situation critical: NGOs



An Indonesian girl performs at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in celebration of the Kendrio Kanchi Kanchar Melia's 35th founding anniversary on Saturday.

—Star photo

By Moazzem Hossain

Local and foreign non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on Saturday presented a grim picture to the government about the "most critical" socio-economic and health situation in the flood-affected districts.

The NGOs in a meeting with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman reviewed the overall condition in the greater districts of Rangpur and Dinajpur, and parts of Rajshahi and Pabna.

Basing their reports on the field-level experience of their personnel engaged in relief operations in flood-affected areas, the NGOs feared that the existing "near-famine" condition and "diarrhoeal diseases" would worsen without stronger and more effective intervention by the government with support of private voluntary organisations.

The representatives of NGOs including RDRA, ADAB, OXFAM, CCDB, CARITAS and other organisations made their observations at the meeting held in the conference room of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar secretariat. Also present at the meeting were officials of the World Food Programme, the UNDP and other international organisations. Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD) Enam Ahmed Chowdhury and Director General, NGO Bureau Shahidul Alam also addressed the meeting.

The NGO representatives observed that the economic hardship of the flood-affected people was at its "worst". They feared that acute unemployment and joblessness would lead to extreme pauperisation. They noted that the "acute seed crisis" would make winter cultivation difficult in the flood-affected areas.

"What is the most alarming

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5-party leaders meet PM

The leaders of the Five-Party Alliance met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office last night and exchanged views on various issues, reports BSS.

Senior leaders of the BNP and the Five-Party Alliance were present at the meeting.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and Secretary General of the BNP Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Works and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Environment, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman, Jute Minister A F M Iannan Shah, Food Minister Shamsul Islam, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and State Minister for Shipping Harunur Rashid were present from the BNP.

The leaders of Five-Party Alliance included Bimal Biswas of the United Communist League and Convener of the Alliance, Khalequzzaman of the BSL, A F M Mahbubul Haq of the BSL, Moinuddin Khan Badal of the BSL, Nirmal Sen of Krishn Sramik Samajabadi Dal, Naim Jahangir of Oktiya Prokria, Sharif Nurul Ambia of the JSD (Int) and Haider Akbar Khan Reno of Workers Party.

More power for Press Council being planned

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

The government is considering to give more power to the Press Council to cancel accreditation cards of journalists for professional misconduct and declaration of newspapers for repeatedly violating law and rules.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda told this correspondent that the amendment to a number of laws is being contemplated also to uphold the dignity of the profession of journalism.

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Khaleda calls for consensus on all national issues

Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia Saturday night called for national consensus, irrespective of party affiliations, on all national issues to lead the nation to the path of progress and prosperity, reported BSS.

She said after a long relentless struggle, parliamentary democracy had been restored in the country. She sought cooperation of all for consolidating democracy. "We want democracy to have a permanent base," she told them.

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Badrul meets PM, refuses to withdraw

Star Report

A midnight meeting between the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League backed presidential candidate Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury on Friday ended without any fruitful outcome. The meeting was held at the residence of the Prime Minister which lasted for over an hour.

Opposition sources told The Daily Star Saturday that Justice Chowdhury did not agree to a proposal by the Prime Minister to withdraw from the presidential race. The Prime Minister recalled her offer to Badrul Haider Chowdhury to contest as BNP candidate in parliament elections in February.

The Prime Minister was learnt to have requested Badrul Haider Chowdhury to think over her proposal and to communicate his decision on Saturday. But an Awami League source said that Justice Chowdhury was determined to contest.

When our correspondent went to Justice Chowdhury's residence Saturday night at about 11 pm, he was not available for comment. The correspondent was told that Justice Chowdhury was sleeping.

However, a close aide of Justice Chowdhury confirmed that he met Prime Minister Begum Zia Friday night.

The aide also informed that Justice Chowdhury had a meeting with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury on Friday at 5 pm at the residence of BNP MP Farida Rahman.

Justice Chowdhury told UNB Saturday that Begum Zia had requested him to pull out from the electoral race in exchange of a diplomatic job like that of the Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

"I'm sorry, I can't withdraw or retire. Nor can I accept any job under the government,"

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180 killed as Indonesian plane crashes

JAKARTA, Oct 5 : At least 180 people were killed when an Indonesian Air Force transport plane crashed into a building in Jakarta today, according to unconfirmed reports from local journalists at the scene, reports Reuter.

An official at Indonesia's search and rescue office confirmed the crash of the US-made Hercules but did not give details of casualties.

The police later said the plane was carrying many passengers, believed to be air force personnel. They said it

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Ordinance repealed

By Staff Correspondent

The ordinance relating to presidential election was repealed on Friday.

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed promulgated the Election of President (second amendment) Ordinance repealing the earlier one which barred the members of the Parliament to vote against party whip in presidential election.

The promulgation of the Ordinance on September 30 whipped up political controversy.

President poll : JP to pray for parole for Ershad, Zafar

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party will seek permission from the Chief Election Commissioner or the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsads to allow deposed President Ershad and former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed to cast their votes in the upcoming

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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OF WORK

We, Mitsui Construction Co. Ltd., as a Subcontractor of Chiyoda Corporation (General Contractor) started the Civil, Building and Jetty work of KAFCO Fertilizer Project under the Contract with General Contractor.

Due to some unavoidable circumstances, however, General Contractor decided to suspend their work as from 1st October, 1991. Accordingly, we, Mitsui Construction Co. Ltd., also decided to suspend our all construction work at site as from 4th October, 1991 and will continue until further notice.

We sincerely believe our efforts to have continued the Project and we would like to thank for our all Sub-Contractors, Suppliers and Local peoples for their good co-operation with us.

We are willing to commence the resumption of the work as soon as the situation allows us to again work together.

D-106

Mitsui Construction Co. Ltd

Notice of Suspension of Work

Since November 1990 when we, Chiyoda Corporation as a general contractor started the construction work of KAFCO Fertilizer, we have been exerting our utmost endeavour to consummate the plant within the time period as planned by KAFCO, in cooperation with subcontractors and vendors along with their local staff, in order not to adversely affect the implementation of the project even under the last unexpected cyclone.

In fact, the most serious hardship we have been facing is the delay in payment from KAFCO which started in January of this year and has accumulated to approximately US\$ 50,000,000 as of the end of September 1991. This overdue amount is more than 40% of the paid-in capital of our company. If we continue our work, this burden shall increase by more than \$10 million with each additional month.

Under the aforementioned situation, however, we have managed to continue the work until September 30, 1991 in full compliance with GOB's request through KAFCO with our expectation that, by such date, we will be assured of the release from the present financial hardship.

Beyond that, we are not able to endure any further financial burden, and unfortunately we have done to step into the suspension of the entire work after October 1, 1991 in accordance with the contract.

We sincerely believe our efforts to have continued the project until September 30, 1991 will be known, and we highly appreciate our collaborators have worked together with the full support to us.

Of course, we are willing to commence the resumption of the work as soon as the situations allow us to again work together.

Chiyoda Corporation
on and behalf of the
General Contractor

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3 elderly leaders seek to succeed Kaifu

he would not seek another term to take responsibility for the failure of his political reform programme, which was abandoned by the parliament before it ended its session on Friday.

The three candidates each head one of the five factions of the LDP and exercise a powerful influence within their wings of the party they were involved in the recruit financial scandal that led to the resignation of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in April 1989.

Miyazawa, one of the few Japanese politicians of his age

to have a good command of English, made a bid for the top party post in 1987 but was beaten by Takeshita.

Watana, seen within the LDP as a man of action, is best known for his blunt speaking and the racist comments he made about blacks.

Mitsuzuka, a vet before he became a deputy in 1972, is seen by the local press as having the smallest chance of winning the presidency of the party and hence the post of prime minister.

Kaifu said Saturday he would remain prime minister until his mandate ends on October 30. He has been head of the Japanese government since August 1989.

Kaifu confirmed Saturday