

## Russia offers compromise on Y'slavia at UN

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 16: Diplomats worked Wednesday to persuade Russia not to veto a resolution to suspend Serbian-dominated Yugoslavia from the United Nations for fomenting civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports AP.

The 12 nation European Community and the United States announced to the General Assembly at its opening session on Tuesday that they want Serbia and Montenegro, the only republics remaining in Yugoslavia, barred from UN work.

Russia and China, however, have expressed reservations and as permanent members of the Security Council—which will decide the issue before it goes to the General Assembly—could veto Yugoslavia's suspension.

The council is expected to make a decision by week's end.

On Wednesday, representatives of Western countries on

the Security Council planned to meet with Russian officials to try to get their support. At the same time, diplomats from six non-aligned countries—Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Morocco, Venezuela and India—planned to meet with Belgrade's ambassador, Dragomir Djokic, to hear his views.

There are fairly intense negotiations going on, one diplomat close to the talks said Wednesday.

Russia, he said, had offered some ideas for dealing with its objections. But the diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, declined to elaborate. China was not expected to block Yugoslavia's suspension, the diplomat said.

Russia's ambassador, Yuli Vorontsov, hinted to reporters Tuesday that a compromise might be possible.

Contrary to many others, we are not looking at unseating

somebody. We are looking at the proper way of keeping Serbia, Montenegro... here in the family of nations... In our eyes it's not unseating, it's just finding the proper procedure to keep them here," Vorontsov said. He did not elaborate on a possible compromise.

In Moscow, spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky of the Russian Foreign Ministry said Tuesday, "Raising a question about isolating Yugoslavia from international organizations would be counterproductive."

Russia and China believe suspending the Belgrade government would hamper peace negotiations and encourage Serbian extremists. They prefer to wait until elections scheduled for November in Serbia. More moderate officials may be elected then, smoothing the way for a peaceful settlement of the Yugoslav conflict.

## Britain struggles to avoid devaluation

LONDON, Sept 16: The Bank of England said Wednesday it was raising interest rates by five points to 15 percent, as it scrambled to prop up the pound and ease the chaos gripping Europe's battered currency markets, reports AP.

Announcement of a three-point hike, effective Thursday, followed hours after a two-point boost failed to move the pound sterling higher against the powerful German mark.

The bank's dramatic moves came two days after Germany lowered interest rates and Italy devalued the lira in attempts to calm markets ahead of next Sunday's vote in France on the Maastricht treaty for European political and monetary unity.

The government expressed determination to support the pound, even if it meant higher interest rates, while hoping that the problem would abate in a few days.

But industry and labour leaders said they feared that if higher rates persist, Britain's recession-wracked economy would pay a higher price of lost jobs, business failures and home repossessions.

With such dramatic steps

failing to immediately bring order to European exchange rates, it seemed inevitable that the financial turmoil will persist regardless of whether the French vote "Yes" or "no."

Investors have been dumping their local currencies in favour of the powerful German mark, for fear that a French rejection of Maastricht would kill the treaty and force a realignment of currency exchange rates.

## All nominations to Rajbari-1 constituency valid

RAJBARI, Sept 16: Nomination of all the seven candidates for the October 12 parliamentary election to the Rajbari-1 constituency was accepted as valid after scrutiny today, reports UNB.

The candidates are MA Khaleque of the BNP, Kazi Keramat Ali (AL), Nurul Islam (Jamaat), Munshi Abdul Latif (JP) and independent Golam Mostafa, Emdadul Huq Biswas and Alhaj Naziruddin Ahmed.

The last date of withdrawal of candidature is September 22.

## Ordin not needed: Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8: Presided over by City AL President Muzaffar Hossain Paltu, the conference was also addressed by party General Secretary Begum Sajeda Choudhury, MP, and city AL leader Khandaker Habibur Rahman.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad and central leaders of the party Dr Kamal Hossain, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Jalil, Tofael Ahmed, MP, AL Chief Whip Mohammad Nassim, MP, Begum Matiya Choudhury, MP and Abdur Razzaque, MP, were, among others, present at the conference.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Hasina, singled out the government's "inefficiency, incapability and insincerity" for the current escalation of violence and acts of terrorism which she said had posed a serious threat to the nascent democracy in the country.

She charged that the present government had "hardly any respect for democracy" and that was the reason why the ruling party took many important decisions by-passing the Jatiya Sangsad.

Recalling her announcement in Parliament last year of suspending all activities of her party's student front, Chhatra League at the Dhaka University, Hasina regretted that the BNP failed to reciprocate such a gesture at that time. The ruling party took a similar decision after a year-long delay during which period several lives were lost.

Blaming the government for such tragedies, she said that it was the responsibility of the government which controls the law enforcing agencies to maintain peace in the society. "I am in the Opposition, what can I do... had I been in power, I could have stopped terrorism within an hour," she claimed.

Having failed to curb violence, the ruling party was trying to blame the opposition,

she noted, adding that as her party enjoyed the support of the people and had dedicated and disciplined workers "we do not need the support of the terrorists."

However, the AL chief cautioned her workers about a 'government backed conspiracy' against the party and called for foiling all evil designs against the onward march of democracy.

UNB adds: "Remain ever vigilant as ideal soldiers of Bangladesh so that the ambitious characters tempted by money and power from the intelligence agencies cannot harm the party further," she told a conference of the Dhaka city unit of the Awami League.

Conspirators are expanding their black claws to thwart the progress of Awami League, she said. Some government intelligence agencies are again hatching conspiracy to destroy the process of democracy.

The opposition leader alleged that the intelligence agencies have resorted to old policy of "divide and rule" by alluring the ambitious people. "But the policy of dividing political parties and staying in power" cannot bring welfare of the people and the country.

Amidst cheers of party workers, Hasina said tested soldiers of Bangladesh will unite to frustrate all conspiracies and overcome any eventualities. "Conspirators can never exist as treacherous Mustaqeem Mirza failed to save them from the wrath of the people."

Hasina also charged the government with undemocratic steps, politicisation and concentration of power to consolidate its power base as well as gag the voice of the opposition.

She categorically said Prime Minister Begum Zia is governing the country at the instruction of "her foreign bosses and on the basis of foreign intelligence reports." Those who do not have patriotism and responsibility for the people can do so, she said.

## Pak floods Troops evacuate half a million: Hundreds still missing

ISLAMABAD, Sept 16: Soldiers evacuated almost half a million people from the path of raging river waters that have wreaked 'stupendous' damage on Pakistan's fertile central plains, officials said today, reports Reuters.

The known death toll in the worst floods for decades reached 900 as the Jhelum and Chenab rivers, swollen by torrential rains last week on northern mountains, devastated vast swathes of Punjab province and destroyed 30 to 40 per cent of crops.

Officials said several hundred people were missing.

Troops evacuated nearly half a million villagers from river banks and low-lying areas in rural Punjab before water engineers breached river embankments to save the city of Multan, officials said.

Half the cotton crop, Pakistan's most important product accounting for more than 60 per cent of total exports, may have been wiped out by the floods, said Agriculture Development Commissioner Dr M Noorullah.

More than 400,000 people have been moved to higher ground as soldiers evacuated residents from villages along the Jhelum and Chenab rivers, an official at the Multan flood control room said.

All hospitals, schools, roads, bridges and canals are damaged, he said.

## Nepalese

From Page 1 Col 8: Hospital (DMCH) with two bullet injuries on his chest.

Witnesses said, four armed men riding two motor-bikes followed Abdul Matin who was on a minibus bound for Dhaka from Dhakshwari.

When the bus stopped at Shmirail, two of the armed men got on the minibus and opened fire which hit Mano Shing sitting by Abdul Matin.

When Abdul Matin in an attempt to escape instantly jumped through the window of the minibus and started running, the two other armed men who were waiting outside the bus followed him and fired two shots at him. Witnesses said that they saw the armed men fleeing by their motor-bikes towards Demra.

The Nepalese was staying in Bangladesh for a long time. He was living in Ahmed Bawani Textile Mills where he worked once as a security guard.

A case was registered with Siddirganj police station in this connection, but no arrest so far was made till last night.

## Rohingyas

From Page 1 Col 8: The official said that some 7,000 refugees were missing from Gendum camp in Naik-honchar of Banderban district, followed by 2,000 in Balukhali in Ukhlia, 2,000 in Dhuapalong of Ramu, 2,000 in Dumdumia near Teknaf and 500 Nayapara in the same area.

Rohingyas from the north-western Myanmar province of Rakhaine began fleeing to Bangladesh last year to escape what they term as "atrocities by the Yangon military junta".

The new headcount was carried out at the cost of some seven lakh takas, the official said, adding that it was not clear why the camp administration was taking such a long time to release the official results of the recount.

Bangladesh and Myanmar signed an agreement April 28 last, providing for "safe and voluntary" repatriation of the refugees, but militant Rohingyas have been resisting the move, saying their rights would not be safeguarded under present circumstances.



Sheikh Hasina inaugurating the city Awami League conference by hoisting national flag at the Institution of Engineers' yesterday.

—Star photo

## ALWC : amendments

From Page 1 Col 7: Although the sub-committee dropped the paras providing the party chief with special power from its draft placed in the ALWC meeting, any member of the Party Working Committee would be at liberty to discuss the issue at its adjourned meeting that resumes this afternoon, sources said.

Meanwhile, the constitution amendment sub-committee is learnt to have reached consensus on constituting an advisory council for the party. Earlier, some of the members were reluctant to accept this idea on the ground that the council parallel to the party presidium would affect the dignity of the latter.

The sub-committee discussed different aspects of the amendments to the AL constitution around 65 hours spread over a total of 14 meetings. According to sources, the constitution amendment sub-committee has proposed formation of advisory councils up to district units of the party.

According to the proposals, the party chief will select the members of the central advisory council. But it is yet to be decided that who will enjoy the authority of selecting the members of the advisory council at the district levels.

The AL sub-committee has also suggested formation of a 15-member village level committee.

## Education Day today

By DU Correspondent

Different student organisations will observe Education Day today in a befitting manner.

On this day in 1962 a number of students were killed in police firing in the movement against the then Hamidur Rahman Education Commission Report.

The Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) President Belal Chowdhury and General Secretary Razequzzaman Ratan in a joint statement yesterday said that the main demand and expectation of the 1962 student movement was not yet materialised.

Leaders mentioned that the conspiracy to destroy the education system in the country was still continuing.

The movement and a vested quarter were hatching new plots against the students' movement, SCF leaders alleged.

The leaders urged the student community to go for a vigorous movement to foil the conspiracies against the students.

In observance of the Education Day, the SCF will bring out a procession on the Dhaka University campus today (Thursday) and will hold a discussion at the TSC Square of the university tomorrow (Friday).

## PM goes to Rome next month

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia will travel to Rome next month to attend a Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) conference.

Official sources said Begum Zia would leave for the Italian capital October 14 and stay there for four days. Details of her itinerary are yet to be finalised.

## Statement in name of JCD motivated: Salam Talukder

BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday dismissed the statement published in a section of press in the name of some Chhatra Dal leaders as being false and motivated, reports BSS.

Barrister Talukder said the student leaders whose names had been published in the statement had no connection with it. The motivated and false statement was clearly designed to tarnish the image of Chhatra Dal, he added.

In his statement the BNP Secretary General said that a known quarter was indulging in such a false and misleading propaganda only to foil the epoch-making steps taken by Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia to put down terrorism. The false statement is a testimony to it, he said.

He further said in curbing terrorism Begum Zia has taken measures against the terrorists irrespective of their party affiliations. Being unnerved the conspirators have been spreading venom against BNP and its front organisations, he charged.

In this connection, Barrister Talukder recalled that Begum Zia has recently dissolved the central committee of Chhatra Dal and suspended all its activities in the Dhaka University in the greater interest. Under the circumstances it was needless to say how funny it was to issue a statement using the imaginary posts of the student leaders, he said.

In fact, he said, there was no scope to issue such a statement when the central committee of Chhatra Dal had been dissolved and its activities suspended.

## NGL

From Page 1 Col 8: der was first floated for the IDA-funded project, it would now be financed by the Government, spending about 40 million dollars from the country's scarce ADP resources.

The plant is to produce propane, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), petrol, kerosene and high speed diesel.

An accord between the IDA and the government said that the contract for the work would be finalised by mid-December 1991, but till to date it is yet to be ready.

After a second evaluation of financial proposals from three technically "substantially responsive" bidders, in May the contract had been awarded to a Canadian company, Colt Engineering Corporation, with reduced liability.

As the Petrobangla decided to award the job to Colt and called the company for pre-contract negotiations, the World Bank objected to the deviations from tender specifications.

Meanwhile, the closing date of the credit, June 30, expired and the Government decided to provide funds from its own resources.

According to sources, the blame could be put on the Petrobangla's infrastructure consultants, the Pencil Engineering Consultants, which sowed the seeds of discord by clearing the lowest bid as "responsive" at one stage and then again saying later that the bid was "non-responsive."

The sources say that Pencil's initial evaluation was unprofessionally done which is apparent from the fact that the consultants had approved the technical proposal of the Colt and subsequently they communicated in writing to the Project Implementation Unit that the Colt's technical proposal was unresponsive and should be rejected.

With the existing submissions, a contract with the Canadian company does not give sufficient protection to the Government in respect of claims and liabilities and ensure that there will not be undetermined cost increases to rectify technical deficiencies.

Now the project is expected to be delayed by more than two years ensuring extra employment for the consultants for the period. Pencil was also consultants for the North-South pipeline project which had been completed more than one year behind schedule. As a result, the Government is facing litigation with the contractor, the Satpam of Italy.

(Detailed story on Page 7)

## The Midnight File

### Ravi Shankar's son dead

CALCUTTA, Sept 16: Subha Shankar, eldest son of sitarist Pandit Ravi Shankar by his first wife Annapurna, died at California, early this morning, his family sources here said. Subha Shankar was 50 and is survived by his wife, Linda, son Shome and daughter Kaveri. He was suffering from bronchial pneumonia and was under treatment for quite some time, the sources said. Pandit Ravi Shankar was in London when his son died, reports PTI.

### Syria-Israel agreements

WASHINGTON, Sept 16: Syria and Israel said on Wednesday they had agreed on some elements of what they hope will become a joint statement of principles in Middle East peace talks. After a three-hour negotiating session at the State Department, both the chief Israeli and Syrian delegates gave by far their most upbeat assessment of the talks so far, reports Reuters.

## Opposition blasts ordn

From Page 1 Col 7

The Workers Party of Bangladesh also in its meeting of the steering committee said the conventional law is enough to curb terrorism.

It said the drafting of the so-called anti-terrorism law bypassing the parliament reflects the government intention to oppress the people under the blanket of a law.

The President of Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP), Prof Mozaffar Ahmed and General Secretary Pankaj Bhattacharya in a joint statement termed the law as anti-people and demanded its withdrawal.

They said if there is any necessity for such a law, this should be discussed and approved by the parliament.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) in its statement said that terrorism could easily be removed by proper application of the existing laws. Instead of applying those, such ordinance was being imposed with a view to harass the activists of opposition political parties, it added.

The statement issued by Kazi Aref Ahmed and Hasanul Huq Inu, Member of Presidium and General Secretary respectively of the organisation also said that approval of such ordinance by the cabinet even though there was a parlia-

ment, was a violation of all democratic norms.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) in its statement demanded withdrawal of the ordinance saying that it was contrary to the basic rights of the people.

The statement issued by its Convenor Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan criticized the government for approving the ordinance by passing the parliament and called upon all progressive forces to resist the imposition of the ordinance unitedly.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Sanyabadi Dal Dhip Barua termed the ordinance a black law and called upon all democratic forces to be vocal against the ordinance.

## Mitterrand has cancer in prostate gland

PARIS, Sept 16: French President Francois Mitterrand, who underwent prostate surgery last Friday, is suffering from cancer of the prostate gland, according to a medical bulletin released by the presidential spokesman today, reports AFP.

## WB : Poverty alleviation

From Page 1 Col 7

The World Bank said it had completed poverty assessment in all South Asian countries, excepting Sri Lanka, which would form its future poverty reduction programme in the region.

The World Bank's net credit disbursement to Bangladesh in the current year 1991-92 stood at 1589 million US dollars.

GDP in Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka grew quite rapidly during 1990's as a result of bumper harvests, the World Bank report said. The region's economies suffered from the effects of the oil shock in late 1990 and the political upheavals in the Soviet Union.

Economic growth during 1980s in these countries including Bangladesh was modest but respectable, the report said.

Although the income remains low, a large number of South Asians—estimated about 560 million people, or half the world's total poor people—live in poverty with inadequate access to basic social services and lack of employment and other income generating opportunities.

Lack of outward orientation of trade policies, weak financial sectors, restrictive labour markets, inefficient parastatals and constraints on private sector have been mentioned as the major weaknesses in the region's economies.

## Hartal : TV

From Page 1 Col 5

hotels restaurants, except drug stores in the town remained closed.

All types of transports including rickshaws and bicycles were off the road. No train plied to and from Bogra in any route during the hartal hours.

Processions were brought out on the streets during the hartal.

Hartal was peaceful and there was no untoward incident.

In the afternoon a rally was organised at Sathmaha by the Sanskriti Jote.

Heavy contingents of police were posted at important places in town during the hartal hours.

## Solarz defeated in primary

NEW YORK, Sept 16: Congressman Stephen Solarz, a prominent member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, lost his bid Tuesday to preserve his nine-term congressional career, reports AP.

In most countries, the structural reform process had been slow and tentative, and the economic and social transformation required for dynamic and sustainable growth remained unrealised.

Meantime, the sustainability of macro economic imbalances increasingly became a major concern. Cutbacks on subsidies and unproductive spendings were typically constrained by political considerations and the difficulty involved in reducing private consumption.

## Chand Miah murder Sirajganj Jamaat leader on police remand

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 16: Local Jamaat leader Abdur Razzak, principal accused in the murder of freedom fighter Chand Miah, was today taken to police remand for three days, reports UNB.

Chand Miah (35) was murdered on September 13 when he was on way home in Shahedganj in poura area. He was killed on the Bahirgola Road by sharp weapons.

Police later arrested Razzak for his alleged involvement in the murder. He was picked up from his village home Rahmatganj the following day.

Meanwhile, Mukti Joddah Sangsad here held a condolence meeting and protested the incident.

## Three killed, 25 injured in road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

At least three persons were killed and 25 others injured in three separate road accidents at Amin Bazar, Hatkhola and Cantonment area in the city Wednesday.

A businessman was killed on the spot and another 25 were injured when a truck turned over at Amin Bazar at about 3 am, yesterday.

The victim was identified as Abdul Latif. He was 25. The injured persons were admitted to different hospitals.

An employee of Bangladesh Bitan died on the spot when a speeding truck knocked down the rickshaw he was travelling in at Hatkhola at about 11 am.

The victim was identified as Abdur Rahman and he was about 50.

In another road accident, an unidentified woman was killed when a train ran over her in Cantonment area at about 10 am. She was about 25.

Police sent all the bodies to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at the Sangbad Ltd, 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box. No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.