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Dhaka Day by Day



An anti-Shibir rally of the Dhaka University students near the TSC in the city, marching under police escort yesterday.

— Star photo

NEWS BRIEFS

JP (Nationalist) meet today

The first meeting of the central committee of Jatiya Party (Nationalist) will be held today at 7 pm at 7, Eskaton Garden. Chairman of the newly formed party Shamsul Huda Chowdhury will preside the meeting, party sources said. The meeting will schedule its programme and distribute duties and responsibilities among the party leaders, reports UNB.

Two new DMP divisions

Two new divisions — East and West — of Dhaka Metropolitan Police will be opened today. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury will inaugurate the two divisions, raising the DMP divisions to four, at a simple function at the DMP Headquarters this morning. Motijheel, Sabujbagh, Sutrapur and Demra thanas have been placed under the East Division. Mohammadpur, Tejgaon, Mirpur and Pallabi thanas are under the jurisdiction of the West Division, reports UNB.

Tripura tribals congregation held

KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 21: A congregation of Tripura tribals was held at Khagrachhari Collegiate School ground amid much enthusiasm and religious fervour. According to a press release of the Tripura Sanatan Kaliyan Parishad here today

Serious constitutional crisis in Russia: Yeltsin dissolves legislature

Parliament names Rutskoi president

MOSCOW, Sept 21: The leadership of the Russian parliament named Vice President Alexander Rutskoi acting president today after President Boris Yeltsin's declaration of the dissolution of parliament, reports Reuter.

The leadership, known as the Presidium, did not take a formal vote on the matter. But there was no dissent when chairman Ruslan Khashbulatov declared: "Alexander Vladimirovich (Rutskoi), you are acting President of the Russian Federation."

Rutskoi told the Presidium, "In accordance with the constitution I begin acting as the Russian President."

"Boris Yeltsin is no longer President because he has breached Article 121 of the constitution," the presidium ruled.

President Yeltsin today announced he was suspending Russia's parliament and calling elections to a new legislature.

Yeltsin, in a live television appearance, said he had signed a decree suspending the parliament, which he described as an unacceptable obstacle to

economic reform. He said elections to a new two-chamber legislature would take place on December 11-12.

Yeltsin effectively acknowledged he was violating the existing constitution, a legacy from Soviet power.

Before announcing the move against parliament during the 15-minute address, Yeltsin paused and picked up a cup from which he sipped tea.

The security of Russia and

its peoples is more precious than a formal obedience to contradictory norms created by the legislature, which has finally discredited itself," he said.

Yeltsin, evoking memories of his resistance to a hardline coup in 1991, appealed to foreign leaders for support.

"I appeal to the leaders and peoples of foreign states, to our friends abroad — there are lots of them around the world. Your support is important for

brought to account under criminal law."

Under constitutional amendments passed by Russia's supreme legislature during a stormy clash with Yeltsin last December, The President is immediately stripped of his powers if he tries to dissolve parliament.

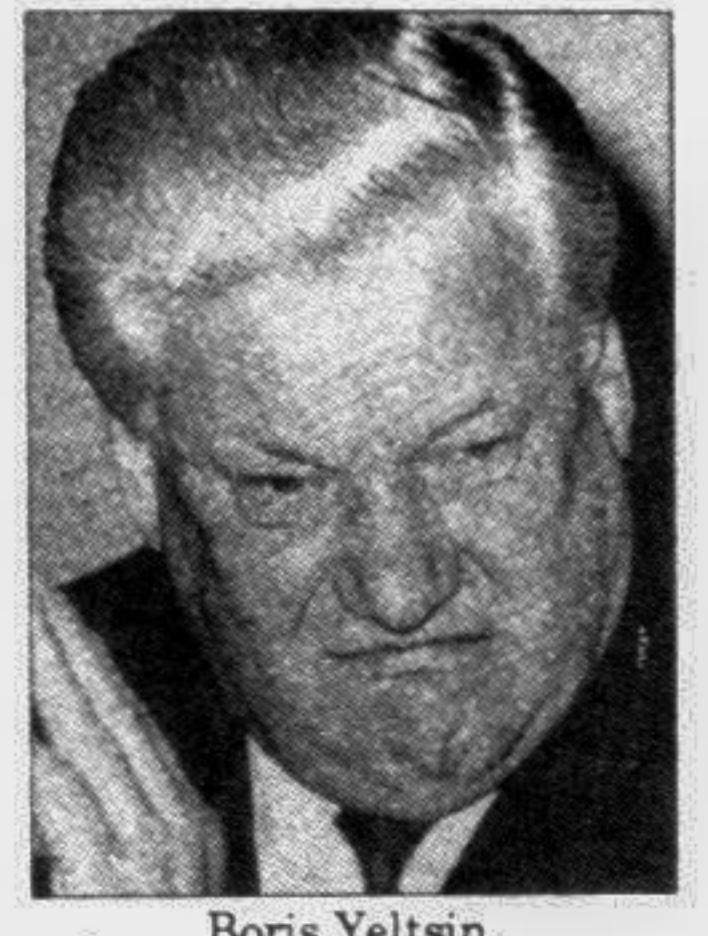
Rutskoi, an Afghan veteran with some influence in the armed forces, then automatically assumes his presidential

in the White House parliament headquarters 20 minutes after Yeltsin's address, was asked if he now considered himself President.

"Yes, sir," he replied. "This is an open coup 'D'etat."

Rutskoi ordered Rutskoi, a former ally now in open opposition to him, suspended from his powers on September 1.

Meanwhile, The United States said today Russia was at a "critical moment," but with-



Boris Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Sept 21: Special government telephone connections in parliament's 'white house' headquarters were cut off today after President Yeltsin announced he was dissolving parliament, deputies said. 'All government telephones are dead,' deputy Irina Vinogradova told Reuters. Other deputies said their telephones, part of a special state network, were turned off. The reports could not immediately be independently confirmed, reports AFP.

Russia."

The measures to which I had to resort were the only way to defend democracy and freedom in Russia," he said.

Yeltsin made it clear he would not tolerate resistance.

Any actions aimed at preventing elections will be considered illegal and persons involved in these actions will be

powers, including his position as commander in chief of armed forces.

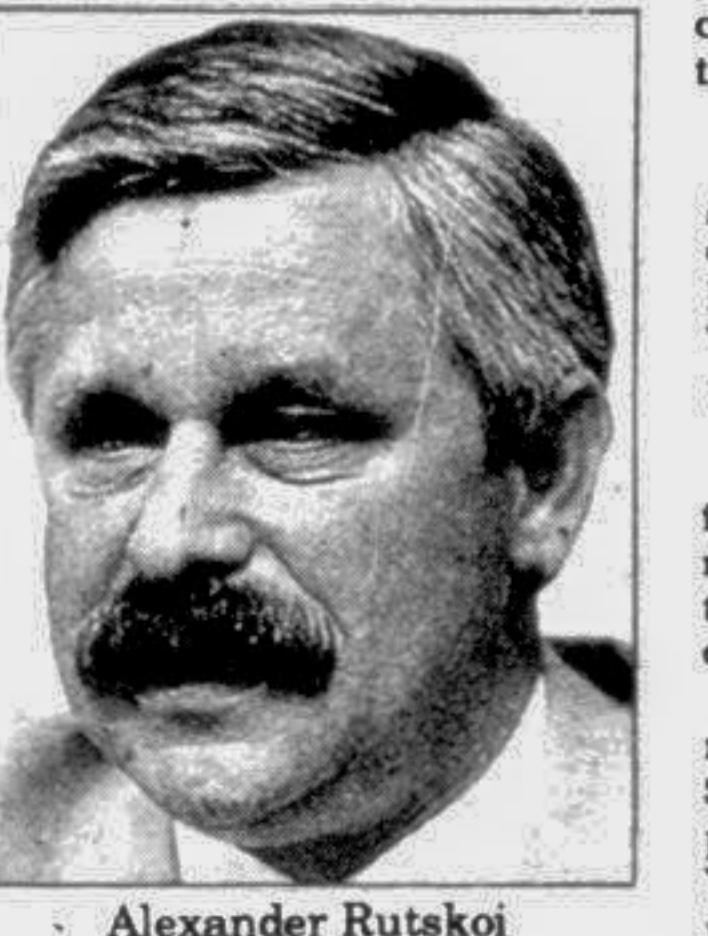
It was not clear how the army or security ministry — the former KGB — would react. Yeltsin recently visited the headquarters of the interior ministry's crack Dzerzhinsky Division to gauge support.

Rutskoi, talking to reporters

Meanwhile, The Russian government gave its "unconditional support" to President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said today.

Chernomyrdin told journalists in his office: "I shall implement the government's objectives and President Yeltsin's decrees."

He said the heads of the ministries of the Interior, Security and Defence had expressed their support for Yeltsin's decision to dissolve parliament.



Alexander Rutskoi

Students call hartal in Khulna today

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 21: The All-Party Students Alliance and the Islami Chhatra Shibir have issued contending calls for a hartal here tomorrow in protest against the recent campus violence in Khulna and Rajshahi.

The pro-Jamaat Shibir has called a half-day hartal while the students alliance has urged a dawn-to-dusk strike tomorrow.

Police arrested 31 more persons today in connection with the killing here of two Shibir activists yesterday, taking the number of suspects held to 90 over the past two days.

Meanwhile, the Shibir at a press conference today alleged that most of the persons arrested belonged to it. It further

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Tension grips DU in wake of anti-Shibir drive

Tension gripped the Dhaka University campus yesterday as student activists of different organisations began an "eliminate Shibir" operation protesting Sunday's killing of a student in Rajshahi, allegedly by the Jamaat-Shibir, reports UNB.

More than a dozen students were beaten up on the DU campus on suspicion of being Islami Chhatra Shibir activists. But of the injured, two were later identified as members of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Chhatra Union.

Witnesses said a group of 25 to 30 students started the witchhunt from noon on the first floor of the Arts Faculty building.

The militant group beat up two second year students — Strajul Hug of the Journalism Department and Abdul Quddus of Political Science. The party affiliation of the victims was not immediately known.

In a mix-up, a Chhatra Union activist, identified as

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Jamaat walks out again as chair rejects motion

By Staff Correspondent

The parliamentarians of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh yesterday staged a walkout protesting the chair's rejection of a Jamaat-sponsored adjournment motion on the killing Monday of two students in Khulna.

The students killed in Khulna were reported to be activists of the Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni rejected the motion arguing that the incident had come up for discussion in the House only the day before when the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) deliberated on an adjournment motion regarding the death of a Rajshahi University student in the early hours of September 19.

The rules of procedure of the

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Khaleda seeks OIC help to expand ICTVTR

TONGI (Gazipur), Sept 21: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said infrastructural facilities and resources of the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) have to be expanded for the benefit of the Muslim World, reports UNB.

Begum Zia made a strong plea to the OIC member countries for extending support to the Dhaka-based Islamic technical training centre at Tongi to expand its academic activities.

She was addressing the Seventh Congregation of the ICTVTR, an affiliate of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), here this morning. The centre works as a coordinating institution in the area of human resource development for the OIC member states.

Some 80 students from Bangladesh, the Comoros, Gambia, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestine and Somalia, including the first batch of B Sc Engineering received gradu-

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Begum Zia at the ICTVTR yesterday

Varsity teachers go on two-day strike today

University teachers will to-

day begin a two-day strike demanding arrest and trial of those accused of unleashing violence at the Jahangirnagar and Islamic universities, reports UNB. The strike has been called by the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA), also demanding withdrawal of 'false cases' filed against 10 JU members. On the second day of the strike, the FBUTA will also hold a grand teachers' rally at and TSC auditorium of the Dhaka University at 10:30 am on Thursday.

Earlier, teachers of the Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Jahangirnagar, Islamic, Engineering and Agricultural universities observed strikes on August 8, September 5 and 8 on the same issue.

Examinations and proctorial activities will, however, be exempted from the strike.

Nirmul to stage demonstration today

By Staff Correspondent

The National Coordination Committee of the Nirmul bodies will stage a demonstration at the Bangabandhu Avenue this afternoon in protest against the recent killing of a Rajshahi University student.

This was decided at an emergency meeting of the steering committee of the Nirmul body with its convener Jahana Imam in the chair.

Today's agitation will also reiterate the Nirmul body's four-point demands which include the hanging of Jamaat leader Golam Azam for 'war crimes' and the banning of the 'fascist politics' of the Jamaat-Shibir.

The meeting lauded as a positive step the unanimous resolution in the Jatiya Sangsad on August 21, 1993, against the Jamaat-Shibir's attack.

The House has reflected the hopes of the nation, the meeting observed.

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Plane shot down over Sukhumi: 28 killed

downed plane was carrying the delegation on its return to Sukhumi.

Russian authorities said the plane was shot down by an unidentified gunboat in the Black Sea. Georgian officials, however, said it was unclear whether the fire came from land or sea.

Georgian negotiators frequently shuttle between Sukhumi and Sochi, where talks are being held. In addition, planes sometimes fly refugees from Sukhumi to Sochi.

Georgia has no military transport planes and uses civilian planes to fly troops and military equipment to Sukhumi. It has been fighting separate wars with two ethnic groups and a civil war launched by supporters of former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

The Abkhazians were shelling the airport Tuesday from the front line, about 3 kilometers to the south.

It was unclear whether the

crash came as Georgian troops battled separatist fighters just outside the government-held capital of Abkhazia, where Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze remained encamped.

There can be no talk about any kind of withdrawal from Sukhumi," Shevardnadze said in a television interview.

Shevardnadze warned of a real danger of slaughter if Sukhumi fell and said, "There has been panic in the city because the danger is serious."

Shevardnadze, 65, has vowed to remain in Sukhumi, issuing orders and appealing for outside help from the bomb-damaged parliament building in the centre of the Black Sea town.

The Abkhazian side claimed Tuesday their fighters captured Sukhumi's TV tower less than a kilometer from the regional government headquarters inside the city. Russia's Interfax news agency reported.

The fall of Sukhumi could lead to the loss of Abkhazia, which in turn could encourage other

Georgian negotiators to inspect the wreckage and then