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## Inside Today

### Article

**Coming to Terms  
with the Past**  
Column: Between the  
Lines  
by Kuldip Nayar  
Page 4

## International

**Clinton expresses  
strong support for  
Shevardnadze**  
Iran ready to help  
resolve dispute over  
Kashmir  
Page 5

### Business

**EC agrees under French  
pressure to talk  
with US on farm sub-  
sidy agreement**  
Alcohol, tobacco con-  
sumption increasing  
worldwide  
Pages 6, 7

### Feature

**Science and  
Technology**  
How Life Began on  
Earth, Cracks on the  
Earth's Surface Sur-  
prise Scientists, Archi-  
tecture of Bangladesh:  
Problems and Pros-  
pects of Old Dhaka  
Streets  
Page 8

### National

**Women smokers on  
rise, Fish farming in  
northern Bangladesh**  
Page 9

## Metropolitan

**Dhaka Day by Day**



An Oasis of Hope for  
the Neglected  
Page 3

## 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. Motiul Hossain, Sabujbagh, Sutrapur and Demra thanas have been placed under the East Division. Mohammadpur, Tejgaon, Mirpur and Pallabhi 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 Samantani Kalyan 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 Reuters.

The leadership, known as the Presidium, did not take a formal vote on the matter. But there was no dissent when chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov 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'."

Yeltsin 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-

held substantive comment on Yeltsin's decision to dissolve the parliament and call new elections.

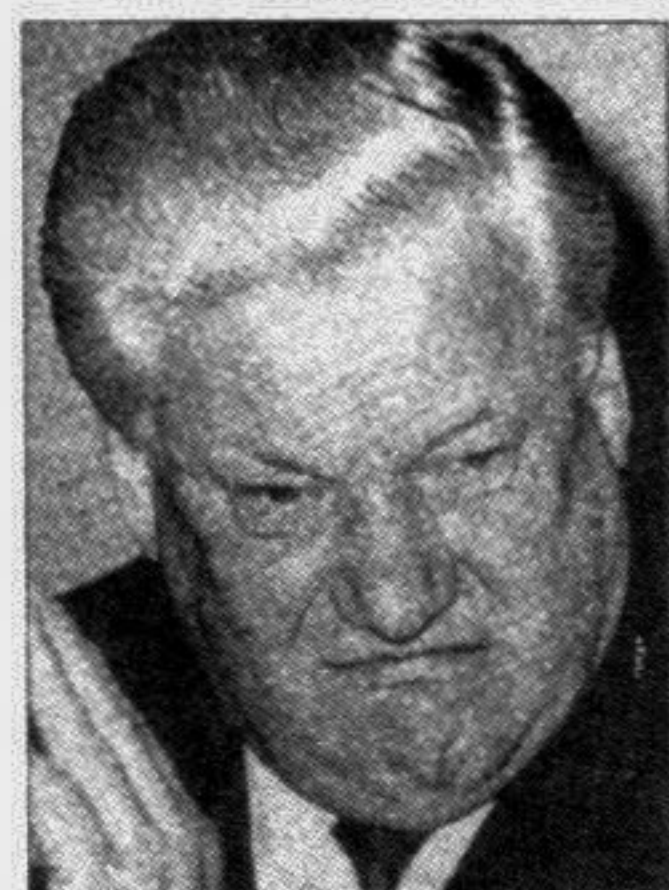
State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said US ambassador Thomas Pickering received less than an hour's notice of the Russian President's decision.

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Yeltsin had no right to dissolve parliament and call elections for a new legislature.

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.



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.

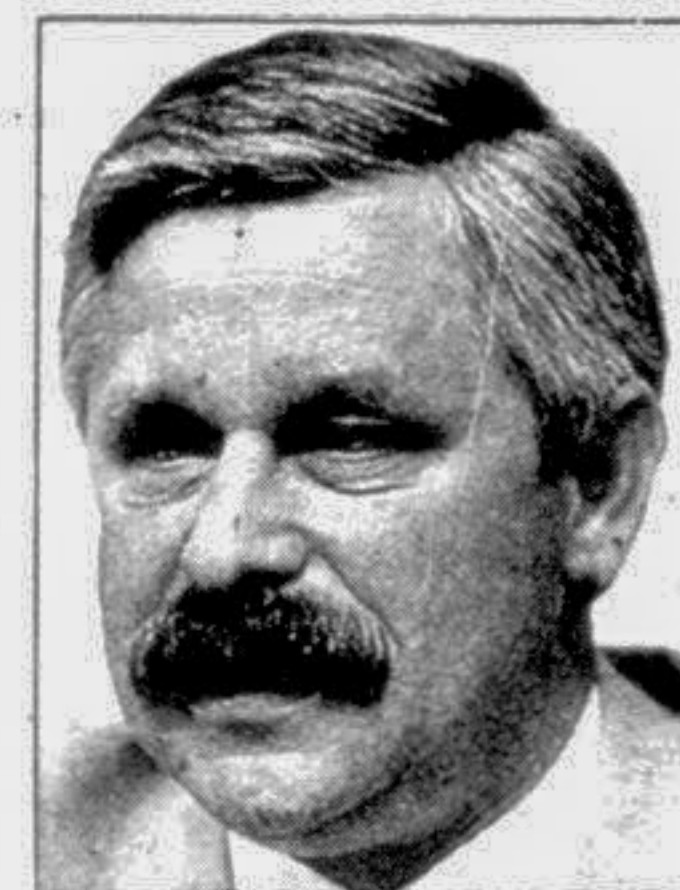
Yeltsin made it clear he would not tolerate resistance.

"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



Alexander Rutskoi



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

## Students call hartal in Khulna today

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 21: The All-Party Students Alliance and the Islami Chhatra Shibir have issued a joint statement 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

## 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 Pannu 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

JS do not allow acceptance of adjournment motions on an identical issue in the same session," the chair pointed out.

Dissatisfied with the Speaker's observation, the Jamaat members left the House at 6 pm. However, Maulana Obaidur Rahman of the Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), who himself had submitted a motion on the same issue, did not follow suit.

Later, Jamaat leader Maulana Matlur Rahman Nizami, in a press briefing at the Sangsad Bhavan, accused BNP Whip Ashraf Hossain of being the mastermind of Monday's killing of two Shibir workers in Khulna.

Nizami claimed that the BNP Whip went to Khulna from Dhaka, held meetings with the

## EC to decide fate of CPB MPs

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission will examine the legal position of five MPs of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) to ascertain whether they violated the Constitution and forfeited their membership, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali informed Parliament yesterday.

"The matter has to be referred to the Election Commission for a decision," the Speaker said in reply to demands for a ruling regarding their membership by a section of Opposition MPs including the Awami League.

Rising on a point of order Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party said CPB leader Mujahidul Islam Selim had disowned the party's Members in Parliament after they changed their party affiliation. Two of the CPB MPs had already joined the newly-formed Gano Forum although all of them had won on the Eight-Party Alliance tickets with the 'boat' as their election symbol in 1991.

See Page 12 Col 7.



By Mahfuz Anam

The Deputy Speaker appeared totally unaware of the importance of the 'point of order' raised by Suranjit Sengupta, when he kept on trying to shut him up. Surprisingly, Salam Talukdar, the BNP's Secretary General, came to the rescue. He told the Deputy Speaker, "In a point of order, that when an Honourable Member rises on a point of order, he should be heard." Then came, what to me appeared to be a reprimand. Talukdar said 'if you speak while the Member is also speaking then we get confused.' Pannu looked taken aback, and finally Sengupta was able to say his piece, which turned out to be a

See Page 12 Col 1

## UN at breaking point, Ghali tells General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 21: The United Nations has reached "breaking point" because members are demanding more services but not paying their bills, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said, reports Reuters.

"The United Nations' renaissance remains in question," he said in his annual report to the General Assembly, which opened its 48th session today.

Boutros-Ghali described a world in turmoil with the big powers summoning the UN to crises areas they would not themselves touch.

"There is an undeniable disparity between the vision and the reality. This must be faced squarely by state members of the world organisation and the peoples they represent."

Boutros-Ghali said the organisation was often stretched beyond its financial and staff capacities while the big powers — presumably Security Council members Britain,

China, France, Russia and the United States — wavered in setting priorities.

"United Nations forces increasingly find themselves thrust into areas of conflict where major powers are not willing to venture themselves and are reluctant to make the hard choices posed by a new era of challenges to peace."

Financing 14 peacekeeping ventures alone is expected to cost 3.6 billion dollars by the end of 1993 for 80,000 troops, most of them in Cambodia, the former Yugoslavia and Somalia, Boutros-Ghali said.

Only 10 states have paid all their dues and peacekeeping expenses. Of the 1.9 billion dollars owed, the United States is in arrears for nearly 800 million dollars and Russia is in debt for 500 million dollars.

He pointed to the difficulty in raising funds for development aid since the end of the Cold War because the "poorest

countries no longer hold the same interest for the rich as they did in the previous decades of ideological competition."

Boutros-Ghali said the Security Council, occupied with dealing quickly with crises around the world, needed to hold periodic sessions at ministerial level to get some perspective on the 'array of current challenges.'

He criticised the media for concentrating on peacekeeping to the near-exclusion of everything else.

"Though activities for development may not be as glamorous as peacekeeping operations. They are just as important, and indeed, provide the foundations for global security and stability," he said.

His report of more than 100 pages was the longest by a Secretary-General. The main addresses by world leaders to the 184-member General Assembly start next Monday.

## 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 witch hunt from noon on different floors of the Arts Faculty building.

The militant group beat up two second year students — Strajul Huq 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

## 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 graduation



Begum Zia at the ICTVTR yesterday

## Customers already getting better forex rates

By Staff Correspondent

Governor of the Bangladesh Bank Khorsheed Alam yesterday said better foreign exchange rates are being quoted to the customers now because the banks have started dealing in the interbank market.

"With the gradual understanding of the market, things will further improve for the customers as well as the economy," the governor said while inaugurating a seminar and workshop on 'Control of Treasury Operations' organised by the Standard Chartered Bank at a city hotel.

"The liberalization of exchange control and impending convertibility of the taka has been received encouragingly by the business community of the country," Alam said.

He also emphasized the need

for proper activation of the control aspects of treasury operations which he said is of paramount importance at the present stage of development of the market.

The workshop was also addressed by V Ananthakrishnan, the chief executive of the Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI).

He talked about the evolution of the foreign exchange market in India over the last several years and elaborated on various ways of quotations by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at different stages of the market's development.

He stressed the need for the central bank's role in order to maintain stable market both in the spot and the forwards.

See Page 12 Col 8

## Varsity teachers go on two-day strike today

University teachers will today 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' Associations (FBUTA), also demanding withdrawal of 'false cases' filed against 10 JU teachers.

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 Jahanara Imam in the chair.

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

The meeting lauded as a positive step the unanimous sentiment in the Jatiya Sangsad Monday against the Jamaat-Shibir's attack.

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