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Notice

Today's issue of *The Daily Star* contains an eight-page special supplement on the National Day of Saudi Arabia. We regret the inconvenience caused to our valued readers due to the necessary changes in the paper's format.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Birendra greets Biswas

King Birendra of Nepal conveyed cordial greetings and best wishes to President Abdur Rahman Biswas while overflying Bangladesh territory on his way to Beijing from Kathmandu on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Pak superstar Nadim in city

Pakistan's superstar Nadim is now in the city in connection with the shooting of a film "Jhor Toofan" being produced by Shabana and Wahid Sadik. Nadim started his film career in Dhaka in late sixties with the block-buster film "Chokori," directed by Ehtesham. Nadim is the son-in-law of Ehtesham, reports BSS.

Half-day hartal in Cox's Bazar today

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 22: The District Nagarik Adhikar Committee called for a half-day hartal in the district tomorrow protesting police action on villagers at Moleshkhali. At least four people were killed when police opened fire on a mob at a village in Moleshkhali on September 15, to arrest a miscreant, reports UNB.

Legal notice on DCC

A K Fazul Haq, son of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazul Haq, has served a legal notice on Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) claiming damages amounting to Tk one lakh for negligence in repairing roads and drains in the capital. Fazul Haq, a former minister, said in a press release lack of timely action resulted in clogging and choking of drains, stagnation of rain water and unprecedented sufferings to the public.

Clinton, West back move: Army remains loyal

Yeltsin appears to be in control

MOSCOW, Sept 22: President Boris Yeltsin, backed by the military and cheered in the street by civilians, said Wednesday he did not intend to use force against hard-line lawmakers who were trying to set up a rival government, reports AP.

Pedestrians applauded Yeltsin when he made a brief impromptu appearance Wednesday with his military commanders in Pushkin Square, one of Moscow's busiest places. He told the hundreds of people who surrounded him that most Russians supported his decision to dissolve parliament and order new elections in December.

Tuesday's announcement amounted to a coup against Yeltsin's longtime foes, a bold gamble to break the stalemate that has paralysed Russian government for more than a year. En route, however, Yeltsin trampled the Soviet-era constitution, a document he has been trying to replace, and enraged those against his reforms.

"We would not like and do not intend to use any force," Yeltsin told the crowd. "We want everything to go peacefully, without blood. This is our principal task."

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Onlookers shouted: 'We support you' and 'President, you must take Russia out of the deadlock.'

Defence Minister Pavel

What next?

MOSCOW, Sept 22: Boris Yeltsin has disbanded Russia's parliament, but that does not mean his opponents are going to walk quietly away. The struggle for support from the people and the army has just begun, reports AP.

Yeltsin holds the best cards: his personal popularity and the loyalty of political appointees who head the military, police and former KGB. But it was unclear which way the career officer corps would lean.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said the entire Cabinet supported Yeltsin. But

Grachev told the crowd he had meetings with top commanders and the military unequivocally support the president as commander-in-chief.

Yeltsin's high-stakes gamble could determine what kind of government emerges from the chaos of the post-Soviet era. And it could finally settle the question of who rules Russia: the president or parliament.

The Communist-dominated parliament, which has consistently blocked Yeltsin's initiatives and whittled away his power, has little popular support.

On Wednesday, the gamble seemed to be paying off. Lawmakers voted to replace the defence, interior and security ministers — a clear sign that Yeltsin had won the loyalty of the top leadership of the military, police and former KGB. But it was unclear which way the career officer corps would lean.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said the entire Cabinet supported Yeltsin. But

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Alexander Rutskoi addressing reporters in Moscow after being sworn in as president by opposition leaders following President Boris Yeltsin's dissolution of Parliament Tuesday. — AFP photo

Opposition for invoking SPA to ban Jamaat

By Staff Correspondent

The mainstream Opposition in Parliament yesterday advised the government to invoke Article 38 of the Constitution and the Special Powers Act, 1974 for imposing a ban on the political activities of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh.

The Opposition members referred to the constitutional provision and the controversial law in a bid to point out that the Jamaat could be banned even without amending the Constitution.

Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party (WP), rising on a point of order, told the oboar that although Article 12 of the original Constitution forbidding politics based on religion had been deleted earlier, Article 38 was still there.

Interpreting the constitutional provision, Menon said Article 38 did not allow formation of associations or unions which would affect the public order. In this regard, Menon observed that the Jamaat activities had long been affecting

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Hartal observed in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 22: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed peacefully here today.

Besides, there are sections in the Special Powers Act which clearly forbid formation of any union or association on the basis of religion," Menon pointed out reading several sections of the law. The Awami League (AL) MPs congratulated the WP legislator by thumping their benches.

Menon, referring to a previous speech of Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, wanted to know whether the government would impose a ban on the Jamaat.

Prof. Chowdhury, in the course of disposing a motion on the killing of a Rajshahi University student on September 19, had told the House that demands of the MPs of both the ruling party and mainstream Opposition for banning the Jamaat deserved consideration under the country's Constitution and laws.

Suranji Sengupta of the

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BCL activist shot in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 22: One Chhatra League activist was shot at and seriously injured this afternoon at Hathazari by a group of armed terrorists, police said. He was admitted to the Chittagong Medical Hospital in critical condition.

Abul Khair, 25, an activist of the Fakirkhali Chhatra Shibir and the All-Party Students' Alliance, came under attack of terrorists while he was travelling by a microbus to the town along with other family members to see off his elder brother leaving for a Middle Eastern country, police said.

All types of vehicular traffic barring a few rickshaws went off the roads during the hartal. However, inter-district bus and coach services resumed in the afternoon.

Mills and factories at Khalishpur and Daulatpur functioned normally.

Both the Islami Chhatra Shibir and the All-Party Students' Alliance brought out processions in the city.

Shibir workers arranged a rally at the Biman Square while the students' alliance held its rally at the Maharaj Square in the afternoon.

Chhatra League leaders blamed the activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir for the attack.

A case was filed with

Hathazari P.S. but none was arrested so far.

She asked the students to

Khaleda asks JCD to be more tolerant

By Staff Correspondent

PRIME Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the students have to take the responsibility of building the nation through the politics of development by ignoring all provocations, reports UNB.

"Some political parties, unnervered by the progress under the present government, are trying to disrupt the development process by creating indiscipline," she said while addressing members of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal from different colleges of Brahmanbaria who called on her at Sugandha last night.

Begum Zia cautioned her student activists that the opposition would always try to provoke them and asked the JCD members to be more tolerant and vigilant against any ill-motive.

"Not indiscipline, but a peaceful and congenial atmosphere is necessary for attaining development," she pointed out.

A case was filed with

Hathazari P.S. but none was arrested so far.

She asked the students to

help create a favourable atmosphere to attract foreign investors. "Today we have to practise the politics of development by ignoring all provocations, reports UNB.

She also called upon the students to change their mentality of seeking only government jobs and said self-employment projects would not only give them self-respect but also create job opportunities for others.

Small, cottage and medium-scale industries can solve a lot of problems, including the huge unemployment."

Mentioning different development programmes initiated by the government, including "Compulsory Primary Education", "Food for Education", the Prime Minister asked the students to ensure their successful implementation.

BSS adds: Responding to the demands of the Brahmanbaria College Sangsads, the Prime Minister said the honours course would be introduced this year in the college.

2000 engineers unemployed

By Staff Correspondent

About 2,000 engineers are now unemployed in the country.

This was disclosed by the executives of the Institution of Engineers at a press briefing in the capital yesterday.

According to the institution officials, about 1,000 engineers are produced in the country annually of whom 500 come from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and the rest from different technical institutes.

The institute president Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury and the honorary general secretary M A Azad were talking to the journalists at a city restaurant.

Prof Choudhury demanded imposition of restrictions on foreign construction firms and engineering consultants along with steps for the development of local engineers' skills.

He said the increasing trend of employing foreign consultants — even in minor projects — was obstructing technological development in the country. "Our engineers hold a high professional merit and initiatives to develop their skills are needed for the country's technological advancement," he said.

M A Azad urged the government to formulate a "chartered engineers' act" and establish an engineering staff college in the country. He noted that an initiative in this regard was taken by the late President Ziaur Rahman but was abandoned by the autocratic regime.

DU remains tense, more students roughed up

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University remained tense yesterday as angry students continued their drive against the Shibir activists within the campus.

Groups of agitated youths beat up at least five persons on suspicion of being Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activists and ransacked rooms of a residential hall yesterday.

At least 19 students of the university were assaulted during the last three days.

Violence erupted at the Dhaka University following the killing of a student at the Rajshahi University, allegedly by the ICS activists on September 19.

Hall sources said a group of unidentified youths damaged four rooms of the SGT Zahirul Huq Hall and set fire to room No 3008 soon after midnight Tuesday.

The group also searched several other rooms of the hall where Shibir activists resided, sources added.

Another group of young men beat up three persons near the Curzon Hall and at the TSC yesterday afternoon, suspecting them to be Shibir activists.

Sec 144 imposed in Beluchi to avoid BNP-JP clash

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 22: Section 144 will be imposed in the Beluchi Government Degree College premises and its adjoining areas from 6 am to 9 am tomorrow to avert any untoward incident, reports UNB.

The thana administration took the decision as two rival political parties — the Jatiya Party and the BNP — called to hold public meetings in the college premises at 3 pm tomorrow, official sources said.

Varsity teachers' strike ends today

By JU Correspondent

University teachers refrained from taking classes yesterday, the first day of the two-day strike by the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA).

Three of the universities earlier closed down in the aftermath of violent incidents, however, were not affected by the teachers' strike. The closed institutions are Jahangirnagar, Rajshahi, and the Islamic universities.

Our DU correspondent reports: Classes were not held at the Dhaka University although students in large numbers were present on the campus.

The library and other administrative offices were open and functioned normally.

FBUTA sources said the teachers' strike was duly observed in the Agricultural University at Mymensingh, the

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A mystery to scientists

HONG KONG, Sept 22: Chinese scientists are baffled by the corpse of an 88-year-old woman who died eight months ago but whose remains have not yet been decomposed, reports AFP.

The corpse is of a woman from a village in Zhejiang county in Hubei province, the Hong Kong China News Service said.

Scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Embalmers at the Beijing Museum where the body of former Chinese Leader Mao Zedong lies in state were investigating why the woman's corpse remained intact.

The woman, who was a lifelong vegetarian, had asked for her body not to be cremated or interred after her death. Eight months later, the body had been found neither stiffened nor decomposed and odourless.

Chinese scientists were describing the case as "A rare phenomenon in the world," the report added.

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Businessman, 2 others killed in accident