

Inside Today

Article

Efficiency of the
Bureaucracy can
Ensure Economic
ProgressColumn: On The
Record
by Shah AMS Kibria
Page 4

International

PPP to win at least 100
National Assembly
seats, predicts Benazir
Changes in Japan may
promote Asian style
of democracy

Page 5

Business

Oil exploration ven-
tures in Bangladesh—
updated: Article by Dr
Badrul ImamGermany supports
Yeltsin by rescheduling
\$4.9b debt
Pages 6, 7

Living

Joys and problems of
travelling abroad;
Growing up with love;
Taking care of your
face; and How to take
the best candid shots

Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

In Love with Orchid
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Humayun Kabir
envoy to US

The Government has decided to appoint Humayun Kabir as the country's Ambassador to the United States, an official handout said in Dhaka yesterday. Kabir is at present the Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He will replace Abdul Ahsan, who is due to retire in December. Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman is learnt to have been appointed the country's new Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Bangladesh Permanent Representative in Geneva Osmany has been appointed the new Foreign Secretary, reports UNB.

Five hurt as
train derails

RAJSHAHI, Sept 25: At least five people were injured, two of them seriously, when the Rajshahi bound Mohananda Express from Khuha derailed between Araria and Nandanghat railway stations at 10:15 last night, railway sources said today. Three coaches and the engine of the train were derailed due to removal of fishplate by some miscreants, reports BSS.

Screening of Lethal
Panther banned

The government has temporarily cancelled the censor certificate of the full length English movie, the Lethal Panther under the Film Censorship Act of 1977, an official handout said yesterday. The censored portion of the film was being exhibited illegally at a cinema hall of the city, reports BSS.

In Broken
Marble Tiles
Brighter Home
At Lesser Price
Tel: 605957, 861985Dollar drops
below BB
rate

By Inam Ahmed

The interbank dollar rates in the country have dropped to an unexpected low following deregulation of the currency market.

On Saturday, the rate was even below the reference rate of the Bangladesh Bank (BB), according to banking sources.

The interbank rate yesterday was, on an average, Tk 39.77 for a dollar against a BB reference rate of Tk 39.95.

There is very low dollar demand in the market," a private sector banker said. "Trading has become a labourious job in the last few months."

Banking experts point out that the low interbank dollar rate is an abnormal situation resulting from a low demand for the US currency.

Sources said had there been any reference rates from the BB the interbank lending situation would have deteriorated further.

See Page 12 Col 8

Khaleda may
raise Farakka
at UNGA

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to raise the Farakka issue in her address to the UN General Assembly on October 2.

A source told the UNB yesterday that Begum Zia would probably highlight, in details, the adverse effect of the withdrawal of dry month flow of the Ganges upstream at Farakka by India.

She would also probably inform the international community of the process of desertification set in motion in north-western Bangladesh due to remorseless withdrawal by India, the source said.

Begum Khaleda Zia is the first head of government of Bangladesh who is going to raise at the world forum this

See Page 12 Col 7

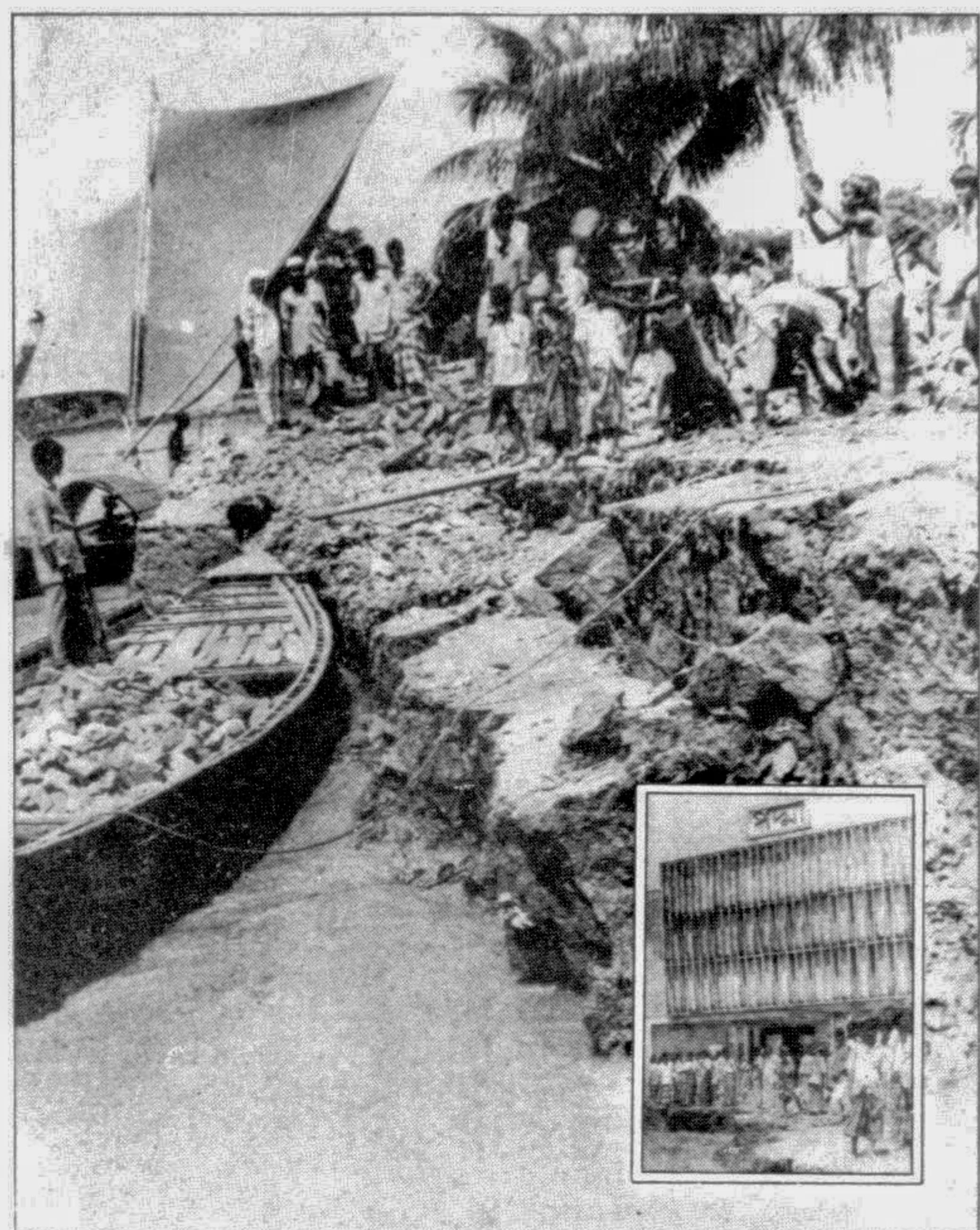
PM urges Islamic
thinkers to uphold
real values
of religion

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night called upon the Islamic thinkers and spiritual leaders to extend all-out cooperation to her government in upholding the real values of the religion in the society, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister was addressing the pir mashaques, representatives of the Bangladeshi Waqf Estate and other spiritual leaders who met her at her Sugandha office here.

The Prime Minister said the people of the country were religious minded and the present government wanted to establish the religious values and tenets through different programmes.

See Page 12 Col 6



The Padma cinema hall at Louhajang bazar in Munshiganj district which was awaiting obliteration till The Daily Star staffer took a snap of it 10 days ago (inset) no longer exists. Some bricks were all that was left by the ravaging Padma yesterday.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

T & T offers subscribers way out of ghost bills

By Staff Correspondent

The telephone authorities have given a choice to subscribers with nation-wide dialling (NWD) facilities to switch to a non-NWD connection without any additional charges by October 10 to avoid ghost bills.

This was stated by Tarique Islam, Minister for Telecommunications, while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

The minister explained that while every effort was being made by his ministry to reduce overbilling, the customers could come forward to make their analogue sets non-NWD and ensure there is no excess billing.

Tarique Islam said the move to switch to a non-NWD system will help to eliminate system loss in the telephone revenue sector by at least 25 per cent.

Digital telephone subscribers can also convert their telephones to include international subscriber dialling (ISD) facilities without incurring any extra cost. They can avail the facility by only informing the T&T Department of their desire to make their digital telephones ISD.

The minister said that another 18,500 new telephones would be provided to subscribers in Dhaka within March next year and 14,000 new customers could have access to new connections by early 1996 in Dhaka alone. Another 30,000 new connections would be provided in Chittagong by 1994, the minister said.

With the expansion in telephone connections, the number of subscribers are expected to double in three years' time, Tarique Islam said. Presently, the country has some 2,20,000 telephones of which 1,31,000 subscribers are in Dhaka.

Tarique Islam assured that the quality of service would be substantially improved within the next six months.

He said strict directives

have been sent to all the maintenance people. No telephone will be out of order for more than 24 hours after a complaint has been lodged. At the end of three days, if a telephone is still not made operative, the subscribers can call up the T&T Chairman directly.

And if any telephone is out of order for more than five days, he said "As minister, I myself will entertain the complaint" He told the subscribers to ring his office directly and give the operative number.

The minister himself voluntary lodges his office number for lodging complaints. They are 864800 and 417210.

Tarique Islam said that on an average 2,500 telephones remained out of order everyday in Dhaka. And in the last few days, over 2,000 non-functional lines were being restored. The rest were normally fixed the following day, the minister stated.

Qulhwani

Mrs Shakera Rahman, wife of Late Khan Bahadur Mujibur Rahman of Jalganj died of old age illness at 10.00 pm on Friday, September 24, 1993 (Innalillah...). She was 75.

She left behind two sons, Latifur Rahman, President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, and Salfur Rahman and three daughters, Mrs Munira Wadud, w/o Dr S A Wadud, Mrs Nargis Tajuddin, w/o S A Y M Tajuddin and Mrs Sharmin Hossain, w/o Iqbal Hossain.

Her qulhwani will be held after Asr prayers at her residence at House No-13, Road-103, Gulshan, Dhaka, on Monday 27 Sept, 1993.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend.

Rebels will give up
soon, says Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Sept 25: President Boris Yeltsin confidently stated today that his rivals holed up in the defunct parliament were near surrender as they also conceded their resistance to the Kremlin may be moved out of Moscow, reports AFP.

But rebel military commanders in the parliament continued preparing armed paramilitary brigades and Alexander Rutskoi, the rival 'head of state' appointed by parliament, appealed directly to troops for backing and vowed to stay put.

Russia's rebel Defence Minister, appointed by the mutinous parliament, said today military units were being setup to defend the assembly building from any attack by government forces, Itar-Tass news agency reported.

It quoted Vladislav Achabov, who was appointed after President Boris Yeltsin said on Tuesday he was dissolving parliament, as telling the legislature that two motor rifle battalions were being formed.

Yeltsin, interviewed by Russian television in his office, compare the resistance effort centered in the parliament to a 100-meter race and asserted supporters of Rutskoi's nominal administration were "out of his head or his hand."

Khasbulatov's reference to the regions hit upon the issue of how much support Yeltsin can expect in the days and weeks to come from the Russian hinterland, the ultimate key to victory or defeat in any political struggle.

A key parliamentary defector who has become an important ally for Yeltsin, Nikolai Ryabov, said there will be no more

than two left," Yeltsin stated, referring to Rutskoi and Ruslan Khasbulatov, the speaker of the legislature.

"And what will the pair do, all alone in the building? They have nothing, while we have already received the support of 70

In other developments today, state law enforcement agencies issued a warning that armed paramilitaries in the parliament were preparing an assault operation against the municipal headquarters and a hostage-taking operation.

In a statement published by Itar-Tass, the city administration called on residents not to go near the parliament and said weapons were being distributed there to "psychologically imbalanced" people and criminals.

Groups of men of various ages — roughly 100 altogether — lined up periodically throughout the day in military-like formations beside the parliament where they were drilled by commanders in camouflage uniforms.

Meanwhile, the dissolved Russian Congress resumed work today in the basement of the White House, with light provided by emergency generator, even as elite government troops surrounded the parliament building.

Electricity supplies and other essential services have been cut off in a bid to force the deputies to leave. Overnight

See Page 12 Col 1

25 hurt as police
attack rally
in N' Ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 25: At least 25 persons including four journalists and three policemen were injured when police batted with some 400 people here this evening.

The hour-long clash originated from a senior police official's sudden attack on a street rally organised by the daily Ajker Kagoj Readers' Forum in front of the municipal library to protest the recent attack on the daily's Dhaka office.

The clash over, agitated people damaged eight vehicles, including three police vans.

The injured journalists are: Mujibur Rahman Badal, Editor of the weekly Sakal Barta, Yusuf Ali Atam, senior reporter

See Page 12 Col 4

50 Shibir cadres
forced to leave
SSMC hostel

By SSMCH Correspondent

Some 50 activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) were forced to leave the Sir Salimullah Medical College hostel yesterday evening, allegedly by members of the recently formed APSU.

Sources said the All Party Students' Unity (APSU) member — enraged by a threat to two of their colleagues by the ICS cadres — brought out a militant

See Page 12 Col 7

'72-like opportunity has come to
solidify democracy: Speaker

Posing a question, he wanted to know what has been achieved during the last two and a half years of the present Parliament. He however, recalled with satisfaction the switching over to parliamentary democracy through the unanimous passage of the 12th Amendment of the Constitution.

He reminded the members of the both Treasury and Opposition benches to take into account what had been done for the people who had voted for them. He said, "If we really want to strengthen democracy and make Parliament sovereign, we have to do a lot of things inside and outside Parliament."

Recalling the golden opportunity to cultivate democracy in 1972, he said, "We have got it again". He said it was the collective responsibility of both the Treasury Bench and Opposition members to understand and practise the norms and practices of democracy including the use of language of democracy to establish a democratic culture in the country.

The Speaker said there was

need to take lessons from the past and look forward. Referring to his experiences in conducting the parliamentary business, Razzak Ali said, "We mostly debate on subject matters without reaching any conclusions. If these matters are taken to sub-committees, conclusions could probably be reached".

He however, said it took ages for democracy to consolidate in different countries. "Democracy can take a strong foothold in our country if we can shun the politics of agitation."

Dr Moyeen Khan said if legislators are not available for doing secondary work in their respective constituencies, the prospect of winning next election will be jeopardised. He said, though the role of Parliament members is legislative in nature, in our country we have to be associated with the development process in our respective constituencies.

Somali gunmen down
US chopper: 3 killed

NAIROBI (Kenya), Sept 25: A US Blackhawk helicopter was shot down by Somali militiamen Saturday morning, crash-landing in flames and killing three American crewmen, reports AP.

The pilot and co-pilot survived the crash, but three American and three Pakistani peacekeepers were wounded as they tried to secure the area, Maj. David Stockwell said by telephone from Mogadishu, the Somali capital.

Stockwell, the chief UN military spokesman in Mogadishu, said the helicopter pilot reported that a rocket-propelled grenade hit the bottom of the aircraft, causing an explosion and an on-board fire.

The aircraft was consumed by fire after landing, Stockwell said.

It was the first time a helicopter was downed in Mogadishu, although several had been hit by hostile fire in

recent weeks. Stockwell said the pilot and co-pilot, both slightly wounded, determined that their fellow crewmen were dead and walked to a nearby control point manned by United Arab Emirates troops for help.

Pakistani troops and a company from the US Quick Reaction Force also responded and came under fire from militiamen.

The spokesman said Mogadishu's airport had taken six rounds of mortar fire around 2 am (1100 GMT) and the helicopter had observed the firing position of the weapon near Villa Somalia, the former Presidential Palace.

The palace, on a low hill near the center of the city, is in an area controlled by fugitive warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid. As the helicopter circled the palace, it was hit by what Stockwell described "a very lucky shot."