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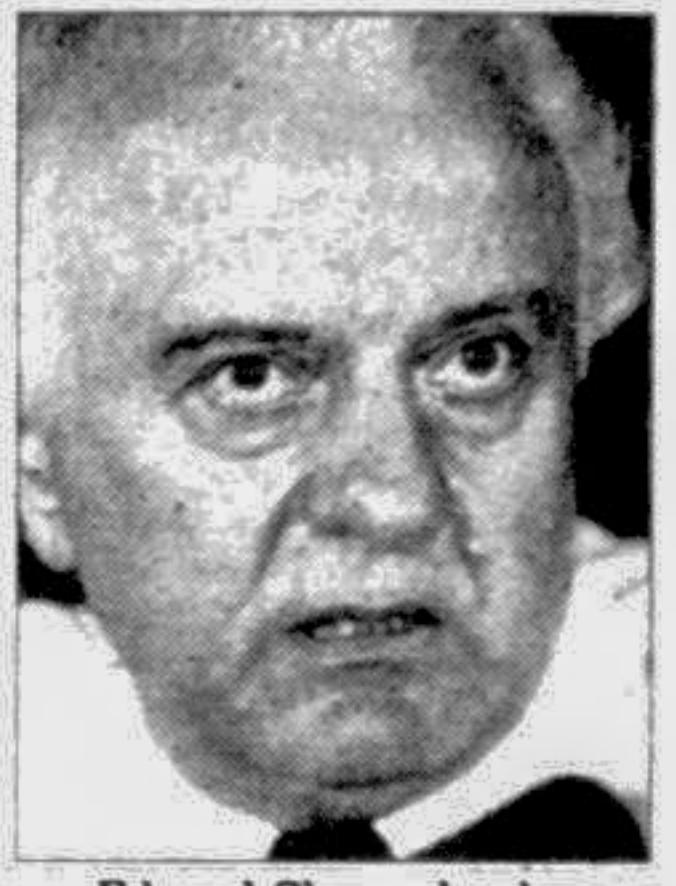
World Maritime Day today

World Maritime Day '93 will be observed today in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world. The day will be observed in Dhaka by Mercantile Marine Department while Chittagong and Mongla port authorities have chalked out programmes on the occasion at Chittagong and Khulna on Thursday, reports UNB.

Spurious tonic seized in city

Police seized a huge quantity of spurious tonic from a factory at Lalbagh area in the capital yesterday and arrested two persons in this connection. Acting on a tip, a special squad of the detective branch of police raided the factory at Aga Nawab Dewri road this afternoon and seized the spurious and sub-standard drugs that included Baby Gref Juice, Acor Vita, Vitamin C and Himesh Fruit Vita. They arrested owners of the factory Mohammad Rafiqul Islam and Hekim Shafiqul Islam and also seized their manufacturing machines along with spare parts, reports UNB.

Sukhumi falls to rebels, Shevardnadze in hiding



Eduard Shevardnadze

TBILISI (Georgia), Sept 27: After 12 days of intense fighting, Abkhazian separatists captured the key Georgian city of Sukhumi on Monday. Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, who led the failed government

the government trapped on the devastated city's outskirts.

Shevardnadze, whose whereabouts were not known, sent a message to his office in the capital Tbilisi that the city had fallen. The Abkhazian press

TBILISI, Sept 27: Hundreds of civilians living in Sukhumi were killed by Abkhaz rebels today. Shevardnadze said in a statement. Shevardnadze was evacuated from Sukhumi shortly before it fell and taken to Gulyrishi some 12 kilometers down the Black Sea coast, reports AFP.

defense, admitted defeat and was in hiding, reports AP.

Abkhazian forces fought their way downtown and raised their flag over city hall, keeping reinforcement troops sent by

service in Moscow said he was in hiding in the town of Gulyrishi, nine miles from Sukhumi, but the report could not be confirmed independently.

Russian President Boris

Yeltsin ordered the Defense Ministry to give 'maximum assistance' to get Shevardnadze safely out of Abkhazia, Russian officials said Monday.

More than 3,000 people have been killed since he region's nationalist leaders declared sovereignty a year ago, and over 100,000 have been made homeless by the fighting.

Under the terms of a Russian-brokered peace plan in July, Georgia had withdrawn more than 80 per cent of its troops and equipment from Sukhumi, leaving it vulnerable when Abkhazians attacked on Sept 16.

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Yeltsin rules out any compromise

MOSCOW, Sept 27: President Boris Yeltsin ruled out any compromise with his hard-line opponents in Parliament, saying Monday he would not accept any plan for simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections, reports AP.

Speaking on national TV, Yeltsin rebuffed suggestions from some opponents and moderates that he accept a compromise to end the political crisis triggered when he dissolved Parliament last week and ordered new elections.

He continued to insist that parliamentary elections will be held in December, to be followed by presidential elections in June. He said the alternative would be a non-functioning government.

Yeltsin's televised address came after demoralized lawmakers appealed to the Russian armed forces to revolt and oust him. But the lawmakers' support continued to dwindle as the military stood firm behind Yeltsin.

Yeltsin was cheered by thousands of people at a concert in Red Square on Sunday, and thousands more marched through the Russian capital in a major show of support for the President.

The jittery lawmakers claimed early Monday that Yeltsin ordered riot police to storm Parliament, where they have been holed up since Tuesday. But there was no attack, and the pants appeared to be set off by a backfiring truck.

Conditions inside the Parliament building kept deter-

iorating, adding to the isolation and discomfort of the holdouts. Telephone, electricity and hot water has been cut off, so Parliament has fallen back on an underpowered reserve generator. Virtually all lights and all elevators have been turned off.

Guards used chairs and tables to set up barricades in the corridors after rumours of the imminent government attack swept the building. Such rumours have repeatedly gripped Parliament, but Yeltsin has said he will not use force to end the protest.

Later Monday, police ringing Parliament stopped people entering the grounds in an apparent effort to choke off the protest. Police said people inside would be allowed to leave freely.

Lawmakers claimed to have received telegrams of support from some army and navy units, but there was no sign of any military support for the hard-liners. The mood in the building, called the White House, was increasingly despondent as about 100 lawmakers morosely deliberated what to do next.

Some 300 supporters, many of them elderly, slept on carpets in the corridors of Parliament. A small group of volunteers, armed with rifles and dressed in military fatigues, stood guard.

There was no sign of trouble in Moscow on Monday as people headed for work and businesses and shops opened as normal.

The lawmakers, headed by Vice President Alexander

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Dissident Russian President Alexander Rutskoi sits holding his forehead yesterday in an almost completely dark Congress hall in the Russian Parliament. — AFP photo

Split in Sharif's camp will benefit Benazir: Analysts

ISLAMABAD, Sept 27: Ten days ahead of national elections, former premier Benazir Bhutto is benefitting from a split in her rival's camp, diplomats and analysts said today, reports AFP.

This time her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) stands a good chance of improving its performance against the rival Pakistan Muslim League (PML) diplomats said.

The PML, backed by the country's Islamic movement, had two years ago thwarted her attempts to return to power.

Sharif defeated Bhutto in 1990 at the head of a nine-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), but most components in the loose coalition defected during his 30 months in office.

In the wake of his acrimo-

nious power tussle with the then-president Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the PML also split and Sharif resigned July 18, resulting in a snap election.

But most observers agree that the worst damage to Sharif's electoral prospects in the October 6 to October 9 elections was being caused by an apparent loss of Islamic votes after he and vocal fundamentalist leader Qazi Hussain Ahmed parted ways.

Ahmed has now formed his Pakistan Islamic Front (PIF), which is emerging as a third political force.

In his vitriolic campaign against both Sharif and Bhutto, Qazi is offering an 'alternate' Islamic leadership over the previous 'trotters and plun-

ders.'

The PML splinter group, led by former planning minister Hamid Nasser Chattha, has

wins the premiership.

Analysts said that while no

party was expected to emerge

with a clear majority in the

less developed Baluchistan,

Sharif's power-base Punjab has

become the battle ground for

the main contenders. No reli-

able survey was available so far,

but most observers say Punjab

with 115 seats in the 217-

member house will decide who

wins the premiership.

In the wake of his acrimo-

BSF men kill one, injure another

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 27: Indian Border Security Force (BSF) guards intruded into Charabari village in Kolaron thana under this district and shot one villager dead Sunday night.

Abul Kasem, 38, a brother of the dead, identified as Abdul Gafur, was injured critically in the shooting by four BSF men.

Gafur and injured Kasem are

the sons of one Rajab Ali Moral.

Sources said the BSF men from Amudia camp from 24-Parganas district attacked Gafur's house and dragged him towards their camp which was about 300 yards from his house.

The BSF members shot

Gafur while his elder brother

Kasem resisted them from tak-

ing away his brother, sources

said.

Kasem received bullet injury

in his thigh and was admitted

to the Sadar hospital in a criti-

cal condition.

Claiming that the borrowers

Walkout marks JS prorogation

By Staff Correspondent

The eleventh session of the country's fifth Jatiya Sangsad (JS) was prorogued yesterday with the Opposition benches of the House totally empty.

Earlier, the Opposition parties present in the house yesterday — the Awami League (AL), the Jatiya Party (JP), the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh and the Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) — staged stormy, separate walkouts protesting the chair's alleged indifference to an AL member's right to give a personal explanation on the floor.

The Awami League members, led by acting Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, walked out first amidst a pandemonium following the winding up statement of Mojibar Rahman, State Minister for

Finance. In reply to the Opposition's criticism of the Financial Institution Bill, 1993.

Abdus Samad Azad, immediate

ly before staging the walkout,

became very agitated and

asked, at the top of his voice,

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, who was presiding

over the session, to get out of

the House. Samad Azad's col-

leagues in the AL bench were

also very loud against the chair

at that time.

The JP, the Jamaat and the

IOJ followed the AL. These par-

ties, before staging their sepa-

rate walkouts, also accused the

Deputy Speaker for creating

'such an undesirable situation.'

Deputy Leader of the House

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury,

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Khaleda leaves for New York tonight

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia leaves here for New York tonight to address the current session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), reports UNB.

Begum Zia is scheduled to address the 48th session of UNGA on Friday.

The UNGA began at the headquarters of the world body a week ago with a 153-item agenda covering the international political and socio-economic situation.

The Prime Minister, who will lead a 35-member delegation to the UNGA, is expected to highlight in her speech some stirring issues posing a threat to world peace and leading to violation of human rights, particularly the tragic situation in the Balkans.

UNGA begins debate

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 27: The UN General Assembly began its annual general debate here Monday, with US President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa as first day's speakers, reports AFP.

Brazil's foreign minister, Celso Amorim, officially opened the session as is traditionally the case.

He will be followed by almost 50 heads of state and government and 100 foreign ministers who will address the 48th session of the UN General Assembly over the next three weeks.

Upon opening the debate of this 48th session of the General Assembly we are, once again, swept by winds of change, Amorim said.

And the fresh breeze that brings forth the message that understanding and peace may finally prevail over selfish interests, blows from the near East, eradicating some of the most valuable moral lessons on which our planetary civilization is built.

Clinton also: Praised the international relief effort in Somalia, saying the United States and the United Nations have worked together to achieve a stunning humanitarian rescue.

Clinton, in his speech to the General Assembly, announced plans to negotiate an international treaty that would ban production of fuels for nuclear weapons.

Clinton also: Praised the new elected government — a coalition that brings the Khmer Rouge's former allies together with their mutual enemy of 13 years, the former Vietnamese — installed government of Hun Sen.