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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Lightning kills 3 in Sherpur

**From Our Correspondent**  
SHERPUR, Sept 29: Three people were killed by lightning at Kamirer Char Union in the early hours of today. One of the dead was identified as Mohammad Shariatullah, 65, of Dashed Village.

### 5 killed in road mishap

**From Our Correspondent**  
COMILLA, Sept 29: Five people were killed and 50 others injured when a bus skidded off the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Comilla. The accident occurred at Syedpur of Chowddagram thana when a Chittagong-bound bus fell into the road side ditch. The injured people have been admitted to the Chowddagram Govt Hospital.

### College girl kidnapped

KHULNA, Sept 29: A college girl was kidnapped by a group of miscreants in the city on Tuesday. Police said Akter Bithi, 18, a student of BA class of Bojra Government Girls College, was kidnapped by the miscreants while she was returning home from the college in the afternoon, reports UNB.

### 398 Rohingyas back home

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 29: Three hundred and ninety eight Rohingyas voluntarily went back to their homes in Myanmar through two transit camps at Teknaf here today. Official sources told BSS here tonight that UNHCR and Bangladesh officials saw the refugees off at the time of repatriation through Noyapara-2 and Rongkhali transit camps.

## Bosnian Parliament rejects Geneva peace plan

SARAJEVO, Sept 29: After two days of impassioned debate, Bosnia's Parliament on Wednesday effectively torpedoed the Geneva peace plan, voting to accept it only if territories taken by force were returned, reports AP.

The unpalatable choice between more war or a peace that rewards the aggressors appeared to stick in the throat of those who support President Alija Izetbegovic's Muslim-led government.

A plan to divide Bosnia into Serb, Croat and mostly-Muslim mini-states "as it is, was rejected," said Ejup Ganic, a member of the collective presidency.

Of deputies present and voting, 61 voted for conditional ac-

ceptance, four voted to accept it without conditions and seven voted against it, said Senada Kreso, an Information Ministry official.

Bosnian Serbs who have now control 70 per cent of the republic have categorically refused to return territory.

The immediate effect of the vote is likely to be harsh: the resumption of a war that has left up to 200,000 people dead or missing and forced 2 million from their homes.

And now, winter is coming and many in Bosnia have inadequate food and shelter. More than 2.7 million depend on UN aid that could easily be blocked by fighting.

Even as those in Sarajevo wrestled with the future, UN of-

ficials on Wednesday reported heavy fighting in Jablanica, in central Bosnia, between government and rival Croat forces.

After the vote, Ganic emphasized that the government wanted more negotiations. Bosnian Serbs, however, have said they will talk no more, and have suggested they would simply carve up Bosnia with the Croats and leave nothing for the Muslims.

Despite the potential costs, key figures in Bosnia's Muslim-led government insisted that accepting the plan, as is, would mean signing a death warrant for their multi-ethnic state.

"Territories taken by force, especially where genocide occurred... must be returned to their rightful owners. Other-

wise, we are living in a jungle," Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic said Wednesday.

The peace plan would give the Muslim-led government about 31 per cent of Bosnia. Serbs would get 52 per cent and Croats 17 per cent.

Silajdzic also accused the international community of "complicity" for refusing to lift an arms embargo against the outgunned Muslims.

Bosnian presidency spokesman Kemal Mufic told reporters that signing the plan "would mean signing the eradication of the Bosnian state forever, and getting nothing in return."

Parliament debated into the night Tuesday, but adjourned without a vote.



Soldiers of a special unit guarding one of the entrances leading to the Russian Parliament building early Wednesday. —AFP photo

## US call to respect democratic principles Yeltsin extends deadline

MOSCOW, Sept 29: The Russian government drew back a bit Wednesday, extending its deadline for hard-line lawmakers to surrender and end their defiance of President Boris Yeltsin until Monday, report AP.

Elite paratroopers, however, reinforced the police who surrounded parliament, and earlier Wednesday riot police wielding shields and batons chased away some 300 parliament supporters who had been waiting peacefully outside.

Police chased the crowd into a nearby train station.

Police had given lawmakers and their supporters holding the parliament building a 24-hour ultimatum to surrender their weapons and leave. But the government Wednesday extended the deadline to Oct. 4, warning that failure to comply may entail serious consequences.

The government statement said all those who left peacefully before the deadline would not face prosecution.

The Interior Ministry also said a senior police officer died of injuries Wednesday after he was pushed in front of a car by anti-Yeltsin protesters during a clash with police. Lt. Col. Vladimir Reshtuk was the third

person to be killed in connection with the parliament crisis.

Snow and rain drenched Moscow Wednesday as police huddled in overcoats stopped anyone entering parliament. Glum lawmakers and their supporters inside sang during the night to keep their spirits up or chatted in small groups.

Another report says: Russia's rebels parliament has WASHINGTON, Sept 29: President Clinton on Wednesday endorsed Yeltsin's handling of the showdown. "I think so far they've done quite well," he said, reports AP.

offered to hold talks with representatives of Yeltsin to end the political confrontation, Interfax reported today.

The news agency, quoting informed sources, said the chairman of the constitutional commission, Oleg Rumyantsev, held separate meetings with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Oleg Lobov, secretary of the influential security council late Tuesday evening.

Many lawmakers were deserting the hard-line cause to work in Yeltsin's administration. More than 200 deputies are negotiating job offers with the government.

The Interior Ministry said Tuesday the remaining hard-

liners were becoming increasingly desperate and had ignored orders to surrender their guns.

The commander of volunteer Parliament guards said today his forces will fire on troops if they come too close to the building. Interfax news agency reported.

Retired Army General Albert Makashov, a militant nationalist, said from the balcony of the White House parliament the men would fire without warning if security forces crossed a makeshift barricade put up by opponents of Yeltsin.

Meanwhile, the United States warned Yeltsin on Tuesday to respect democratic principles and human rights in resolving his standoff.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, speaking at the margins of the UN General Assembly, said he was increasingly concerned about the possibility of bloodshed in Moscow.

Russia, however, assured the United States today that Yeltsin intended to resolve a confrontation, US and Russian officials said.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, after meeting Christopher, told reporters: "It is our own affair and we will deal with it without the use of force. There is no intention to use force."

## Jamaat to resist move to ban party: Nizami

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Maulana Muttur Rahman Nizami yesterday claimed that a certain quarter, unhappy with the revival of Islamic forces in the country, was now conspiring to ban his party.

Nizami, however, said the Jamaat was ready to face any conspiracy to impose ban on religion-based politics in the country.

The Jamaat leader was addressing a press conference yesterday at the Maghbar Al-Falah building.

Nizami read out a five-page statement narrating his version of the incidents taking place at Rajshahi and Khulna that left three students killed on September 19 and 20 respectively.

The Jamaat leader ended at Sec Page 12 Col 6

## Work on supply of gas to tea gardens in limbo

Star Report

The work for providing gas to 13 tea gardens in the Lungla valley of Sylhet has remained suspended for seven months despite an expenditure of about five crore taka.

Implementation of the project undertaken by the Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Ltd was initiated in mid-92 and pipes were laid to supply gas to the tea gardens by March this year. But, at the final stage, the work was suspended in February for an indefinite period due to alleged interference of some local influential quarters.

The affected tea estates of Lungla valley have already drawn the attention of the higher authorities and have also sought the intervention of some ministers to solve the problem. Yet the implementation of the remaining work is still uncertain.

The garden owners claim they have been incurring heavy losses for lack of gas supply. In a letter to the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, they said that the tea estates were compelled to use imported oil as fuel while some gardens were burning wood. It has been reported that the use of wood procured from local forests were

See Page 12 Col 3

## Import duty to go up by 10 pc Quota system for crude edible oil to go

By Special Correspondent

The government has decided to allow free import of crude edible oil but with an increased import duty of another 10 per cent.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has already prepared the Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) for the purpose which is expected to be issued soon to enhance the duty.

The import duty on crude soybean oil will be raised to 40 per cent from the existing 30 while the duty on crude palm oil will similarly go up to 55 per cent from the present 45 per cent.

So long the import of crude edible oil was restricted and only a certain quantity fixed by the government was allowed to be imported by the local refiners

on a quota basis.

The new decision on crude edible oil was taken at a recent meeting of the cabinet. The cabinet has also decided to form an inter-ministerial committee to monitor the impact of free import of edible oil as well as its effect on market price.

The committee, comprising the ministries of Commerce, Industry and Home and the NBR, will analyse the situation every month while the Commerce Ministry will prepare a report after six months of monitoring for the government to take further steps, if necessary.

Bangladesh's annual requirement of edible oil has been estimated at about six lakh See Page 12 Col 8

## AL to place bill to ban religion-based parties

The Awami League will bring a bill in the next session of parliament seeking ban on political parties based on religion, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim while addressing a rally in front of the party office last evening. He said the bill is being drafted and the party chief Sheikh Hasina is expected to bring it in Parliament.

Nasim, who is also organising secretary of the Awami League, expressed the hope that the move will be supported by all the parties except Jamaat-e-Islami.

Earlier, yesterday, Jamaat leader Muttur Rahman Nizami told a press conference that any move to ban politics based on religion will be resisted by the religious minded people untidly.

Nasim said they are expecting that winter session of Parliament will be summoned on November 26 or 27.

Nasim urged the ruling party MPs who spoke in favour of banning politics of fundamentalist and communal forces in Parliament on September 20 to support the proposed bill for consolidating democracy and national independence.

"You should tell your leader to support the bill," Nasim said directing at ruling party MPs, "otherwise you leave her and join the freedom loving people."

The rally organised by the Joy Bangla Sangskritik Jote, Nasim called upon the government to repeal the Indemnity Ordinance in paving the way for ensuring rule of law and justice.

Awami League had taken to parliament a bill two years ago See Page 12 Col 7

## Malpractice at Cardio-Vascular Instt No action yet against those found guilty

Star Report

No action has yet been taken against those found involved in the appointment scandal in the National Cardio-Vascular Diseases Institute even seven months after the report submitted by a probe body.

Hospital sources said the enquiry committee, which filed its report on the scandal on February 16, charged the director and the chairman of the selection committee, two associate professors and one administrative officer of the institute with gross irregularities, corruption and nepotism.

The three-member committee also advised steps against the officials, they said.

The probe, in its report, found that the chairman of the selection board and some other members, violating rules, had illegally selected 107 persons for appointment as technicians, senior accountant, office assistant, lower division clerk, senior instrument caretaker and chief anaesthesia technician.

The Health Directorate, following allegations of corruption in a section of the press, formed the probe body with Dr. Golam Nabi, a Director in the Health Ministry, as its head.

The committee submitted its

findings to the ministry on February 16.

Deputy Minister for Health Serajul Haque, during the budget session in the Jatiya Sangsad on June 6, admitted the incident of corruption and promised stern action within 30 days against those found guilty.

The probe committee in its report commented that the Director of the National Cardio-Vascular Diseases Institute, who was chairman of the selection committee, had failed in his duties while the two member had misused power and breached faith.

The report also identified 12 administrative lapses in the selection procedures, including absence of written examinations, ignoring scrutiny of applications and flouting district quotas, during selection of candidates.

Institute sources said that despite the 'proven' charges, some of the 'guilty officials' have been 'rewarded' with promotions.

"Such inaction and subsequent rewards have sparked off resentment among the officials and employees of the hospital," commented a senior doctor of See Page 12 Col 6

## Khaleda arrives in New York

NEW YORK, Sept 29: Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia arrived here this afternoon to address the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), reports BSS.

The aircraft carrying the Prime Minister and her entourage landed at the New York Airport in New Jersey where she was received by United Nations and United States high officials.

The Prime Minister was greeted by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman. Bangladesh Ambassador to USA Abul Ahsan, Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Humayun Kabir and Bangladeshi community living in USA welcomed the Prime Minister at the airport.

Besides making her statement in the UNGA session on See Page 12 Col 6

## Carrying of arms, sticks banned in city

The Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday prohibited carrying of any kind of arms, explosives, sticks or other lethal weapons by anybody in the entire metropolis from 8 am today until further order, reports BSS.

According to a police press release, since some parties had given programme of carrying sticks and other weapons in processions and rallies on September 30 and since there is an apprehension of breach of peace and discipline, Police Commissioner AN Hussain has promulgated this prohibitory order.

In an official handout, the government expressed the hope that some political parties and their front organisations, which have given programmes like meetings and rallies would follow democratic principles and procedures in observing these programmes.

## Biman to suspend Bangkok, Calcutta flights from Ctg

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Sept 29: Biman's flights to two of its international routes from here will face suspension for a month from October 2, official sources said today.

Biman authorities have taken a decision to cancel its service in the month of October on the Chittagong-Bangkok and the Chittagong-Calcutta routes as one of its two F-28 aircraft is being sent to Singapore for overhauling.

Biman sources said due to a shortage of aircraft with the national carrier and failure to arrange alternative flights on these two routes, the service will be suspended temporarily. Normally, F-28 and ATP aircraft were pressed into service on these routes.

Biman operated flights on the Chittagong-Bangkok route on Thursdays and on the Chittagong-Calcutta route on Saturdays.

Biman's Chittagong-Bangkok flight via Rangoon used to start its journey from Dhaka but returned to Chittagong without touching Rangoon, official sources informed.

The Chittagong-Bangkok service was inaugurated on October 25, 1992.

Meanwhile, Biman's offices here are not making any bookings in these two sectors for the month of October.

## Bureaucratic tangles delay flood control project in Tangail

By Masud Hasan Khan

Implementation of a flood control pilot project in Tangail district is being delayed because of lengthy bureaucratic tangles, officials said.

They said, over the last three years, the government has been able to receive possession of only 0.55 hectare of an estimated 200 hectares of land, required for construction of embankments of the Tangail Compartmentalization Pilot Project (Tangail CPP).

Government files have to pass about 11 stages in various ministries and local government department to receive possession of the land selected for construction of embankment after purchase from the original owners, Tangail CPP officials explained. The Tangail CPP is a 13160-

hectare test programme flood control project which aims at formulating an appropriate water management policy for the region.

If found favourable, the 94,00,000-US dollar project would be replicated all over the country.

Talking to The Daily Star, officials of the Water Development Board (WDB), which is implementing the physical structure of the project, said they have so far purchased 0.55 hectare of land at Khallatbari in Sadar thana of the district.

Proposal for purchasing another 22.58 hectare of land for the 55 kilometer-long peripheral embankment was underway, they said.

However, the files were 'moving at a snail's pace' in dif-

ferent ministries, the officials pointed out.

The officials declined to be identified.

Implementation of the Tangail CPP, under Flood Action Plan (FAP) of the government, might be delayed because of the time consumed in land purchase and the bureaucratic hurdles, the WDB officials feared.

Located in Tangail Sadar, Basail, Delduar and Kalihati thanas of the district the project started in November 1990 and is scheduled to be finished by the end of next year.

When completed, the compartmentalization project would be put to operation for the next two years for various studies on flood control, food production See Page 12 Col 8

## Dhaka exports 5,000 kg of hilsa to Calcutta

CALCUTTA, Sept 29: Hilsas, the favourite item in the Bengali menu, are always in short supply considering the outstripping demand, but with Bangladesh offering its help the fish will now reach everybody's plate, reports PTI.

Under an agreement between the two countries, a consignment of 5,000 kg of hilsa arrived today on the no man's land in the Haridashpur border in North 24-Parganas district. It was received by the state's Minister for Fisheries Kironmoy Nanda.

Under the agreement, Bangladesh would export 5,000 tonnes of 'Padmar Hilsa' to West Bengal during the year.

Thirty tonnes would reach the state every day to be distributed among different markets in Calcutta by the 'Benfish', a state government undertaking.

**ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা**

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন  
আপনার শিক্তে টিকা দিন

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অনুরোধক্রমে বকেয়াসহ চলতি আর্থিক বৎসরের (১৯৯৩-৯৪) ৪ (চার) কিস্তির পৌর কর রিবেটসহ পরিশোধের তারিখ আগামী ৩১/১০/৯৩ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হইল।

সুতরাং, আগামী ৩১/১০/৯৩ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে সমুদয় কর এককালীন পরিশোধ করিয়া হাল (১৯৯৩-৯৪) সনের ৪ (চার) কিস্তির করের উপর শতকরা ১০/- (দশ) টাকা হারে রিবেটের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করার এবং মহানগরীর উন্নয়নমূলক কাজে সহায়তা দান করার জন্য সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

রিবেটের এই সুযোগ সকল সরকারী, আধা-সরকারী, স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান, ব্যাংক, বীমাসহ সকল হোল্ডিং এর ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য।

কর্তৃপক্ষের আদেশক্রমে-  
প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা,  
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।

ডিসিপি/পিআরডি/১৬১/৯৩-৯৪  
ডি-৭০৭