

Inside Today

Article

Sri Lankan Election: An Experience for Adversaries

by M M Rezaul Karim
Page 4

International

UN fails to hold
Afghan meetFundamentalist doctrine incompatible with
UN basic principles,
says Ghali
Page 5

Business

Resumption of night
navigation at Ctg Port
Channel may be
delayedWorld trade pact needs
urgent ratification,
says GATT chief
Pages 6, 7

Rising Stars

The Spiritualist; A Message to Damsels in
Distress; An Exciting and Enjoyable Party;
and Mathaeus Could
Also Not Do It!
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

False Pathological
Alarms
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Monk's body
exhumed

KHAGRAKHARI, Sept. 3: The body of a Buddhist monk believed to have been killed on September 1 was recovered here today. Police exhumed the beheaded body from a grave at Apar Parachhara in Sadar thana after receiving an information. Police are yet find any clue the murderer reports UNB.

Medicine seized

By Staff Correspondent
A customs surveillance team seized contraband medicine valued at Tk 2,39,400 from two Pakistani nationals at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday afternoon. The medicine were recovered from the baggage of Omar Shah and Sheikh Khorshed who arrived by a Bangladesh Biman flight from Karachi at about 6:45 pm yesterday.

Daily banned

The District Magistrate and the acting Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh has cancelled the declaration of the Bengali daily "The Ajker Smriti," published from Mymensingh town, on the ground of gross violation of the Printing and Publication (Declaration and Registration) Act 1973, reports BSS.

1 commits suicide

By DMCH Correspondent
A housewife reportedly committed suicide at her Teknupara residence under Tejgaon Police Station in the city early yesterday. Selina Begum, 25, wife of one Mohammed Golam Mustafa, killed herself by taking poison. Police recovered the body and sent it to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Qatari reception

Ambassador of Qatar Atiq Nasser al-Bader had a reception on the occasion of the national day of his country at the Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka last night, reports BSS.

Seoul offers all help in
Dhaka's dev efforts

South Korea, one of Asia's fastest emerging industrialised countries, has assured Bangladesh of its total support to help achieve rapid development and progress, reports UNB.

The assurance came at formal talks between Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the visiting South Korean Prime Minister Lee Yung-Dug at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the capital yesterday.

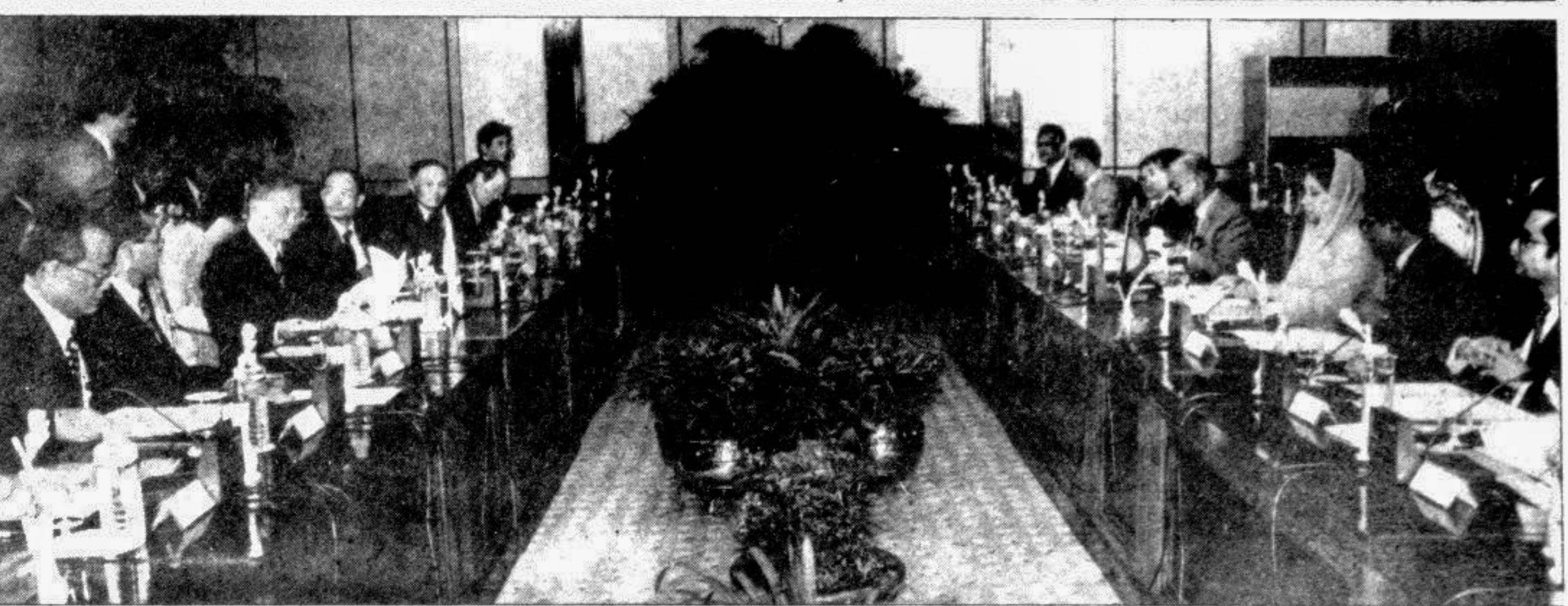
The talks, lasting an-hour-and-a-half, covered all vital aspects of bilateral relations.

A 15-member Bangladesh delegation at the talks included Foreign Minister A S M

Mostafizur Rahman, Principal Secretary to the PM A N M Yusuf, Foreign Secretary M R Osmany, Industries Secretary A H M Abdul Hye, Labour and Manpower Secretary Shah Muhammad Farid, Bangladesh Ambassador to South Korea Fazlur Rahman and Director General (Far East) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Anwarul Alam.

The visiting Prime Minister also led a 15-member team which included South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Park Kun-Woo, Secretary General of

See Page 12 Col 4



Formal talks between Bangladesh and South Korea were held at the International Conference Centre yesterday. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and visiting Prime Minister of South Korea Lee Yung-Dug led their respective sides.

— PID photo

Korean example inspires us: Khaleda
Promising place for investment: Lee

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and her South

Korean economy.

"We, the people of Asia," Begum Zia said, "Share a common history, culture and tradition. The growing friendship and cooperation between our two Asian countries is a matter of much satisfaction. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea, there has been a steady growth in our relations."

Prime Minister Lee, in his remarks, said, "Since formal relations were established two decades ago, Korea and Bangladesh have forged a mutually beneficial relationship by prioritising cooperation in all fields, not only political and economic, but also social and cultural."

Begum Zia said very attractive opportunities had been created for foreign investment in Bangladesh. Listing the facilities, she said, the Bangladesh currency had been made freely convertible for all practical purposes and foreigners could now easily repatriate capital, profit and earnings.

Both leaders expressed their countries' commitment to democratic values and mar-

ket economy. To encourage foreign investment, she said, export processing zones had been set up.

Prime Minister Lee said that Korean companies now consider Bangladesh one of the most attractive and promising places for overseas investment.

Expressing her happiness that investors from the Republic of Korea are taking more and more interest in Bangladesh, Begum Zia called for stronger policy support from the Seoul government for Koreans to invest in Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Lee said, "A window of opportunities lies open before us."

The ROK leader said that the peoples of the two countries share the values of democracy and market economy and described the economies of the two countries as complementary.

"Our task now is to make the most of this opportunity for our mutual benefit," Lee said, adding, "Korea will do its best to disrupt due to the insincerity of either side."

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury of the National Democratic Party also expressed similar views to this correspondent last night.

"As a practitioner of constitutional politics, I do not see any alternative to a dialogue between the ruling party and the Opposition," he said.

"Neither a wrestler nor a boxer, I shall continue to support."

See Page 12 Col 8

Fruitful talks
depend on BNP's
attitude: JP

The emergency presidium meeting of the Jatiya Party made it unmistakably clear that unless and until the party in power accepted in principle the combined Opposition's demand for election under a neutral caretaker government no dialogue would be fruitful, reports UNB.

The JP meeting, held Friday night at the Gulshan residence of its acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, said that it was not opposed to any meaningful, purposeful and constructive communication between the government and the combined opposition.

Administering a note of warning to the ruling BNP, the Jatiya Party presidium said, opposition parties stood determined to frustrate any move to sidetrack, divert or defuse their present agitation for realisation of neutral caretaker government or to foil their Dhaka siege programme of September 10.

The meeting further stated that the AL, JP and Jamaat participated in all dialogues so far held between them and the government with all sincerity of purpose.

Govt not sincere about
dialogue: Samad Azad

By Staff Correspondent

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President member Abdus Samad Azad has blamed the government for not being sincere in its intention to hold a dialogue on the issue of a caretaker government.

Making a pointed attack on Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Samad Azad said, "It was ironical that although he (Badruddoza) took the initiatives for dialogue, it was he who undermined the process by publicly speaking against it."

Stating that hopes for a dialogue on the caretaker issue has been dashed to the ground, the Opposition leader said the atmosphere has now deteriorated.

Continuing he said: "I feel Badruddoza Chowdhury has retreated from his stand. He is now in an attacking mood. We were sincere about a dialogue, but the statements of the ministers are a retraction of their caretaker government."

The ministers' comments amounted to rejecting a dialogue on the caretaker issue", Samad Azad said.

He further said the proposal for a dialogue from the government side was a ploy to

See Page 12 Col 8

Smaller parties in
JS for dialogue

By Staff Correspondent

The smaller parties in parliament feel that in a parliamentary democracy there is no alternative to dialogue between the opposing camps to resolve any problem.

The impasse centring on the need for a caretaker administration to ensure free and fair elections can be resolved only through negotiations, the leaders felt.

Gono Forum MP Shamsuddoha, speaking on the issue over telephone last night, observed that it would be very unfortunate for the nation if the process for a dialogue on the present political impasse were to be disrupted due to the insincerity of either side.

The ROK leader said that the peoples of the two countries share the values of democracy and market economy and described the economies of the two countries as complementary.

"Our task now is to make the most of this opportunity for our mutual benefit," Lee said, adding, "Korea will do its best to disrupt due to the insincerity of either side."

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury of the National Democratic Party also expressed similar views to this correspondent last night.

"As a practitioner of constitutional politics, I do not see any alternative to a dialogue between the ruling party and the Opposition," he said.

Neither a wrestler nor a boxer, I shall continue to support."

See Page 12 Col 8

Govt sincere,
says Salam

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder has said the ruling party is "sincere" about holding the proposed dialogue with the opposition parties to end the present political impasse.

"We first made the proposal for the dialogue because we are sincere. We sincerely want to end the impasse," Talukder told The Daily Star yesterday.

His remarks followed Opposition leader Abdus Samad Azad's allegations at a press briefing on the day that the ruling party was not sincere about any dialogue as most of the ministers were speaking against the demand for a caretaker government.

Salam Talukder said that until recently both the ruling party and the Opposition leaders were speaking at public meetings and seminars about their respective stands on the caretaker government issue and other related issues.

"This should not affect the proposed dialogue for which some progress has already been made," the BNP secretary general said.

After the initial progress both sides are poised for a

See Page 12 Col 7

Drought eases, but
Aman yield may fall

By Inam Ahmed

The drought situation in the country has slightly improved over the last few weeks, but experts fear that the Aman production this year would be about 20 per cent less than the target.

There had been some rainfall which enabled farmers to transplant aman paddy in the last week of August, but the fields are still dry which means a much lower yield, according to field reports coming to the Agriculture Ministry.

Till August 30, the progress of transplantation in 36 drought-affected northern districts was nine per cent below the target for this season. This was six per cent less than last year.

The aman season began in July and will last till September 10.

The aman season paddy is half of the total paddy production in the country.

However, the broadcast aman paddy will be the most affected this season, agriculturists predict. Till now, eight lakh hectares have been brought under broadcast aman cultivation which is five per cent below the target. But agriculturists say yield from broadcast aman paddy will decrease by 50 per cent because of the non-availability of required level of water in the fields. The broadcast variety needs at least three feet of water in the field to bear the crop.

See Page 12 Col 1

Two BCL activists shot
dead in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept. 3: Two BCL activists were gunned down and two others injured in an armed attack at noon today launched by a rival organisation in Noapara village under Raozan thana, 20 miles from here.

The dead were identified as Iqbal Hossain (28) and Gladus (25). They were the activists of the pro-AL BCL, Chittagong north unit. The two other injured who immediately fled the scene remained untraced, police said.

The BCL has blamed the activists of the NPD (National Democratic Party) for the attack, but NPD denied the charge.

Police said the attack was made by a group of sixteen armed men when the four BCL activists were on board an autorickshaw near Kamaldighi of Noapara village. The rival group opened fire with automatic weapons killing Iqbal and Gladus on the spot.

The assailants fled immediately.

Hundreds of villagers later arrived at the scene. Police recovered the bodies and sent

See Page 12 Col 7

No classes, exams
held at DU

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University remained calm yesterday after a series of terrorist activities on the campus since Monday last affected the academic atmosphere.

Classes and examinations were not held. The DU authorities had earlier postponed all classes for three days until Monday following Thursday's violence in which an MA final year student died.

Meanwhile, the Controller of Examinations told this correspondent yesterday that the new timings of the examinations that could not be held yesterday would be announced.

A source close to the VC told this correspondent yesterday that the VC was very upset following Thursday's violence.

DU VC's letter
to political
parties

By DU Correspondent

The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Professor Ejazuddin Ahmed, yesterday appealed to the leaders of all political parties to help contain violence on the campus.

According to sources, the VC has issued letters to all political parties.

In his letter, the VC has reportedly underlined the need for controlling the student fronts of the political parties in order to free the campus from terrorism.

The VC observed that any understanding or consensus among the student bodies would not last if the political parties did not enforce control over their student fronts.

A source close to the VC told this correspondent yesterday that the VC was very upset following Thursday's violence.

One killed in
Cox's Bazar
gunbattle

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Sept. 3: One Abdul Malek was shot dead and at least 30 others received bullet injuries when two rival groups started a gunbattle in the Chadagona village of Moheshkhali thana early yesterday.

The armed clash that began at 3 am ensued over the possession of a shrimp project covering 50 acres of land in the area. The gun battle lasted about four hours.

The injured persons have been admitted to the Moheshkhali Thana Health Complex, the District Sadar Hospital and the Dolahajari Hospital.

Police visited the spot at 11 am today. A huge contingent of riot police was also deployed to contain further violence.

BPTA begins
indefinite strike

By Staff Correspondent

The indefinite strike called by the Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers' Association (BPTA) began in all the 20 polytechnic institutes of the country yesterday.

The BPTA called the strike in support of its nine-point demand including opening of new departments, introduction of double shifts and restructuring of the service rules of the polytechnic teachers.

'Dhaka to oppose anti-Islamic proposals'

By S Y Bakht

Bangladesh would oppose any resolution which goes against the tenets of Islam or social values of its people at the upcoming UN conference on population and development in Cairo, asserted Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday.

"It is a very important conference and Bangladesh's family planning programme has

noted.

Bangladesh would reiterate its position on the success of the family planning programme in the country in conformity with the religious and traditional values, the minister said. "We will assert and reassert this position."

Describing the overall success of the family planning programme as "great," Kamal Yusuf, however, said "but we still have a long way to go and there is no room for complacency as population is still the biggest problem facing the country."

The country needs to reduce the