

Inside Today

Article

Sri Lankan Election: An Experience for Advancers

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 delayed

World trade pact needs urgent ratification, says GATT chief
Pages 6, 7

Rising Stars

The Spiritualist; A Message to Damself 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

KHAGRACHARI, 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 Perachhara in Sadar thana after receiving information. Police are yet to find any clue the murder, 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 Tejgunipara residence under Tejgun Police Station in the city early yesterday. Selina Begum, 25, wife of one Mohammed Golam Mustafa, killed herself by taking poison. Police recovered her body and sent it to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Qatari reception

Ambassador of Qatar Altiq Nasser al-Bader held 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,

including increase of investment and joint ventures in Bangladesh, recruitment of more Bangladeshi manpower and expansion of trade to remove the imbalance against Dhaka.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of the talks, the Principal Secretary to the PM said the two leaders had also focused on the burning issues of global political dimension like peace and stability and nuclear weapons.

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



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 counterpart Lee Yung Dug last night called for utilisation of the opportunities offered by the free market system for mutual benefit of the peoples of their two friendly countries, reports BSS.

Speaking at the banquet hosted by Begum Zia at the Banquet Hall of 30, Hare Road in honour of the visiting Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Lee Yung Dug and his wife Madame Chung Hwak Sil, the two leaders expressed the desire to work for the common goals of global peace and human progress.

Extending her cordial welcome to the distinguished guests, Begum Zia said that the people of Bangladesh were delighted to have them here and described the visit by the ROK leader as an important landmark in the development of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

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

ket 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 promoting 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.

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

See Page 12 Col 1

Smaller parties in JS for dialogue

By Staff Correspondent

The smaller parties in 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 Shamsud-doha, 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.

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 sup-

See Page 12 Col 8

Govt sincere, says Salam

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul 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

Govt not sincere about dialogue: Samad Azad

By Staff Correspondent

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League Presidium 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.

"We are going back to the streets, where we already are, to realise our demands for holding free and fair polls under a neutral caretaker government," Samad Azad told newsmen at his Parliament office yesterday evening.

He reiterated that the 'Dhaka siege programme' of September 10 will take place as announced earlier for what he said 'government's lack of sincerity in solving the caretaker issue through dialogue'.

"We are appealing to all opposition parties and front organisations of the Awami League to make the siege programme a total success."

Samad Azad, now acting leader of the Opposition in the absence of Sheikh Hasina who is abroad particularly referred to the statements of five ministers at a discussion meeting on

Friday. The ministers reportedly ruled out the Opposition demand for a caretaker government.

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

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 earlier position."

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

Health Minister leaves for Cairo population confce

'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 Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday.

"We will resist any proposed resolution at the Cairo conference which goes against the tenets of Islam or our social, traditional and cultural values," the minister told The Daily Star prior to his departure for Egypt.

He is leading a seven-member Bangladesh delegation at the conference beginning in the Egyptian capital Monday. The minister had earlier cancelled his trip to attend the conference accompanying the Prime Minister, who cited internal preoccupations as the reason. At that time it was announced that the Health Secretary would lead the Bangladesh delegation.

But considering the importance of the conference for

Bangladesh, the minister explained, it was later decided that the country should have political representation at the meet.

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

benefited from contributing at the meet and learning from the experiences of others."

In an interview at his official Minto road residence, Kamal Yusuf responded to criticisms about the draft plan of action to be discussed at the conference, talked about Bangladesh's position at the meet and also about the overall performance of the country's family planning programme.

The proposed action plan for the conference is only a draft, he said, and it does not necessarily mean that it would be adopted at the meet.

The draft UN plan prompted severe protests from the Vatican and a number of Muslim states for proposing to legalize abortion. It also led some countries to cancel their attendance at the meet while others decided to downgrade their representation.

"The Cairo conference is being held in a Muslim country and I am sure that all Muslim countries will oppose any proposal which goes against the values of Islam," the minister



Kamal Ibne Yusuf

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 population growth rate from around two per cent to 1.8 per cent by 1995, and the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) also needs to be increased accordingly, he observed.

"The future thrust of the family planning programme should be multi-sectoral, as without improvement in the status of health, literacy and overall quality of life, further

See Page 12 Col 6

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 behind last year's, according to sources.

The target for transplantation of Aman paddy in these districts was 26.95 lakh hectares till August 30. But only 20.71 lakh hectares could be covered which is 77 per cent of the target. During the corresponding period last year, 22.83 lakh hectares were covered.

However, throughout the country about 38 lakh hectares were brought under aman transplantation till August 30 as against a 50 lakh-hectare target for this season. This was six per cent less than last year's.

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

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 Giasuddin (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 NDP (National Democratic Party) for the attack, but NDP 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 Kamalighi of Noapara village. The rival group opened fire with automatic weapons killing Iqbal and Gias on the spot.

The assailants fled immediately.

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

A strike called by the pro- See Page 12 Col 7

Mugger shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

An alleged mugger was shot dead by an Ansar constable at Gulbagh in the city yesterday morning.

The mugger, identified as Masum Miah, son of one Tara Miah, died on the spot.

Police said Masum Miah along with several accomplices were trying to snatch valuables from two rickshaw passengers at Khilgaon area around 5:30 am yesterday.

Patrol police who arrived on the scene tried to nab them, but the muggers hurled crackers and tried to flee towards the Motijheel area.

Patrol policemen Habibur Rahman, Mohammad Motahar Hossain and Ansar Mahbubul Alam were injured by the exploding cocktails.

Constable Habibur Rahman fired a blank shot at the muggers.

At this the gang, numbering eight to nine, attacked the policeman, brick-batting them and hurling cocktails.

Ansar Mahbubul Alam, who was also hurt, fired at one of

See Page 12 Col 8

DU VC's letter to political parties

By DU Correspondent

The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Professor Enajuddin 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 Maleq 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.

Preparatory talks of Cairo confce begin

CAIRO, Sept 3: Delegates from 156 countries began preparatory talks here today ahead of the official opening of the UN world population conference amid tight security, reports AFP.

Spokesman for the UN population fund Stirling Scruggs said up to 6,000 delegates

in total were expected, most of whom had already arrived in the Egyptian capital.

Police strictly controlled all access to the complex at Medinat Nasser, 15 kilometres northeast of Cairo, where the delegates were meeting.

More than 14,000 policemen have been deployed in Cairo to protect the 15,000 delegates, journalists and representatives from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who are expected to attend.

Scruggs said the organisers had "full confidence in the security" which has swung into top gear following threats by the outlawed Jamaa Islamiyya group that those attending the "illicitious" conference were putting their lives at risk.

The conference, which opens Monday and lasts until September 13, is to debate a 20-year action plan for slowing population growth.

Preparatory talks today and tomorrow were due to concentrate on adopting a conference timetable, and organising the work.

Attend Cairo confce to block unislimic resolutions: OIC

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia),

Sept 3: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) today urged member states to attend the UN world population conference in Cairo to block any unislimic resolutions, reports AFP.

Hamid Algaibid, OIC Secretary General, said in a statement here that member states must be present at the conference and make Islamic positions count during debates.

"They must block the adoption of any document which goes against Islamic principles," he added.