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Members of the leftist All Nepal Women's Unity Centre demonstrating in Kathmandu yesterday against the Indo-Nepal Mahakali River Integration Development Project Treaty. — AFP/UNB photo

## Ruby, a mother of three, now rickshawpuller

Papiya Sultana Ruby, finding no other job, opted finally for pulling rickshaw and came out to the street of the capital to earn her livelihood, reports UNB.

A mother of three — her last child born just a month and 15 days ago — Ruby, as she claims, is the wife of a terrorist, Mohammad Israil, belonging to 'Nazem-Munna group' of Syedabad.

Israil forcibly married her in 1985 when she was just a schoolgirl at South Moushundi Bangla School in the capital, she said.

As people avoid hiring a rickshaw pulled by a woman, Ruby tries to hide her female identity by wearing male dresses. A UNB reporter saw her yesterday near the National Press Club wearing panjabi and jeans trousers. Her head was veiled with a scarf.

The female rickshawpuller, rare in a city dotted with rickshaws, said she resorted to dragging the tri Wheeler as her husband does not take care of her and the three children. He did not provide any money for them for the last nine months.

Ruby, 23, first plied rickshaw in Joydevpur for a few days after her husband took her there, facing a case. As he went into hiding again, she came to Dhaka and started pulling rickshaw last Friday.

But most people avoid hiring a rickshaw pulled by a woman, complained Ruby.

Ruby said she earns Tk 40-50 a day compared to a male rickshawpuller who earns over Tk 100 in a six-hour shift. But, as she sees no alternative, she takes rickshaw from the garage of one Mohammad Ali in Manda.

Hailing from a Tangail village, Ruby now wants to sell a kidney. 'My life has been ruined, but I want that my children grow up normally. I need money, so I want to sell one kidney,' she said.

Ruby said she had first tried to work in a garment factory. But as an unskilled worker, she was given only Tk 600 a month, which was too small an amount to meet her family requirement after paying house rent of Tk 400.

## 20 injured in pre-polls violence in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 3: At least 20 persons were injured in sporadic pre-polls violence in Chittagong constituency this evening sources said.

They were admitted to the local health complex.

According to the district administration and police, the clashes took place between the supporters of Awami League and BNP.

Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the rival groups and bring the situation under control.

The clashes erupted when the supporters of Awami League and BNP brought out processions at Gasbaria, Baitoli, Satabaria, Kanchanabad and Khara villages under Chandanais thana in support of their respective candidates. Montaj Begum, wife of former minister Oli Ahmed is contesting the by-election with BNP ticket while Awami League candidate is Nazrul Islam Chowdhury.

The Chandanais-Satkania (Chittagong-13) seat was vacated by Oli Ahmed of BNP.

## Grand mufti of Deoband dead

Maulana Mahmud Hasan, grand mufti of Darul Uloom, Deoband, India, died in South Africa on Monday at the age of 91, said a press release of Jamia Shariyah Malibagh in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

He left behind his two daughters and many followers.

Maulana Hasan visited Bangladesh along with 600 followers from USA, UK, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan and South Africa and spent the month of Ramadan at Malibagh Jamia Jame Masjid early this year.

## 2 die in city

By DMC Correspondent

A young man died after falling from the roof of a four storied building and an eight-year-old boy was killed in a road accident in the city yesterday.

Shomir, 20, a sanitary worker was fatally injured after he fell from the building at Toyenbee Circular Road at about 5pm. He died on way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

Sagor, 8, son of Abdul Karim of North Jatrabari, was run over by a bus and killed on the spot near his house, DMCH sources said.

## Elephant attacks Janmastami function

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 3: Two women and a minor boy were injured when an elephant brought at the Janmastami function at the JM Sen Hall attacked the crowd this afternoon, witnesses and hospital sources said.

The injured Puspa Rani, 30, Bulbuli Chowdhury, 60, and Aijit, 8, were rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Later, the two women were shifted to a private clinic.

## Hajis

From Page 1

A PID handout said under no circumstances the date for depositing the advance rent would be extended.

It said the per head cost per Hajj was Tk 78,815 in 1996 while it would be more or less the same in 1997.

The PID handout said those who would fail to deposit the money for advance house rent within the fixed date, may perform Hajj outside the government arrangement subject to the visa availability.

## Triangular contest in Sylhet-4 likely

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Sept 3: The by-election in the Sylhet-4 constituency is likely to witness a triangular contest among the nominees of the ruling AL, BNP and Jamaat, according to local people.

A good number of central and district leaders of the leading political parties had already held meetings, rallies and door-to-door campaign to woo the voters. Awami League leaders Suranjit Sengupta and Dewan Farid Gazi along with a number of party MPs and BNP stalwart M Saifur Rahman also attended a number of programmes in the different areas of the constituency.

The seat (Sylhet-4, comprising Jaintapur and Gowainghat thanas) was vacated by former BNP minister M Saifur Rahman who was also elected from Moulvibazar-3 constituency in the June 12 elections. In Sylhet-4 Saifur polled 23,944 votes and defeated AL's Imran Ahmed who polled 22,715.

BNP has fielded its district vice-president Advocate Nurul Haque while Jamaat-e-Islami has nominated Advocate Mohammad Ali Jatiya Party has nominated M A Hannan, who was elected in the 1988 election as Muktiyoddha Sangsad candidate. Two others are also in the race, Mostafa Alama of Jatiyatabadi Awami League and Khondaker Mominur Rab, independent. The total number of candidates contesting for the seat stands at seven.

## Betar to broadcast by-election results

Bangladesh Betar will broadcast the by-election results from its Dhaka station from 6:20 pm on Thursday. The results will also be broadcast simultaneously from all of its regional stations, including Thakurgaon and Comilla transmission centres, said an official handout yesterday. The Dhaka station will broadcast the by-election results till 3 am through 432.90 and 476.19 metre bands, reports UNB.

## Sept 5 by-polls at a glance

Constituency	June 12 polls	June 12 polls	Sept 5 By-elections	Sept 5 By-elections
	Winner votes secured	Nearest candidates & votes	Number of candidates	Number of voters
Rangpur-2	H M Ershad JP 66,929	Md Anisul Haq Chowdhury AL 55,800	Four AL, BNP, JP, Ind	1,81,655
Rangpur-5	H M Ershad JP 87,387	H M Ashkur Rahman AL 50,839	Eight AL, JP, BNP, Ind(5)	2,28,834
Rangpur-6	H M Ershad JP 60,665	Mattia Rahman Chowdhury AL 37,661	Six AL, JP, BNP, Ind (3)	1,71,430
Kurigram-3	H M Ershad JP 67,262	Amjad Hossain AL 20,408	Six AL, BNP, JP, Ind (2)	1,80,796
Bogra-6	Khaleda Zia BNP 1,36,669	Gohum Rabbani Jamaat 46,917	Four AL, BNP, Jamaat, JQJ	2,97,059
Bogra-7	Khaleda Zia BNP 1,07,417	Walidul Haq AL 25,276	Four AL, BNP, JP, Ind	1,87,929
Sirajganj-1	Md Nasim AL 62,383	A Mazid Minu BNP 23,927	Three AL, BNP, JP	1,36,846
Bagerhat-1	Sheikh Hasina AL 77,342	Sheikh Mujibur Rahman BNP 47,299	Two AL, BNP	1,81,986
Khulna-1	Sheikh Hasina AL 62,247	Achinta Kumar Biswas Bangladesh Communist Party 18,396	Four AL, BNP, JP, Ind	1,44,874
Pirojpur-2	Anwar Hossain Manju JP 43,519	Altat Hossain AL 13,811	Three AL, JP, BNP	1,00,045
Shariatpur-1	Abdur Razzak AL 68,937	Kazi Amjad Hossain BNP 32,266	Three AL, BNP, JP	1,76,666
Sylhet-4	Saifur Rahman BNP 23,946	Imran Ahmed AL 22,725	Seven AL, BNP, JP, Jatiyatabadi of Awami League, Bangladesh Islami Dal, Jamiaty Olama Islam Bangladesh Ind	1,50,213
Lakshmi-pur-2	Khaleda Zia BNP 55,054	Tozammel Hossain Chowdhury AL 26,837	Nine AL, BNP, JP, BNP, Ind, Front Ind (5)	1,82,508
Chittagong-1	Khaleda Zia BNP 66,336	Engr Mosharrar Hossain AL 62,043	Five JP, BNP, AL Ind (2)	1,72,700
Chittagong-13	Oli Ahmed BNP 62,323	Nazmul Islam Chowdhury AL 30,728	Five AL, JSD (Rab) BNP, Ind(2)	1,30,200

## Hasina: By-election

From Page 1

officials of 11 districts of the division attended the meeting and apprised the Prime Minister of the law and order situation of their respective districts.

Hasina said her government is committed to improving the law and order situation in the country. She said her party would not patronise the criminals for its gain, according to UNB.

I believe our law enforcing agencies are quite able to maintain law and order. Do your job without any hesitation,' Hasina told the officials with an assurance that her government would not interfere into their activities.

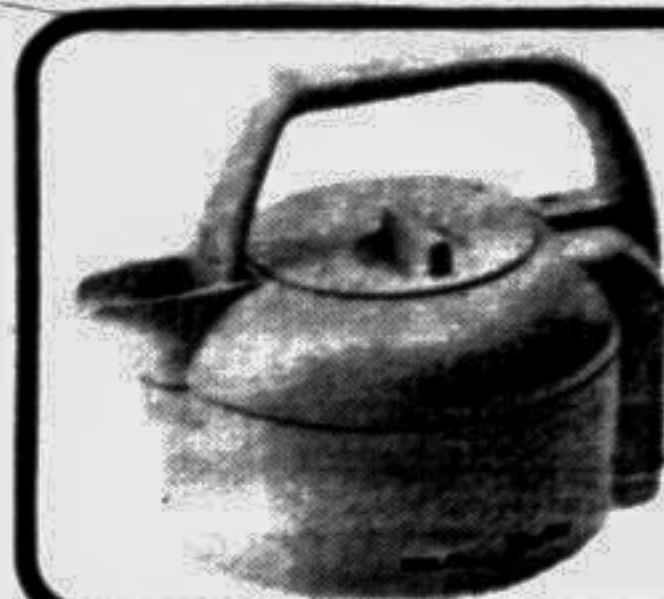
She asked the law enforcers to be more vigilant and active in curbing terrorism and criminal activities. 'Do your duty without fear or favour, I will look into your problems,' said Hasina.

Referring to the September 5 by-election, the Prime Minister said she did not visit the constituencies for electioneering following the request of the Chief Election Commissioner.

She said her government did not release the terrorists like the past government.

'We believe in people's verdict and voting right,' Hasina said claiming that her party had established the people's right to franchise.

Speaking at the review meeting on development activities of Chittagong division at the same venue, the Prime Minister



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## Tough contest in Pirojpur-2 likely

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 3: A tough contest among Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party candidates is likely in the by-election in Pirojpur-2 constituency, according to observers.

The seat was vacated by JP general secretary and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju who had returned from two constituencies in the June 12 parliamentary elections.

Manju's wife, Taslima Hossain, is in the fray with JP ticket against former bureaucrat turned minister Matir Rahman of AL and Abdul Barez Howader of BNP.

Matir Rahman was commerce minister in Ershad regime.

The Pirojpur-2 constituency covers Bhandaria and Kawkhali thanas.

Taslima had taken a very active part in the June 12 polls campaign for her husband who returned from the constituency with a wide margin. Manju had scored 33,519 votes against his nearest rival from AL with 13,811 votes.

Matir Rahman hails from Kawkhali thana.

There are 65,000 voters in Bhandaria and 33,000 in Kawkhali. Polling will be held in 64 polling centres.

Meanwhile, some sporadic clashes took place today during election campaign between the supporters of Awami League and Jatiya Party.

## PM recalls role of Hannan

CHITTAGONG, Sept 3: The Prime Minister today claimed that Chittagong Awami League leader Abdul Hannan was the first to announce the proclamation of Liberation War on behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1971, reports UNB.

Bangabandhu's message, Sheikh Hasina said, was sent through wireless and Hannan was the first to make the announcement from Kalurghat. Later, many others made the announcement, she added.

Addressing a function of the Janmatsami at JM Sen Hall here this afternoon, Prime Minister Hasina picked up the background story as she recalled a prophetic prediction of late Abdul Aziz about country's liberation war.

Hasina said away back in 1961, when they were passing by Kalurghat, late Abdul Aziz confided to her that the proclamation of the Liberation War would be made from this place.

Late Aziz also showed Tiger-pass area of the city and said the war to liberate the country would start from this point, she added.

'What an oracular utterance... it all came true just after 10 years,' the Prime Minister said with a note of wonder.

## Jubo League worker shot at Tejgaon

By Staff Correspondent

A leader of Jubo League, Saiful Islam alias Babu, 30, was shot by an unidentified gang at Tejgaon industrial area in the city Monday night.

Saiful, son of Siddique Rahman of 221, North Begun Bari, Tejgaon, was attacked when he was returning to his house at about 8:30 pm, police said quoting the FIR filed with Tejgaon thana.

General Secretary of Ward 17 unit of Awami Jubo League, Saiful sustained bullet injuries in his thigh and back. He was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) immediately.

Saiful's father, Siddique Rahman, in the FIR termed the attack as pre-planned and accused 10 persons for attacking his son, police sources said.

## 10 die in Bombay bldg collapse

BOMBAY, Sept 3: Ten people were killed and several others buried alive today when a century-old building collapsed in Bombay, police said, reports AFP.

Rescue workers pulled out 12 survivors but said they feared more could be trapped in the rubble.

Fire brigade and rescue workers clawed through the concrete with the help of floodlights, pickaxes and crowbars late Tuesday to reach the victims, witnesses said.

'At least eight more people are trapped in the debris and the death toll may go up,' a fire brigade spokesman said. 'Most of the victims died due to severe head injuries.'

He said the rescue had been hampered by huge crowds which gathered after the decrepit four-storeyed building in the city's oldest business district caved in.

Bombay Sheriff Subir Kumar Choudhury said the city had more than 18,000 old buildings in dangerous condition, housing more than 1.2 million people.

## US missile attack

From Page 1

US-protected safe area in northern Iraq and seized the town of Arbil, driving out the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), one of two rival Kurdish groups that dominate the area.

A defence official told reporters that Iraqi forces were preparing for assaults on two other strongholds of the PUK, Chamchamal and Sulaymaniyah.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said the United States was concerned about 'deeper incursions' by Iraq into the Kurdish-controlled north, and said Washington had reason to believe Iraqi military units were 'involved in the execution of rival leaders of one of the Kurdish factions.'

'This is all very troubling information,' he said.

McCurry said Clinton had been in touch with other leaders to discuss the crisis and possible responses.

'The president's been shaping... a response and discussing that response with other leaders and in some cases informing other leaders,' he said on the campaign trail in Wascon.

Clinton called French President Jacques Chirac on Monday and spoke for about 30 minutes, said McCurry. The call produced 'useful, productive and candid discussion of the situation in northern Iraq.'

In London, British Prime Minister John Major's office said major had talked by telephone with Clinton.

## Reaction

Britain, Germany and Japan applauded, Russia and China were critical. In between, many other nations urged restraint on both sides after the United States pushed southern Iraq with cruise missiles today.

'Our reaction is one of understanding, although we would have liked the armed intervention to be delayed,' said Spanish Foreign Minister Abel Matutes.

'This is something that should have been expected in greater depth first.'

In Moscow, the Russian foreign ministry fretted that the US strikes could send events in the always fractious region spiralling 'out of control.'

'Developments in the Persian Gulf region are taking an extremely dangerous course,' the Interfax news agency quoted an unidentified foreign ministry official as saying. 'Now everything depends on what further action the Americans take.'

China deplored an attack on Iraqi territory.

'We believe Iraq's territory should be respected,' said Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang. 'We hope all sides show an attitude of restraint.'

New Zealand's prime minister called for international intervention in the crisis.

## 6.86pc growth

From Page 1

performance observed in the industrial sector during initial years of 1990s has decelerated.

Commenting on the trend of growth in manufacturing sector during 1990/91-1994/95, it said that this period paralleled the pattern of gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates in terms of direction of changes.

Dwelling on the loan repayment, the report estimated that within the classified loan portfolio, three-fourths of the loans were 'bad' loans, whereas 'doubtful' and 'sub-standard' loans constituted 13 and 12 per cent respectively.

'More importantly, with the ageing of loans, the share of bad loans among the classified loans have experienced a sharp increase (55 per cent in 1993), it said.

The review also pointed out that the local private banks were more burdened with classified loans than the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs). During 1992-95, the average share of classified loans for the former was 40 per cent while the comparable figure for the latter was less than 32 per cent, it said.

Regarding energy consumption, the review said the growth rate of electricity consumption in industrial services for the third consecutive year from 1992-93 reached the peak figure of 14.37 per cent, crossing the earlier record figure of 1991-92 (13.52 per cent).

Consumption of gas in manufacturing processes and fertiliser units as raw materials continued to increase in absolute terms, but remained stagnant in relative terms during the last three years (1992/93-1994/95).

The share of capital goods in the total imports increased from 20.01 per cent in 1993-94 to 21.05 per cent in 1994-95. In 1995/96, the share further increased to 23.1 per cent and it appeared that 'import of capital goods in terms of value doubled in the past financial year,' it said.

Stressing the need for access to investment financing and uninterrupted power supply, the review noted that sustained high rate of growth would critically depend on these two important factors.

'We would like to see the matter picked up by the UN Security Council and take what would be described as an objective view of events in Iraq,' Jim Bolger said.

France, two, urged a 'political solution.'

Foreign Minister Herve de Charette said dialogue between the Iraqi government and the Kurds 'is to us the only way to contribute, by a political solution, to the return to calm and stability in Iraqi Kurdistan.'

From Britain, which provided logistical support for the strikes, there was immediate, unstinting backing.

'The British government fully supports the unequivocal message to Saddam Hussein that repression of innocent civilians and reckless acts of brutality are unacceptable,' Prime Minister John Major's Downing St office said.

German Foreign Minister Volker Ruehe, who is visiting Israel, said the strikes provided 'a very good opportunity for us to get exact information about the situation' in Iraq.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters that if the raid achieves 'the objectives of the UN resolutions, Japan understands it and will support it as needed,' a reference to 1991 UN resolutions calling on Iraq to stop suppressing its Kurdish minority.

## BNP: bypolls

From Page 1

and the arrest of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney, its vice-presidents Nasiruddin Pintu and Motiur Rahman and other leaders of the BNP's student wing and demanded their immediate release.

The meeting also demanded of the government measures for checking price-hike of essentials and adequate supply of relief materials in the flood-hit areas.

If also called upon the people to elect the BNP nominees in the by-polls.

## DU talks

From Page 1

come the stalemate on the campus. Both the student organisations had accepted the proposal.

The meeting is likely to take place after September 5 as the president and general secretary of BCL are now busy with campaign for by election to some Jatiya Sangsad seats outside Dhaka, GCO sources said.

Classes at the university remained suspended since August 20 following a series of clashes between activists of BCL and JCU.

University authorities have postponed all examinations till September 12. The honours and masters examinations are scheduled to start from September 15.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, a left-leaning student organisation yesterday held a rally on the campus protesting presence of outsiders on the campus. Talking to The Daily Star after the rally, BCU general secretary Hasan Hafizur Rahman Shohel said that they were planning to start an indefinite sit-in in front of the residential halls demanding ouster of outsiders.

## First pvt EPZ

From Page 1

ernment would take all measures to augment electricity generation in the country.

Responding to few other demands from the Mayor, Hasina said special importance and priority would be given to the development of Chittagong.

She said a special cell would be set up in LGED Ministry to coordinate the works of all service organisations in the city corporations. The coordinating bodies will be headed by city mayors for ensuring coordinated development works.

Brushing aside rumours, the Prime Minister announced that the head offices of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation and Tea Board would not be shifted from the port city.

Turning to terrorism, Hasina sought cooperation of all for establishing a terrorism-free society.

Addressing the function city Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury placed a 17-point charter of demands, which include construction of crossdam to protect the port city, expansion of city area from 60 square km to 120 square km, adequate budgetary allocation to build port city as commercial capital, a tunnel under the river Karnaphuli, construction of a deepsea port in Moheshkhali island and giving final shape of the monument for Liberation War at Batali Hill.

The Prime Minister assured that the demands would be actively considered along with 28-point demands placed by the city Mayor to the previous government.

Earlier, the mayor presented the key of the city to the Prime Minister at the function, which was attended by city elite.

From the reception programme, the Prime Minister straight drove to the mazar of Amanullah Shah and offered fatha there.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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