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The Daily Star

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Second unit of Raozan plant goes into full operation

By Sharier Khan
The 210 mw second unit of Raozan Power Plant has started full operation after passing a 72-hour test run Sunday last, but due to shortage of gas supply the first 210 mw unit remains closed, according to official sources.
The Chinese-built Raozan second unit, which has been launched two months behind schedule, is now generating around 180-200 mw power.
However, as demand for power has decreased by 200 mw due to cooler weather in the last one week, the impact of the closure of the Raozan first unit was not felt.
Sources said that the load-
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Development work in CHT to be geared up after peace accord: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed the hope that the overall development process would be further geared up in the Chittagong Hill Tracts areas with the signing of the peace treaty, reports BSS.
"First of all, we have to establish peace to carry out development activities in the area," she told the interim chairman of the three hill district local government councils when they called on the Prime Minister at her office. The members of the council were also present.
Sheikh Hasina said the peace process is one and the development activities would be accelerated further after the accord is signed.
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Int'l Day for the Elderly today

By Staff Correspondent
The International Day for the Elderly will be observed in the country today as elsewhere in the world.
President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion.
To observe the day, a discussion meeting, prize distribution programme and cultural function will be held at the Shishu Academy this morning. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zilur Rahman will attend the programme as chief guest.
The LGRD Minister will also distribute 'Momotamoy' and 'Momotamoye' prizes among six men and women from six divisions for their outstanding services to the aged. Last year, prizes were given to only one.
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6 promoted as secretaries

By Staff Correspondent
A total of six additional secretaries, who are now the acting secretaries at various ministries, were promoted as secretaries, a PID handout said last night.
Syed Yousuf Hossain, acting secretary at the ministry of Cultural Affairs, was promoted as secretary in the same ministry.
The acting secretary of the ministry of Science and Technology, Muhammad Fazlur Rahman was promoted as secretary.
See Page 12 Col 8

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See Page 12 Col 8

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Supplements

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 3-page supplement on the National Day of China on Pages 13, 14 & 15 and one page supplement on International Day for the Elderly on page 16.



Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at the Outer Stadium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Prime Minister declares at city AL rally Proposals for meeting venues other than streets welcome

By Staff Correspondent
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said any proposal on venues for public meetings in the city other than streets will be considered.
"We will consider other proposals besides the seven designated venues," she said.
Hasina, also president of ruling Awami League was addressing a huge public meeting at the historic Paltan Maidan (Outer Stadium) in the city, organised by the city unit of AL.
This was the first public meeting of AL after the city Mayor banned street rallies and designated seven venues in the city for the purpose. Paltan Maidan is one of those seven venues.
In his presidential speech at the meeting, Mayor Mohammad Hanif made a fresh invitation to all the political parties for talks on venues for public meetings in the city. "I will not stick to these seven venues only. If needed, as many as 70 venues can be designated for holding rallies in Dhaka," Hanif said.
People in their thousands from various areas of the metropolis as well as from neighbouring districts converged at the meeting venue from early afternoon. Paltan Maidan, which turned into a soccer field over the years, got back its past heritage as a meeting place yesterday when people thronged the ground much ahead of the AL chief's arrival at the venue. She took her seat on the podium at 4.45 pm.
Recalling her BTV programme few months back, Sheikh Hasina said, "Editor of a daily had asked me about selecting certain places for holding rallies in the city." She expressed her dismay saying that damaging vehicles on streets had become a way of protest.
"What type of politics is this... patronising the terrorists?"
The Prime Minister noted that hartals were being "enforced" in the country at a time when more and more prospective investors from foreign countries were coming to Bangladesh.
"I will not say single word against hartal. But, does not she feel ashamed now? She herself had spoken as many as 936 times against hartal," Hasina said without naming BNP chairperson and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia.
Citing an example Hasina said that autocrat Yahia Khan had uprooted a banyan tree from the Dhaka University campus because students at that time used to start movement from there. "In a similar way, after the August 15 killing, General Ziaur Rahman closed Paltan Maidan, the ground from where movements against autocracy and for independence had begun," the Prime Minister said.
She criticised BNP saying that whenever a terrorist or a killer is arrested, the party (BNP) claims him to be its worker. She also noted that discussion on 'terrorism-free Bangladesh' was initiated in the parliament as per BNP's suggestion but "they did not take part."
Sheikh Hasina urged BNP to raise their points in the parliament and not to create misunderstanding among people about government's steps towards strengthening local government.
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Bourses to operate on Saturdays

Country's two stock exchanges will operate on Saturdays from next weekend, following the footsteps of banks, in their bid to revitalise the market with increased transactions, reports UNB.
The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), on the other hand, abolished all quotas, barring that for the non-resident Bangladeshis, in the initial public offerings (IPOs) of the issues to provide a levelled playing field.
The quota dismantling followed the conditions set by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for an 80 million US dollar project loan. The finance minister had also pledged to abolish quotas in his budget speech.
Meanwhile, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) again experienced a massive downside yesterday as losers heavily outnumbered the gainers on the floor, pulling down the bourse's benchmark index by 4.22 per cent.
Both Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges have decided to operate on Saturdays, the weekly holiday, from the next weekend as per the Settlement of Stock Exchange Transaction Regulation 1997.
A brief announcement of the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday said trading would take place and the bourse office remain open every Saturday from October 4 as per the laws.
The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), the other bourse in the port city, has also decided to operate on the weekly holiday.
See Page 12 Col 8

Khaleda tells newcomers to party Time for patriots to join movement

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia said now it is a moral obligation for all patriotic people to join the movement against the government as it completed all preparations for making Bangladesh into a state of India, reports UNB.
"The rulers are subtly reshaping the country into a vassal state of India. And one day they will flee the country after completing the process," she said.
"But we have to stay in our beloved motherland. So we cannot allow the government to leave out our independence and sovereignty to others."
The Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad was addressing a group of newcomers who joined BNP at her 29 Minto Road official residence last night.
Several hundred leaders and workers of Jatiya Party of Dewanganj thana in Jamalpur district, led by former upazila chairman Abdur Rashid Dola, formally joined BNP pledging their allegiance to the leadership and programmes of the main opposition.
The BNP chairperson said the people must choose the path of movement against the 'autocratic, corrupt and liar' government to free the country and its people from any sort of slavery.
She said her BNP did not want to go for anti-government movement, but the ruling party compelled it to take to the street.
Begum Zia also said the on-going movement launched by BNP was not to go to power, it aimed at protecting the independence and sovereignty of the country and save the nation from ruination as designed by the government.
"We do not want to go to power after turning the country into a province of India. We do not want to stay in power as subservient. Going to power will
See Page 12 Col 7

BNP to stage demonstrations in city today

By Staff Correspondent
BNP will stage demonstrations in the city today protesting government's 'repression' on the Opposition, price hike of petroleum products, removal of the floating bridge leading to Zia's mazar, 'conspiracy' on CHT and other 'anti-people' activities of the government.
As part of the programme, the party will bring out a procession from in front of its central office at Naya Paltan at 4 pm.
Prior to bringing out the planned procession, the BNP workers from different parts of the city are scheduled to assemble on the Inner Circular Road in front of the party office.
Police obstructed the BNP from assembling on the city streets and in the planned processions of the opposition party on several occasions in the last week after the Dhaka City Corporation banned street rallies.

BNP factions in Chittagong hold separate rallies

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: Factional rivalry in Chittagong chapter of BNP still persists as both the groups organised separate rallies and processions in the city.
The rebel faction in Chittagong chapter of BNP is led by former minister Abdullah Al Noman and the group favouring the new city committee is backed by its president Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin.
The rally and demonstration organised by the city committee led by Mir Nasiruddin in front of BNP office at Nasimun Building today was reportedly not attended by the supporters of the Noman faction.
Another rally organised by the Noman faction at Kazir Dewri, just within a quarter mile, was not attended by Mir Nasir and his supporters, party insiders said.
For the past one week, both the rival groups organised separate rallies.
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Mahanagari Cup final today

Sports Reporter
Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kira Chakra in the final of the Shamsuddin Spinning Mahanagari Cup this afternoon.
The match which will be telecast live by Bangladesh Television, will kick off at 4:30 pm. Bangladesh Betar will also broadcast running commentary.
Mohammedans, who moved into the last four of the eight team final round as Group A runners up behind their opponents, qualified for the final with a sensational 2-1 victory over their arch-rivals Abahani, the Group B champions, in the second semifinal Monday night while the star-studded Muktiyoddha topped the Group A table, had an easy sail (3-1) over Brothers Union Club in the other semi.
The rate of tickets are Tk 25 for gallery and Tk 50 for VIP enclosure.

Mayor tells President Ban on street rallies to remain effective

Star Report
City Mayor Mohammad Hanif will make further efforts to hold dialogue with the BNP and others who stayed out of his meetings with political parties on prohibition on street rallies in the city.
He told this to President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday at Bangabhaban during a 30-minute meeting with him. Home Minister Rafiqul Islam was also present at the meeting, the Mayor informed The Daily Star last night.
The President had invited the Mayor and the Minister for the meeting. The Presidential session for the meeting between 12-15 pm to 12-45 pm, in an effort to resolve the impasse over the street rallies, came in the wake of complaints lodged to the President by BNP leaders earlier on Monday on the issue.
The Mayor said he had further informed the President that his order banning street rallies could not be kept in abeyance as sought by the BNP leaders when they met the President.
The President sought opinions of the Mayor and the Home Minister on BNP's complaint that police was not even allowing the party to bring out processions which is not banned.
The President enquired on BNP's complaints that police had fired tear gas on the party head office last week. But Home Minister Rafiqul Islam denied this and reiterated a police press note issued earlier which claimed that petrol bombs were hurled at police from the BNP.
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Home Minister Rafiqul Islam and City Mayor Mohammad Hanif called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

'Make draft CHT accord public'

By Staff Correspondent
A joint meeting of BNP, Jatiya Party (Z-M), Democratic League, Jagpa and PNP yesterday demanded that the draft of the government's planned accord on the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) be made public.
Held at the Minto Road official residence of Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad in the evening, the meeting also warned against "any attempt to reach agreement with the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PJUSS) bypassing the Jatiya Sangsad, surrendering the national interests and beyond the constitutional provisions". It also expressed deep concern at the 'conspiracies' on the CHT issue.
BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP. Kazi
See Page 12 Col 8

11 fishermen rescued from Bay of Bengal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Sept 30: An unidentified body of a fisherman was found and eleven other fishermen were rescued from the Bay of Bengal today and the day before.
Golam Sarwar Hiru MP and TNO of Patharghata conducted the rescue operation.
The fishermen had been missing since Friday midnight. They were identified as Saeed, Shahid, Ruhita, Berek, A. Berek, Abdur Berek, Anwar, Jahangir, Munir, Khalil and Shahajahan. They had from different villages under Mathbaria thana of Pirojpur district.

Reciter Jayanta's wife found dead

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Sept 30: A female NGO worker allegedly committed suicide at a residential hotel in Sylhet town this morning.
Hotel sources said, Maitreyee Chattopadhyay, 40, wife of renowned reciter Jayanta Chattopadhyay booked a room at hotel Polish in Ambarkhana area at 6-30 pm on Sunday. In the hotel register, she identified herself as a consultant and a resident of Babar Road in Mohammodpur, Dhaka.
The hotel employees in presence of police broke the ventilator of the room at about 8-30 am and found her hanging from the ceiling fan rod.
Police later sent the body to Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. After autopsy the body is now being kept at Kotwali thanas.
Police said, a note was found near her body. The note reads, "None of my family members should touch my body and nobody is responsible for my death."

PW-17 tells court during cross-examination I wasn't aware of the target of shells fired from my gun

By Staff Correspondent
The seventeenth prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu murder case told the court yesterday that he was not aware of the target of shells fired from the artillery gun facing the residence of Bangabandhu, on August 15, 1975, the day the President and his family members were killed.
"I was not aware of the target of the shells," Shamsul Islam said during cross-examination in the court of District and Session Judge, Dhaka. He also said, "shells were fired from my artillery gun."
To a question from another defence lawyer, he said, "I never revealed that I fired shells targeting the residence of Bangabandhu". He added that he was not aware that the residence of the then President was located at Rd No 32 in Dhanmondi.
During the day's proceedings yesterday, T M Akbar and Rezak Khan, the lawyers of the accused in custody Lt Col (LPR) Muhiuddin and Lt Col (dismissed) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan respectively, completed their cross-examinations of Shamsul Islam.
The witness was being cross-examined by Khan Saifur Rahman, lawyer of the accused in custody Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farook Rahman, when the proceedings of the case were adjourned till 10:00 am today.
Of the 14 lawyers for the 14 absconding accused, Gazi Zillur Rahman, lawyer of state defence for absconding accused Lt Col (dismissed) Khanadaker Abdur Rashid, cross-examined the witness in yesterday's hearing while the rest declined.
At one stage of the hearing, a defence lawyer asked the witness if he had stated to the investigating officer, "I heard heavy noise of firing of small arms from the residence of Bangabandhu some time after
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Protest, gherao at Islamia Eye Hospital

By Staff Correspondent
A section of Islamia Eye Hospital (IEH) employees staged demonstrations at the hospital premises yesterday demanding removal of Dr Mustafizur Rahman director of the hospital.
About 50 protesting employees gheraoed the offices of three senior hospital officials including Dr Mustafiz at about 1 pm.
A close associate of Dr Mustafiz, however, claimed that the demonstrators handled three officials, chanted slogans, pasted posters and damaged an operation theatre.
But all these allegations were denied by the protesting employees of the hospital. One of them told this correspondent that they went to Dr Mustafiz's office and told him that they did not want to see him in the
See Page 12 Col 7

Pak artillery shelling kills 18 in Kashmir

JAMMU, Sept 30: Heavy cross-border shelling from Pakistan killed 18 civilians in India's northern Kashmir and injured 30 more today, defence officials said, reports AP.
It was one of the worst civilian tolls in a recent peacetime incident between the two South Asian rivals.
Shells rained on the Himalayan border town of Karl beginning around 1:30 pm and continued after midnight.
Thousands of residents fled the town, said the Army spokesman Anil Bhatt. There is a virtual exodus," he said. Bhatt confirmed 15 dead, but defence officials in the area, speaking on condition of anonymity, cited initial reports as putting the death toll at 18.
It was the third serious incident in the last month, although artillery shelling across the disputed frontier is routine. Pakistan had fired on Karl in June for nearly two days, forcing many residents to flee to areas out of the range of the shells.
Defence and civilian officials in Jammu, the state capital of Jammu-Kashmir, said shells hit a bus stand where people were waiting for buses and a mosque.
But Bhatt, the military spokesman, said that some of the shells may have hit a hospital.
The firing came less than a week after Indian and Pakistani prime ministers met in New York and promised to bring such incidents under control. But there has been no noticeable tapering off.
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Contractors bribe commissioners, not us, alleges TU leader

By Morshed Ali Khan
Focus on CBA at DCC
as regularisation of services.
"If a trade union leader spends his time at office he earns more than what he does as an unionist," said a top DCC official adding, "It's the ward commissioners who regularly interfere in all development work and cause a lot of administrative problems. The official, requesting anonymity, said, what the unionists don't do here is done by the ward commissioners. In almost every sphere of DCC's activities such as new recruitment, allocation of work schedule and planning, ward commissioners interfere and influence the process."
"We welcome the public representatives to participate in development process but here the problem is quite different. Unplanned expenses in the face of pressure from commissioners has now almost bankrupted the DCC," said the official hinting at the severe cash constraint prevailing in the DCC. All payments above ten lakh (Jatrabari, City Gate areas) said the biggest problem is that ward commissioners' job and status are not specified. "We do not know what is our job or what is our status. All we do now is issue character certificates, mediate local disputes, pursue development works with the Nagar Bhaban and look after conservancy and street lights of the area."
All is not well with the trade unions at the Nagar Bhaban. The four unions are split in at least three groups. Although the Scavengers Union is the largest (Jatrabari, City Gate areas) said the biggest problem is that ward commissioners' job and status are not specified. "We do not know what is our job or what is our status. All we do now is issue character certificates, mediate local disputes, pursue development works with the Nagar Bhaban and look after conservancy and street lights of the area."
Several ward commissioners who were asked to give their reaction to the allegation said they had to interfere in those matters because "nothing moves in the Nagar Bhaban without permission."
Md Nabuliah Nabi, Commissioner of Ward No 86