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UN action urged against regimes that topple elected govts

This is a must for peace and democracy, says Hasina

NEW YORK, Sept 8: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for UN action against regimes that grab power over-throwing elected constitutional governments, reports UNB.

"I feel the UN can take actions on this subject. This is a must for peace, democracy, human rights and economic advancement," she told a fully-fledged meeting of the 15-member Security Council, the supreme body of the United Nations, on Thursday.

"I, therefore, propose that this supreme organisation of the peoples of the world take a decision to choose and sustain government of the people, by the people, for the people as a universal system of governance," the prime minister said.

referring to the scars of military rule, particularly at home in the past.

Hasina urged the UN not to recognise military takeover by trampling constitutional means.

The full-house Security Council meeting, second time on Thursday in its history after 1991, adopted a declaration at the end of the meet which discussed reforms and democratisation of the high-power body of the 188-member United Nations.

The Security Council she said "has to focus on prevention of armed conflicts by building a culture of peace. As a member of Security Council Bangladesh has been contributing to preservation and maintenance of peace and security", she added.

The prime minister said Bangladesh appreciated Secretary General Kofi Annan for presenting the Brahimi Panel report on improving the UN peace operation. The recommendations contained in the report should receive serious consideration.

She suggested that UN Security Council mandates should be able to address root causes of conflicts.

Hasina, who is here attending the UN Millennium Summit, said the summit should express strong support for poverty eradication, development, democracy, good governance, the rule of law and human rights as foundations of durable peace.

"Investment in global peace is our common interest. Prime

among the state responsibilities is ensuring respect for the rights of all citizens irrespective of race, religion, ethnicity, origin and culture."

Citing examples, she said the women in Burundi, Congo, Somalia demonstrated great commitment to establishing peace, democracy and to the reconstruction of war-ravaged countries.

Similarly, special efforts are needed to address the needs of children, especially the girl child, affected by armed conflicts. She invited the Council's attention to Bangladesh's proposal for "Child's Free Zones" in various parts of the world.

She said as a member of the Security Council, Bangladesh's

Adel's moveable property seized

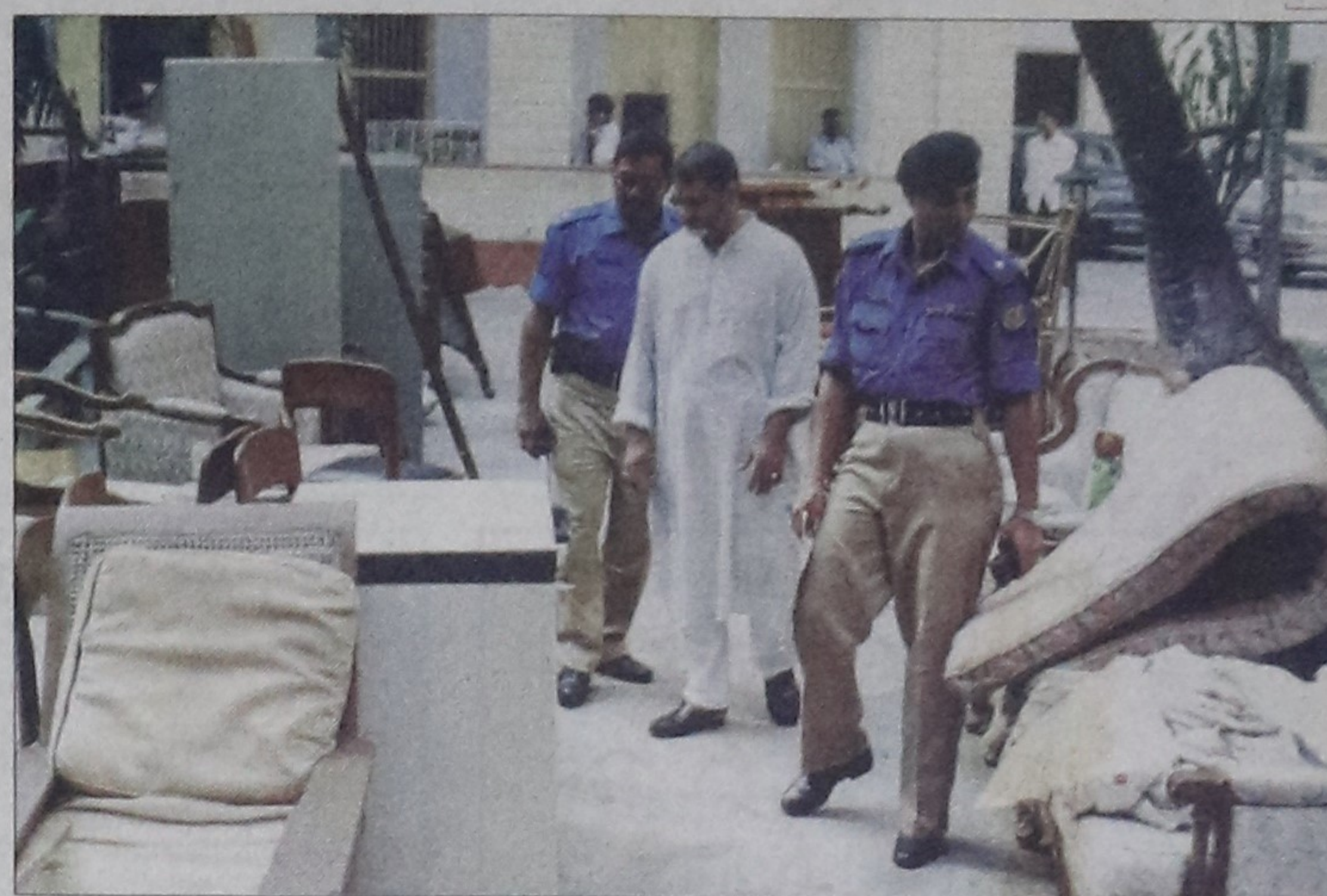
Police yesterday seized all moveable property of Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader Jahangir Mohammad Adel from his Armanitola residence following a court order issued against him and his son Tarek Mohammad Adel, reports BSS.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) court on Thursday issued the order directing the police to seize all moveable property of Jahangir Mohammad Adel and his son Tarek Mohammad Adel in connection with treason charge.

Eyewitnesses said a big contingent of metropolitan police cordoned off the Armanitola residence of Adel on Thursday evening and another one platoon riot police joined the force at about 11 am yesterday.

The combined police forces began their operation at about 12 noon which continued till filing of this report at 5 pm.

Police said they seized a private car, different types of furniture, and all type of plates.



Police seize the moveable property at the Armanitola residence of Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader Jahangir Mohammed Adel yesterday as his son Khaled Jamil Mohammed Adel looks on. - Star photo

Rally at Paltan today

BNP to protest filing of 'false case' against Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Main opposition BNP will stage demonstrations across the country today protesting filing of 'false case' against its Chairperson Khaleda Zia, former finance minister M Saifur Rahman and former minister Abdul Mannan.

As part of the programme, the party will hold a rally at Paltan Maidan in the city at 4



IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch (2nd L) and New South Wales Premier Bob Carr (far L) unveil a monument yesterday in Hyde Park in Sydney during a service to honour Olympic athletes who have died in wars. The Sydney 2000 Olympic Games open September 15. - AFP photo

Grand rally in Mymensingh Sept 25

More hartals, rallies if govt clings to power: Khaleda

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 8: Opposition leader and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia announced today a grand rally of the four-party opposition alliance in Mymensingh on September 25 as part of the campaign to force the Awami League government out of office.

Khaleda also said that demonstrations and protest rallies will be held across the country on September 14 against the government move to export gas without caring for domestic demand.

She said hartals and more protest rallies will follow if the government did not bow out of office immediately.

Addressing a rally of the four-party alliance at the Circuit House Maidan as chief guest this afternoon, the opposition leader said people no longer take the government on trust mainly because of government-sponsored acts of terrorism.

Workers of mills and industries have lost job and become homeless due to closure of nearly 80 per cent mills and industries that have been in the red for long.

Awami League thugs are looting the country and for that, they don't mind eliminating opposition including own party men. She said this inefficient government has failed to provide security of life and property of the people and curb rising crime rates.

The BNP chief said the economy is limping due to spending in the unproductive sectors. Share market is beyond salvage and local industries are falling prey to cross-border smuggling, making revenue income to fall drastically is declining.

She expressed her optimism that the opposition combine will win in the upcoming general



British Home Minister arrives today

British Secretary of State for Home Affairs (Home Minister) Jack Straw PC MP arrives in Dhaka today on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Straw is a senior cabinet minister in Tony Blair's gov-

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By Kuldip Nayar

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Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 9	6-08 pm
Sept 10	5-43 am

Prayer Timings	
September 9	
Fajr	4-30
Zohr	12-45
Asr	4-45
Maghrib	6-18
Esha	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

EPB fears US embargo on some garment categories this year

By Rafiq Hasan

Garment export to the US in certain quota categories may face temporary embargo this year as 90 per cent export in a number of categories was made four months ahead of the year end. Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) sources said.

Leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) however think otherwise.

"There is hardly any chance of embargo on export of garment in any category this year," said Anisul Haque, Vice President of BGMEA.

Chairman of BGMEA standing committee on quota policy and administration Abu Taher said, "In view of the export trend this year, the question of embargo on any category does not arise." Embargo is imposed mainly due to forgery in export by third party and that is not possible now because of electronic visa delivery system, he added.

The categories in which export already crossed 90 per cent fill rates are 342/642 indicating skirts and 331 indicating gloves. The EPB 'visa fill rates' of these categories are 96 per cent and 90.5 per cent respectively.

Export in five more quota categories crossed 80 per cent fill rates as of August 26, according to EPB quota monitoring report.

The categories in which export crossed 80 per cent fill rates are: 647/648-- 82.3 per cent; 645/646-- 87.8 per cent; 635-- 80.9 per cent, 351/651-- 83.2 per cent, 338/339-- 80.4 per cent and 331-- 90.5 per cent.

EPB officials fear that export in some quota categories is likely to face temporary embargo in October this year because their export quota would be exhausted by that time.

But Anisul Haque said there would not be much shipment

against those categories because most of the export orders were already met.

One source said, "If such an embargo is imposed, many genuine exporters would suffer because they would not be able to export garment to US markets even after having export orders."

He attributed the 'high fill rates' in some categories to 'higher allocation of quota'. Besides, the big companies are much ahead of the small ones in fulfilling export quota, he mentioned.

As a result, many small exporters would face difficulty and there would be a quota crisis. The big companies which got huge performance quota would be able to make money by selling quota documents. It would create a crisis in the illegal quota market, the source noted.

A senior official of EPB told The Daily Star that the Ministry

Better late than never!

SYDNEY, Sept 8: A 103-year-old World War I veteran who took the Olympic flag as a souvenir when he competed in the 1920 Antwerp Games will hand it back this weekend, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch revealed today, reports AFP.

Samaranch said that Harry Priestre, a bronze medal winner in the 10m platform diving event in the Olympics that took place in Belgium, would be travelling to Sydney to return the flag to its rightful owners.

The Antwerp Olympics were the first Games after the Great War, and the first when the Olympic flag was flown.

During the event a flag was raised during competitions at each venue, but it is believed that the one Priestre took came from the main stadium.

The flag design of five inter-linked rings on a white background, representing the five continents, has remained the same at all subsequent Games. At least one of the five ring colours of blue, yellow, black,

Arsenic contamination

Bangladesh facing largest mass poisoning: WHO

GENEVA, Sept 8: Bangladesh is facing the 'largest mass poisoning in history' because of arsenic contamination of its drinking water supplies, a study published by the World Health Organization said today, reports AP.

The research by Allan H Smith, professor of epidemiology at the University of California at Berkeley, said that between 33 and 77 million of Bangladesh's 125 million population was at risk.

Smith predicted a big increase over the coming years in the number of cases of disease caused by arsenic. These ranged from skin lesions to cancers of the bladder, kidney,

lung and skin to cardiovascular problems.

"Bangladesh is grappling with the largest mass poisoning of a population in history because groundwater used for drinking has been contaminated with naturally occurring inorganic arsenic," said the study, published in WHO's monthly bulletin.

"The scale of this environmental disaster is greater than any seen before, wrote Smith. "It is beyond the accidents at Bhopal, India, in 1984 and Chernobyl, Ukraine, in 1986."

The study was based on visits to Bangladesh by Smith in 1997 and 1998 and adds to the warnings by the UN Chil-

DEATH Sentence for DENGUE Mosquito



PROTECTS YOUR FAMILY