



Joint exercise
of 3 services
likely this
winter
By Defence
Correspondent

The Army Headquarters is contemplating a joint exercise of the three services this winter, sources said. The joint exercise would be held with large scale participation of officers and troops from the Army, Navy and Air Force. Most of the battle exercises will be based on simulation and assumption. While executing the operational plan, it would consider the largest neighbour as the potential target threat.

All the seven divisions of the Army and different components like Infantry, Artillery, Armour and supporting corps would participate in the joint exercise. Navy ships and gunboats and Air Force jets would also take part in the exercise mobilising the entire military potential of the country.

The sources said the plan for joint exercise initiated at the highest level in the Army will be discussed in detail with the chiefs of other services before it is forwarded for approval of the Prime Minister, who also holds charge of the Defence Ministry.

The last joint military exercise named Iron Shield was conducted in February 1981 at the desire of the then president Ziaur Rahman. The proposed exercise is likely to be named Iron Shield 2.

Opposition to call hartal Oct 2

By Staff Correspondent In a reversal of previous decision, the four-party opposition alliance has decided to call a nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal on October 2 to protest abduction of Laxmipur district BNP leader Nurul Islam.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia is scheduled to announce the shutdown programme at a joint public meeting of the alliance at Mymensingh this afternoon.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam and Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Azizul Haq will also address the meeting to be held at Mymensingh Circuit House ground at 2 p.m. today.

The decision to call hartal was taken at a meeting of the Central Liaison Committee

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JP (Ershad) forms body to select polls candidates

By Staff Correspondent Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday formed a 25-member committee to prepare a list of prospective party candidates for the 2001 parliamentary elections.

JP (Ershad) Secretary General Nazirul Islam has been made Chief Coordinator of the committee and Joint Secretary General Mdul Islam member-secretary, a party press release said.

The committee will also prepare a list of aspirants from other parties. The lists will be submitted to the JP Parliamentary Board, the press release added.

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Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 25	5:52 pm
Sept 26	5:48 am

Prayer Timings

September 25

	Azam	Jamaat
Fajr	4:45	5:15
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:30	4:45
Magrib	6:00	6:05
Esha	7:30	8:00

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

WITH COLOUR OLYMPIC SPECIAL

Today's issue
16 pages

IBA
Approved Centre
Center for International Studies
H# 34C, Rd. 6, Banani, 1421 HIJRI



VOL. X NO. 246 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2000

Wishing the
BEST
for the
3rd Millennium

ASWIN 10, 1407 BS

JAMADIAS SAANI 25, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

Thousands marooned in 5 districts: Army called out

By Staff Correspondent

lapsed.

Of the total, 21 villages in Damurhuda, Alamdanga and Sadar upazilas went under three to four feet water, damaging several thousand thatched houses and 12 BDR camps.

Over 100 army men with eight water vessels and relief materials from Jessor reached Chaudanga yesterday.

They would also help the local administration in relief operations.

Four people died in Chaudanga in house collapse. They are Thandu, 42, of Chakulia village, Poly, 6, and Bobby, 7, of Munshipur village

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and Golam Mondal, 65, of Zuranpur village in Damurhuda.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent reports: The overall flood situation in Rajshahi and Chapnawabganj districts has worsened with rise in water level in the rivers Padma and Monohana.

Fresh areas in Godagari and Paba upazilas of Rajshahi have been inundated.

A vast areas of Godagari upazila has been inundated following collapse of Vagai Flood Control Embankment. Flood water also entered some

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Dhaka will respond to any UN call for peacekeeping: PM



Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh would respond to any UN call for peacekeeping operations in any country, reports BSS.

Bangladesh has been always responding to the call of peacekeeping operations with total respect as peace is one of her main principles of foreign policy," she said while inaugurating a six-day seminar on South Asia Peace Keeping Operations. Gaming yesterday at Sonargaon Hotel.

She said the end of the Cold War has brought about qualitative changes in the international politics and created newer conflicts. "But today the peacekeeping operations have gained multiple dimensions,"

she said.

Sheikh Hasina said the symbol of peacekeeping "The Blue Helmets" have been contributing to resolving civil wars, ethnic cleansing, secessions, tribal struggles, ensuring return of refugees and security of women, children and civilians and other humanitarian activities.

The prime minister observed that proper training and preparedness have assumed highest consideration before deployment of troops in troubled areas.

Mentioning the setting up of a Peacekeeping Operation Training Centre in Dhaka, she expressed the hope that the

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Possible' gas reserve doesn't mean 'proven' reserve

USGS team due today to remove confusion

By Staff Correspondent

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) agrees with Petronor that "possible" gas reserve can not be considered as "proven" gas reserve, sources said quoting the government's energy experts who recently

took part in a USGS programme in the United States.

The sources believe that the agreement of opinion will help remove much of the confusions over Bangladesh's reserve of gas and its utilisation.

Reciprocating the visit of Bangladeshi experts, a USGS team, headed by Bob Millichi, is due in the city today to hold a three-day workshop beginning Tuesday on the gas sector and

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