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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda returns today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returns home today ending her three-day official goodwill visit to China. She left Beijing last night, reports BSS.

2 killed as minibuses collide

From Our Correspondent
 GAZIPUR, June 20: Two persons were killed and more than 25 others injured when two minibuses collided on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Soydana on Thursday noon. One of the dead was identified as Ataur Rahman (28), helper of a minibus. The other victim was a boy of eight.

DU Senate session adjourned

The second annual budget session of the Senate of Dhaka University was adjourned today for an indefinite period following the clashes between the two student groups. The time of the next budget session will be announced soon, university sources said, reports BSS.

DU Syndicate meet

The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof M Moniruzzaman Miah, has convened a Syndicate meeting today at 10 am, a university sources said here last night. The meeting was called for reviewing the campus situation, the sources said, reports BSS.

The dead include Addl Chief Engineer: Managing Director, 8 foreign experts injured

Blast at Ghorasal urea plant: 8 killed



The damaged ammonia plant of Ghorasal Fertilizer Factory. The newly installed plant exploded late Wednesday night setting off a cloud of toxic gas in which eight persons were killed. — Star photo

Eight persons were killed and at least 30 others injured when the newly-installed ammonia gas plant at the Urea Fertilizer Factory in Ghorasal, 56 kilometres south of the city, exploded midnight Wednesday.

The dead included the Additional Chief Engineer of the factory AM Manzurul Alam. The blast took place 10 hours after the carbon dioxide compressor of the plant was put into operation after being renovated by the Japanese Toyo Engineering Corporation.

Seven of the dead were identified as: Manzurul Alam, Additional Chief Engineer (mechanical), Habibur Rahman Khan and Matruur Rahman, master technicians (mechanical), Abdul Momin Chowdhury, AST of the factory, Abdul Halim and Ashraf Ali, senior operators and ABM Faridur Rahman, assistant

By Staff Correspondent
 chemist. Another unidentified victim died at the DMCH.

Managing Director Shafiqur Rahman, Manager (maintenance) Amirul Islam, Assistant Engineer Anwar Hossain and eight foreign experts were among the injured.

The injured were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in Dhaka and Narsingdi with burn and splinter injuries.

Seven fire-fighting units including three ambulances from Dhaka were sent to the scene with the fire fighters of the fertilizer factory to rescue the victims, neutralise the gas and cool two other barrels kept beside the one that exploded.

Fire service, factory officials and eyewitnesses put the figure of the wounded at over 50.

The injuries were caused mainly due to the toxic gas as the explosion set off a cloud of smoke. Other injuries were caused as frenzied insiders

Witnesses said, the plant went into test operation at 2 pm. The Chief Engineer along with the foreign experts and local technicians was holding a meeting at the ammonia control room near the plant inside the factory.

At midnight, one of the three ammonia gas barrels containing 300 tons of gas suddenly exploded rocking the factory and surrounding areas killing seven people on the spot and bearing others wounded.

The blast caused fires and sent splinters ripping through people and machinery at the plant.

Following the explosion, panic gripped the whole area with employees running helter skelter.

The extremely powerful explosion also snapped power. See Page 12 Col. 4

BNP will move two amendment bills

By Moinuddin Naser
 The government will introduce two separate Constitution amendment bills for ratifying the actions so far taken by the Acting President and for switching over to the parliamentary system during the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament).

This was disclosed by a high level source within the BNP, who drafted the proposed bills. The first one will be called the 11th constitution amendment bill while the second will be named the 12th constitution amendment bill.

The 11th amendment bill will not require any approval by the Acting President before its introduction or any referendum after its passage by Parliament.

The 12th amendment bill will require approval of the Acting President before its introduction and will have to be See Page 12 Col. 1

Khaleda meets Yang Shangkun, Jiang Zemin besides Premier Li Peng

Chinese leaders pledge all help

BEIJING, June 20: The Chinese President Yang Shangkun and Premier Li Peng have assured Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia that China would extend all possible help to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

"We will extend all possible help, as best as we can in your efforts," Shangkun told Begum Zia when she made a courtesy call on him at the Fujian Room of the Great Hall of the People.

Begum Zia was warmly received by the Chinese President at the entrance of the Fujian Room. She introduced members of her entourage to the Chinese President.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the meeting was held in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere and lasted for about half an hour.

Shangkun said China would continue to support and cooperate Bangladesh in various fields. He described the friendship between the two countries as traditional and said both the countries held similar views on various international matters.

The Chinese President said he was very happy at the Bangladesh Prime Minister's visit to China but regretted that its duration was very short. He expressed the hope

that Begum Zia would make a longer visit to China to be able to see different parts of the country.

Begum Khaleda Zia said she was very happy to set the opportunity to visit China.

Begum Khaleda Zia thanked the Chinese President, the government and the people for extending generous help during the recent cyclone in Bangladesh in this context she said, China had always stood by Bangladesh at the hour of need.

Begum Zia invited the Chinese President to visit Bangladesh. The President accepted. See Page 12 Col. 7

Constitution amendment bills

Treasury Bench, Opposition blame each other for delay

By Staff Correspondent

The Treasury Bench said in reply that the Opposition knew well the cause of the delay, but wanted to score a political point by trying to create an impression that implementation of the Joint Declaration of the three alliances was primarily its (opposition's) headache.

Initiating the debate Abdus Samad Azad said it was the only private members day they could avail so far during this session of Parliament, but the orders of the day did not include an item for introduction of his bill.

He said that after the success of the movement against autocracy, they had expected that the government would introduce a constitutional amendment bill to implement the Joint Declaration at the inaugural sitting of the House.

He said he himself submitted a bill because of the government's failure to do so.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said that the Opposition Bench always extended its hand of cooperation to the government. But his bill was not taken to the Acting President by the Ministry of Law for certification though it was okayed by the Parliament Secretariat and a select committee.

Rashed Khan Menon of Workers' Party, Asaduzzaman of AL, and Independents Nurul Islam Moni and Maj(retd) Hafizuddin also spoke in support of Abdus Samad Azad. Rashed Khan Menon had also served a notice for another amendment bill. See Page 12 Col. 6

The parliament witnessed an unscheduled debate on delay in the introduction of private members' constitutional amendment bills just before the House was adjourned for an eight-day Eid-ul-Azha vacation on Thursday.

The four-hour debate was initiated by Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, when the House met for the afternoon sitting.

Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali had to suspend discussion on five resolutions moved by five opposition members.

During the debate the Opposition Bench accused the government of delaying the introduction of the Awami League bill even though notice for it was served to Parliament on April 14.

Barter protocol with China signed

BEIJING, June 20: Bangladesh and China today signed three agreements for the 13th barter protocol, economic and technical cooperation, and supply of 200 power tillers as gift to Bangladesh with a view to further developing the friendly relations between the two countries, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Chinese Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Li Lanqing signed the three agreements on behalf of their See Page 12 Col. 5

Student leader gunned down on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

A student leader was shot dead and a by-stander injured in a gun battle between activists of two student bodies on the Dhaka University campus Thursday.

Mahbubur Rahman (25), an MA final year student of Islamic History and Arifur Rahman a school student from Nature received gunshots when activists of JSD(Inu)-backed Chhatra League (N-S) and Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A) set off bullets near the Modhus Canteen.

Mahbub, who was the President of Chhatra League (N-S) of Mohsin Hall died on way to hospital. He hailed from Barisal. Arifur Rahman, a student of Gurudaspur High School, Nature, came to see his father Ataur Rahman, a DU employee. His condition was "stable" at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The clash, described by witnesses as a backlash to Wednesday's scuffle between them, ensued when BCL (S-A) activists allegedly ransacked Modhus Canteen and clashed See Page 12 Col. 5

Teachers of AM College resign en masse

From Our Correspondent
 MYMENSINGH, June 20: Teachers and employees of Government Ananda Mohan College resigned en masse on Tuesday protesting post-election activities of Chhatra League (pro-Awami League) on the college campus. See Page 12 Col. 4

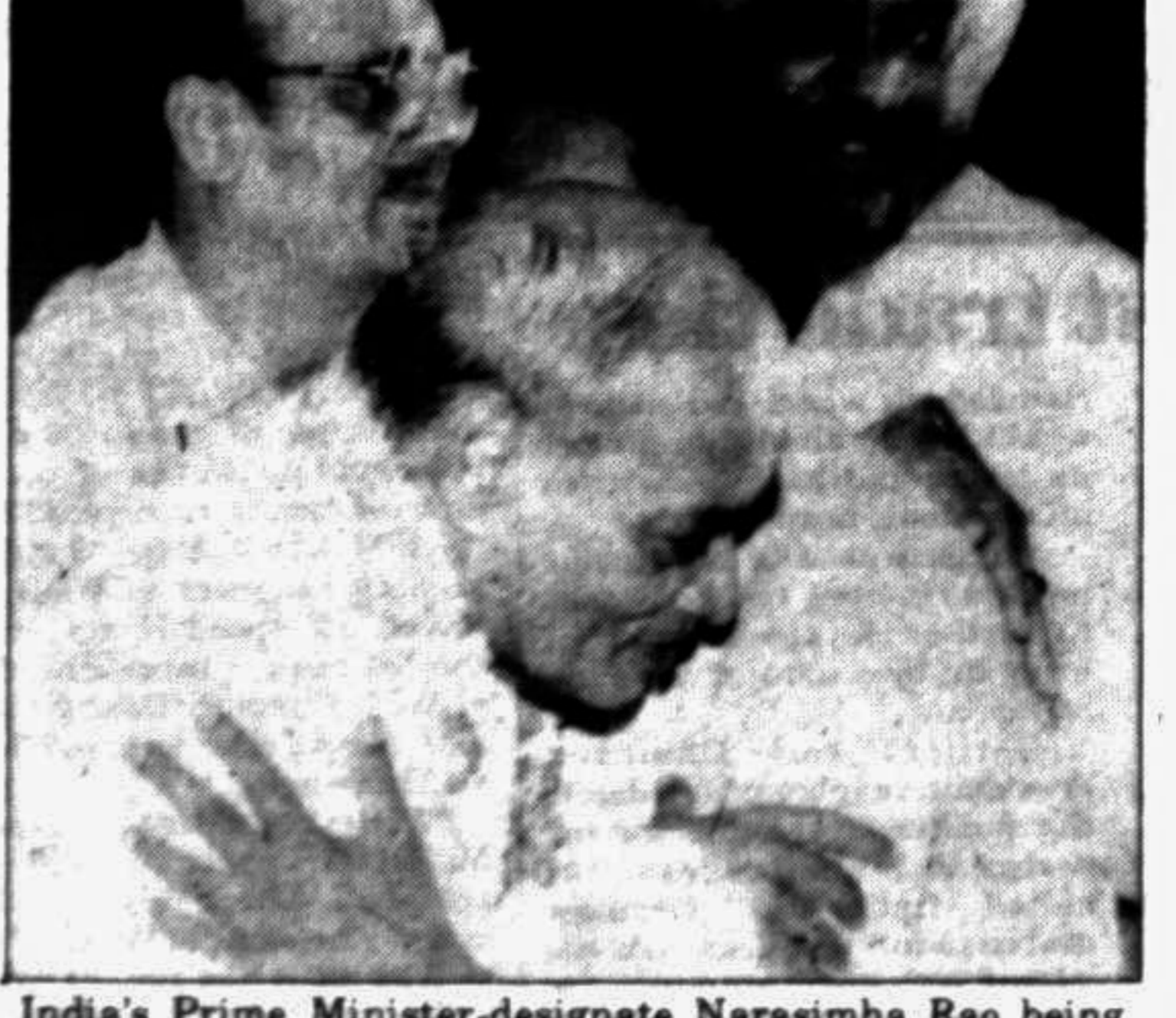
CU closed till July 15

CHITTAGONG, June 20: Chittagong University will remain closed from June 22 to July 15 on account of Eid-ul-Azha and monsoon holidays.

The University for the first time declared monsoon holiday instead of the previous winter vacation.

Official said that the decision was taken due to the abnormal situation prevailing in the campus.

Rao forms government today



India's Prime Minister-designate Narasimha Rao being garlanded as he is embraced by party colleagues Thursday. — AFP photo

NEW DELHI, June 20: India's Congress Party leader Pamulaparti Venkata Narasimha Rao said today he had been asked to form a government, reports agencies.

Rao, who turns 70 tomorrow, told reporters after emerging from a meeting with Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman that he had been given four weeks to assemble a majority government.

Rao said he would be sworn-in Prime Minister on Friday.

Newly elected Congress members of Parliament today acclaimed Rao as their new leader in succession to Rajiv Gandhi who was assassinated on May 21.

Earlier report adds: Rao was today unanimously elected leader of the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party (CPP-I). Rao's name was proposed by Arjun Singh, Central Parliamentary Board member and was seconded by P Shiv Shanker, leader of the party in Rajya Sabha.

NKP Salve, Mrs Sheila Kaul, B Shankaranand, PA Sangma and AR Antulay also supported the proposal.

Sitaram Kesari, Congress (I) Treasurer, presided over the meeting.

A two-minute silence was observed in memory of the slain Congress (I) President Rajiv Gandhi.

K Karunakaran, who was in the two member panel appointed by the Congress (I) Parliamentary Board to ascertain the views of the members reported his findings to the parliamentary party meeting.

He said consensus was in favour of PV Narasimha Rao and there was not a single dissenting voice he said amid thumping of desk.

Rao became the consensus See Page 12 Col. 5

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
 NATIONAL BOARD OF REVENUE
 DHAKA

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE VALUE ADDED TAX SYSTEM TO ALL DOMESTIC PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS, SERVICE RENDERERS, IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS

It is hereby notified for the information of all domestic producers & manufacturers, service renderers, importers and exporters that, value added tax system is going to be introduced in the country from the 1st of July, 1991. This system will replace the present excise system in case of all excisable goods except, Tobacco, Natural gas and petroleum products, Newsprints, Gold and products thereof, Salt, Bank cheques and ordinary bricks and the present sales tax system in case of all imports. In accordance with the Presidential Ordinance No-26 of 1991, dated the 1st of June, 1991, except for the producers and manufacturers of the goods mentioned in the First Schedule to the Ordinance, and those of the above mentioned goods remaining under the excise system, all importers and exporters shall be required to be registered. The domestic producers of the goods mentioned in the Second Schedule to the Narcotics Control Act, 1990 will however remain outside the purview of the above Ordinance. Certain selected service renderers, namely, Hotels and Restaurants, Decorators, Motor Garages and Workshops, Dockyards, Cold Storages, Commercial Warehouses, Building and Construction Agencies, Advertising Agencies, Printing Presses, Auctioneers, Video Clubs, Telephone, Teleprinter, Telex and FAX Service, Automatic Dry Cleaners, Indentors, Freight forwarders, Travel Agencies, Community Centres, Film Studios, Colour Photo Studios, Survey Agencies, Sweetmeats, and Cinema Halls, will also have to be registered. However, those with annual turnover below Tk 2,00,000 (two lakhs) will not be required to register. In order to complete the process of registration before the 1st of July, 1991, all concerned are hereby directed to immediately collect registration forms from the local Customs, Excise and VAT Circle Office, submit the same duly filled in, back to the Circle Office, and procure Registration Certificates. For details, all concerned are requested to contact the local Customs, Excise and VAT Circle Office.

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