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NEWS BRIEFS

Anwar's writ rejected

A Division Bench of High Court Wednesday rejected the writ petition challenging the validity of detention of former Communications Minister and Jatiya Party MP Anwar Hossain Manju, reports UNB.

Zafar's detention declared void

By Staff Correspondent
 A High Court Division Bench Wednesday declared the detention of former prime minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed void.

Milam calls on Hasina

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh, William B Milam met Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at the latter's Sangsad Bhavan office. The General Secretary of Awami League, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP was present, reports BSS.

Bush sets terms for aid to Moscow

WASHINGTON, July 10 : US President George Bush said he will seek assurances from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev next week that Moscow is firmly on its way to overhauling its battered economy and warned that US help would be limited until reforms are solidly in place, reports Reuters.

Steps for phasewise withdrawals being examined BCCI asked to prepare two lists of depositors

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

Bangladesh Bank has instructed the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Limited (BCCI) in Bangladesh to prepare two lists of depositors with the Bank, banking sources said Wednesday. One list should contain the names of clients having deposits below Tk 60,000 and the other with those having deposits above Tk 60,000.

The lists are now being prepared by the staff members

of BCCI in Dhaka head office. The Central Bank has also asked other commercial banks to submit statements regarding their foreign currency deposits stuck up with BCCI overseas branches. Many local commercial banks used to keep their foreign currency deposits with the BCCI overseas branches, the sources said.

The Central Bank's move is aimed at taking some steps for arranging phase-wise withdrawal of funds by the depositors.

As a last resort, the Central Bank may extend cash support to the BCCI to facilitate the withdrawals, if necessary.

Meanwhile, reports from UAE suggested good progress in talks in London between the Sheikh Zayed's two-member delegation and the Bank of England. The UAE Emir, Sheikh Zayed, who owns 77 per cent shares of the Bank along with his family threat-

ened retaliatory action against what he called 'Bank of England's treachery.' The UAE team comprised of Governor of UAE Central Bank and Al Mazroui, former Managing Director, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. Both are directors of BCCI.

A banking source indicated that Bangladesh Bank was buying time for the developments in the UAE and London. If the issue is amicably settled, the

VAT will accelerate uplift, strengthen democracy : Saifur

Finance, and Planning Minister M. Saifur Rahman said the BNP government was committed to building up a self-reliant economy in place of a 'dependent and stagnant one' for ensuring benefits of national independence to the people, reports BSS.

In his speech over television Wednesday night on the National Budget and Value Added Tax (VAT), the Minister said introduction of VAT would accelerate economic development and institutionalise democracy.

The main objective of the development policy of the government was to accelerate the economic growth and alleviate

poverty through balanced economic development, he said adding, democracy, socio-economic development, alleviation of poverty, economic and administrative efficiency and social justice are inter-woven with one another.

The premature death of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman affected the growth of development initiated by him, he said. Later during the autocratic rule, normal growth of economy was hampered because of excessive governmental control, increase of expenditure in unproductive sectors and other distortions.

The Finance Minister said

DUCSU elections July 31

By DU Correspondent
 The Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and the hall students union elections will be held on July 31.

The decision was taken Wednesday at a meeting of Dhaka University Educational Atmosphere Council (DUEAC) held at the conference room of the Registrar's building with Vice Chancellor Prof. Moniruzzaman Miah in the chair.

The polls were originally scheduled for July 18 which was re-scheduled for July 23, but postponed due to continuing campus violence.

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With their fate uncertain, upazila chairmen brought out a procession in the city yesterday. —Start photo

UZ chairmen call for hartal July 21

Upazila Parishad Chairmen Samity Wednesday called for countrywide half-day hartal on July 21 to protest a reported move to dismiss the upazila chairmen, reports UNB.

The countrywide hartal, the first to be called after the fall of Ershad government December 6 last, came amidst reports on possible introduction of a bill in parliament to dismiss the upazila chairmen.

Announcing the protest programme at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon, Joint Convener of the Samity Ahsanullah Master said they would organise processions and rallies in all the upazilas July 19-20 and observe half-day hartal on July 21.

The Samity will submit a memorandum to the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad on July 14.

Ahsanullah, who is the Chairman of Gazipur Sadar Upazila, demanded a govern-

AL submits bills on judiciary, vested property

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League MP Salauddin Yusuf submitted two bills to the Parliament Secretariat for introducing before the House during the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad. One of the bills proposed amendment of the Constitution for separating judiciary from the executive while the other bill proposed repeal of the Vested and Non-resident Property (Administration) Act 1974.

Briefing newsmen Wednesday evening at the opposition leader's office, Salauddin Yusuf said that his first bill, submitted on June 11, has proposed amendment of articles 95, 98, 109, 115 and 116 of the Constitution. All these articles deal with the judiciary, appointment of Chief Justice and other Judges of the Supreme Court, appointment in subordinate courts and control and discipline of these

See Page 12 Col. 2

Menon submits new amendment bills

By Staff Correspondent

Workers Party MP Rashed Khan Menon said Wednesday he had submitted notices to further amend the Constitution so that violation of the Constitution was treated as an act of treason, to ensure independence of the judiciary and give the right of appeal to these convicted under martial law.

Briefing newsmen at the press lounge of the Sangsad Bhavan he said he had submitted the notices for new bills on behalf of his party and the Five-Party Alliance to ensure full implementation of the Joint Declaration of November 19 of three alliances.

He said he had sought to add a new clause to Article 7 to provide for accusing anybody, trying to abrogate the Constitution by using force or in any other unconstitutional way, of treason.

See Page 12 Col. 8

EUCSU polls postponed

By BUET Correspondent

The Election Commission for Engineering University Central Students Union (EUCSU) has postponed the EUCSU election, which was scheduled to be held July 18.

In an official notice circulated by the election commission Wednesday, it stated that due to unavoidable reasons the decision had been taken in an extended meeting of the commission.

When contacted, the chief election commissioner, Dr. Ehsanul Haq told The Daily Star, that the election might be held two or three days later, adding that the new schedule would be published soon.

Meanwhile, different student organisations brought out processions and held rallies in front of the Vice Chancellor's office protesting the decision. They however demanded immediate announcement of the new schedule.

See Page 12 Col. 1

Khaleda stresses narrowing police-people gap

SARDA (Rajshahi), July 10: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the police to cast aside their traditional outlook and close the gap between them and the people to help establish rule of law in the country, reports UNB.

She was speaking on the occasion of passing out parade of Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) at Sarda Police Academy ground this morning.

Begum Zia termed members of the police force as servants of the people and said establishing rule of law would be easier if the police could earn full confidence of the people.

She also described the police force as the symbol of peace and security, saying the people need to rush to the police for help when security of individual and social life is disrupted.

'The expectations of the people from police are high. They want to get police as their friends in time of danger,' she added.

The Prime Minister reviewed the parade and took salute of the impressive marchpast. She also witnessed the sworn-in ceremony of the new ASPs.

Mahbubur Rahman was adjudged best cadet, and he re-

ceived the best man trophy from the Prime Minister.

Present at the function, among others, were State Minister for Establishment Osman Gani Khan, State Minister for LGED and Cooperatives Kabir Hossain, Home Secretary Lutfulla-hil-Majid, Major General Sadequr Rahman, GOC, Bogra cantonment, IGP A M Chowdhury, Abdus Salam, Principal of the Police Academy, and Mizanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation.

The Prime Minister said it is the responsibility of police to maintain law and order.

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Cyclone loss pegged at Tk 6,957 cr

Star Economic Report

Total loss, caused by the April 29 cyclone and tidal surge in the coastal areas and islands, stood at Taka 6,957 crore, according to the latest official estimates.

This was stated by State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfur Rahman Khan during question hour in the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday.

In reply to another question, he said that cash donation to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund totalled Taka 33.63 crore till July 3, 1991. Besides, Japanese grants worth 9.5 million US dollars have been deposited with the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, he added.

BNP may soften stand on floor crossing

BY Mostafa Kamal Majumder

BNP may soften the provision proposed in its Constitution amendment bill to punish an MP for floor crossing.

The bill introduced by ruling BNP provides that such a member will not only automatically vacate his seat in parliament, but will also be disqualified to contest parliamentary elections for five years.

Reliable sources say, BNP may modify its bill and instead propose to disqualify such an MP from contesting the subsequent bye-election. And there may not be any bar for such an MP to contest the next general election.

BNP proposes stringent measures against floor crossing with a view to ensuring stability and continuity of the government.

Two Constitution amendment bills introduced by BNP and five other bills introduced by private members are now under the scrutiny of the 15-member Select Committee formed by parliament on Tuesday.

The committee had its first meeting at the Sangsad Bhavan Wednesday with its chairman Law Minister Mirza Gohar Hossain in the chair.

Sources in both the

See Page 12 Col. 7

Ershad sings loudly in confinement : Sirajul Haque Case not politically motivated : CMM

By Staff Correspondent

Prosecution witness Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Azizul Haque Bhuiyan said that the corruption case on Ershad's amassing wealth from beyond his known sources of income was not politically motivated as suggested by the Defence.

During his cross-examination yesterday (Wednesday) at the Special Judge Court the CMM replied to a lot of questions made by the Defence Counsel Sirajul Haque for two hours.

Earlier, the Attorney General completed his examination of the CMM who was the Chairman of the Inventory Committee.

The hearing resumed yesterday at around 10 am, at the Special Judge Court, chaired

by Judge Mohammad Ali Khan at the Old Jail Warden Barracks adjacent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

During the examination by the Attorney General, the CMM Azizul Haque Bhuiyan said that the personal articles and the gift items of former President Ershad not deposited at the Toshakhana were given to Mustafizur Rahman at the instruction of the Court.

Mustafizur Rahman was also supplied with a list of the articles kept under his disposal.

Mustafiz had also given a bond before taking those articles under his custody.

The CMM informed the Court that among other things 62 bottles of different brands of liquors were also found in

the Sena Bhavan.

After examination by the Attorney General, Defence Counsel Sirajul Haque cross-examined the witness.

Sirajul Haque (DL) : Did you make any other inventory list of any president's belongings from 1987 to 1990?

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) : No I did not make any inventory of any president's belongings earlier.

DL: The president of this republic has been changed four times since 1972. Was there any inventory list of the articles found in the houses of those presidents?

CMM: I don't know.

DL: Is there any law for making inventory?

CMM: No, I don't know.

See Page 12 Col. 3

AL leader dead

Senior Awami League leader and former MP Advocate Shamsuddin Mollah died in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports UNB.

He had been in coma at the PG Hospital for the last two days.

The Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday afternoon adopted an obituary reference expressing sympathy for members of the bereaved family of late leader and praying for salvation of his departed soul.

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina mourned the death of veteran AL leader Advocate Mollah.

In a message, Sheikh Hasina said the deceased was a member of the draft preparation committee of Bangladesh Constitution and a prominent organiser of Liberation War.

Upazila chairman post Hasina opposed to abolition

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina described the move to abolish the post of democratically-elected public representatives through an ordinance as fully autocratic, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina made this comment when a delegation of upazila chairmen led by Md Firoz Kabir, Convenor, Bangladesh Upazila Chairmen Samity, met her on Wednesday.

During the meeting the delegation members apprised the Leader of the Opposition of their various problems including the move to abolish the post of upazila chairmen.

The Awami League chief said the Jatiya Sangsad could take decision on important matters like determination of the powers, role and jurisdiction of activities of the public representatives. She pointed out that the idea of overall development of Bangladesh through decentralisation of administration was conceived by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. She laid stress on ensuring the representation of the people in all tiers of administration to give institutional shape to democracy in our country.

Earlier, Dr. Abdus Sattar, President, Bangladesh Gram Doctor (Welfare) Samity, submitted a memorandum to her

Dhaka-Moscow consular convention signed

MOSCOW, July 10: Bangladesh and Soviet Union in a significant move today signed a consular convention as a step to further develop friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, reports BSS.

The signing of the important convention which is under negotiations since 1975 followed high level official talks here.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman led the Bangladesh side while the Soviet delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh in the talks that lasted for two hours on the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The meeting, first at Foreign Ministerial level after many years was marked by a cordial atmosphere and all issues of common interest came up for discussions.

Gayoom arrives July 19

By Staff Correspondent

President of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom will arrive in Dhaka on a two-day visit to Bangladesh on July 19, according to official sources.

President Gayoom, now chairman of (SAARC), is expected to meet the Acting President and the Prime Minister to discuss matters of regional and bilateral interests.

President Gayoom will be accompanied by Mrs Nasrinna Gayoom, the Foreign Minister, Mr Fatullah Jami and other high officials.

Bush lifts sanctions against South Africa

WASHINGTON, July 10: President George Bush on Wednesday lifted the five-year old economic sanctions against South Africa, saying there had been a 'profound transformation' toward dismantling the racially segregated apartheid system, reports AP.

Bush said he expected continued progress toward equality, and added that an arms embargo would remain in effect.

The President said he had spoken by telephone earlier in

the day with African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela to tell him that lifting sanctions was 'the right thing to do.'

Even before Bush acted, there was criticism from leading Democrats in Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), one of the nation's leading civil rights groups.

'I'm not satisfied' that the South African government has released all its political pris-

oners, said House Speaker Thomas Foley.

In Houston, NAACP President Benjamin Hooks said it would be 'criminally irresponsible' for Bush to lift the sanctions.

South Africa has become increasingly reconciled to the international community in recent months.

On Tuesday, South Africa was cleared to rejoin Olympic competition. And South African Ambassador Harry Schwarz was expected to sign

a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in a State Department ceremony later in the day.

Bush said he would double US assistance to black South Africans from 40 million dollars to 80 million dollars for housing, economic development and education programme.

Bush said he would personally discuss the situation by telephone with South African President FW de Klerk on Thursday. He said he would 'indicate to him, we expect

progress to continue.'

'This is a moment in history that many believed would never be attained,' Bush said of the progress toward racial equality in South Africa.

Bush acted under a law that specified the sanctions were to be removed when South Africa met five conditions, including release of all political prisoners.

He said he didn't have the flexibility to consider whether lifting the sanctions might slow the pace of progress. The State Department has

said previously that the four other conditions had been met, including repealing apartheid laws that rigorously segregated the black majority residents of South Africa from the white minority.

Lifting a state of emergency, legalising black political parties and starting good-faith negotiations toward a non-racial government.

The sanctions were passed by Congress in 1986 over a veto by then-President Reagan. Related stories on Page 7