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Tomorrow
 We are introducing this week a new page entitled 'Rising Stars' as a part of our Weekend Magazine on Friday, meant for, as the title suggests, our young readers.

NEWS BRIEFS

Rangpur rocked
 RANGPUR, Aug 7: A mild tremor shook the town and its adjoining areas at around 5.40 pm today but there was no report of damage to life or property. The tremor which lasted for about ten seconds however sent people out of their residences, witnesses said.

BNP public meeting Aug 10
 Bangladesh Nationalist Party will hold a public meeting at the Manik Mia Avenue on August 10 at 3 pm, a party press release said here last night. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will deliver an important speech at the meeting, reports BSS.

BCCI depositors' 8-hour fast
 Thirty-one depositors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International staged 8-hour hunger strike for the second day Wednesday demanding Prime Minister's intervention

'Let us build a strong Bangladesh for our posterity'

PM urges political parties to help parliamentary democracy work

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday gave a call to the countrymen and all political parties to firmly establish parliamentary democracy in the national life, reports BSS.

In a nation-wide broadcast over radio and television given to mark the passage of the 11th and 12th Constitution Amendment Bills by the Jatiya Sangsad Tuesday night, Begum Zia said from today we are starting our new journey in the path of democracy.

She called upon all to build a modern and democratic Bangladesh, forgetting all mistakes of the past and rising above narrowness.

Begum Zia said, "let us build strong Bangladesh for our posterity by uprooting corruption and removing indiscipline from society and discharging our duties from our respective posts."

The Prime Minister assured that her government would take up all positive measures for solving the problems created in the way of employment, business and other sectors by the autocratic regime.

She extended her hearty congratulations to all members of the Jatiya Sangsad and leaders of various political parties for their contributions to the long process of transition to democracy.

Begum Zia thanked the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed who "made a unique contribution in the process of transition to democracy."

In her eight-minute speech, the Prime Minister said BNP never hesitated and would not hesitate in future too in taking any constitutional and administrative steps for democracy, stability and, above all, greater national interest in response to the need of the time.

Begum Zia paid tributes to those valiant sons of the soil



Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina addressing a public rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city Wednesday. —Star photo

Reversion to parliamentary democracy is a people's victory

Hasina seeks cooperation for passing Indemnity (Repeal) Bill

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Wednesday stressed on understanding between the Treasury Bench and the Opposition for the welfare of the people and declared that her party was ready to extend all-out cooperation for safeguarding people's interest.

She termed the passage of the Constitution Amendment Bill for switching over to parliamentary system as a victory of the people. She thanked BNP for introducing the bill and hoped that the ruling party would also come forward to pass the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill of her party.

Addressing a big public meeting a Bangabandhu Avenue the AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said her party stood for parliamentary democracy since it believed that state power was always vested with the people.

She mentioned that restoration of parliamentary system was in the election commitment of her party and it was implemented on August 6.

She said the implementation of an opposition party's programme was a historic event. She said that it was possible since BNP accepted the reality. "Awami League has proved that realisation of people's rights is possible, even remaining out of power", she added.

Sheikh Hasina expressed her gratitude to the people for the success of the movement for parliamentary democracy. She said, with the passage of the 12th Amendment Bill, AL had fulfilled its commitment for restoration of parliamentary democracy.

She mentioned that Awami League had some reservation about certain provisions proposed in the BNP's bill. "Yet, we cooperated to pass the bill in the greater interest of the country and the people", she said adding that this would help take another step forward towards establishing real democracy.

"We have initiated a new era with passage of the Amendment Bill", said the Opposition Leader pointing out



Rabindrasangeet Shilpi Sangstha staging a variety show at Shilpakala Academy in the city in observance of Rabindranath's death anniversary yesterday. Story on page 12 —Star photo

Ershad says it

By Staff Correspondent

Deposed President H M Ershad, who is jailed for possessing illegal arms said Wednesday he was happy to see that the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill was passed unanimously for switching over to parliamentary democracy.

Ershad, who told the reporters at the Special Judge Court that he would contest the presidential election, said that he would be more happy if he would get the chance to vote for the bill. He said his party voted for the bill at his instruction. It was really an August occasion to vote for such a bill which reflected the hopes and aspirations of the people, the deposed President said adding, "I love the people of my country."

Earlier, defence lawyer Strajul Haque made an appeal to the court that Ershad should be provided more facilities in the jail. He said, as a lawyer he should be allowed to

Anwar bailed out, Tito's release ordered

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Wednesday granted bail to former minister Anwar Hossain Monju till disposal of the petition and admitted the petition of leave to appeal, reports BSS.

The Acting Chief Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman, was in the chair and other judges in the Bench were Justice ATM Afzal, Justice Mustafa Kamal and Justice Latifur Rahman.

Anwar Hossain had filed a provisional leave petition before the Appellate Division against the judgement of the High Court Division given on July 10, which had rejected application for quashment of the trial now pending in the Court of the Third Additional Sessions Judge and Special Tribunal Court Number 4, Dhaka. Their lordship had stayed the operation of all further proceedings till disposal

Referendum likely before bye-elections

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

The Election Commission is trying to hold the referendum on the Constitution (Twelfth Amendment) Bill ahead of the bye-elections in eleven Jatiya Sangsad constituencies scheduled for September 11.

Reliable sources say a date will be announced after examining weather and flood forecasts given by the Meteorological Department, and the Water Development Board.

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday unanimously passed the Referendum Bill giving legal coverage for holding the referendum.

Holding of referendum is necessary because, the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill seeks to change a good number of articles which were protected by a Guarantee Clause under Article 142 (IA) of the Constitution.

Under the Referendum Bill, to be effective after the Acting President's assents, the Election Commission will announce the date of referendum within seven days of receipt of order from the Acting President.

The law empowers the Election Commission to hold referendum within 40 days of announcement of date through gazette notification. However, since an exceptional situation is prevailing in the country now, efforts are being made to complete the referendum as early as possible.

A reliable source said, the Election Commission is trying to live up to the reputation it had created by organising free and fair elections of the Parliament on February 27.

"This referendum would be different from two other refer-

Bye-elections to 11 JS seats Sept 11

Bye-elections to the 11 vacant seats of Jatiya Sangsad will be held on September 11, an Election Commission secretary press release said here Wednesday, reports BSS.

The vacant seats are: Rangpur-1 (19) Rangpur-2 (20) Rangpur-5 (23) Rangpur-6 (24), Bogra-7 (42), Bhola-2 (118), Dhaka-5 (184), Dhaka-9 (188), Madaripur-1 (217), Madaripur-2 (218) and Chittagong-8 (286).

The Election Commission, in a gazette notification issued Wednesday announced detailed schedule for the bye-election in these vacant seats, the press release said.

According to the schedule the last date for filing of nomination is

Economic reforms urgent: Attila

Star Economic Report

The World Bank (WB) Vice-President, Attila Karasmanoglu, said in Dhaka Wednesday that the bank would like to see Bangladesh growing at a faster rate and becoming less aid-dependent and self-reliant.

Talking to the newsmen at Zia International Airport prior to his departure for Kathmandu at the close of a four-day visit to Bangladesh, the WB Vice-President said the bank appreciated fully the difficult challenges that the Government faced for going ahead with the economic reforms programme. But reforms and hard actions are unavoidable for the long-term benefits of the common people, he added.

He pointed out that the changes in the world "have a great bearing on development efforts in Bangladesh." The perceptions about economic development have changed and the needs for reforms are urgent in this context, he added.

WB resident mission chief Christopher Willoughby was present when Karasmanoglu was talking to the newsmen.

The WB Vice-President said there were many problems and challenges facing Bangladesh on the economic front and these would require reforms. Elaborating this, he mentioned about the public sector enterprises in particular. "If such enterprises can operate only at a break-even point, financial resources of about Taka 20 billion can be saved", he added. This will be

'Amendments fulfil people's hopes'

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties and other organisations on Wednesday hailed the passage of 12th Constitutional Amendment Bill in Parliament.

They also hailed the passage of 11th Amendment Bill providing for the eligibility of Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to return to his original post of Chief Justice after the election of a new President.

With the passage of the bills, one of the major commitments of the three alliances has been fulfilled, the parties and organisations maintained.

The Five-Party Alliance hailed the passage of 11th and 12th Amendment Bills in parliament saying it has fulfilled the hopes and aspirations of the people of the country.

The leaders expressed the hope that the three alliances would work together to fulfil outstanding commitments to the nation.

Hasanul Huq Inu, Kazi Arif Ahmed, Sharif Nurul Ambia, AFM Mahbulul Huq, Rashed Khan Menon MP, and Nirmal Sen were present at the meeting.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) felicitated all the MPs and the concerned political parties for accepting the 11th and 12th Amendment Bills unanimously.

CPB said it was proved once again that there needs to be a consensus of democratic forces to overcome the crises.

The CPB hoped the country's stagnant economy would revive again under the democratic system and leadership.

DUCSU VP Amanullah Anam MP, GS Khairul Kabir Khokon and AOS Nazimuddin Alam

Unknown disease claims 7 in Pabna

PABNA, Aug 7: An epidemic of an unknown disease has wrought havoc in Sagaria village of Sadar upazila taking seven lives in two days and attacking 50 others, reports UNB.

Two of them died today and 17 people affected with the disease have been admitted to Pabna Sadar hospital, official sources said.

A 3-member medical team, headed by the Civil Surgeon, has been constituted to diagnose the disease and find ways to contain the epidemic.

Health officials said the victims who are attacked by the yet-unknown-disease pass calcium with their urine and the excretion do not respond to any medicine, resulting in death within about two hours.

The Civil Surgeon said urine of the patients had been sent to Dhaka for examination.

Those who died in the last two days are Matiar Rahman (28), Babu (22), Abdul Karim (14), Majbar Rahman (20), Madhu (18), Abu Taleb (15) and Abu Saeed (27).

Moudud's appearance in High Court objected

The Supreme Court Bar Association objected to Moudud Ahmed's appearance in a case before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, reports BSS.

The objection was raised by Secretary of the Association, AFM Mesbahuddin, when former Vice-President Moudud Ahmed tried to place the application of former minister Ruhul Amin Howlader's case on Wednesday before the Division Bench comprising Justice Anwarul Huq Chowdhury and Justice Muhammad Abdul Mannan. Mesbahuddin raised objection on the ground that the Supreme Court Bar Association had cancelled Moudud Ahmed's membership for life. Mesbahuddin also brought to the notice of the court that Moudud cannot appear before any court for conducting any case as he lost his membership under the resolution of the general meeting of the Supreme Court Bar Association held on December 2, 1990. Moudud Ahmed said, "I have not received any such notice from the Supreme Court Bar Association."

Thereafter the court advised Moudud Ahmed to resolve the matter with the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Bar Council.

Govt college teachers observe strike

By Staff Correspondent

Lecturers of all government colleges in Dhaka observed a two-hour token strike from 10 am on Wednesday to press their 12-point charter of demands, according to a Bangladesh Government College Lecturers' Association press release.

Lecturers abstained from taking classes during the strike period.

Their demands include filling up of vacant posts in government colleges, promotion, regularisation of services and improvement of education standard.

The press release claimed that all assistance professors, associate professors and professor of government colleges in Dhaka also abstained from talking classes in sympathy with the lecturers' demands.

In another statement, Principals of 12 government colleges in Dhaka expressed their support to the 12-point demand of the lecturers.

Turkey attacks rebel Kurds in northern Iraq

ISTANBUL, Aug 7: Turkey very close to agreement on a resolution that would allow Iraq to sell 1.5 billion Dollars worth of oil over six months under strict UN controls, the US ambassador said Wednesday.

US Ambassador Thomas R Pickering said the five permanent members — the United States, China, Britain, France and the Soviet Union — are also close to agreement on a second resolution that would demand Iraqi compliance with UN nuclear, chemical and biological weapons inspectors.

Under the proposed oil sale resolution, the funds would be placed in a UN-controlled escrow account to purchase food, medicine and other relief supplies, and UN representatives would monitor their distribution. Western diplomats said, Iraq would have no control over the funds.

The diplomats said Iraq would be allowed to sell its oil in three instalments, and stressed that the oil sale was a one-time exemption and did not represent any relaxation of the economic sanctions imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Western diplomats said they want to ensure that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein does not divert oil revenues to rebuild his war machine. They also want to ensure that the food and medicine is distributed equitably, including to Shi'ites and Kurds opposed to Saddam.

US diplomats have also said Iraq still has not told the Security Council exactly how much gold and currency reserves it has at home, which could be used to pay for relief supplies.

Money from the oil sale would also be used to finance a UN compensation fund for victims of the invasion of Kuwait, pay UN expenses related to eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction as well as for other UN activities related to the Gulf War cease-fire.

An Iraqi newspaper said today Muslim countries violated the principles of Islam by supporting a US policy of continuing sanctions against Iraq.

Babil, owned and run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, denounced the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for not calling for a lifting of the UN trade blockade.

Shibir files case against CUCSU VP, 11 others

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 7: Islami Chhatra Shibir Chittagong University unit has filed a case against 12 persons including Chittagong University Central Students' Union (CUCSU) Vice President Nazimuddin for allegedly ordering the killing of Shibir supporters.