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NEWS BRIEFS

City AL council session May 31

The biennial council session of Dhaka City Unit of Bangladesh Awami League will be held on May 31 at 10 am at the Engineers' Institution, according to a party press release in Dhaka Thursday. Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will attend the function as chief guest, reports BSS.

Condition of Kanan Devi improves

CALCUTTA, May 28: Condition of veteran film actress of yesteryears, Kanan Devi, stabilised Thursday at the city's Belle Vue Clinic where she had been admitted yesterday following complaints of breathing trouble. Doctors attending on her told PTI that though her condition had improved, she was still being kept under observation at the ICU.

Egyptian minister in city

Mokhles Gobba, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, arrived here Thursday on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh. He was received at the airport by Fazlur Rahman, Director General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During his stay here, Gobba will hold talks with Bangladesh officials on bilateral matters, reports UNB.

CAC seminar begins Sunday

The Centre for Analysis and Choice (CAC) will hold a two-day seminar on 'fiscal planning and the budgetary process' for members of parliament. Speaker Sheikh Nazak Ali will inaugurate the seminar on Sunday morning at hotel Sonargon, reports BSS.

Nor'wester hits Borguna: 8 hurt

BORGUNA, May 28: Eight people were injured when a nor'wester swept over two villages in Sadar upazila of the district today, reports UNB.

PM back home from visit to India

Delhi realises need to solve problems: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Thursday said that the "ice has melted" in the relationship between Bangladesh and India.

Briefing newsmen on her arrival at the Zia International Airport after a three-day visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, Begum Zia described her visit as "very successful and fruitful".

She said that the Indian side showed a keen interest to

improve relations and that "they have realised that solutions to the existing problems need to be found".

Begum Zia said that among the issues discussed the "two main ones — water sharing and Chakma refugees" took place during her talks with the Indian Prime Minister.

A committee to organise the repatriation of the Chakma refugees would be formed and details worked out soon, the Prime Minister said. She

added that the Indian side had assured all cooperation in sending the refugees back. "They said that even the last man will be sent back" from the refugee camps.

Replying to a question, Begum Zia said that the Tin Bigha issue was discussed during her talks with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President LK Advani "as it (BJP) is opposing the transfer". She said that she told the BJP leader to visit Tin Bigha himself as it would help

him change his mind about the issue.

Replying to a question on the "large-scale illegal immigration of people" across the borders as mentioned in the joint communique, Begum Zia said that the issue had been brought up by India. However, she added, the Bangladesh side denied that any cross-border illegal immigration was taking place.

BSS adds: The Prime Minister Page 12 Col 4

Khaleda, Jyoti talk Tinbigha issue

CALCUTTA, May 28: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia made a brief stop-over here tonight on her way back home at the end of her three-day state visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, reports BSS.

On her arrival at the Dum Dum Airport by a special Indian Air Force plane, she was greeted by West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu.

Later they discussed matters of common interest, including the 'Tinbigha', at the VVIP Lounge.

Former West Bengal Chief Minister Siddharta Shankar Roy, Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Zafar Abedin and West Bengal Chief Secretary N Krishnamurti were also present.

Begum Khaleda Zia today offered feteah at the mazar of great Muslim saint Hazrat Khwaja Moynuddin Chishty (R).

Members of her entourage including Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Akbar Hossain, MP, and Rosy Kabir, MP, accompanied the Prime Minister.

On arrival at the mazar, Begum Zia was received by the members of the mazar committee. She also placed a garland on the mazar.

Earlier, Begum Zia flew into the Pink City Jaipur in a special flight of Indian Air Force. She was received by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan Bhairon Singh Shekawat, and other officials at the airport.

From there, she flew to Ajmer in a helicopter. Mrs Vijaya Pathak, Minister for Excise, Government of Rajasthan, accompanied Begum Zia to Ajmer.

From Jaipur Begum Zia flew to Calcutta in a special aircraft of the Indian Air Force.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia making a point at the press conference at Zia International Airport upon her return from India yesterday. — PID photo

Joint communique

Ministries directed to hold urgent meet on water sharing

Bangladesh and India have agreed that an 'equitable long-term and comprehensive arrangement' for sharing the flows of the Ganges, Teesta and other major rivers evolved through mutual discussions would serve the best interest of the people of the two countries, reports BSS.

The Prime Ministers of the two countries directed their ministers concerned to make renewed endeavours for achieving 'an acceptable set-

tlement', including the interim arrangements for sharing the dry season flows on the Ganges, a joint communique issued Thursday at the end of the three-day state-visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to India said.

The Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao assured that every possible efforts would be made to avoid undue hardships to Bangladesh by sharing the flows in the Ganges at Farakka 'on an equitable basis', the

communique released simultaneously from New Delhi and Dhaka said.

It said the concerned ministers of the two sides would meet for this purpose on an urgent basis and the joint monitoring of releases at Farakka and the Teesta barrage, and observations on the flows of the major rivers into Bangladesh would be revived and under taken immediately.

See Page 12 Col 1

Biman in trouble with its TUs

By Asiuzzaman

Bangladesh Biman, burdened with its trade unions, is facing acute problems in running the management and is also experiencing untoward incidents between rival groups of employees.

Currently seven unions are 'looking after the welfare of nearly 4,500 employees' of which two unions are at daggers drawn over the assertion of their influence inside Biman.

The management has to listen to the opinions of all the unions in taking decisions involving the respective section

of employees, a senior Biman official said.

Both Bangladesh Biman Sramik Union and the Ground Service Employees Union are claiming to be the basic union of the employees while Bangladesh Airlines Pilot Association (BAPA), Flight Engineers and Navigators Association (FENA), Society of Aircraft Engineers of Bangladesh (SAEB), Aircraft Workshop and Technical Workers Union (AWTWU) and Cabin Crew Association (CCA) are 'shouldering the responsibilities' of the workers of their

respective sections.

Moreover, two unregistered organisations Biman Senior Employees Association (BSEA) and Muktiyoddha Employees Sangad are also active in the Biman.

There has been no election of the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) in Biman since 1973.

At least six cases are reportedly pending in the court in connection with different problem of the unions.

The crisis became acute in 1989 when the then government

Big bad jute haul at Adamjee

By Staff Correspondent

Jute Ministry officials in a swoop Monday recovered a huge quantity of bad quality jute waiting to be supplied to the country's biggest jute mills — Adamjee.

Officials in Dhaka said Thursday that a four-member inspection team at the instruction of Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah rushed to the mills and recovered 1700 bales of inferior quality jute at the mills gate and the river

See Page 12 Col 6

Pro-military man nominated as Thai PM

BANGKOK, May 28: A former air force officer was nominated Thursday for prime minister, but the opposition predicted that angry Thais would reject him because of his close ties to military leaders, reports AP.

If approved by the King, Samboon Rahong would replace Suchinda Kraprayoon, who resigned in disgrace Sunday over the army's brutal suppression of pro-democracy protests last week.

House Speaker Arthit Urairat announced the nomination of Samboon by the same five-party coalition that last month chose Suchinda, a former

army chief who led a military coup last year.

The appointment of Suchinda, who did not run for office in parliamentary elections in March, aggravated simmering resentment over the military's long dominance of politics and touched off weeks of protests.

In the aftermath of last week's violence, parliament has moved to satisfy opposition demands for reducing military influence in the political realm. But many in the public are skeptical about whether reform will be genuine.

Samboon, leader of the

Chart Thai Party, is known to have close ties with military leaders widely held responsible for ordering troops into the streets last week to quell demonstrations with gunfire.

Arthit told reporters a small sixth party also was supporting Samboon.

The speaker said he probably would submit Samboon's nomination to the constitutional monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, on Friday for final approval. No vote is required in parliament, where the governing coalition holds a slim majority.

Arthit told reporters the four-party opposition bloc was

backing the leader of the New Aspiration Party, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, for prime minister. But he said the bloc decided not to submit a formal nomination because it could not gather enough support within parliament.

The four parties had hoped to attract one or more of the governing coalition parties but the grouping held firm.

Sarin Pitawuan, a lawmaker in the opposition Democrat Party, said Samboon would prove unacceptable to the public because Thais know he was sent into the political arena by the military's supreme command. See Page 12 Col 6

10 foreign tribals with arms held in Bandarban

CHITTAGONG, May 28: Bangladesh security force arrested 10 foreign tribals with arms and ammunition as they were suspiciously roaming at Chungchong of Ruma upazila under Bandarban Hill District on May 26, according to official sources here tonight, reports BSS.

They were handed over to the Ruma police after preliminary interrogation. They were not found active members of the outlawed Shantibahini but they might have links with the tribal insurgents here, the sources said.

UNB adds from Rangamati:

Tribal and non-tribal leaders led by Chakma chief Raja Debashish Roy visited violence-hit areas here today in a peace mission urging all to maintain communal harmony.

"Don't be misled by rumours, we will restore peace and harmony here as well as in the entire Chittagong Hill Tracts," the Chakma chieftain assured the people affected by recent trouble in the town.

Meanwhile, authorities lifted section 144 Wednesday afternoon from the town as the situation came to normal, officials said.

Govt involved in DU hall capturing: Hasina

CHITTAGONG, May 28: Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina said today the BNP government, in a desperate bid to cling to power, was sheltering terrorists indulging in rowdy activities like hall capturing, reports UNB.

"The people will not pardon the rulers if the hard-earned democratic process is jeopardised for their failure," the Awami League President said while welcoming a group of JSD (Rab) leaders and workers into her party.

About 100 JSD leaders and workers led by former MP Mokhter Ahmed, AHM Nasruddin Chowdhury, Rajendra Prasad Chowdhury, Advocate Humayun Kabir Russel, Swapan Kumar Chowdhury and Nurul Afsar joined Awami League at a function at Bandar Rest House here.

Hasina alleged the incident like capturing the residential hall in Dhaka University occurred with patronisation of the Home Minister and law enforcing agencies.

A faction of Chhatra League, known as 'Mantu group', cap-

tured the Zahurul Haq Hall of DU on Wednesday ousting its rivals in the organisation.

"Terrorism will never end if it get state patronisation," she said adding "the government is talking against terrorism on the one hand and on the other providing shelter to terrorists."

She also alleged the ruling party was patronising the Jamaat-Shibir axis in their 'terrorist' activity in a bid to keep its hold on power.

The Awami League leader said government's erroneous policy was hampering production in mills and fields, ultimately affecting the national development.

Proper democratic practice and tolerance needed to nourish the fledgling democracy, she said, but the rulers had no respect for opinion of others.

The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Abdul Mannan, Ataur Rahman Kaiser, Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury, MP, Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Moslemuddin Ahmed and Khorshed Alam Sunjan.

Pro-AL BCL threatens retaliation Terrorists flushed out, claims Mantu group

The rebel faction of Chhatra League yesterday claimed it had purged the Zahurul Haq Hall of Dhaka University of "outsiders, terrorists and hijackers", reports UNB.

"We have restored peaceful academic atmosphere for the residents ousting anti-social elements," General Secretary of the Zahurul Haq Hall Students' Union Masum Ahmed told a press conference in the union office.

Masum, a top leader of the

"Mantu group" of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League, led a march into the hall on Wednesday and recaptured it from their rivals in the organisation.

Replying to a question, he said they ousted the "outsiders and terrorists" the same as they drove away Ershad's associates from the campus in 1990. "We do not force any general student to leave the hall".

See Page 12 Col 7

Tk 400 crore new taxes planned

By Inam Ahmed

The amount in new taxes in the budget for 1992-93 is likely to be about Taka 400 crore, according to reliable official sources.

On the other hand, it is projected that revenue earnings will increase by about Taka 1000 crore during the fiscal year.

It is estimated that this increase will occur mainly because of the growth of the economy and exchange rate effect. Due to the devaluation of the Taka, the collection of Value Added Tax (VAT) and other duties from import will increase.

The sources said that new See Page 12 Col 3

AL council session now June 27, 28

By Staff Correspondent

The two day biennial council session of the Awami League (AL) has been deferred to June 27 and 28.

The council session was earlier scheduled to be held on June 1 and 2.

The decision to shift the date was taken at the two-day Working Committee meeting of the party that began yesterday afternoon with AL Chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The Working Committee meeting at the party central office ended its first session at 10 last night. It resumes 10 this morning at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

According to sources, the Working Committee meeting while evaluating the preparations for the council session found that the home work for a successful session was yet to be completed. This had virtually pushed the Working Committee to shift the date of the council session that had been fixed earlier, the sources added.

See Page 12 Col 4

BCL factions trade fire on DU campus

Heavy gunshots broke the midnight calm on the Dhaka University campus with two rival factions of Awami League-backed Chhatra League exchanging fire early Thursday, reports UNB.

Several rounds of gunshots were fired from the roof-top of Salimullah Hall aimed at Zahurul Haq Hall at about 2 am, campus sources said.

They believed the Gopalganj-Barisal group activists of Chhatra League first fired the shots.

The rival faction also replied with shots from automatic weapons.

The exchange of bullets died down after a short while. Gunshots were, however, heard again at about 3.30 am at Jagannath Hall.

There was no report of any one being hurt in the exchanges of fire which gripped the campus with renewed fear and tension.

Meanwhile, huge contingent of helmeted police was deployed at different trouble spots of the university to resist occurrence of any untoward incident.

NGOs blame growth model for environmental degradation

By Staff Correspondent

The non-government organizations (NGOs) of the country have blamed growth-led development model to be responsible for much of the world's environmental problems and intensification of poverty.

This has been stated in the position paper prepared by the environmental coalition of the NGOs for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held in Rio, Brazil from June 3 to June 14.

Referring to the situation in the developed countries the reports says such models have failed to even ensure proper growth.

In northern countries increasing homelessness, drug-use, unemployment, deterioration. See Page 12 Col 6



Members of the Thai community in Dhaka offering prayers Thursday at the Dharmarajika monastery for those who were killed during a pro-democracy movement in Bangkok. Story on Page 3