Myanmar junta meets leaders June 23

YANGON, May 28: Myanmar military junta will hold talks with political parties next month on preparations for drafting a new constitution, the state radio announced Thursday, reports AP.

The talks on June 23 will be aimed at preparing for the convening of a national convention to establish guidelines for the constitution, the broadcast said.

The junta, under new chairman Gen Than Shwe, had announced on April 24 that such talks would be held within two months. It was part of the new leadership's liberal ization measures, which have included the release of some political prisoners and permis sion for the family of prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi to visit her in deten-

The junta, which has been criticized by many countries for human rights abuses, abolished the 1974 constitution

Diplomatic row India cancels invitations to Pak singers

NEW DELHI, May 28: India has withdrawn invitations to two popular Pakistani singers because of the diplomatic row over the alleged torture of an Indian diplomat in Islamabad, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Thursday, reports AFP.

PTI said the Pakistani High Commission (Embàssy) had already been informed that the invitations to Urdu love ballad king Ghulam Ali and singer Reshma, invited to perform at a summer festival, had been cancelled.

The organising committee of the five-day Shimla festival, which starts Friday, made the decision, the agency said, but added that similar invitations to Bangladeshi singers Farida Parveen and Baby Najneen were unaffected.

The row over the alleged torture and expulsion Indian diplomat Rajesh Mittal has led to the tit-for-tat expulsion of two Pakistani diplomats from New Delhi and the indefinite postponement of scheduled Indo-Pakistan talks.

when it took over in a 1988

It held an election for Parliament in May 1990, but refused to recognize the results after the majority of seats were won by Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

The new constitution is expected to be adopted next year. Thursday's broadcast made no mention of elections but it was understood that new polls would be held. The junta has said that power would be transferred to a constitutionally elected gov ernment

Call to recover stolen paintings of Shilpachariya

By Staff Correspondent

The 16th death anniversary of Shilpachariya Joynul Abedin was observed yesterday with due solemnity.

In observance of the day wreaths were laid at the grave of the artist and discussions organised where speakers highlighted his invaluable contributions to the national cul-

Bangla Academy held a discussion on the occasion at its seminar room in the afternoon. Prof Matlub Ali presented the keynote paper at the discussion titled 'works of Joynul Adedin: An Evaluation'. Prof Bulban Osman, architect Rabiul Hussain and widow of late Joynul Abedin took part in the discussion. The Academy Director General Prof Harun or Rashid delivered the address of welcome while dramatist Sayced Ahmed presided over the meeting.

Prof Harun or Rashid appealed to the people of all walks of life to help recover the Shilpacharya's paintings stolen recently from Joynul Abedin 'Shangrahashala' (museum) in Mymensingh.

Begum Joynul Abedin while speaking on request called for efforts at national level for recovering the stolen pieces of the late painter.

Syeed Hassan hoped the future generation would evaluate the great painter more meaningfully.

added Hossain.



West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at - PID photo Calcutta airport during her stopover there yesterday.

Police yet to receive Dalia's autopsy report

By Staff Correspondent Police did not receive the

autopsy report of the noted drama artiste. Dalia Ferdous till Thursday.

Dalia, wife of a play wright, Major Akter Ferdous Rana, reportedly burnt herself at her Kachukhet residence Tuesday night and succumbed to injuries at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) the following morning. Cantonment police said that

they would not comment until they received the autopsy report which was performed at the Forensic Department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital Wednesday. However, it was suspected

that a relationship between Rana and a drama artiste Konkon developed during the last few months which led to Dalia's committing suicide. Dalia's brother-in-law, AKM

Noor Hossain told the Daily Star, that they were informed late Tuesday night that Dalia burnt herself. "We are yet to find any evidence of a murder",

Dalia first met Rana at the time of acting in a play, "Shei ek Gaen" by Rana on television.

Khaleda: Delhi realises

From Page 1 Col 5 ter told a questioner that the

sharing of the waters of the Ganges was discussed during the visit and it was agreed that short and long term measures would be taken to settle the water problem.

She said that short-term measures would be taken now for the purpose and answered in the negative if India attached any conditions to the short-term steps.

Begum Zia also emphatically said that the link canal scheme did not figure in the discus sions since Bangladesh would never accept this proposal

Begum Zia said that the 10000 refugees enter in a week

COX'S BAZAR, May 28 More than ten thousand Rohingya Muslims crossed into Bangladesh from Myanmar through different border points during the past seven days, official sources said here Thursday, reports BSS.

The influx of Rohingyas continued in spite of assurances from Myanmar side that Rohingyas would not be allowed to leave Arakan when discussions on their repatriation were on.

trade gap between the two countries was also discussed and Rao agreed to lift the quota on import of Jamdani sa recs from Bangladesh and added that the duty on the

item would also be exempted. Asked about her talks with West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu during her brief stopover in Calcutta, Begum Zia said "Tin Bigha" issue and other matters came up for discussions.

She told a questioner that issues like railway transit facil ity through Bangladesh or the 25 year Friendship Accord with india in no way figured in the talks

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, Foreign Minister ASM Mostaftzur Rah man and Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda were present when the Prime Minister spoke to the press. Asked when the Indian

Prime Minister would pay a return visit to Bangladesh, Bc gum Zia said that he had told her that he would like to make the visit before the SAARC summit, scheduled in December this year.

"You will come to know of it when it materialises" was her reply to a question as to when she would visit Pakistan.

NGOs blame

From Page 1 Col 8

rating educational systems. family breakdown, militarism environmental pollution, concentration of land by agrobustness, increasing concentration of wealth and incidence of poverty are demonstration

of this fathure, the report adds. According to the report. the continuously deteriorating situation has made it obligatory 'to integrate the production process with resource conservation and environmental enhancement and which meets the need of the future".

Reiterating the need for sustainable development, the reports says that the goals of sustainable development can be achieved by people's participation, enlarging opportunities for all to have access to re sources, achievement of equity and social justice, expanding people's and communities autonomy and self-determina

the context of Bangladesh, the report says the people particularly the poor, women and tribal communities can hardly be blamed for environmental woes of Bangladesh.

Posing population growth as the reason for environmental damages is really red herring diverting attention from causes of environmental problems and consequent 'tensification of poverty, the report adds. The report further adds, most o Bangladesh's and, infact world's environmental mal adies have resulted from my opic pursuit of economic growth led development model which promotes reckless consumerism.

incidentally, a delegation of Bangladesh NGOs is expected to join the Rio conference otherwise known as Earth Summit. Sources close to Association of Developmen Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), a coordinating agency of the NGOs, told the Daily Star that positions taken by NGOs in different parts of the world would generate much heat during the Conference or issues of environmental degra dation and its protection.

India, US hold war games

NEW DELHI, May 28: The Indian and US navies began their first joint exercise in the Arabian Sea Thursday to improve communications between the fleets, a defense spokesman said, reports AP.

The Midnight File

Mojaddedi against a rushed Islamisation

PESHAWAR, May 28 : Interim Afghan President Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, now visiting Pakistan, spoke today against a rushed Islamisation of his war-devastated country and said it would be done gradually, reports Reuter.

600 radioactive waste sites in Moscow

MOSCOW, May 28: Researchers have discovered some 600 sites of radioactive contamination in Moscow, including two in Gorki Park, that pose potentially serious dangers to health, a Russian scientist disclosed today, reports AFP.

India testfires Agni missile today

BHUBANESHWAR, May 28 : India will test-fire Agni, a medium-range missile tomorrow for the second time, three years after the first successful launch, officials said today. The launch from Chandipur-on-sea in the eastern state of Orissa will go ahead if the weather is fine, they said, reports Reuter.

Mantu group

From Page 1 Col 7

In a written statement, he told a tale of "torture and inhuman' behaviour with students, teachers and employees of the hall by the "Gopalganj-Barisal group" in the last few

The statement alleged former BCL President Shahe Alam hatched a conspiracy to turn Chhatra League into a sectoral student organisation and formed region-based committees.

He alleged the two regions activists drove out bonafide students and sheltered terrorists, killers, snatchers, robbers, and extortionists in the

The hall union GS said they would also work for reestablishing the glorious image of Chhatra League tarnished by the activist of Gopalganj-Barisal

"We have high esteem for Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina, but we will not abide by any undemocratic attitude or decision," he told a ques

If Mostafa Mohsin Montu is expelled from Awami League, we'll face it politically," he said and called upon the student community to build a greater movement against what he said anti-social elements harboured by the Gopalganj-Barisal group.

The pro-Awami League Chhatra League yesterday called upon the government and the Dhaka University authorities to immediately free the Zahurul Haq Hall from occupation to avert a bloody backlash.

Bahaullah centenary celebration begins

More than 60,000 people of the Bahai community in Bangladesh are observing the 100th anniversary of the death of their prophet Bahaullah as elsewhere in the world.

Information Minister Naimul Huda and Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Major Gen (retd) M Majed Ul Huq were yesterday present at the special assembly and addressed it as guests. The assembly was also addressed by local Bahai leaders. A Large number of people of the Bahai

Earlier, at a press conference, local Bahai leaders exthat the "Bahai faith that started in 1844 is the most modern and the latest religion

Currently more than six million people of the Bahai faith are living in 241 countries and territories in the world, Dr Jabbar, continental councilor for Asia of the World

its citizens", he said.

The Bahais believe in the equality of human beings and this is their religion, he said adding that "It is one of the most unorthodox religions in the world."

sion claiming himself a messenger of God. This was opposed by the then Iranian government. Bahaullah was detained and later sent into exile in Iraq.

committee is considered the governing body of the World Bahai community whose head office is in Haifa, Israel.

Chairman of the local Bahai Council Dr Shahidi and Vice-Chairman Masoomul Hoda were also present at the press

"If necessary, we'll mass out workers from all over the country to free the Zahurul Hug Hall from the clutches of killers of Badal," BCL President Mainuddin Main told a rally on the DU campus. "If the authorities do not

take action against them, he warned, they should not be blamed for any consequences. BCL organised a brief rally

at the Aparajeyo Bangla to protest the capture of the hall by its rebel faction.

The rally was also addressed by its General Secretary lqbalur Rahim. They blamed the govern-

ment and its student wing for "sheltering the killers" of student leader Moniruzzaman

Biman From Page 1 Col 4

ment took a move to reduce the trade unions and to squeeze their movements in different industries.

Following the amendment of the Industrial Relations Ordinance (IRO) of 1969, on November 15, 1989, the Labour Directorate cancelled seven unions of the Biman and invited application on May

17, '90 for fresh registration.

The directorate also divided Biman into two establishments ground service and flying service and asked the unions to show 30 per cent membership of the total employees within 90 days to get registration.

The new organisation, the Ground Service Employees Union got registered under the new rules while the Labour Directorate declared other

unions invalid. The Biman Sramik Union, elected CBA in 1973, filed a complaint with the Directorate demanding registration showing a 30 per cent membership and was given back its regis-

The Sramik Union subsequently filed a case in the High Court challenging the 'two-establishment' order of the Labour Directorate. The other unions except

the employees union also filed writ petitions in the high court and the court ordered a status qua on all union activities.

Hearings of the petitions were on, Union sources said.

A Biman official said that the situation would not improve until a fresh CBA election was held in Biman. But it depended on Court decision, he added.

Citing a recent clash between the rival groups at the airport the official said that "such incidents hamper normal work in the organisation." An employees union source

said that the Labour Directorate was greatly responsible for the present situation in the national airlines.

The Directorate made some decisions according to its whims which has complicated the situation, he added.

Thai PM From Page 1 Col 5

mander, Air Chief Marshal

"I think the military is trying very hard not to let the opposition have a chance (to govern). They are afraid of Chavalit, afraid that a government from the opposition

Reuter says disgraced Thai generals sent veiled threats to democracy activists demanding hey stand trail for murder as rival politicians scrambled today to form a credible government after a week of

bloody unrest. "Don't force me into becoming a cornered dog." the Nation newspaper's today edition quoted army Chief General Issarapong Noonpakdee as

activists, academics and some bankers that the military will stage a coup to preserve its power, threatened after the forced resignation of General Suchinda on Sunday.

Joint communique From Page 1 Col 4 The two Prime Ministers

agreed to arrange speedy repatriation of all Chakma refugees to Bangladesh in full safety and security. In this context, the Bangladesh side agreed to set up a representative political-

level committee that would encourage the refugees to return. The Indian side assured that its authorities would cooperate fully in the process of repatriation. They expressed their determination to stop illegal

movement of people across the border by all possible means including the strengthening of existing arrangements and mutual cooperation in this regard. Both sides resolved to take

effective measures to maintain peace and tranquility all along the border and to refrain from unfriendly activities. Both sides noted with satis-

faction the recent exchange of letters regarding the modalities for implementation of the terms providing for right of passage for Bangladesh citizens through Tin Bigha area which will become effective from June 26, 1992

Based on this understanding, it was agreed that efforts should be intensified to resolve the other outstanding issues emanating from the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974.

It was also agreed that discussions on delimitation of the maritime boundary would be resumed at an early date Moreover, the communique said the two sides noted the need for discussions in due course concerning the question of South Talpatti Island for an in-depth examination on the basis of all relevant facts

and principles. The two Prime Ministers directed that special focus should be placed on increasing and diversifying trade and economic cooperation between

the two countries. They agreed that the authorities concerned would met at an early date, preferably August-September this year to hold trade review talks with a view to renewing the existing

trade agreement. The two sides agreed that the Joint Economic Commis-

sion between the two coun tries should meet in October this year. The existing cooperation in the fields of culture, education, information and defence could also be expanded.

The two Prime Ministers expressed their determination to further consolidate the friendly, harmonious and good neighbourly relations between Bangladesh and India, in the larger interest of the peoples of the two countries and of peace and stability in the region. A significant opportunity was now available for the purpose based on the mandate of

the people. The two leaders reiterated their belief that SAARC represents the faith and aspiration of the countries of South Asia to enhance regional cooperation in the interest of greater understanding and well-being of the peoples of the region.

Towards this end, they felt that a further momentum should be given to SAARC activities in the core areas of economic cooperation.

The two Prime Ministers felt that the Seventh SAARC Summit to be held in Dhaka at the end of this year assumes special significance as the beginning of the second cycle of SAARC summits. They expressed the hope that it would not only lead to the consolidation of the past achievements, but also identify new meaningful avenues to achieve its ob-

Reviewing the recent momentous and unprecedented changes in the international situation, they expressed satisfaction at the more positive developments and expressed the hope that these would be built upon in the interest of the international community as

The two Prime Ministers for a simultaneous democratisation of international relations, and a greater

thrust on alleviation of poverty. The Non-Aligned Movement, based on its abiding principles of independence of judgement and freedom of action and its emphasis on equitable international economic development, has come to acquire a renewed relevance in the light of these development, the communique said.

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Published by S. M. Ali on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Mottjheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4. 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Bex No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.

New taxes

realisation.

From Page 1 Col 8 taxes were not likely to be imposed on luxury items in this budget. The idea behind not imposing new taxes was to en courage consumption of luxury items that would increase tax

Ministry sources said that the protection element as demanded by different chamber bodies had been studied and the level of protection was being adjusted for the local industries.

Meanwhile, the new budget will bring in about 12 items that had been exempted from VAT in this budget. These items are now under excise duty. This will be done to relieve the tax burden of other

sectors, sources said. The VAT system will be made more dynamic in the new budget. The procedure of VAT collection will be improved for better enforcement and realisation.

The Finance Ministry termed the coming budget as a reform budget as it would have reforms on direct taxation system. Sources said that the ceiling of the income tax may be increased further so that the low income people could be exempted from it.

The income tax law would be amended to make the system easier so that the general fear about the tax would be removed and self-assessment system would also be improved, sources said.

AL council session

From Page 1 Col 8

Sheikh Hasina addressing AL Working Committee meeting at party's central office yesterday.

While elaborating on the problems to hold the council session on the scheduled dates the party source said that it would required a few more days to complete drafting some amendments to the party constitution and the manifesto to be proposed in the session. and the report of the party General Secretary to be placed

A senior leader of the party, requesting anonymity, also told The Daily Star that the party needed time to take an initiative to resolve problems arising out of internecine conflicts at both the central and the district level units of the party.

UNB adds : Despite Hasina's insistence to hold the confer ence on scheduled, some sc nior leaders of the party requested her to defer the date for completion of all precouncil preparations. Besides non-completion of about 12-13 district confer-

report was incomplete while the Reception sub-committee, Publicity sub-committee and Office sub-committee also could not complete their preparatory work. The meeting sources said the burning issue arising out of the suspension of Mostafa Mohsin Mantu was raised by Presidium member Dr Alaud-

din. Majority of the members

were learnt to have expressed

their opinion to expel Mantu

from the party. They also

called for identifying the party

ences, the General Secretary's

leaders working behind the scene against party interest

and unity. The members took serious exception to presidium member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin's inaugurating the 'illegal' conference of Dhaka District Awami League led by Mostafa Mohstn Mantu at the Engineers' Institute. Some members called for taking a resolution condemn-

ing Syeda Zohra Tajuddin. All members of the presidium except Syeda Zohra Tajuddin attended the central working committee meeting. In all, 46 members of the central committee were present

in the meeting. According to the sources. the members also condemned the incident at Zahurul Haq Hall on Wednesday when some outsiders attacked the Chhatra League workers.

N'ganj Dist AL executives From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, May 28 The biennial council of the district unit of Awami League today elected Ansar Ali and Mafijul Islam as the President and General Secretary respec-

The election of the execu-

tive body of the district AL was

held at the Ali Ahmed Chunka

Auditorium. Ansar Ali who was reclected president of the district AL presided over the council.

TV stations go off air

Government-owned radio and television stations across Punjab state went off the air Thursday as employees demanded more security following the brutal killing of a radio official by Sikh militants, reports AP.

The radio stations of Chandigarh, Patiala, Bhatinda and Jalandhar, which serve 20 million listeners, fell silent a

From Page 1 Col 5 They said that the inspec-

tors discovered that 1200

bales out of a total 5,000 had

already been supplied to the

mills and the entire lot was

He promised harsh legal action against the private supplier of the rotten jute and

offs to him.

friends to the jute industries and this single incident proves that certain quarter does not want that Adamtee Jute Mills survives," Shah said.

Punjab radio,

- Star photo

CHANDIGARH, May 28

little after 5 pm (1130 GMT).

Bad jute

Talking to The Daily Star, the Jute Minister said malpractice in jute purchase was rampant at the Adamjee Jute Mills and the latest one could be discovered because of tip-

against the employees of the mills involved in the incident. "These people cannot be

The minister did not elabo-

By Staff Correspondent

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahais in Bangladesh has chalked out a two-day programme that began yesterday. The programme includes special public assembly, blood and cornea donation sessions, video shows and prayers at the National Bahai

Centre in Shantinagar. community attended the func-

plained the religion and said in the world."

Bahai Committee, said. The message of the religion or Bahaullah is "The earth is but one country and mankind

Bahaullah declared his mis-

At present a nine-member

conference.

Kaset Rojananil.

would not be controllable, Surin said.

saying. Fears have spread among