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NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina addresses in Ctg July 8

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina will address a public meeting in Rajshahi on July 6 and another in Chittagong on July 8. Hasina will also address rallies in Khulna and Dhaka as part of the party's mass contact programme. AL Joint Secretary Abdul Jalil told UNB last night.

Justice Sultan visits Logang

CHITTAGONG, June 27: Chairman of the Logang Incident Inquiry Commission Justice Sultan Hussain Khan visited Logang (Khagrachhari Hill District) from June 22 to 25 and met with 65 persons at the Khagrachhari Circuit House, according to delayed official reports received here today, reports BSS.

RU reopens on July 1

RAJSHAHI, June 27: All classes of Rajshahi University will resume from July 1 according to official sources here. The residential halls of the university will reopen on June 30. The university was closed since die on March 17 following clashes between rival student groups, reports BSS.

Hannan joins BB as Dy Governor

Shah Abdul Hannan Saturday joined the Bangladesh Bank as Deputy Governor. An Additional Secretary to the government Hannan was Member, National Board of Revenue and Chairman, VAT Cell before joining the bank, a Bangladesh Bank press release said, reports BSS.

Sequel to expulsion of Ansar Ali

DU students go on rampage

By DU Correspondent

Scores of Dhaka University students rampaged through the campus Saturday terrorising teachers and smashing classrooms and administrative offices protesting the expulsion of a Physics Department student, witnesses said.

Police fired several rounds of teargas to break up the unruly protestors who marred the teachers' return to their jobs after a 20-day strike over Sheikh Ansar Ali, whose expulsion the students were protesting. Some policemen

were also beaten up, witnesses said.

Many teachers were seen fleeing the campus in panic as the bands of slogan-shouting students stormed their lounge at the Arts Building and then smashed the Proctor's office, several administrative offices and class rooms.

The protestors tossed furniture and papers in the air as they shouted 'We don't accept the Syndicate decision to expel Ansar Ali.'

Ali was expelled by the

Dhaka University Syndicate Wednesday for assaulting his teacher Dr Badrul Alam last month in the university.

Ali was also stripped of his Honours Degree and declared an unwanted person in the campus.

The punishment touched off protests from Ali's fellow students who rallied under a platform called 'Committee for Protecting Rights of Students (CPRS)'.

The CPRS has called for a

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Rivals in 3 DU halls trade gunfire

By DU Correspondent

Pijush, a resident of the Jagannath Hall of the Dhaka University, was seriously injured yesterday (Saturday) evening during an exchange of gunfire among rivals in three halls of the university.

At least 50 shots were fired from the Zahurul Huq Hall, S M Hall and the Jagannath Hall at about 8 pm, sources said adding that the gunfire was continuing.

The sources added that some shots were first heard from the Zahurul Huq and S M Hall areas. Later counter-shots were fired from the Jagannath Hall area.

At that time Pijush, a final year student of the English Department, received a bullet in his thigh at the north gate of the Jagannath Hall.

Later he was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Boycott of JS budget session

BNP indecision, Opposition rigidity prolong impasse

By Staff Correspondent

Indecision by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the apparent rigidity of the Opposition are delaying negotiations to break the impasse created by the boycott of the current session of parliament.

Despite earlier indications that the BNP was willing to accept some of the Opposition demands there had been no move by it since the agreed meeting of June 21 was aborted.

Authoritative sources said that the BNP high command was yet to decide on the ex-

tent of compromise with the Opposition.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Awami League (AL), Five-Party Alliance, Progressive Democratic Front (PDF), Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote, Ganatantri Party and Nirmul Committee met in a meeting at the Awami League central office to discuss the strategies for the proposed march on parliament June 30.

The meeting observed that there was no room for compromise on the four-point demand especially on the trial of Golam Azam.

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Dahagram people pass sleepless night amid fear of attacks

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

DAHAGRAM, June 27: Youths kept vigil throughout Friday night as fears of attack by Indian militants chilled the celebrations that residents of this Bangladesh enclave planned to greet the transfer of Tinbigha corridor.

Most of the enclave's 15,000 inhabitants passed a sleepless night after rumours that Indian militants may attack them to retaliate Friday's burning of some Hindu houses inside the enclave. The houses, according to residents, were set ablaze by those who opposed the transfer of the land corridor to Bangladesh.

"I planned to pass the night in celebrations. Instead I passed a sleepless night for fear of attacks," said Shabibur

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Khaleda visits Dahagram next month

By Staff Correspondent

PANBARI (Lalmoinirhat), June 26: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will visit Dahagram enclave next month, official sources here said today.

They said residents of the enclave were eagerly waiting to greet the Prime Minister to celebrate the opening of Tinbigha corridor that links the enclave with mainland Bangladesh.

Tinbigha: FM's statement in JS today

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman is expected to make a statement in parliament today (Sunday) on the opening of Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Parliament resumes its budget session today at 4 pm after a two-day recess.

Govt reviews Rohingya situation

By Staff Correspondent

A high-level meeting at the Foreign Ministry on Sunday reviewed the latest situation in Rohingya refugee camps and prospects of their repatriation. The meeting, according to sources, decided to step up the measures to persuade more than 2 lakh 70 thousand refugees to return home in Myanmar.

Meanwhile, Relief Ministry will hold a meeting in Dhaka on Monday to review the relief operation and stock of supplies.

Official sources said Bangladesh has enough relief stock to take care of the welfare of the refugees for another two months.

Some parties always conspire, says PM

SHIBGANJ, Chapainawabganj, June 27: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today asserted that her government would implement the spirit of Liberation War and reach fruits of independence to every doorstep, reports UNB.

"BNP doesn't believe in tall talks, it will carry through its development programmes to reach fruits of independence to every doorstep," she told a huge public meeting at Shibganj stadium field this afternoon.

"Independence will be meaningful only if we can attain economic emancipation," she said.

Referring to the budget for 1992-93 placed in parlia-

ment, Begum Zia hoped price of essentials would come down after it is passed.

"This is a pro-people budget meant for the people. Businessmen should reduce price as taxes on most items have been cut," she said.

"There are some parties who always conspire against the people," she told the meeting without elaborating. The people have repored their confidence on BNP in the last election, she added.

Chaired by Whip Prof Mohammad Shahjahan Mia, the meeting was addressed by State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Hwa, Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur

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Transport strike continues

35 more hurt in bomb attacks

By Staff Correspondent

Unruly transport workers hurled at least 20 bombs at passenger buses injuring 35 people including a minor in city yesterday.

Passenger buses were attacked at Dainik Bangla, Gulistan, Saydabad, Dayaganj and Banani areas.

The injured include a baby girl, Mitu, her sister Kabita (4) and mother Gulenur. A cracker was lobbed at the minibus when they were riding near the Dainik Bangla intersection in Motijheel at around 5 pm.

Our DMCI correspondent reported that they were among seven others, injured in separate attacks, admitted at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The striking transport workers continued their anar-

chic activities in and around the capital as the strike was about to collapse in Dhaka and Chittagong at the call of the splitting group of the workers federation.

Meanwhile, rival leaders of the federation held separate press conferences on Saturday to explain their position on the strike.

Monjurul Ahsan Khan, executive president of the federation opposing the strike, said at the press conference at the National Press Club that the strike was called from June 22 'undemocratically and intentionally'.

"We were not properly informed before June 7 when the strike was announced at a press conference as we opposed it since they raised the

issue," Khan told reporters.

Khan said that he and some other leaders suggested a dialogue with the government to realise the 11-point demands and said if the negotiation failed then the federation would go on strike.

He also alleged that the strike aimed at rehabilitating some "mastans" patronised by some of the federation leaders and who were ousted from the terminals last March.

"We opposed hooliganism and considering the sufferings of the students during HSC examination we were against the strike," the executive president said.

He urged the government to resolve the crisis through negotiation with the striking

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Opposition call to make June 30 march a success

By Staff Correspondent

A joint meeting of the representatives of Awami League, the five-party combine, Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) and Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote yesterday called upon all concerned to make the June 30 march towards the Jatiya Sangsad a success.

The meeting held at the AL central office with the deputy leader of the opposition and AL presidium member Abdus Samad Azad in the chair adopted a resolution reiterating the call to the government to accept the four-point demands of all opposition parties excluding Jamaat-e-Islami in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Condemning the police

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Govt resorts to terror to cover up failure: Hasina

FARIDPUR, June 27: Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina today blamed the ruling BNP of harbouring terrorists and carrying on killings across the country to repress its political opponents, reports UNB.

"The government chose the path of killings to cover up its failure to run the country," she told a rally of district Awami League protesting the killing of its leader Azizul Islam Razu.

Razu, the publicity secretary of district AL, was killed by miscreants on the night of Eid-ul-Azha (June 12).

Hasina alleged that General Zia had stuck to power by killing 2500 soldiers and following his footsteps the present government also resorted to political killings to prolong its stay in power.

Central leader S M Nurunnabi presided over the meeting, also addressed by district AL president Advocate Mosharraf Hossain MP, general secretary Bipul Ghosh, former president Imamuddin Ahmed, Habibul Hasan Labloo, Farooq Hossain and Nazrul Hasan David.

Hasina, the Awami League president and leader of the Opposition in parliament, accused the government of trampling democratic norms and running the hard-won parliamentary democracy.

She also blasted the government for its failure to contain price spiral causing immense sufferings to common man. Prices of essential commodities have been increased by bypassing the parliament, she

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Move to turn sick jute units into textile mills

By Masud Hasan Khan

Bangladesh is planning to convert a dozen state-owned sick jute industries into composite textile mills.

Italian private entrepreneurs have offered assistance to replace the obsolete jute machinery with textile machines.

Disclosing this, Jute Minister Brig (retd) ASM Hannan Shah told The Daily Star Saturday that the government was also actively considering offering existing structural and land facilities of the 12 public sector sick jute mills to imple-

ment the scheme. "Our response (to the proposal) is positive and we have received clearance from the Prime Minister's office to go ahead with the project," he said.

However, the Minister declined to name the sick jute mills to be turned into textile mills.

Brig Shah will lead a delegation to Rome sometime in September to finalise the proposed project with spinning, weaving, dyeing and printing facilities.

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Talks on ship deal with Islamabad to resume

By Inam Ahmed

Dhaka will resume negotiations on the purchase of two Pakistani container vessels, a deal it postponed following allegations of their inflated cost.

The 1988 agreement was suspended early last year after allegations that the 44.5 million US dollar (22.25 million dollar each) quotations for the vessels were higher than the prevailing international prices.

Pakistan, which provided Bangladesh a loan of 50 million US dollars for the vessels, was unhappy and proposed renegotiations on the deal.

The vessels — 885 TEU each — were under construction at Karachi Shipyard when the agreement was suspended.

Official sources told The Daily Star Monday that Bangladesh, that earlier favoured total scrapping of the agreement, has now agreed to renegotiate the deal considering the friendly relations with Pakistan.

They said concerned officials have already been asked to review the entire deal, especially the price quotations.

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Int'l bidding for Jamuna bridge in September

The first international bidding for the construction of Jamuna multipurpose bridge will take place in September this year, reports BSS.

This was informed at the board meeting of Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) held in the Ministry of Communications Saturday with Communications Minister Oli Ahmed in the chair.

The meeting discussed the latest position of the co-financiers the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the government of Japan, along with Overseas Economic Coop-

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Tehran meet on regional industrialisation today

Star Special by Mahfuz Anam

TEHRAN, June 27: In the backdrop of sweeping economic reforms leading to a dramatic increase in private sector participation in economic development of Asia-Pacific countries, a conference of Ministers of Industries of the region begins here tomorrow (Sunday).

The ministers will adopt a strategy for industrial and technological development, already worked out by senior officials meeting here from June 23, expected to improve the region's industrial and techno-

logical competitiveness, develop human resources and promote intra-regional investment and industrial financing.

Indicating the importance Iran attaches to this conference, President Rafsanjani will inaugurate the event, which will be participated by 20 ministers and high officials from the 30 countries participating in the Tehran conference.

Bangladesh will be represented by the Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan and the

Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment K G Mostafa.

Organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific — ESCAP — in co-operation with the government of Iran, the meeting is expected to give special attention to the problems of the region's Least Developed Countries whose economies remain technologically and industrially backward due to lack of resources, lack of investable capital and large population.

An ESCAP report submitted to the conference observes that since the last such meeting held six years ago, most countries of the region have undergone rapid industrial and technological changes.

While such measures as economic reforms, trade liberalisation, technological innovations and integration with global financial markets have led to growth in some cases, others have suffered adverse consequences from protectionism, emerging trade blocs and limited access to new

technologies.

The report further observes that the region's developing countries are in short supply of investment capital needed to boost growth and lack the competitive edge for their products that would ensure them a share of the international and regional markets.

The strategy that the ministers are expected to adopt will deal with promoting competitiveness of manufactured products, development of industrial and technological ski-

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