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NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina returns today

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina returns home this morning from London, Awami League sources said. She left Dhaka on July 10 for USA to attend a conference in New York held under the auspices of National Democratic Institute. The Awami League chief also visited United Kingdom and Canada where she attended a number of receptions and party meetings, reports UNB.

Energy Council reconstituted

The government has reconstituted the National Council on Energy and Mineral Resources making it an all powerful body to take all decisions regarding the sector. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is the Chairman of the 17-member new council, UNB.

West Patiya College closed sine die

CHITTAGONG, Aug 4: The West Patiya AG Chowdhury College here has been closed sine die following a clash between two rival student organisations and deterioration of law and order on the college campus, a press release signed by Mohammad Yunus, principal of the college said here tonight, reports BSS.

OCASI team due next month

Japan will carry out a feasibility study on the construction of a full-fledged road bridge nearby the Hardinge rail bridge over the River Padma. An official handout said yesterday that a survey team from the Overseas Construction Association, Japan Incorporated (OCASI) will visit Bangladesh next month in this connection.

RU admission test results published

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Aug 4: Rajshahi University first year admission test results of Science, Law Life and Earth Science faculty have been published today. Admission for these faculties begins tomorrow and will continue till August 26 without fine, says a press release.

PM defends Home Minister

AL, allies give no-confidence motion notice today

By Mahfuz Ullah & Nurul Kabir

The Opposition parties in Parliament, barring the Jamaat-e-Islami, will submit a no-confidence motion notice against the government of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) today.

Making a one-minute announcement in his Parliament chamber at 9.25 last night, Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, said, "We (meaning Opposition) have unitedly decided to submit the no-confidence motion notice tomorrow."

Nevertheless, Opposition

sources said that seven identical notices of no-confidence motions would be submitted to the Parliament Secretariat separately by leaders of Awami League (AL), Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Jatiya Party (JP), Workers Party, National Awami Party (NAP), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Siraj) and Ganatantri Party.

The position of the independent members and that of the National Democratic Party leader Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury could not be ascertained as they were out of the

country while the Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) was yet to take a decision.

Samad Azad, after the briefing, refused to elaborate further. But when asked whether the decision carried the approval of Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, he said nothing but smiled. He, however, hastened to add that "I am now the acting leader."

Sheikh Hasina is expected back from her trip abroad this morning and Opposition sources said that her approval

was obtained over phone.

Moudud Ahmed, leader of the Jatiya Party (JP) Parliamentary Party, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party, Shamsuddoha, leader of the Parliamentary Party of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Suranjit Sen-gupta of the Ganatantri Party, Shahjahan Siraj of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Siraj), Sajeda Chowdhury, Sheikh Selim, Tofael Ahmed and Salahuddin Yusuf of the AL and Sardar Amjad Hossain and

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JS passes Rangamati local govt council bill

Govt keen to solve CHT problems politically: FM

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman in parliament last night said the government is endeavoring to bring about a political solution of the problems in the hill districts which were gripped with tribal insurgency, reports UNB.

He was winding up discussion on the Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council (Amendment) Bill 1992 which was passed by the House by a voice vote.

The Bill provides for deferring by 180 days the election to the Local Government Parishad of the district because of communication difficulties during the rainy season.

Replying to opposition criticism, Mostafiz said the amendment is required to maintain the democratic process in the district and overcome administrative complications.

He said a meaningful election to the district parishad is

not possible during the rainy season because of communication difficulties and jhun cultivation by the local people.

Mostafiz further said the Chief Election Commissioner visited the hill districts on May 25 when local people urged him to postpone the polls to the Local Government Parishad till the winter.

Earlier, more than a score members from the opposition speaking on the bill said the government failed to hold election to the Hill District Parishad because of deteriorating law and order situation. They called for an immediate political solution of the long standing problem of the tribal people and suggested formation of a parliamentary committee with representatives from the districts.

Dual rule of the civil and the military is continuing in the hill districts, the opposition members observed and demanded withdrawal of army

from the region.

BSS adds: The Jatiya Sangsad was last night adjourned abruptly after transacting the legislative business for over four hours when the House was informed of the serious condition of an opposition MP following a road accident.

As the House was in the midst of discussion on the day's second amendment bill relating to the elections of Khagrachhari Hill District local government council, it was told that Awami League member Nazrul Islam from Gouripur, Mymensingh, had met with a road accident while coming to Dhaka from home and was admitted into the Combined Military Hospital here. Islam needed blood. Salahuddin Yusuf, Awami League MP informed the Speaker and urged the members to rush to the hospital and donate blood of his group.

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By Sabir Mustafa

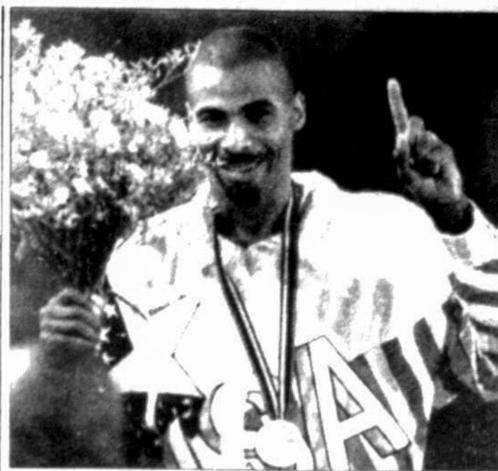
National consensus, or to be more precise, Jatiya Oikkomol' has been the catchphrase of Bangladeshi politics ever since the coming to power of a civilian, representative government in March last year.

From economic development to combatting lawlessness to bringing Golam Azam to book for the genocide of 1971, a cross-floor consensus in parliament is sought regularly, with monotonous failure.

However, raise an issue close to the honourable members' home (or pocket), and consensus appears in a flash, guns blazing and flags fluttering.

When Shamsul Huq, the burly Awami League backbencher with a voice to rival the best and loudest of Europe's opera singers, re-

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US triple jumper Mike Conley gestures as he displays the gold medal on the podium of the Montjuic Stadium in Barcelona Monday. — AFP photo

Kenyans angry as gold goes to Moroccan

BARCELONA, Aug 4: Kenya's Olympic team reacted furiously on Tuesday to the reinstatement of a Moroccan runner as men's 10,000 metres gold medalist. It was the biggest row of the Barcelona Games, reports Reuter.

Chinese women's volleyball player Wu Dan became the first athlete to be drummed out of the Games for drugs when testers found a tonic she took for tiredness contained strychnine.

Angry CIS fencers threatened not to compete in the Olympic team epee starting on Wednesday unless they received a promised cash bonus from their old Soviet paymasters for becoming world champions last year.

In sporting action, love conquered all. Sweethearts Susi Susanti and Allan Budi Kusuma gave Indonesia their first gold medals in the men's and women's badminton singles.

Lu Lin and Wang Tao of China maintained Asia's stronghold on Olympic table tennis when they beat Germany's Steffen Fetzner and Jorg

Roskopf to win the men's doubles gold medal.

And there was more joy for Asia when South Korea's archers added the women's team title to their gold and silver double for Cho Youn-Jeong and Kim Soo-Nyung in the individual event.

But it was action outside the sporting arenas which grabbed most attention on day 10 of the Games.

The Kenyan team lodged a protest with International Amateur Athletic Federation president Primo Nebiolo after Moroccan Khalid Sekhawi was re-

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BARCELONA, Aug 4: Following is the Olympics medals table on the tenth day of competition on Tuesday (tabulated—Gold, Silver, Bronze): (It includes gold medal restored to Morocco and adds four medals awarded Tuesday):

	G	S	B
Unified Team	32	27	20
United States	20	24	22
Germany	16	12	21
China	14	18	11
Hungary	10	7	2
Spain	9	1	0
France	7	4	12
South Korea	7	4	7
Australia	6	8	9
Canada	6	1	6
Italy	4	5	7
Romania	4	5	6
Cuba	4	2	7
Britain	4	3	4
Japan	3	7	7
Poland	3	4	6
Czechoslovakia	2	2	1
Norway	2	2	0
Indonesia	2	1	1
Turkey	2	1	1
Netherlands	1	3	6
New Zealand	1	4	4
Bulgaria	1	5	2
North Korea	1	0	2
Brazil	1	1	0
Estonia	1	0	1
Sweden	0	4	3
Belgium	0	1	2
Yugoslavia	0	1	2
Denmark	0	0	3
Israel	0	1	1

Rohingya refugees

Ukhia people block roads to demand early repatriation

By Staff Correspondent

Local people set up roadblocks at Ukhia on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway on Tuesday demanding an early repatriation of more than quarter of a million Rohingya Muslim refugees camped in Bangladesh, sources at Cox's Bazar said.

The sources reached by telephone said the protesters

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PM's Bahrain trip will be curtain-raiser to closer ties

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's 24-hour trip to Bahrain, the first ever by a Bangladesh head of state or government, is being seen more as a curtain raiser in the bilateral relations with the tiny Arab emirate. Begum Zia leaves for Manama Saturday.

The 'goodwill' visit, preceding her much talked-about Pakistan trip, officials say, offers opportunity for building a

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Babita bagged too much from Bangkok

By Staff Correspondent

Babita and Champa, the country's two top film actresses, shopped too much in Bangkok to be forced to pay a fine to the tune of Tk 50,289 by the customs authorities at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

A customs surveillance team led by Additional Collector Sheikh Shahidul Islam seized a good many number of items, not allowed under the baggage rule, which included VCR, mu-

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Retirement in army

Correction

Star Report

A Brigadier in the Army Medical Corps, Shaifur Rahman, not Brigadier Sharif Aziz, as reported in The Daily Star yesterday, has been forced into retirement.

Apart from the names mentioned in the report, another officer, Col Harun-U-Rashid, deputed to the BDR, was also forced into retirement.



Rent-a-car from the Muktagong: Muktagong, a city park next to the General Post Office (GPO) has now been turned into a "car park" by a section of "rent a car" businessmen. The park was once developed to be the venue of public meetings, but most of the political parties and organisations preferred Baitul Mokarram or the press club premises and had seldom used the venue. The cab owners alleged that as they were evicted from their traditional parkings, the roadside areas, so they had to occupy the part to continue their business.

Azam's petition is liable to be rejected for long delay: AG

The writ petition of Golam Azam is liable to be rejected summarily for delay and laches, the Attorney General yesterday told the court dealing with the Jamaat leader's citizenship case, reports UNB.

"This long delay is inexcusable, because a sword had been hanging on shoulder for last 12 years and even then he was not cautious, careful and prompt enough to come to the court," Aminul Huq said.

Therefore, the government lawyer pleaded, the petition is liable to be rejected summarily for the undue delay and negligence.

The petition seeking relief under writ jurisdiction is guilty of undue delay and laches, and this petition must fail," the attorney quoted in this context a judgement by Late Justice Mahbob Morshed.

On the 13th day of hearing of the writ petition, the government pleader told a division bench of the High Court that the grounds showed by the petitioner that he applied to the government upon his

arrival in Bangladesh in 1978 and that the government in 1980 told him that the matter was under consideration are not satisfactory explanation for making 12 years of delay and can't be exonerated.

"Though there is no specific period of limitation for filing writ petition, the High Court may refuse this extraordinary power as available to High Court under Article-102 of the constitution where petitioner is guilty of laches and undue delay, for which there is no satisfactory explanation," Huq said.

To further substantiate his proposition, he referred to the judgement by the Late Justice (Mahbob Morshed) in two other cases wherein the writ petitions were spurned.

In the case between Standard Vacuum Oil Company versus the Trustee of the Port of Chittagong, the judgement held: There is no law of limitation as such, with regard to writ petition, but it is well settled that the High Court will refuse to exercise its discre-

tion to issue direction or orders of a light nature, if the petitioner do not come to court with due diligence and expedition. Petitioners are not entitled to speedy and summary relief, if they are themselves guilty of undue delay and laches in seeking it.

The writ petition in this case was filed after 6 years.

The other case, which was pleaded by Late Hussain Shahid Suhrawardy, was between Aktaruddin Khan versus the Province of East Pakistan.

In this case, Justice Morshed's verdict was: No period of limitation has been prescribed by law with regard to the filing of writ petition, it has, however, been consistently held that an aggrieved party seeking a speedy relief such as issuance of a direction given in summary proceedings must show due diligence asking for such relief. The right to seek relief under writ jurisdiction has not been described as right to invoke... Therefore, a petition seeking relief under

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Kidnap fear grips city

By Staff Correspondent

Panic over alleged threats to kidnap school students continues to scare guardians, teachers as well as the students in the city.

A rumour spread almost all over the city that a group of anonymous 'kidnappers' was making telephone calls and sending letters to different school authorities threatening to kidnap school students unless ransoms were paid to them.

When this correspondent visited some city schools Tuesday, lower than normal attendance of students was observed in some schools and the guardians were found anxious following the rumour.

Authorities of the Maple Leaf International School in Dhanmondi tightened security during school hours and the students were released only after they identified their guardians when classes were over.

A guardian of a student of Moghbazar Girls High School told The Daily Star that the

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Fight against terrorism, Khaleda tells students

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the student community to fight against terrorism in the same spirit as they fought against autocracy for nine years to establish democracy, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister said unless we could eradicate terrorism, it would be difficult to successfully implement any development programme.

Speaking on the occasion of joining JCD of more than 300 student leaders and workers from different student organisations led by CUCSU Vice-President Najimuddin at the Sugandha in Dhaka yesterday evening, Begum Khaleda Zia said, "We have to solve unemployment problem and illiteracy unitedly to take the nation to the path of progress."

Begum Khaleda Zia stressed the need for unity of all sections of people to help consolidate democracy which has been established by forcing out the autocratic regime. In this connection she said, "BNP believes in multi-party democracy and also welcomes con-

last year for use as a component in agricultural fertilizer without the consent of either nation.

"This case is tangible evidence of the United States' commitment to prosecute people who are willing to sacrifice the environmental health of developing nations for illegal profit," the US Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Administrator, Greer Tidwell, was quoted in the report as having said in a statement.

Of the four firms, one was indicated for generating the toxic dust while another for converting the material while the third for allegedly marketing the product.

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Star Special

A large quantity of hazardous toxic waste was reportedly shipped to Bangladesh by some American firms late last year, according to information reaching Dhaka from the United States.

A US Federal Grand Jury in Charleston, South Carolina, recently indicted four companies for allegedly exporting more than 3,000 tons of hazardous wastes to Bangladesh and Australia. Three company officials were also charged in the indictment.

A United Press International (UPI) report published in US journals quoted prosecutors as saying that the waste, a dusty material containing toxic lead and cadmium, was shipped in October

without the consent of either nation.

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