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NEWS BRIEFS

Biswas arrives in Jeddah

JEDDAH, May 26: President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Begum Biswas arrived here this afternoon to perform holy Hajj. The President was received at the royal pavilion of the King Abdul Aziz International Airport by Prince Majed bin Abdul Aziz, Governor of Makkah, reports BSS.

Khaleda goes to Feni today

FENI, May 26: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will visit the district tomorrow (Thursday). She will open the "Mirza Nagar Bridge" on the day at 11 am. The Prime Minister is also scheduled to inaugurate a new collectorate building there at 12:30 pm. It has been built at a cost of Tk 2.10 crore, reports UNB.

New one taka note from May 30

The Bangladesh Bank will put into circulation a new currency note of one taka denomination from May 30. The new note to be issued from the Dhaka office of the Bangladesh Bank will have the signature of Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed on it having the same colour, water print, design and security thread like the one taka note already in circulation, reports BSS.

Sunstroke kills one in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, May 26: An old man died of sunstroke at a village in Kaziপুর thana today (Wednesday). He was identified as Sitkander Ali (56), a farmer of village Kinarbez, reports UNB.

Supreme Court restores Pak NA, Sharif govt

ISLAMABAD, May 26: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif swept back to power today, reinstated by a historic Supreme Court decision overturning President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's dissolution of parliament last month, report Reuters, AFP.

"We honour the judiciary for taking a decision that has strengthened democracy in Pakistan," Sharif told reporters.

"Almighty Allah has vindicated us," Sharif told hundreds of cheering supporters before offering prayers in Islamabad's huge Faisal Mosque and at the tomb of his mentor, the late military dictator General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq.

"Down with dog Ishaq," the crowd roared back. Hundreds of Sharif supporters who had thronged the court building greeted the decision with jubilant shouts of

"Long Live Nawaz Sharif" and "Long Live the Supreme Court." Hundreds of people danced on streets while the business community distributed sweets, embracing each other in unprecedented jubilation.

Sporadic bursts of gunfire echoed in some cities as jubilant supporters celebrated the political resurrection of the reformist Prime Minister, although the public response was muted in his powerbase in the Punjab provincial capital of Lahore.

The President issued a statement saying he would respect the court's decision, a slap in the face to the 78-year-old bureaucrat who thrived through years of martial law under Zia to become president on Zia's death in a 1988 plane crash.

"President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has always tried, to the best of his wisdom and belief,

to act in accordance with the constitution and the law," a spokesman said.

The judges of the Supreme Court voted 10 to one to declare the president's April 18 dissolution of the National Assembly and dismissal of Sharif and his 30-month-old government outside the limits of his power.

"We hold that the order of 18th April 1993, passed by the President of Pakistan, is not within the ambit of the powers conferred on the President... and has therefore been passed without lawful authority," the judgement said.

"As a consequence of our order," the National Assembly, Prime Minister and the cabinet shall stand restored and entitled to function as immediately before the impugned order was passed.

The court also held invalid the caretaker government of

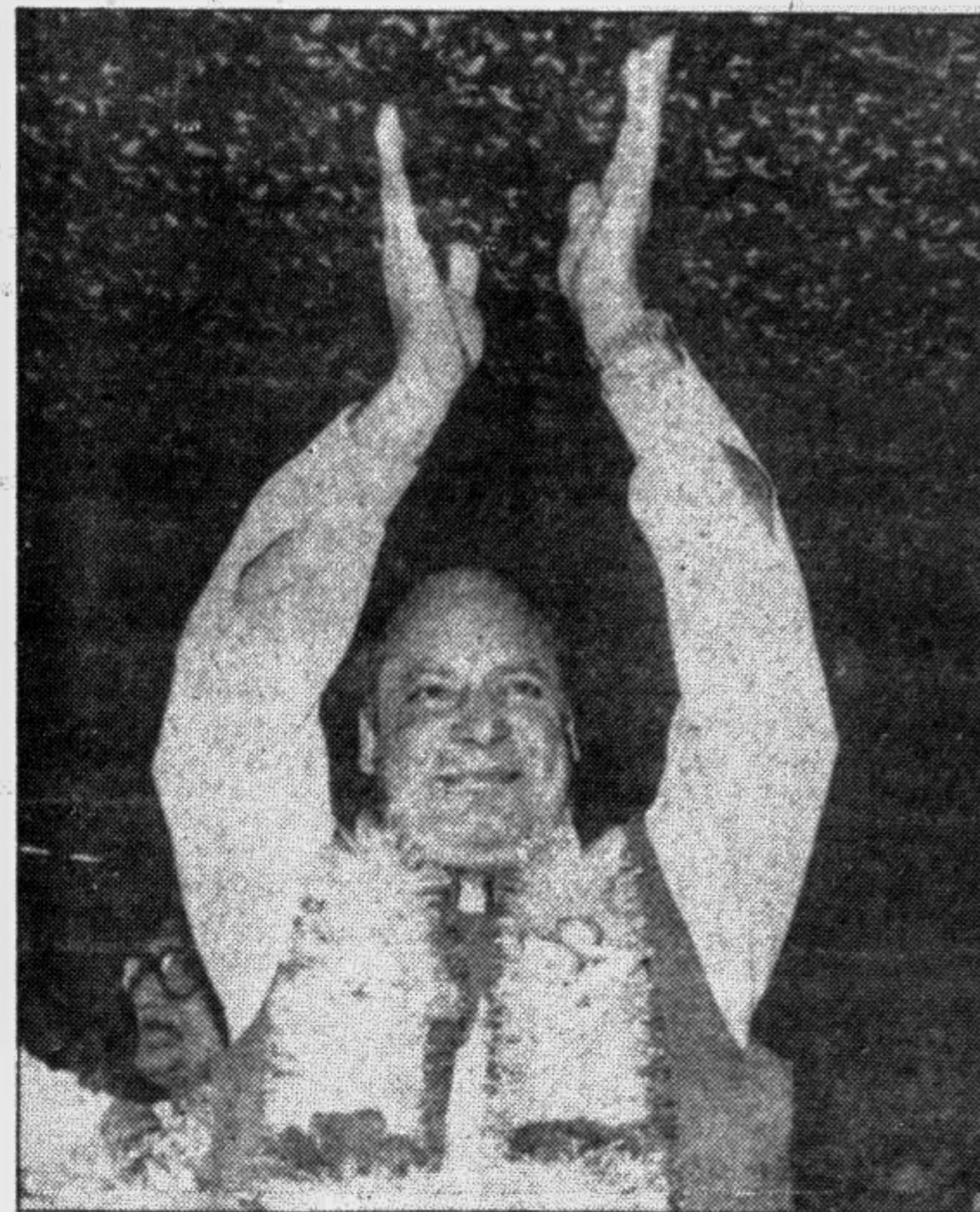
Balkh Sher Mazari appointed by Ishaq Khan, 78, soon after he had fired Sharif.

It refused to grant a request from the government for the suspension of today's order to enable it to file a review petition.

"A new chapter has been written in the history of Pakistan," said Sharif's lawyer Khalid Anwar, beaming with joy while one of his chamber colleagues was seen wiping tears in his eyes.

The landmark judgement announced by Chief Justice Nasim Hassan Shah which cancels the order of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, was passed by 10 judges against one.

National Assembly Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan called a session of the lower house of parliament for Thursday and was expected to ask for a vote of



A triumphant Nawaz Sharif

— AFP photo

What next in Pak politics?

ISLAMABAD, May 26: The Supreme Court's decision today to overturn the dissolution of the National Assembly dissolved by the President and to restore sacked premier Nawaz Sharif was historic but strains Pakistan political balance, reports AFP.

The court decision, passed by 10 votes to one, puts back at the head of the country two men who make no secret of their hate for one another: Nawaz Sharif, 43 and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, 78, the chief of state who fired him on April 18 for "incompetence, corruption and nepotism."

Sharif said recently "the old man" should be lynched if he did not step down.

The judges were not swayed by the argument of the Attorney General, defender of the presidential cause, who said the fight between the two would be impossible for them to work together.

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BNP hails Pak SC judgement

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) last night hailed the full bench judgement of the Pakistan Supreme Court reinstating the democratic government of Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif, as a victory of the people of Pakistan, reports BSS.

In a statement the BNP lauded the judgement for restoring the democratically elected parliament of Pakistan.

The BNP said the judgement had clearly demonstrated the Pakistan Supreme Court's commitment to upholding the rule of law and denouncing the arbitrary exercise of constitutional power.

Removal of Bangla Academy chairman demanded

By Staff Correspondent The Sammilita Sangskritik Jote yesterday held a rally in front of the Bangla Academy to protest the appointment of Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury as its new chairman.

"A person like Chowdhury who had been removed from the bench on charges everybody should be ashamed of, and who has always been vocal against the Banglae culture, Tagore songs, the national anthem and all progressive activities, can never be given the post of Chairman of the Bangla Academy," convenor of the Jote Faiz Ahmed told the rally.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Golam Kuddus and Kamal Pasha Chowdhury.

"This appointment disregards the High Court's verdict on Chowdhury," Faiz claimed. "It also violates the constitution."

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Take steps for early return of Rohingyas, PM asks Myanmar

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the Myanmar authorities to take all steps for early repatriation of all the Rohingya refugees sheltered in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

She made the call when the visiting Home Minister of Myanmar, Lt Gen Mya Thin, called on the Prime Minister at her office in the afternoon.

"You know we are a poor country and our resources are limited. We can't sustain the pressure of the refugees for long," Begum Zia told the Myanmar minister, now on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh.

Referring to the traditional

good relations between the two neighbouring countries, the Prime Minister said the ties could further be strengthened by resolving the refugee problem.

Mya Thin assured full cooperation in maintaining the good relations that exist between Dhaka and Yangon.

The Myanmar Home Minister said UNCHR Chief Sadako Ogata had been invited by his (Myanmar) government and expressed his belief that the refugee issue would be resolved soon.

Some 295,000 Myanmar refugees crossed into Bangladesh in 1991 and only about 25 thousand of them

have so far been repatriated under bilateral accords.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister KM Rabbani were present during the meeting.

Another report says, Lt General Mya Thin Wednesday discussed with Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman various aspects of the Rohingya problem.

Sources close to the meeting, held at the Foreign Office, said both ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress of the repatriation of the Myanmar refugees.

The two ministers also dis-

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Khaleda seeks corruption-free banking for development

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka yesterday that corruption-free and dedicated services of the country's banking sector were essential for attaining the targets of development, reports BSS.

Addressing the newly elected office-bearers of the Sonali Bank Employees' Association, the bank's Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA), at her Sugandha office, Begum Zia said the banking sector employees had a great responsibility in ensuring better and sincere services from financial institutions to help the people achieve their economic emancipation.

Stressing the need for poverty alleviation for attaining desired development, the Prime Minister said it should be kept in mind that poverty alleviation was a must for ensuring further rise and growth of nationalist forces of the country.

She said nationalist politics was difficult because it called for dedication, sacrifice and struggle for emancipation. Moreover, since the nationalist forces wanted real development and welfare of the country they had many enemies, she said.

Begum Zia said nationalist forces had to work unitedly in all sectors to overcome the hindrances created in the path of the nation's progress by element who did not have allegiance to the nation.

The Prime Minister said people wanting to set up self-employment projects should be assured of faster bank loans on easy terms to attain development.

"We have to proceed unhindered in establishing small and medium size self-employment projects," she said.

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15 injured as transport workers clash in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, May 26: At least 15 persons were injured in a clash between two groups of transport workers here midnight last night.

The clash began soon after the results of the Narayanganj District Transport Workers' Union polls were announced at around midnight.

During the nearly two-hour clash, six buses and auto-rickshaws were damaged. The feuding groups exploded crackers and used sticks and iron rods while the police used batons to disperse them. Originating at the bus terminal, the clash spread to the two rail-gates, the DIT market, Palpara and the Chashara area.

Some election camps at the terminal were also burnt down. Police arrested transport workers Nurul Amin, Shah Alam, Zahurul Haq and Liton in connection with the incident.

Seriously injured Ishaq, Iskandar and Manju were admitted to the Narayanganj Hospital.

Bus communication with the capital was suspended until Wednesday noon.

The transport workers' elections were won by the Harun-Amin panel.

Talks on Chakmas begin Modalities for return to be worked out

NEW DELHI, May 26: India and Bangladesh today decided to work out detailed modalities to ensure early repatriation of Chakma refugees settled in southern Tripura, reports PTI.

A decision to this effect was taken at a high level official meeting held between the representatives of both the countries at Agartala, the capital of the northeastern state.

BSS adds: A four-member Bangladesh team led by Home Secretary Azimuddin Ahmed left Dhaka Wednesday for Agartala for a two-day official-level talks with India to work out the details of repatriation of the Chakma refugees.

CPB split now seems unavoidable

By Nurul Kabir

A split in the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) is now almost inevitable.

Leaders of the reformist faction of the party have secretly proposed to the hardline faction that two separate council sessions of the feuding groups be held next month.

The proposal came last week from CPB president Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, a protagonist of major reforms in the party, following growing pressure from the rank and file to retain the party ideology and flag.

The special council session, to decide on the fate of the party, is now scheduled for June 15-16.

The reformist faction has also proposed to the hardliners that the party's property — movable and immovable — be equally divided among both factions.

A four-man committee, with two members from each faction, has already been constituted to ensure equal shares for the conflicting groups.

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and Shekhar Dutt represent the reformist faction in the committee while the hardliners are represented by Mujahidul Islam Selim and Sunil Roy.

According to sources in

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Nurses, lensmen beaten up by police in city

By Staff Correspondent

Scores of nurses and four photo journalists were injured when police baton-charged a procession of nurses near the Secretariat in the capital Wednesday morning.

Hundreds of nurses marched to the Secretariat to submit a memorandum to the Minister for Health and Family Planning in support of their demands.

The demands included filling up of a vacant post of a nursing director on the basis of seniority, cancellation of transfer-order of the Principal of the Nursing College, and filling up of 38 vacant posts of nursing officers.

Witnesses said that police resorted to baton-charge as the agitating nurses broke a police cordon to enter the Secretariat at around 10:30 in the morning.

Four press photographers — A K Enamul Haque of The Daily Star, Shamsul Haq Tenku of Bhorer Kagoj, Shahidullah of Banglar Bani and Rafiqur Rahman of the Bangladesh Times — who were taking snaps of the police action against the nurses were severely beaten up by police.

At one stage nurses and the police chased each other and there were scuffles between

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To kill or not to kill a tiger

The Forest Department refuses to declare a particular Royal Bengal Tiger in the Chandpai range of the Sundarbans as a "man-eater".

A recent survey by the Forest Department had confirmed 13 incidents of man-eating in the last three months till May 14 in the Chandpai region.

According to sources, UNDP experts had requested the measure after an alarming increase in reports of tigers killing human beings in the north-eastern region of the forest.

Under the laws protecting wildlife in Bangladesh, hunters are allowed to kill a tiger only after it is declared a "man-eater".

A recent survey by the Forest Department had confirmed 13 incidents of man-eating in the last three months till May 14 in the Chandpai region.

The forest compartments where tigers killed human beings are: Nos. 2, 13, 12a, 25, 27, 28 and 22. The Bangladesh part of the Sundarbans consists of 55 compartments, covering an area of 5770 square

kms. The Forest Department, in support of its reluctance to describe any tiger as a "man-eater", says that before signing the death warrant of a tiger by dubbing a cat a "man-eater", it must first be clearly identified and its modus operandi properly observed. Otherwise, innocent tigers might be killed by hunters who often ignore proper procedure. The Royal Bengal Tiger is a protected species.

The Forest Department also

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Advertisement for a contest: আগামী ১৫ই এপ্রিল ১০ টাকা প্রাইজ বন্ডের ১০৯ তম ড্র. এই ড্র অনুষ্ঠিত হবে ঢাকায় বিয়ে, জন্মদিন এবং যে কোন শুভ অনুষ্ঠানে উপহার হিসেবে প্রাইজ বন্ডের তুলনা হয় না। ১০ টাকা প্রাইজ বন্ডের প্রতিটি সিরিজে পুরস্কার রয়েছে: ৫০,০০০ টাকার ১টি, ১০,০০০ টাকার ১টি, ১,০০০ টাকার ৪টি, ৫০০ টাকার ৪টি এবং ১০০ টাকার ৯০টি. প্রতি ড্র'তে অনেক সিরিজে, আর তাই লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার পুরস্কার। পুরস্কারের টাকা সম্পূর্ণ আয়করমুক্ত। প্রাইজ বন্ডের পুরস্কারের টাকা বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক থেকে পরিশোধ করা হয়। তাই সরাসরি বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক উপস্থিত হয়ে অথবা ক্রেডিট কার্ড ডাক মারফত পুরস্কারের টাকা দাবী করা যায়। এছাড়া বন্ধুত্বাী যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক কিংবা ডাকঘরের মাধ্যমেও পুরস্কারের টাকা দাবী করতে পারেন। জাতীয় সংঘর্ষ পরিদপ্তর. অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, পণ্যপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. ৬৯/বি, শ্রীপ রোড (পাছ পথ) ঢাকা-১২০৫।