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DHAKA TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1993

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NEWS BRIEFS

Biswas, Khaleda greet Rafsanjani

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on his re-election as President of Iran. In a message to the Iranian President, President Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Zia wished him good health, happiness and long life, reports UNB.

Arms recovered, four held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, June 14: Four youngmen were arrested on charge of terrorism from north Hingla hilly areas in Raujan thana and seized one cut-rifle from their possession early today. The arrested persons are Dulal, Firoz Mia, Nur Mia and Akhter Hossain. Police said they seized one foreign made cut-rifle, two rounds of cartridge and one ram dao from their possession when they were preparing to commit crime, reports UNB.

Life term for killing wife

By Our Court Correspondent

The Additional District and Sessions Judge Dhaka yesterday sentenced one Reazuddin to life imprisonment and to pay a fine of Tk 10,000 for killing his

After hearing 20 witnesses, Judge Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan passed the order under Sec 302 of the Penal Code for the murder of Aleya Begum on June 5 last year.

Reazuddin had tried to cover up the murder by claiming to neighbours it was a case of elec-

trocution. Reazuddin was arrested by the Lalbagh police last year.

Constituent Assembly meets

Sihanouk gains 'full powers' to stabilise Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, June 14: Cambodia's multi-party constituent assembly elected under UN supervision met for the first time Monday and voted to give Prince Norodom Sthanouk unspecified "full and special powers" as Head of State, reports

The move was an attempt to fulfill a "vital need for a state of calm," according to the resolution, and unify a Cambodia that is further dividing itself.

'The Constituent Assembly has decided to give Prince Sihanouk back his title of Head of State, to give all power to him to organize and to stabilize the country," Cambodian People's Party (CPP) representative Khieu Kanharith said.

The heads of the country's

three factions - Prince Norodom Ranadriddh of Funcinpec, Chea Sim of the CPP and Son Sann of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party - met with Prince Sihanouk following the meeting.

During the assembly, Prince Sihanouk launched an appeal to the factions "to put an immediate end to the partition of Cambodia.

Ilis other son, Prince Norodom Chakrapong, the. brother and arch-rival of Prince Ranariddh, announced Saturday the creation of an autonomous zone comprising seven provinces east of the Mekong river.

Prince Chakrapong is protesting the results of last month's elections in which

Funcinpec won without an absolute majority.

Prime Minister Hun Sen intended to leave today for one of the eastern provinces, Kompong Cham, where his brother, the Governor was leading the anti-UN drive.

The secessionists have demanded that UN personnel leave their zones.

UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi also addressed the assembly, repeating that the elections had been "free and

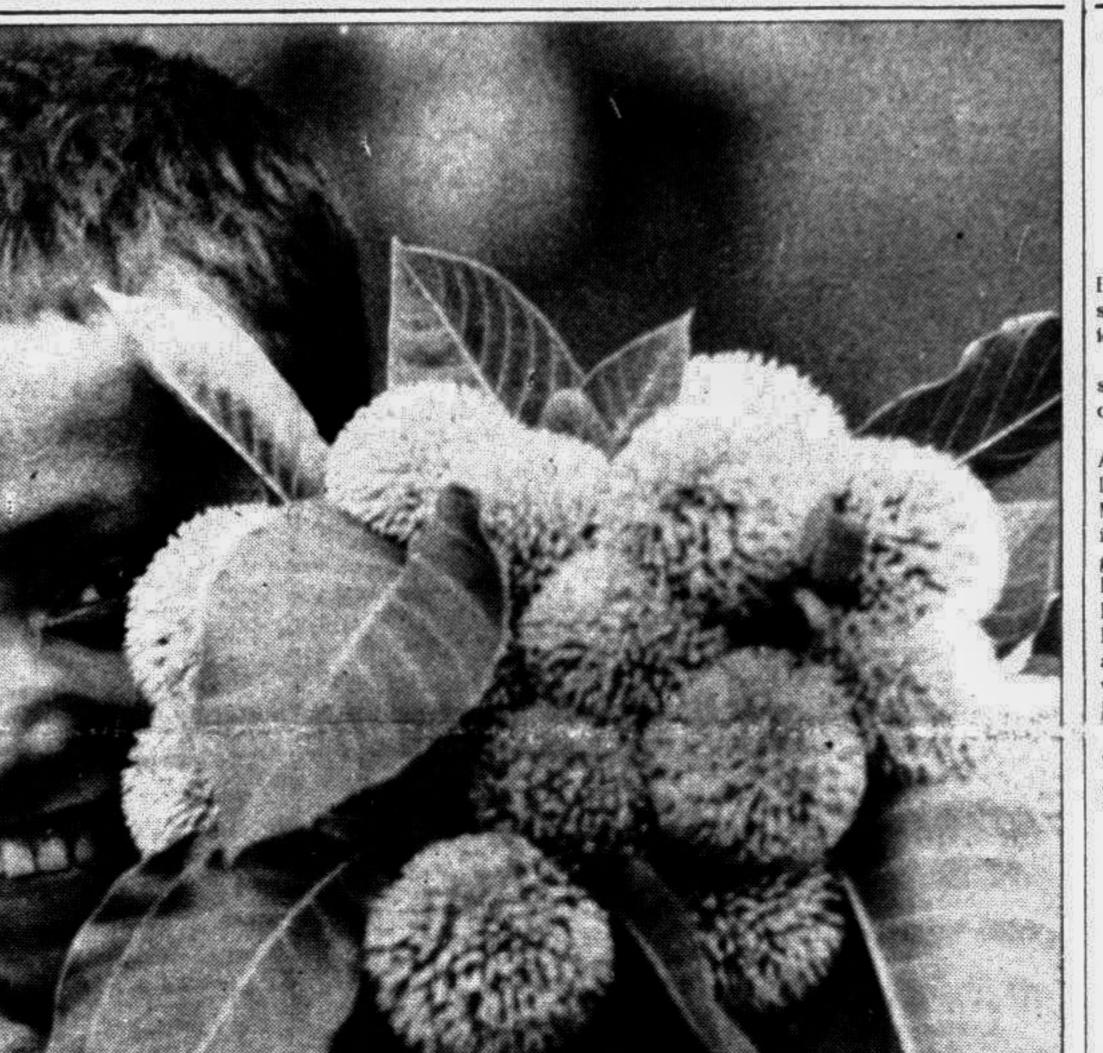
"Your presence here is a clear affirmation of democracy in Cambodia and of the unmistakable will of the people to become the masters of their own country," Akashi said.

Several seats were left vacant during the meeting, including as least two hardliners who had joined Prince Chakrapong in his

secessionist move. An earlier report said, Prince Sthanouk made appeal while he opened the Constituent Assembly here.

"I launch an appeal to the responsible factions so they put an end without delay to the partition of Cambodia," the former monarch and current nominal Head of State said before the deputies.

Sthanouk, who was warmly greeted by the assembly, asked the deputies to achieve "peace through national reconciliation national union, a general and definitive cease-fire throughout all national territory."



Today is the first day of Ashar, the Bengali month which marks the onset of the rainy season. The "Kadam" is a flower that is - Star photo by AKM Mohsin traditionally associated with the season.

State should be best guarantor of human rights, says Ghali

VIENNA, June 14: The international community has the right to step in when individual states abuse their people, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told a major Human Rights conference today, reports Reuter.

In a keynote speech at the opening of the UN world conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Boutros-Ghali rejected the cloak of "non-interference" used by authoritarian regimes to conceal their crimes and urged global democracy.

The state should be the best guarantor for human rights ... however, the issue of international action must be raised when state proves unworthy of this task ... when far from being protectors they become tormentors," he said.

The international community ... must take over from the states that fail to fulfil their obligations," Boutros-Ghali added. "That does not in my

view, harm our contemporary notion of sovereignty."

In keeping with UN practice. Boutros-Ghali did not point the finger at any state by name, nor did he specify how errant states would be stopped from abusing

However, he cited the creation of a UN war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia as an example of new instruments to punish violators. With the tribunal's creation in February. "the Security Council has given itself and entirely new mandate," he said.

China, India, Indonesia and several Middle East states strongly oppose the idea of outside interference to uphold human rights, insisting they have the right to set their own priori-

They argue that collective, economic needs must come first, that individual rights as enshrined in the West are in part irrelevant to their cultures

or stage of development.

Chinese*pressure on the UN organisers of the conference has so far kept the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, from attending the proceedings.

Nobel peace prize winners boycotted the opening in protest and activist groups unfurled a banner saying "Save Tibet" as Boutros-Ghali banged the gavel to start the two-week debate.

"Asian states in particular are trying to hinder the outcome of the conference," said Adrien-Claude Zoller, coordinator for hundreds of non-governmental organisations taking part in the conference.

Zoller also named Syria, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Cuba as examples of states whose government cling to the principle of "non-interfer-

"This is a world conference of governments and governments are here to protect their interests," Zoller said.

HC verdict on Azam

Hearing of prayer for leave to

appeal adjourned

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday adjourned till June 28 the hearing of the petition for leave to appeal against the verdict of the High Court Division that Prof Golam Azam is a citizen of Bangladesh, report BSS.

The four member bench presided over by Justice Habibur Rahman, granted two weeks time when Attorney General Aminul Huq prayed for adjournment shortly after it re-

sumed Monday morning. The Appellate Division stayed the operation of the judgement on April 27 and order of the High Court Division declaring Prof Golam Azam as

a citizen of Bangladesh. Justice Anwarul Huq Chowdhury of the High Court Division in his April 22 judgement held that Golam Azam is a citizen of Bangladesh by birth.

Convertibility of Taka: Sop for exporters

By Special Correspondent

Starting from sometime in fiscal year 1993-94, exporters will be able to sell all of their foreign exchange earnings to the authorised dealers. Importers will be able to buy these foreign exchange at a rate determined by prevailing supply-demand conditions.

This convertibility of the Taka on trade account will replace the current system under which exporters can retain only 5-10 per cent of their export carnings and have to sell the remaining part to Bangladesh

In 1992-93 Bangladesh's export earning stood at an estimated US 2.5 billion dollar. If this amount is made fully convertible the current system of

periodic adjustment of exchange rate by the Bangladesh Bank on the basis of exchange rate movement in US dollar, Japanese Yen, British Poundsterling and the German Mark markets will no longer be of major relevance. The forces of supply

ghties. Between 1985 and 1991 the exchange rate of the Taka depreciated by about 10 per cent in real terms. Since the Nineties depreciation of the Taka in real terms slowed down as imports slumped and Bangladesh Bank started to ac-

News Analysis

and demand in the 2.5 billion dollar export market and 4 billion dollar import market will sweep away the central bank's direct influence on setting the

exchange rate. Bangladesh adopted a system of flexible exchange rate management in the mid-Eicumulate foreign exchange reserves. During the last year when countries like India and Pakistan were busy preventing their reserves from falling to alarming levels by adjusting their exchange rate, Bangla desh's substantial reserve per mitted her the luxury of making

only one adjustment in the exchange rate: on April 24, 1993 the exchange rate of the Taka has been refixed at Tk 39.60 (middle rate) from 39.00 - a depreciation of 2.05 per

The comfortable balance of payments situations has allowed the government to take several steps to liberalise the foreign exchange market by easing several quota restrictions: The limit for payment of subscriptions to professional bodies has been doubled from 100 dollar to 200 dollar, exporters are allowed to retain upto 10 per cent of their earnings for business travel and other purposes and prior ap-See Page 12 Col 6

ECNEC may okay 5 new medical colleges

By Masud Hasan Khan

The government is likely to approve soon five more medical colleges for them to start functioning officially.

Official sources said Monday the colleges, located at Dinajpur, Bogra, Khulna, Comilia and Faridpur, were expected to turn out about 250 MBBS doctors each year.

A project under the threeyear rolling programme of the government for installing the medical colleges would be placed for consideration at Wednesday's meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), Health Ministry sources told The Daily Star vesterday

The taka 19-crore-plus pro-

ject, once okayed by the ECNEC, would be completed by 1996, they said. However, admission formali-

ties in all these medical colleges have already been completed last year on the directive of the Prime Minister while classes have also begun at some these new institutions.

Explaining the need for setting up of the colleges, one senior official in the Health Ministry said that the project has been taken up by the government to broaden the existing health services and reach it to the doorsteps of the people living in the remote areas of the country.

Presently, there are eight See Page 12 Col 1

Last nail in CPB coffin today

By Staff Correspondent

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) formally splits into two factions on political line today.

Both factions are to hold separate council sessions in the city this morning.

One faction, led by Manzurul Ahsan Khan and Mujahidul Islam Selim, favours upholding Marxism-Leninism as its guiding-ideology while the other group, led by present CPB President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and General Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid, favours abandoning the philosophy which guided the party for the last 45 years.

The hardline faction will hold its council session at the DDS auditorium while the reformists will hold theirs in the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the party property has been equally distributed among the feuding factions. The central office at Purana Paltan has also been bifurcated by a wall. Both factions have also equally split a life. cash amount of Tk 33 lakh.

Meanwhile, an Assistant Judge of the fourth Assistant Judges Court Dhaka will today hear an appeal of two CPB activists who yesterday sought a temporary injunction against holding of separate council sessions and distribution of party property among the feuding

Monirul Hoque Khan and Harendranath Nandi, claiming to be CPB activists, felt that the leaders did not have any right to distribute party assets while the holding of separate sessions was not consistent with the CPB constitution. However, Saifuddin Ahmed

Manik told The Daily Star last night that his faction would form a trustee board, naming it after Moni Singh, to vest in it the authority over the property it acquired following the divi-

The office of the proposed trust would be situated in their half of the party's Purana Paltan office, Manik added.

Manzurul Ahsan Khan informed the Star yesterday that his faction would spend the money in carrying forward the politics for which Moni Singh had struggled throughout his

"And we shall operate from the Purana Paltan office," Khan

Both the factions have decided to temporarily continue See Page 12 Col 3

Dhaka to send peacekeepers to Bosnia

A special meeting of the cabinet was held lastnight at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair to consider the request of the United Nations (UN) made to Bangladesh to depute a mechanized Infantry battalion for the purpose of peacekeeping in Bosnia, reports BSS.

The cabinet decided to respond positively to this request and offer the services of a mechanized Infantry battalion of Bangladesh Army for the purpose.

MP Babu absconds Judge serves show cause

on surety By Staff Correspondent The District and Sessions

Judge, Dhaka yesterday asked the three persons standing surety for accused Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, MP, accused with the murder of businessman Humayun Zahir, why the surety amount should not be realised from them. On a petition by the prose-

cution under Sec 514 of the Cr. P. C., Judge Nastruddin Ahmed vesterday gave Awami League MPs K M Jahangir and Rahmat Ali and Babu's counsel Advocate Abdul Malek until July 3 to explain why the surety amount of Taka 7 lakh should not be charged to them. This follows the issue of

warrants of arrest and confiscation of property of Akhtaruzzaan Babu by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka Saturday after the High Court had cancelled the batl of accused Babu and asked him to surrender before the court by See Page 12 Col 1

Black box, CVR of DC-10 to be

flown to London By Staff Correspondent

The black box and cockpit voice recorder (CVR) of the damaged Biman DC 10-30 will be flown to London Tuesday for decoding, according to the Civil Aviation sources.

Nazmul Huq Chowdhury of the Civil Aviation Authority will fly to London accompanying the black box.

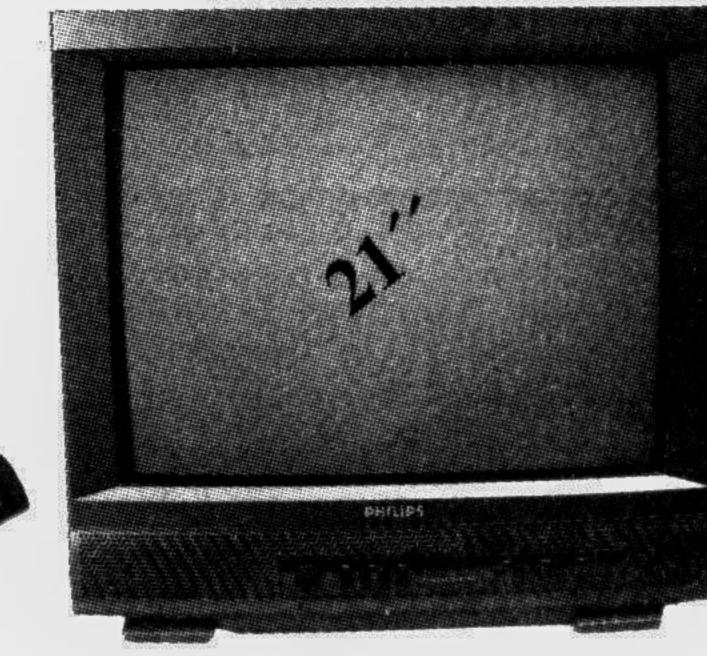
It may take about ten days to decode the signals, sources

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