

Inside Today

Article

Let's Involve Journalists in Discussions on Professionalism in the Media

Column: At Home And Abroad by S. M. Ali Page 4

International

Aideedmen launch fresh attack on UN peacekeepers



Suu Kyi begins her fifth year of house arrest today Page 5

Feature

Environment

Urbanisation and Environment: The Asian Context; No choices, No Forests; Nuclear Dream Up in Smoke Page 8

Business

Pak economy in shambles: Qureshi ADB urges poorer members to rein in population growth Pages 6, 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Joy of Serving the Hessa Fortunata Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Weather affects Biman flight

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, July 19: A Sylhet-Dhaka Bangladesh Biman flight was diverted to Chittagong this afternoon due to inclement weather. An F-28 aircraft that left Osmani Airport here at 5:17 pm for Dhaka had to land at Chittagong with 85 passengers on board, a Biman source here informed.

Punjab caretaker cabinet soon

ISLAMABAD, July 19: Caretaker Chief Minister of Pakistan's Punjab province Sheikh Manzoor Elahi said today that a six to eight-member provincial caretaker cabinet will be announced soon. Talking to newsmen after the oath-taking ceremony at the governor's house in the provincial capital of Lahore this afternoon, he said that his cabinet will comprise non-partisan persons who are not committed to any political party. Only then the fair and impartial general elections in the province will be ensured, he said. The list of four provincial caretaker setups was announced by former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in an address to the nation early this morning, reports Xinhua.

67 killed in fresh Kurdish violence

TATVAN, Turkey, July 19: Sixty-seven people, including 31 separatist rebel Kurds and 26 civilians, have been killed in fresh Kurdish-related violence in the past 24 hours in eastern Turkey, security officials said today, reports Reuters.

Elections on a single day demanded Benazir's call to prevent use of drug money in politics

ISLAMABAD, July 19: Benazir Bhutto, opposition leader and co-chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has demanded that elections for national and provincial assemblies be held on a single day, report Xinhua, Reuter. At a press conference here today, the former Prime Minister said it will reduce the cost of elections and will be easier for the people to vote on the same day. Former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan announced early this morning that fresh general elections for the National Assembly and Provincial

Assemblies would be held on October 6 and 9, respectively. Bhutto said that she had no doubt about the neutrality of caretaker Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi and hoped he would remain neutral, adding that she should be consulted on the formation of the caretaker cabinet. Bhutto appealed to Pakistan's new neutral caretaker government to prevent the use of drug money to buy votes in mid-term elections set for October. "We don't want dirty money, drug money, smuggled money to taint the political life of

Pakistan," she told newsmen "we are against big money in politics." Caretaker Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi, 63, met acting President and former Senate chairman Wasim Sajjad to discuss forming a cabinet to govern in the run-up to elections on October 6, the third polls in less than six years, a government spokesman said. Qureshi, a former World Bank Vice President, flew in from Singapore late on Sunday and took the oath of office in a brief midnight ceremony. Qureshi, who has lung cancer, had initially turned down the

job. "A election held under neutral caretakers will give Pakistan and its people an opportunity to elect... a government that we hope would be able to take the necessary measures to put us on the path of progress and prosperity and lead Pakistan into the 21st century," Bhutto said. Bhutto had campaigned for months for fresh elections, saying the polls that brought her arch-rival Sharif to power after her dismissal as Prime Minister in 1990 had been rigged and many votes had been

Hartals can't stop development: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia last night expressed her firm resolve to continue the development programmes of the government despite disruptive activities of some quarters, reports BSS. Hartals, strikes and barricades would not be able to prevent her government from carrying out welfare-oriented programmes, she asserted while addressing a gathering of leaders and workers of different political parties and UP chairmen, members and commissioners who joined the BNP yesterday. The Prime Minister said the parties which had been indifferent to the people's welfare in the past were now obstructing the development activities of the democratic government by raising new issues.

About eight thousand leaders and workers of the Awami League, Jatiya Party, JSD, CPB and Sammayabadi Dal of Begumganj thana under Noakhali district and the Chairman of Chumahant Pourashava Shah Alam, Commissioners and Union Parishad Chairmen of Begumganj thana joined the BNP at a function at the PM's Sugandha office last night expressing their solidarity with the ideals of the party and the leadership of Begum Khaleida Zia. The leaders and workers came to join the BNP from different areas of Begumganj thana discarding yesterday's hartal call given by some opposition political parties. Questioning the justifiability

Foreign banks unhappy with ministry order

By Inam Ahmed The foreign banks in the country are facing a disadvantageous situation due to an anomalous circular of the Finance Ministry regarding deposits. According to sources, the Finance Ministry recently issued a list of banks with whom the public sector corporations can maintain their deposits and business transactions. The list, however, excludes the foreign banks, sources said. As a result, the foreign banks have been facing a heavy withdrawal of deposit by the public sector corporations in the past week. Banking sources explained that the foreign banks had been omitted inadvertently. These banks too, used to provide considerable loans to the public sector corporations in-

Tokais denied their day on the streets

By Staff Correspondent Several hundred vagabonds and street urchins, popularly known as tokais — who are suspected of being the real agent provocateurs during strikes and hartals — spent a day of forced inactivity during yesterday's half-day hartal. In a mid-night swoop Sunday, police arrested several hundred tokais from different parts of the city in a bid to prevent trouble during the opposition-backed hartal, police and witnesses said. Yet, despite their pre-emptive drive, a large number of tokais were seen picketing indifferent city spots yesterday.



These gleeful tokais, or street urchins and vagabonds, were rounded up by Motijheel police on the eve of yesterday's opposition half-day hartal. The hartal over, they were again free to roam the city streets. —Star photo

The tokais, glorified in cartoons and satires, earned their notoriety in a series of hartal during the Ershad regime. The political parties opposed to Ershad used the services of these unemployed youngsters, who usually earn their living by scrounging on the streets and often indulging in petty thefts and mischief, to discredit the law enforcing agencies. Their usefulness in creating havoc on the streets during political protests was proved beyond doubt during the anti-Ershad agitation which reached its climax in November-December, 1990. Described by one wit as Dhaka's rent-crowd kids, these vagabonds are usually adept at breaking car windshields, damaging public property and even lobbing brickbats and cocktails without any qualms. Eight-year old Sultan, who escaped arrest Sunday night from the Kamalapur railway station, told The Daily Star that some of his comrades were picked up from the station when they were asleep. He said that plain-clothed policemen offered them house-

Peaceful hartal observed

By Staff Correspondent Intermittent picketing and heavy monsoon showers disrupted normal life in the capital and some other areas of the country Monday as an eight-hour hartal passed off peacefully. Brief clashes between pro-hartal activists and police, sporadic baton-charges and explosion of crude home-made bombs marked the hartal in Dhaka from 6 am until 2 pm. No major incident was reported from any other parts of the country except for two girl students being wounded by cracker splinters in Pabna. At least 30 people were hurt in Dhaka and police picked up

15 during the hartal hours, who were later released. Fifteen opposition political organisations led by the Awami League called the hartal demanding probe into allegations of corruption in different ministries, a stop to all alleged repression against opposition activists and implementation of an agreement between the government and the Sramik Karmachari Otkya Parishad (SKOP). However, seven hours ahead of the hartal the SKOP postponed its planned 48-hour strike across the country which would have coincided with the

AL statement 'false': Salam

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday described the statement issued by Awami League leaders involving him (Salam) as "totally false, concocted, baseless and politically motivated," reports BSS. In a statement issued in Dhaka last night, BNP Secretary General said that his attention was drawn to a joint statement by the Acting President of Awami League Abdus Samad Azad and General Secretary Zillur Rahman published in a section of the newspapers yesterday involving him under caption, "demand for withdrawing false case against Mirza Azam." Barrister Salam Talukdar said that the entire matter which Awami League leaders wanted to hide would be clear like daylight if the local admin-

Production in mills normal, claims handout

Production in mills and factories all over the country was normal yesterday despite the eight-hour hartal call given by the opposition political parties, an official handout said, reports BSS. The handout, quoting the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) sources, said production in 30 nationalised cotton and yarn mills was normal yesterday except in the 10 mills which have been laid off. Attendance of workers in the mills was also normal. Production in all the units under the Chemical Industries Corporation, the Sugar, Food and Allied Industries Corporation, the Steel and Engineering Corporation, the Small and Cottage Industries Corporation and all other units under the Ministry of Industries went on

Miyazawa takes blame, but won't quit

TOKYO, July 19: Japanese Prime Minister Kijichi Miyazawa took responsibility today for his ruling Liberal Democratic Party's failure to gain an overall majority in the general election, but stopped short of announcing his resignation, reports AFP. "I feel responsible for the split in the party and feel bad that our party members had to undergo an uphill battle in the elections," the 73-year-old Miyazawa told a press conference. The Prime Minister, who had been widely expected to announce his resignations, said he would decide on his future before parliament is convened. "I will decide about myself af-

ter listening to the opinions of party members," he said, pointing out that an extraordinary parliamentary session had to be convened under the constitution within the next 30 days to elect a premier. "I will decide within that time" whether or not to resign, said Miyazawa who, despite his party's defeat in Sunday's election, looked happier and more relaxed than at any time since a split in the LDP forced him to dissolve parliament and call the snap polls last month. Asked if he would stand as the LDP's candidate for the premiership during the parliamentary session Miyazawa said, "If that is what the entire party

agrees on, I will do so." Miyazawa had also said he recognised his responsibility for the LDP's setback in the election during a meeting earlier today with party Secretary-General Seiroku Kajiyama, Kyodo news service reported. During the meeting, Kajiyama reportedly indicated that other members of the LDP leadership might resign, saying that a reshuffle was a precondition for the party to form a coalition government. The LDP loss of its parliamentary majority signalled the start of an intense period of political negotiation with parties jockeying for position in a future coalition government.

While still by far the largest single party in the 511 member Lower House with 223 seats, the party which has ruled Japan for almost 40 years, will be anxious to secure an agreement with one or more of the fledgling conservative parties and prevent the emergence of a majority anti-LDP coalition. The LDP may have lost its overall majority, but Sunday's historic election still provided an overwhelming victory for conservative politics, with three parties founded by former LDP members all registering major gains at the expense of the main opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP). See Page 12 Col 6

Police fire on strikers in Nepal: 4 killed

KATHMANDU, July 19: Police opened fire on strikers in five districts of Nepal today killing at least four and wounding 60 while 3,000 were arrested during a nationwide transport strike called by communists, party sources said, reports AFP. Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) General Secretary Madhan Kumar Nepal told AFP two were shot dead in Chitaur district and one each in Damak and Rupandehi, all outside the capital. Officials, however, confirmed

only one death and 34 injuries including 14 policemen in five separate districts where the firing took place. "Police opened fire... without any warning. They shot at demonstrators led by NCP-UML MPs," Nepal said. He added that the government had arrested some NCP-UML cadres making and pasting posters in Kathmandu on Sunday, but that most of the 3,000 arrests were made today. The communist leader, whose party along with six other communist factions

Anti-FAP campaign in Europe Funds for JPP may be suspended

A recent letter from the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities has created concern in the Flood Control Ministry over possible delay in a 50-million-dollar priority study project under the Flood Action Plan (FAP). Officials involved in the FAP fear that the letter apparently is an indication of the European Commission's (EC) second thought on financing the Jamalpur Priority Project (JPP) — an action triggered by the European Parliament's recent resolution against the multi-bil-

lion-dollar FAP. Meanwhile, the ministry has been unofficially intimated about the EC's decision on temporarily suspending funds for the JPP until the Euro-Parliament okays it, highly placed sources told The Daily Star. When contacted, a spokesman of the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Dhaka, however, flatly denied the alleged suspension, saying the JPP would continue on schedule.

The head of the EC Delegation sent the letter to the Flood Plan Coordination Organisation (FPKO) late last month to convey the concerns expressed by the Euro-Parliament. The Parliament, in its session at Strasbourg, France, last May adopted a number of resolutions on the FAP with calls for more studies and immediate suspension of all major constructions until an integrated national plan of action was charted for implementation of the FAP. No physical works should be undertaken in the JPP (FAP-3.1) in the short run because of environmental reasons, the Parliament in its resolution categorically pointed out. Irrigation Ministry officials pointed out that although the Euro-Parliament has no legislative power, the resolutions on the FAP might have put the EC member-states on guard. The EC countries were now seriously pondering over their involvement in the FAP, they argued. The officials requested See Page 12 Col 8

Accord on monitoring Iraqi N-programme

BAGHDAD, July 19: The United Nations has reached an interim agreement with Iraq on long term monitoring of its weapons programme, ending a crisis which threatened to provoke allied air strikes, UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said today, reports AFP. "We have agreed on an interim solution which appeared satisfactory" to both sides, he said. The United States had threatened to launch air strikes if Iraq continued to refuse long term monitoring of two missile test sites south of Baghdad. Talks would continue in New York but "We have come out of

the vicious circle," said Ekeus, head of the UN special commission disarming Iraq. He held six rounds of talks here with Iraqi officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and Foreign Minister Mohammad Said As-Sabbah. "I don't see any crisis after these talks," said Ekeus, who arrived Thursday on a last-ditch mission to avert fresh US air strikes. "I would not say that there is a clear cut agreement but they are on a way to break out of that quite dangerous situation," he said. Six people died last month See Page 12 Col 4

JP dissidents rally behind Shamsul Huda

By Staff Correspondent Former Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury yesterday announced that he will take up the reins of the trouble-ridden Jatiya Party. "I have been repeatedly requested by the dedicated leaders and workers to rescue the party from the clutches of the present selfish leadership," Chowdhury stated. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury said, "The very existence of the party is now at stake because the JP leadership had deviated from Bangladeshi nationalism, the cardinal principle of the party." Chowdhury's statement, released to the press yesterday, comes a day after the students' withdrawal of the party, the Sangrami Chhatra Samaj, split leveling similar accusations against the present leadership headed by acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury. The former Speaker of Parliament, who had taken a similar move in 1983 to split the then BNP led by Justice Abdus Sattar, has convened a press conference at his Eskaton residence on August 1 for, what was stated, "To save the party from a premature death and chart its next course of direct on." In his statement Chowdhury, now nearing 80, said that for the past one year the JP supporters and workers were quite vocal against the "unconstitutional and auto-