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BNP bill on electoral reform any day now

By Nurul Kabir

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), despite its Secretary General's public announcement Friday, failed to move the much talked about bill seeking reforms of the electoral process in Parliament yesterday.

The bill would be placed in the House any day this week, BNP high command sources said.

The delay was caused by a fresh debate among the ruling party stalwarts on the proposed resignation of ministers, except the Prime Minister, before filing of the nomination papers for general elections.

Although the BNP high command unanimously decided in favour of the provision for resignation on Thursday

night, some of them later found it to be 'contradictory' with certain provisions of the Constitution of the country.

This group, at a meeting of the BNP policy makers Friday night, argued that such a provision would contradict an article in the Constitution.

"Adopting a bill making it compulsory for the ministers to resign a few weeks ahead of the elections would definitely be inconsistent with the Constitution, because the Constitution has given the authority of dissolving the Cabinet to the Prime Minister on his or her wish," the leaders further argued.

According to sources close to the BNP high command, the argument was accepted by all

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Opposition outline for caretaker govt today

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition parties in Parliament have 'almost finalised' the modalities for a caretaker government and it is likely to be announced today, sources said.

The opposition leaders at a meeting at the Sangsab Bhaban yesterday redrafted their proposal for constitutional provisions for a caretaker government for holding general elections.

Meanwhile, following a further review of the proposed provision for resignation of the ministers before elections, the BNP high command resolved Saturday night to stick to its original position 'mainly' on political consideration. It also decided to move the bill any day this week, high command

The meeting chaired by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad was adjourned till 5 pm today. It would finalise the modalities today, a source said.

The Opposition will hold a joint press briefing at 7 pm today to announce the modalities.

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Prepare for allout movement, Hasina tells rally

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on the people to prepare for a movement to unseat the "corrupt, inept and neo-autocratic" BNP government and resist communal forces to secure democratic rights through election under a caretaker government.

The BNP is not bringing the caretaker government bill as they know that they have been isolated from the people for their misrule during the last three and a half years and will not be able to win the next election if fair voting under a caretaker government is held, she said at a workers' meeting at the Tongi Mill Gate.

The Awami League President again urged the Prime Minister to move a Constitution Amendment Bill for holding the next general election under a caretaker government.

Move the bill to facilitate our return to the House... let us discuss and pass such a bill to ensure free and fair national elections," the Opposition leader called on the ruling party when a deadline by the combined Opposition on the issue expired yesterday.

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Menon warns against any alliance with Jamaat, JP

Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, MP, yesterday said he was not involved in the process of any agitation programme for realising a caretaker government, in the name of a 'so-called combined opposition,' reports UNB.

"Country's hard-earned democracy has now been threatened due to irresponsible role of the Opposition and undemocratic attitude of the ruling party," Dr Kamal said

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Greek midfielder Nikolaos Nioplias (L) and Bulgarian forward Jordan Letchkov fight for the ball yesterday during their World Cup Group D match at the Soldier Field Stadium in Chicago. Bulgaria won the contest 4-0.

— AFP photo

Bulgaria rout Greece

CHICAGO, June 26: Hristo Stoichkov scored two penalties as Bulgaria beat Greece 4-0 on Sunday and finally claimed their first victory in six World Cup final appearances, reports

chance of reaching the second round.

Bulgaria play group leaders Argentina, who thrashed Greece 4-0, in their final match on June 30.

Eight players were booked in a hard-fought game rarely pretty to watch.

Bulgaria had too much imagination for the pedestrian Greeks who had made six changes for the match.

Greece started the game in the worst possible fashion when striker Alexandros Alexoudis, trying to help out his defence at a Bulgarian free kick, gave away a penalty in the fifth minute.

As the free kick was headed back across goal Alexoudis fell to the ground in a melee and trapped the ball under his arm by accident. But he did not try to release the ball and referee Ali Mohamed Bujasim immediately blew his whistle.

Stoichkov ambled up to stroke the ball home with his left foot as goalkeeper Borislav Mihailov, one of the six new faces in the Greek side, went the wrong way.

Stoichkov's interplay with Krasimir Balakov and Emil Kostandinov up front posed continuous problems for the Greeks who troubled the solid Bulgarian defence only occa-

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TONIGHT'S WORLD CUP MATCHES ON BTV

Group C: Germany vs S. Korea 02:00 (BST)
★ Another Group C match between Bolivia and Spain at 02:00 (BST) will not be telecast live.

PM opens coal mine project today

The much-awaited work on Barapukuria coal mine, the country's first, begins today with the aspiration of meeting increasing demand of fuel and energy, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the 227.52 million US dollar (Tk 887.36 crore) mine project in Parbatpura thana of Dinajpur district.

It is being implemented with the financial and technical assistance of China. Under a suppliers credit agreement, China will provide 124.84 million US dollar and the rest 102.68 million dollars will be mobilised by the government.

A Chinese consortium comprising three organisations — China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC), China Overseas Coal

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Jahanara Imam dead



By Staff Correspondent

Nirmul Committee Chief, Jahanara Imam died in her sleep at a US hospital last night. She was 65.

She passed away at about 7 pm Bangladesh time (9 am US time) at the Mount Sinai Hospital in Detroit in the state of Michigan.

Jahanara Imam lost a long-drawn battle against throat cancer.

Despite the best possible treatment, the condition of the lady who came to symbolise the mothers of millions of sons martyred in the country's bloody Liberation War, continued to worsen since April last year, forcing her to fly to the US where she was operated upon several times.

She last left for the US on

May 30.

Her only surviving son, Saif Imam Jami, and her daughter-in-law were present when she breathed her last. Her other son, Rumi, died in action against the Pak occupation forces in 1971.

The mortal remains of Jahanara Imam are expected to be flown back home on Friday, her relatives said, depending upon flight availability and completion of necessary formalities.

She is likely to be buried at the Martyred Intellectuals' cemetery at Mirpur, they said.

The President, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, in separate messages, condoled upon several times.

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'AL, BNP role threatens democracy'

CHITTAGONG, June 26:

Gono Forum Leader Dr Kamal Hossain at a public meeting here today accused the Opposition and ruling party of making the Parliament ineffective, reports UNB.

"Country's hard-earned democracy has now been threatened due to irresponsible role of the Opposition and undemocratic attitude of the ruling party," Dr Kamal said

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Star Bumper Prize goes to Shafquat Ayub

By Staff Correspondent

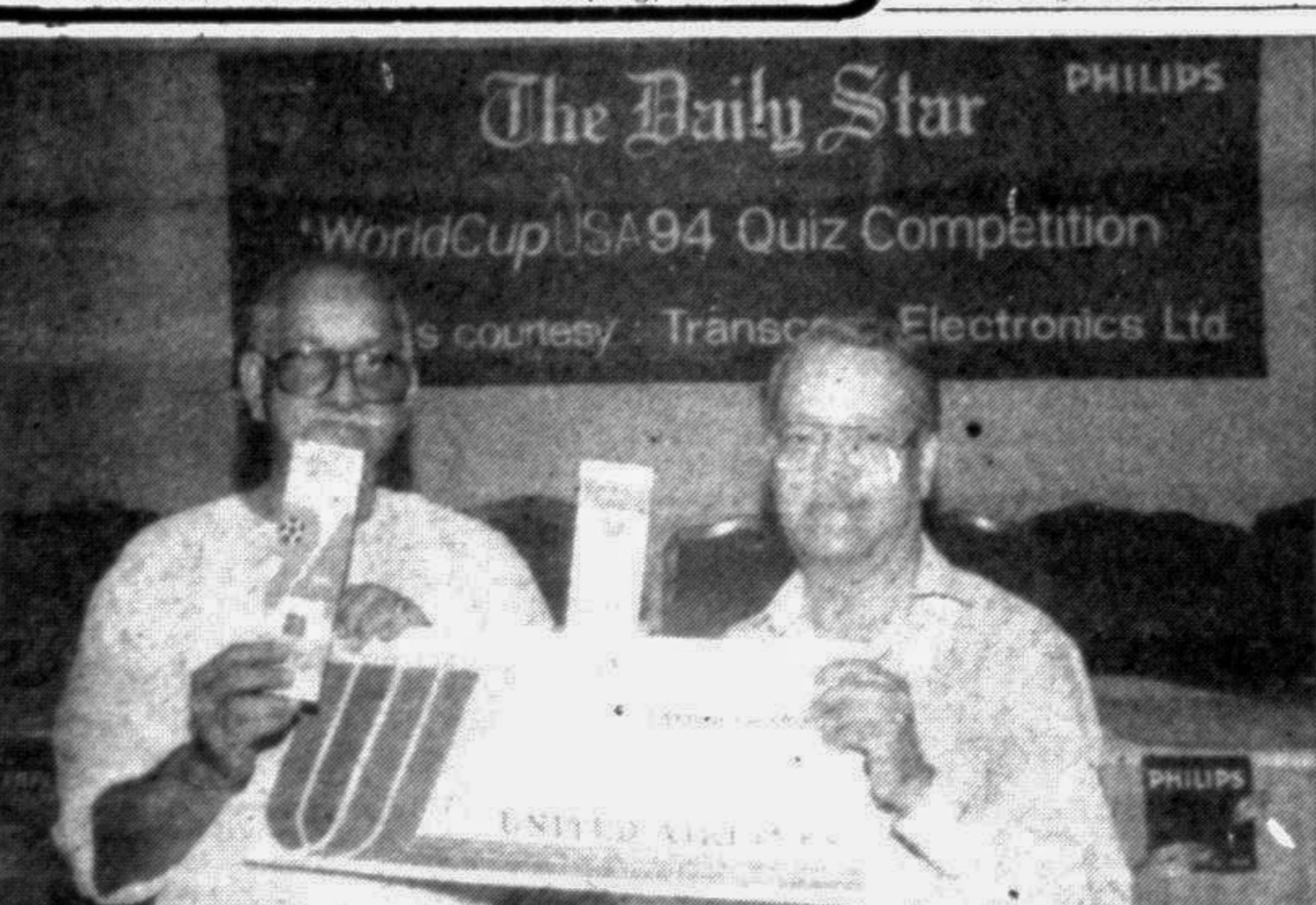
The lucky draw for The Daily Star Bumper World Cup quiz contest was held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium amid much enthusiasm yesterday evening.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman picked the winner of the bumper prize which went to Shafquat Ayub of House 63, Road 9/A, Dhanmondi.

A total of 50,924 entries were received for the bumper competition from all over the country out of which 32,952 were correct and were qualified for the lucky draw.

While the Foreign Minister was the chief guest on the occasion, the Ambassador of the Netherlands Henricus Gajentaan, Chairman of Mediaworld Ltd Azimur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom Electronics A S Mahmud, member of the Bangladesh Football Federation

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Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman (L) and Chairman of Transcom Electronics Ltd A S Mahmud hold aloft a Dhaka-Los Angeles-Dhaka air ticket and two tickets to the World Cup semi-final and final matches — part of The Daily Star World Cup Quiz Competition bumper prize — at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday.

— Star photo

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Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha
Dhaka

Chairman



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