

The Daily Star

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NEWS BRIEFS

ALWC meets today

An emergency meeting of the Awami League Working Committee will be held today at 29, Mintu Road at 10:00 am. Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting, reports UNB.

4 CU students held

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, June 27: Four students of the Chittagong University have been arrested today by the Kotwali police from the city. Police said they were arrested in connection with cases filed against them with Kotwali and Hathazari thanas.

ECOSOC session begins in NY

The high-level segment of the ECOSOC substantive session began in New York yesterday. The meeting was expected to focus its discussions on the UN Secretary General's report on 'An Agenda for Development', said an official handout in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

World Cup USA94 SCORE BOARD MONDAY'S RESULTS Group A: Romania 1: USA 0 Group A: Colombia 2: Switzerland 0 STANDINGS Group A: P W D L F A Pts Group B: P W D L F A Pts Group C: P W D L F A Pts

Opposition formula for caretaker govt

The major opposition parties in Parliament yesterday announced their much-talked-about formula for a caretaker government to hold general elections and urged the people to join a 'mass campaign to make it a part of the Constitution.' Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina announced the six-point framework at a crowded press conference at the Sangsad Bhaban. Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed, Jamaat's Matur Rahman Nizami, Ganatantri Party's Suranjit Sengupta and NDP's Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion. More than two dozen Opposition MPs were present.

'Outlines for caretaker govt won't help resolve crisis'

Some smaller parties in Parliament believe the mainstream Opposition-sponsored outlines for a caretaker government would not help resolve the country's present political impasse. Leaders of these parties, although vocal about the need for working out a legal formula for holding general elections in a free and fair political atmosphere, also feel that the outlines announced yesterday would contribute little to ensuring free and fair polling. Shamsuddoha, an MP of the Gano Forum (GF), while giving his reactions to the proposed outlines, told The Daily Star last night that it was not a document of the entire See Page 12 Col 4

Barapukuria coal project a milestone: PM Boring shaft switched on

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday switched on the boring shafts of the Tk 887.36 crore Barapukuria Coal Mine Project, thus ushering a new chapter in the exploitation of the country's mineral resources. Excavation of coal from the site, 32 miles from Dinajpur town, is expected to begin within three years, although digging and development of the 5.25 square kilometre mine deposit will continue for at least six years. Nearly 3300 tonnes of coal will be extracted daily and almost one million tonnes yearly for 70 years from an estimated reserve of 300 million metric tonnes.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally inaugurated the Barapukuria coal mine development project at Parbatipur in Dinajpur district yesterday. PID photo

Sleepy village comes to life

Once a sleepy village, Chauhali under Parbatipur thana of Dinajpur district is now vibrating with excitement and activity. Almost the entire village and people from the neighbouring region turned up to witness the switching on of the drilling shaft at the Barapukuria mining project by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday afternoon. Rahmat Ali, 42, a school teacher, said the local people were really fortunate that coal has been discovered in their village. 'A lot of our folks are going to get employment,' he said. Nawab Miah, 50, a farmer, was all smiles while talking to journalists about the coal-field. He asked if his three sons would get to work in the mining work. He was happy when he was reassured by a Petrobangla official that at least five thousand people would get employment in the Barapukuria project. The farmers of Parbatipur thana are some of the luckiest people. Their croplands yield both paddy and wheat and the area is agriculturally prosperous, like most areas of Dinajpur, which is one of the major rice bowls of the country. But they are doubly lucky that beneath their farmlands, spread over 5.24 square kilometers, they have huge de- See Page 12 Col 1



The Ghatok Dalal Nirml Committee brought out a procession in the city yesterday mourning the death of Jahanara Imam.

Jahanara Imam's death condoled

Different political and socio-cultural organisations yesterday condoled the death of Nirml Committee chief Jahanara Imam. They also recalled her contribution in rekindling the spirit of war of liberation among the younger generation and initiating an agitation against the collaborators of occupation forces in 1971. Bangladesh Awami League expressed deep shock at the death of Jahanara Imam and conveyed its heartfelt sympathy to the members of bereaved family. The Executive Committee of the party at an emergency meeting yesterday with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and president of the AL Sheikh Hasina in the chair condoled the death and observed one minute silence in honour of the departed soul. Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said in a message that the uncompromising leadership of Jahanara Imam See Page 12 Col 4

Body arrives on July 4

The mortal remains of Jahanara Imam is likely to be flown back to Dhaka on July 4 from the United States and she will be buried the next day, according to relatives and her colleagues. Syed Hasan Imam and Shahriar Kabir, two leaders of the Nirml Committee, have left for Detroit city in Michigan to bring back her body, they said. Acting Mayor of Dhaka Kamal Chowdhury is likely to receive the body at Zia International Airport. Jahanara Imam passed away See Page 12 Col 6

Supporters of June 30 hartal attack Nirml procession

Activists supporting June 30 hartal attacked a procession of the Ghatok Dalal/Nirml Committee near the Tophkhana Road crossing yesterday evening. Witnesses said, activists of an Islamic group calling itself Olamayye Keram and Pir Mashayek also harassed and attacked press photographers and police. No one was however, seriously injured. The Nirml Committee ear- See Page 12 Col 3

Fresh laws to protect consumers soon

The government has taken a move to enact appropriate laws to protect interest of the consumers. According to official sources, a meeting held at the Ministry of Commerce last week discussed formulation of the proposed law titled Consumers Protection Act. The meeting, chaired by Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam, was attended by high officials of the ministry and Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) representatives of leading chambers of commerce and industry and Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB). This was the first meeting organised by the ministry on such an issue. The participants in the meeting appreciated the move and stressed the need for creating awareness about the necessity of the law and its enforcement. The meeting decided that seminars on this issue will be organised in Dhaka and Chittagong under the joint sponsorship of the government, leading chambers and the CAB. Representatives from various strata of the society will be invited to the seminars where details of the proposed law will be discussed. The ministry will prepare a framework of the act on the basis of existing laws on the issue in other countries. The framework will be presented at the seminars to facilitate discussions. The government will then form a committee to prepare a draft of the act seeking to See Page 12 Col 7

LDF programme to resist communal forces

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) yesterday announced a fortnight long programme, beginning July 1, to resist fundamentalist and communal forces. Announcing the programme at a rally in front of the GPO in the city, the LDF coordinator Nirmal Sen called upon all pro-Liberation, democratic progressive parties, including the Awami League, Gano Forum, Ganatantri Party, NAP and Ganatantri Biplobi Jote to extend support to their programme. During the fortnight, Sen said, rallies, demonstrations and processions would be organised all over the country. A declaration, adopted by the rally, observed that 'the defeated forces in the Liberation War had started creating a war-like situation at a time when the whole nation was getting united on the demand for trial of war criminals.' The declaration reiterated the demand for trials of 'war criminals including the Jamaat chief Golam Azam.' The declaration also demanded a ban on communal politics and activities of the jama'at. amendments to the Jatiya Act, amendments to the electoral laws to free the elections from the influence of black money, steps to reform the Election Commission and general elections under a caretaker government. Chaired by Nirmal Sen, the See Page 12 Col 7

SAARC finance ministers meet July 10 Poverty alleviation main issue

The first-ever meeting of the SAARC finance ministers, to be held in Dhaka next month, is expected to focus on poverty alleviation in the region. The two-day SAARC Conference of the Finance Ministers beginning on July 10 will be inaugurated by SAARC Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the International Conference Centre. Finance Minister Saifur Rahman will preside over the business sessions and other deliberations during the meet which will be participated by the finance or planning minister of the seven-nation regional forum. Sources confirmed that in India's favour. At the SAARC finance ministers meet, member states will present country papers on different aspects of poverty alleviation touching on both the problems they are facing and the progress they have made. The ministers are scheduled to visit a number of poverty alleviation projects run by Bangladeshi NGOs, including those of BRAC and the Grameen Bank. The SAARC ministers will also discuss the progress made regarding different aspects of the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAFTA). Although discussions of SAFTA are not expected to dominate the official agenda, the participating ministers are sure to compare notes of progress made in different Besides, matters of bilateral interest, Singh and Rahman are expected to discuss the trade imbalance, heavily tilted See Page 12 Col 8

BNP, AL joined hands with Jamaat: GF

Gano Forum leader Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday held the ruling BNP and Opposition Awami League responsible for creating the present political crisis by sheltering the anti-liberation forces, reports UNB. 'Both the BNP and Awami League have joined hands with the anti-liberation forces for the sake of power,' Dr Kamal told a party meeting in front of the Election Commission for ensuring free and fair elections. Dr Kamal said they were ignoring the peoples demands and were talking outside Parliament although the people had given their mandate to find solution to problems inside the House. He alleged that some vested interests, to fulfill their heinous designs, are hatching conspiracies to make a strong platform in the country. Dr Kamal remarked. But he cautioned that there is no place for the anti-liberation forces in this soil and the people will resist them any how. He said the top leaders of the two parties should hold a dialogue to discuss how to solve the problem of the caretaker government issue or how to give more power to the Election Commission for ensuring free and fair elections. Dr Kamal said they were ignoring the peoples demands and were talking outside Parliament although the people had given their mandate to find solution to problems inside the House. He alleged that some vested interests, to fulfill their heinous designs, are hatching conspiracies to make a strong platform in the See Page 12 Col 2

Carrying of arms, lathis banned

Dhaka Metropolitan Police banned carrying firearms, explosives, knives, lathis and other harmful materials from today until further orders in the entire capital city as two rival camps headed for a showdown on June 30, reports UNB. Licensed weapons will also come under the prohibition, said DMP Commissioner A N Hussain in an order issued last night. 'The ban has been imposed in the wake of a trend of bearing harmful materials by activists and supporters of some organisations.' Such trend generated tension and panic among the city dwellers, the police order said. Authorities apprehended further deterioration of law and order and peace as the organisations have called for half day and dawn-to-dusk hartal on June 30.

Akhtaruzzaman's application deferred

Consideration of an application, filed in February this year by Alhaj Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, an Awami League member of Parliament from Chittagong, to obtain leave of the House for his long absence was deferred further by the Jatiya Sangsad last night, reports BSS. The member was absent for 71 sittings from June 13, 1993 (last year's budget session) till the end of this year's winter session on March 7. Since the opposition members were not present during the May session this year, the issue was deferred by the Speaker. The matter was again deferred at the request made by the Chief Whip, Khondkar Delwar Hossain, with the same plea that the fellow opposition members were absent when See Page 12 Col 2

TONIGHT'S WORLD CUP MATCHES ON BTV Group E: Ireland vs Norway 22:30 (BST) Group B: Russia vs Cameroon 02:00 (BST) \* Group E match between Italy and Mexico at 22:30 and Group B match between Brazil and Sweden at 02:00 will not be telecast live

DMC closed sine die By DMCH Correspondent The Dhaka Medical College was closed sine die yesterday following Sunday's violence in and around the campus. The authorities also asked all residential students to vacate their halls by 5 pm, yesterday. However, many students defying the order stayed in the halls and brought out processions last night demanding resignation of the College-Principal, Dr Zahurul Mawla Chawdhury. On Sunday, the students staged a violent protest on hearing the death news of a fellow student, Tanveer Ahmed Ferdous, who died in a road accident in Sylhet the same day. When the students were damaging vehicles in the streets yesterday a group of people attacked them and police in a bid to disperse them were also locked in clash. Tanveer's body reached Dhaka yesterday morning. Two namaj-e-janaza were held, one in the medical college premises and the other in a mosque near the residence of the deceased at Rampura. He was buried at Mirpur graveyard.

Next informal talks on CHT July 4

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, June 27: The parliamentary sub-committee on the hill tract affairs will hold a second round of informal talks with the leaders of the Shantibahini on July 4 at Dudukchhari border village under Panchhari thana of Khagrachhari district. According to a highly placed source, the dialogue aims at paving the way for the next round of formal talks between the parliamentary committee headed by the Communications Minister Oli Ahmed and the Shantibahini leaders. The sub-committee comprises Rashed Khan Menon, Kalparangan Chakma, Mostaque Ahmed and Md Shahjahan. The Shantibahini side will be led by Shanto Larma, president of Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS). Sec 144 imposed on Narsingdi town NARSINGDI, June 27: Section 144 was imposed in the town today to avert a possible clash between fundamentalists and freedom fighters as the two groups had called meetings at the same venue and at the same time, reports UNB. Jamaat e-Islami, Muslim League, Freedom Party, Nezaui-Islami and Islami Shanti Andolon had convened a joint meeting at Bazar Square area in the town demanding that Taslima Nasreen and Dr Ahmed Sharif be hanged for blasphemy. District unit of the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad had called a counter meeting See Page 12 Col 6