

## Opposition formula

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should be taken to restructure the Election Commission so that it can work as an independent institution. A code of conduct should be formulated and observance of it ensured. If necessary, relevant laws should be amended, the opposition parties said in the written statement on the proposed outline.

Sheikh Hasina said that to realise the demand for a caretaker administration, all the opposition parties were now united.

"We have no alternative but to launch a mass agitation since the government has failed to table a bill in Parliament to amend the Constitution," Hasina said. "They forced the opposition parties to stay outside the House," she added. The AL chief further said "It is not possible for our party to participate in Parliament election under a party government."

"And unless this outline of the caretaker government is implemented, the mass agitation will continue," she said and urged all to join it.

Sheikh Hasina said the ruling party had ignored the June 26 deadline given to the treasury bench to bring a bill in the House. "The government has made Parliament ineffective and pushed the country into a deep crisis by its intransigence," Hasina alleged.

She was flanked by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad and AL president

member Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP.

Hasina drank a glass of water while reading out the two-page statement at the press conference lasting about 45 minutes.

The AL chief said the Opposition formula would help institutionalise democracy and stop rigging and vote dacoity in the elections.

"Our demand reflects the people's will," she said and asked "How long must the people of the country be in tension."

She said that the BNP had participated in the last elections under a caretaker government and wondered why it was now scared of such a government.

"They dub themselves as popular and claim to be engaged in development activities. So why should they be afraid of a fair election?" the Leader of the Opposition asked.

Hasina claimed that the demand for a parliamentary form of government was originally raised by the opposition parties and the ruling party had to accept and table a bill for this. "The problem this time may also be solved in a similar way," she said.

The press conference was also attended by Tofael Ahmed, Salahuddin Yusuf, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Rahmat Ali, A S M Feroz, Syed Abul Hossain, Prof M A Mannan, Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, Abul Kalam Azad and Mirza Azam of the Awami League, the Jatiya Party's Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Anwar Hossain Manju, Munirul Huq Chowdhury, Advocate Fazle Rabbi and T I M Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury and the Jamaat-i-Islami's Maulana Abdus Sobhan and Sheikh Ansar Ali.

She was flanked by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad and AL president

### Sleepy village

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posits of coal. They can now enjoy the agricultural prosperity while benefiting from the coal mining.

Officials of Petrobangla said very little farmland will be required for the excavation work. The shafts will normally require an area of 100X100 sq feet. Only 7 hectares of land (around 17 acres) has been taken as lease for drilling purposes.

Petrobangla may need to acquire another 20 hectares for safety reasons for storing drilling equipment and for blasting purposes.

"Only cultivable lands will be used and no homesteads will be affected," a Petrobangla official assured.

The mining work will take place underground where a labyrinth of tunnels will be built to extract the coal.

The Chauhali village will benefit from the likely extension of railway lines and the construction of sliding yards. A rail connection already operates near Bhabanipur, only four kilometres from the present drilling site.

The calorific value of the coal available at Barapukuria would be of very high grade, in the neighbourhood of 11,000 BTU. Imported coal presently has a calorific value of between 8,000 to 9,000 BTU.

Barapukuria's greatest beneficiary would be the entire northern region of Bangladesh since availability of coal will increase the power generation capacity and create a new thrust in the economic life of the region.

### Akhtaruzzaman

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The Speaker, Shaikh Razzak Ali wanted to put the application to vote, after reading out it. The Chief Whip was supported by the Deputy Leader of the House, Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury.

The Leader of the House, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was present.

### Dr Kamal

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acy to misguide the innocent and peace loving people of the country to the path of confrontation and violence.

The GF leader called upon all democratic and patriotic forces to resist fundamentalists to protect the country's sovereignty and independence. "We all are united on the question of independence, none will be able to divide us. We will resist any conspiracy against the independence."

Dr Kamal defended the NGOs by saying that they are working according to the law of the land for the welfare of the people and none had the right to obstruct their development activities in the name of 'fatwa' or any other causes.

The meeting condoled the death of Nirmul Committee Convenor Jahanara Imam who died of cancer on Sunday.

## Drilling for coal begins

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progress and self-reliance through proper exploration and extraction of mineral resources available in the country.

"The implementation of the Barapukuria Coal Mine Project is a reflection of that avowed policy," the Prime Minister said.

"Bangladesh, with proper use of its resources, can hold its head high in the comity of nations," Khaleda Zia asserted.

The inaugural ceremony was also addressed by the visiting Chinese Assistant Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Chen Xin Hua, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, Education Minister Barister Zamiruddin Sircar, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xujiang, President of China Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMEC) Luo Kai Fu, Energy Secretary Faizur Razaque, local MPs and the Chairman of the local Union Council.

The Prime Minister said a lion's share of the coal extracted from this mine would be used for power generation.

She said through the Barapukuria coal-mining project, the local demand for electricity and energy would be largely met and all sectors of the economy including industry, agriculture, construction and communication would be benefited.

Khaleda Zia expressed the hope that if fuelwood is replaced by coal as a source of energy, the tendency to uproot trees and destroy forests would diminish.

"The extraction of coal will have a favourable impact on conservation of the environment," she added.

Work on the Barapukuria project started yesterday after

the completion of all formalities. China will provide financial and technical assistance to the tune of 124.84 million US dollars under a suppliers' credit agreement. The remaining 102.68 million US dollars will be contributed by the Government of Bangladesh.

A Chinese consortium comprising three organisations — China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMEC), China Overseas Coal Development (CODCO) and China Machine Building International Corporation (CMIC) is the implementing agency of the project.

Fourteen wells are to be dug in the next six months which will allow the collection of geo-technical data required to formulate a detailed design for developing the mine. Several shafts and other infrastructural facilities will be constructed at the site.

Six-metre diameter shafts would be dug to reach all the six layers of coal, estimated to have formed some 170 million years ago.

Some 100 Chinese technicians and personnel will work on the site initially and gradually nearly a thousand persons are likely to be involved.

The real mining work, when started, will involve thousands of local people. The project is expected to create job opportunities for 5000 people.

A power plant of 300 megawatt will be set up in the project area which will use around 85 per cent of the coal extracted from the area.

The Bangladesh Geological Survey Department discovered the deposit in 1985 while Petrobangla completed the technical and economic study in 1989 with assistance from the Overseas Development Administration of the UK.



Greek goalkeeper Ilias Almatzidis (20) dives the wrong way during a penalty taken by Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov (8) as Greece's Kyriakos Korataidis (18) looks on June 26 during their World Cup match at Soldier Field in Chicago. Bulgaria won 4-0. — AFP photo

### 50 pc prostitutes of Kandupatti part-timers!

About 50 per cent of the prostitutes in the capital's red-light district of Kandupatti are part-timers, according to an official survey, reports UNB.

The survey, conducted by a 10-member team of the Social Services Directorate, revealed that most of the senior prostitutes of Kandupatti reside outside the brothels.

"They come at 9:00 am, stay the whole day and leave for their respective homes in the evening... they have children and near relations at home," said the survey carried out for seven months, last year in three secluded areas of Dhaka and Narayanganj.

The part-timers, according to the findings, usually identify themselves outside the fleshpots — as workers of garments industries, hospitals or other organisations.

Respondents of the survey included 425 prostitutes of Kandupatti. Some 673 inmates of Tanbazar and 161 of Tanti-bazar brothers in Narayanganj were also informally questioned by the surveyors.

The number of part-timers in the two brothels of Narayanganj is very nominal, a member of the team told UNB.

The findings show that about 19 per cent of the brothel inmates in the three areas are below 16 years of age while 67.5 per cent are between 16 and 30 years.

## Smaller parties' views

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Opposition. Terming the document a product of the Awami League (AL), the Jatiya Party (JP) and the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Gano Forum leader said, "We do not consider the JP and Jamaat democratic forces."

Criticising the mainstream Opposition's current confrontationalist line, Shamsuddin told this correspondent that negotiations between the treasury bench and the Opposition were imperative to implement the outlines of the caretaker government.

"How can a party incorporate the concept of a caretaker government without making a constitutional amendment?" he asked.

A two-thirds majority, required for such a major amendment to the Constitution, would not be possible without the ruling party's support, he observed.

The GF leader, however, criticised the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for its lack of interest to resolve the present crisis and felt that a meaningful dialogue between the contending camps was the only answer to the present problem.

Rashed Khan Menon, MP of the Workers' Party (WP), reiterating his previous stance, said one cannot fight for upholding the spirit of the Liberation War with the communal and anti-Liberation components like the Jamaat.

while it is impossible to fight for a fool-proof electoral system with 'the worst of vote dacoits like the JP'.

On the proposed outline, Menon said, "I am yet to see the document, but on the basis of information that I have so far gathered, I can easily say, it is nothing but a political proposal of a new political alliance."

Terming the outline a political hodgepodge of the AL, JP and the Jamaat, Menon observed that it had nothing to do with a caretaker government capable of ensuring free and fair elections.

The WP leader found no alternative to an 'effective dialogue' between the ruling party and the Opposition to find out ways for ensuring free and fair elections.

Islami Oikya Jote' (IOJ) leader Maulana Obaidul Huq is also learnt to be in disagreement with the outline of the proposed caretaker government.

Although critical of the government's 'lack of initiative' to resolve the present crisis, Maulana had been absenting himself from Opposition meetings for the last few weeks.

Sources close to the IOJ leader told The Daily Star last night that he would not support the outline. However, the Maulana could not be reached yesterday for a first-hand reaction on the issue.



Police lobbed tear-gas shells to disperse a mob of religious fanatics which attacked a procession of the Nirmul Committee near the Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### Nirmul rally

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lier held a rally in front of its office at Tophkhana Road at 5 pm demanding trial of 'war criminals' and for resisting the June 30 hartal called by the Jamaat-e-Islami and backed by other religious groups.

The Nirmul Committee rally addressed by its leaders, Col Nuruzzaman and Sadek Ahmed Khan and others condoled the death of Jahanara Imam and urged the people to continue agitation against the anti-liberation and communal forces.

When participants of the rally started marching towards the Zero Point at around 6 pm, witnesses said, the opponents launched the attack with sticks and stones.

The Olamaye Keram and Pir Mashayek earlier held a rally in front of the south gate of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

The Nirmul Committee activists were chased up to the Zero Point before the police on duty intervened.

During the chase, some supporters of the religious group attacked the police. When a press photographer tried to take snap, he was also harassed by them.

Police lobbed eight tear gas shells to disperse the attackers.

Traffic movement remained suspended till 8 pm fearing further clashes in the area.

The June 30 hartal was called for capital punishment to writer Taslima Nasrin, ex-DU Professor Ahmed Sharif and banning of dainik Janakantha and other newspapers for alleged blasphemy.

## Jahanara Imam

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had re-established the spirit of war of liberation.

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), in a condolence message recalled the contribution of Jahanara Imam in rekindling the spirit of liberation war among the younger generation and said the nation would cherish her memory for ever.

Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA), in a statement, said the nation has revived the spirit of the liberation war by embarking on a united agitation against war criminals of 1971. JUTA prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

Bangabandhu Parishad at a condolence meeting recalled the contributions of Jahanara Imam in the movement against fundamentalists and collaborators of '71.

The Bangla Academy condoled her death and recalled her contribution in the field of literature. The Academy said her book 'Muktijuddher Dinguli' would make her immortal.

Chhayanot in a condolence message recalled the role of Jahanara Imam in re-establishing the spirit of the war of liberation war.

Justice K M Sobhan and advocate Mostafa Amin, president and general secretary respectively of the Communal Harmony Council said Mrs Imam's contribution to the nation would be remembered by

the freedom loving nation.

The Supreme Court Bar Association, in a meeting yesterday, under its president M Hafizullah, expressed its deep condolence at the death of Jahanara Imam.

"Chalachitram Film Society" also condoled the death, saying Jahanara Imam would continue to inspire the freedom loving people.

JSD leader A S M Abdur Rob and members of Bangladesh Buddhist Society of America also condoled the death of Jahanara Imam.

### Himu elected Savar poura chairman

SAVAR, June 27: Ashrafuddin Khan Himu, an independent candidate, was today elected chairman of the Savar Municipality, according to unofficial results, reports UNB. Himu bagged 8,775 votes while his nearest candidate Ahsan Habib of Awami League polled 7,224 votes.

Nine commissioners were also elected for three Wards of the municipality. They are Mo-jnu, Hasan Master, Abu Hossain, Mohammad Hossain, Mohammad Almas, Moimul Hossain Biltu, Rashid Mollah, Mohammad Ali and Kadam Ali.

Voting from 7 am to 3 pm was peaceful in all the 25 polling centres. Some 1,000 police and BDR were deployed in different parts of the small town to guard against any violence.

## HC issues rule upon Press Council

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court division of the Supreme Court yesterday issued a rule nisi on the Press Council.

The court also stayed the operation of a June 8, 1994 council decision relating to the editorship of the Daily Ittefaq.

According to a press release the court, consisting of Justice Ismail Uddin Sarker and Justice Hamidul Huq, issued the above order in response to a writ petition filed by the publisher, editor and printer of the paper Anwar Hossain Manju.

In his petition Anwar Hossain submitted that he had been working as the editor of the daily since March 10, 1972 while he has been the publisher and printer of the newspaper since March 31, 1985. He never resigned from the post of Editor, although at the time of his ministership another person was holding charge as acting editor of the paper, he said.

Petitioner Anwar Hossain described the role of the Press Council as illegal and unwarranted interference into the matters of the paper, in contravention of the Press Council Act of 1974.

He also termed the interference by the Press Council a violation of the fundamental rights as enshrined in the constitution. It was also against the freedom of the press.

Moudud Ahmed, Bar-at-Law, conducted the case in favour of the petitioner while Advocate Azizul Huq, Advocate Asfar Hossain, Kazi Mizanur Rahman and Mahbub Uddin Khokon, Bar-at-Law assisted him.

### Sec 144

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at the same venue to press for the trial of the collaborators of Pakistani Army in the 1971 independence war.

District administration imposed Section 144 from this morning till 7 pm today from the district rail station area to the Hemendra Doctor's Square.

However, the Muktijoddha Sangsad held its meeting at its office with district unit president Mir Emdadul Haque in the chair.

The meeting was addressed by district AL president Al-haj Mosleuddin Bhuiyan, Major (Retd) Shamsul Huda, Habibur Rahman Habib, Shawkat Hossain and others.

They expressed their determination to try the collaborators and implement the verdict of the Gano Adalat against 'war criminal' Golam Azam.

The fundamentalist groups held their meeting at the Narsingdi Government College premises with Moulana Abdur Rashid in the chair. It was addressed by Maulana Rafiqur Rahman Madani, Maulana Tajul Islam, Maulana Sultan Uddin Nuri.

They called for awarding death sentence to Taslima Nasreen and Dr Ahmed Sharif for hurting the religious sentiments of Muslims.

### BNP MP demands JS resolution on Jahanara Imam

Ruling Party MP Major (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman has called for adopting a resolution condoling the death of Jahanara Imam, convenor of the Ghatik Dal Nirmul Committee, reports UNB.

Jahanara Imam died of cancer at a US hospital Sunday. Rising on a point of order in the House yesterday Akhteruzzaman said her son Rumi was his friend and they fought together the war of independence. Rumi was a great freedom fighter, he said.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, however, asked the member to bring a notice for obituary reference.

### Body arrives

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at a US hospital Sunday at the age of 65. She was suffering from cancer.

Meanwhile, Nirmul Committee leaders at a meeting yesterday announced the day after the burial of Jahanara Imam as a "national mourning day."

The committee also decided to hold a condolence meeting on the day at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Chaired by Abdur Razzak MP, the meeting called upon the authorities to announce lowering of the National Flag to pay tribute to the memory of Jahanara Imam.

Mourning processions would be brought out in the city and elsewhere in the country on Wednesday, the meeting said.

Besides, special prayers would be offered at mosques, temples, pagodas and churches in the country on July 1 for peace of the departed soul.

The Nirmul Committee also called upon the people to hoist black flag to mourn the death of Jahanara Imam.

## The Midnight File

### Air strike on Kabul : 6 killed

KABUL, June 27: A powerful warlord seeking to avenge a military setback sent his fighter jets on repeated air strikes over the war-torn capital Monday. At least six people were killed and 14 wounded. Warlord Rashid Dostum lost all his strongholds on the south and east of Kabul in heavy fighting Saturday and Sunday against President Burhanuddin Rabbani's troops. It was an important victory for the President, whose forces had been unable previously to drive back the rival Islamic factions on the city's outskirts, reports AP.

### Fresh fighting in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, June 27: Muslim and Serb forces clashed with infantry and Artillery in north-central Bosnia, the United Nations said today, further eroding a precarious ceasefire. Fighting was heaviest around strategic Mount Ozren and the Serb-held town of Doboj, a region where Muslim-led Bosnian army forces have succeeded in taking ground from the Serbs in recent days, reports Reuters.

## LDF programme

From Page 1 Col 7

rally was also addressed by Rashed Khan Menon, MP of the Workers' Party. Khalequzzaman of the BSD, Mujahidul Islam Selim of the CPB, A F M Mahbubul Haq of BSD, Sharif Nurul Ambia of JSD (Inu), Dilip Barua of the Samyabadi Dal and Nayeem Jahangir of the Oikya Prokriya.

Addressing the rally, Menon again called on the Awami League to sever its association with the Jamaat-e-Islami in the name of realising the demand for a caretaker government. "We did not need Jamaat's support while realising a similar demand during the Ershad regime," he pointed out.

The WP leader also accused

### Huda for positive role of newsmen

Information Minister Nazmul Huda underlined the need for a positive role of newspapers and newsmen in moulding public opinion for maintaining country's democratic order, reports UNB.

"A journalist should not merely copy the statement of anyone whatever he says. They have the responsibility to convey the real message to the people for better understanding and moulding correct opinion," he said speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on "The Role of Newspaper on Flourishing Democracy" at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium.

### Consumers' law

From Page 1 Col 7

protect interest of the consumers. It will specify actions to be taken by the authorities to ensure desirable standard and correct measurement of the commodities as well as fair price of those.

When contacted, an authoritative source in the Ministry of Commerce said there are different laws relating to consumers' interest in the country. "But the process is too lengthy to get protection through these old laws," he said adding "so we need a co-ordinated law effective enough to meet the present-day need."

The source pointed out that such laws to protect consumers' interest also exist in the USA, the UK and Sri Lanka. Some other countries including Malaysia is now examining the possibilities of having similar laws.

## RAJUK COMMERCIAL PLOT AUCTION NOTICE

Most ideally located Commercial-Cum-Residential Plot No-24 at Banani Commercial Area, having wide Road on two sides measuring 334.62 Sqr metre (5 Kathas) will be allotted for 99 years lease, on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form to be obtained with terms and conditions from Janata Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk 200/- (Taka two hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from the intending bidders up to 2.00 PM on 17.7.94.

The auction will be held on 18.7.94 in the Conference room, 3rd floor of Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10 AM.

Chairman  
Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha  
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