

## 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, Salauddin Yousuf, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Rahmat Ali, A S M Feroz, Syed Abul Hossain, Prof M A Mannan, Col (retd) 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 M Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury and the Jamaat-e-Islami's Maulana Abus Sobhan and Sheikh Ansar Ali.

**Akhteruzzaman**

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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.

## Sleepy village

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posses 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.

## 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 Barrister Zamiruddin Sircar, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xujiang, President of China Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMEC) Luo Kai Fu, Energy Secretary Faizur Razzaque, 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



Greek goalkeeper Ilias Almatzidis (20) dives the wrong way during a penalty taken by Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov (8) as Greece's Kyriakas 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.

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 flesh-pots as workers of garments industries, hospitals or other organisations.

Respondents of the survey included 425 prostitutes of Kandupatti. Some 673 inmates of Tanbari and 161 of Tantibazar 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.

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.

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

## 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 confrontationist line, Shamsuddoza 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.

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

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## 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 by 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 newspaper 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 demand for a caretaker government.

Moudud Ahmed, Bar-at-Law, conducted the case in favour of the petitioner while Advocate Azzul Huq, Advocate Albar 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 Memendra Doctor's Square.

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

The meeting was addressed by district AL president Al-haj Mosleuddin Bhuiyan, Major (Retd) Shamsul Huda, Habibur Rahman Habib, Shakawat 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 (Retd) Akhteruzzaman has called for adopting a resolution condoning the death of Jahanara Imam, convenor of the Ghatak Dhalal 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 Razzaq 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 Reuter.

**LDF programme**

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the AL of playing a dual role — cooperating with the Jamaat-e-Islami in inside Parliament and agitating against the party on the streets.

Menon warned both Prime Minister Khaleda and Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina that the fundamentalist and *fatuhabaz* group would not even spare the two ladies as they were opposed to rule by women.

Accusing the *fatuhabaz* of misinterpreting the principles of Islam, he threw a challenge that he was ready for a 'bahas' (debate on religion) with the *fatuhabaz* and religion peddlers.

In his presidential speech, Nirmal Sen claimed that only the leftists could resist fundamentalism.

Earlier, the rally condoled the death of Jahanara Imam and observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to her.

### SAARC meet

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sectors.

The two-day ministerial meet will be preceded by three days of discussions by high officials. In most cases finance secretaries of the countries concerned will hold preparatory meetings and finalise the draft of the conference. These meetings will take place from July 7 to 9.

Arrangements have already been made to accommodate most of the senior SAARC officials at the local Sheraton Hotel, which will also serve as the venue of all the technical sessions.

SAARC Secretary General YK Silwal is due to arrive in the capital on July 7.

A joint declaration is expected at the end of the finance ministers' meet. It is likely to include certain new areas of cooperation among the member states, in line with the proposals adopted at the Seventh SAARC Summit in Dhaka last year.

The visiting finance and planning ministers will also hold discussions on bilateral issues. They are scheduled to call jointly on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The visiting dignitaries will also be taken on a river cruise on the MV Ostrich. Most of