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NEWS BRIEFS

President assents to two bills

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Friday gave his assent to two bills passed by the Jatiya Sangsad, according to a Sangsad press release here. The bills are: Finance Bill, 1994 and Appropriation Bill, 1994, reports BSS.

CU admission test

CHITTAGONG, July 2: Written test for admission into MSS preliminary course of 1993 in Department of Public Administration, Chittagong University will be held on July 4. Viva-voce for admission into first year BA Honours course (1993) in English of the University will be held on July 20, reports BSS.

Opposition MPs urge unity on common issue

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition parties in Parliament yesterday asked each other to concentrate on a single demand — holding of general elections under a caretaker government — and not to go on with their individual party programmes.

About 100 MPs belonging to the Awami League (AL), Jatiya Party (JP), Jamaat-i-Islami and Ganatantri Party (GP), at a three-hour meeting last night discussed the latest political situation and possible strategies to fight a 'successful battle for a caretaker government'. Deputy leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdis Samad Azad was in the chair.

MPs of all the parties concerned said their respective organisations were on the right track as regards the

AKM Jahangir of the AL, echoing Sengupta's views, told

the meeting that holding of general elections under a caretaker administration was the major demand of the opposition parties.

"No component of the united Opposition should, therefore, weaken the present struggle by addressing controversial issues right at this moment," he said.

Sheikh Anser Ali of the Jamaat said the government would definitely try to divide the Opposition by appeasing the Jamaat regarding its demand for anti-blasphemy laws on the one hand and the AL's demand for implementation of the four-point agreement which included trial of Golam Azam as a 'war criminal', on the other.

The Jamaat leader urged

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No compromise on secularism: Zillur AL launches agitation programme today

By Special Correspondent

The mainstream Opposition Awami League (AL) launches a mass-movement to realise the demand for holding elections under a caretaker government through a rally and procession today in the city.

The rally, to be held at 3 pm at Bangabandhu Avenue, will be addressed by AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina.

Similar programmes of agitation will be organised again at the district and thana headquarters of July 10 when the AL is expected to announce its future course of action.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, some of the AL central leaders categorically

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Opposition may review interim govt outline

by Nurul Kabir

The opposition parties are likely to review certain provisions of their proposed outline for a caretaker administration for holding general elections.

The question of reviewing the issue came up yesterday following Ganatantri Party (GP) leader Suranjan Sengupta's objection to the provision that the President would appoint a prime minister to form an interim cabinet 'on the advice of the parties, having representation in Parliament, struggling for a caretaker administration.'

Sengupta, who failed to notice the provision before the announcement of the framework, now feels that 'it should accommodate all the parties in

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Too high a price to pay

BOGOTA, Colombia, July 2: Gunmen on Saturday killed the Colombian soccer player who contributed to Colombia's elimination from the World



Andres Escobar

Cup last month by accidentally scoring against his own team, police said, reports AP.

Andres Escobar, 27, was shot 12 times in a parking lot

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German's Juergen Klinsmann celebrates his team's first goal by Rudi Voeller against Belgium during their World Cup second round match at the Soldier Field Stadium in Chicago last night. Germany won 3-2.

— AFP photo

Germans first into quarter-finals

TONIGHT'S WORLD CUP MATCHES ON BTV

Game 3: S Arabia vs Sweden at 23:00 (GST)

Game 4: Romania vs Argentina at 02:30 (GST)

Bank guarantee for capital machinery goes

Star Report

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has withdrawn the bank guarantee system for the import of capital machinery.

Brazil's Jairzinho is the only player to score in every game of a World Cup, including the tournament.

Germany, who have played in five of the last seven finals, have now gone 11 matches without defeat in the World Cup since losing the 1986 final to Argentina.

Brazil went a record 13

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Belgium could have got back into contention midway through the second half but Swiss referee Kurt Rothlisberger ignored claims for a penalty when Josip Weber went sprawling under a challenge from Thomas Helmer.

Only Klinsmann and Brazil's Romario have scored in every game so far in this tournament.

Brazil's Jairzinho is the only player to score in every game of a World Cup, including the tournament.

The 34-year-old Voeller was also responsible for Belgium temporarily getting back on level terms when Belgium captain Georges Grun rammed in his attempted headed clearance.

Philippe Albert added a second for Belgium in injury time but a late onslaught failed

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EC contemplating registration of voters

Star Report

The Election Commission (EC) is contemplating registration of the voters in a bid to prepare a 'perfect voters' list', a pre-requisite for fair elections, official sources said.

The move is to supplement the EC's plans to issue identity card to each voter for checking false voting.

Under the new measure, every voter would be registered and for this a prescribed form is to be filled by a voter. The prescribed form would contain a registration number, photograph and all necessary information about a particular voter. A new voters' list would then be prepared.

Earlier, an agreement has been signed on May 14 with South Korean contractors 'Samwhan Corporation' to construct approach road (Contract-4) of sub-project as part of the implementation of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

The total land area required for implementation of the project (Contract 2, 3, 4) has been handed over to the contractor at first stage. This is for the first time that land at the western bank of the bridge on Sirajganj side has been handed over to the contractor firm.

Earlier, an agreement has been signed on May 14 with South Korean contractors 'Samwhan Corporation' to construct approach road (Contract-4) of sub-project as part of the implementation of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

The present system is often inaccurate because it also allows a voter to be listed even in his or her absence, they point out.

The identity cards for voters would also be issued on the basis of registration number.

EC officials told The Daily Star that the registration of voters would require enactment of

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But this system was criticised by the business community who alleged that the banks were charging high rates for bank guarantees.

The system was introduced in 1993 to ensure that the machinery imported for setting up export-oriented industries were not used for import substitute industries.

Body of Jahanara Imam arrives tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The body of Jahanara Imam arrives in the capital from the USA tomorrow (Monday) and will be buried at the freedom fighters cemetery, Mirpur, the following day.

Leaders of the Ekatorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Samanayya Committee, Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina, Poet Sufia Kamal, Dhaka city mayor Mohammad Hanif and Liberation War sector commanders will receive the body

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Modern fish preservation project starts functioning

CHITTAGONG, July 2: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today inaugurated a modern complex for landing, preservation and marketing of fish and shrimp caught in the Bay of Bengal, reports UNB.

The Tk 52.66 crore Project for Fish Landing, Preservation and Distribution Facilities at Monoharkhali in the port city aims at improving quality of the country's marine fish and boosting export of sea foods.

Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided financial and technical assistance for building the complex, first of its kind in the country, set up on the bank of Karnaphuli river.

More than 70 fishing trawlers and 3,000 engine-boats engaged in marine fishing will be able to use the facility of the complex having three landing piers, 96-ton capacity ice storage, 1530 square metre auction hall and a truck parking space.

The Project of Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC) has an annual handling capacity of 60,000 tons.

Addressing the inaugural function in the Auction Hall of the project, the Prime Minister said the quality of fish need to be improved for increasing its export.

She mentioned various steps of her government such as boat licensing system, checking illegal fishing in Bangladesh waters and enhancing security for local fishing trawlers and boats for quality-

ative and quantitative development, control and preservation of sea catches.

Begum Zia expressed her hope that combined steps of the government and fish traders would boost export of sea foods manifold.

At present, the contribution of fish resource to total domestic production is 3.3 per cent and 7 per cent to the country's total exports.

"But in proportion to the actual potentials of the fish sector, this output is not enough. Therefore, we have identified pisciculture as one of the most vitalising sector of national economy," the Prime Minister said.

Pointing at the increase of frozen shrimp export from Tk 3 crore in 1972-73 to Tk 523 crore in 1991, Begum Zia hoped that it would exceed Tk 1,000 crore this year.

The Prime Minister recalled that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in 1981 had instructed construction of a modern fish landing centre, but the project, a longstanding demand of the fishermen and fish traders, was put off by the autocratic regime.

She said the new project would also have significant contribution in benefiting fish

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FAO local staff level charges

By Staff Correspondent

The Aggrieved Staff Association of FAO in Bangladesh has alleged that the number of FAO projects in Bangladesh had reduced sharply due to 'inefficiency of the Resident Representative of the organisation.'

Leaders of the association at a press conference in the city yesterday said that the activities and behaviour of the FAO Resident Mission staff had created dissatisfaction among most of the local staff of FAO who were appointed on contract.

Contracts of some 35 employees had not been extended in the last four years due to hostile relationship between them and the Resident Representative, they said.

Association leader KN Haq read out a statement which said while the FAO spent some Tk 245.62 crore on 62 projects during the period 1983-90, only five projects involving a total expenditure of Tk 9.5 crore had been implemented since then.

The press conference was also addressed by convenor of the association Salauddin, Dr Rafiqul Islam, and C A Haq.

They alleged that four FAO projects had turned sick due to 'inefficiency, undesirable interference and misuse of power.'

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