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NEWS BRIEFS

JU admission test results Aug 6

By JU Correspondent Results of the written examination for admission into the first year honours classes of Jahangirnagar University (JU) for the session 1993-94 will be published on August 6. The Viva-voce will begin on August 8, a JU press release said yesterday.

Little enthusiasm for today's Bogra by-polls

By Staff Correspondent

BOGRA, July 6: By-election to the Bogra-4 Jatiya Sangsad seat will be held tomorrow amidst boycott by all the opposition parties.

Opposition parties decided to keep away from the election to pressurise the government to concede to their common demand for holding general elections under a caretaker government.

The Parliament seat comprising Kahalu and Nandigram thanas fell vacant with the death of Azizul Huq Mollah of the ruling BNP on April 10.

A low turnout is forecast by district officials, politicians and others concerned.

This is for the first time that all opposition parties are boycotting a parliamentary by-election. Dr. Ziaul Huq Mollah of the BNP and two independent can-

didates are vying for the seat. The independents are Rafiqul Islam Pinku and Azimush Shan.

While visiting several villages of Kahalu thana today, this correspondent found a total lack of any enthusiasm among the voters. Only the activists for the three candidates are taking interest in the polling.

Some of the voters are even unaware of the election because of very poor campaigning, shorn of the usual feverish electioneering.

During an hour-long visit this correspondent saw no sign of election activities except some posters seeking votes for the ruling party candidate.

A two-day campaigning by BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her party nominee on July

3 and 4 also failed to generate any noticeable enthusiasm among the voters.

Until campaigning for the by-election officially ended at midnight last night, the BNP candidate Dr. Zia—son of Azizul Huq Mollah—organised some public rallies in different parts of the constituency.

Independent candidate Rafiqul Islam Pinku who, many believe, will be Dr. Zia's nearest rival, also organised some rallies in his area Nandigram and also in Kahalu.

There was, however, no campaigning for the other candidate Azimush Shan.

President of Kahalu Thana BNP Ahmed Ali Kabiraj claimed that although the Awami League is boycotting the by-polls it is backing Pinku who, he said, was once a Jubo

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SAARC finance ministers' meet from Sunday

The SAARC Commission on Poverty Alleviation is expected to take an institutional shape after the meeting of Finance and Planning Ministers of the member-countries of the forum, beginning here Sunday, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the current chairperson of SAARC, will inaugurate the two-day meeting at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

The commission was constituted at the Colombo summit to fight hunger, poverty and illiteracy bedeviling South Asian societies.

The meeting, first of its kind, is being held in response to a proposal by Begum Zia at the last summit of the seven-nation forum in the city which called for ensuring 'Dal Bhat' to millions of poverty-stricken people of South Asia.

All working and concluding sessions of the moot will be held at Hotel Sheraton

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We sat with Jamaat to save democracy: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her party was "compelled to sit with Jamaat-e-Islami in Jatiya Sangsad" to save the country's nascent democracy.

"We are bound to sit with Jamaat leaders because they are elected members of Parliament," she said while addressing a condolence meeting for Jahanara Imam organised by the Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannaya Committee at Suhrawardi Uddyan in the city.

Clarifying AL's policy towards Jamaat, Hasina said that Jamaat won the last elections in some constituencies since the BNP had helped the anti-liberation party get rehabilitated in the country's politics.

"Those who are responsible for rehabilitation of the killers of 1971 in politics should be tried along with the war criminals," she said.

Hasina said that the AL would quit Parliament if the people demanded it. "But we will not resign from Parliament on our own. We don't want to be responsible for dissolution of Parliament", she added.

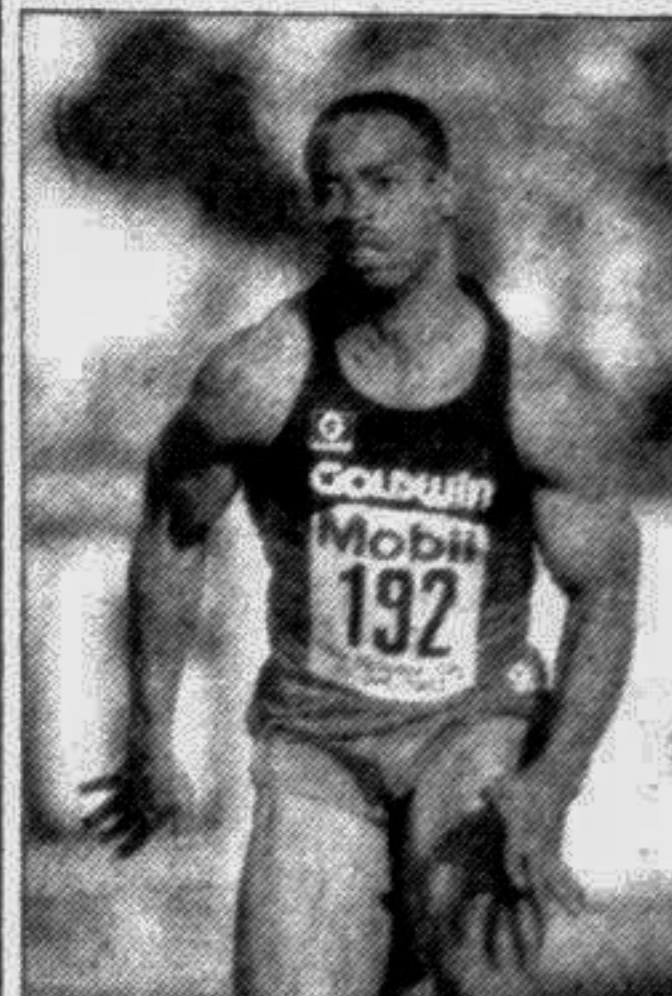
Calling for a united movement against communalism she said, "Let there be no misunderstanding among us. If there is any division among us, it will only allow the fundamentalists to grow stronger," she said at the meeting presided over by Abdur Razzak MP.

"I could have become the first woman prime minister of the country if I had joined hands with Jamaat and Jatiya Party after the last election. But I reject any such idea with contempt," Hasina said.

The AL chief said that BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia held a meeting with Jamaat leader Golam Azam before the last

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Burrell sprints to world mark



LAUSANNE, Switzerland, July 6: American Leroy Burrell set a world 100 metres record on Wednesday when he clocked 9.85 seconds at the Lausanne Grand Prix, reports Reuter.

The previous mark of 9.86 seconds was set by his compatriot Carl Lewis at the Tokyo World Championships on August 25, 1991.

Land acquisition

Dist admin may get more power

By Special Correspondent

The authority of the district administrations for acquiring land will be increased under an amendment to the relevant law now under process.

According to existing laws, the deputy commissioners have the authority to acquire land upto 10 bighas at a time. This limit will be increased to 50 bighas if a bill to amend the laws enacted in 1982 is passed by Parliament.

The draft of the bill — The Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Act 1994 — which has been already okayed by the Cabinet, will be placed before Parliament soon.

Justifying enhancement of the district administration's

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Jahanara Imam's death condoled Vow to fight for trial of Azam as 'war criminal'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a meeting con-doing the death of Jahanara Imam in the city yesterday vowed to fight communalism and to remain united on their stand seeking the trial of Jamaat leader Golam Azam as a 'war criminal'.

They said the grief of the people at the loss of Jahanara Imam, who waged a crusade against the killers and collaborators of 1971, should be transformed into strength to fight the enemies of independence.

It has become imperative for the nation, they said, to complete the unfinished task of Jahanara Imam by establishing the spirit of liberation war

and punishing the war criminals.

Paying her tributes to Jahanara Imam, Sheikh Hasina said that the nation would remember her role as the pioneer of a national movement for the trial of the killers and collaborators of the liberation war period.

"We all have to shoulder the responsibility of trying the collaborators of the country's liberation war period", the Awami League chief and leader of the Opposition in Parliament said at the condolence meeting held at the Suhrawardi Uddyan.

Cautioning that any misun-

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Jahanara's last message

By Staff Correspondent

Jahanara Imam, in a message before her death, urged the people not to leave the street before achieving the objective of putting Jamaat leader Golam Azam and other 'war criminals' on trial.

The message, given by her in May was read out at the condolence meeting organised by the Nirmul Committee at the Suhrawardi Uddyan in the city yesterday.

Jahanara Imam said that the people were unitedly fighting against the 'war criminals' for about three years.

"I was with you in the movement from the beginning and our pledge was not to leave the street before achieving the goal. I kept my commitment and would like to remind you of your commit-

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The Nirmul Samannaya Committee organised a meeting to condole the death of Jahanara Imam at the Suhrawardi Uddyan in the city yesterday. Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina also addressed the gathering. — Star photo

BNP MPS debate legality of district quota for jobs

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yesterday witnessed a constitutional debate, on the legality of district quota system in the recruitment of officers and employees in government service.

Abdur Rob Chowdhury, MP of the ruling party, while speaking on the issue, observed that the district quota policy was not consistent with the country's Constitution.

In a bid to justify his contention, Chowdhury read out Article 28(1) of the Constitution which says: The state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

Chowdhury observed that pursuing the quota system, instead of attaching importance on merit, had contributed a lot to the deterioration of the standard of the cadre services.

Their lack of commitment and failure to understand issues and their acts of indis-

pline are now matters of concern for the whole nation," Chowdhury, a former bureaucrat, told the House amidst thumping of benches led by Deputy Leader of the House, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury.

However, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar took the floor to contradict Abdur Rob Chowdhury's observations on the quota policy from the constitutional point of view.

Referring to Section 4 of Article 28 of the Constitution, the education minister said, the quota system was very much consistent with the constitutional provisions of the country. Article 28(4) of the Constitution reads: Nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making special provision in favour of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of citizens.

Sircar, however, did not mention Article 29(3)(a) which clearly reads, "Nothing

in this article shall prevent the state from making special provision in favour of any backward section of citizens for the purpose of securing their adequate representation in the service of the republic."

But the minister, making an oblique reference to the former civil servants of the erstwhile East Pakistan, said that 10 to 20 per cent officers in the cadre services were recruited by the Pakistan government on the basis of merit, while the rest on the basis of provincial quotas.

"As a result, many Bangalee officers got jobs in the civil service," Sircar reminded Abdur Rob Chowdhury.

The parliament members who supported Chowdhury a few minutes earlier, however, kept quiet over the education minister's rebuttal.

The debate started when Mashur Rahman of the BNP moved a motion for a short discussion on the district

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Hasina's remarks on PM's allowance false: Salam

Secretary General of BNP and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday described the accusation made by the Opposition Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad on the allowance of the Prime Minister as totally untrue, baseless and an attempt to mislead the people, reports BSS.

In a statement, the BNP Secretary General said, our attention has been drawn to a news item published by the daily Sangbad, Janakantha and Shamachar on July 4 which quoted her as making remarks on the allowance of the Prime Minister.

Talukder said the Opposition Leader had made accusation in a rally held in the capital on July 3 that the Prime Minister had been drawing monthly allowance worth Taka one crore 20 lakh inflating her pocket.

He said the accusation was totally false, baseless and a trick to mislead the people on the one hand and at the same time use of words in her statement was indecent on the

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Welcome respite for weary WC viewers

DALLAS, July 6: Squared-eyed World Cup watchers got a break from the television on Wednesday when soccer's top tournament began a three-day break but the surviving eight teams pressed on with preparations for the quarter-finals, reports Reuter.

After 44 games and more than 120 goals in nearly 70 hours of soccer spread across three weeks, the event paused while disconsolate losing squads headed for home and the remaining teams — seven European and favourites Brazil — limbered up.

Spain, who trained on the east coast on Wednesday, play Italy at Foxboro near Boston on Saturday in the first of the semifinal deciders. The Dutch, blossoming as USA '94 progresses, meet Brazil in Dallas the same day. Both teams were travelling to the Texas city on Wednesday.

Defending champions Germany battle Bulgaria at the Giants Stadium on Sunday as Sweden play Romania in Palo Alto for the other semifinal

places. German coach Bertl Vogts said midfielder Matthias Sammer, one of the side's most impressive players at the World Cup, faced a race against time to get fit for the Bulgaria game.

"If the game was today or tomorrow, Matthias would not be able to play," Vogts said during training near Chicago. Bulgaria pipped Mexico to the quarter-finals in a nail-biting penalty shootout, the first of the World Cup in the United States.

Jubilant fans packed the streets of Sofia after the Bulgarian upset. Not since an anti-communist coalition won parliamentary elections in

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World Cup qtr-finals

July 9
Game X: Italy vs Spain at 22:00 (BST)
Game B: Holland vs Brazil at 01:30 (BST)

July 9
Game C: Romania vs Sweden at 22:00 (BST)
Game D: Bulgaria vs Germany at 01:30 (BST)

Barisal, Cox's Bazar to have radio stations

Two new 10-kilowatt self-contained medium wave radio stations will be set up in Barisal and Cox's Bazar within next two years, reports UNB.

This was decided at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) held yesterday with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

The project involves an expenditure of Tk 36 crore, including a foreign exchange component of Tk 13 crore. It is aimed at bringing the districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Cox's Bazar and coastal areas and off-shore islands of the southern part of the country under radio transmission network.

The ECNEC meeting also approved a Tk 236-crore rural infrastructural development project to construct 84 new roads and 22 bridges in the rural areas.

It also approved a project to replace and modernise the railway signalling system at 6 stations in Mymensingh-Jamalpur section.

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BLUE CROSS SCORE BOARD

World Cup USA94

TUESDAY'S RESULT
Second Round:
Game 8: Bulgaria 4: Mexico 2
Bulgaria in quarter-finals

* The fate of the match was decided on penalty shoot-out following a 1-1 tie even after 30 mins of extra time. Scorers during stipulated time: Bulgaria — Hristo Stoichkov 7th; Mexico — Alberto Garcia Aspe 17th

TIE-BREAKER STATISTICS
Alberto Garcia Aspe missed for Mexico
Krasimir Balakov missed for Bulgaria
Marcelino Bernal missed for Mexico
Boncho Guentchev scored for Bulgaria
Jorge Rodriguez missed for Mexico
Daniel Borimirov scored for Bulgaria
Claudio Suarez scored for Mexico
Yordan Letchkov scored for Bulgaria

MATCH STATISTICS

	Mexico	Bulgaria
Penalty shoot-out	1	3
Shots on goal	19	12
Fouls	24	13
Corners	8	5
Offsides	3	1
Yellow cards	4	4
Red cards	1	1

100% FULL CREAM SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK

EC envoy praises economy Better exposure to boost foreign investment

By Staff Correspondent

Michael Drury, ambassador and head of the delegation of the European Commission in Dhaka, yesterday said the Bangladesh missions abroad should be more active in creating a positive image of the country.

He said, the Europeans are not much aware of the economic stability and low inflation rate in Bangladesh as they are of the disasters and poverty of the country.

Appreciating the success of the present government in stabilising its macro-economy, he said this has created a favourable atmosphere for foreign investment. But, unfortunately, the situation is least known to the foreign investors as most of the Bangladesh embassies abroad failed to project it effectively, he said.

Drury was exchanging views with the members of the Economic Reporters' Forum yesterday morning at the Hotel Sheraton.

Regarding the present political situation in Bangladesh, the EC delegation chief said the situation is discouraging for the foreign investors. The recent rise of fundamentalism in the country is another factor that may act as a barrier to inflow of foreign capital into Bangladesh, Drury said.

Michael Drury gave the assurance of increased cooperation from the European Commission in achieving a sustainable growth and said the EC is interested in strengthening its trade links with Bangladesh.

He, however, was critical of the child labour and low standard of living of the working class in Bangladesh. He said the level of education of the workforce will have to be developed and the manpower made efficient by taking measures for human resources development.

Assuring of EC's continued

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Jordan-Israel peace talks July 18

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, July 6: Jordan and Israel will resume serious peace negotiations later this month, King Hussein of Jordan said here today after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, reports AFP.

"We are on the verge of starting serious negotiations between the two concerned parties, soon, during this month," King Hussein told a news conference before leaving Alexandria.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin revealed earlier today that Israel and Jordan would launch negotiations on a peace treaty on July 18.

The venue for the talks, starting near Israel's Red Sea resort of Eilat, would alternate between the two countries.

Jordan and Israel signed a detailed agenda on June 7 in Washington agreeing to set up a commission to try to resolve a long standing dispute over their common border.

King Hussein said negotiations would be devoted to problems of waters and all the other subjects laid down in the agenda adopted in the US

Attack on Hasina at Laldighi 15 sentenced, 5 of them to serve life terms

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 6: A tribunal here today sentenced five persons to life imprisonment for their involvement in an attack on the life of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina here in January 1993.

Five received 10 years each and four others were given 7-year prison terms. Four of the accused were acquitted.

A group of gunmen attacked Sheikh Hasina, also the Leader of the Opposition, while she was addressing a public meeting at Laldighi Maidan on January 24, 1993.

One person was killed and some others were injured in the attack on the meeting organised to mark the 'Mass Killing Day of 1988'. The AL chief however, escaped unhurt.

Of the 18 accused three were arrested while 15 others are absconding.

Two of the arrested persons have been awarded life terms

and one other has been given 10 years imprisonment.

According to court sources those awarded prison terms for life were identified as Mamunur Rashid Mamun, Md Ayub, Md Moshir, Humayun Kabir and Md Jahangir.

About three hundred unruly youth demonstrated in front of the court building following the verdict.

At one stage, they went on a rampage in the areas around the court building, K C Dey Road and Laldighi Road. They also threw stones at the passing vehicles and roadside shops, police said.

Police resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the crowd and arrested eight demonstrators.

Meanwhile, the Chhatra League city unit called for a half-day hartal on July 12 here demanding immediate release of their leaders.

Abiola charged with treason

ABUJA, July 6: Nigeria's military government today charged opposition leader Moshod Abiola with treason and felony in a special Federal Court, witnesses said, reports AFP.

Abiola, who was taken to the court at 11:30 GMT in an armoured police van under heavy security, pleaded not guilty.

Police had earlier arrested Frank Kokori, the Secretary General of the West African country's main oil and gas workers' union, the union's president Wariebi Agamene told AFP.

The arrest was reported as his union, the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers, entered today the third day of a strike to pressure the military government of General Sani Abacha to hand over power to Abiola.

Abiola is widely believed to have won the presidential elections in June 1993 whose results were shelved by the military after being declared free and fair by international observers.