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Ban on strikes in new units proposed Labour laws for keeping TUs out of politics

By S Y Bakht

All trade unions should be barred from associating with any political party and any violator of the country's labour laws should be penalised with a simple prison term along with monetary fines, the National Labour Law Commission recommended in its recent report.

Seeking sweeping changes in the existing labour laws, the report containing a recommended Labour Code was presented to the Prime Minister by Chairman of the Commission Justice M A Qudus Chowdhury earlier last month. Suggesting a ban on strikes for a period of three years in all newly set up industries to

encourage both local and foreign investments, the Commission also recommended new provisions on child labour, maternity leave, death benefits for workers, termination of jobs, formation of trade unions and election of Collective Bargaining Agents (CBAs), according to official sources.

The 38-member commission, including eight representatives from the labour sector, eight from the employers, 10 government officials from related ministries, six legal experts and three industrial relations experts, was formed in June 1992. The terms of reference mandated that the Commission should abide by

the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions already ratified by Bangladesh.

The Commission also included a Member of Parliament, Ashraf Hossain, appointed by the Speaker while its Member-Secretary was M Habib Ullah, Director of the Labour, M Morshed Khan, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, was also a member of the Commission as a representative of the employers.

The Commission reviewed 44 existing labour and other related laws and incorporated 26 of them in the labour code. Among the other laws that were reviewed, some were

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BNP candidate wins Bogra by-polls

From Nazmul Ashraf in Bogra

Dr Ziaul Huq Mollah, the BNP candidate in the Bogra-4 by-polls won by a huge margin of 33037 votes yesterday, according to unofficial results announced last night.

Election Commission sources in Bogra said his nearest rival independent candidate Rafiqul Islam Pinku secured 9353 votes, while Azimur Shan, another independent candidate bagged 617 votes.

The total number of votes cast was 43364 out of 172,932. The turnout of voters was 25.8 per cent. Some 357 votes were cancelled, sources said.

The election was held peacefully but without any enthusiasm.

The turnout of voters was very low as the Opposition

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SAARC officials drawing agenda for Sunday's meet

By Staff Correspondent

Senior officials of the Ministries of Finance and Planning of the SAARC countries began deliberations last night at Hotel Sheraton in preparation for the two-day SAARC ministers meeting in the city.

The meetings of the senior SAARC officials will continue till July 9 to finalise the agenda which would mainly deal with poverty alleviation in the member countries.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the first meet of the SAARC Finance and Planning Ministers on Sunday at the International Conference Centre.

Meanwhile, senior officials representing their countries started arriving in the city yesterday. The delegates who ar-

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Leonardo out of WC

Spate of punitive measures

DALLAS, July 7: Brazilian midfielder Leonardo received a four-match suspension on Wednesday for elbowing American Tab Ramos out of soccer for at least three months, reports Reuter.

The ban will prevent Leonardo from playing in the rest



of the World Cup.

Leonardo was also fined 10,000 Swiss francs (7,500 dollars) for the tough foul in Monday's second round match which Brazil won with a fracture goal.

General secretary Sepp Blatter described the incident as the most aggressive foul of the tournament.

Brazil, who face the Netherlands in the quarter-finals on Saturday, have two days to appeal against the decision.

Blatter said: 'This was the worst example of aggression we have seen in the World Cup. It was a revenge foul, and the court — FIFA's disciplinary committee — has taken this decision.'

'They did not take into consideration that he apologized',

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Legal adviser raises objection

Biman's attempt to buy 2 aircraft may fail again

By Asiuzzaman

The third attempt to procure two mid-haul aircraft by Biman Bangladesh Airlines is likely to be bogged down as its legal adviser has suggested rejection of two out of three technically-fit tenders, terming them 'faulty'.

The law firm was engaged following allegations by some bidders that Biman was violating the tender rules relating to 'ownership of the aircraft'. It said that the two bidders concerned had not given the ownership certificate, according to informed sources.

They gave 'authorisation certificate' which could not be treated as 'ownership certificate', the legal adviser was quoted as saying.

On the other hand, Biman

may incur huge losses if the national carrier purchase aircraft from the only firm now left in the race. It reportedly quoted a high rate, close to the price of new aircraft. The authorities were now evaluating its financial offer, the sources said. 'We are now in a fix', a senior official said.

Biman floated tender for the third time for procuring two French-made Airbus A-310-300 in February last. The authorities received 11 offers of which nine were accepted for technical evaluation. Three of the offers were found technically feasible.

The sources said that the authorities were now contemplating reconsideration of all

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Ooi Chin Kay new Asian snooker champ

Sports Reporter

Ooi Chin Kay of Malaysia broke Thai stranglehold on the Asian Snooker championship when he gallantly fought back from behind to win the 11th Asian snooker championship.

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at the ball room of the Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

The seventh-seeded player won the best of fifteen frames match 8-7, against Thailand's Somporn Kantwang, in a thrilling finale.

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Conspiracy on to transfer power to 'evil forces': Nasim

Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim yesterday alleged the government was conspiring to disrupt parliamentary democracy and transfer power to 'evil forces', reports UNB.

'Keeping the opposition outside parliament, the government conducted three consecutive sessions, including the important budget session. We are now certain that the ruling party is making play to

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Indian film industry personnel stand in front of the Thane Central Jail Wednesday to protest against the arrest of film star Sanjay Dutt. (from L to R) Villain Amrish Puri, actor superstar Sharuk Khan, producer-director Subhash Ghai, actor Aditya Pancholi and producer Yash Johar. Sanjay Dutt was arrested for his alleged involvement in the 1993 bombing in Bombay. — AFP photo.

Aden falls to Northern forces

ADEN, Yemen, July 7: Aden fell today to forces loyal to Yemen's northern President Ali Abdallah Saleh after more than two months of civil war, the north announced after capturing the southern city's television station, reports AFP.

Northern troops have 'cleared up' pockets of resistance from neighbourhoods in Aden's old town, according to the station now named Republic of Yemen Television, which showed battle scenes.

Fighting had stopped when the announcement came, an AFP correspondent said. Saleh now appears to have crushed the 'rebellion' by his southern rival and former Vice President Ali Salem Al-Baid who declared a separate Yemen Democratic Republic two weeks after war broke out on May 5.

Diplomats and political sources said Baid and most of his aides had fled Aden and

the other main southern city of Mukalla, 700 kilometers (434 miles) to the east.

The fall of Aden was announced after the north mounted an offensive from the Khormaksar neighbourhood, which commands access via a narrow strip of land to the refuge-swollen old town jutting into the sea.

Rival forces fought heavy street battles in the old town, terrifying hundreds of thousands of trapped civilians.

Hospitals had been overflowing with casualties from the fighting and heavy overnight shelling but no toll was available, international relief workers said.

Forces loyal to Saleh began their final assault with heavy weaponry and then fought machine gun battles with defending southern troops, while armed gangs looted stores and government buildings.

The worst-hit areas were the Tawahi and Maalla neighbourhoods adjacent to the port, but the main administrative crater district was reported earlier to have been spared most of the fighting.

Old Aden's 250,000 population had almost doubled with refugees from the city's outlying areas, according to humanitarian officials.

In New York UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi was seeking guarantees from Sanaa to spare the residents of Aden if the city surrendered, diplomats said.

The city has been without running water for more than a week after a water pumping station was destroyed during the northern advance.

In a sign of the desperation felt here, a policeman in the Khormaksar district earlier issued an SOS to an AFP correspondent.

'Jahanara Imam rekindled spirit of '71'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a condolence meeting yesterday called upon the younger generation to complete the unfinished task of Jahanara Imam and eliminate fundamentalism from the country.

Jahanara Imam did not want anything for herself out of the Nirmul Committee movement but the trial of the rapists and killers of the liberation war period, they said.

Addressing the condolence meeting organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at the

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Khaleda now using Ershad's language, says Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, yesterday said the proposed caretaker government would ensure people's voting right and accountability of the government and curb corruption, reports UNB.

Addressing several hundred political activists of different parties of Cantonment thana who joined the Awami League, she said a free and impartial election is impossible under the BNP government after massive rigging, use of black money and mafias in last parliamentary by-elections and local body polls.

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G-7 summit opens in Naples today

NAPLES, Italy, July 7: Unemployment, trade and the dollar are set to dominate the G-7 Summit opening here on Friday which will admit Russia for the first time to political talks on Bosnia and other international issues, reports AFP.

Italy has said it notably plans to press for the creation of an international intervention force which would be held ready for ethnic or international crises violating human rights.

A perception that the world economy has entered a new environment has led France to press for discussion on ways to strengthen international cooperation on monetary policy 50 years after the Bretton Woods Conference.

For Japan a central concern is the fall in the value of the dollar which is having a painful effect on the export performance of its industry against a background of strain within the Japanese banking system.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Housing Building Finance Corporation (BHF) with a list of 10 points regarding housing loans and interest rates.

Advertisement for Old Victorians (Association of Comilla Victoria College Old Students) including details of a memorial plaque and contact information.