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NEWS BRIEFS

Dhaka mourns Kim's death today

The national flag of Bangla-
desh will fly half-mast at all
government and semi-gov-
ernment offices today to con-
dole the death of North Korean
President Kim Il Sung. The in-
struction came from the gov-
ernment yesterday. All
Bangladesh missions abroad
will also lower the flag half-
mast, reports UNB.

PM greets Brazilian President

Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia yesterday felici-
tated President Itamar Franco
of Brazil on the occasion of his
country's victory in the World
Cup Football final 1994. "We
share your joy and celebration
on a very well deserved victory
of Brazil at the World Cup
Football final 1994," Begum
Zia said in a message to the
Brazilian President, reports
UNB.

Khaleda to attend ICPD in Cairo

By Staff Correspondent
Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia will attend the
International Conference on
Population and Development
(ICPD) to be held in Cairo from
September 5 to 13, according
to informed sources. The
Prime Minister's entourage
would include a number of
representatives from NGOs.

SPGRC body meets Pak envoy

A six member delegation of
the Stranded Pakistanis Gen-
eral Repatriation Commi-tee
(SPGRC) called on Pakistan
High Commissioner in
Bangladesh Anwar Kemal at his
office in Dhaka yesterday.

WB unhappy with slow jute sector reform

By S Y Bakht

The World Bank may with-
hold releasing the 70 million
US dollar second tranche of
the Jute Sector Adjustment
Credit unless the initial target
of capacity reduction and pri-
vatization of the jute sector is
met within the current year,
according to official sources.The government is now
preparing to close down five
public sector jute mills, earlier
scheduled to have been com-
pleted by June last, and pri-
vatise another nine by the end of
this year.A World Bank (WB) mission
from Washington is presentlyin the city to review progress
of the jute sector restructuring
programme (JSRP) with gov-
ernment officials.The WB is learnt to have
been critical of the delay in
implementing the initial target
of closing down and privatising
public sector jute mills.However, it noted the progress
made in restructuring the out-
standing debt of the jute sec-
tor.Earlier, in February last, the
WB agreed to provide 175 mil-
lion special drawing rights
(SDR of 245 million dollars) as
jute sector adjustment credit(JSAC). The soft-term loan be-
came effective from April,
when the first tranche of 49
million dollars was released.The three-year JSRP,
scheduled to continue upto
December 1996, is designed
to make the country's jute sec-
tor "economically viable"
through downsizing the exist-
ing loom capacity, employee
rationalisation, restructuring
past debts, privatisation, re-
forming the wage determina-
tion policy, eliminating gov-
ernment intervention and by
re-training the employees of

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Leaders of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Federation called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. — PID photo

Govt to give fresh impetus to textile sector: PM

Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia yesterday said
steps will be taken to give a
fresh impetus to the country's
textile sector, reports UNB.Necessary action will be
taken to remove bottlenecks in
the flourishing of the textile
industry, she told a delegation
of the Bangladesh Textile
Industries Federation at her
office in the afternoon.The 14-member delegation
led by convener of the federa-
tion Lt Col (Retd) Kazi Selim
Uddin submitted a 10-point
recommendation to the PM,
calling for urgent measures to
ensure development of the
prospective sector.More than 35 lakh people
are employed in the country's
textile sector having 514,000
handlooms, 36,000 power
looms, about 500 knitting and
hosiery industries and 276
dyeing-finishing factories.
Besides, there are 10,000 local
garments factories and 1,848export-oriented garments
manufacturing companies.Commerce Minister M
Shamsul Islam, Post and Tele-
communication Minister Tariq
Islam, State Minister for
Textiles Maj (Retd) Abdul
Mannan and Principle Secre-
tary to the Prime Minister
were present during the meet-
ing.The federation called for
withdrawal of taxes and VAT
on import of nylon chips, syn-
thetic fibre and on manufac-
turing of hosiery and local gar-
ments.The delegation demanded
fixation of import duty on all
sort of yarn at 5 per cent and
on chemicals used in textile
manufacturing at 15 per cent
for reducing the production
cost to be able to compete
with the international market.The Federation also pointed
at the zero per cent duty on
import of machinery for
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KAFCO to get gas meter today

By Sharier Khan

Regular supply of almost
half of the Karnaphuli Fer-
tiliser Company's (KAFCO) to-
tal gas requirement will be
ensured following the commis-
sioning today of a customer's
meter, reports UNB.Two pipelines of the Bak-
habad Gas Systems Ltd (BGSL)
will now supply KAFCO upto 30
million cubic feet (mcf) per
day, official sources said.The government is commit-
ted to supply KAFCO with 61.5
mcf gas from December 1
next. The other half will be
supplied mostly from the Feni
gas field.Kafco will require some 62
mcf gas supply per day when
it goes into full trial produc-
tion from October 1, Kafco
sources said.Under a 14 million US dol-
lar funding from Japan, the
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8th fragment of comet hits Jupiter

Explosion outshines planet's two nearest moons

SUTHERLAND, South
Africa, July 19: The eighth
fragment of the Shoemaker-
Levy 9 comet hurtled into
Jupiter's upper atmosphere on
schedule at 1926 GMT on
Monday, creating an explosion
brighter than the planet's two
nearest moons, reports Reuters.Japanese astronomer Kaz
Sekiguchi watched the explo-
sion from the South African
observatory at Sutherland and
told the agency: "This is by far
the brightest of the three im-
pacts we have observed."Astronomers were sur-
prised to see a huge black spot
at the approximate site of the
previous and biggest impact 12
hours earlier."There is a huge black spot
in the south, probably at the
site of impact G," SouthAfrican astronomer Dave Laney
told Reuters.He said it was too early to
analyse the black spot but
added: "When you get an im-
pact like this, it could cause
chemical changes in the Jovian
atmosphere."Battling to get an image de-
spite poor conditions caused
by water vapour in the atmo-
sphere high above the Karoo
desert, Sekiguchi monitored
the eighth impact through an
infra-red telescope while col-
leagues used an optical in-
strument in an adjacent dome
at this mountain observatory."The seeing is very bad
tonight, much worse than on
Saturday when we watched
fragment A," he said. He added
that the eighth fragment,
dubbed H, appeared to haveblasted deep into Jupiter's at-
mosphere, pushing back an ex-
ploding plume that reached
hundreds of miles above the
planet.Fragment H is the latest in
a chain of 21 pieces of the
Shoemaker-Levy comet ex-
pected to hit the giant planet
by Friday.Sekiguchi said the eighth
blast lasted about 20 minutes
before fading from his screen.
"It takes sometime to de-
velop. What happens is that the
fragment penetrates and a
huge hot gas bubble bursts out
of the atmosphere," he said."If I compare this with the
brightness of the moons, it is
by far the brightest impact we
have seen."Laney said the blast was
See Page 12 Col 8

Public hearing of crimes against women planned at Cairo Confce

By Masud Hasan Khan

Ten women's groups from
Asia, Europe and America are
planning to hold an interna-
tional public hearing on crimes
against women.Women victims from differ-
ent regions will appear at the
public hearing in the Egyptian
capital Cairo on September 7
to testify against "crimes" suf-
fered by them when they were
using reproductive technol-
ogies including birth control
materials, according to in-
formation received in Dhaka.The one-day public hearing
will coincide with the Interna-
tional Conference on Popu-
lation and Development (ICPD)
to be held in Cairo from Sep-
tember 5 to September 13.
Two women from Bangla-desh are among the victims
and are scheduled to attend
the hearing with their testimo-
nies, organisers said.The sponsoring organisa-
tions of the international pub-
lic hearing include UBINIG, an
NGO of Bangladesh, Terra Fe-
mina from Latin America, Bos-
ton Women's Health Collective
and Women and Environment
of USA, Network Women in
Development Europe, Women's
Alliance of Reproductive Health
of Canada, the Asian Wo-
men's Human Rights Council
based in the Philippines, Peo-
ple's Health Network of India,
Arab Women's Organisation of
Egypt and Women of Zagreb.There will be two sessions,
the first on women's experi-
ences with reproductive tech-
nologies used under population
policies and the second on the
racism, fundamentalism, in-
ternational migration, eugenics
and genetic engineering, ac-
cording to an announcement
by the sponsors.Each session will be heard
by an international jury of pro-
minent feminists and health
activists which would analyse
the testimonies in the light of
population programmes and
help formulate recommenda-
tions for the future, addressing
women's real needs, it said.The international popula-
tion conference will bring to-
gether decision makers and
political leaders from all coun-
tries.

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Big welcome for Brazil's heroes

RECIFE, Brazil, July 19:
Brazil's victorious soccer team,
winners of an unprecedented
fourth World Cup title, arrived
home today to a red-carpet of-
ficial welcome and a rapturous
reception from millions of ec-
static fans, reports Reuters.In a marathon day of cele-
brations, the coastal city of
Recife in northeast Pernam-
buco state was first to greet
the returning heroes after
their 3-2 penalties win against
Italy in Sunday's World Cup
final.Recife, last August, was
where Brazil thrashed Bolivia
6-0 in a morale-boosting
classification round win that
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EU offers to help Taslima

BONN, Germany, July 19:
European Union ambassadors
in Dhaka, Bangladesh have
been instructed to offer pro-
tection to bounded feminist
author Taslima Nasreen.
Germany's foreign minister
said Tuesday, reports AP.Klaus Kinkel said the EU
foreign ministers also agreed
at a meeting Monday to appeal
to the Bangladesh government
to protect Nasreen 32 and give
her the chance to leave the
country.In May, Muslim fundamen-
talists issued death threats
against Ms. Nasreen after she
called, in an interview, for
changes in Islamic law to give
women more rights.Ms Nasreen went into hid-
ing June 4 after a court had
ordered her arrest based on
the newspaper interview.
Police are searching nation-
wide for the author."She is naturally welcome in
Germany but also in any other
European Union country,"
Kinkel said. His comment
came in a published response
to a letter from socialist Martin
Walser seeking German pro-
tection for Ms Nasreen.

Lanka bans Lajja

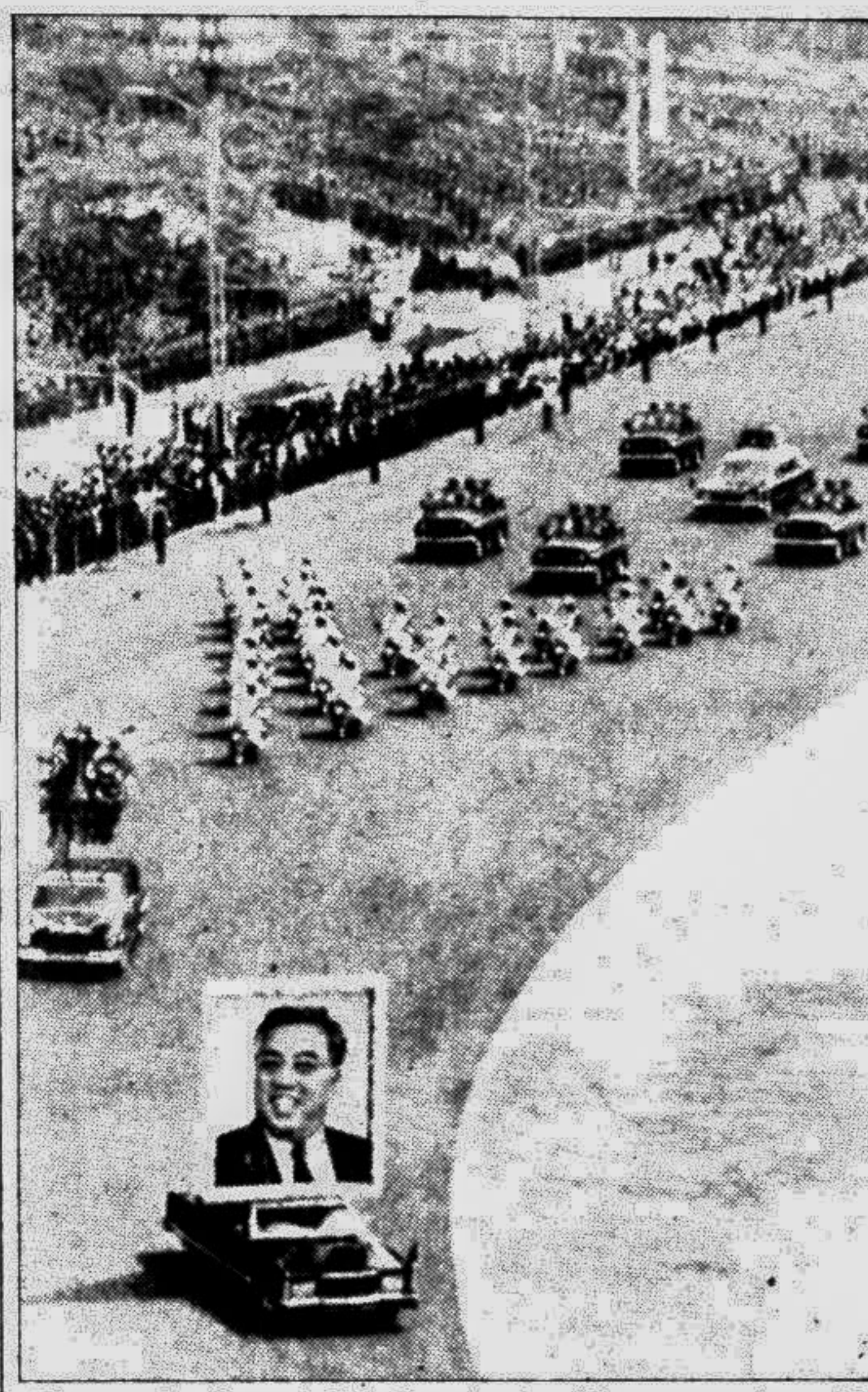
COLOMBO, July 19: Sri
Lanka has banned a book by
Taslima Nasreen on the
grounds that it would hurt
the feelings of minority Muslims
in the country, the government
announced today, reports AFP.The Colombo cabinet de-
cided to prohibit the import
and sale of the "Lajja" on
charges that the Nasreen's in-
terviews and other writings
have been blasphemous and
hurt Muslims, a government
statement said.

Kamal Siddiqui sues Abu Hena

Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui,
Secretary to the Prime Minis-
ter yesterday filed a defama-
tion case of Taka one crore
against Abu Hena, Secretary
General of Prokrichi, with the
First Sub-Judge's Court,
Dhaka, reports BSS.A summons was issued
against Hena. Khandaker Mah-
bub Hossain, Hena's lawyer,
said.Dr Siddiqui alleged that at
a press conference held on
June 11 Hena had made some
false and concocted state-
ments to defame him by ques-
tioning his patriotism, hon-
esty, reputation and responsi-
bility as a high government of-
ficial."Subsequently, a legal notice
was served on Hena on June
29 to withdraw his statements
published in the newspapers
and to apologise within seven
days. The case was filed yester-
day after Hena failed to re-
ply to the notice in time,"
Hossain said.

Audit employees' strike declared illegal

By Staff Correspondent

The government expressed
its concern yesterday at the
"illegal" activities of some of
the officials and employees of
the audit department, a press
release issued by Finance
Ministry said.The government noted that
despite repeated requests, the
officials and employees had
abstained from work on June
19, 28 and 29 to press home
some "illogical" demands.On June 25, the govern-
ment issued a press release
asking the agitating officials to
refrain from such activities as
their services are essential un-
der the 1958 "Essential
See Page 12 Col 3

Thousands of people life the streets of Pyongyang to watch Kim Il-Sung's funeral procession yesterday. — AFP photo

Emotional farewell for Kim

SEOUL, July 19: North Ko-
rea publicly vented its grief
today over the death of Kim Il-
Sung, as millions of frenzied
citizens bid an emotional
farewell to the only ruler they
have ever known, reports
Reuters.After an hour of formal cer-
emonies the North Korean
elite Kim's hearse was paraded
through the streets of Py-
ongyang, causing extraordinary
outpourings of grief from the
people he ruled with iron hand
for nearly half a century.North Korean state televi-
sion showed Kim's funeral
cortege driving slowly through
the tree-lined boulevards of
the North Korean capital amid
scenes of barely-controlled
hysteria.Soldiers, schoolgirls and
ordinary citizens wailed, rent
their clothes, shook with hys-
teria and beat their fists in the
air as Kim's body drove past
atop a Lincoln continental.Ambulances lined the route
to cater for those overcome by
grief among the crowd esti-
mated at two million by North
Korean state radio.Kim's black and gilt-inlaid
coffin was bedded on a quilt of
chrysanthemums and draped
in the flag of the powerful
communist party, the all-per-
vading source of his authoritar-
ian power."We have never imagined
the future without you. Our
See Page 12 Col 7

Gear up agitation for caretaker govt: Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh
Hasina yesterday called for
gearing up agitation for elec-
tion under a neutral caretaker,
government to secure democ-
racy and economic develop-
ment, reports UNB."No matter how strong the
Election Commission might
be, a free and impartial elec-
tion is not possible until the
head of the government be-
comes neutral and non-parti-
san," she said, apparently dis-
approving the government
move to strengthen the EC.The Awami League Presi-
dent made the remarks while
addressing a gathering of
political workers, union
parishad chairmen and social
workers from Noakhali and
Shariatpur who joined the
Awami League at 29 Minto
Road in the afternoon.She said the demand for
neutral caretaker governmentbecame a national demand
after, "largescale rigging" of
Mjipur and Magura by elec-
tions.Questioning the BNP's sin-
cerity in making parliamentary
democracy effective, Hasina
said the present government
was ignoring parliamentary
norms and practices and try-
ing to rule the country by
presidential ordinances.Welcoming the newcomers
to her party, Hasina said the
doors of the Awami League
remain open for those who
want to build an exploitation-
free society based on the spirit
of the Liberation War ending
corruption, terrorism, killing
and vote robbery.An AL press release said
more than 500 workers of the
BNP, JSD, BSD, Jatiya Party,
Sramik Jote, cultural bodies,
former and incumbent union
parishad chairmen joined the
party.

Leftists take umbrage at Hasina's remarks

By Nurul Kabir

The left-wing political par-
ties yesterday reacted sharply
to Sheikh Hasina's remarks
that the leftists, presently crit-
ical of the Awami League (AL)'s
relations with the Jamaat-e-
Islami, had always been indif-
ferent towards the political
rehabilitation of the Jamaat.The AL Chief and Leader of
the Opposition in Parliament
Sheikh Hasina had made the
observation while addressing a
public rally in the city Monday.The leaders of leftist politi-
cal parties unanimously said
yesterday that Hasina had
made the comment either 'out
of her ignorance' about the
leftists' glorious history of
struggle against all sorts of re-
ligious based politics and
communalism or as part her
frantic efforts to justify the
AL's 'unholy alliance' with the
Jamaat which had actively op-
See Page 12 Col 4

Thank you

Beximco Group is pleased to announce that
over Tk 30 crores has been received against
subscription for public issue of shares of Tk 4.5 crores
and debentures of Tk 13.5 crores
which closed on July 5, 1994 of

Beximco Knitting Limited

The Management takes this opportunity to thank
the general public
for their overwhelming support and confidence
reposed on the Company.The Management also gratefully acknowledges
the co-operation extended and services rendered bySecurities and Exchange Commission
Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd
and the Bankers to the issueStandard Chartered Bank, Janata Bank, Banque Indosuez
ANZ Grindlays Bank PLC, IFIC Bank Ltd, Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd
Investment Corporation of Bangladesh

and Manager to the Issue and Trustee to the Debentures

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