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Inside Today

- Article**
- Clinton has the last laugh
- Bosnia Born-again: Uncle Sam Looking Beyond Horizon?**
by A M M Shahabuddin
Page 4
- Focus**
- Law & Our Rights**
- Election violence 1996; and Communalism in sub-continental politics
Page 5
- International**
- All set for Russian polls
- UN city summit on urban woes ends in squabbles
Page 8
- Business**
- Indian govt okays plan to scrap 999-yr mining lease to pvt firm
- Regulators begin to dissect Sumitomo copper scandal
Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index 915.82 (+1.27%)
Market capital Tk 6218.60 cr
Transactions in volume 21165
Transactions in value Tk 3.15cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

For them it's adventure and challenge
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Sec 144 in Shaikupa

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 15: Section 144 was imposed in Shaikupa thana today following a series of clashes between rival political activists. The TNO of Shaikupa said Section 144 was imposed to restore normalcy. At least 25 persons were injured in clashes in the past few days.

2 bodies recovered in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 15: Two bodies were recovered in Gowainghat thana yesterday. Police recovered the body of an unidentified man from the Tikka char of Dakshin Protappur under Baschim Jafflon union. Though the identity of the victim could not yet be ascertained, police and some local people suspect that the body might be of a businessman from Sunamganj who had been missing for the last few days.

UN arms inspectors leave Iraq today

BAGHDAD, June 15: UN arms inspectors lifted their five-day vigil outside three Iraqi weapons sites they had been barred from entering and will leave Iraq Sunday, a UN official said today, reports AFP.

16 killed in Pak bus accident

ISLAMABAD, June 15: A broken axle sent a packed commuter bus skidding off a busy highway in northern Pakistan, killing 16 passengers and leaving more than a dozen others injured, state-run media reported today. The driver lost control of the bus when its front axle broke and the vehicle's nose slammed into the road, the official Associated Press of Pakistan reported, says AP.

President tells Western diplomats

New govt to be installed as soon as process completed

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday told foreign diplomats that he would not spare a single moment to install the people's representatives in government in accordance with the constitutional provisions as soon as the process is completed, reports UNB.

President Biswas was talking to the Ambassadors of various countries who called on him at Bangabhaban. US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill led the delegation.

The other members of the team were Peter J Fowler, British High Commissioner, Raffaele Miniero, Ambassador of Italy, Kenneth William Aspinall, Australian High Commissioner, Robert A Vornis, Ambassador of the Netherlands, Bjorn Sternby, Ambassador of Sweden, and Michael

Repolling schedule

Repolling in 122 centres of 27 constituencies in 13 districts where voting on June 12 were marred by untoward incidents will be held on June 19, reports UNB.

Polling will start at 8 am and continue till 4 pm without break. The Election Commission said announcing the repolling schedule yesterday.

See Page 12 col 8



A delegation of the ambassadors of Western countries led by US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N Merrill called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday.

AL candidate in B'baria-1 declared elected

Awami League candidate M Sayedul Haque was yesterday declared unofficially elected from Brahmanbaria-1 constituency, further raising the AL strength, reports UNB.

The Election Commission yesterday announced that the AL nominee secured 33,364 votes against 28,280 polled by his nearest rival M Ahsanul Haque of the Jatiya Party in the June 12 general election.

Results of the votings for the JS seat were withheld for "legal complexity."

With this the Election Commission so far has announced the unofficial results of 273 constituencies. The latest party positions are as follows:

Awami League	134
BNP	104
Jatiya Party	29
Jamaat-e-Islami	3
JSD (Rab)	1
Islami Oikya Jote	1
Independent	1
Total	273

7 army officers dismissed, four others retired

Seven army officers have been dismissed and four others compulsorily retired on charge of their links with the May 20 trouble in the Bangladesh Army, reports UNB.

The measures have been taken against the officers, including former Army Chief Lt Gen ASM Nasim, on the basis of the recommendations of the Court of Enquiry constituted to probe the May 20 incidents, according to Defence Ministry notifications issued yesterday.

"Considering the participation and role of the accused officers in the War of Liberation, this minimum penalty under the proviso of the Army Act was awarded," said ISPR quoting the notifications.

Invite AL to form govt, JP urges President

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party (JP) in a written statement to extend invitation to Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina to form the next government.

The statement also mentioned that a copy of it was being forwarded to the President and the AL Chief.

It was issued in the names of acting Chairman of JP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju.

The statement said "For stable democratic, social and political order, we shall extend support to the party obtaining the highest number of seats in the parliamentary election."

In the interest of democracy and rule of law JP demanded release of party Chairman HM Ershad who has been elected from five seats, the statement said.

Meanwhile, a Presidium meeting of the JP was held last night. The meeting that began at 9:30 at the residence of Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury was attended by Begum Roushan Ershad, Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain and Anwar Hossain Manju.

Senior president member of the party, Begum Roushan Ershad, when contacted after the meeting, denied having any knowledge.

See Page 12 col 7

AL to consult all parties in forming govt: Hasina

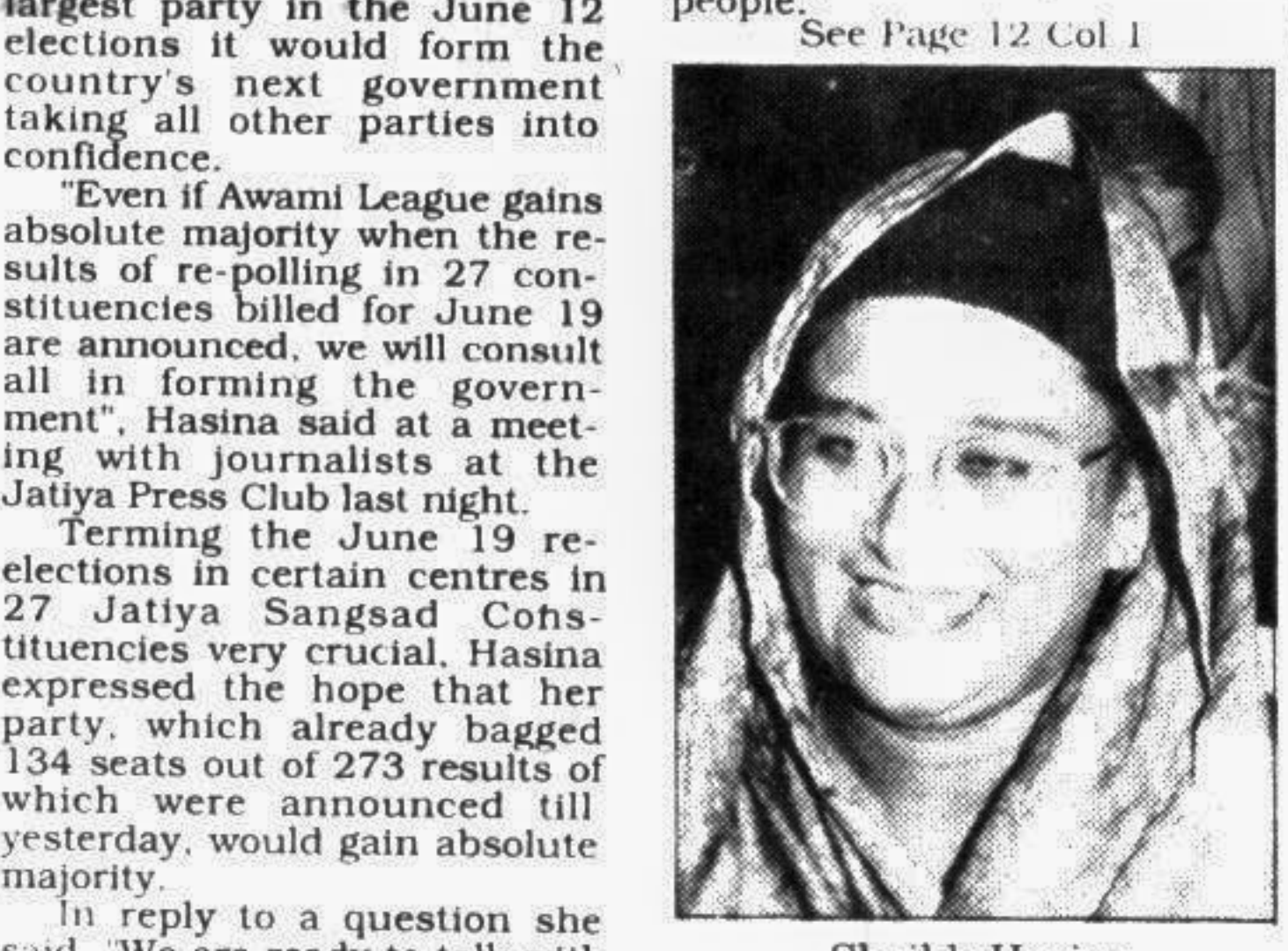
By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said yesterday although her party emerged as the largest party in the June 12 elections it would form the country's next government taking all other parties into confidence.

"Even if Awami League gains absolute majority when the results of re-polling in 27 constituencies for June 19 are announced, we will consult all in forming the government", Hasina said at a meeting with journalists at the Jatiya Press Club last night.

Termining the June 19 re-elections in certain centres in 27 Jatiya Sangsad Constituencies very crucial, Hasina expressed the hope that her party, which already bagged 134 seats out of 273 results of which were announced till yesterday, would gain absolute majority.

In reply to a question she said, "We are ready to talk with



Sheikh Hasina

7 army officers dismissed, four others retired

Those dismissed are Lt Gen ASM Nasim, Bir Bikram, PSC, Maj Gen Muhammad Annuddin, Bir Protik, PSC, Maj Gen Gholam Helal Morshed Khan, Bir Bikram, PSC, Brig KM Abu Bakr, Bir Protik, PSC, Brig Fazlur Rahman, PSC, Brig Mohammad Zillur Rahman, PSC, and Brig Shafi Mohammad Mehbub, PSC.

Maj Gen Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, Bir Protik, AWC, PSC, Brig Mohammad Azizul Haque, PSC, Lt Col Anisul Haque Mridha and Major Syed Mahmud Hasan, PSC, have been sent into forced retirement.

The dismissal and retirement took effect since June 14, 1996.

Cyclone remains stationary

The cyclonic storm over west central Bay and north-west Bay remained practically stationary and was centred at 9 pm yesterday about 1050 kilometres southwest of Chittagong port and 850 kilometres from Khulna city, reports UNB.

A Met Office special bulletin last night said that the cyclonic storm is likely to intensify further and move in a north northeasterly direction.

Maximum sustained wind within 54 kilometres of the cyclone centre is about 80 kph rising to 100 kph in gust or squalls.

Sea will remain very rough. Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number four.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay have been advised to keep close to the coast so as to take shelter at a short notice.

Khaleda urges newsmen

Remain alert to prevent recurrence of June 16 event

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the people, particularly the journalists and newspapermen, to remain alert to prevent recurrence of the event of June 16, 1975, reports UNB.

On this day in 1975, she said, the then one-party BKSAL government banned all but four newspapers through an ordinance to "conceal its repressive policy, terrorism, misuse and acts of snatching people's democratic rights."

"We don't know of strangling people's right to express opinion in such a heinous way in any civilised society," she said.

See Page 12 col 7

206 hurt in Manchester car bomb explosion

MANCHESTER, June 15: A car exploded in central Manchester Saturday morning, injuring at least 206 people. The blast followed a coded telephone warning, and Prime Minister John Major said it appeared to be the work of the IRA, reports Agencies.

Police set off a second explosion at about 1 pm (1200 GMT) to neutralise a suspect package, but it proved not to be a bomb.

The car exploded as bomb squad officers were responding to an alert police said. They did not confirm reports that the warning included an Irish Republican Army code word.

"The Ardvale Centre, which is the heart of the city shopping area, the whole side, the gable end, has just been blown away," said Gary O'Neil of the Manchester Fire Brigade.

"Several buildings around also, the tower block, the glass has been scattered over a large area. It's a strange scene at the moment," O'Neil told Sky Television. He said the brigade was dealing with several small fires.

"This explosion looks like the work of the IRA," Major said in London.

"It is the work of a few fanatics and, as [Irish Prime Minister] John Bruton has al-

Indian EC ready to hold mid-term polls any time

NEW DELHI, June 15: India's polls panel chief said today that he was ready to hold early elections to the national parliament "any time", the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says AFP.

Chief Election Commissioner TN Seshan, who is due to retire in November, was quoted as telling reporters in Calcutta city "The Election Commission is ready to hold mid-term polls any time."

He did not elaborate, and it was not clear if the government or any political party had urged him to consider organising another round of general elections with a whopping 600 million voters.

Seshan's remarks came

See Page 12 col 8

Manchester's two main railway stations were closed, and the city centre was closed off following the blast.

Sixty-nine people, most of them suffering from glass wounds, were taken to Manchester Royal Infirmary, said spokesman Richard Emmett.

Four were in critical condition, including a pregnant woman, and 10 had serious injuries, the hospital said.

Another hospital said it was treating 21 people, including two with major injuries.

Hundreds of soccer fans are in Manchester for Sunday's Euro '96 championship tournament match between Germany and Russia.

Manchester, 180 miles northwest of London, was the target of Irish Republican Army bombing on December 3, 1992. More than 60 people were injured by flying glass and debris when two bombs exploded during a weekday rush hour.

Import orders decline

Import orders during the first ten months of the current fiscal year marked a decline over the corresponding period of last year, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Bank said yesterday import LCs (letters of credit) worth about Tk 22,191 crore were opened by authorised dealer banks during July 95-April '96 period, registering a 0.14 per cent drop from last year's mark.

The decline in import LCs is apparently a fallout of central bank's recent verbal advice to commercial banks, given amidst drop in foreign exchange reserve, to tighten control on the import of non-essentials.

Value of LCs opened during the period for import of fabrics and accessories for the ready-made garment sector was Tk 5,350 crore.

LCs opened for foodgrain import were worth Tk 2,050 crore while that for the import of capital machinery totalled Tk 1,864 crore.

Airbus A-310 plane joins Biman fleet

An Airbus joined the fleet of Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday under the national flag-carrier's modernisation programme, reports UNB.

Syed Manzur Elahi, Adviser for Civil Aviation and Tourism, formally received the airbus A310-300 as it flew in the Zia International Airport yesterday morning.

Adviser for Finance and Planning Dr Wahiduddin Mahmood and Managing Director of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Omar Farooque, among others, were present on the occasion.

Biman will get another Airbus of this type by August next. The wide-body twin-engine

See Page 12 col 8

Daily Star discussion meetings with members of the SAARC polls observer team

Women's representation at all levels emphasised

By Staff Correspondent

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), there are still laws which discriminate women. The participants also pointed out that where there were laws against discrimination of women, those were rarely implemented.

They also highlighted the enactment of uniform family code.

Pratima Dandawati, a member of Indian Parliament, said that women activists in India had to create constant pressure so that the political parties kept their election pledge of amending the constitution to provide 33 per cent of reserved seats for women in the Parliament.

"Women seeking public office need to be trained properly as in most cases where the wives are elected, it is the husband who ruled by proxy," she added.

Nirmaala Buch, a former provincial secretary of India said that the constitutional amendment in her country in 1992 ensured one-third of seats of the local self govern-

Increased flow of information can foster greater cooperation

By Staff Correspondent

He said because India is the biggest country in the region, any initiative taken by India attracts other states' suspicion which acts as a major problem. On the other hand, when other states take any initiative, India becomes suspicious.

He said there has been restrictions imposed on SAARC journalists by the governments concerned and added that if journalists meet more frequently, there can be a common understanding of the problems and these can be solved.

He said journalists should go on exchange programmes among the member states and get attached to newspapers guests.

A Rahman of Pakistan said the media is being used as a tool of acrimony among the states.

"We are obsessed with the doings of the governments and ignoring the directives of change in the societies," he said.

He pointed out that newspapers in the SAARC countries cover more in distant lands than their neighbours.

He suggested exchange programmes of journalists, introduction of SAARC pages in newspapers and syndicated column services to promote exchanges of information between the countries.

Rahman also proposed holding an annual meeting of SAARC journalists where the mediemen can "unburden themselves to pursue the ideas they agree."

Ashish Nandy, Director of the Delhi-based Institute of Development Studies, said the region is stuck up in a cycle of hostility that affects understanding between the SAARC member states.

Ayaz Amir, a Pakistani journalist, said journalists are part of the social system and as such there is no example that journalists can spearhead any change in the relationship between states.

He said unless the real problems of the regions are addressed to, there can not be any cooperation at any level.

M B Naqvi, another Pakistani journalist, said

Property worth Tk 50 lakh gutted at Tongi Bazar

TONGI, June 15: Property worth about Tk 50 lakh were burnt in a devastating fire at Tongi Bazar Hawker's Market here early today, reports UNB.

Police and Fire Brigade sources said 44 shops of the market were gutted in the fire at about 2:55 am. The affected shops include grocery, ready-made garments, shoes, book and cosmetics, shops.

Firemen from headquarters and Tongi rushed to the scene and extinguished the fire at about 5 in the morning after a two-hour frantic fight.

The cause of the fire and extent of damage could not be ascertained immediately.

Shopowners and hawkers claimed that different kinds of goods, including a huge quantity of clothes, were looted by miscreants during the fire.