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NEWS BRIEFS

Kh Mahbub Khaleda's legal adviser

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday appointed eminent jurist Khondoker Mahbubuddin Ahmed as BNP Chairperson's legal affairs adviser, reports BSS.
The appointment will be effective henceforth, said a party press release.

AL public meet tomorrow

The Awami League will hold a public meeting at Manik Mia Avenue at 3 pm tomorrow. Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the meeting, organised by City Awami League. City Awami League President and Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif will preside over the meeting, reports UNB.

Funeral of Mong Shue Prue tomorrow

The funeral of Mong Shue Prue Chowdhury will be held tomorrow, said a press release yesterday. He was the 14th King of 'Bomang Circle' of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Mong breathed his last on June 16. He was 81. The function will be attended by Marma and other tribal people living in the region. The function will be held at the 'Police Math' of Bandarban district.

2 hurt as BNP, AL clash in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 28: At least two persons were injured in a clash between the supporters of the BNP and Awami League at Munsurabad today, police and party sources said. One of the injured, Monsur Ahmed identified as BNP activist, was in critical state, hospital sources said.

BNP Sramik Dal meeting today

The newly-appointed Secretary General of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will hold a meeting today at 6 pm with the central leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal at the BNP head office at Kakrail in the city.

Jatiya Sangsad to meet July 14

By Staff Correspondent

The seventh Jatiya Sangsad will go into its first session on July 14.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday accepted a request from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to summon the Sangsad into session on that date, according to Bangabhaban sources. A formal announcement in this regard will be made today, the sources said.

The Prime Minister met the President at Bangabhaban last night and requested him to summon the first session of Parliament.

A number of ministers and Awami League stalwarts were with the Hasina during her 40-minute meeting with the President, the sources said.

The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker will be elected

on the first day of the session.

The 7th Jatiya Sangsad was elected through the June 12 election held under the caretaker government.

Sheikh Hasina, whose Awami League emerged as the largest party bagging 146 seats, was sworn-in Sunday as the 10th Prime Minister.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which relinquished power on March 30 in the face of a prolonged movement for election under a caretaker government, secured 116 seats, emerging as a strong opposition in parliament. BNP chairperson former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to be elected Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. She is yet to take oath as an MP due to her sickness.

Jatiya Party bagged 32 seats, Jamaat-e-Islami three,

and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) and Islami Oikya Jote one each. The lone independent MP later joined AL.

During the Prime Minister meeting with the President, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Post and Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim, Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Chief Whip of AL Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Abdul Mannan MP, and party leaders Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu and Abdul Jalil were present.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission is scheduled to hold election to the 30 reserved seats for women in the parliament on July 7 next.

Commentary

Declare assets of ministers, MPs

By Mahfuz Anam

Awami League government does not have to go far to seek ideas as to how to run a clean, transparent and effective government. All it has to do is to recapitulate all the criticisms it made of the BNP government during the last few years, and act not to deserve the same. If AL government only looks at all the actions that it asked Begum Zia's government to take, it will instantly have a 'what to do' list that can make an effective policy guide for the present government. And to that list, if Sheikh Hasina can add all the suggestions that the independent media made during the tenure of the last government then we have a near comprehensive plan of action for the present government to follow.

In the early days of Khaleda Zia's government this paper had made a proposal which we repeat for the benefit of the present government with the hope that it will not, as in the previous instance, fall by the wayside. The suggestion is that within the next few days all ministers make public declarations of all their fixed and liquid assets and liabilities including those in the name of their spouses and dependent children. This should be re-

peated once every year, on and around the same date, for as long as they are in office. These should be published in major newspapers with an appeal from the Prime Minister to the members of the public to come forward if anyone possesses evidence to prove any part of the 'declaration' to be wrong. All submissions will then be looked into and if found to be correct then the minister or ministers concerned will be dismissed, and if the situation calls for, prosecuted.

The rationale for this suggestion is obvious. All governments in Bangladesh have suffered from widespread public impression of being highly corrupt. On the top of the corruption pyramid usually sat the ministers. This is not to pass a sweeping judgment against all those who held ministerial positions in our country. It could be that some were honest. But they became victims for the company they kept, and suffered public humiliation for being dishonest. Collectively all governments — democratic, military and autocratic — suffered from a terrible reputation of being corrupt.

The widespread impression
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Mujib coat's popularity

By Staff Correspondent

With the Awami League coming to power a week ago, many tailoring houses in the city are getting increasing number of orders for 'Mujib coat'.

Mujib coat is a kind of waist coat, used by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It is usually made of black cloth. According to employees of some of the tailoring shops, the orders for Mujib coat started increasing after the AL emerged as the majority party in Jatiya Sangsad in the June 12 elections and the number was on steady rise since the party formed the government.

Replying to a question, the manager of a tailoring house at Mirpur Road said: 'We have received orders for more than

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HSC exams from tomorrow

Star Report

The Higher Secondary Certificate Examinations under five education boards of the country will begin tomorrow.

According to official sources, a total of 5,83,771 students of five boards will appear at the examinations with similar sets of questions.

Earlier the date for the examination was set for June 6 which was refixed by the caretaker government.
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Thousands of people gathered in front of the central office of the Bangladesh Awami League at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday as party president Sheikh Hasina came to the party office for the first time after becoming Prime Minister. — Star photo

Extended meeting of city AL Improvement of law & order prime task, says Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her party leaders and workers to get ready for greater sacrifice to deliver the fruits of independence to the people.

'You succeeded in the long struggle for establishing people's franchise. But, mind it, consolidation of victory is much more hard a task than achieving it', said Hasina while addressing as chief guest an extended meeting of the city unit of Awami League at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city. It was

Sheikh Hasina's first visit to the party office after she took over as Prime Minister.

With Dhaka city AL president and Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif in the chair, the meeting was also addressed by Awami League general secretary and Minister for LGRD and Cooperative Zillur Rahman.

A number of ministers, MPs, ward commissioners of the city corporation and leaders of various thana and ward units of the ruling party attended the meeting while hundreds of people thronged outside the party office to listen to Hasina.

The AL chief said, people

expect a lot from the Awami League government our first and foremost task towards fulfilling peoples' expectation will be to improve the law and order situation in the country," she added.

The Prime Minister expressed her dismay that the youth force of the country was forced to go astray in the absence of any guideline from the previous government. She urged the possessors of illegal arms to 'throw away arms, give up acts of terrorism and lead a normal life.'

'Improvement of the law and order is a must. We like to

ensure a secured life to all so that investors do not feel discouraged. We have to stop once for all the acts of terrorism, toll collection and hoodliganism," said the new Prime Minister urging the ward-level community leaders in the city to redress the problem of terrorism through motivation and good work.

No great job can be performed without utmost dedication. Please, search you souls, rectify yourself and make sure that nobody is hurt by any of your work and word," the AL leader told her party-men.

'There is no delight in having more, the real happiness lies in sacrifice,' she said. Prime Minister Hasina asked her cabinet colleagues, MPs and peoples' representatives at all levels to work in the spirit of rendering service to people.

Turning to the burning issues of poverty and illiteracy, the Prime Minister said, "I strongly believe that removing illiteracy is a prerequisite for freeing the nation from the curse of poverty." "I am seeking assistance from the student community for removing illiteracy," she added.
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AL expels 4 leaders

Awami League has expelled four leaders of its central, district and thana committees for their anti-organisational activities, said a party press release last night, reports UNB.

They are: central committee member Fazlur Rahman, member of Kishoreganj district committee Habibur Rahman, president of Haluaghat thana Awami League Principal Abdul Hye and member of Jajira thana Awami League Tonal Mollah.

BNP's gratitude to people

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has expressed its gratitude to the people, women in particular, for their support to the party in the June 12 parliamentary elections.

The National Executive Committee of the BNP met yesterday evening at the party's central office with Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, newly-appointed Secretary General, in the chair.

The meeting, also thanked party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia for appointing Mannan Bhuiyan Secretary General of the party and congratulated Bhuiyan on his new assignment. It recalled the contribution of former secretary general Abdus Salam Tahkder, says a BNP press release.

BNP urged the government to take appropriate measures for maintaining a healthy democratic atmosphere in the country.
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Reactivate party at all tiers: Khaleda

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday instructed leaders and workers of her party to consolidate its position by intensifying organisational activities at all levels across the country, reports UNB.

She was addressing the leaders of thana committees of Dhaka city and BNP candidates for the June 12 polls from the city constituencies at the party's Kakrail office yesterday evening.

Begum Zia directed party-men to reactivate every ward, thana, mahalla, union, town and city committees to reach the politics of the BNP to the people from all walks of life. She said it was proved in the June 12 polls that the BNP has massive popularity among the common people. This public support should be sustained in future, she said.

The BNP chief stressed the need for proper coordination among the party units at all levels.

She asked the party leaders and workers to conduct organisational activities in their respective areas maintaining strong unity in the party.

Begum Zia also urged them to resist all types of terrorism and injustice defying imprisonment, arrest warrant, harassment, or any other repressive measure.

She advised her partymen to reach the message of the BNP to the doorstep of people through mass contact programme, public meetings, processions and rallies.

The BNP chief hoped that the newspapers would play a positive role in depicting the actual situation of the country and the condition of the people.
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EC receives complaints from 39 candidates

By Morshed Ali Khan

The Election Commission (EC) has so far received petitions from 39 candidates of different political parties complaining about various irregularities in the June 12 parliamentary elections, EC sources said.

The candidates urged the EC to take action. The EC advised some of them to follow the official procedure of filing complaints so that those could be dealt with by an election tribunal, EC sources said.

The EC received 21 petitions from BNP candidates, eight from AL, six from Jatiya Party, two from Jamaat-e-Islami and one each from Workers Party and the Communist Party candidates.

For an EC investigation, an aggrieved candidate had to submit of formal complaint in prescribed forms along with a fee of Tk 1,000, specifying details about the alleged irreg-

ularities, the sources said. Then, it is the discretion of the Commission to send the case to the election tribunal or not," an official said.

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has notified the EC of irregularities in 111 constituencies in a 'simple letter' without specifying the nature of irregularities, the official mentioned.

Any complaint without fees and specification does not stand and automatically gets quashed, EC sources said.

But if a complaint is made before the announcement of the election results, then the EC is able to take action instantly," said a top EC official pointing out that such complaints prompted the EC to conduct re-polling in 116 centres of 27 constituencies.

Any aggrieved person, may however, lodge a complaint
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Another vessel with 700 MTs cement sinks

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 28: A private sea coaster carrying 700 metric tons of cement bound for Narayanganj, sank into the river Karnaphuli today after colliding with another empty coaster arriving here from Dhaka, port sources said.

The crew members swam to the shore after the accident, they said.

Chittagong Port channel was not affected due to sinking of the sea coaster, port sources added. The owner of the coaster, however, was instructed by port authority today to salvage the vessel as early as possible to keep the river free from any hazard during navigation, they said.

Meanwhile, clearing of cargo from the Maltese flag carrying vessel, which partly sank recently, continued today. The owner of MV Blue North brought experts from Holland today to salvage the ship, port sources informed.

4 BCP activists slaughtered in Chuadanga

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, June 28: Four members of the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party were killed and another was injured in an attack last night by the activists of a rival party at a village in Sadar thana of the district.

Police said an armed group of 40 to 50 members of Furba Banglar Communist Party (BPCP) attacked seven members of the Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) at Jadupur village under Chuadanga thana. The BCP members were sleeping in the house of one Anwar in the village. The attackers slaughtered four BCP members on the spot. They are Hamidul of Anapara, Shaif of Jagati (Kushtia), Anwar of Jadupur and Maail alias Shaif of Baradi.

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Prisoner dies in jail

By Staff Correspondent

One prisoner, Faruq, 22, died at the Dhaka Central Jail Thursday afternoon, police said yesterday.

Faruq was arrested by Shabujbagh thana police from Malibagh area in the city when he allegedly tried to escape after snatching a gold chain from a woman at around 11:30 am, Monday last, police said.

Lalbagh police said that Faruq died in the jail hospital at about 4 pm Thursday. Police, after being informed by the jail authorities, took the body and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy Thursday night, police said.

An unnatural death case has been filed with Lalbagh thana in this connection, police added.

BNP supporters go on rampage in Ctg: 3 shot

CHITTAGONG, June 28:

Two police personnel and a tempo driver sustained bullet injuries as activists of BNP and its front organisations went on rampage in the port city today protesting the arrest of a JCD leader, reports UNB.

Police said supporters of BNP, Jubo Dal and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal put up barricades at Dewanhat, Kadamtali, Agrabad, Mogoltuli and Cement Crossing areas and damaged some vehicles.

They said snipers, suspected to be activists of BNP, opened fire on a tempo carrying policemen on Dewanhat Overbridge at about 10:30 pm. Police inspector of Double-mooring thana Shahjahan, constable Abul Kalam and driver Moinuddin were injured in the attack. They were admitted to Chittagong Medical College.

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Kalapur calm: Most villagers return home

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 28: The situation at village Kalapur remained calm today. Most of the villagers who fled their homesteads also came back.

At least 50 people were injured in a clash yesterday between the Ansars and villagers of Kalapur in Srimangal, where the 9th battalion of Ansars is located.

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Meanwhile, the high-level probe body formed by the Ansar authorities reached the area and began its work today.

The 3-member body is headed by the Director (operation) Colonel Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury. The other members are Deputy Director Khalilur Rahman and District Ansars Adjutant Nur Nabi.

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Vow to fight global terrorism G-7 agrees to debt-relief for 40 poorest states

LYON(France), June 28: The world's seven leading industrial democracies, hailing globalisation as an opportunity, not a threat, issued an optimistic message of sustained economic growth today and agreed to ease the poorest nations' debt, reports Reuter.

In a show of solidarity with US President Bill Clinton, world leaders at a summit here also vowed to give absolute priority to fighting terrorism after a deadly bomb attack on US soldiers in Saudi Arabia.

At their annual summit, Group of Seven leaders pointed to low inflation, near record low interest rates, better aligned currencies and booming trade as healthy

sings. The leaders of the United States, Canada, Japan, France, Britain, Germany and Italy recognised that a recent slowdown in Europe and unacceptably high unemployment in many countries were dark spots, but said that even in Europe, "We are confident that growth will pick up in the second half of the year."

After debating the relentless advance of the global economy, they said: "We are convinced that the process of globalisation is a source of hope for the future. History shows that rising living standards depend crucially on reaping the gains from trade, international investment and

technical progress." But they said the benefits of globalisation would only arise if countries adjusted to increased competition, and acknowledged that inequality could increase and some of the poorest countries could be marginalised without a special effort.

Meeting around a bright-yellow table at the Contemporary Art Museum here, the leaders agreed to a package of debt relief measures for the world's 40 poorest countries.

Bridging differences between Germany, guardian of financial orthodoxy, and the six other states, they agreed relief
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Bomb threat in KSA panics Allied Forces

DHAHRAN (Saudi Arabia), June 28: A bomb threat early today at the American military housing complex devastated by a terrorist explosion jolted people from their beds and put the military on alert. It turned out to be a hoax, reports AP.

US Air Force personnel and British and French troops bunking in the compound were ordered to take cover after an anonymous caller claimed there would be another explosion at the complex where a truck bomb Tuesday night killed 19 Americans.

US officials began releasing details of the investigation today. They said the bombers fled in a white Chevrolet Caprice Classic from the mid-1980s. Since that is the most

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