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Rescue workers clearing rubbles of a building that collapsed yesterday at Shantinagar in the city.

— Star photo

## No such concept in Constitution: Khaleda BNP rules out joining 'consensus govt'

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has ruled out her party's joining Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 'government of national consensus'.

There is nothing called the 'government of national consensus' in our Constitution. But the affairs of the state can be run on the basis of consensus on national issues," the former prime minister said yesterday in reply to questions from newsmen.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offered BNP to join her 'government of national consensus' while addressing her first public meeting in the capital since she took over on June 23.

Asked about this Begum Zia told a group of newsmen at the Kakrail office of the BNP, the ruling Awami League is pursuing the policy of one-party BKSAL rule in a different name.

The BNP chief said "under the multi-party system of democracy, there cannot be a

government of national consensus." The Constitution must be amended to establish such a government in the country."

And such a constitutional amendment should provide for sharing of the cabinet by the parties in proportion to their strength in parliament. It also requires enhancement of powers of the President and the Speaker and distribution of women's reserved seats in parliament proportionately," she said adding only then the question of sharing the cabinet could arise.

Besides, national consensus must be reached on issues like 'Bismillah' and 'Bangladesh Zindabad' and 'Bangladeshi nationalism' before establishing a government of national consensus.

Begum Zia blamed the ruling party for conspiring to jeopardise democracy by raising the issue of government of national consensus.

BNP would join parliament to resist this, although its 'victory' in the June 12 polls was snatched through "massive rigging," she asserted.

Retierating that her party had restored democracy in the country, she said as an opposition party, it would strive to consolidate the democratic process by playing a 'responsible role' in Parliament.

"People gave their verdict in BNP's favour in the recent elections. But the Election Commission and the caretaker government reversed the polls results, undoing the people's mandate," the former prime minister once again said.

Asked if she feared rigging in by-elections, Begum Zia said, "We would like to hope the by-polls would be free from rigging. We'll decide our course of action if it is not so."

In this regard, she added that not only her party, many other parties including the ruling AL had also alleged rigging.

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## Situation in Sirajganj, Jamalpur worsens Many areas in Khagrachhari, Netrokona go under water

Incessant rain and onrush of hill water from across the border flooded areas in two more districts while the situation in two other districts worsened further, according to agencies yesterday.

Several thousand people were marooned as a deluge of rain water flowing down the hills engulfed many localities in the hill district of Khagrachhari.

In Netrokona, torrential rainfall for the last few days and the onrush of water from Garo hills in India caused flash flood in Durgapur thana.

The flood situation in Sirajganj took a serious turn yesterday as 50 more villages in four thanas were inundated due to onrush of water from upstream.

An unidentified man was

feared drowned while trying to cross the surging river Chengi in Khagrachhari yesterday morning, according to UNB.

Rivers and canals in the area burst their banks amidst incessant rain and onrush of hill waters, flooding 23 villages.

Direct road communications between Khagrachhari and Rangamati remained cut off since Sunday morning as some portion of the road at Bogachhari in Naniachar thana of Rangamati was washed away by swirling water.

Nine villages in Sadar, seven in Dighinala, four in Panchhari and three in Mahachhari thanas were inundated as hill waters poured through Chengi river and other canals.

The worst-affected villages

are Muslim Para, Shantinagar, Colony Para, Gaj Para, Perachhara in Sadar, Thana Para, Boalkhali bazar and Merung in Dighinala, Latiban in Panchhari and Thalipara in Panchhari.

Some 500 families in Sadar, 400 in Dighinala and 50 in Panchhari thanas were affected in the flooding caused by overflow of Chengi river. Another 20 families in Rangamati thana were hit by onrush of water from Feni river.

Some 250 families of the affected areas took shelter in the town's Mahajanpara Government Primary School and Khagrachhari Shishu Primary School, official sources said.

The Loop Cutting Embankment, established by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board at a cost of about

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## Corruption, crimes concern for transition economies : WB

Corruption and organised crimes remain a serious concern for the transition economies which made great strides over a very short time towards market economy, and the transition is still not over, reports UNB.

"By sharply raising costs and risks, crime and corruption have a serious impact on business and economic growth, as well as on people directly," says the 1996 World Development Report of the World Bank.

There are no short-term solutions to these problems, but combatting crime requires dealing with corruption also, observes the 'World Development Report: From Plan to Market', released last week in Washington.

Less advanced reforms still

need to achieve financial discipline as well as to liberalise further, and in some of them corruption and crime are serious concerns, says the report, according to a release issued by the World Bank.

The 19th World Development Report assesses 28 countries in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union (NIS), and China, Mongolia and Vietnam.

While appreciating the achievements of these countries in transforming their economies towards market, the Bank, however, notes that the process continues to have profound social, political and strategic effects.

In many countries, it says, the key steps in moving to a

market economy — liberalising markets and trade, creating new business, achieving price stability, and moving towards clear property right — are well advanced and provide important lessons for late reformers.

"With continued and sustained reforms, the transition countries can achieve successful long-term economic growth considerably above world average," the report predicts.

However, many challenges and risks — among them stagnation and rising poverty in some countries — still lie ahead.

The report observes that well-functioning legal and financial systems and effective governments are critical for successful, productive market economies.

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## 48 ICS activists rounded up

### Another Shibir bid to capture JU hall: 60 students injured

By JU Correspondent

At least 60 students were injured, 10 seriously, when general students fought with activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) yesterday to flush them out of a Jahangirnagar University dormitory they captured earlier forcibly.

The ICS activists had also taken control of the Vice-Chancellor's office.

Police later rounded up 48

### Arms recovered from DU hall

Police recovered two foreign made cut-rifles and some ammunition from Jasim Uddin Hall of the Dhaka University on Sunday night, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the laundry of the hall at about 10:15 pm and recovered the rifles along with 10 bullets and three cocktails.

They also seized the barrel of a gun, one knife and a pistol like gas lighter from a room (No 202) of the hall, said a DMP press release.

ICS activists including its JU unit president Mohammad Ali and recovered a revolver, 50 hand bombs and some ammunition from their possession in a five-hour operation on the troubled campus.

The arrested ICS activists included 21 from the VC's office building.

A police squad from Dhaka city joined the Savar thana police in the operation, police said.

The injured students were taken to the JU Medical Centre and the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The armed Shibir activists, firing indiscriminately and blasting bombs, captured the AFM Kamaluddin Hall at about 5:45 am when resident students were asleep. They entered the campus from the western side, the resident students said.

They beat a number of leaders and workers of different student organisations and locked them in their rooms, the residents said.

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## One killed as old bldg of Titas Gas workshop collapses

By DMCH Correspondent

An employee of the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Ltd was killed and two others were injured when an old building of its workshop at Shantinagar collapsed yesterday morning.

Saleh Khan, 45, a foreman of the electrical department, died on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), said sources at the hospital and the Fire Brigade.

Fire Service rescue teams rushed to the spot and found Saleh Khan unconscious under the debris of the building.

Md Hanif, a mechanic, and Khorshed Alam, an electrician, were released after first aid.

The tragic mishap occurred when the semi-pucca first floor of office constructed on the top of an old one-storey building, used as workshop, collapsed at about 9:15 am, Fire Service sources said.

Titas Gas hired the workshop for maintenance of its vehicles, they said.

A large quantity of paints, chemicals and hardware goods were stored on the tin-shed first floor.

## 3-party govt a logical outcome : Monju

By Nurul Kabir

Jatiya Party Secretary General and a minister in Sheikh Hasina's cabinet Anwar Hossain Monju says that the present "three-party government" is the "logical outcome" of the last democratic movement against the Khaleda Zia administration.

The JP leader said this in an interview with The Daily Star yesterday.

"We unitedly fought against the government of Khaleda Zia over the last three years. It is natural that after the defeat of the BNP in the face of our struggle, the partners in the movement will form the government," Monju said.

He however claimed that the Awami League, which emerged as the largest party in Parliament in the June 12 general elections, could alone form the government. "But Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina deserves appreciations that she has upheld the spirit of the common struggle for democracy," the JP leader added.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that the Jamaat-e-Islami, a partner in the AL-led movement against the BNP, has been left outside the government, Monju said: "To the best of my knowledge, the



Anwar Hossain Monju

Jamaat is not doing anything that could benefit the BNP."

Explaining reasons behind the JP support to Awami League, Monju said that the elections showed that the people wanted the League to be in power. "If we did otherwise, people would not have accepted it," Monju said.

When asked how the government could be termed as a government of national consensus while the largest oppo-

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## AL interviews

### 444 for JS women's seats

The ruling Awami League completed interviewing the applicants seeking women's nomination for the 30 reserved women's seats in parliament in a marathon session yesterday, reports UNB.

A total of 444 nomination-seekers were interviewed by the AL parliamentary board headed by party President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Prominent political, social and cultural personages who applied for party nomination include Sajeda Chowdhury, Dr Rahman, advocate Sahar Khatun, Prof Nazma Rahman and Prof Khaleda Khatun.

Chess prodigy International Master Rani Hamid, filmstar Kabari Sarwar, drama artists Ferdousi Majumder, Tarana Halim, Lutfunnahar Lata, Nima Anam and Laki Inam are also in

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## Tornado hits Kutubdia: 50 injured

COX'S BAZAR, July 1: A tornado lashed three villages of Kutubdia island early today that left at least 50 people injured, three of them seriously, and destroyed more than one hundred houses, reports UNB.

Seriously injured Mortuza Begum, 42, Zahid Alam, 50, and Abu Taher, 40, were admitted to Kutubdia health complex after the tornado damaged the villages of Ali Fakir Dail, Batighar Para and Nobarpara.

Witnesses said the tornado, which hit the island at about 5:30 am, lasted for two minutes and totally destroyed more than one hundred houses in the three villages that included two mosques and a madrasah.

Meanwhile, a high tide today washed away large portion of an embankment at village Tablar Char of the Kutubdia island. More than 200 houses of the village were inundated by the four feet high tidal bore, local people said.

About 2,000 people of the village have been forced to take shelter on another part of the embankment.

## Woman killed as train hits auto-rickshaw

By Staff Correspondent

A pregnant woman was killed and her brother injured when train hit an auto-rickshaw at a level-crossing at Tongi yesterday morning.

Sony Mitra, 20, wife of one Shimson Mitra, was fatally wounded while going to a physician at Tongi from her house at Pubail, Gazipur, by an auto-rickshaw at about 10 am, Railway police said.

She was first taken to the Tongi Hospital and Later to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared her dead, police and hospital sources said.

The brother of the deceased was admitted to a clinic.

## 3 to die for bomb attack in which 7 Bangladeshis killed in Bahrain

MANAMA, July 1: Bahrain's state security court today sentenced three Shi'ite Muslims to death for a firebomb attack on a restaurant that killed seven Bangladeshis, lawyers said, reports AFP.

Four other defendants were jailed for life for the attack in the Shi'ite suburb of Sitra south of Manama in March, the lawyers said.

Bahrain has been rocked since December 1994 by anti-government unrest led by Shi'ite Muslims demanding the restoration of parliament dissolved in 1975. At least 22 people have died in the violence.

The Sunni Muslim-led government in Manama has accused Iran of financing and training an Islamic militant group called Hezbollah-Bahrain to bring it down. Iran denied the accusation.

## Pirates in Meghna kill fisherman, loot trawlers

By Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 1: One fisherman was killed and seven others were injured two of them seriously when pirates attacked four trawlers and 6 boats in the Meghna river under Tajuruddin thana of Bhola district last night.

According to police and witnesses, a gang of 15 to 20 armed men on board an engine boat swooped on the fishing trawlers and boats and fired gunshots indiscriminately. They looted 4 engines from the trawlers, fishing nets, fish and money. They also looted from the fishing boats valued

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BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and Moudud Ahmed talking with each other after the later joined the BNP at the party's Kakrail office yesterday.

## Moudud returns to BNP

By Staff Correspondent

Barrister Moudud Ahmed yesterday returned to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of which he was a founder member.

Moudud resigned from the Jatiya Party Sunday protesting what he called the party chief's unilateral decision to support the government and allowing the party secretary general's joining the AL cabinet.

Until his resignation, Moudud was a presidium member of the JP. He had joined the Ershad government in 1986 deserting the BNP. Before the BNP was launched by late President Zaur Rahman, Moudud was in the

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## DU running short of teachers by 25pc

By Aminul Islam Sajal

The Dhaka University is running short of teachers by 24.4 per cent of the officially sanctioned posts, according to statistic given in the budget placed in the annual session of the DU Senate recently.

There are some 1,350 posts of teachers in 40 departments and seven institutions of the university. These include the posts of professor Emeritus, professor, associate professor, assistant professor, lecturer and part time teacher. The university now has 1020 teachers.

There are around 26 thousand students in the university. The DU annual report published last month said the

teacher student is 1:25.

In 1985-86 academic session, the number of students was 20,000 and that of teachers 988, the ratio being 1:20 according to the annual report for the session.

Only in the Faculty of Law which has 586 students, the number of teachers and that of the sanctioned posts are the same — 26.

There are 204 teachers against 260 sanctioned posts in the Faculty of Arts with 6,050 students in 13 departments.

In the Faculty of Social Science, at least 58 posts are vacant. In six departments un-

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