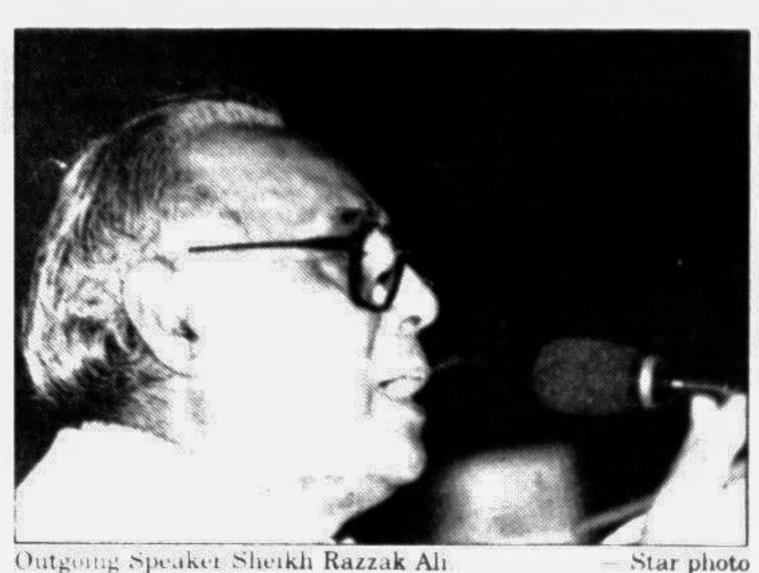


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DHAKA MONDAY, JULY 15, 1996

The Baily Star



'Combined efforts needed to fulfil people's hopes'

Razzak Ali vesterday expressed the hope that the new Jativa Sangsad would be able to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people through the combined efforts and cooperation of the Treasury and the Opposition Bench members. reports BSS.

In his farewell speech in the Sangsad after the election of the new Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, Razzak Ali said it was the expectation of all of us that the new Sangsad would play a pioneering role in paving the way for the solution of numerous national problems in the light of global experi-

Stating that the Sangsad committees would be the main forums of all activities. Ali hoped that the activities of the MPs would find expression not only in their professions but also in their practices.

experience as

Outgoing Speaker Shaikh the Speaker during the last five years. Shaikh Razzak Ali said his tenure was replete with both bitter and sweet memories. Despite many uncertainties, we have worked together ceaselessly for three

He referred to the passage

Razzak Ali earlier said he

"It has been always pleasant to me", he told a group of newsmen at the Speaker's chamber at the Sangsad

This is democracy. It's the glory of democracy," said Ali an MP of Opposition BNP, who was the Speaker in last two

Scating arrangement changes with change in leadership

By M Anwarul Haq

The Jativa Sangsad vester day saw changes in the seating arrangements with changes in the leadership.

Many new members had joined the august House while several had disappeared as they had not been able to win confidence of the electorate.

The 'leading ladies', as they reversed their roles also swapped their seats. Sheikh Hasina, as the Leader of the House, was sitting in the chair of the Prime Minister while her arch rival Begum Khaleda Zia was pushed to the seat of

the Leader of the Opposition. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, a senior AL presidium member occupied the seat beside the Prime Minister while the new Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman sat in the third seat. This was a similar to BNP's period as a ruling party when the Mirza Golam Hafiz sat beside Begum Khaleda Zia while Deputy Leader Badruddoza Chowdhury occupied the third seat in the

Treasury Bench In the Opposition front bench commanded by BNP stalwarts several of the leading faces were not visible. Mirza Golam Hafiz was absent. Many leading BNP front benchers like Majidul Huq, Salam Talukder, Mostafizur Rahman

who had lost the elections

were 'risibly absent. Obaidur Rahman, who had re-joined the party, and NDP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury occupied the front row along with BNP's new Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. Former finance minister Saifur Rahman, who presented all the budgets during the previous BNP rule but whose great regret was not to have been an elected MP, sat in the front row alright - with the mixed feeling of being elected but in no position to present the budget this time.

Also sitting in the front row and dressed in a dark blue suit, was jailed JP chief Hussain Muhammad Ershad. A former president, he was sit ting as leader of JP Parliamen tary party — having found freedom through parole after six years in prison.

JP Secretary General Anwar Hussain Manju sat beside his party chief with whom he was seen frequently exchanging bits of conversation. Inside the House, Ershad's preferred motto seemed to be: "I want to be seen and not heard." He was seen hearing with studied silence when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia were speaking.

had passed the law in the Fifth

Jatiya Sangsad making the

Sangsad Secretariat indepen-

dent which is not bound to

uphold any administrative

order as the Jatiya Sangsad

runs only under the instruc-

tions and orders of the

Speaker to withdraw the ac-

tion against the Jatiya Sangsad

official and said, "If you want to

take any action, then take ac-

tion against me. I take the re-

the government would have to

arrange new employment op-

portunities for eradicating ter-

Awami League's claim of gov-

ernment of national consensus.

the Leader of the Opposition

said it was in fact a coalition

government. She feared that it

might be an attempt to rein-

troduce the BKSAL-type sys-

tem in the name of govern-

party's victory had been

snatched through a well-de-

signed conspiracy. She

thanked the people for casting

the part of the Speaker, the

Opposition Leader said that he

must ensure to protect the

Constitution. "You must protect

it. Protect 'Bismillahir Rah-

manir Rahim' and protect

Bangladeshi nationalism," she

Requesting neutrality on

their votes for BNP.

Begum Zia alleged that her

ment of national consensus.

rorism from the country.

Begum Zia suggested that

Referring to the ruling

sponsibility for the incident."

She also called upon the

Khaleda: Stop repression

Speaker.

From Page 1 portunity to head the committees in proportionate to its

representation in the House. She said the Opposition must be given opportunity to speak in the Parliament to

make it effective.

Begum Zia pointed out that 70 per cent of her discussion time in the 5th Parliament

were given to the Opposition. Begum Zia described the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad as the outcome of the Sixth Jativa Sangsad and referred to the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution which was passed in the Sixth Jatiya Sangsad and

said "accept the reality." "Why the state run Bangladesh Television has been used for the party and personal service? Why Bangladesh television yesterday described the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad as the Sixth? She posed the questions and called upon the government to stop politicisation of the media and administration.

She said that BNP government did not politicise the administration.

She called for maintaining neutrality in holding the byeelections to 16 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad and said otherwise the people would take measures against it. Referring to the suspension

order against a Jatiya Sangsad official by the ruling party for not upholding an administrative order, she reminded the Speaker that BNP government

years to solve many problems

of the 12th amendment of the Constitution and establishment of an independent Sangsad Secretariat free from the control of ministries

was going to start a new life as an ordinary member of Parliament.

parliaments.

chair. Razzak Ali had refused to entertain the motions saying he had no other business other than conducting the elections

From Page 1

under knee-deep water.

undating 117 villages yester-Some 5,000 people in char

Shajadpur thanas were marooned as water level in Jahours till 6 pm yesterday. damaging crops and property.

tion centre bulletin the water level in the river may cross its danger mark by 6 am today.

of land in the western part of the district might go under water at any time as a portion of the flood control embankment at Nijchandanbohisha eroded away by the surging Jamuna.

The flood control embank ment in Taltola-Nimgachhi area has been threatened as crack developed at several points of the embankment.

people have been marooned in char areas while thousands of people rendered homeless by river erosion.

In Lalmonirhat, the situation took an alarming turn as flood water washed away many thatched houses and damaged property worth several crore taka after the flood-bypass of Teesta barrage was cut open Saturday night.

people and submerged about one lakh houses.

thanas of the district, including Dahgram-Angorpota enclaves, were inundated by swirling water from the overflowing Teesta and Dharla

to evacuate about 40 thousand marooned people. The flood-bypass was cut and gates of the Teesta bar-

lapse. Local people said five chil-

dren of Hatibanda thana reportedly drowned.

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP staged a walkout protesting the Speaker's refusal to entertain three adjournment motions and one privilege motion proposed by the party before the Jatiya Sangsad started the business of the day Deputy Leader of the Opposition Badruddoza Chowdhury, told newsmen.

The BNP legislators, however joined the session after the election of the Speaker

ately after the walk out. Badruddoza Chowdhury said. "we were forced to stage the walk out in protest as the sovereign and independent status of the Jatiya Sangsad was violated and the privileges of the MPs curbed.

Rules of Procedure, the BNP sought disposal of the ad journment motions and the privilege motion before the business of the day was taken up. Chowdhury added

Opposition said permission was sought to move adjournment motions on alleged rigging in the June 12 elections. widespread terrorism across the country and victimisation of BNP workers since the new government took over and closure of educational institutions including four medical col-

Chowdhury said the privi lege motion was sought to discuss whether hanging of the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur

of the new Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

Flood

points of rivers. The Brahma putra flood control embank ment has breached at several

pourashava areas have gone tion in five thanas of the dis-

muna rose by 30 cm in last 24 According to flood informa-

ened yesterday as the rivers

said the flood onslaught seriously affected some three lakh

Official sources said at least 30 unions out of 42 in five

rivers and onrush of hill water. Paramilitary BDR force has been called out and four rescue boats of army have been sent

rage, country's largest irrigation project, were opened Saturday night to save it from col-

Envoy tells PM

ROK to set up 130 units in 'industrial park'

South Korea has requested the government to allocate 2,000 acres of land on the east bank of Karnaphuli river in Chittagong for setting up an "industrial park", reports UNB

The request was made by South Korean Ambassador in Dhaka Jong Kyon-Byoun when he called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office vesterday morning. The ambassador informed

the Prime Minister that the Korean firms are ready to go for a primary investment of several million of dollars. Entrepreneurs of the

South East Asian economic giant will set up 130 large and medium-scale industrial units

Launch-trawler collision: 3 feared drowned

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, July 14: Three children were feared drowned and at least 32 people injured. six of them seriously, when a launch collided with a fishing trawler in the Lohalia river in

Patuakhali yesterday. Witnesses said, the launch with nearly 70 passengers on board collided with fishing trawler FB Sima at the mouth of the Chandanbaria canal.

The launch was heavily damaged and the passengers fell into the river. However, all of them swam ashore except the three children who are feared dead.

The seriously injured Abdus Sattar, 60, Abul Bashar, 43, Forkan Howlader, 40, Awal Akan, 25. Abdur Rahim, 28. and Firoja Begum, 32 have been admitted to the Patuakhali general hospital. Police have seized the fishing trawler.

in the proposed industrial park. The products of the units

are to the exported to the

USA. Europe and the South

East Asian countries. The Prime Minister assured the South Korean envoy that her government would actively consider the proposal and a decision in this regard would be taken very soon. In the proposed industrial

park, accommodation facilities of 30,000 people will be avail able. Besides, hospitals, educational facilities, training institute and a 40 per cent green belt will be there. Jong said the industries to

be set up in the park would be labour-intensive and simultaneously high-tech. The ambassador said Korean investment in Bangladesh was increasing. At the same time, manpower ex-

port was rising from Bangladesh to Korea, he said, adding that 5,000 trainee workers had been taken and 2,000 more would be taken in Jong termed the existing bilateral relation between Korea and Bangladesh as excel-

be strengthened further in the days ahead. The Prime Minister said Bangladesh is very happy with the growth of Korean invest ment here. She requested the Korean ambassador to import more goods from Bangladesh

lent and hoped that it would

to narrow down the present trade gap. Referring to her government's policy. Hasina said the government was trying to build up a national consensus on important national issues and hoped that all parties would

cooperate. The Korean ambassador felicitated Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of the office of the Prime Minister.

Let's usher in new era

From Page 1 Movement, the Liberation War and democratic movements she added and also those who has shed

blood for restoring peoples' franchise. Hasina thanked the Leader of the Opposition in the House. Begum Khaleda Zia for leading her party MPs back to the House after a walk out at the beginning of the session and

sought all cooperation from

her party in running the affairs of the state smoothly. In this context, she said yesterday you were in the Treasury Bench where we are sitting today and you may again be here tomorrow from the Opposition now. So, no matter who are in power and who are not. Let us work unitedly to bring about a qualitative

change in the life of the toiling masses. The Prime Minister reiterated her pledge to run the country on the basis of a national consensus, taking the opposition parties into confidence, and build a 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation.

Terming the Speaker as 'custodian of the House' Hasina assured him all cooperation and urged the members to keep his office above all controversies.

Alleging plunder of people's wealth and emptying of food and relief godowns in the past, she said it posed a great challenge before her government to run the country. She questioned 'allocation of Tk 25 lakh to each minister and MP' during the BNP rule and fall in power generation by 600 MW during that period. Referring to irregularities

in fertiliser distribution and

killing peasants, the Prime

Minister said her government

inherited food deficit, poor re-

serve in the national exche-

quer and over 5,000 closed

mills and factories. "But, my

efforts will be to draw more

direct foreign investments and improve the law and order."

The previous government had virtually made parliament ineffective. Hasina said adding. her government would make the House the centre for all activities and would adopt poli-

cies on the basis of consensus. She alleged that the former home minister had issued some 20,000 arms licences to partymen, many of which were yet to be recovered. Political colour was being given to arrest of political activists on charges of criminal activities like dacoity and gun-running.

In this regard, she said that the new home minister would organise a conference on June 20 to seek views on improving law and order and the Leader of the Opposition was also invited to chair one of the sessions of the proposed confer-The Prime Minister urged

all not to shelter terrorists and asserted that terrorists, no matter which party they belong to, would be taken to task. "If any terrorist belongs to my party, he or she will not be spared as well. Hasina said she was originally prepared for a brief ad-

dress to felicitate the new Speaker but could not help clarifying some issues raised by the Leader of the Opposition in her deliberation. Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia had earlier given an account of the suc-

cesses of the BNP government.

Hasina alleged that on the very first day of the Jatiya Sangsad session, BNP MPs led by Begum Zia had staged a walkout, 'violating' the Rules of Procedure. About her government of national consensus' the Prime Minister said, "They (BNP) seemingly do not understand

our concept of national con-

sensus as they did not also un-

derstand the concept of care-

taker government, initially. But my belief is that they will also understand this just as they had to understand what a caretaker government was, in the

face of popular movement." Questioning the fairness of the February 15 'one-party' polls, Hasina said, "To us the Sixth Parliament will remain a black spot in our political history even if we can not deny altogether.

"There is no instance of such widespread vote rigging and such a short-lived parliament in world history," noted Hasina referring to the February 15 elections and Sixth Parliament.

Brushing aside Begum Zia's claim that people had cast votes for her party but their verdict was 'snatched' Hasina said. "I like to leave her claim for peoples' judgement. Is it at all fair to claim that people had voted for one party in the June 12 elections? She thanked the caretaker

government of Justice Habibur Rahman, the Election Commission, law enforcing agencies, members of the Armed Forces and employees of the Republic for their neutral roles in holding a free and fair election. Referring to Begum Zia's contention that chairmanship of parliamentary standing

committees be shared by MPs belonging to both the ruling party and the opposition parties proportionately, the Prime Minister said, "Yes, for such a decision also we will require a consensus. She pointed out that the opposition lawmakers' efforts for stamping out terrorism and

a bill regarding separation of

the judiciary from the execu-

tive had been neglected by the

party in power over the last five years. Hasina said, in spite of their (BNP) commitment on August 11 in 1991, the Indemnity Act was not repealed.

The Vicinight Sile

Cong-1 threatens to withdraw support from Gowda govt

NEW DELHI. July 14: The coalition government of Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda hurtled towards a crisis today when the Congress-I Party, whose backing is crucial for its survival, threatened to withdraw support. "The ruling United Front should not take our support for granted," said V N Gadgil,

Walkout by BNP

From Page 1

Opposition walkout only 20 minutes after it began at 3:05 pm. The BNP staged the walkout protesting alleged violation of the Rules of Procedure by the outgoing Speaker. Sheikh Razzak Ali.

Razzak Ali refused to allow BNP to move four motions, one adjournment motion and three privilege motions, before the election of new Speaker and Deputy Speaker My sole responsibility to-

day is to conduct the election of the new Speaker and Deputy Speaker of this parliament. Razzak Ali told the House Begum Zia led the walkout

by her party MPs protesting denial of their privileges and violation of a certain rule" by the AL. Sheikh Hasina, however, defended Razzak Ali. Humayun Rashid Chowd hury and Abdul Hamid of the

AL were elected Speaker and

Deputy Speaker respectively.

with the BNP legislators re

maining outside the House. immediately after the elections. Razzak Ali adjourned the session for an hour to facilitate the newly elected Speaker and the Deputy Speaker to take oath, administered by the

President Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury took his seat in the House at 5:20 in the afternoon The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were felicitated by Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman Begum Zia, Deputy Leader of the Opposition A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, ministers in cluding Tofael Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim of the ruling party, Anwar Hossain Monju of Jatiya Party, A S M Abdur Rob of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

Chief Whip of the Opposition

Khandaker Delwar Hossain and

some other MPs of both the

Treasury and the Opposition

benches felicitated the

Speaker and the Deputy Spea-While making congratulatory speeches, the members of the Treasury and the Opposition benches were engaged in debates on various issues including the ruling party's concept of the "government of national consensus." status of the JP and JSD in Parliament, law and order in the country and so on. A controversial gesture by Shipping Minister and JSD leader A S M Abdur Rob angered the BNP legislators who demanded that Rob apologise

for his gesture. The Speaker assured the BNP members that he would give his ruling after investiga-

Begum Zia, while congratulating the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, assured them of effective Opposition cooperation. "We shall never insult the Speaker by showing shoes, we shall never disrupt the proceedings of the House by throwing files and never say that we shall not allow the government to rule peacefully

Gallery

From Page 1 Treasury Bench, yet the plan that BNP would pay back the Awami League in the same coin as the latter had done during its tenure in the opposition was writ large in every action that BNP members took.

Though the walk-out had all

the hallmarks of being pre-

planned it did not appear to

have been very well though out. The former speaker. Sheikh Razzak Ali, while still in charge, kept on repeating that rules obliged him to hold the election of the new speaker and deputy speaker before any other business and that the request by the BNP for tabling any motion could not be entertained. Yet it did not stop them from walking out and wasting nearly two hours of the first session. Most observers knew that BNP was prepared to give the treasury bench a tough time, yet the promptness with which it all began appeared to have taken all by surprise, including many BNP back benchers who, obviously, were not in the know of things. After overcoming the first

stumble after about two hours of wait, the House nearly encountered another when the BNP MPs accused A.S.M. Abdur Rab of JSD and a minister in the new government, of showing the "Thumb" while a BNP member was making a caustic remark about him. Abdur Rab vociferously denied having done so, but BNP members were in no mood to listen. They wanted his unconditional apology, and threatened to walk-out again unless Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury ruled so. A way out for the new Speaker was provided for by See page 3

spokesman of the Congress (I) party, reports AFP.

for a single day," Begum Zia told the House adding, "we are ready to cooperate with both the Speaker and the government. At the same time she hoped that they would always

be 'truly neutral" towards the

Opposition. In her 30 minute speech. former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia also mentioned some of her government's programmes including food for education, free education for girls and so on. She urged the government of Sheikh Hasina to continue the programmes for the benefit of the people Begum Zia also criticised the ruling party's concept of "the government of national con-

sensus" asking: " Does not the

ruling party want any opposi-

tion in parliament?"

in reply. Hasina said that the BNP, which did not once understand the concept of the caretaker government, eventually implemented the idea 'One day the party would well understand the definition. as well as importance of the concept of the government of national consensus," she said.

The Prime Minister also accused the previous ruling party of politicising the administration, misappropriation of public money and undemocratic attitude towards the Opposi-

The Speaker told the Housing that tolerance to differing views and freedom of speech were pre-requisite for the growth of sound parliamentary democracy. The Speaker then an-

nounced a five member panel of chairmen to preside over the session in absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. The members of the panel are Abdul Mannan. Sajeda Chowdhury and Colonel (Retd.) Shawkat Ali of the ruling Awami League, Saifur Rah-

man of the BNP and Dr Fazle Rabbi of the Jatiya Party. President Abdur Rahman Biswas entered the House at 9:40 pm. In his 40 minute speech, the President outlined

various programmes of the government should undertake. The Speaker adjourned the session at 10:30 pm till 4:00

Thursday. 15 ordinances

From Page 1

The ordinances are: The In-

surance (Amendment) Ordinance 1996, the Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance 1996, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance 1996, the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Ordinance 1996, the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (Amendment) Ordinance 1996. Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council Ordinance 1996. Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (Amendment) Ordinance 1996, the Jute Research Institute (Amendment) Ordinance 1996, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (Amendment) Ordinance 1996, the Fisheries Research Institute (Amendment) Ordinance 1996, the Livestock Research Institute (Amendment) Ordinance 1996, and Bangla-

Humayun Rashid From Page 1

desh Sugarcane Research

Institute Ordinance 1996.

The newly elected Speaker said he would discharge his responsibilities best owed upon him according to the Constitution and the parliament's Rules of Procedure. "It's a great honour for me.

I'm delighted being entrusted

with presiding over the House," Chowdhury told UNB just after being sworn-in yesterday He termed the present Sangsad as a "unique parliament" since it has been constituted through a free and fair

election under a caretaker

government following a "long

movement for establishing democracy in the country." The Speaker hoped that parliament would be the focal point of all national activities and sought cooperation from all quarters in conducting the proceedings of the House

properly.

Chowdhury wore Mujibcoat, a traditional dress of Awami League, when he took oath office as the Speaker. But he replaced his black Mujibcoat with a white servani before entering the House to adorn the chair. President Abdur Rahman

Biswas, who administered the oath to Chowdhury, congratulated him on his being elected unopposed the Speaker of the 7th parliament.

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

We were forced to stage walkout, says B Chy

> and the Deputy Speaker. Briefing newsmen immedi-

Referring to Rule 64 of the

Some BNP stalwarts including its secretary general Mannan Bhuiyan were present during the briefing at the conference room of the Leader of the Opposition The Deputy Leader of the

Rahman in the House through an executive order violated the constitutionally mandated sanctity of the House since the Speaker did not know about it. The walk out was staged while the outgoing Speaker. Shaikh Razzak Ali, was in the

UNB adds: The flood situatrict took an alarming turn in-

Many houses in Gaibandha

areas of Kazipur, Chauhali and

Two other worst-hit thanas are Sadar and Belkuchi. The situation in three thanas of Bogra district wors-

Jamuna and Bangali started to swell further due to onrush of hill waters and heavy down-

The flood affected thanas are Shariakandi. Shonatola and Dhunot. Witnesses said a vast track

Meanwhile, some 50,000

Local people and officials

Former President and JP chief H M Ershad talking to the Prime Minister and Leader of the

House Sheikh Hasina in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday

Ershad

"I would have been released

From Page 1

from jail under the law of the

land and not through the back

door if I had not been vic-

timised," he told a questioner

and also complained of

excesses by the government

never to go back once again.

Ershad remarked, adding that

he had the strength to visit the

his feelings about his release

on parole he said. The feel-

ings cannot be explained in

words ... I laughed my heart

out. I have finally come out

after a period of five years

very confident regarding this

bail in all the cases filed

istry said that Ershad was re-

leased on parole to attend the

parliament session but the pe

riod of his parole had not been

would be kept in a house at

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, near the

Sangsad Bhaban which has al-

ready been declared a sub-jail

Guards and other jail staff

have already been there for the

security and assistance of Er-

shad and some restrictions

have been imposed on his

movements and meeting peo-

Moudud Ahmed's joining BNP

Ershad said 'let him go to hell'

Fire in oil tanker

in Ctg: One dies

of the five crew members of an

oil tanker, who were injured in

a fire on Thursday, died in

Chittagong Medical College

The fire reportedly broke

Hospital (CMCH) today, re-

out in the oil tanker MT Mok-

tadir at a jetty of Chittagong

port on Thursday night.

ports UNB.

CHITTAGONG, July 14: One

Asked about JP leader

While on parole, Ershad

mentioned in the order.

sources concerned said.

ple, the sources said.

Sources in the Home Min-

Besides, Ershad sounded

seven months and two days

Replying to a question on

I have come out from jail

past two elections.

during his prison life.

whole country.

against him.