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People want relief from misrule: Khaleda

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the people are frustrated over anti-people policy of the government and its activities against the country's interests, reports UNB.

"They want a relief from the misrule of this government. This was proved through their spontaneous observance of nationwide hartal on Thursday," she told party workers at her Minto Road official residence.

Begum Zia was addressing a gathering of office-bearers and members of the new city committee of Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangshata (JASS).

The BNP Chairperson said the government had resorted to repressive measures, like arrest, harassment and torture on BNP activists to suppress the resentment of the people and the movement initiated by the party.

"But this cannot force the See Page 12 Col 4

Full autonomy for Radio, TV under NBC suggested

By Reaz Ahmad

The Commission for Autonomy of Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television has recommended formation of a National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) to guide the Radio and TV, opening up private TV and radio channels and downsizing BTV manpower, according to sources in the Commission.

The NBC, to be appointed by the President, will have "full autonomy" in running the electronic media.

The commission recommended that the Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television

(BTV) should not be guided by the Ministry of Information.

The report of the Commission will be submitted to the Prime Minister in the second week of this month, the sources said.

The Commission, headed by a former secretary of the government, M Asafudoula, finalised its report on June 30. The report will be placed for final review today when the 16-member Commission meets for the last time. After today's meeting, the report will be sent to the BG Press for printing 50 copies, the sources said.

According to the recommendations, the 7-member NBC will be appointed for a five-year term and neither its chairman nor any of its members will be appointed for two consecutive terms.

The Chairman of NBC must be a national personality having administrative experience and four out of six of its members would be drawn from among renowned teachers, artists, broadcast experts and journalists. The DGs of Betar and BTV would be made MDs and they would be ex-officio members of the NBC.

The Commission report also suggested open bidding by the NBC for opening up of private TV and radio channels "as many as possible." Financial and technical aspects will be considered in bidding.

The FM band of radio will be fully opened for private channel. In external services of private TV and radio channels, nothing against the country, its tradition and heritage would be allowed to be broadcast or telecast, and no political ideology would be preached.

The Commission report further recommended that,

state-run channels would be fully devoted to programmes on education, health, family planning and agriculture. "These channels must be run by the NBC and not controlled by the Information Ministry or any other government agencies."

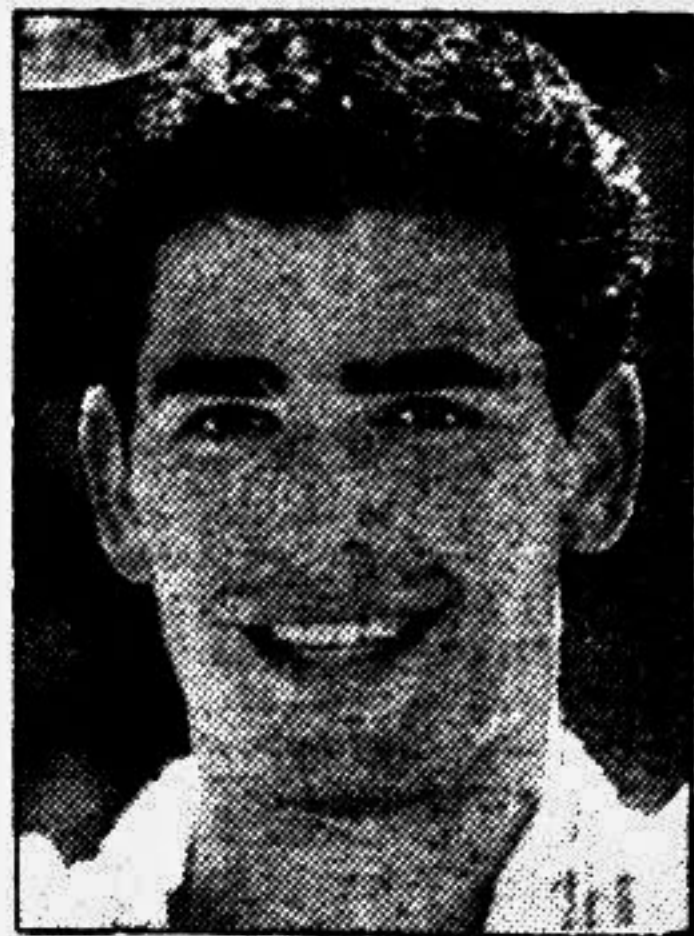
A source, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that state-run channels would enjoy as much freedom as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) of UK. "This means, these channels will be able to report to their listeners and viewers if they came under any pressure from the government,"

he said.

The Commission also recommended a 'golden hand-shake' programme to downsize the existing staff strength of BTV. Some 500 employees, who have already served for 25 years, could be retrenched under the 'golden hand-shake' programme, it said.

The report reviewed the existing conditions of Betar and BTV, financial and administrative rules, code of conduct, news value guideline and all aspects regarding opening of private channels.

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Sampras in final

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan
LONDON, July 4: Pete Sampras moved into the final of the Championships at Wimbledon with an effortless win over unseeded doubles specialist from Australia, Todd Woodbridge in a rain interrupted Centre Court match this evening.

Sampras who was seeded number one in this tournament and also the undisputed monarch of modern day tennis reached his fourth final here with scores of 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (3) in 102 minutes. He did not have to stretch himself much as he continued to fire serves on an average of 121 miles per hour reaching a maximum speed of 132 miles. He won 80 per cent of his first serves to Woodbridge's 66 per cent and that gave him added advantage. Sampras was lucky enough to have two rather easy matches — one against Becker in the quarters and the other against Woodbridge in the semis. He now awaits the winner of 1991 champion Michael Stich of Germany and Cedric

See Page 12 Col 7



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (C) is awarded an honorary Doctorate of Law by Takayasu Okushima (R), President of the Waseda University, in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

30,000 cases of bad debt pending

WB for law to auction mortgaged property

By Mizan Ali and Rafiq Hasan

The World Bank has suggested introduction of a new law allowing the banks to sell mortgaged property through a public auction, any time after a loan is defaulted.

Officials of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs said that they had received WB recommendations on banking sector, seeking the views of the ministry. The ministry is examining the 12-point suggestions.

Banking Division Secretary Syed Amirul Mulk, talking to The Daily Star over telephone yesterday said, "We have to look into the details of the proposal".

If the proposed law is intro-

duced, it might act as pressure on the borrowers, he said adding that such a law already exists in Bangladesh. Shilpa Bank and Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha for loan recovery.

Other banks are, however, facing difficulties in recovering defaulted loans due to absence of suitable law and the lengthy procedure in the existing 'legal system'.

Amirul Mulk also said that 30,000 cases involving around Tk 10,000 crore in bad debts were pending with courts.

The Sonali Bank's total classified loans stand at Tk 3,000 crore. Ten thousand five hundred cases were filed for re-

covery of Tk 500 crore, out of the total amount, banking sources said. The Janata Bank has classified loans of Tk 1300 crore and 5,384 cases were filed, involving Tk 500 crore out of the total.

The recommendations aim at improving the existing methods of loan recovery and the banking sector, WB sources said adding that its suggestions were based on the laws in Sri Lanka and the United States.

The WB has suggested allowing the banks to recover as much as possible from liquidation of collateral without filing a law suit.

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Ties with Dhaka become closer: US

US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas R Pickering has said the Bangladesh-US relations had grown closer following the visit to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the USA and the US First Lady Hillary Clinton's visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The US government was very satisfied with its relations with Bangladesh. Pickering told Bangladesh Ambassador to the US KM Shehabuddin when he called on the US Undersecretary at the State Department on Thursday.

Pickering, who was permanent representative to the United Nations from 1989 to 1992, also said the United States was happy for the improvement of the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India. He hailed the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty as a positive step towards good neighbourliness between the two countries.

Hony doctorate for Hasina

TOKYO, July 4: Waseda University of Japan today conferred an honorary doctorate upon Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her 'commitment to democracy and efforts to remove poverty from the country', reports UNB.

The citation on the occasion of conferring the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree described Sheikh Hasina as one of Asia's most respected leaders possessing "indomitable courage and fierce determination."

The university lauded the Prime Minister's firm commitment to democratic government, the abolition of poverty and the introduction of small loans for the needy, which has shown her to be a leader with qualities and abilities.

All these were needed to write a glorious new page in the history of Bangladesh because of the serious problems such as a sluggish economy, terrible

See Page 12 Col 7

Ganges barrage needed for success of water treaty, says PM

NIGATA (Japan), July 4: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today sought all-out cooperation from Japan for implementation of the Ganga Barrage Multipurpose Project, reports BSS.

Addressing a dinner party hosted in her honour by the Governor of Niigata Prefecture, a region famous for irrigation and hydro-electric potentialities, the Prime Minister said the Ganga barrage project is important for the success of the Ganges water sharing treaty as well as for economic development of Bangladesh.

The prime minister said the global infrastructure fund of Japan has conducted a study on the project and found it potential and environmentally sound. Sheikh Hasina said

that, during her discussions with her Japanese counterpart Ryutaro Hashimoto and other Japanese leaders she sought assistance for the Ganga barrage project.

The prime minister said that her government had given equal emphasis on the development of agriculture like industrialisation as Bangladesh is mainly an agrarian country.

"We would like to have an idea about the water management of Niigata prefecture for the development of our irrigation and water management projects," she said.

The industrialists and business community of Niigata Prefecture are making notable contribution in our development thrust, she said. "I hope that

See Page 12 Col 7

Business leaders exchange views with Japanese chambers

TOKYO, July 4: The visiting Bangladesh business delegation today exchanged views with the business leaders of Yokohama Chamber of Commerce on promotion of bilateral trade and commerce, reports BSS.

The Bangladesh team led by FBCCI chief Abdullah Yusuf Haroon apprised the Japanese businessmen of the prospects of investment in Bangladesh following the business friendly policies being pursued by the present government.

Haroon also explained the business opportunities in Bangladesh, particularly the prospects in the labour intensive sectors. He also mentioned the huge reserve of oil, gas and mineral resources in Bangladesh and said that the Japanese entrepreneurs could

See Page 12 Col 1

Deadlock at Chittagong port continues

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 4: Activities at the Chittagong port have been disrupted following a wildcat strike by about 5,000 'merchant workers' in protest against engagement of 'hatch workers' in lighterage cargo from ships anchored at the outer anchorage.

The workers belonging to 'merchant labour' union, engaged by C&F agents, started the strike at 2 pm yesterday demanding the right to handle lighterage cargo from the ships at outer sea, port sources said.

Talking to this correspondent, Acting Chairman of Chittagong port, Julfikar Haider Chowdhury claimed that the strike by 'merchant workers' has partially disrupted the port activities. He said the delivery of goods to and from the port remained suspended due to the

strike. "But other operational works are on," he said.

The Acting Chairman said that the strike called by the 'merchant workers' was illegal.

The Chittagong Port Authority held a meeting with the leaders of striking workers from 10 am to 1 pm today but it ended inconclusively, port sources said. Another round of talks began this evening and it continued till writing of this report.

Sources said rivalry between the two workers associations, merchant labour union and coarser hatch workers union, has been continuing for a long time over sharing of work at the hatch of vessels at the outer sea.

Kamal Uddin Chowdhury, president of 'merchant workers' union, said "We will continue

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ATP: Biman starts salvage operation

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, July 4: Biman authorities today started the work to salvage the aircraft that skidded off the Chittagong Airport runway on Wednesday night, airport sources said.

The salvage operation has begun this noon and the aircraft is being towed to the hanger for repair, airport sources said.

The salvage operation was continuing till filing of this report at night.

Meanwhile, two enquiry committees were formed by Bangladesh Biman and its civil aviation authorities.

The pilot, cockpit crew and two cabin crew of the aircraft were temporarily relieved of their duties.

Laloo Prasad forms party today Gujral's Janata Dal splits

NEW DELHI, July 4: Indian prime minister Inder Kumar Gujral's party at the head of the country's ruling coalition government, split today after talks with a rebel leader failed, party officials said, reports AFP.

"I have decided to go ahead with Saturday's decision to float a new party," Laloo Prasad Yadav, the rebel party leader

said here after a two-hour meeting with Gujral.

"I told him about Saturday's decision, but I did not invite him to it," Yadav told reporters.

Yadav, who refused to stand for re-election as president of Gujral's Janata Dal on Thursday after claiming the poll had been rigged against him, added: "There are no changes in my plan."

A break-up of the Janata Dal would now undermine Gujral's authority as prime minister of the minority United Front coalition government.

Sitaram Kesri, president of the Congress (I), said "the Congress will stand by the Gujral government. Our commitment is to continue support to the government and we shall stand by it."

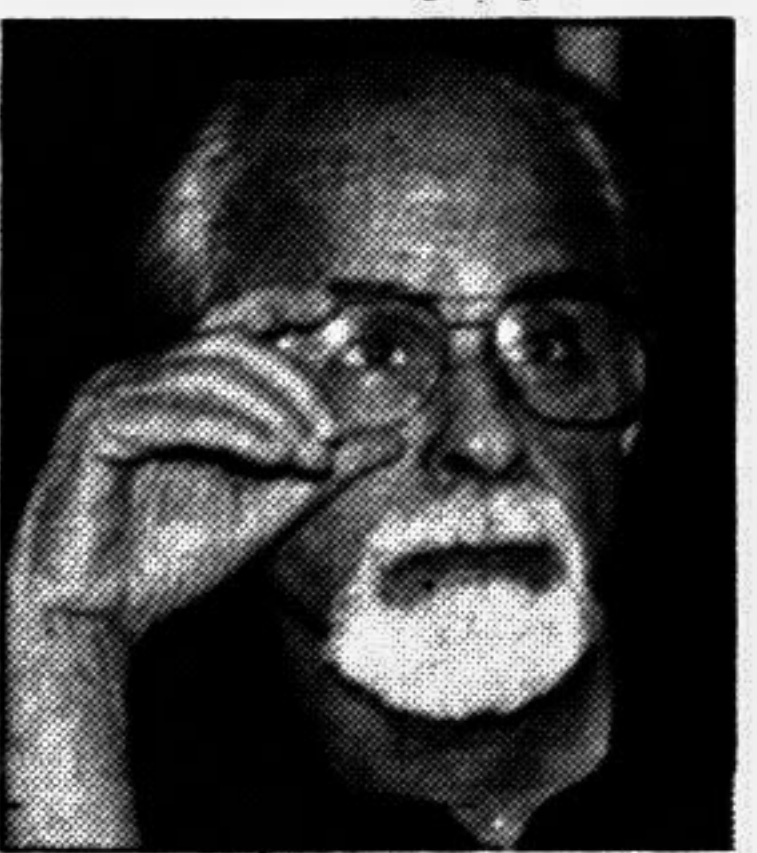
The Congress (I) chief said the crisis being faced by Janata Dal was "their internal matter. What is our right to speak about their matter?"

To a question on the possibility of mid-term elections if

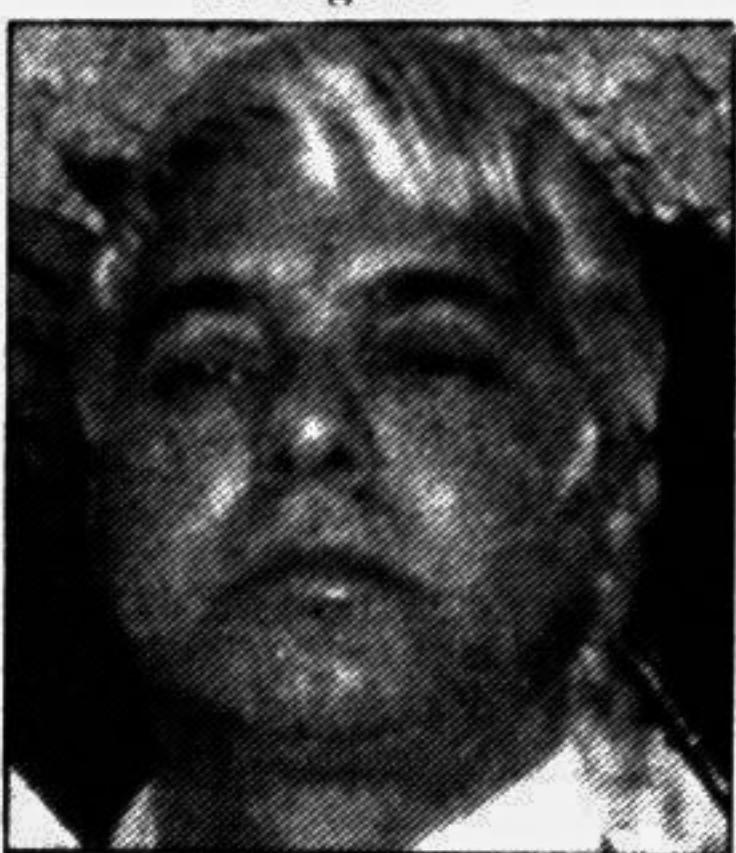
the split in Dal leads to the fall of the government, Kesri said: "I doubt it. There is no question of mid-term polls. I think they will settle their differences."

The feud between former allies Gujral and Yadav began when the latter was implicated in a massive cattle fodder scandal in the eastern state of Bihar.

See Page 12 Col 4



I K Gujral



Laloo Prasad

Gas bubbles at Magurchhara site spread

By Govinda Shil
Gas bubbles at Magurchhara drilling site, which were responsible for suspension of train service between Sylhet and other parts of the country, have further spread, a senior official of Bangladesh Railway said.

Occidental, the US gas exploration company, would give its final safety clearance to the BR tomorrow.

The gas bubbles were limited within a 50-foot circumference on Wednesday, but spread out to encompass a 150-foot area and continued to expand. If those reach the surface, a spark from a passing train could ignite the gas and cause another explosion, the official noted.

BR re-started its operation after 14 days' suspension of train communication of Sylhet with Dhaka and Chittagong on Wednesday but stopped the service after a sudden gas eruption near the rail tracks was observed.

"We are keeping constant

See Page 12 Col 7

Chandpur killings: 5 held from Dhaka, N'ganj

CHANDPUR, July 4: Police have arrested five people, including two women, suspecting their involvement in last week's sensational killing of eight members of a family, reports UNB.

Two police teams in a special drive arrested two persons from Dhaka's Badha area and three others from Chashara in Narayanganj.

Eight members of a family were murdered when they were sleeping in their house at village Jorkhali in Kalakanda union of Matlab thana on Sunday night. Police suspected that

the killing was a sequel to property related enmity.

Of the arrested, Dil Jahan and Taslima Akhter, mother and wife of principal accused Minto, were picked up from Dhaka.

Jafarullah, son-in-law of another accused Salamattullah, and two youngsters, Md Raqib and Sukkur Ali, were arrested from a house at Chashara in Narayanganj.

All the arrested were sent to Chandpur jail hazat.

Police Super of Chandpur said sub-inspector Bidhan

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Clash over char land in Pabna: 3 killed, 10 hurt

PABNA, July 4: Three people were killed and ten others wounded in a gun battle between two groups of villagers over capturing a char land in the river Padma today, police sources said, reports UNB.

The clash erupted at around 7 am between some villagers of Kumarkhali in Kushtia district and Charbhanganpur in Pabna district. Both the groups used firearms including sawn-off rifle and pipe-gun.

Abdur Razzak, 40, and Sobhan, 30, died on the spot while Abdur Razzak, 45, succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital. All of them were resident of Charbhanganpur in Sadar thana of Pabna.

Six of the injured, also from Charbhanganpur, were admitted to Kumarkhali Health Complex with bullet wounds.

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Over 9 lakh Third World children may be infected by HIV this year

By the end of 1997, a million children under the age of 15 — over 90 per cent of them in developing countries — are expected to be living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, reports UNB.

Some 400,000 children under 15 became infected with Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) in 1996 bringing the total number of such children to 830,000 at the end of 1996 according to a report of World AIDS campaign received in Dhaka yesterday.

The report, "Children Living in a World with AIDS", quoting UNAIDS and WHO estimates, also shows that since the beginning of the epidemic, well over two million HIV positive

children under the age of 15 have been born to HIV positive mothers.

"Hundreds of thousands of children have acquired HIV from blood transfusions or through sex," said the report, a compendium of findings by different UN organisations and NGOs working with the most concerned virus whose cure is yet to be discovered.

Because HIV infection often progresses quickly to AIDS in children, most of the close to three million children under 15 who have been infected since the start of the epidemic have developed AIDS, and most of these have died.

Some 350,000 children under 15 died of AIDS (Acquired

Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in 1996 out of total 1.5 million, the report said.

Giving UNAIDS estimates, it added, that by mid-1996, nine million children under 15 became orphans losing their mothers to AIDS. More than 90 per cent of these children live in Sub-Saharan African countries.

"Sick children in developing countries are generally at greater risk of death than children in industrialised countries," said the World AIDS Campaign.

In Europe, 80 per cent of HIV-positive children survive at least until their third birthday and 20 per cent reach the age of 10. In Zambia, however, nearly

half of HIV-positive children had died by the age of two and in Uganda, 66 per cent by the age of three.

There are already over 23 million people worldwide living with HIV, over 40 per cent of whom are women. In some of the worst affected countries, up to 40 per cent of women attending antenatal clinics in urban areas are HIV-positive.

As some 50 per cent of the population is under the age of 18 years in many developing countries, the report said, directing prevention efforts to children is crucial in minimising the further spread of the epidemic.

According to World Congress
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PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN to all concerned that the legal heirs of Late Al-Haj Jahurul Islam, the last Chairman of the Islam Group of Companies, namely, (i) Mrs. Suraiya Begum, his widow, (ii) Ms. Syeda Islam, (iii) Ms. Mafida Islam, (iv) Ms. Naima Islam and (v) Ms. Kaneta Islam, his daughters, have commenced a number of legal proceedings, suits and actions in the Honourable Supreme Court, High Court Division and the District Court, Dhaka, for establishing their legal and rightful inheritance under KORANIC LAW.

THEREFORE, all property, including land and building, shares in companies, bank accounts, and other moveable and immovable property which belonged to the Late Al-Haj Jahurul Islam at the date of his death, namely, 19th October 1995 is, sub-judice.

IT HAS BEEN brought to the notice of the above named heirs that a number of persons are selling, transferring or otherwise disposing of or encumbering property which forms the estate of the Late Al-Haj Jahurul Islam and on which they have legally subsisting claims.

LET IT BE KNOWN that any person or persons who are purporting to sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of or encumberance any property which forms the estate of the Late Al-Haj Jahurul Islam or any person or persons who purport to purchase, take possession or acquire any interest in such property does so at his risk and peril entirely.

ALL RIGHTS of the above named heirs are fully reserved.

IF ANY PERSON OR PERSONS have any concerns about any such property that they have purchased after the 19th October 1995 is advised to take independent legal advice or may contact the undersigned.

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