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All MPs to get diplomatic passports, PM tells JS

By Staff Correspondent

All members of parliament will get diplomatic passports, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda told the Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday.

Taking the floor in response to a point of privilege raised by Awami League member Tofael Ahmed she also said the warrant of precedence of MPs could also be decided at the Privilege Committee of the House.

The entire House applauded the announcements made by the Prime Minister.

Begum Zia said the Government wanted to give the highest honour to the members of parliament which was elected after nine years of movement.

She invited the Opposition members to take decision about warrant of precedence by taking part in the deliberations in the Privilege Committee.

Earlier, Tofael Ahmed said the members of parliament should get diplomatic passports. As elected representa-

tives of the people their status should be above senior government servants in the warrant of precedence, he said.

Tofael Ahmed said the members of parliament were above government servants in the warrant of precedence during the Awami League rule. It was changed by the governments of Khondaker Mushtaque Ahmed and H M Ershad, he said.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in his concluding remarks said it was a unique event in parliamentary history that a demand was fulfilled at such a short span of time. This marked an auspicious start of the second session of the Fifth Parliament, he said.

Budget speech to be broadcast

Radio Bangladesh, Dhaka will broadcast the budget speech of Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman, at 4 pm today, reports UNB.

Three walkouts on first day of budget session

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad witnessed walkout thrice on the inaugural day of its second session on Tuesday.

The first walk out was staged by the Jamaat-e-Islami members as a privilege notice on the assault of their group leader Matur Rahman Nizami on Dhaka University campus on May 27 was not admitted.

The Jamaat members joined House after thirteen minutes.

The Jatiya Party MPs staged walkout on a flimsy ground. JP member Fazle Rabbi told the House they were walking out protesting the sitting arrangement. A former Vice-President and a former Prime Minister belonging to JP were not given front seats, he said. See Page 10 Col. 3

AL, BKSAL MPs hail BNP's move

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

The move by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for a switchover to a parliamentary system was well received by Awami League and some other opposition political parties.

Chief Whip of the opposition Mohammad Nasim (AL) told The Daily Star they would examine the proposed BNP bill when it would be placed before the House. Awami League stood for a pure parliamentary form of government, he said.

He noted that the upcoming bill, engineered by the ruling party would naturally attract more discussion. He, however, said that Awami League would also move its own bill by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad.

Awami League MP Tofael Ahmed said the news that BNP would submit a bill proposing a

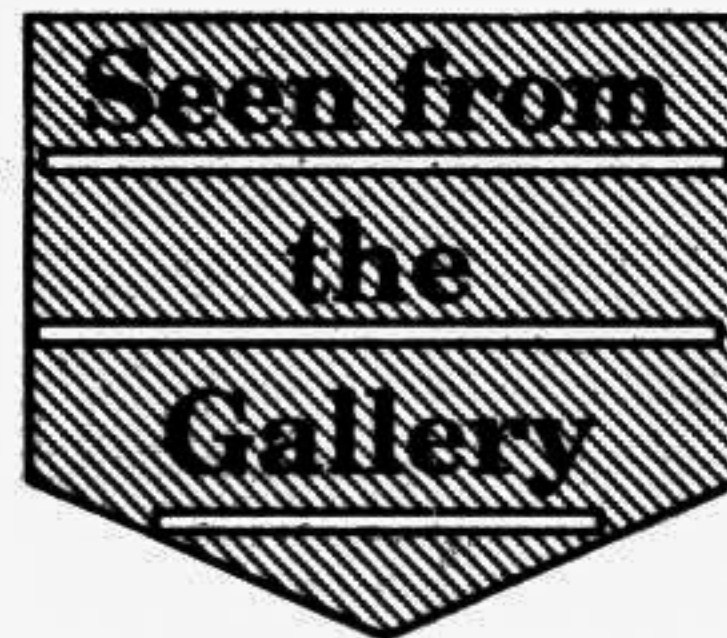
parliamentary form of government had created a "ray of hope".

BKSAL leader Abdur Razzak said it was a "good news". "We were after such a constitutional amendment." He said his party would study the BNP bill when it would be moved.

Meanwhile, reliable sources said there will be little difference between the AL bill and the BNP bill. Constitutional experts of BNP told The Daily Star on Tuesday they anticipated a difference of opinion only over the appointment of non-MPs as ministers.

The existing constitution provides that "not more than one-fifth" of the ministers shall be chosen from among persons qualified for election as members of parliament."

The constitutional provision See Page 10 Col. 4



by Reazuddin Ahmed

THE opening day of the budget session started well in amity.

A common benefit united all MPs on a single platform in demanding the red passport for each of the 330 members of Parliament on Tuesday in the House.

Both the Treasury Bench and the Opposition members stood together to press for gaining the red passport.

The privilege was too tempting for the MPs. It is a status symbol for the representatives of Parliament.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia assured them of diplomatic passports saying See Page 10 Col. 6



CITY TURNED SWAMP: A street in the capital Dhaka after heavy rains yesterday.

—Star photo

Further deregulation to attract investors

The Government has decided further deregulation of the economy and to introduce a package of incentives to encourage investment induce more remittances through to official channels and plugging illegal transfer of money, reports BSS.

The incentives which comes into effect from July 1 includes investment in shares by non-residents, maintenance of foreign currency accounts by both resident and non-resident Bangladeshis, enhancing the amount of import of foreign currency without declaration and increase in foreign exchange in the travel quota.

Finance and Planning Minister said the measures have been chalked out from a broad outlook of market economy and to involve greater number of investors including non-res-

ident Bangladeshi and foreigners in a profitable manner for the economic development of the country.

Briefing newsmen at his office in Sher-e-Banglanagar, Saifur Rahman said the economy will be decontrolled as minimum as possible to relieve the possible investors of harassment and difficulties aimed at boosting badly needed investment. Our economy must match with the global wind of liberalisation to attract investors both local and foreigners, he emphasised.

The minister earlier held a highlevel meeting attended by top officials of Finance Ministry and financial institutions.

Rahman said economic activities have been expanded and diversified substantially over the years, but some major

changes in the regulatory system became imperative to fit in with the changed economic environment to further promote, facilitate and consolidate the growth process.

The minister said following a review of the prevailing exchange control policies, it has been identified that access to foreign exchange needed further liberalisation. This decontrol, the minister pointed out, was to facilitate quick and easy access to foreign exchange for productive economic pursuits, meet essential needs and also for attracting greater amount of foreign investment.

He said neighbouring countries have already responded to the process of global liberalisation and Bangladesh cannot afford to lag behind.

The Finance Minister said, See Page 10 Col. 1

Heavy rains in Dhaka, Chittagong

By Staff Correspondent

Capital Dhaka and its adjoining areas experienced heavy downpour on Tuesday morning causing waterlogging in different parts of the city.

Other parts of the country also experienced heavy downpour today with the highest 209 mm at Kutubdia.

Chittagong had 120 mm rainfall, Cox's Bazar 119, Majdicourt 114, Feni 77, Tangail 59, Sitakunda and Comilla 53, Khulna 32, Ishurdi 27 and Faridpur 26 mm during the period.

See Page 10 Col. 8

Agreed minutes with Riyadh for utilisation of \$106m grant

Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday signed an agreed minutes for the utilisation of the pledged Saudi grant of 106 million US dollars (400 million, Saudi Riyal), reports BSS.

Member of the Planning Commission Mir Mustafizur Rahman and leader of the 7-member high powered Saudi delegation and Vice-Chairman of Saudi Fund for Development Dr Abdul Aziz Mohammad Al-Turki signed the agreed minutes.

See Page 10 Col. 3

Hasina advised rest till full recovery

By Staff Correspondent

The condition of Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina has improved, but she has been advised rest by her doctors till full recovery.

Sheikh Hasina returned home Monday night after a medical check-up in Singapore. She has been suffering from "ulcerative colitis" and low blood pressure for quite some-time.

The doctors at Singapore Modern Hospital also detected a small cyst in her liver during the check-up.

See Page 10 Col. 3

NEWS BRIEFS

ALPP meet tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
 Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will meet tomorrow (Thursday) at 4 pm at the Committee Room of Jatiya Sangsad. Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting.

Saudi Fund leader leaves for home

Vice-Chairman of the Saudi Fund for Development and Leader of the 7-member high-powered Saudi delegation Dr Abdul Aziz Mohammed Al-Turki left here Tuesday evening, ending a 5-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Ershad's arms case judgement

Judgement in the arms case against deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad is due today by the one-man Special Tribunal, reports UNB.

Agri-institute closed sine die

Bangladesh Agricultural Institute has been closed sine die from Tuesday due to unavoidable reasons, an institute press release said on Tuesday evening, reports BSS.

Relief body submits report

Inter-ministerial Relief Coordination Committee on Tuesday presented its report to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia with a number of important recommendations for the proposed master plan on disaster management, reports UNB.

Accord on new Albanian govt

TIRANA, June 11: Albania's political parties have agreed on the country's first non-Communist government in over 40 years, official sources said today, reports Reuters.



Processions by Awami League-backed Chhatra League (above) and pro-JSD (Inu) Chhatra League on the DU campus that preceded submission of memorandum to the Speaker on Tuesday.

—Star photo

India goes for 2nd round of voting today

NEW DELHI, June 11: India's vast electorate resumes voting in critical general elections tomorrow in apparently gloomy mood after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, report agencies.

There's a palpable mood of despair over the killing, mixed with a sense of shame," said one government official who has monitored the campaign since it began in April in the midst of political, social and economic crises. "It really is quite difficult to know how that mood is going to translate into votes," he said. On that, analysts, diplomats

and party officials are agreed. They also agree that after the polls close on Saturday night — except for the 13 seats in Punjab, where voting is scheduled for June 22 — it is unlikely that any of the three main parties on the left, centre and right will have a majority.

But there is no unanimity on which the biggest party will be. Some observers of this election see the possibility of the right-wing, Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerging as the biggest party. The BJP, unlike Congress,

has had the discipline and organisation to keep its campaign simmering after the murder and it might have successfully stolen the Congress slogan of stability," said one senior diplomat.

The BJP, which won just two seats in 1984, surged to 96 in the last elections in November 1989, helped by a seat-sharing agreement among anti-Congress parties.

This time, powered by a highly emotional campaign playing on Hindu religious sentiment and latent anti-Muslim feelings, no one doubts it will be the big winner when the 514 million-

strong electorate has finished voting.

However, most analysts expect Gandhi's Congress Party, which has ruled India for all but four years since independence, to be in the best position to cobble together a coalition government, something India has never had before.

Despite failing to get Gandhi's Italian born widow Sonia to succeed him, Congress is still hoping for a "sympathy wave" to carry it to a majority.

Related stories on Page 5 and also a post editorial.

Student bodies postpone march, submit memo to Speaker

By DU Correspondent

Eleven student organisations separately submitted memoranda to the Jatiya Sangsad Speaker on Tuesday demanding implementation of the Joint Declaration of three alliances and realisation of their 10-point demand.

The student organisations also demanded expulsion of Golam Azam from the country, ban on communal politics. See Page 10 Col. 1

JCD demands arrest of Milon's killers

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP handed over a memorandum to the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad demanding immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Dr Milon.

The JCD, in its memorandum also demanded that the toppled President Ershad be hanged.

Khairul Kabir Khokan and Nazimuddin Alam, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary respectively of See Page 10 Col. 4

Hearing on Ershad's wealth amassing

Petition to split charges rejected

By Staff Correspondent

The Special Judge Court trying ousted President Ershad yesterday rejected a petition of the Defence to deal with the two charges against the accused separately.

The accused Ershad is being tried at the Special Judge Court which resumed proceedings yesterday on charges of amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income and grabbing government property for personal use. Two prosecution witnesses were examined on the day.

At the beginning of the hearing Special Judge Mohammad Ali Khan rejected Defence Lawyer Sirajul Haque's plea for splitting the two allegations.

In this case, the second against Ershad, allegations have been brought against him that an amount of Taka

1,90,81,565 recovered from his Sena Bhaban residence was disproportionate to his known sources of income and that the goods recovered from the Sena Bhaban were actually government property but were used by him illegally for personal purposes.

Defence Lawyer Sirajul Haque invoked the Criminal (Amendment) Act 1958 which provides that there be separate cases if the incidents did not See Page 10 Col. 3

No objection to parliamentary system: Ershad

By Staff Correspondent

Deposed President H M Ershad Tuesday said that the Jatiya Party members of Par-

See Page 10 Col. 5

এন্টিবায়োটিকের প্রথম উৎপাদনের দ্বিবার্ষ পূর্তি

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