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# The Daily Star



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**Inside Today**  
**Special feature**



"Hundred Days of Democracy," a special feature section, containing an exclusive interview of Begum Khaleda Zia, opinions of Opposition leaders and articles  
 Page 4, 5&6

**International**



P V Narasimha Rao's minority government faces confidence vote when the newly-elected Indian Parliament convenes on July 9  
 Page 8

**Sports**

Mike Tyson knocked down Donovan 'Razor' Ruddock in 12th round at Mirage Hotel Friday night  
 Page 7

**Metropolitan**

Dhaka Day by Day Rifat Rashid had a fairly easy time collecting her Ph D from Sorbonne combining her studies with marriage  
 Page 3

## Khaleida, Hasina meet on amendment bill soon

Star Special

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina may have a formal meeting soon after placing of the Constitution amendment bill Tuesday next to switch over to the parliamentary form of government.

The ruling party will also talk to other opposition parliamentary groups to reach a consensus on the amendment.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Awami League are reportedly preparing the grounds for the meeting of the two leaders.

Informal talks are going on between the leaders of the two parties to remove all obstacles in the way of passing the bill to change the form of government.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to go on the air on Monday to tell the nation about the historic move by her government to institutionalise democracy. She will give a background of the struggle against the autocratic rule of ousted President Ershad and will renew her pledge to show respect to the will of the people.

She will seek the cooperation of all political parties to join this move.

The Parliamentary parties of both the BNP and the Awami League are holding meetings to draw a strategy on the course of action in Parliament after placing of the bill.

The opposition parties,

mainly the Awami League, are watching the moves of the ruling party as regards the bill. Awami League will not commit anything about its support to the Treasury Bench bill until the party moves its own bill on private members' day Thursday next.

A highly placed Awami League source told the Daily Star that the formal talks may not be held before Thursday.

The source, however, said that the Awami League will not create any obstacle to passing the bill.

The Party has convened the meeting of its central working committee on July 5 to take stock of the situation and to decide the future course of action.

Meanwhile, the Awami League Parliamentary Party in its meeting has decided to inform the central committee about its positive decision on supporting the Constitution amendment bill to be moved by the Treasury Bench.

Meanwhile a meeting of the Business Executive Committee of Parliament has been convened on July 8.

At this committee meeting the two leaders are also likely to discuss the strategy to pass the bill.

According to Parliament sources the formal debate on this bill will begin from July 9.

The BNP Parliamentary Party on Saturday held a meeting where most members opposed introduction of the

Value Added Tax system proposed in the new budget.

Meeting sources told UNB the ruling party MPs also suggested exemption of common consumer items, utility services and agricultural inputs from fresh taxation.

Introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) system has been proposed in the national budget placed in Parliament by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman on June 13.

VAT, designed to replace excise duty and sales tax, mainly aims at preventing tax evasion.

The BNPPP meeting, held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban prior to resumption of parliament session Saturday morning, reviewed various budgetary measures including new fiscal proposals like VAT and discussed possible moderations.

Most of the Treasury Bench members, according to the sources, came up with suggestions for withdrawal of fresh tax proposals on different essential items including soybean oil, palm oil, fertilizer, insecticide, deep tube well and shallow tube well.

The BNP MPs, mostly new faces with fresh vigour from last nine years of anti-autocracy movement, suggested shifting of the taxload from the commonman on to the affluent, levying increased duty on luxury goods including air-conditioners.  
 See Page 10 Col. 2

## PM talks on 'hundred days of democracy' Steps for switchover to be complete by end July



Preparing for a changeover: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia talking to a team of senior journalists of The Daily Star at her Secretariat Office.

By S M Ali  
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has indicated that there would be a dialogue with the Opposition on the proposed constitutional amendment bill to facilitate the smooth change-over from the existing presidential system to the parliamentary form.

In an exclusive interview to The Daily Star on Thursday, the BNP leader also hinted that all necessary steps for the transfer of power to her government from the present diarchy setup could be completed before the end of July.

However, on both the issues, Begum Zia declined to go into details, saying laughingly, "You are extracting everything from me."

Besides myself, other senior members of the Star present during the interview were Khalilur Rahman, Amanullah Kabir, Mustafa Kamal Majumdar, Reazuddin Ahmed and Mahfuz Anam.

The interview was arranged to seek the Prime Minister's own views on her government's performance during its first hundred days in office for inclusion in a special feature section published with today's paper.

During the wide-ranging conversation, Begum Zia handled the questions confidently and remained in good humour  
 See Page 10 Col. 7

## Sangsad passes Supplementary Budget

The Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) passed the Supplementary Budget for 1990-91 Saturday night.

The House also passed the Appropriation (supplementary) Bill 1991 and Appropriation (vote on account) Bill 1991.

The House, during its morning sitting yesterday passed one demand for grants of Taka 13 lakh 82 thousand under the head of the National Revenue Board-105 for the President to meet the expenditures for the outgoing year ending today.

Six cut motions moved by Opposition members were rejected by the House.

The remaining 67 demands for grants amounting to  
 See Page 10 Col. 4

## BDR, BSF flag meeting held at Meherpur

MEHERPUR, June 29: Bangladesh is yet to get back the body of Mofazzel Hossain who was shot dead Friday at Tetulbaria border by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF), officials said today, reports UNB.

Mofazzel of Tetulbaria village in Gangeti upazila was shot while he was cutting grass near pillar number 137 at the border. According to eye witnesses, the body was later taken to the Indian side by BSF personnel and some Indian civilians.  
 See Page 10 Col. 3

## Speaker apologises for letter on warrant of precedence Heated debate on status of MPs

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) on Saturday witnessed a heated debate on the warrant of precedence of the members of Parliament (MPs). Speaker Abdur Rahman

Biswas told the House in the morning session that a privilege committee would be constituted to determine the warrant of precedence of MPs. He also withdrew the circular

issued by the Sangsad Secretariat earlier to this effect.

Apologising for the circular issued by the Sangsad Secretariat, the Speaker assured the House that he would look into how it was issued. He said he had already instructed the authorities concerned to send corrected version of the letter.

Earlier Major (Rtd) Hafizuddin Ahmed (Independent) drew the attention of the Speaker to a letter issued by the Sangsad Secretariat relating to the status of the MPs. He said, according to the letter, the position of MPs was 14 in the warrant of precedence but it did not say who were the persons above and below the MPs, he added.

Immediately a large number of MPs stood up from both the sides and criticised the letter.

Tofael Ahmed (AL) recalled the assurance of the Leader of the House about determining proper status of MPs and said they enjoyed the status above government officials under the warrant of precedence prepared in 1974. He said the position was altered first in October, 1975 and finally in 1986 during the period of Ershad regime.

Tofael said a democratically elected government should not follow a decision of the autocratic government which had lowered the status of the people's representatives.

Chief Whip Delwar Hossain said as per earlier decision, the issue of the warrant of precedence would be decided on the basis of recommendations made by the privilege committee to be formed with members from all parties. Unfortunately the committee has not yet been formed, he said.

The Chief Whip expressed the hope that once the form of government was changed to parliamentary type, the status of MPs would certainly be elevated and all apprehensions  
 See Page 10 Col. 1

## Croatia, Slovenia hold independence call

ZAREB, June 29: Yugoslavia's feuding leaders agreed early Saturday to send federal troops back to their barracks, temporarily suspend bids to declare independence and to elect a new federal president, report agencies.

Three European Community foreign ministers announced the agreement after more than two hours of talks with the presidents of Croatia and Slovenia, whose declarations of independence on Tuesday sparked violent confrontation with the federal army and ethnic unrest.

Earlier, the three foreign ministers talked in Belgrade

with federal premier Ante Markovic, who ordered the army into Slovenia, and with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who has effectively blocked the functioning of Yugoslavia's collective federal presidency since mid-May.

The Yugoslav presidency postponed a session today at which it had hoped to elect a new head of state, Tanjug news agency said.

Tanjug said Slovenia's representative on the eight-man body — the collective head of state — had refused to attend.

Consultations were continuing on when a session could be convened.

Yugoslavia has been without a president for six weeks because of a row among the country's six republics. Election of a president was a key part of an EC-sponsored peace accord agreed on Saturday for ending Yugoslavia's crisis.

The accord was proposed on Friday night during a visit by three European Community foreign ministers intended to end fighting between the Yugoslav army and the breakaway republic Slovenia over the Alpine region's independence bid.

The key points were: A ceasefire in Slovenia under  
 See Page 10 Col. 1

## Indian troops open fire to disrupt polls in Azad Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, June 29: Indian troops opened fire across a ceasefire line dividing disputed Kashmir Saturday as Kashmiris voted for a new regional assembly, officials said, reports Reuters.

Rifle fire continued for an hour, disrupting voting at three polling stations in the Neelam valley of Pakistan-administered Azad (free) Kashmir. There were no reports of casualties. They were trying to sabotage the election, said election official Sardar Anwar in the Azad Kashmir capital Muzaffarabad.

At least three people were killed elsewhere in Azad Kashmir in clashes between rival political activists, officials said.  
 See Page 10 Col. 8



A dance drama to promote the anti-smoking drive in the city yesterday.  
 —Star photo

## UN team in Iraq suspends inspection

BAGHDAD, June 29: A UN nuclear site monitoring team that reported a confrontation with Iraqi soldiers suspended inspections Saturday, and Western envoys flew to Baghdad to help enforce ceasefire accords, report AP.

The suspension followed an incident Friday in which Iraqi soldiers fired shots in the air as UN inspectors filmed a truck convoy suspected of carrying nuclear-related equipment.

US President George Bush did not rule out renewing military action to eliminate nuclear-weapons fabrication equipment missed in the Gulf

War. But he said Saturday he prefers a diplomatic solution to the standoff.

"You've already seen a worldwide reaction against this," Bush said.

At the United Nations, a draft resolution was under study that would give Iraq 48 hours to permit UN inspectors to do their jobs unimpeded.

And while the Iraqi news agency said Saddam had ordered his troops to cooperate with the UN inspectors, Bush remained skeptical.

Bush suggested that the shooting incident would set back Iraq's efforts to persuade the UN to lift an 11-month

trade embargo.

The Iraqi government had been hoping that growing humanitarian pressure on Bush and other allied leaders would force a relaxation of the embargo.

Iraq agreed to fully disclose its nuclear and chemical weapons facilities as part of the Gulf War cease-fire agreement approved in April by the UN Security Council.

Late Friday, Saddam issued a directive ordering Iraqi officials to allow UN inspectors to see what they wished "without hesitation," the Information Ministry said. The government has denied any cheating on

disclosure.

Told Saturday of the reported directive, David Key, deputy leader of the UN inspection team in Baghdad, responded: "I wish they'd had that order yesterday. That's the kind of order that should have been issued in the first place under the Security Council resolution."

In an interview with The Associated Press at UN command headquarters here, Key said he did not know the whereabouts of the truck convoy the team tried to photograph Friday. He said US intelligence satellites probably  
 See Page 10 Col. 7

## Prabhakaran ordered Rajiv's killing?

NEW DELHI, June 29: The plot to murder Rajiv Gandhi was hatched in October 1990, and his assassination last month was ordered by the supreme of Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers, an Indian magazine said today, reports AFP.

Velupillai Prabhakaran decided to eliminate Gandhi the moment it became clear the National Front coalition which succeeded the slain Prime Minister's Congress (I) party in November 1989 was going to collapse, India Today said.

The leadership of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) met in its forest hide-outs in northeastern Sri Lanka and decided that the chances of the Congress (I) coming back to power were "now almost certain", the magazine said.

In an exhaustive investigation, the respected fortnightly magazine said the rebel group feared Gandhi's return could mean a possible reintroduction of Indian troops into Sri Lanka and a certain crackdown on

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