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# The Daily Star

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**Constitution amendment bill to be placed today : Political parties' cooperation sought**

## Parliamentary form soon, PM tells nation

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia announced on Monday that Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) had decided to switch over to parliamentary form of government by introducing a Constitution amendment bill in Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) today. It is now clear from elaborate discussions at various levels that almost all the members of parliament are unanimous in recasting the form of government, she added.

Addressing the nation over Radio and Television the Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Zia said, BNP made its stance clear earlier that parliament would decide as to what should be the form of government.

The Prime Minister called upon the countrymen and all the political parties to come forward for establishing this system firmly in our national life. This great parliament, an achievement of the mass upsurge, is going to take the historic decision of establishing

the parliamentary form of government, the Prime Minister declared.

The Prime Minister assured the people of ensuring political, social, economic, cultural and religious rights of everybody irrespective of religion, caste and creed. "We are determined to build a prosperous and exploitation-free society by the grace of Almighty Allah on the basis of democracy, Bangladeshi nationalism and social justice", she asserted.

BSS adds: Begum Zia said parliament was going to take the historic decision of establishing parliamentary form of democracy in the country.

She said, "Before this bill is placed in the Jatiya Sangsad, I am here before you today to inform you directly about this."

Begum Khaleda Zia said as soon as this amendment bill was adopted by the Sangsad, a new phase would be created in the history of constitutional and national political development of the country.

The Prime Minister said it

had been the commitment of the BNP that the system of government should be decided by the Jatiya Sangsad.

The Prime Minister said no system of government, could guarantee democracy unless it was motivated by sincere desire, and unstinted love and affection for the people to establish their rights. She said it had been considered necessary under the changed circumstances, at a given context of time, to evolve the system of government.

She said it was the stand of her party that the Jatiya Sangsad alone would take a decision on the form of government.

She said to meet the needs of time BNP never hesitated in the past and shall not hesitate in future too to take any constitutional step to ensure democracy, stability and greater national interest.

Begum Zia recalled, in this connection, that in 1975 one party system was introduced in place of parliamentary form of



Parliament is going to take a historic decision, Begum Zia tells nation over Radio and Television Monday.—PID photo

**Censorship issue: Rangpur APMG withdrawn**

From Our Correspondent  
RANGPUR, July 1: Jahangir Alam, Assistant Post Master General APMG of Rangpur Head Post Office was withdrawn today (Monday) over the censorship controversy on 11 opposition political leaders. His services were placed at the disposal of the Rajshahi Post Master General's office.

In an urgent telex message sent by the higher postal authorities Jahangir Alam was ordered to leave Rangpur today after handing over charge to the Deputy Post Master and report to the Rajshahi PMG's office by tomorrow.

Jahangir Alam left for Rajshahi this evening.

Several political and other organisations in Rangpur are continuing to express their deep resentment over the imposition of undemocratic censorship on letters and goods both (incoming and outgoing) of 11 opposition political leaders and 12 leading members of different organisations in Rangpur.

Jahangir Alam, APMG Rangpur Head Post Office, in his official letter issued June See Page 10 Col. 8

## Opposition raises objection to VAT Bill, stages walkout

By Staff Correspondent

The much talked about Value Added Tax (VAT) Bill 1991 was laced in the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Monday amidst walkout by the opposition.

The walkout was prompted by the Speaker's refusal of a ruling on the issue sought by the opposition, pleading the VAT Bill unconstitutional.

Several opposition members raised objection at a time when Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman sought leave of the House to move the bill, seeking replacement of present sales tax

and excise duty with VAT.

Rising on point of order, Ganatantri Party Leader Suranjit Sengupta said that according to constitution, no tax could be realised without the laws being enacted by the House, but the VAT already went into effect from July 1 under an ordinance promulgated by the Acting President.

He added that the tax realised under the ordinance without the budget being passed by the House amounted to violation of the constitution and the bill which violated constitution could not be in-

## BNP to place 2 amendment bills today

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will place two separate Constitution amendment bills in Parliament today (Tuesday) providing for changing the form of government and sending Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed back to the Bench.

The Constitution eleventh amendment bill will seek to suitably change the Fourth Schedule to ratify the actions taken by the Acting President and make him the Chief Justice again.

The Constitution twelfth

## AL to move amendment bill soon BNP has accepted reality: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina Monday hoped that the Constitution amendment bill on the form of government submitted by her party would be introduced in the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) without further delay.

In a statement, Sheikh Hasina pointed out that the amendment bill was submitted by her party to the Sangsad Secretariat as early as April 14. But, she regretted that its in-

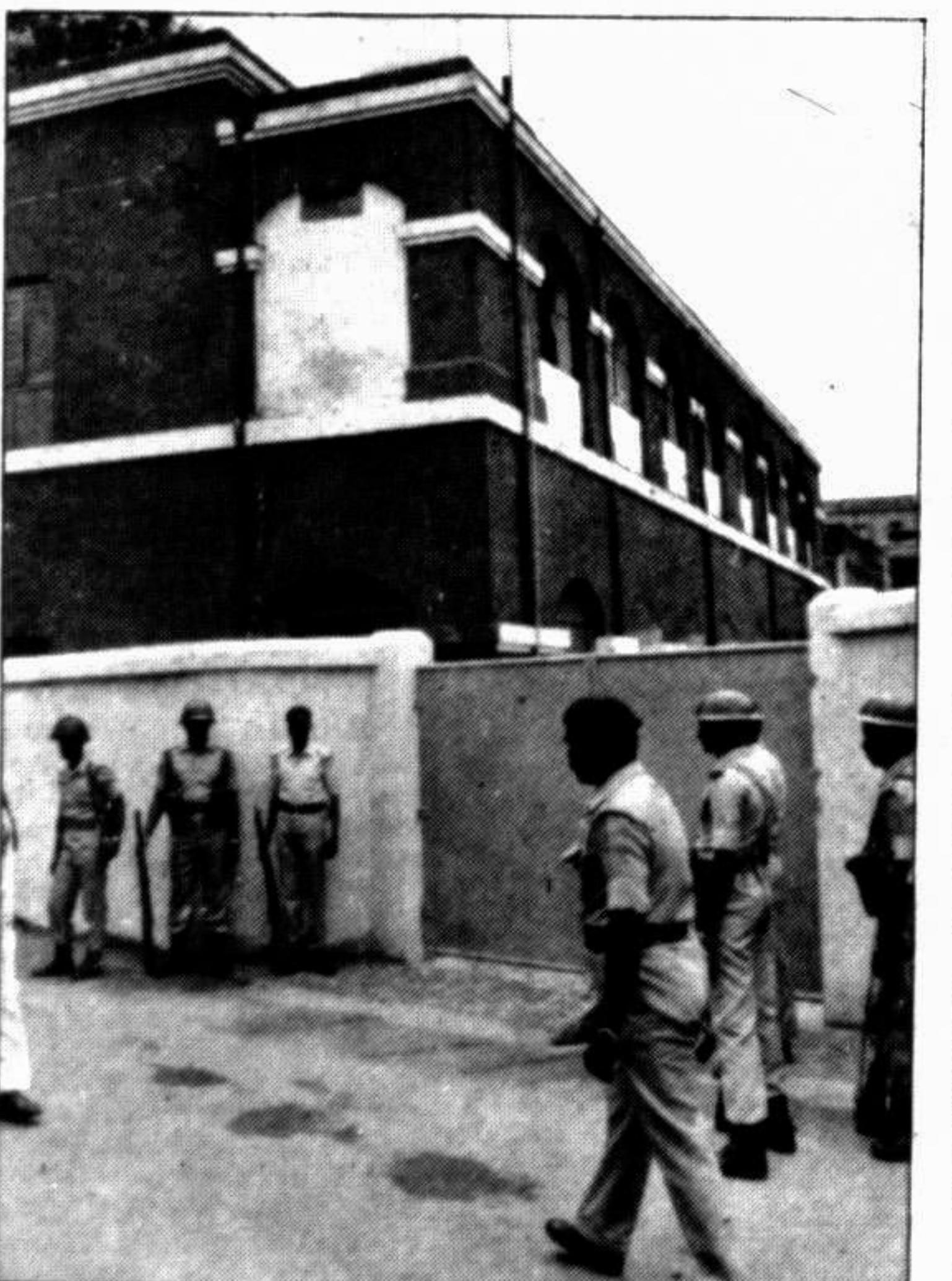
## Probe body on DU incidents submits report

The enquiry commission constituted to probe the incident which took place on May 27 last in the office of the Vice Chancellor, Dhaka University, submitted its report to the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Monday, reports BSS.

The one-man commission was constituted under the commission of enquiry act with Justice M M Haque of the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court.

The Acting President thanked Justice Haque for the hard work done for completing the enquiry and submitting the report.

## AG hears Sirajul Haq only, defence lawyers tell Tribunal Valuation of recovered articles at current prices : Prosecution



The new venue in front of Dhaka Central Jail, where the Special Tribunal, trying deposed President Ershad, has been shifted. Tight security was enforced in the area when the trial began yesterday. — Star photo

Prosecution witnesses in Ershad's wealth amassing case said that the value of the articles found in the Sena Bhaban were calculated on the basis of their current prices.

The case which resumed yesterday at the new venue adjacent to the Central Jail continued till 1 pm and was adjourned till 10.30 am tomorrow.

Three Prosecution Witnesses (PWs) including the Officer-in-Charge of the Cantonment Thana were cross-examined by Defence Lawyer Sirajul Haque.

Ershad was brought to the Court at around 10 am and the Court resumed at a quarter past 11.

Attorney General Aminul Haque first produced Nurul Alam Officer-in-Charge of Cantonment Thana for cross-examination.

Nurul Alam denied a suggestion by the Defence Lawyer that the prices of the licensed arms and other materials found in the Sena Bhaban were fixed at the sweet will of the Prosecution and that the collecting of arms was a hobby of the former President.

The total wealth and property in this case was calculated at over Taka 20 crore.

Following are the excerpts from the cross-examination of Nurul Alam.

## Jamaat, others hail decision

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties, socio-cultural organisations and student bodies Monday welcomed Prime Minister Begum Zia's announcement of her party's decision to switch over to parliamentary form of government.

In separate statements they said it was a "historic" decision by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) which opened a "new horizon" and reflected peoples aspirations.

Jamaat-e-Islami Acting Ameer Abbas Ali Khan and Secretary General Matjur Rahman Nizami in a joint statement said the announcement reflected BNP's respect for the people's demand for government.

## Tk 241.14 cr spent for city protection dam

Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Major General Majidul-Huq told the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday that Taka 241.14 crore had so far been spent as funds were released in constructing city protection embankment around capital Dhaka, reports BSS.

In reply to a question from Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim (AL-Gopalganj), the Minister said part of the first phase work of the Greater Dhaka Flood Control Project a 34 kilometer long embankment has been constructed around the city. He said flood-wall measuring 36.30 km has also been built.

Besides, he said the level of a stretch of 9.90 km of road has been raised and 12.07 km long Zia International Airport protection embankment has been constructed. Thirteen kilometer of drainage canals had been dug and six pipe sluices had been built.

Majidul-Huq Monday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the Water Development Board had a total of 27 dredgers.

In reply to a question from A T M Alamgir (BNP-Cornilla), the Minister said of them 16 were functioning and the rest 11 were out of order.

Huq said the functionable dredgers had been engaged in dredging and filling of different projects undertaken by the government and private organisations including the Water Development Board and the Power Development Board.

Of the total dredgers he said 16 are 12 inches and the

## Hearing of Mizan's writ petition begins

The hearing of the writ petition challenging the detention of former prime minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury began on Monday in a Division Bench of the High Court Division, report BSS.

The Bench comprised Justice M Abdul Jalil and Justice M. Badruzzaman.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed, appearing for the detainee, submitted that the alleged grounds of detention that the detainee is a corrupt person and has abused power are false and fabricated.

He said there is no material, whatsoever, on record that the detainee has led any procession or meeting which is dangerous to public order.

In reply, Deputy Attorney General Syed JR Modesser Hossain said that the detainee had given a statement on February 20 that former president Ershad could have resorted to bloodshed with the help of armed forces, BDR, police and Jatiya Party, which is a prejudicial activity and dangerous to public safety and public order.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury was arrested under the Special Powers Act and now he is under treatment in P G Hospital under custody.

In another case, the Bureau of Anti-Corruption submitted a charge-sheet against Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and four others for cheating the government to the tune of Taka 1.27 crore.

## EC wins accord : Civil war in Yugoslavia averted

ZAGREB, July 1: European Community peace envoys said today they had won a written agreement in all-night talks with rival Yugoslav leaders that could bring peace to the divided Balkan state, reports Reuters.

The three-man team emerged from talks in Belgrade and Zagreb saying it had laid the groundwork for further efforts to resolve peacefully Yugoslavia's problems.

"A step forward has been taken to avert further bloodshed and reach a peaceful solution," Dutch Foreign Minister

Hans Van Den Broek told reporters in Zagreb before the team flew home after its 10-hour visit.

The accord was finalised amid a flurry of efforts to prevent Yugoslavia collapsing into civil war after the federal army's move against the breakaway republic of Slovenia last week.

Asked if all sides had agreed in writing to the three-point peace proposal first made by the EC last Friday, Van Den Broek said: "Yes. Yes. We have agreed on the terms of the letter and on that basis we can continue our good efforts."

His reply indicated that breakaway Slovenia and Croatia had formally agreed to the final point demanded by the EC — a three-month moratorium on implementation of the independence declarations they made last Tuesday.

The moratorium is intended to give politicians breathing space to work out new constitutional arrangements between Yugoslavia's six republics and two provinces.

The other two points proposed by the EC were settled

hours earlier with the election of a new head of state in Belgrade and a crucial agreement on the withdrawal of federal troops in Slovenia to their barracks.

The three EC Foreign Ministers — Van Den Broek, Italy's Gianni De Michelis and Jacques Poos of Luxembourg — sat in on the meeting of Yugoslavia's eight-man collective presidency which named the new head of state.

He was former croatian Prime Minister Stipe Mesic, a one-time political prisoner who became Yugoslavia's first

non-communist chief of state since World War II.

Mesic immediately made clear he would press for relaxation of the centralised federation built by former communist leader Josip Broz Tito. "We will not be secure unless we have a union of sovereign and equal states," he told reporters.

Mesic's election ended a six-week deadlock since Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic, blocked his nomination in mid-May, saying Mesic would break up the Yugoslav federation.

The other major issue — acceptance by both sides of a lasting ceasefire in Slovenia — was settled on Saturday in day-long talks between Slovenia's leaders and federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic.

Markovic said the agreement for troops to start withdrawing to their barracks today averted a renewed offensive against Slovenia threatened by the Army General Staff.

"What is most significant is that we prevented the Lebanonisation of Yugoslavia," Markovic said in a statement.

## Explosions on JU campus

Two bombs were exploded at the AFM Kamaluddin Hall of Jahangirnagar University on Sunday. None was however injured.

Meanwhile, with only four days left for the JUCSU polls, electioneering on the campus is now in full swing.

Student Action Committee (SAC), an alliance of five students' organisations, Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) brought out separate processions on the campus Monday.

The SAC is composed of Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A), JSD (Inu)-backed Chhatra League (N-J), Jatiya Chhatra League, Jatiya Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Union (BCU).

**Moscow wants to export missiles**

PARIS, July 1: Moscow wants to export an anti-missile missile with a performance reported to be better than the US Patriot, a leading Soviet official said in an interview published today, reports Reuters.

**FIS headquarters seized, 2 held**

ALGIERS, July 1: Riot police and plainclothes agents seized the headquarters of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) today after arresting its top two leaders, reports Reuters.

**Angola's peace accord**

JAMBA, ANGLOA, July 1: Angola's former civil war foes held a historic meeting in the heart of rebel country on Sunday and expressed optimism that a month-old peace accord would hold, reports Reuters.

**7 hurt in clash over possession of shop**

At least three people were injured when a group of 15 people attacked a shop at Jonaki Super market Monday noon, reports UNB.

**Opposition MPs meet today**

A meeting of the opposition Members of Parliament will be held today at 3 pm at the Conference Room of the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

**AL EC meet July 5**

By Staff Correspondent  
A meeting of the Awami League Working Committee is scheduled on 5 July at 10 am at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue, says a press release issued on Monday.

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