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The Daily Star

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DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 6, 1991

MOHARRAM 24, 1412 HIJRI

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Benazir Bhutto says she has been vindicated by two political opponents who acknowledged vote rigging caused her defeat in last year's elections
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Sport

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Cubans dominate Pan-American Games
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MPs differ over certain proposed provisions

Tune set in parliament for passage of amendment bills

By Staff Correspondent
 President by open ballot.

Awami League members of parliament said on Monday that the consensus to switch over to a parliamentary system by amending the Constitution was a victory of their party which had been fighting for it since 1978.

Taking part in the discussion on the Constitution Twelfth Amendment Bill they, however, said that further improvement of the Constitution was needed to secure fundamental rights, independence of the judiciary and repeal the Indemnity Ordinance of 1975.

AL MPs expressed their reservations over the provisions in the bill relating to floor-crossing, appointment of one-tenth of ministers from non-MPs, holding of the referendum, and the possibility of holding the election of

Leaders of other opposition political parties who took part in the discussion, however, by and large supported the bill as modified by the Select Committee. However, they suggested that election of President should be held through a secret ballot. The ruling BNP members refrained from participating in the discussion to save time.

Mohammad Nasim, Chief Whip of the Opposition, said that the Awami League never did politics with preconditions. "Parliamentary democracy is the baby of the AL. It is our responsibility to nourish parliamentary democracy", he said.

Welcoming the Select Committee for its report on the Constitution Amendment

Bills, he said that two political parties having different ideologies were now united to introduce the parliamentary system cherished by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He said that certain quarters had misinterpreted the desire of the AL leaders to further the bills through discussion.

Naming a couple of MPs he said that only those forces not happy to see an end to political conspiracies could do this.

Mohammad Nasim made it clear that the unity achieved through years of movement could not be demolished by conspiracies.

He called for identifying those who seek to get to power through conspiracies and politics of killing, and to
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An exclusive interview

AL will see 12th amendment bill through, says Hasina

By Mahfuz Anam

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) Sheikh Hasina told The Daily Star on Monday that her party would see that the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill aimed at switching over to a parliamentary form of government gets through smoothly in the House.

"Parliamentary democracy is our commitment and we will see that the BNP does not get an opportunity to withdraw the bill", she asserted.

When asked whether the Awami League would vote for the 12th Amendment Bill Sheikh Hasina said that it was its pledge to the people and her party would rather ensure that its commitment was fulfilled.



The 12th amendment bill does not reflect the totality of our views, says Hasina

Sheikh Hasina said, "The introduction of a parliamentary form of government will constitute a victory for the Awami League. We have been fighting for this change since 1978. It was our election pledge to the people. So the question of creating obstacles to the passage of this bill does not arise."

To the question as to why then was she tagging the Indemnity (repeal) Bill to the constitutional amendment bill, the AL chief categorically answered that the two bills were not linked. "If we wanted the Indemnity (repeal) Bill and the other bills to be linked we would have done so at the very outset. We have submitted separate bills which clearly indicate our desire not to link these two issues."

See Page 12 Col. 8

JS accepts 11th Amendment Bill for consideration

By Staff Correspondent
 The Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) on Monday unanimously accepted the Constitution (eleventh) Amendment Bill for consideration, signalling that it might smoothly pass the bills.

Earlier, the House had rejected by a voice vote amendments moved by a large number of MPs for circulation of the bill for eliciting public opinion on it.

On the day, discussion on general principles (first reading) of the 12th Amendment Bill concluded, and second reading (clausewise discussion) on the Constitution 11th Amendment Bill was started.

Second reading on the 11th and the 12th Amendment Bills are expected to be completed by today (Tuesday) and the bills are likely to be passed tomorrow.

AL wants to field Shahabuddin as president candidate

The Awami League has a plan to nominate Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as its candidate for the post of President.

A highly-placed Awami League source told UNB that the party's intent in this regard was communicated to Justice Shahabuddin.

Passage of amendment bills urged

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties and professional groups Monday strongly urged the members of the parliament to pass the Constitution 11th and 12th Amendment Bills without further delay.

In separate meetings and statements, they said switch over to parliamentary form through passage of the bills would establish an accountable government and give democracy a permanent shape.

Some also demanded passage of the Indemnity (repeal) Bill with a view to end politics of killing and establish rule of law.

Prof Muzaffar Ahmed and Pankaj Bhattacharya, President and General Secretary respectively of National Awami Party (NAP-Muzaffar) in a joint statement said that the people were eagerly waiting for smooth passage of the bills. There should not be any delay once the bills were cleared by the Parliamentary Select Committee, they said. Expressing their support to the Indemnity Act (repeal) Bill they said it should be passed and all black laws be repealed to institutionalise democracy in the country.

The Central Five Party at a meeting at its office said the Parliamentary Select Committee has given its unanimous report on the bills and so they should be passed without any precondition and further delay.

The meeting chaired by the party convener Bimal Biswas also called upon the authorities to solve problems in educational institutions and

Secretary of Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon Mohammad Sadek and Advocate Fayez Ahmed in a joint statement urged both the ruling and the opposition members in the parliament to immediately pass the Constitution Amendment Bill for reverting to the parliamentary form of

See Page 12 Col. 7

DCCI concern over stalemate in Sangsad

Star Economic Report
 Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) on Monday expressed its concern over the stalemate in the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) on the form of government and the alarming situation in almost all the universities of the country.

In a statement issued to the press, DCCI president Mahbubur Rahman said, politics and business are interdependent. "Economic activities cannot be pursued in the absence of stable and congenial political climate", he noted expressing the hope that the consensus which was observed earlier on some major issues would not be jeopardised.

He said, people at home and abroad are carefully watching every development that is taking place in Bangladesh.

He urged all the members of the parliament and the political parties to resolve the issue over the form of government without further loss of time to give democracy a fair chance.



STRANDED FOR YEARS: Hundreds of stranded Pakistanis, including women and children, brought out a procession in the city Monday in preparation for a 'long march' towards their chosen land, Pakistan. — Star photo

Stranded Pakistanis prepare for march

By Staff Correspondent

Stranded Pakistanis here on Monday observed "deliverance day" as a preparation for their planned second long march towards Pakistan on August 14.

Several hundred members of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) brought out a procession in observance of the day. Nasim Khan, Chief Patron of the SPGRC led the procession which ended at Baitul Mukarram following a brief rally.

"We will march to our homeland whether or not the Pakistani government gives green signal before the deadline," he told the rally.

He said that stranded Pakistanis are passing their days in agony even after an agreement between Pakistan government and the Jeddah based Rabita-Alam-e-Islami to finance their repatriation.

During late President Ziaul Haq's regime, Pakistan signed an agreement with Jeddah based Rabita-Alam-e-Islami to raise fund for repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis.

After the accidental death of Ziaul Haq, no tangible progress has been made in this regard.

Now the issue is under negotiation between Dhaka and Islamabad.

After 20 years, their number has now swelled to about 2,50,000.

Russian workers go to workplaces with party cells disbanded

MOSCOW, Aug 5: For the first time since the Bolsheviks took power in 1917, workers throughout Russia went to their jobs today as Communist Party cells in the workplace disbanded under orders from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, report agencies.

"We will be obliged to carry out this decree, we have no choice," said an official of the party organisation within the UPRK, the state body that provides Soviet employees for foreign diplomats in the Soviet Union. "We will continue to exist outside the workplace."

Alexei Ignatiev, Secretary of the party organisation in a Moscow factory that produces electric motors, said his group had drafted a list of goods on loan to the party from the factory and was officially handing them back to the company.

"There's no sense in not abiding by the decree because the situation is so critical in the country," Ignatiev said.

Vyacheslav Shaerbakov, the Deputy Mayor of Leningrad, said the decree would "certainly" be fully implemented there and stated that the management at most large factories in Leningrad had indicated they would enforce the order.

"As for those plants offices which refuse to disband their

See Page 12 Col. 1

Wide area of Sylhet flooded again

SYLHET, Aug 5: Hundreds of thatched houses and standing crops on vast tracts have been damaged in the district in flash flood caused by incessant rain and downpour of hill waters from across the border, reports UNB.

River Jaflong and Pianguan burst their banks amid heavy rains and the waters rolling down the neighbouring Indian state of Meghalaya in the last few days, officials and local people said.

At least five unions — Rustampur, Taakkul, Nandirgoan, Landgura and Altrigon — in Guinghat upazila have been affected severely by fresh flooding in the district.

With continuous rise of water levels of all the rivers in Sylhet, the flood is likely to

take a serious turn, water experts said.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in Dhaka Monday said the mighty Brahmaputra was likely to cross danger mark at Bahadurabad and Sirajganj by the next 24 hours ending 6 pm Tuesday and inundate low-lying areas downstream.

River Surma at Sunamganj, flowing above its flood level since Sunday, recorded further rise and was flowing 21 cm above its danger mark Monday morning.

It is likely to swell further and aggravate the flood situation in its vicinities. Other rivers of the Meghna basin will also rise during the period.

The flood situation around
 See Page 12 Col. 1

Rejoinder to the News item regarding loan taken by 392 business houses over Tk. 5.00 Crore each.

This is for the information of all concerned regarding news item published in few National Dailies on the captioned subject.

The amount of loan above Tk. 5 crore taken by the A. K. Khan Jute Mills Ltd. from various Banks of the country till December 30, 1990 as published in the National Dailies needs clarification.

In this connection we would like to state that the Banker Sonali Bank extended cash credit limit (C. C. limit) to the Mills as per banking practice and Bangladesh Bank's norms in force from time to time for operation of the Mills.

Mention may be made here that there are two Directors from the Ministry of Finance and Jute and one Director from the Sonali Bank in the Board of Directors of the Mills who review the financial position of the Mill from time to time.

A. K. Khan Jute Mills Ltd. has no outstanding liability with any Development financial institutions (DFIs) or any other Bank.

The rejoinder is issued to remove any misgiving regarding the goodwill of an internationally reputed Mills (awarded in 1987) which was established 25 years ago and during this period has earned considerable foreign exchange for the Nation in one hand and on the other hand have been providing employment to over 2000 employees.

For and on behalf of A. K. Khan Jute Mills Ltd.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

3 detained JP MPs to attend session on parole

By Staff Correspondent

The Government has decided to allow the detained Jatiya Party MPs to attend the parliament session during the passage of the Constitution 11th and 12th Amendment Bills.

Four top leaders of the Jatiya Party Moudud Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Shah Moazzem Hossain and Reazuddin Ahmed Bhola Mia met detained President Ershad at the Dhaka Central Jail Monday.
 Moudud Ahmed, when con-
 See Page 12 Col. 3

WB favours international tender for Jamuna bridge

The Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) at a meeting in Dhaka Monday with the visiting World Bank Vice-President Attila Karaosmanoglu stressed on floating international tender soon to estimate realistic cost of the project so that its implementation could be taken up at an early date, reports BSS.

The bidding was agreed upon by the two sides last year and Bangladesh was seeking clearance from the bank to go
 See Page 12 Col. 7

BCCI depositors to go on hunger strike unto death

Star Economic Report

The depositors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) reiterated on Monday that they would go on hunger strike unto death from today demanding refund of their deposits with the Bank.

The warning was sounded at a protest rally of the BCCI depositors held in front of the BCCI. The rally, organised by the BCCI Depositors' Association, was presided over by Dr S M Hasan, an adviser of
 See Page 12 Col. 2

Special Announcement

National Tree Plantation campaign scheduled to be inaugurated on the 7th August, 1991 has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances. The programme will now be held on the 13th August, 1991 at 10 a. m. at Shalna, Gazipur. Begum Khaleda Zia, Hon'ble Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has kindly consented to inaugurate the campaign.

Additional Secretary
 In-charge,
 Ministry of Environment & Forest.

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জয় বাংলা জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু

ইনডিমনিটি অর্ডিনেন্স বাতিল করে জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু হত্যার বিচারের দাবীতে ও জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনার বক্তব্যের অঙ্গপ্রচারের প্রতিবাদে, ভাট প্রত্যাহার, নির্ভেজাল সংসদীয় গণতন্ত্র চালু ও আইন শৃঙ্খলা পরিস্থিতির অবগতিরোধ এবং দ্রব্যমূল্যের উর্ধ্বগতির প্রতিবাদে ঢাকা মহানগর আওয়ামী লীগের উদ্যোগে

বিরাট জনসভা

তারিখ - ৭ই আগস্ট
 স্থান - বঙ্গবন্ধু এভিনিউ
 সময় - বিকেল ৪টা

প্রধান অতিথি : জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনা
 বক্তব্য রাখবেন : কেন্দ্রীয় নেতৃবৃন্দ
 সভাপতিত্ব করবেন : জনাব মোহাম্মদ হোসেন পণ্ড
 আশনারা দলে দলে বোধ দিয়ে সভাকে বাস্তবায়িত করুন

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