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NEWS BRIEFS

CEC addresses nation today

The Chief Election Commissioner, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, will address the nation today in connection with the "referendum-91" an election commission press release said in Dhaka on Sunday. His address will be telecast and broadcast by all stations of Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh simultaneously at 7-45 pm.

BNP meet

An emergency meeting of the presidents and general secretaries of Dhaka City, Dhaka Sadar, Gazipur, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narayanganj and Narayanganj district units of Bangladesh Nationalist Party will be held at the central office of the party on tomorrow at 4 pm, reports BSS.

Campus situation a shame to us : B Chowdhury MPs want consensus on ending campus violence

By Staff Correspondent

Members of Parliament have stressed the need for a united effort to eradicate campus violence.

The government and all other political parties should initiate the effort, they maintained during a discussion on the problem in the House on Sunday.

There was a consensus that terrorist elements operated under political cover and there was no reason why they could not be checked if the major political parties so willed, the MPs opined.

Some members suggested that the government convene another grand conference of all political parties to take a consensus decision. Others suggested that a parliamentary committee be formed to work out solutions.

The general discussion was started in view of the closure of four universities and 67 colleges because of violence, and the stage of the Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University at his official residence.

Initiating his discussion Sunday morning, Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury narrated the prevailing campus situation and said that a congenial atmosphere did not exist there. "It is a shame to us and we have to admit it", he added.

Prof Chowdhury said that political slogans were also raised during violence on campus and maintained that the politicians cannot avoid the responsibility for this situation.

He alleged that a section of teachers has also become involved in student politics which was not desirable.

Prof Chowdhury, also in charge of the Education Ministry, said that some laws and ordinances were formulated 20 years ago for running the universities.

He requested the House to consider whether these laws needed amendments in the changed circumstances.

The Deputy Leader also suggested that a powerful parliamentary committee be constituted with the responsibility to look into campus violence. "Our main objective is to establish peace in the campus", he added.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Acting Leader of the Jatiya Party called for initiatives at the national level to find solutions to the problem. Guardians, students and teachers should be involved in tackling it in a planned way, he said.

A former Vice-President Moudud said that it would not be proper to hold the student community singularly responsible for the problem which should not be viewed in isolation. Political intervention and social unrest contributed to it, he said.

Moudud Ahmed said the campus violence was no at its worst since Liberation, and asked why so many educational institutions were closed even

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Uncertainty about IDA credit

Uncertainty persists in finalising a 100 million US dollar IDA credit to Bangladesh's industrial sector as the government and the World Bank failed to resolve some crucial reform conditions, reports UNB.

Official sources said the government maintained its disagreement over some outstanding reform conditions in the areas of tariff, duty collection procedure and credit support programme during a meeting with the World Bank in Dhaka Sunday.

An IDA official, who came here exclusively to resolve the controversies holding approval of the credit, left without giving any assurance to the government when the loan would be finalised.

The proposed second

Industrial Sector Credit (ISC-II) was earmarked for 1990-91 financial year but continued disagreement over some conditions tagged with the credit has been blocking its approval.

Sources said in Sunday's meeting the government side further disagreed with World Bank insistence on limiting the maximum tariff rate within 75 per cent this fiscal arguing that the measure would result in import spree threatening the indigenous industries.

The Bank further asks for bringing down the maximum tariff to 50 per cent in the coming financial year.

The World Bank suggestion to allow credit facilities to all importers was turned down by the government. At present credit is allowed only to imports having back-to-back LCs.

The authorities also did not accept the Bank's suggestion to cancel the import license fee.

Despite strong opposition from the private sector, the government has already brought a number of reforms in the economy over the last several months to qualify for the proposed ISC-II.

The Value Added Tax (VAT) was introduced and the new industrial policy framed to accommodate some reform conditions attached with the IDA credit.

But disagreement, mainly over the question of total liberalization of import, still persists between the government and the World Bank leading to continued delay in the credit approval.

PM asks admn to work for peace, progress

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday called upon the members of the administration to work with honesty, sincerity and efficiency and advance the political commitment of the democratically-elected government to ensure peace and security in society, reports BSS.

Begum Zia also called upon the government officials to discharge their duties boldly and properly to rise to the expectation of the people.

The Prime Minister was addressing a meeting of senior officials of Dhaka Division at the conference room of Cabinet division in Secretariat building. The meeting which lasted more than six hour reviewed the over all situation of Dhaka division including law and order was participated, among others, by secretaries, Divisional Commissioner, deputy commissioners, police super, BDR sector commanders, Customs and Revenue officers and high officials of the concerned ministries.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar and State Minister for Food

Nazmul Huda also spoke on the occasion while Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhuiya and Member of Parliament Mrs Sarwari Rahman and Cabinet Secretary Siddiqur Rahman were present.

Begum Khaleda Zia said the people of this country were now prepared to extend all help and cooperation to the present elected government to solve the problems accumulated during the misrule by the autocracy. She said the administration, which is completely accountable to people, should be run with dedication and sincerity to earn confidence of the people and encourage masses to get involved in the nation building activities.

The Prime Minister said the struggling masses who had suffered immensely under the autocratic rule now wanted peace in their life along with their basic needs fulfilled.

She said the present government needed time to acc-

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Khaleda hosts dinner for MPs

Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Begum Khaleda Zia lastnight hosted a dinner for the members of the Jatiya Sangsad at the Sugandha office, reports BSS.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, cabinet ministers and members of both treasury and opposition benches, including the group leaders, attended the dinner.

Begum Zia talked to the members of the Jatiya Sangsad freely and exchanged greetings with them.

Kaifu welcomes shifting to Parliamentary form

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Sunday hailed Bangladesh's shifting to Parliamentary form of government hoping that it would provide a basis for further consolidation of democracy in the country, reports BSS.

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Scared by bomb explosions, a kid with school bag in his hand, running to safety Sunday when Awami League-backed Chhatra League workers were agitating near the Television Station at Rampura in the city, demanding telecast of special programmes on the occasion of Sheikh Mujib's death anniversary. — Star photo

BCL agitates near TV station for programme on August 15

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka city unit of the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (BCL) on Sunday held a demonstration near the BTV Bhaban and submitted a memorandum to the authorities concerned demanding airing of programmes on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15.

In the memorandum, the BCL also demanded autonomy for the state controlled Radio and Television.

The demonstrators began gathering at the Mouchak square at around 10 am as various city chapters of BCL came

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I'm being pushed to committing suicide, says Ershad Ershad trying to destabilise Govt, says Attorney General

By Staff Correspondent

Attorney General Aminul Haque yesterday said the administration fears that deposed President Ershad is trying to destabilise the government by spending money.

He told the Special Judge Court trying Ershad on charges of amassing wealth that the accused was also trying to create unnecessary tension.

Ershad in an attempt to draw the sympathy of the Court to provide him adequate facilities in jail said when the Court resumed yesterday that the authorities were pushing

him to committing suicide by keeping him in solitary confinement continuously, deprived even of the daily newspapers.

"I will ultimately have to commit suicide," said the deposed President, now suffering a ten-year sentence for the illegal possession of arms.

"I will not come to the Court, you punish me," he told the Court chaired by Special Judge Mohammad Ali Khan.

A heated debate later ensued between the Prosecution and the Defence over the fac-

ilities provided to Ershad in jail. Defence Lawyer Sirajul Haque in a letter to the Court pointed out that he was not getting any information on the case as he could not consult the accused.

Sirajul Haque further said that anyone could raise any question on the fairness of the case if he failed to meet the accused.

Sirajul Haque urged the Court to supply Ershad necessities including the daily newspapers. He said that

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড ঢাকা

মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট)

সম্পর্কে

বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

- আগের বিক্রয় কর ও আবগারী কর ব্যবস্থার পরিবর্তে ১লা জুলাই, ১৯৯১ থেকে মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) ব্যবস্থা চালু হয়েছে।
- একর নিত্য-ব্যবহার্য খাদ্যদ্রব্য যেমন চাল, গম, ডাল, আটা, ময়দা, পেঁয়াজ, মরিচ, আদা, বেগুন, হলুদ, মাছ, মাংস, আলু ও অন্যান্য তরিতরকারি, শাক-সব্জীর উপর আরোপ করা হয়নি। তেমনভাবে শাড়ী, লুঙ্গিহাট্টে দেশের তৈরী সকল প্রকার কাপড়-চোপড়ের উপর ভ্যাট নাই। তদুপরি বহু কুটিরশিল্পকে ভ্যাটের আওতার বাইরে রাখা হয়েছে। ফলে নিম্ন ও মধ্যবিত্তের ব্যবহার্য আরো শত শত পণ্যের ক্ষেত্রে ভ্যাট নাই। পাইকারী ও খুচরা ব্যবসায়ের উপরও কোন প্রকার ভ্যাট আরোপ করা হয়নি। অতএব ভ্যাট প্রবর্তনের ফলে বাজারে পণ্য মূল্য বেড়ে যাওয়ার প্রশ্নই উঠে না।
- ভ্যাট চালু হওয়ার ফলে শতকরা ৮০ ভাগ পণ্য যেমন আমাননিকৃত সয়াবিন তেল, মসলা, পুরাতন কাপড়, সুপারি, ছাপার কলি এবং দেশে উৎপাদিত অধিকাংশ পণ্যের উপর করের মোট পরিমাণ আগের বিক্রয় কর ও আবগারী করের তুলনায় কমে গেছে। ফলে এসব পণ্যের মূল্য বরং কমা উচিত।
- তবুও দুঃখের সাথে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, ভ্যাটের দোহাই দিয়ে বেশ কিছু পণ্যের ক্ষেত্রে মূল্য বাড়াবার অপপ্রয়াস চলছে। কতিপয় স্বার্থান্বেষী মহলের সুযোগ গ্রহণই এর প্রধান কারণ। ভ্যাট ব্যবস্থার কর স্বীকির সুযোগ অনেক কম থাকায় এর বিকল্পে কোন কোন মহল অপপ্রচার চালাচ্ছেন।
- বাংলাদেশ একটি উন্নয়নশীল দেশ। দেশকে উন্নত করার জন্য রাস্তা-ঘাট, পুল, কুল, কলেজ, মাদ্রাসা, হাসপাতাল, টিভিওয়েল, বিদ্যুৎ, ফুসি সরঞ্জামের সরবরাহ, সেচ সুবিধা প্রদান ও টেলিযোগাযোগ, বন্যা নিয়ন্ত্রণ, কলকারখানা ইত্যাদি স্থাপন ও নির্মাণ করতে হবে।
- সুই পণতন্ত্র, আইনের শাসন ও মানবাধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠা করা বর্তমান সরকারের অঙ্গীকার। পণতন্ত্র ও আইনের শাসনের পূর্বশর্ত হল অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়ন, যার জন্য প্রচুর অর্থের প্রয়োজন। উপরন্তু দেশের সার্বভৌমত্ব অক্ষুণ্ন রাখার জন্য আমাদের পরনির্ভরশীলতা কমাতে হবে। কেননা কোন আত্মমর্যাদা সম্পন্ন জাতির পক্ষে চিরকাল পরনির্ভরশীল থাকা বাঞ্ছনীয় নয়। এ জন্যই পুরানো কর ব্যবস্থার পরিবর্তে ভ্যাটের মত একটি আধুনিক ও গতিশীল কর ব্যবস্থা চালু করা হয়েছে।
- পশ্চিম ইউরোপের উন্নত দেশসমূহের গ্রাম সকল উন্নত দেশে এ প্রণতিশীল কর ব্যবস্থা চালু রয়েছে। আমাদের পাশবর্তী ভারত, পাকিস্তান, ইন্দোনেশিয়া, ফিলিপাইনসহ প্রায় ৬০ টি উন্নয়নশীল দেশে এই ব্যবস্থা চালু আছে। এ ব্যবস্থা কোনক্রমেই পণ্যবর্ধের বিরোধী হতে পারে না। যদি তা হত, তাহলে পণতন্ত্রিক দেশসমূহে এই ব্যবস্থা চালু করা সম্ভব হত না।
- সুতরাং জনগণের ভাষণে জনগণের স্বার্থে উন্নয়নের স্বার্থে সরকার এই প্রণতিশীল কর ব্যবস্থার সফল বাস্তবায়নে আপনারদের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা কামনা করছে।

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