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Dhaka Day by Day



Ali Imam, who has renovated Ahsan Manzil, fills his spare hours with oil paintings Page 3

Business

Officials from more than 100 countries Monday launched a fresh bid to clear the way for a new GATT agreement Page 6

Bangladesh Bank holdings abroad record a rise Page 7

Swearing-in of new cabinet likely on Thursday

Amended Constitution requires fresh oath, says Shahabuddin

By Reazuddin Ahmed

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has expressed his opinion that the Prime Minister and her cabinet shall have to take fresh oath under the amended Constitution as soon as the official results of the referendum are published.

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, however, differs on fresh oath taking saying that Begum Khaleida Zia can continue as Prime Minister without taking oath until a new President under the 12th Amendment is elected.

According to reliable sources, the Acting President expressed his views at Monday's cabinet meeting. The BNP high command is reportedly seriously considering the advice of the Acting President to avoid any legal complications.

According to constitutional experts, the present cabinet was formed under Article 58 of the Constitution which reads: "There shall be a Council of Ministers, consisting of Prime Minister..... to aid and advise

the President in the exercise of his functions." As soon as the 12th Amendment Bill is assented to by the President, Article 58 will be inoperative and the action taken under the said Article shall no longer exist, the experts said. They told The Daily Star that the cabinet stands dissolved with the announcement of the official results of the referendum, and if the Prime Minister continues in office without fresh oath, it may be considered as a violation of the Constitution.

According to ruling party

sources, there is every possibility that Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia and her cabinet may take oath on Thursday or Friday. The official results may be announced later by Thursday, according to an Election Commission source. The source said that the result sheets from 40 districts were received on Tuesday and 24 sheets, mostly from flood affected northern districts and hill tracts, are expected by tomorrow.

Meanwhile, hectic lobbying See Page 12 Col. 7

Controversy delays framing of new rules of business

By Moinuddin Naser

The government has decided for an ad-hoc arrangement for dispensation of administrative functions till adoption of new rules of business suitable for parliamentary form of government.

The government formed a four-member committee headed by Majidul Haque to frame new rules of business. The committee reviewed rules to business followed in several democratic countries but failed to frame any as yet.

The Cabinet Division, however, submitted a draft set of rules of business which is yet

to be finalised by the committee.

However, the special cabinet meeting held on last Monday with Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in the chair discussed the issue. The meeting gave the responsibility to Majidul Haque, Col (Retd) Oll Ahmed, MK Anwar, Secretary of the President's Secretariat Mir Mostafizur Rahman, Cabinet Secretary Siddiqui Rahman, Establishment Secretary Hasinur Rahman and Secretary to the Prime Minister's See Page 12 Col. 7

Textile quota talks begin with US in city

Star Economic Report

The three-day US-Bangladesh bilateral textile quota negotiations on three new categories began in Dhaka on Tuesday at the conference room of Ministry of Commerce.

The 12-member Bangladesh team, led by Commerce Secretary Nasim Ahmed, explained its views on the US call for quotas for the three textile categories - category 634 (Other men's and boys' MMF coats), category 237 (playsuits, sunsuits, washsuits and similar apparel) and category 363 (terry towels).

The eight-member US team at the talks is being led by Jon Rosenbaum, deputy textile negotiator. It includes six visiting See Page 12 Col. 2



Members of the Dhaka University Academic Atmosphere Council led by Vice-Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Miah called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia at her Secretariat office on Tuesday. —PID photo

DU teachers, students meet PM

All help to check campus terrorism

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia on Tuesday called upon the students to rise above all petty differences and play a pioneering role in checking terrorism and ensuring a congenial academic atmosphere, reports BSS.

Recalling the glorious role of students in the movement against autocracy, Begum Zia urged them to forge a movement against terrorism and violence with the spirit they had ousted the autocratic regime.

She was speaking at a meeting with the members of Dhaka University Academic Atmosphere Council (DUAAC) at her Secretariat office.

Begum Zia also called upon all student organisations not to give shelter to the terrorists. She said the present democratic Government was determined to solve all problems, including the secession jam in the educational arena. In the current budget, the highest allocation has been given to the education sector with a plan to improve the present condition of the sector, she said.

Begum Zia said with a note of confidence that her

Government would live up to their expectations of the people with the cooperation of all including the students.

Underlining the role of teachers in checking terrorism, she called upon them to extend their cooperation to all quarters in curbing violence in campuses and ensuring bright future of the students.

UNB adds: Begum Zia said the moratorium on government jobs would be lifted and "Bikalpa" programme reintroduced soon.

Student leaders said the Prime Minister's assurance came following an 11-point charter of demands they placed before her during the meeting.

Vice-chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Miah, DU Teachers Association President Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, Proctors, Provosts, DUCSU leaders, presidents and general secretaries of all student organisations attended the meeting.

The demands include reopening of all closed educational institutions, government declaration of September 17 as Education Day, fulfillment of See Page 12 Col. 6

Police raid JN hall in search of Milon's killers: 20 injured

By DU Correspondent

At least twenty students of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University were injured when police lobbed massive tear gas shells and resorted to baton charge in a night swoop to nab

Obhi and his associates Tuesday. But none could be arrested. Thick smoke was seen billowing up from the area as police indiscriminately hurled

the shells, put by witnesses at several hundreds.

Of the injured, Subhas Singh Roy, Vice-President, Himol Krishna Mallik, General Secretary, Subir Kumar Nandi, Assistant General Secretary of the hall students union and four others — Moazzem, Saroj, Jiban and Swapan — were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, our DMCII correspondent said. All of them received head injuries from baton charge.

Police said, they raided the hall at a secret tip off to arrest the Obhi group for their alleged involvement in the killing of Dr Milon. But they fled away soon after police entered.

The student leaders and their fellow activists obstructed the police entering the hall rooms at around 9 pm in search of the alleged terrorists. Police resorted to baton charge and raided several rooms but could neither arrest anybody nor recover any illegal arms or explosives.

Agitated inmates of the hall pelted stones at the policemen while leaving injuring four of them. The police then fired several hundred rounds of tear gas shells. At this stage there was chase and counter-chase which continued for an hour before the police left the area.

The hall students in an instant protest against the police action damaged a number of vehicles at the Plaza crossing. Tension was prevailing in the area till midnight.

UNB adds: Provost and House Tutors of Jagannath Hall decided to resign en masse protesting the raid by police. "It was brutal, unapaceable", said the Hall Provost Dr Pareesh Chandra Mandal who was also reportedly injured in the police action.

See Page 12 Col. 5

Newly elected MPs take oath

Ten of the eleven newly elected Jatiya Sangsad members took oath Tuesday at a ceremony held at the Committee Room No One of the Sangsad Bhaban, reports BSS.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas administered the oath.

Among the newly elected members, one from the Jatiya Party could not attend the ceremony for personal reasons.

The eleven members have been elected to the vacant See Page 12 Col. 4

Institutions for democracy and development underscored

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia Tuesday inaugurated a three-day national seminar on 'Bangladesh in the Nineties: Society, Polity and Economy' with a stress on building the necessary political, social and economic institutions to meet the conditions of democracy and development, reports BSS.

"In the decade of the 1990s we must devote to preparing ourselves for the Twenty First century", Begum Zia told the seminar held under the aegis of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at its conference room here.

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman attended the seminar as special guest. Chaired by AIK Morshed, Chairman, Board of Governors of BISS, the inaugural session was also addressed by Finance Secretary Khorsheed Alam and Brig (Retd) MA Hafiz, Director General of BISS.

Referring to the ouster of autocratic regime by a successful mass upsurge, the Prime Minister said the decade of Nineties as the critical juncture of the beginning See Page 12 Col. 8



MORNING HIDES THE NIGHT: Dhaka University students were all smiles with the reopening of the premier institution yesterday but the campus climate was not to smile on them for long; in the night a police-student skirmish plunged all in tension again. —Star photo

Aquino extends stay of US troops pending referendum

MANILA, Sept 17: President Corason Aquino on Tuesday withdrew a notice closing the US Subic Bay naval base, effectively extending the stay of US troops indefinitely, reports AP.

Mrs. Aquino said a new notice of termination would not be issued until her government holds a referendum aimed at overturning a Senate vote Monday to close Subic and end the 93-year US military presence.

She told reporters that the referendum may be held in conjunction with next May's national election, when voters choose a new president and Congress.

US officials said they would wait until the referendum issue is resolved before withdrawing from Subic, 80 kilometers (50 miles) northwest of Manila.

Senate sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the withdrawal of the notice of termination removed the only firm deadline requiring American forces to leave the country.

Some officials have estimated the referendum could cost up to a half billion to 1 billion pesos (18 million to 37 million dollars), which critics say could be better spent helping victims on the Mount

Pinatubo volcano, which erupted in June.

But until a new notice of termination is presented to the United States, there is no compelling reason for the Americans to leave.

The 12 Senators who opposed the base agreement denounced the closure recall as unconstitutional and a shocking reversal of Mrs. Aquino's previous stand that the Americans should leave if no new pact could be ratified.

Most senators heard of the decision after separate news conferences by the President and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus.

"We have cut the umbilical cord but we have a legacy of a government wanting to satisfy the Americans."

Sen. Letitia Ramos-Shahant, who voted for the base agreement, said the withdrawal "doesn't speak well of this government and the kind of diplomatic practice we undertake."

Mrs. Aquino said she approved the withdrawal on the recommendation of Manglapus, who negotiated the agreement extending a 10-year lease for Subic in return for 203 million dollars in annual compensation.

Manglapus began talks in

1990 on the agreement by presenting the Americans with the termination notice and informing them they must leave if no new pact was ratified by September 16, 1991.

That was the government's basis for claiming that the 1947 Military Bases Agreement, which was the lease for Subic and other US facilities, expired Monday. The original agreement was to run for 99 years.

The late President Ferdinand Marcos persuaded the United States in 1966 to accept a formula under which after September 16, 1991, either side could terminate the

agreement by giving one year's notice.

When the bases talks began in 1990, US officials reminded Manglapus of the one-year phaseout provision. But Manglapus informed the US panel that the new Philippine Constitution superseded the 1966 agreement and established last Monday's deadline.

Mrs. Aquino, who rarely gives news conferences and routinely refuses interview from foreign and Filipino journalists, has given interviews to two American television networks since Sunday.

On Tuesday, she met a select group of foreign reporters

Loan facilities for deposit pension scheme holders

By Staff Correspondent

The government has decided to extend loan facilities to the holders of deposit pension scheme (DPS) against their accounts.

A circular to this effect has been issued to the banks by the Finance Ministry last week. Four scheduled banks are authorised to open DPS accounts. The banks are: Sonali, Agrani, Rupali and Janata.

The loans against DPS accounts, allowed for the first time since the introduction of the scheme in 1983, set a maximum limit of 60 per cent of the balance of a depositor but not less than Taka 5000. The repayment of the loan should be made on the maturity period of the relevant deposit account.

In case a borrower fails to deposit his monthly instalment for DPS account for the consecutive three months with effect from the date of the sanction of loan, the bank may decide to close down the account by giving 15 days' notice to the client.

All the four banks are under obligation to open DPS on demand. The maximum amount of deposit is Taka 500 and the See Page 12 Col. 3

Keraniganj people gherao electric supply office

By Staff Correspondent

Hundreds of people of Keraniganj upazila on Tuesday demonstrated outside the office of the Executive Engineer, Operation and Maintenance, Dhaka Electric Supply, at English Road demanding immediate restoration of electricity supply in the upazila.

The power supply to Aganagar and Kadamtali villages and its adjoining areas was cut off 18 days ago following the damage of two trans See Page 12 Col. 4