

Shah Moazzem unwilling to be transferred to PG

Former Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain, now interned in jail, has expressed his unwillingness to transfer him either to PG or Suhrawardy Hospital for treatment, according to an official handout issued in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

Responding to a demand made at a Jatiya Party meeting at Panthapath here on Friday for the release of Shah Moazzem Hossain on account of his illness, the government

said the authorities of the Central Jail recently put forward a proposal to transfer him to PG or Suhrawardy Hospital from the jail for his illness. In the midst of arrangement to transfer him to PG Hospital Shah Moazzem Hossain has expressed his unwillingness to transfer him to PG or Suhrawardy Hospital. On the contrary, he said he was willing to go to different hospitals from time to time for various kinds of examination and consultation — a proposal unacceptable to the government in the interest of security, the handout added.

For such opinion of Shah Moazzem Hossain it has not been possible for the government to take any step in this respect, it said.

Meanwhile, Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury on Monday expressed his concern over serious deterioration of health of Jatiya Party Secretary General Shah Moazzem Hossain and demanded his immediate release from the jail.

Hidden treasure

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by one of the MPs elected from Rangpur but was opposed by many other JP MPs. They argued that bringing Raushan in politics will tarnish the image of the deposed president further at this critical juncture.

They believed that Raushan Ershad did excesses during the JP regime and ran a parallel government in the country.

However, it was decided that party's acting president Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury will contest the by-election in a seat to be vacated by Ershad while the three others are likely to be contested by local Jatiya Party leaders.

Sultan

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He is survived by his wife, two sons, two daughters and a number of grandchildren.

His Namaz-e-Janaza held will be held at Baitul Mokarram Mosque today (Tuesday) after Zohr prayer. He will be buried at the Banani Graveyard. Gul Khawari of Syed Sultan will be held on March 14 after Asr prayer at his 8, Gulshan Avenue residence.

Born in Mymensingh district in 1917 Syed Sultan established himself as a distinguished lawyer.

He was associated with politics of this country for a long time. He was a member of Pakistan National Assembly in 1962 and 1970. He was Bangladesh High Commissioner in London from 1972 to 1976.

During the Liberation War of 1971 Syed Abdus Sultan projected the case of liberation struggle in course of visits to the United States, United Kingdom, United Nations and Canada.

He also made his mark as a creative writer. He earned name and fame as a writer of belles-lettres, stories and travelogues as well as a critic.

Some of his works include Genocide in Bangladesh, Money Bag and Pancha Nadir Polimati.

Jamaat leader Abbas Ali Khan in the statement said "we lost a distinguished personality through Sayed Abdul Sultan's death".

Bangla Academy on Monday expressed its profound sorrow at the death of Syed Abdus Sultan.

Paying tributes to the deceased Bangla Academy in a statement said the people of this country would always remember his patriotism and active role in the War of Liberation. His contributions to our literature are also worth mentioning, it added.

CEC

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have to inform the Election Commission before taking oath which constituency he/she wants to represent through a declaration. Otherwise he/she will not be able to take oath as Sangsad member.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Tungibari, Munshiganj on Monday. —Star photo

Hasina's new demand surprises proponents

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Repeal of the Fifth Amendment will raise certain fundamental controversies on secularism, socialism and faith in Almighty Allah. Sheikh Hasina's move will only complicate the demand for a change to a parliamentary form of government, they said.

At the meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party, Sheikh Hasina insisted on the repeal of the Fifth Amendment which blocked the trial of the killers of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four other leaders in jail. She said that the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution could be amended keeping intact the insertion of 'Bismillah'. She however did not say anything about other fundamental changes to the Constitution.

BKSL General Secretary Abdur Razzak said that the need of the hour was the continuation of constitutional rule and the fulfilling of the desire of the people by implementing the commitment made by the three alliances in their Joint Declaration.

NAP leader Pankaj Bhattacharya said that the Awami League would not behave in the right way if it demanded anything more than adherence to the Joint Declaration.

Five-party leader and General Secretary of Workers Party Rashid Khan Menon said that Sheikh Hasina was trying to create an impediment in the establishing of a parliamentary form of government.

Hearing on Ershad

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opposed the move and submitted that time might be allowed for hearing the matters related to the Writ of Ershad and Shah Moazzem Hossain, but the detention matters of Begum Raushan Ershad should be taken up.

The court was pleased to allow one day's time.

Ershad and Begum Raushan Ershad have been detained in the Gulshan sub-jail since they were arrested.

Shah Moazzem Hossain was arrested under the Special Powers Act 1974 on December 11. Since then he has been lodged in Dhaka Central Jail.

Former Attorney General, Barrister Rafiqul Haque, Barrister Kazi Shahadat Hossain, Advocate Sheikh Rezaul Karim appeared for the petitioners while Modasser Hossain Additional Attorney General and Obaidur Rahman, Deputy Attorney General appeared for the State.

Mahmudul Hassan, Zafar Imam

Meanwhile, the Writ petitions challenging the detention of former Home Minister Major Gen (Retd) Mahmudul Hasan and former Jute Minister Lt Col (Rtd) Zafar Imam will come up for hearing before a two-judge Division Bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Fazle Hossain Mohammad Hossain Rahman and Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury on March 27. The Bench fixed the date after hearing the prayers of the lawyers of both the petitioners and the Deputy Attorney General.

Rashed Hassan, son of Major Gen (Rtd) Mahmudul Hasan and Noor Mahal, wife of Lt Col (Rtd) Zafar Imam filed the Writ petitions challenging the detention of Mahmudul Hasan and Zafar Imam.

Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed had earlier told The Daily Star that an accountable government could be established only through a parliamentary form and extensive Amendments to the existing Constitution. There was no necessity to repeal the other Amendments, he added.

Political quarters believe that the strength of BNP as it now stands in parliament is not enough to go for any unilateral constitutional change.

In the 330-seat parliament any Amendment to the Constitution will require the votes of 220 members.

Meanwhile the Jatiya Party, which bagged 35 seats has already declared that it will oppose any change to Presidential system and as such the necessity of getting Awami League support has become vital for the BNP to change the form of government.

It will again be difficult for the BNP to Amend the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution as demanded by the Awami League.

Many of the Awami League MPs also differ with Hasina's conditions.

They said that it was the responsibility of the Awami League to support the Amendment to go back to a parliamentary form of

Government as well as the duty of BNP to abide by the Joint Declaration.

Political analysts said if the 88 members of Awami League and 35 members of Jatiya Party refrain from supporting any sort of Amendment to the Constitution the BNP will not have any other choice but to stick to the Presidential form of government.

The BNP will also not be able to make any other Amendment such as giving more power to the parliament for the same reason.

Meanwhile Awami League has called an extended meeting today (Tuesday) to discuss the present political situation and decide about its role in the parliament.

BNP reached a consensus on the form of government in its last Council Session held on March 8, 1989, but has not yet taken a final decision in this regard.

The BNP has called an extended meeting on March 15 to decide about the presidential election.

BNP sources said the meeting will also discuss the Joint Declaration of the three alliances and the prevailing political situation.

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Presidential election

In the event of a presidential election the nation will have to vote once again this year.

The Amended Article 123 under Ninth Amendment to the Constitution states, "An election to fill a vacancy in the office of President occurring

by reason of the expiration of his term or by reason of his death, resignation, impeachment or removal shall be held

within the period of one hundred and eighty days prior to the date on which his term shall expire or his term would have expired if there were no such death, resignation, impeachment or removal".

Hence the election shall have to be held 180 days prior to October 16, when the last presidential election had been held.

The Clause 2 B of that Article further states, "If both the offices of President and Vice-President have fallen vacant by reason of their death, resignation, impeachment or removal the elections to fill the vacancies shall be held within the period of one hundred and eighty days after the occurrence of the last of the two vacancies."

Hence the elections will be held within 180 days from the date, if and when the incumbent Acting President resigns.

US food aid

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tails of the aid request for 1992 in their testimony before

the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs.

The officials also discussed the extent to which the Gulf war and the crisis leading to it had affected economically. While the impact of the crisis had been weaker than expected, almost all countries in the sub-continent experienced a serious decline in remittances, said Teresita Schaffer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in her testimony.

The USAID Assistant Administrators Ilcietta Holman Fore and Carol Adelman and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence Henry Rowen also testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee.

The officials praised new democratic openings in Nepal and Bangladesh and the apparent resilience of democratic institutions in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. They acknowledged concern over issues such as the region's continuing violence, widespread economic hardship, and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

About the impact of the Gulf crisis, they told the Committee that South Asian workers forced out of Iraq and Kuwait has undergone a great deal of personal hardship and dislocation. In more concrete terms, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State told the Committee that Bangladesh had been "particularly hard hit" because of the crisis, suffering a 2.5 per cent decline in the Gross National Product (GNP).

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence mentioned particularly about the important military contributions of Bangladesh and Pakistan to the anti-Iraq effort. He added that Bangladesh contributed 2,300 troops to defend Saudi Arabia against Iraqi aggression.

Describing the recent elections in Bangladesh as "the most free, fair and non-violent" ever, Teresita Schaffer said that Bangladesh's "commitment to continue economic reforms and its efforts toward strengthening democratic pluralism" had prompted the administration to cancel Dhaka's outstanding development assistance debt of 292 million dollars during the current fiscal year.

"We believe that debt relief can make a significant contribution toward the country's economic and political development," she noted.

The voter on receiving a ballot paper for each of the seats for which there is a contest will cast their votes secretly, according to a provision

Hasina

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Sheikh Hemayetullah Auranga, an MP-elect from Faridpur were present on the occasion.

Besides the Awami League chief also addressed public meetings at Dighirpar Bazar and Baligon Bazar in Tangbari upazila. She also addressed about a dozen way-side meetings including those at Rikabi Bazar, Sipahpara, Tinsiri, Kamarkhara School premises, Mulchar, Bhitimaldh (Kalibari) Atrial Betak and Abdullahpur. She also stopped at a good number of places including Dhipur, Naina and Dashing to talk to the people who spontaneously gathered at the road-side.

Election was postponed in Munshiganj-3 constituency following the death of a candidate.

to make huge money denying the innocent poor.

She said Ziaur Rahman and Ershad ruled the country only for their selfish interests. She said both BNP and Jatiya Party were born in the cantonment, but she said the Awami League was born out of the struggle to establish justice and truth.

The Midnight File

Manila may extend US lease

MANILA, Mar 11: The Philippines said today it might allow US military forces to remain in the country beyond the seven years Manila has proposed. "If it will make them (the Americans) happy, why not? They are our friends. We want to make everybody happy," said Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus. The current US lease on the bases expires in September, reports Reuters.

S African violence toll 43

ALEXANDRIA, Mar 11: Police shot a black man to death Monday when a gang armed with firebombs attacked a police patrol in the latest killings in three days of black faction fighting that left at least 43 people dead. Police Col. Frans Malherbe said that between Saturday and early Monday 36 people were killed and 53 injured in the black township of Alexandra in northern Johannesburg, four men were killed in nearby Tembisa township, and three in Soweto to the south, reports AP.

Papandreou boycotts trial

ATHENS, Mar 11: Former Premier Andreas Papandreou boycotted on Monday the start of a trial in which he and three associates stand accused of taking bribes and embezzling hundreds of millions of dollars from a private bank. Papandreou supporters protested as the hearings began before a special tribunal of high court judges. Papandreou, who has refused to be represented by counsel, will be tried in absentia, reports AP.

Pak Senate polls March 14

ISLAMABAD, Mar 11: Contest for 42 out of the 87 Senate seats is to start on March 14 the national and provincial assemblies of Pakistan. According to local press reports today, only 71 candidates from different political parties and alliances are left in the field as 14 nominees withdrew their nominations on the last day of the withdrawal on Sunday, reports Xinhua.

Masliukov - Tian discuss trade

BEIJING, Mar 11: Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Masliukov discussed economic ties and bilateral trade with his Chinese counterpart Tian Jiyun today. A Soviet Embassy Spokesman said the talks focused on China's proposed aid for the Soviet Union, adding that the issue "should be settled" during Masliukov's visit, reports AFP.

Three million to carry AIDS in US

WASHINGTON, Mar 11: More than three million people will become AIDS carriers in the Americans by the end of the 1990s, most of them women from Latin America and the Caribbean, according to a study released today. The report by Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) said nearly two million people have already been infected with the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV), which causes AIDS, reports AFP.

S Korean - US mock war today

SEOUL, Mar 11: Observers from 25 nations will watch joint South Korean-US military exercises which begin Tuesday, the first mock war games held since the Gulf War. The Defense Ministry said Monday that military attaches of 23 Embassies and military officers from Poland and Switzerland had accepted invitations to observe the annual "Team Spirit" field exercises, reports AP.

Regional groupings

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added. Turning to the challenges facing Bangladesh during its new era of a democratic rule, the ESCAP Chief made a strong plea to all parties concerned to promote a wide-ranging national consensus on the country's economic policies.

In this respect, he suggested that Bangladesh should learn from the experience of countries in Southeast Asia, members of the ASEAN grouping, whose continued economic growth heavily depended on national consensus.

"If certain existing irritants are removed and the information gap is bridged, I have absolutely no doubt that investment will flow into this country, and it is investment that is going to stimulate the economy," he said optimistically.

The ESCAP chief who had served as the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh until he joined the UN in 1981 said that, like any citizen of this country, he was excited at the restoration of democracy in the country. However, he warned that there would be wide spread frustration among the people if expectations raised by the political changes were not reasonably fulfilled.

He suggested that the new elected government should take prompt specific measures to deal with problems in a number of key areas. He named the crusade against corruption and a drive against illiteracy as two major priorities for the new administration.

"A poor country like Bangladesh cannot do without such a national consensus, especially on economic matters," he added.

On the other hand, Kibria said, a broad-based national consensus which, he hoped, would produce industrial peace was certain to pave the way for increased foreign investment and participation of entrepreneurs from outside in the economy of Bangladesh.

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Jalal Talbani, one of the leaders of the Kurdish Iraqi opposition in Iraq embraces Ayatollah Muhammad Taqi Mudarissi, the leader of the Islamic Action Organisation in Iraq and Aziz. Muhammad, leader of the Iraqi Communist Party Monday in Beirut during the conference of several of the Iraqi opposition groups. —AFP photo.

Democratic federal Iraq

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1979. Some 325 opposition figures from 23 factions, including Communists, Arab nationalists, Shiite Muslim fundamentalists and liberals, were meeting in Lebanon Monday under heavy security provided by hundreds of Syrian troops.

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, opposed Saddam in the Gulf War. Syria and Iraq are ruled by rival wings of the Baath Arab Socialist Party.

An outbreak of violence forced Secretary of State James A Baker III to cancel a planned visit to the predominantly Arab but Israeli-controlled eastern sector of the city.

Baker met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak here Monday after saying he will not ask Arabs to make gestures for peace until he knows how far Israel is prepared to go in matching them.

He arrived at midafternoon Monday in Jerusalem, where his call for unspecified concessions by Israel already is causing problems.

In canceling his scheduled visit to East Jerusalem as part of a 10-day tour of the Middle East, Baker denounced Sunday's fatal stabbing of four Israeli women in mostly Jewish West Jerusalem as tragic and appalling acts.

Nonetheless, Baker's spokeswoman, Margaret D Tutwiler, said he would follow through with plans to meet Tuesday with a group of Palestinian Arabs at the home of the US Consul-General in

West Jerusalem.

Baker is to meet 12 Palestinian leaders from the Occupied Territories on Tuesday afternoon. The delegation would carry a memorandum on the PLO stance on the Palestinian question, the sources said.

Arab participants in the planned meeting are listed only by occupation. US officials maintained they do not know whether delegation members have ties with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

After a two-hour session with Mubarak, Baker told re-

12 Foreign

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Besides the government has also given promotion to 10 high ranking officials to the rank of joint secretary, director general, C-grade ambassador, consul general and minister. The persons are: Mahboob Alam, Deputy High Commissioner to Calcutta, Tofael Ahmed, Director, Foreign Ministry, Sirajul Hossain, Deputy High Commissioner to Karachi, Dr Iftekher Ahmed Chowdhury, Counsellor Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to United Nations, Mohammad Ruhul Amin, Director, Foreign Ministry, Syed Nur Hossain, Director, Foreign Ministry, Dr Afsarul Kader, Deputy High Commissioner to Islamabad, Humayun Akhtar Kamal, Counsellor High Commissioner to Colombo, S. K. Surjed Hossain, Director, Foreign Ministry and A. K. M. Nurul Islam

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaword Ltd., 52 Motiheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynebee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 246023-4 (PABX), 863035, 863036. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.