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# The Daily Star

শক্তি স্বপ্নে গহন  
সংবাদ পত্রিকা  
মহিলা, কমপ্লেক্স  
১৯৮৬ চিঃ: সৌদি গ্রাঃ ডাকনং.  
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VOL. 1 NO. 140 REGD. NO. DA 781 JAISTHA 26, 1398 BS, DHAKA MONDAY JUNE 10, 1991 ZILQAD 26, 1411 HIJRI 10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

## Checks against floor-crossing planned

# BNP opts for parliamentary system

By Moinuddin Naser



BNP Chair person Begum Khaleda Zia speaking at the meeting of the party's central executive committee on Sunday. —Star photo

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has decided to switch over to a parliamentary form of government with adequate checks to stop floor-crossing.

A bill will be moved in the coming session of the Jatiya Sangsad to amend the relevant articles of the Constitution to give effect to the change in the form of government.

The BNP high command took stock of the political situation on Saturday night and decided to go for the parliamentary form of government with a view to hastening the transfer of power and to end all speculations about the political situation, party sources said.

Begum Khaleda Zia who was skeptical about the change owing to instability factors inherent in the parliamentary system, finally assented to the decision on Saturday night on condition that the loop holes be plugged to ensure stability of the system.

The national executive committee of the BNP which met in Dhaka on Sunday dis-

ussed the political situation prevailing in the country and a majority of the party leaders expressed their opinion in favour of a parliamentary form of government.

The leaders told the party high command to go for the parliamentary system to avoid a presidential election. Party leaders apprehend that the BNP may face united resistance from all the opposition political parties including the Jamaat-e-Islami on the question of a presidential poll. Besides, the party leaders believe that if the BNP switches over to a parliamentary form of government the Awami League will have no other issue to embarrass the BNP.

The draft of Constitution amendment bill will uphold the state principles. The BNP has decided to resist any move to include secularism and socialism in the fundamental state principles.

The proposed draft bill may also include a provision to stop floor-crossing by a group of party MPs from any party and to ensure the stability of par-

liamentary system of government.

The BNP bill will delete the provision of appointment of Deputy Prime Minister but will retain the induction of one fifth of ministers from among the technocrats.

The BNP high command also decided to move the bill to amend the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution validated the actions of the chief executives when the Constitution remained suspended during Martial Law and for one year from the 16th of December 1971 to December 1972.

The appointment of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as Vice-President and his actions must be validated in an amendment of the Fourth Schedule. The bill will include the provision for Shahabuddin's exit.

The BNP has also decided to talk to the Awami League and the Jamaat-e-Islami to come to a decision on this issue.

The BNP will require support of the opposition mem-

bers to pass the amendment bill which will need a vote by two-thirds of the members of parliament.

Meanwhile, briefing newsmen at the city office of the BNP Party Secretary General Barrister Salam Talukder said "The address of the Acting President on June 5 got due importance at the meeting." He said that the BNP government would conform to the reaction it gave after the speech.

He told a questioner that the form of government would be decided in the coming session of Parliament.

Talukder said that the meeting, presided over by Party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia also discussed the killing of Dr Milon and observed that those who had condemned the killing have now given protection to the killers.

He said they were even attempting to launch a movement against the arrest of the criminals by the police. "This is a ploy to destabilise the present democratically elected government," he added.

## Body to gear up recovery of bank loans formed

The government has constituted a high-powered committee headed by State Minister for Finance Mazhar Rahman to expedite the recovery of overdue bank loans from the defaulters whose names were published in newspapers recently, reports BSS.

The committee will evaluate steps taken for the recovery of loans and their progress in every 15 days.

Two additional courts will be established soon to gear up legal measures against the defaulters.

## Mahmudul Hasan granted bail, asked to surrender diplomatic passport

A Division Bench of the High Court Division on Sunday granted bail to former Home Minister Maj Gen (Retd) Mahmudul Hasan but asked him to surrender his diplomatic passport and make his residential residence available to the government as security, reports BSS.

The Bench comprised Justice AKM Sadeq and Justice Mohammad Ansar Ali.

The court also ordered that the petitioner should not in-

terfere with the government.

See Page 10 Col. 2

## BNP urged to implement joint declaration

By Staff Correspondent

Emergent constitutional expert Barrister Ishfaq Ahmed on Sunday urged the ruling BNP to implement the joint declaration of the three alliances by switching over to parliamentary system of government.

Addressing a seminar on 'Joint declaration of three alliances' organised by National Awami Party (NAP) at Engineers' Institution he said there could be no difference over the interpretation of the declaration.

He was highly critical of the ruling party's silence on the form of government issue and said failure to end the controversy amounted to continuation of the autocratic system, unacceptable to the people. Talking about development of democratic institutions while

See Page 10 Col. 4

## 'Shahabuddin should have quit as Chief Justice'

By Staff Correspondent

Chairman of Freedom Party Col (rtd) Sayeed Farook Reehman in a statement on Sunday said "the propaganda about the joint declaration of the three alliances of November 1990" was "nothing but psychological warfare against the popular verdict of the people expressed in the last parliamentary election".

If the Acting President had fully believed in the democratic and constitutional system he should have in all honesty resigned from the office of

See Page 10 Col. 1

## More Bangladeshis leave Iraq

A number of Bangladeshis, in a fresh exodus from Iraq, have camped in Amman and urged early repatriation, official sources in Dhaka said on Sunday, reports UNB.

According to reports from the Bangladesh Consulate General in the Jordanian capital, they have fled war-ravaged Iraq to Jordan during last few weeks.

Officials would not specify the number of returnees or attribute exact causes of the renewed flight from the Gulf

See Page 10 Col. 2

## Jamuna erosion threatens 25 villages

SIRAJGONJ, June 9: Erosion of the river Jamuna rendered about one hundred families of 25 villages under four upazilas of the district homeless during the last 24 hours, reports UNB.

According to official sources, water level in the river rose by 32 centimetres during the period creating panic among the people. Town protection embankment was

See Page 10 Col. 2

## Inside today

### International



Telling jokes about Kremlin leaders used to be subversive, but under Glasnost the sharper the quip the better  
Page 5

### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day

The international lunch and meena bazar of Women's Volunteer Association raised funds for the low-income group in cyclone-affected areas  
Page 3

### Feature

#### Education

The Ministry of Education has prepared guidelines to extend financial assistance to non-governmental organisations for mass literacy work  
Page 6

### Article



The leaders of ten Commonwealth countries are meeting in London tomorrow to examine what direction it may take as it headed for 2000 and beyond  
Page 4

### Business

New industrial policy based on free market economy will encourage industries in the private sector  
Page 8

## NEWS BRIEFS

### BNP PP meet today

The BNP Parliamentary Party will sit in an important meeting today (Monday) at 4 pm in committee Room No 1 at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting, reports UNB.

### Jamaat PP meet today

A meeting of the Jamaat-e-Islami's Parliamentary Party will be held today (Monday) at 10 am in Jatiya Sangsad, reports UNB.

### Iraq cancels wartime laws

BAGHDAD, June 9: The Iraqi government has canceled wartime labour laws and renewed pledges to open up the political system to greater freedoms, newspapers reported Sunday, says AP.

### Waldheim in Tehran

NICOSIA, June 9: Austrian President Kurt Waldheim arrive in Tehran on Sunday in the first visit by a Western head of state to Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution, reports AP.

### 60 killed in Indonesian flood

JAKARTA, June 9: Floods have killed at least 60 people in Indonesia's Central Kalimantan area, police said Sunday. The floods hit the areas of Kapuas and Barito Utara at dawn Thursday, reports AP.

## Council Committee transfers all 22 subjects

# CHT local bodies get more power

The Council Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts held a meeting at the International Conference Centre on Sunday with Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting decided to transfer all the 22 subjects, as stipulated in the local Government Parishad Act, 1989 to the Chittagong Hill District Local Government Parishads. Three of these subjects have already been transferred to the parishads in accordance with the act.

It also decided to form a four-member Secretary-level committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary to recommend the extent of responsibilities of the Special Affairs Division.

## DU VC meets APSU leaders today

By DU Correspondent

Prof Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University and leaders of the now-defunct All Party Student Unity (APSU) will meet today to discuss the campus situation.

Meanwhile, sporadic gunshots were heard on the campus late Saturday night and different student bodies staged separate demonstrations Sunday reiterating their demands.

The BNP-backed Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at its rally at Madhu's canteen premises reiterated its demand for arrest of the killers of Dr Milon and also vowed to keep the campus violence-free.

The rally was addressed by DUCSU Vice-President Khairul Kabir Khokon.

Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) demanded immediate im-

## CU tense as APSU blocks campus

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 9: A tense situation is prevailing on Chittagong University campus as the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) began blockade to counter the 72-hour strike by Islami Chhatra Shibir-led Sammito Chhatra Oikya (SCO).

With the entry points of the university closed by APSU activists, Shibir-led students held meetings and processions inside the campus for withdrawal of expulsion order on five of its members, show cause notices on 63 others and resignation of the Vice-Chancellor Prof Alamgir Mohammad Strajuddin.

A meeting held on the campus under the auspices of Chittagong University Jatiyabadi Shikkhak Parishad with convener Dr Mahfuzul Huq in the chair called upon the Chancellor of the University, Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Pri-

## Uneasy calm at Adamjee Mills

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, June 9: An uneasy calm ruled the Adamjee Jute Mills Sunday while the authorities held two rounds of meetings to bring back normalcy.

The mill was closed since die Saturday after rival workers groups clashed that left three dead and over two hundred injured.

An hour-long meeting of representatives of the workers, the management and the district administration in the mill premises ended without any outcome, an official source said.

## JU departments ransacked over exam results

By JU Correspondent

A group of Jahangirnagar University students ransacked the Physics and the Chemistry departments of the University Sunday protesting Subsidiary examination results.

The students chanted slogans, and locked the main gates of the departments with the teachers inside. They also chased the Dean of Physics and Mathematics faculty Abu Syeed Khan when they come to know that they failed to pass Subsidiary examinations for the third time.

A teacher-student meeting has been planned today to discuss the situation.

## Hasina returns today

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina returns home today (Monday) after undergoing treatment in Singapore, her office sources said, reports UNB.

Hasina, suffering from "ulcerative colitis," left Dhaka on June 3 for Singapore for medical checkup.

Doctors at the Singapore Modern Hospital treated the opposition leader, her final checkup was done on Sunday.

Earlier, report said Hasina had started improving.

## Medical varsity, more colleges to be set up

# Hospital expansion on priority basis: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka on Sunday that her government had a plan to set up a medical university and more medical colleges in the country, reports BSS.

She said the government had also a plan to expand the existing hospitals on priority basis.

In future programmes will be taken with due priority to set up a medical university, more medical colleges and expand the hospitals," she told the first national conference of Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) at Ziaur Rahman Hall of the Shishu Academy.

She said her government was firmly pledge bound to fulfil the five basic needs of the

## 'Congress not to blame for Rajiv death'

MADRAS, June 9: AIADMK General Secretary Miss Jayalalitha Jayaram today criticised DMK President M Karunanidhi's demand that the Verma Commission of enquiry should also investigate who arranged former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Sriperumpudur on May 21, saying it was an attempt to divert the people's attention from their misgivings about the DMK, following the assassination.

Referring to Karunanidhi's remark at a public meeting in Tiruchirappalli yesterday, Miss Jayalalitha said in a statement here that Rajiv Gandhi, as the leader of the Congress (I) Party, had unreservedly won the affection of all his party-men Congressman would think of doing "even an iota of harm" to him.

She alleged that Karunanidhi's efforts to 'blame' Congressmen and "spread false propaganda" was aimed at "temporarily deflecting the aspersions cast on the DMK, at least till the elections were over."

## No alternative to Congress-I Rao

Congress-I President P V Narasimha Rao today said there was no alternative to the Congress-I, which only could provide a stable government at the centre.

Addressing a public meeting in Ahmedabad, Rao said the country was passing through a critical situation and that no other political party could protect its unity and integrity.

He said "It was wrong to say that the Congress-I had disintegrated after the death of Rajiv Gandhi. The 106-year-old organisation was very much intact," he stressed.

## Pinatubo erupts after 600 years

MANILA, June 9: The Pinatubo volcano in the northern Philippines erupted today after more than six centuries of inactivity Spewing boiling mud and rocks, toxic gases and dark ashes, officials said, reports AFP.

There were no immediate reports of casualties around the volcano, where more than 10,000 people have been evacuated since it first began showing signs of activity in April.

## Truck-bus collision: 1 killed scores hurt

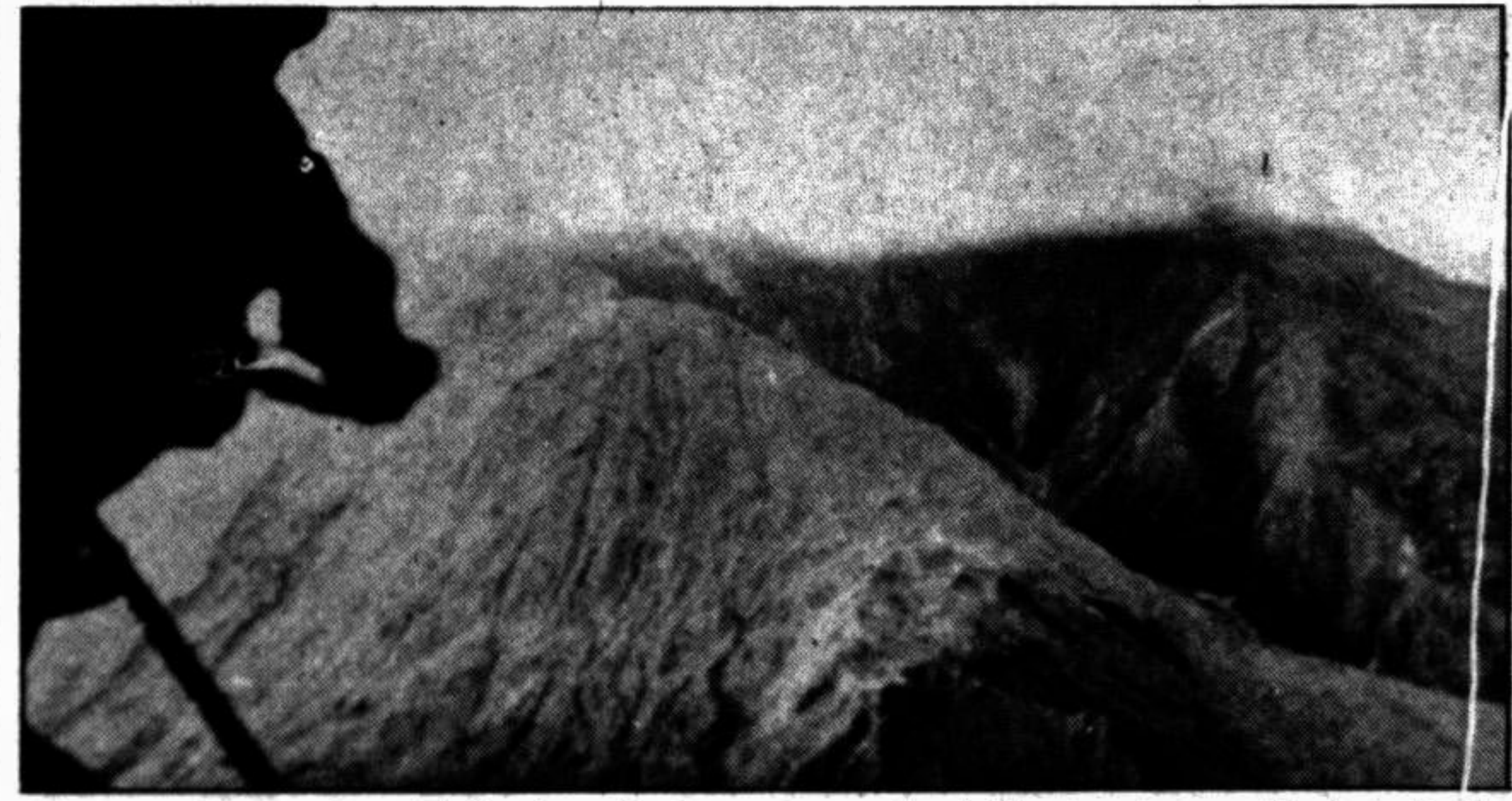
MANIKGANJ, June 9: A truck driver was killed and 40 people were injured, 10 of them critically, in two accidents on the Dhaka-Aricha highway today, officials said, reports UNB.

Interdistrict Truck Drivers Union sources at Aricha said their colleague Saleh Ahmed (31) died on the way while being shifted to Dhaka.

According to latest reports, 30 people were injured, six critically, when a minibus and a truck collided on Dhaleswari bridge at Jagir in the Sadar upazila this afternoon.

Officials and Fire Brigade sources here said 14 of the injured were sent to Dhaka, 4 admitted to Manikganj sadar hospital and 12 released after first aid.

The truck driver, who was



Photograph taken from Philippines Air Force observation helicopter shows a blanket of ash on the rock-covered slopes of Mount Pinatubo after its eruption on Sunday. — AFP photo

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## Indian soldier killed

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