

# After traumatic polls Congress braces for painful reforms

**NEW DELHI, June 21:** Emerging victorious from traumatic Indian elections, the long-dominant Congress Party will be under strong pressure to take painful measures to reform a crumbling state-dominant economy, analysts said today, reports Reuter.

Congress leaders say there are no easy options for India, staggering under massive foreign debt, a severe foreign exchange crunch and ballooning fiscal and trade deficits.

"The (economic) situation is difficult. Hard actions will have to be taken," Congress economic unit chief and former Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee told Reuters.

Mukherjee, who is tipped to take over the Finance portfolio in the new Congress cabinet, said the thrust of the party's economic agenda would be to promote Western-style reform and check double digit inflation.

The new government would present a budget by mid-July and resume talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of a two-billion dollar loan, Mukherjee said.

Mukherjee declined other comment about the budget. Senior government officials said its main features would include a clear policy on deregulation, spending cuts, and higher taxes.

In a country steeped in a socialist ethos for four decades, translating ideas into action will require a clear plan of action and the nerve to push through unpopular measures, analysts said.

Congress has always been immersed in populist politics. Two years ago it would've been difficult seeing them push for

reform. Now they don't have a choice, one investment analyst said.

Congress, which has ruled India for all but four years since independence from Britain in 1947, is forming a vulnerable minority government after India's bloodiest elections.

"If anything, the elections have given Congress a chance to sort out the economic mess they put India in," one Western diplomat said.

Much of India's current problems -- a foreign debt burden of 70 billion dollars and foreign exchange reserves barely enough to cover a month's imports -- area legacy of Congress' faint-hearted liberalisation plan that began in the early 1980s, economists said.

Under its youthful Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, assassinated last month while campaigning to return to power, Congress loosened import controls but failed to match that with higher exports.

Bankers say India began to run into trouble when it started short-term borrowing to cover mounting trade deficits, which have averaged 3.5 billion dollars over the last four years.

Over the past few months, bankers have declined to renew the short-term loans.

A slow, halting consensus is emerging among main political parties that India has no choice but to reform and modernise by integrating with the global economy, diplomats said.

"They can't backtrack. But if they pull it off, India could be Asia's new success story in five years," an Asian diplomat said.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called on Chinese President Yang Shangkun at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday. —PID photo

# BNP's amendment bill

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of the two sides in parliament to pass the amendment bill so that the foundation of democracy could further be consolidated.

The Opposition has been stressing from the very beginning on introduction of the amendment bill in pursuance of the Joint Declaration of three major alliances made on November 19 last year.

The ruling party however, took time for an inner-party consensus on the form of government before moving an amendment bill. However, it was clearly stated by the Treasury Bench leaders last week that the party would bring a bill for reverting to parliamentary form of government.

When asked to comment on BNP's decision to introduce the constitution amendment bill, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad said that it was too early to say anything regarding the bill to be moved by the Treasury Bench since he was not aware of its contents. "We have to see their bill before making any comment," he said.

He, however, said if the two bills contained similar points and if there was no basic difference between them, then a committee might be formed by the House to look into them and find out a formula to bring about a consensus on the issue.

Abdus Samad Azad maintained that consensus was essential to pass the bill since it would require support of two-third members of Parliament.

"We will not support anything which will be undemocratic and will go against basic principles of democracy," he added.

Some other prominent members of the Opposition said they were ready to consider reasonable suggestions and proposals from Treasury

Bench in the greater interest of reaching a consensus. The members categorically said they were against floor-crossing by MPs, but they would also oppose stricter measures for keeping the coalition partners with the Treasury Bench, which, according to them, was against democratic principles.

Rashed Khan Menon, the lone Member of Parliament from the Five-party Alliance, said he would cooperate in passing the amendment bill if it upheld the principles of parliamentary democracy. "This the commitment of the three alliances," he said, adding, "some adjustments on the issue are possible, but not on the question of the basic principle." He maintained that the move for establishing parliamentary system should not be foisted on any plea.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, Chairman of BKSAL and leader of his party's parliamentary group, said "our stand is to extend active cooperation to a move for establishing parliamentary democracy."

About the bill to be moved by BNP, Mohiuddin Ahmed said, "We will have to see what stricter measures they are going to propose to check floor-crossing." He maintained that it was better to check floor-crossing politically than by imposing stricter measures.

The BKSAL chairman believes that the essence of parliamentary system is to flourish democracy and put an end to the autocratic system. He was opposed to any restrictions on the coalition partners and termed it as a negative attitude.

Ganotantri Party MP Suranjit Sengupta said any attempt to introduce a constitution amendment bill on the basis of political modalities formulated by three alliances on November 19 last year would get cooperation from all sides of the House.

"I think, if the form of government is decided on the basis of national consensus, it will be helpful for consolidating democracy and development," said Suranjit.

He hoped that BNP would come with the amendment bill with an open mind and said, "We will not accept their bill if it goes against the essence of parliamentary democracy. However, we will try to adjust and go to any length in the interest of democracy."

Shamsuddoha, leader of CPB parliamentary group, said, "The basis of national consensus on the form of government lies in the Joint Declaration of the three alliances." So any amendment bill on this consensus will be acceptable to all," said Shamsuddoha and mentioned that any controversy ever the issue should be resolved through understanding and negotiations.

The CPB leader warned that any basic change in the principles of the parliamentary system might create problems in reaching a consensus on the issue.

JSD leader Shahjahan Straj stressed on understanding between the two sides in the House on the form of government and said the achievements of the democratic struggle would be lost if we failed to arrive at a consensus.

Jamaat-e-Islami, which has 20 members of parliament, also stands for parliamentary system and will support any move for reverting to parliamentary democracy.

But, Jatiya Party has a different view on the issue. Moudud Ahmed, the acting leader of JP parliamentary party consisting 31 members, said his party believed in presidential system. "So, we have to take a decision at the party level if a bill is moved to change the form of government."

# North-South

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richer while the poor countries of the South were becoming poorer, and one of the reasons was that the price of goods of the poor countries were cheap while the products of the richer countries were dearer.

The Chinese Prime Minister stressed on more intensified discussions and cooperation among the countries of the South in order to enable them for holding consultations more meaningfully with the rich North for reducing the increasing disparity. He suggested setting up a forum of the South to negotiate for a better price of their commodities.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia agreed with Prime Minister Li Peng that the disparity between the South and the North was an important international issue and had to be resolved amicably through discussions.

Foreign Minister informed that China will provide Bangladesh an interest-free loan of RMB 60 million (approximately Taka 40 crores) for a period of 10 years with a grace period of another 10 years.

He mentioned that 50 per cent of the loan will be commodity aid and the rest will be provided as project aid. The Chinese government has also made a grant of 200 power tillers which are suitable for use in Bangladesh.

Begum Zia returned to Dhaka from Beijing after a brief stopover in Bangkok.

Members of the cabinet, high civil officials and Charge d'Affaires of China and Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh received the Prime Minister at the airport.

# Investment

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extended during the recent cyclone in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister made an overnight stopover here on way back home from a three-day official goodwill visit to China.

She said a favourable condition existed for foreign entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh due to her liberal industrial policy.

Begum Zia said, "we want to set up rural based industries in the country," adding "we hope that private entrepreneurs of Thailand would come and invest individually or in joint venture."

She said the Thailand experience would benefit Bangladesh in its efforts for setting up industries.

Anand Paryarichun said the people of Thailand always considered Bangladesh as their neighbour despite there being a country in between.

He said the visit of Begum Zia would help further strengthen the existing bond of relations between the two countries. He invited Begum Zia to visit Thailand and see the various places as the present visit was too short.

The Thai Prime Minister told the Bangladesh leader that he would ask the members of Thailand chambers and private businessmen to look into the prospect of investment in Bangladesh.

# Tk 8.85 crore budget for JU

By JU Correspondent

A Taka 8 crore 85 lakh 25 thousand annual budget of fiscal '91-'92 of Jahangirnagar University was approved Friday by the university Senate at its annual meeting. It includes Taka 4 crore for development projects.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Kazi, Saleh Ahmed presided over the annual Senate meeting.

Of the total amount, Taka 8,37,25,000 will be received from the University Grant Commission, Taka 48 lakh from the university's own resources and Taka 20 lakh from special donations. The budget shows a deficit of Taka 37 lakh.

Funds for medical, library and student stipend have been reduced in the new budget while those for transport and miscellaneous have been increased.

The Senate also approved the decision to open Computer and Information Technology Institute and Human Resources Development Research Centre at the university.

Inaugurating the Senate meeting the Vice-Chancellor called upon political parties to control their student fronts to help bring back normal academic atmosphere in institutions.

Student organisation who are responsible for campus terrorism are parts of political parties. So, political parties should be held responsible for campus violence, he said.

# Rats

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wanted to know if rats deserved such a privileged treatment at the university level, when they were a menace and were abundantly found in our homes.

# The Midnight File

## Waldheim won't run for 2nd term

**VIENNA, June 21:** Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, whose five years in office have been dogged by allegations over his wartime reports said today he would not stand for a second term.

Waldheim, 72, told Austrian television his decision was based on national interests, experiences during his past few years in office and his personal plans for the future, reports Reuter.

## Najibullah fires Deputy Premier

**ISLAMABAD, June 21:** Afghan President Najibullah sacked Deputy Prime Minister Mahmood Baryalai today, the official Kabul radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Pakistan gave no reason for the action, taken only a day after former President Babrak Karmal, Baryalai's half-brother, returned home after four years of virtual exile in the Soviet Union. Baryalai, a former political foe, was most senior of seven deputy premiers in Prime Minister Fazal Haq Khalioyari's cabinet, reports Reuter.

## Pakistan recalls troops from Arabia

**ISLAMABAD, June 21:** Pakistan said today that 11,000 troops it sent to Saudi Arabia before the Gulf war would return after the Eid ul-Azha at the weekend. A Defence Ministry announcement said the decision to recall the troops had been taken after consultation between Islamabad and Riyadh, reports Reuter.

# Legal action

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plosters, wore eerie silence with students vacating the residential halls under authorities instruction.

The university was closed from June 20 to July 1 for Eid vacation. The DU Education Atmosphere Council (DUEAC) at its June 15 meeting had set a 10 pm Friday deadline for vacating the residential halls in view of armed clashes between rival students bodies.

Informed sources said the authorities will check student's identity cards before allowing entrance on June 29.

The vacant halls might also be checked by the authorities or by the police before the re-opening to ensure no arms, ammunition or explosive materials there.

The JSD(Imu)-backed Chhatra League(N-S) leader, Mahub was killed during a gun-battle between the activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League (S-A) and Chhatra League(N-S) on the DU campus Thursday.

The Chhatra League (N-S) held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club Friday protesting the killing. Addressing the rally, the speakers accused that killers of Dr. Milon and Mahub were same. They accused the Chhatra League (S-A) of these killings and also of terrorism at other educational

institutions. They also demanded arrest of the killers and punishment for them.

Chhatra League(N-S) President Nazmul Haq Prodhan, General Secretary Shaik Ahmed and a central leader Mukhlesur Rahman addressed the rally.

Earlier, the Chhatra League (S-A) workers wearing black badges brought out a mourning procession which paraded the city streets.

Meanwhile more political parties expressed concern at the campus situation and called for appropriate actions to restore academic atmosphere.

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General and its parliamentary party leader Maolana Mathur Rahman Nizami in a statement expressed surprise over regular gunfights by the rival student groups on the campuses even after the fall of autocracy. The government's inaction proved it was patronising terrorism he commented and demanded stern action against the miscreants.

Jagpa President Shaiful Alam Prodhan in a separate statement criticised the government for its failure in tackling the situation and said it must shoulder the consequence.

Chhatra Otkya Forum also issued similar statement condemning campus violence.

# Karmal's return worries Afghans

**KABUL, June 21:** Former President Babrak Karmal's secret return home from the Soviet Union has taken most Afghans by surprise and a guessing game has begun as to why the ex-leader has returned, reports AFP.

Although his visit was expected, Afghans are surprised by its suddenness.

The government has not made any statement yet on his arrival, nor has Karmal, who arrived here Thursday amid

tight security, made his visit public.

A member of the ruling Watan (Homeland) Party who confirmed the return of Karmal said it was unlikely the arrival would have immediate official confirmation due to security reasons.

Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman Humayun Mukamel said Karmal was free to "come and go" as a citizen of Afghanistan.

# Rao sworn in

From Page 1 Col. 3

power base from its traditional bastion of northern and central India to the south.

At least 23 of the ministers came from southern states, where the party swept most of the seats in the elections to Parliament.

Congress lost the northern states to the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Of the 511 seats that were contested, Congress won 223 and small-party allies won 16, leaving it 17 shy of a majority. Five seats are yet to be announced, but Congress was not expected to win them.

Rao was the Foreign Minister under former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his mother, assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

He was a compromise candidate to head the Congress Party, dominated for decades by the Nehru-Gandhi family, after Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated last month.

Rao has been given four weeks to prove the Congress Party's majority in the Lok Sabha, the policy-making lower house of Parliament.

Although the party does not have a majority, it hopes to make up the numbers with the support of the centrist alliance of former Prime Minister VP Singh and a Communist combine.

Both groups say they will

not join in a coalition, but have said they will not allow the government to fall.

Rao said his first task will be to sort out India's economic mess. The country's foreign exchange reserves cannot pay for more than a month's imports and inflation is in double digits.

"The top priority before me is to tackle the huge financial problem India is facing," he told reporters after he was sworn-in.

Rao is confronted also by deadly separatist insurrections in three states which claim hundreds of lives every month.

Hours before the swearing-in, the Election Commission deferred elections that had been scheduled for Saturday in the state of Punjab where Sikh militants have assassinated 22 candidates in a terrorist campaign to disrupt the vote.

The eastern state of Assam and the northern state of Jammu-Kashmir have also been engulfed in separatist violence.

Press Trust of India reported the Cabinet will hold its first meeting Saturday. Rao met with senior bureaucrats in the Prime Minister's office Friday to chalk out the government's agenda in the coming week, the news agency said.

# 2m perform Hajj

From Page 1 Col. 5

tion of Kuwait that touched off the Gulf War.

"Oh God, your enemy has been tyrannical with your faithful, he has scorched the earth and filled Iraq with injustice.

"Bring down your wrath and destroy their prisons and their tyranny and let Iraq return to your glory and service," the Iraqi speaker said.

Iraq sent only a few hundred pilgrims to this year's Hajj, compared to the 18,000 who took part in last year's rituals.

The Kuwaiti speaker prayed for God's blessings "on the sons of valor" in his liberated country, but refrained from direct attack against Baghdad.

A Palestinian commentator prayed for the liberation of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-holy shrine after Mecca and Medina, which is situated in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem.

The Lebanese, whose country is struggling for an end to 16 years of civil war, prayed for "the forgiveness of sins."

Every year, pilgrims came from the four corners of the earth to perform the Hajj, a once-in-a-lifetime duty for every able-bodied Muslim.

Thousands of police and troops kept a close watch on the pilgrims through the ceremonies, which climax with the stand on Arafat. Official statistics said 720,102 foreign pilgrims came by land, sea and air. The rest came from within Saudi Arabia.

Diplomats have said the largest number of security personnel ever — soldiers,

National Guardsmen, military and police cadets and tribal draftees controlled by the Interior Ministry were supervising the Hajj this year.

Their number were not known, but high-ranking army officers walked the streets and police observed all parts of Mecca and surrounding areas through closed-circuit television in a central operations room.

Muslims from throughout the world make the journey to imitate the Prophet Mohammed's tour of Islam's shrines 14 centuries ago after the conquered Mecca from its pagan rulers.

The men wear white seamless cloth draped around the body. Women wear long white gowns.

When they reach Mecca, the pilgrims walk seven times around the Kaaba or House of God in the courtyard of the Grand Mosque in the heart of Mecca. Then they move to the Mina plains three miles (five kilometers) away, where they spend the day before the stand on Mount Arafat.

After sunset at Arafat, they descend to Muzdalifa where they spend the night.

They return to Mina on Saturday for the "stoning the devil" ceremony. They also sacrifice sheep at dawn marking the start of the Eid Ul-Azha or Feast of Sacrifice, to commemorate the Prophet Ibrahim's readiness to sacrifice his son.

New, air-conditioned, widened tunnels between the sites have been added to avoid a tragedy like last year when 1,426 pilgrims were trampled and suffocated in a stampede.

# Global warming warning

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warning. One of the experts in NCAR told this correspondent that there was some "conspiracy" against the growth and technological development in different countries.

The NCPA task force report again pointed out that whereas in 1988 global warming theorists were predicting a temperature rise (from doubled carbon dioxide in the atmosphere) between 4.5 and 6.0 degrees Celsius, the most likely projection now is 1.5 degrees; and the authoritative Max Planck Institute is predicting only 0.7 degrees.

The report said that whereas the climate modelers in 1980 were forecasting an increase in sea level of 30 feet, that forecast fell to three to five feet by 1988 and the current worst-case forecast was only 12 inches.

It said that there was evidence that the polar ice caps were growing, not melting and almost all of the warming at the poles in occurring during the polar winters when no melting can occur. New research on hurricanes, as quoted in the NCPA report, shows that they are not produced by global warming and more so.

Warmer temperatures make hurricane less severe.

The NCPA report said that most of the warming so far has occurred at night, reducing the number of frosts and increasing the growing season for farmers. 1990, one of the warmest years in recent history, was also a record year for crops.

The NCPA report studied the data of the countries which were very much sensitive to global warming. It said that the data adjusted for urbanization showed no statistically significant temperature increase in the last century.

The NCPA reports said that the Meteorological institute study showed that no significant warming in ocean temperatures was seen over the

past 120 years.

The report said that, in the scientific community there was a debate over global warming. Media coverage tends to assume that the debate is between those who say climate will change and those who say it won't. "This is misleading," the report asserted and said "the actual debate is between those who argue that there will be a large and catastrophic increase in global temperatures and those who believe that any climate change will be quite small, generally beneficial and possibly indistinguishable from normal climate variability". The report said that increasingly the scientists were moving toward latter position, yet most media reports remain wedded to the idea of an apocalypse.

Dr. Ainun Nishat — a hydrologist of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology BUET said that there might be global warming or not. But, Bangladesh has become a subject of mispropaganda. He said that if there was any sea level rise due to global warming the London city would be submerged much ahead of Bangladesh.

Director of SPARSO Dr. A.M. Chowdhury told The Daily Star that it would take at least ten years more to say anything about the global warming and its affect. But by creating unnecessary alarm the propagandists of global warming are doing harm. He said that there was no evidence of global warming in their hands.

Many of the experts said that there was a sort of conspiracy against the developing countries including Bangladesh, which is very much in need of sophisticated technology for development. The experts said that the rival countries did not want to allow smooth inflow of the foreign investment in our country which was being presented to the international community as a region vulnerable to the environmental hazards, which is not a fact at all. This sort of propaganda against our coun-

try, is creating disillusionment to the foreign investors, they said.

The NCPA report in this connection said that the extremists ignored the role of technology for development of the country to a great extent.

During the recent visit to United States this correspondent was told by Dr Michael H. Glantz, a political scientist of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research that the developing countries main problem was to comply with the developed country's conditions to accept obsolete technologies. He said that the developed countries including America should not export obsolete technology to the developing countries just for providing subsidy to the local industries. He said that in one side the developed world was trying to persuade a policy of gradual withdrawal of subsidy in the developing countries while on the other, it was providing subsidy to their companies to export obsolete technology. He said that it was contradictory policy towards the emancipation of the whole world.

Meanwhile, vast areas of Shahzadpur upazila, including the Shahzadpur High School, went under water as the Badalgari embankment on river Korotoa was washed away. Continuing erosion of Korotoa and Jamuna has threatened the very existence of several villages in Shahzadpur upazila.

Erosion of Korotoa affecting Pukurpur, Thanaghat, Nagarola and Dargaghat and Jamuna threatening the villages of Chhutia, Makhra, Baghati and Jalapur. Some 30 shops have already been shifted from Chhutia Bazar.

# Sirajganj flood

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In which case, they feared, the two under-construction embankments in Kazipur and at Sonali Bazar in Sadar upazila might be damaged, further worsening the flood situation in the entire district.

Meanwhile, vast areas of Shahzadpur upazila, including the Shahzadpur High School, went under water as the Badalgari embankment on river Korotoa was washed away.

Continuing erosion of Korotoa and Jamuna has threatened the very existence of several villages in Shahzadpur upazila. Erosion of Korotoa affecting Pukurpur, Thanaghat, Nagarola and Dargaghat and Jamuna threatening the villages of Chhutia, Makhra, Baghati and Jalapur. Some 30 shops have already been shifted from Chhutia Bazar.

আসন্ন ঈদুল আযহা উপলক্ষে কোরবানীকৃত পশুর উচ্ছিন্নতা সৃষ্টিভাবে অপসারণের মাধ্যমে পরিবেশ দূষণ প্রতিরোধ সংক্রান্ত বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

- পশু জবাইয়ের পূর্বে গর্ভ করে নিব। গর্ভের মধ্যে রক্ত ও অণুজীবনীয় অংশ পুতে রাখুন।
- জবাইকৃত পশুর রক্ত এবং অণুজীবনীয় অংশ নর্মা কিংবা যেখানে সেখানে ফেলবেন না। এতে পরিবেশ দূষিত হয়।
- কোরবানীকৃত পশুর বর্জ্য অংশ ডাউনবিনে/ নিচি হানে ফেলুন।
- আপনি জানেন কি পুষ্টিময় পরিবেশ মারাত্মক রোগ ছড়ায়?
- পরিষ্কার-পরিচ্ছন্নতা ইমানের অংশ। কোরবানীর পরে আপনার পরিবেশ বাতে দূষিত না হয় সেই দিকে লক্ষ রাখুন।
- কোরবানী পশুর বর্জ্য অংশ দ্রুত অপসারণের জন্য প্রয়োজনবোধে নিকটস্থ সিটি কর্পোরেশন/ পৌরসভাকে সংবাদ দিন।

**পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর**  
পরিবেশ ও বন মন্ত্রণালয়  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

(৯৭৪৩৩-২৬/৭)