

Bills : The points of difference

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to the Constitution. The AL bill has been designed to serve both the purposes.

None of the bills touches the preamble and the first 10 Articles of the Constitution containing basic state principles which were subjected to repeated amendments since 1975.

Both BNP and AL seek to amend the Constitution from Article 11 onwards. Regarding Article 11 bills of both the parties seek to restore a provision of the 1972 Constitution to ensure effective participation of the people in administration at all levels through their elected representatives.

The bills propose to restore the original Chapter I of the Constitution containing Articles 48 to 54 relating to the President. They differ slightly in respect of restoration of original Chapter II containing Articles 55 to 58.

The 12th amendment bill of BNP proposes that not more than one-fifth of the ministers could be appointed from among non-MPs, but deletes a provision of the original Constitution (which AL seeks to retain) that a minister who at the time of his appointment is not an MP shall cease to be a minister unless elected as an MP within six months of such appointment.

Again in Article 57(2) the BNP bill differs from the AL bill in that it proposes to make the Prime Minister to resign or advise the President in writing to dissolve the Parliament.

The AL and BNP bills seek to restore Chapter III of the original Constitution. This chapter relating to local government to be run by elected bodies with power, determined by the Parliament by law, to impose local taxes, was abolished by the Fourth Amendment in 1975.

In respect of Article 66 on qualifications and disqualifications for election to Parliament the BNP bill, unlike the AL bill, deletes the provision which says that disputes over the question whether an MP shall vacate his seat for floor crossing should be referred to the Election Commission.

The BNP bill completely rewrites Article 70 of the Constitution not touched by the AL bill. The BNP bill provides that an MP will vacate his seat not only for floor crossing, but also if he loses his membership or is expelled from the party which had nominated him as a candidate, or forms any group within that party.

The Article if amended according to the BNP bill, will also treat independents joining a party after election as nominees of that party. An MP vacating seat under this provision will be disqualified from contesting in election for five years.

In respect of Article 72, the BNP bill makes summoning, proroguing and dissolution of the Parliament by the President subject to written advice of the Prime Minister. The AL bill like the BNP bill seeks to omit clause 4A of this Article.

The AL bill proposes to omit Article 73A relating to rights of non-MP Ministers to take part in proceedings of the Parliament. The BNP bill seeks to retain it by deleting the words Deputy Prime Ministers.

The bills of both AL and BNP omit everything relating to the vice-president and deputy prime ministers, and propose to amend Clause (AA) of Article 88, and some provisions of Articles 122, 125, 147, 148, 152, and the Third Schedule.

The AL bill proposed to omit Article 92 A which empowers the President to authorize withdrawal of money from the consolidated fund for a period of 120 days pending the making of grants and passing of the law. The BNP bill seeks to retain it.

Both the bills seek to amend slightly Article 119 which is related to functions of the Election Commission. The

Indian army chief
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Dhaka Cantonment. The memos will be presented as a token of amity between the two armies of the neighbouring countries, diplomatic sources told The Daily Star.

During his stay, General Rodrigues will visit military installations and will make a trip to Rangamati. He will also visit the Hiron Point and the Sundarbans on a river cruise.

The Indian army chief is expected to call on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazir Nazrul Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynebe Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the three-day science conference at Shilpakala Academy, that opened Friday. — PID photo

Two more suspects in Rajiv's assassination case held

NEW DELHI, July 5 : Investigators probing the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi arrested two members of a Tamil guerrilla group on Friday, police said, reports AP.

The suspects, a 70-year-old man and a 17-year-old girl, were picked up from a New Delhi hotel, said a police official, on condition of anonymity.

Both are members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a guerrilla group, battling for an independent Tamil homeland in neighbouring Sri Lanka. United News of India said both were of Sri Lankan origin. Police said they were ascertaining their nationalities.

Kannan GA Sabhapati and A Thirai had "direct links" with the Tamil Tigers and there are "clinching evidence" that they were involved in the killing.

"We have sensitive and incriminating documents to prove that the two were a party to the assassination," said the police official.

The two were produced before a city magistrate who remanded them to police custody for 30 days.

The arrests were the fourth breakthrough since Gandhi was killed in an election meeting in May by a suicide bomber in the town of Sriperumbudur, 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of Madras.

With the latest arrests the number of people taken into custody in the Gandhi killing has risen to 10. Five of the arrested are Sri Lankan Tamils and the remaining are Indian Tamils.

Tamils live both in Sri Lanka and the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, their original homeland.

Inquiries have continued to center around the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful and sophisticated Tamil group fighting for independence in Sri Lanka.

A possible motive for the assassination is Gandhi's role as a mediator in the Sri Lankan civil war when he was prime minister in 1987.

Gandhi ordered Indian troops to enforce a ceasefire between the Sri Lankan army and the Tigers under an Indian-brokered accord.

But the troops ended up with a 2/1-2-year war with the Tigers when the Tigers reneged the peace plan and resumed fighting.

The troops were recalled in March 1990 by the government of VP Singh, who replaced Gandhi as prime minister.

AFP adds: A Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla implicated in Rajiv Gandhi's assassination defied orders to return home because he was in love with an Indian woman, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today.

Murugan told investigators probing the former Indian Prime Minister's slaying that Tamil Tiger chief Velupillai Prabhakaran had asked him to sail home two weeks before the assassination plan was executed, PTI said.

The 21-year-old activist of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said he had orders from Prabhakaran to take a boat across the Palk Strait, which divides India's Tamil Nadu state and Sri Lanka, the news agency said.

He said he went to the southern Indian coastal town of Mandapam and waited for a boat to pick him up, then changed his mind at the last moment and decided to stay behind, PTI quoted unidentified official sources as saying.

Murugan, reputed to be an explosives expert, is a key suspect in the assassination of

the suspect said he decided to defy his leader's orders because he had fallen in love with Nalini, 27, an Indian Tamil who was arrested along with Murugan on charges of involvement in the conspiracy to kill Gandhi.

The pair were arrested by police on June 14. Nalini was pregnant at the time of her arrest, carrying Murugan's baby, PTI said.

The love affair was so secret that even Nalini's mother and brother, who too have been charged as conspirators for sheltering the assassination squad, including the woman suicide-bomber, were unaware of it, it said.

Murugan reportedly told investigators that he feared his group would kill him for defiance, which amounted to desertion, and for violating the LTTE's code of conduct not to develop personal relationships.

Sources in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) told PTI in Madras, the Tamil Nadu capital, that the Sri Lankan suspect had "brainwashed" Nalini into turning a conspirator in the assassination.

In mid-1987, then-premier Gandhi despatched thousands of Indian troops to Sri Lanka under an accord with Colombo to end the LTTE's Tamil separatist campaign.

Murugan convinced Nalini that the troops had committed atrocities against Tamils during the two-year bush war they fought against the LTTE, the sources were quoted as saying.

The woman assassin, identified simply as Thanu, helped in the indoctrination process by telling Nalini that Indian troops had raped her and killed her two brothers, the sources reportedly said.

KHALEDA

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Sympathy and love for nature can work better than laws, she observed and urged all concerned to be more active for ensuring healthy environment in the country.

Referring to the promotion of science and technology in the country, the Prime Minister urged scientists to find out new ways and means to bring about qualitative change in the life of the people.

She hoped the deliberations in the conference would add new ideas to the field of science and technology and would help steer the nation through many a problem.

The experience of the reputed scientists and the endeavours of the young would help usher in new discoveries, Begum Zia said urging the new generation scientists to devote to research for newer scientific achievements.

She assured that the government would welcome the works of the talented scientists.

The government would try its best to solve the problems the scientists are faced with, she added.

Begum Zia also distributed trophies to the recipients of the last year's science conference. They were: Mohammad Shajahan Mia, Dr Raghari Sarkar, Zabar Haider Khan, Tapasi Gosh Roy, SM Jaglul Pasha, Abu Bakr Siddiqui, Shaiful Aktar and MZR Majumder.

Flood control

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The meeting will review, approve and adopt the Study Report on Flood Control and River Training Project, official sources said.

The report was earlier prepared by a joint team of experts of the two countries. China provided the technical and financial assistance for it.

The Midnight File

Mandela elected ANC President

DURBAN (South Africa), July 5: Nelson Mandela was elected President of the African National Congress (ANC) by delegates to the organisation's national conference here today, election officials announced. ANC veteran Walter Sisulu, 79, defeated militant Natal Midlands leader Harry Gwala for the post of Deputy President, previously held by the 72-year-old Mandela, reports AFP.

Italian Archaeologist dies

ROME, July 5: Archaeologist Doro Levi, who worked with the United States government during World War II to save Italian monuments from Allied bombardment, has died at the age of 93, his family announced Friday. He died of old age Wednesday in a private clinic in Rome. Levi, born in Trieste, studied at the University of Florence and at the Italian School of Archaeology in Athens, Greece, of which he was director from 1947 to 1977, reports AP.

Berlin and Bonn share two parliament houses

BERLIN, July 5 : The upper house of the German Parliament voted Friday to stay in Bonn for now, while the more powerful lower house and the rest of the government move to Berlin, reports AP.

The Bundestag, whose 68 members represent the 16 state governments and are not directly elected, took what some speakers called a risky decision to separate from the main organs of governmental power.

Indians lose transit stay facilities in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, July 5 : Pakistan has withdrawn transit stay facilities for Indian airline passengers following reports that New Delhi's secret service was misusing them, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said today, reports AFP.

The facility has been withdrawn because it was being gravely misused by Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) elements who disappear after entering Pakistan, APP said, quoting a top official of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Islamabad.

Following a decision by the Interior Ministry, the FIA Thursday asked immigration, customs and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to restrict Indian national's in transit to airports instead of allowing them to overnight in nearby hotels between flights, it said. Related story on Page 5

Hasina

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hatched on the campuses to disunite the student community through instigating violence, she said.

The AL leader stressed the need for strong unity of the students and called upon them to launch a united movement against the campus terrorists and communal forces in the country. Progressive student organisations should come forward to bring back healthy student politics against politics of violence, she observed.

World Bank

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Another shelter proposal based on the concept of the "killa", a circular embankment where people and livestock take refuge in a protected structure in the middle of it, is also being examined by UNCHS and other agencies.

A World Bank-UNDP-government joint task force found that cyclone shelters in offshore islands are inadequate.

There are only 299 such shelters in the coastal areas, of which 62 are operated by the Red Crescent and 232 by the Government.

Most of these shelters were built after 1970 cyclone and many needs rehabilitation.

The Non Government Organisations (NGOs) are also reportedly planning to construct about 250 cyclone shelters in coastal areas.

DU halls

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Vice-President of DU unit of the student organisation alleged that Chhatra League (A-A) had been trying to establish their supremacy by resorting to vandalism in the campus which resulted in the killing of Mahub.

The campus became volatile again when Dr. Milton's killers sheltered by pro-Awami League student front, unleashed terrorism," added Titu.

He called upon all the progressive student organisations to build up resistance against the undesirable elements to bring back peaceful academic atmosphere in the campus.

Meanwhile residential students started coming to the halls after showing identity cards to the authorities at the hall gates while police remained deployed in front of halls and other strategic points.

Presence of students in the halls was thin till Friday evening. Campus sources said many students did not report to their halls apprehending violence following the Jagannath College gunbattle Wednesday.



Sheikh Hasina presiding over a close-door meeting of the Awami League Working Committee at the party central office Friday. The meeting was held following introduction of two Constitution amendment bills in Parliament. — Star photo

7 nations close down BCCI

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launders counts. An investigation of BCCI has showed it laundered money for Noriega, and that one of its officers once served as Noriega's personal banker, but BCCI was never charged for such activity.

Friday's joint action does not affect US banks in which BCCI has a controlling interest, First American Bankshares of Washington, DC and Independence Bank of Encino, California, the Federal Reserve Board said.

First American was known as Financial General Bankshares when it was taken over by Credit and Commerce American Holdings.

The money-laundering scandal has raised questions about the involvement of First American's Chairman former US Defense Secretary Clark Clifford.

Clifford, an adviser to presidents for nearly half a century, has said he and his associates were never told that the holding company had any connection with BCCI.

Clifford now is under federal investigation to determine if he or his associates concealed the BCCI interests. The accounting firm Touche Ross has been ap-

pointed by the British courts to oversee the BCCI's assets, which total about 7.4 billion dollars in Britain and Luxembourg, the Bank of England said.

The purpose of the actions now taken is to safeguard the interests of depositors, other bonafide creditors and the shareholders themselves," it said. "Without such action there would be likely to be pressure from depositors and other creditors."

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Vehicles torched

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while parading the city thoroughfares torched two vehicles and ransacked several shops at Sir Iqbal Road and Lower Jessore Road in the evening.

Bachchu was assaulted by the unknown elements near the Kotwali thana Thursday night. BCL blamed Jattayabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) for the incident.

Several BCL workers were also injured when a number of handbombs exploded in the procession while it was crossing the Appayan Square.

Witnesses said, the processionists were carrying cut-rifles and revolvers openly and raising various anti-government slogans.

A case was lodged with Kotwali police in connection with the incidents.

Gulf war related sandstorms

MANAMA, July 5: A U N expert warned Thursday of soil erosion and abnormal sandstorms for at least a decade in the Gulf region as a result of the 41-day war to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait, reports AP.

Removal of CU VC demanded

CHITTAGONG, July 5: A

joint meeting of teachers, guardians and professionals held at the Muslim Institute hall here today, demanded removal of the Vice-Chancellor of the Chittagong University immediately to end the long-drawn crisis of the university, reports BSS.

Presided over by A. K. M. Rafiqullah Chowdhury, a BNP leader and former MP, the meeting warned that if the Vice-Chancellor was not removed by tomorrow (Saturday), an action programme would be announced in this connection.

Pankaj's plea for left front

CHITTAGONG, July 5:

National Awami Party General Secretary Pankaj Bhattacharya today called upon the left progressive democratic forces to form a united front to achieve the economic emancipation of people, reports BSS.

Speaking at the divisional NAP representative's meetings at the Buddhist temple auditorium here today, he stressed the need for developing a political force that could bring about changes for the betterment of the masses.