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# The Daily Star



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## NEWS BRIEFS

**President sacked!**  
 PARIS, Aug 3: The senior judge of the Comoros, Ibrahim Ahmed Halidi, deposed President Said Mohamed Djohar on the grounds of poor health today and proclaimed himself interim President, an opposition leader said.

**Two die in bus mishap**  
 BOGRA, Aug 3: Two persons died and 12 others were injured when a Dinaipur-bound night coach from Dhaka hit a truck standing at Mirzapur bazar about 25 km from Bogra town late night Friday.

**15 PPP MPs abandon party**  
 ISLAMABAD, Aug 3: Fifteen legislators of Benazir Bhutto's party abandoned her to join the governing Islamic conservatives and the former Prime Minister on Saturday blamed foul play, reports AP.

**AL EC meet today**  
 A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Awami League will be held at 10 am today at its office at Bangabandhu Avenue. The members of National Committee have also been requested to attend the meeting, the press release added, reports BSS.

## Sheikh Hasina denies creating any obstruction

# Shahabuddin asks for smooth passage of 12th amendment bill

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has called upon all parties in the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) to cooperate for the smooth passage of the Constitution Amendment Bill reverting to the parliamentary form of government, which, he said, has now become a universal demand of the people, reports BSS.

The Acting President said this when the Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition, Sheikh Hasina, met him at his invitation at his official residence on Saturday. During the meeting, Justice Shahabuddin referred to the apprehension of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia that the passage of the Constitution Amendment Bill was being obstructed by bringing in new issues.

The Leader of the Opposition said no obstruction was being created by her party as alleged. She added that the Constitution Amendment Bill contained some undemocratic provisions which, she alleged, the party in power was not allowing sufficient time for a detailed discussion of such an important matter in the



Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman Mia addressing a group of students, who staged a sit-in in front of his official residence Saturday demanding reopening of the university and the halls. The students were staying in the halls defying the authorities' order. — Star photo.

## DU won't reopen before commitment for violence-free campus: VC

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Mia has sought fresh commitment from political parties not to harbour violence for supremacy on the campus before reopening of the university.

"I will not reopen the university before getting commitment again," he said.

"The unbecoming competition of the political parties to establish supremacy on the campus was responsible for terrorist acts," he told a group of students after they withdrew their sit-in before his residence Saturday afternoon.

About one hundred resident students who stayed back in their residential halls defying the authorities directive staged a sit-in demanding reopening of the university and the halls. They withdrew their sit-in following an understanding with the Vice-Chancellor on a number of points at a meeting, Prof Monirul Hoq Provost of Ziaur Rahman Hall, Prof Harun-ur-Rashed Provost of F Rahman Hall were also present at the meeting.

The Vice-Chancellor said the political parties have belied their commitments to him before his taking office that they would help eliminate violence from the campus. "I will divulge everything in time," he said.

## 'Political crisis if bill not passed'

The country will plunge into a deep political crisis if the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill is not passed by parliament.

This was observed by eminent lawyer and former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed at a seminar on Saturday.

The seminar titled "Parliamentary democracy and current politics" was arranged at the Jatiya Press Club in observance of the fourth death anniversary of Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury.

Barrister Ishtiaque said that when the Awami League brought its bill for switching over to parliamentary form of government it had not tagged the bill to the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance of 1975.

He said that there was no alternative to parliamentary democracy for our country.

In his presidential speech former Chief Justice and President of the Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury National Memorial Council that arranged the seminar, Justice Kemaluddin Hossain said that the eleventh and the twelfth Constitution Amendment Bills were the final phase of the process that was initiated by the mass movement that brought the fall of the autocratic Ershad regime.

Justice Hossain said it was the moral duty of all parliament members, of both Treasury and the Opposition benches, to realise the aspirations of the people by passing the twelfth Amendment Bill. He said the Bill should be passed unopposed.

Justice K M Subhan said there was no link between parliamentary democracy and the Indemnity Ordinance. He said that the Indemnity Ordinance was not an obstacle to the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu.

Justice Subhan said that the indemnity Ordinance was illegal and not acceptable by law. See Page 12 Col. 6

## Croatia rejects federal truce plan

ZAGREB, Aug 3: Croatia's leadership, under attack from armed Serbs and its own ranks, on Saturday rejected a federal truce plan and pledged stronger defence from Serbian assaults.

Stipe Mestic, the federal presidency's Croatian chairman, rejected the eight-man body's demand for an "immediate and absolute cease-fire" in the fierce fighting that has killed scores of people since Croatia declared independence June 25.

Mestic said the truce plan was a bid to deter European-led peace efforts and criticised the presidency for failing "to name the aggressor, which is Serbia."

Armed Serbs are pushing far into ethnically mixed Croatian territory. On Friday, at least 80 Croatian security force members were said to have died in the bloodiest clash to date.

The Serb encroachment has put increasing pressure on Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, lauded just weeks ago as the hero of Croatia's bid for independence.

The President this week announced the third government in just over a year, an eight-party coalition of democratic unity.

Headed by Premier Franjo Greguric, the 28-member Cabinet won unanimous approval in Croatia's parliament.

The federal presidency, amid some of Croatia's worst ethnic fighting, early Saturday ordered cease-fire in the republic but it was unclear how effective the order would be.

The presidency's statement left uncertain how the cease-fire would be carried out, whether it was acceptable to Croatian leaders and the role of the European Community, which sent a peace mission to the republic Friday.

The statement indicated that Croatia's Stipe Mestic, the chairman of the presidency, voted against the plan.

Three EC foreign ministers who arrived Friday in Zagreb, Croatia, said that a cease-fire was a pre-requisite for any further involvement. Earlier Friday, reports said more than 80 Croatian policemen had been killed in some of the worst fighting yet in the republic.

The statement ordered an "immediate and absolute cease-fire" in Croatia including separation of hostile forces "outside the range of their firearms," said the statement transmitted by Tanjug

## House plunges into uproar as AL, BNP attack each other

Leaders of BNP and Awami League on Saturday accused each other of violating privileges of the parliament by making offensive statements on constitution amendment bills outside the House.

The accusations and counter accusations generated tremendous heat in the House so much so that Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas had to adjourn the sitting for the Asr prayer about 10 minutes ahead of time.

However, calm was restored following the Asr prayer, and discussion on the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill resumed. Subsequently the atmosphere appeared to be more positive in respect of the passage of the Constitution Amendment Bills.

Immediately after the start of the session on Saturday Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition drew the attention of the Chair to a statement of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia that some MPs were intentionally obstructing the passage of the Constitution Amendment Bills.

Quoting from newspaper reports he said that the PM could have informed the House if any such obstacle was created. He said that the opposition simply did not understand what the obstacles were and who created those.

He said that AL MPs had joined the session of the Parliament on the day although there was an important extended meeting of the party. But the nation was told that there were obstacles.

Abdus Samad Azad said that if there was any delay in bringing Constitution Amendment Bills to the House it was due to indecision of the ruling party. Had the bills been brought in time, discussion on those would have by now been over, he said.

He said that the report of the parliamentary Select Committee on Constitution Amendment Bills was now the property of the House which could further modify the bills before their passage. There could be no bar if anybody now wanted to delete the provision relating to the holding of referendum. Abdus Samad Azad said that their suggestion for dropping this provision in the 12th amendment bill was not accepted by the Select Committee.

See Page 12 Col. 7

## AL contradicts press reports

Awami League has stated the President of the party and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina did not say her party would resist move to pass Constitution amendment bills "containing provisions detrimental to people's right," reports BSS.

This was stated in a press release issued on Saturday evening by the party's central office under the signature of the Office Secretary Syed Fazlul Haq contradicting a news item creeded by BSS on Friday night.

The press release said, Sheikh Hasina in her speech on Friday at the WAPDA auditorium did neither make any statement like this nor did she indicate anything declaring her party's opposition to the passage of Constitution amendment bills.

The press release said, the Awami League has been struggling relentlessly for the last 15 years for restoration of genuine parliamentary democracy.

Awami League, therefore, hoped that the people would come forward to establish the rule of the people after the fall of Ershad.

The party therefore looks forward to the passage of bills for establishment of genuine parliamentary democracy, but it has noted with regret that the ruling party has tabled a bill about the form of government.

See Page 12 Col. 6

## Accountability vital for functioning of democracy: Khaleda

RAJSHAHI, Aug 3: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday emphasised the need for accountability at all levels of national life for effective functioning of democracy, reports BSS.

She was addressing the Deputy Commissioners, Superintendent of Police, officials of BDR, Customs and Excise of Rajshahi division at Zila Parishad conference room, here.

State Minister for LGRD and cooperatives Kabir Hossain, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Md Shahjahan Minu, Home Secretary Lutfullah Majid and Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi M A Habibullah, also spoke on the occasion.

The overall law and order situation, smuggling across the border and prices of essentials were also reviewed at the meeting which lasted more than three hours.

She said that after a long struggle a democratic government had been established in the country. "Democracy could function properly and be strengthened further if accountability was ensured," she said.

Begum Zia said accountability of the government servants would help running the administration smoothly. She said the previous government had destroyed all the institutions, as a result the system had also collapsed.

The Prime Minister reminded officials that under a parliamentary system the government was answerable to the Jatiya Sangsad for all its actions.

Begum Zia urged the police officials to visit the outlying areas of the district to maintain law and order there. She said the criminals could not be friends of any political party. They should not be given indulgence by any quarter, she added.

Referring to smuggling, the Prime Minister said "if we cannot check smuggling the country's economy will be ruined."

She said that huge amount of goods procured through hard-earned foreign exchange were being smuggled out of the country.

On the question of law and order, the Prime Minister said it had deteriorated in the educational institutions, particularly in the universities. She said the students must tell the government about their problem.

See Page 12 Col. 6

## Sirajganj Govt College closed sine die

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 3: Authorities today declared Sirajganj Government College closed sine die after two days of violent clashes between the student fronts of BNP and Awami League, reports UNB.

College sources said an organisation had resorted to violence after defeat in the student union election on Thursday. JCD swept the polls.

Some 55 people have been injured in widespread clashes between the supporters of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (A-A) since Thursday, creating panic throughout the town.

Police arrested one Ilias Hossain with dagger at Duttabari road near the college.

Meanwhile, JCD supporters allegedly beat three BCL activists in front of the registry office at Mujib Sarak this morning.

Police seized a hockeystick and a 'kris' from the railway station area. JCD supporters allegedly left those when police chased them.

## Vote for passage of amendment bills in 2 days

By Staff Correspondent

Voting for the passage of the Constitution 11th and 12th amendment bills will take place in Parliament Monday.

But the Awami League is however, insisting on lengthy deliberations on the 12th amendment bill and as such the ruling party might consider allowing one more day for the debate on the bill. In that case both the bills will be simultaneously put to a vote by Tuesday at the latest.

Meanwhile a majority of the Awami League MPs in Parliament said that the constitution amendment bill providing for transition to a parliamentary form of government would be passed in the House and that the Awami League did not want to tag the Indemnity (repeal) bill to the passage of the 12th amendment bill.

See Page 12 Col. 1

## '12th Amendment Bill aims to institutionalise democracy'

By Staff Correspondent

Members taking part in a discussion on the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill in parliament yesterday said that the Bill aimed at institutionalising democracy through a parliamentary form of government.

They also said that the Bill was placed in parliament by the Select Committee after differences were ironed out.

A total of nine members of the Opposition participated in the discussion that resumed yesterday with Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in the chair.

Ganotantri Party leader

See Page 12 Col. 3

## CPB to vote for passage of 12th Amendment Bill

By Staff Correspondent

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Saturday said that it would vote for the Constitution 11th and the 12th Amendment Bills in Parliament.

In a statement the central secretariat of the party said that tagging the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill to the passage of the parliamentary democracy bill would be suicidal.

It also urged the ruling BNP

See Page 12 Col. 5

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