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The Daily Star

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 বাংলাদেশ শান্তি কমিটি ও দেশসেবা
 মহিলা কমিটি
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 English selectors have recalled Ian Botham for the final Test against West Indies. Page 10

NEWS BRIEFS
All AL MPs asked to be present in JS
 The Chief Whip of the Opposition, Mohammed Nasim, has requested all Awami League members in the Sangsad to attend the sittings of the current Sangsad timely considering its importance, remain present in the House throughout the sitting, reports BSS.

Bus strike
 SHERPUR, Aug 4: Bus communication to and from the town remained snapped today following an indefinite strike called by the local Sarak Parbahana Samity.
Comoros Supreme Court President held
 MORONI, Aug 4: Comoros President Said Mohammed Djohar today announced the arrest of the island republic's Supreme Court President, one day after the court impeached him.

Pandemonium in parliament: Speaker says most unfortunate, pledges inquiry

AL MP waves shoes in House

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) literally went wild for about 20 minutes on Sunday following the waving of shoes at the Treasury Bench by an Awami League member.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas trying hard to control the situation finally chose to adjourn the chaotic House for the Magreb prayers about fifteen minutes ahead of time.

None could imagine even five minutes before, that an otherwise tranquil House, hearing general discussion on the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill, would turn so unruly.

Awami League member Sultanul Kabir Chowdhury chose to take shoes off his feet and point those at the Treasury Bench as some MPs there were shouting to protest against some remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina had taken the floor to clarify that a certain news agency and a section of the press were out to tarnish her image by 'misreporting' her speech on Saturday. In the course of her speech she alleged that all those things looked like 'a set game' since the Prime Minister saw the President, in the night the news was creeded, to state that obstacles were being created in the way of passage of the Constitution Amendment Bills.

At one stage the Leader of the Opposition said that her party had raised voice against the killing of President Zia, and the handing over of power



Striking government employees held a rally inside the Secretariat Sunday demanding immediate announcement of the Pay Commission report. — Star photo

Hasina wants more time to discuss amendment bills

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina on Sunday called for allowing more time for further democratization of the Constitution amendment bills through a detailed discussion.

She said that the plea of a time constraint to pass the bills speedily was not justice because none was thinking in terms on the holding of a presidential election. All of us have decided to revert to a parliamentary system', she said.

She said just as by-elections in 11 Jatiya Sangsad constituencies could be deferred, the presidential election could also be deferred, if need be.

She said that her stand on the Constitution amendment bills was being misinterpreted to malign me and vitiate the political atmosphere.

Such conspiracies could only create a congenial atmosphere for unholy forces, she said.

Taking the floor in the House yesterday on a point of clarification she castigated a section of the media including the national news agency BSS for what she said misquoting her speech and tarnishing her image in a subtle way.

She said that a conspiracy was being hatched there to

Indemnity repeal bill framed on miscalculation, experts say

By Moinuddin Naser

The notification by the Awami League in the form of an ordinary bill to the Parliament Secretariat for the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance of 1975 was framed on a gross miscalculation, constitutional experts said.

This has also raised questions about the sincerity of the Awami League leaders as to whether they really wanted to have the ordinance repealed.

Some of the experts opined that an ordinary bill is supposed to be passed by only a simple majority of the Parliament members. But the Indemnity Ordinance was made part of the Constitution through the Fifth Amendment

Govt employees observe day-long strike

By Staff Correspondent

Government employees observed a full day nation-wide strike Sunday to press home their three-point charter of demand including announcement and implementation of the Pay Commission report.

Jointly called by the Bangladesh Government Employees Solidarity Council and the Bangladesh Government Employees Coordinating Council, the work stoppage of class III and IV employees was backed by about 150 other unions and associations of government employees throughout the country.

Later at an evening rally, the parishad also announced the government employees would begin a one-hour work stoppage from 11 am daily from today till August 10 when a new action programme would be thrown.

The total number of class III and IV government employees are about 6.5 lakh.

During the day the class three and class four government employees in all offices including the Secretariat, President's secretariat, hospitals except emergency services, Planning Commission, External Resource Division and the Agriculture Extension Centre completely abstained from work.

Clerical staff of the Railway department, Dhaka Collectorate, Judges Court, Supreme Court and High Court also abstained from work.

At the Secretariat, meetings and demonstration were held



A group of Ansar and VDP members presenting cultural show on a floating stage at Shafipur Ansar Academy compound Sunday. — Star photo

JP leaders allowed to meet detained MPs

By Staff Correspondent

The Government has agreed to allow the Jatiya Party leaders to meet the detained JP MPs, according to a reliable source.

Earlier, Jatiya Party leaders demanded of the Government to allow them to discuss with the detained JP MPs the party stand on the constitution amendment bills and bring them to parliament to vote.

According to the source, the JP leaders will first meet the JP MPs other than deposed President Ershad in the

Population to be turned into working force: PM

SHAFIPUR (Gazipur), Aug 4: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said here the present government wants to turn the country's vast population into a working force to build a self-reliant motherland, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister told this while addressing a gathering of Ansars and VDP members at the Ansar Academy Sunday.

The Prime Minister underlined the role of Ansar and VDP personnel in implementing the priority national development programmes successfully.

She said it was necessary to strengthen the activities of Ansars and VDP at the grass-roots level both in city and rural areas for successful implementation of the priority programmes including removal of illiteracy, checking baby boom and improving public health-care services.

The function was organised to mark the conclusion of five foundation training courses of different level of Ansar and VDP personnel. Home Secretary Mohammad Lutfulahil Majid and Director General of Ansar and VDP Maj

Ershad chats with Moudud in Special Court

'Value of recovered items exaggerated'

By Staff Correspondent

Haque and Yousof Hossain Humayun who suggested that the money was kept in the Sena Bhavan to purchase an office for the Jatiya Party.

However, the prosecution witness who corroborated the statement of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Azizul Haque Bhuiyan denied the suggestions of the Defence lawyers.

As he sat in the dock Ershad chatted with Barrister Moudud Ahmed who yesterday attended the Special Court as a Defence lawyer for the first time.

Ershad seemed relaxed and was smiling throughout the proceedings that started at 10:30 am and ended at 1:30 pm.

The Prosecution was led by the Attorney General Aminul Haque and assisted by Deputy Attorney Generals Hasan Arif and Anwarul Kabir Chowdhury, Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzak Khan and APP Fariduddin Ahmed.

The Defence was led by Advocate Sirajul Haque and assisted by Barrister Moudud Ahmed, T I M Fazle Rabbi.

BSS stands by report on Hasina's speech

The Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Sunday in a clarification to the allegation by the Leader of Opposition and Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina about misreporting her speech in a function Friday at the WAPDA auditorium in Dhaka said it checked up with the staff reporter who had covered the function, report the agencies.

An enquiry was made with the staff reporter who said he had covered the speech of the Leader of the Opposition objectively. The notes on the speech taken by him were also checked up.

Hundreds held as Benazir leads hunger strike

ISLAMABAD, Aug 4: Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who led an unprecedented daylong hunger strike by the Pakistan opposition here today, said she wanted a peaceful change of government in the country, reports AFP.

While Bhutto was fasting in front of the parliament here, party sources said police arrested hundreds of activists of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in her home province of Sindh.

"We would like to bring change as peacefully as we can," she stressed, rejecting the nine-month-old government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as "unrepresentative."

She also lashed out at President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who sacked her one year ago on charges of mismanagement, saying that the 76-year-old leader has turned a blind eye to abuses of power by her successor.

Talking to AFP at her camp packed with several thousand participants, she said, "we have launched our campaign with a hunger strike and we will be slowly, slowly building up the tempo."

Clauses were reported in small towns of the troubled south where police used tear gas and charged pro-PPP crowds with batons.

The strike in major cities was jointly sponsored by leaders of the four-party People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), headed by Bhutto, to press a demand to revoke last month's constitution amendment introducing measures aimed at curbing lawlessness.

A surge in crime recently spread from Bhutto's own Sindh province and engulfed the populous Punjab, spreading panic and forcing Sharif to cancel a trip to Japan and Hong Kong in early July.

Besides allegations of abuse of power, the situation in Sindh was cited as the root cause of the dismissal of Bhutto's 20-month-old government.

Bhutto, 38, calling the new rules "black laws," has said the amassing of extraordinary judicial powers by the federal government was tantamount to imposing "civil martial law" in the country.

The 12th amendment in the country's 1973 constitution, passed by parliament without debate last month, curtails the power of superior courts to intervene in criminal cases, which will now be decided by special courts.

The new laws authorize sentences ranging from imprisonment to death for crimes such as banditry, kidnapping for ransom and terrorism.

Under the new laws, Islamabad can declare any district a "terrorist-prone area" and, withdrawing provincial control over law and order, it can despatch troops to the areas.

Bhutto said the strike was staged to protest victimisation of PPP workers in Sindh and voiced anguish over repression unleashed against political opponents.

"The country is suffering under this unrepresentative government which has torn the constitution," the former premier said.

Analysis

Political atmosphere becomes tense

By Staff Correspondent

The waving of shoes by an Awami League MP marred the cordial atmosphere in Parliament Sunday.

The incident vitiated the political scene at a time when the nation was eagerly awaiting the switching over to a parliamentary form of government.

In full view of the packed House Sultanul Kabir Chowdhury MP from Banshkhali in Chittagong waved his shoes at the Treasury Bench while Sheikh Hasina was making a statement on the floor.

Rising on a point of clarification Sheikh Hasina contradicted the BSS report that her party would resist the passage of 12th Amendment Bill.

While making the statement she made some comments which were retorted by the Treasury Bench members.

This might have enraged Sultanul Kabir.

The outrageous behaviour See Page 12 Col. 1

AL working body discusses political situation

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of the Awami League Working Committee was held Sunday with the party chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Held at the Bangabandhu Avenue central office of the party, the meeting discussed the latest political, economic, law and order situation of the country as well as organisational matters.

Members of the committee and AL MPs attended the meeting. The meeting is adjourned till 2 pm today.

Meanwhile, an Awami League branch has been formed in Tokyo of Japan recently with Kazi Mahfuzul Haq Lal as its convener, said a press release. The newly formed AL unit has taken up a programme to observe the 16th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Stay order on implementation of Wage Board award vacated

A Division Bench of the High Court Division Sunday vacated the order of stay on the implementation of the Fourth Wage Board award, which was granted on July 15 for three weeks on a writ petition, filed jointly by the five newspaper managements, reports BSS.

The bench comprises Justice M Abdul Jalil and Justice M Badruzzaman.

Zalrul Abedin, the counsel, on behalf of the petitioners — the Sangbad Limited, the Khabar Group of Publications Limited and the Ittefaq Group of Publications — Sunday prayed before the court to vacate the order of stay.

After hearing the parties the court vacated the order of stay and fixed the next date for hearing on October 27.

A R Yusuf and Sk Habib-ul-Alam, appeared for the journalists, press workers and newspaper employees federations while Syed JR Modasser See Page 12 Col. 4

Dollar seizure at ZIA: Police sue customs men for embezzlement

By Staff Correspondent

Police on Sunday filed cases against 13 customs officials of the Zia International Airport Surveillance Unit on charge of misappropriation of US dollar 45,000 from a seizure made at the airport in July last, according to Cantonment police.

Cantonment police said the 13 customs officials were charged with sections 409 and 323/34 of the Bangladesh Penal Code read with Section 16 of Special Powers Act 1974, under the 1947 (2) Anti-Corruption Act.

It may be mentioned that in one of the biggest currency seizures, customs officials at the Zia International Airport See Page 12 Col. 5