

Haj applicants have to deposit Tk 78,900 each

The government has approved the Haj Policy for 1992, which will allow all applicants to travel to Saudi Arabia to perform the holy pilgrimage provided they are medically fit and all their papers are found valid, reports UNB.

An official handout Saturday said all pilgrims will be sent to Saudi Arabia by plane under government supervision.

The Haj will be held on June 10 subject to sighting of the moon.

Each Haj applicant will have to deposit Tk 78,900 which is subject to marginal adjustments later on. The amount includes Tk 40,000 as airfare with royalty, Tk 2,000 foreign travel tax, Tk 200 terminal fee, Tk 25 for pilgrim pass and cost of 'Ahkumul Haj' book and Tk 36,675 against foreign exchange allocation of 3,500 Saudi Riyal.

Besides the compulsory 3,500 Saudi Riyal, a Haj pilgrim will be entitled to buy 550 US dollars from scheduled banks at the IP rate. All pilgrims are advised to carry some US dollars with them during the pilgrimage, the handout said.

Women applicants will have to submit application for Haj along with their 'mohrem' in the same envelope. There will be no quota system for the applicants of 'Haj-e-Badal'. Those who performed Haj earlier will not be eligible for regular Haj except 'Haj-e-Badal' or with 'mohrem'.

Bangladesh Bank will take necessary measures for the non-balotee Haj pilgrims. In respect of non-balotee pilgrims, Himan Bangladesh air-

lines and the Saudi Arabian Airlines will contact with the Bangladesh Bank. The non-balotee pilgrims will have to carry with them 600 dollars and their confirmed date of return must be mentioned in the airticket.

The government will arrange houses only for those who intend to stay at rented houses at Makkah. Others could make their own arrangements.

The application forms for Haj will be available free of cost at all scheduled banks, offices of the Deputy Commissioners and at the Mirpur Haj Office in the city.

The last date for submission of Haj application is February 15. The applicants will have to deposit the amount mentioned earlier at any scheduled banks and submit applications along with the receipt of the money to the Deputy Commissioner's offices by February 15 (Saturday).

The pilgrims will have to report to their respective district medical board on February 16 for their medical test.

Pilgrims will not be allowed to carry foodstuff, tobacco, betel leaf and betel nut, khattha (catechu) or any contraband including drugs.

All pilgrims will have to report to the temporary Haj camp at the premises of former Islam University at Gazipur four to five days before their departure for Saudi Arabia.

Pilgrim Pass will be issued by the Haj Office to those who intend to perform Haj under government management.



Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A) brought out a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of its 44th founding day. — Star photo

Consolidate democracy: Biswas

From Page 1 Col 5

tributes to the hero-martyrs of the great independence struggle and said the red sun in our national flag is coloured by their sacrifices.

He also paid homage to the architects of independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, the moulders of national unity—valiant freedom fighter Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq and Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy.

President Biswas recalled the people's movement against autocracy and said its main objective was to consolidate the victory and give an institutional shape to our desired democracy.

President Biswas recalled the contribution of the Acting President of the Interim Government, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, to the transition to democracy and said he (Ahmed) had played a historic role in the process of transferring power to the elected public representatives in the critical juncture of the nation.

He said the present government is an accountable government and added establishing complete control over the government by parliament is the guarantee of an accountable and transparent administration.

Lauding the performance of the present government, President Biswas said the disaster management of the government in the wake of devastating cyclone and tidal surge of April 29 last year had received unprecedented international acclamation and recognition.

President Biswas said a new dimension had been added to the country's foreign policy with the installation of a democratic government.

Bangladesh delegations under the leadership of Prime Minister had played bold and active roles in the Commonwealth Summit, OIC summit and in the just concluded SAARC summit, he said.

He said a number of Bangladesh proposals on world peace and prosperity had been spontaneously accepted in

these summits.

President Biswas said the present government had inherited a ruined economy from the autocracy. Owing to nine years' widespread corruption and faulty management, the wastage increased resulting in losses of an estimate Taka 9000 crore and making the financial institutions bankrupt.

The present government, he said, had issued bonds of Taka 1,737 crore for restructuring the capital of the nationalised banks to rescue the financial institutions.

He said the allocation in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) is 22 per cent higher this year than that of the revised ADP of last year.

He said the target of revenue collection from the taxes under the National Board of Revenue during five months till November 1991 was Taka 2,504 crore. In the meantime, Taka 2,502 crore has been realised, he added.

On agriculture and food, he said the main objective of the government is to make the country self-sufficient in food rapidly. During the current year, the target of the production is 2.05 crore tonnes.

On industrial policy, the President said the industrial approval process has been made easier. An encouraging response is being received from the foreign entrepreneurs to invest capital in the private sector, he added.

He said a total of 1,602 industrial projects involving Taka 678 crore have been approved and registered in the private sector during the last nine months.

The number of foreign investors is 23, he said adding besides, 145 projects-proposals with an estimated investment of Taka 255.63 crore are now under process in the Board of Investment and banks.

President Biswas said the country's export target has been estimated at US dollar 215 crore in 1991-92 and 269 crore dollar in 1992-93.

In the energy sector, the president said power supply has been extended to more than 200 upazilas under the Rural Electrification Board.

President Biswas said the government had approved two Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) projects at a cost of Taka 267 crore for setting up an LPG network.

On education, the president said the government had given the highest priority to this sector by allocating Taka 1255 crore in the current fiscal year. He said compulsory primary education has been introduced from January this year.

The President recalled the canal digging programme initiated by Shaheed President Zia in 1977 and said its objective was to inspire people to build the country through voluntary work.

President Biswas said an estimated Taka 627 crore was allocated in the revised Annual Development Programme for irrigation, water development and flood control last year. About Taka 800 crore has been sanctioned in the current fiscal year.

On communication system, he said a realistic plan has been undertaken and an amount of Taka 423 crore has been earmarked for road development.

President Biswas said the government has a plan for adding 60,000 more telecom lines in the greater Dhaka.

President Biswas also spoke on the adverse effects of smuggling on the national economy and said the government has initiated a coordinated and all-out programme on water, land and river routes to curb smuggling.

On Upazila system, he said the government abolished it because of widespread mismanagement and misuse of national money and constituted a high-powered commission to formulate recommendations for overall reconstitution of local government system.

President Biswas praised the country's armed forces and said the members of the armed forces have repeatedly shown their patriotism, dutyfulness and responsibility by standing beside the distressed humanity during natural calamities.

BCL factions observe founding

By DU Correspondent

Various factions of the Chhatra League observed their 44th founding anniversary yesterday (Saturday) through hoisting flags, processions and rallies in the city.

Chhatra League (S-A) members gathered at the Kendria Shaheed Minar at about 11 am and brought out a procession that paraded the city streets and ended at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue with a rally, presided by Asim Kumar Ukil, General Secretary, BCL (S-A).

The BCL (S-A) will also hold a re-union and discussion meeting January 9 at the TSC road island at 3 pm.

The JSD (Inu) backed Chhatra League (N-S) observed its 44th founding anniversary through the hoisting of flags at its central office at Badaka Bhaban in the morning and later gathered at Modhu's Canteen at the DU and laid wreaths in the Kendria Shaheed Minar.

BCL (N-S) also held a rally at the Shaheed Minar that was addressed by its President Nazmul Haque Prodhan and General Secretary Shafiq Ahmed.

BCL (N-S) leaders said that democracy had no value without the economic emancipation of the labourers and the farmers.

Yesterday, was the first day of the three-day series of programmes. BCL (N-S) will gather and hold a rally at the 'Aparajeyo Bangla' in the Dhaka University at 10 am January 6.

Zaher Shah meets Pak Army Chief

By Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD, Jan 4: Former Afghan king Zaher Shah, exiled in Italy since his 1973 ouster, has held a meeting in Rome with Pakistan Army Chief General Asif Nawaz, press reports here said today, reports AFP.

The English-language daily The News said the meeting took place Thursday in the Italian capital.

The Midnight File

Ferry disaster: 46 feared drowned in W Bengal

NEW DELHI, Jan 4: At least 46 people were missing and feared drowned after ferry boat capsized in India's eastern state of West Bengal, the United News of India said today. Five bodies have been recovered, the news agency said. It said 20 passengers were rescued after the boat sank near Sugar Island in the Bay of Bengal, reports Reuter.

Papandreou's trial ends: Verdict on Jan 16

ATHENS, Jan 4: The 10-month trial of former Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, charged with complicity in a 200-million dollar bank scandal, ended today and the court said it would announce its verdict on January 16. Papandreou, Prime Minister from 1981 to 1989, was charged in September 1989 by the Greek Parliament with accepting 90 million drachmas (490,000 dollars) in bribes from the Bank of Crete's former owner George Koskotas, reports Reuter.

Maoists blow up statue of Indira Gandhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 4: Radicals suspected to belong to a local Maoist group blew up a statue of late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, the Press Trust of India reported today. The statue, a bust of the former Premier which had recently been unveiled near a court complex in Ranga Reddy district, was blown off its pedestal Friday, the agency said.

Moynihan hands over Bush's letter to Rao

NEW DELHI, Jan 4: US Senator Daniel Moynihan met Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao here today and delivered a letter from President George Bush. In the letter, Bush voiced Washington's desire to 'work together and deepen' relations with New Delhi, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, reports AFP.

Seen from the gallery

From Page 1 Col 4

nothing in Article 73 makes any reference to the system of government. Whatever it might have meant earlier, under the present circumstances it means that the President will address the House as the titular head. Maudud was really on very thin ice, to say the least. The AL's reason for boycotting

was that the speech of the President was blatantly partisan which is not acceptable from the Head of State. Under a parliamentary system the President is supposed to maintain a position above partisan politics. This President Biswas did not do in his speech, the AL claimed.

The point where both the AL and the JP seemed to have a joint ground for the boycott, was on the question of the Presidential Ordinance that abolished the Upazila system, bypassing the Parliament. By doing this the President deprived the House of its right to debate important policies before they are put into practice.

The other issue that generated some heated arguments dealt with the question of Goleam Azam's assuming the de jure leadership of his party, while he continues to be a citizen of Pakistan not having yet been given Bangladesh citizenship.

The Constitution provides that to form political parties one has to be a citizen of the country. The Speaker defused the issue by ruling that he would consider this point on the 8th of January when the House reconvenes.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

nothing in Article 73 makes any reference to the system of government. Whatever it might have meant earlier, under the present circumstances it means that the President will address the House as the titular head. Maudud was really on very thin ice, to say the least. The AL's reason for boycotting

was that the speech of the President was blatantly partisan which is not acceptable from the Head of State. Under a parliamentary system the President is supposed to maintain a position above partisan politics. This President Biswas did not do in his speech, the AL claimed.

The point where both the AL and the JP seemed to have a joint ground for the boycott, was on the question of the Presidential Ordinance that abolished the Upazila system, bypassing the Parliament. By doing this the President deprived the House of its right to debate important policies before they are put into practice.

The other issue that generated some heated arguments dealt with the question of Goleam Azam's assuming the de jure leadership of his party, while he continues to be a citizen of Pakistan not having yet been given Bangladesh citizenship.

The Constitution provides that to form political parties one has to be a citizen of the country. The Speaker defused the issue by ruling that he would consider this point on the 8th of January when the House reconvenes.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

The government should use this time to prepare some acceptable answers. The government is law-bound to monitor the activities of foreign national and take appropriate action especially when they start indulging in politics.

Police have big role

From Page 1 Col 8

the police have increased a lot in democratic atmosphere', she told them.

The Prime Minister said the objective and ideal of the great Liberation War was to establish democratic social system in the country. We have achieved democracy after a relentless struggle against the autocratic regime for nine years, she said.

She said we have to come forward with same zeal and spirit to build up the nation afresh as we had embarked upon the Liberation War and subsequently in the democratic movement.

Begum Zia called upon all people irrespective of shade and opinion to work together

to help resist corruption, terrorism and erosion of social values.

She said Rajarbagh Police Line was memorable in our history of Liberation War and it remind a glorious milestone of heroism of the police forces. She said heroic armed resistance was started in Rajarbagh during the 1971 struggle.

The Prime Minister said, not only in Rajarbagh the valiant members of the police force from all over the country took part in the Liberation War and sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the motherland. Their sacrifice has created a golden chapter in the history of our Liberation War, she said.

Obituary references

By Staff Correspondent

Obituary references of eleven eminent personalities of the country who died since the last session of the House were adopted today at the first sitting of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) winter session.

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali moved the obituary references which were unanimously adopted by the House. The House also observed one-minute silence in honour to the departed souls and offered munajat led by Ataur Rahman Khan of BNP.

The obituary references were made for the following persons: Former Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan, former Vice-President Dr M N Huda, ex-Chief Justice of the erstwhile East Pakistan High Court, Amin Ahmed and B A Siddiqi, former Minister S M Shafiqul Islam, former MP's Abdur Rashid Biswas and Prof Mofizul Islam, former member of the National Assembly Ali Amjad Khan, former members of the then provincial assembly Advocate Shamsur Rahman and Alhaj Moulvi Abdul Halim and former Justice of the Supreme Court Ranadheer Sen.

The Speaker advised the members concerned who proposed for inclusion of names of some other important persons who died since the last session, to send those names to the parliament secretariat.

Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali of the Awami League proposed names of former Secretary Ahmed Fazlur Rahman while Tofael Ahmed of the same party named former member of the then Provincial Assembly Ismail Hossain Talukder.

Referring to a proposal by the Awami League member Abul Hassan Choudhury to record obituary reference for those members of the BDR who were killed by the Burmese troops, the Speaker said that the House would consider the proposal.

Strike at CU

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 4: The Chittagong University unit of the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) today called a strike for an indefinite period protesting the recent removal of Dr. Alamgir Mohammad Strajuddin as Vice-Chancellor.

No class was held today. The Chittagong University-bound shuttle train was blocked by APSU supporters at the Chittagong Railway Station and they also barricaded the rail tracks near the university.

The APSU placed six demands including the withdrawal of the removal order of Dr. Strajuddin, expulsion of 63 alleged terrorists held responsible for the December '90 incident in which one student was killed and another 100 were injured and the arrest of the alleged killers of Faruk.

The President as constitutional Head of State should rise above partisanship. But today he made a speech which is actually the subject of the Prime minister," Samad Azad complained.

The AL's one more complaint against the speech was that the President, paying tributes to the past national leaders, mentioned late President Ziaur Rahman before Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In his speech the President said, "I also remember the architects of independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, the moulders of our national entity—valiant freedom fighter Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq and Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy."

Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed in another Press briefing said the promulgation of certain ordinances, including the one on abolishing the Upazila system, was undemocratic.

The Jatiya Party MPs made two walk-outs, first one briefly against the placing of the ordinances which were decreed since the last session of parliament.

Neither AL nor JP returned to the House whose business for the day was adjourned at 1-50 pm by Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali at the end of the President's speech.

The winter session, which will resume on Jan 8, at 3 pm is expected to take up the controversial issue of Prof.

AL, JP stage walkouts

From Page 1 Col 5

enrment. The President as constitutional Head of State should rise above partisanship. But today he made a speech which is actually the subject of the Prime minister," Samad Azad complained.

The AL's one more complaint against the speech was that the President, paying tributes to the past national leaders, mentioned late President Ziaur Rahman before Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In his speech the President said, "I also remember the architects of independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh, the moulders of our national entity—valiant freedom fighter Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq and Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy."

Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed in another Press briefing said the promulgation of certain ordinances, including the one on abolishing the Upazila system, was undemocratic.

The Jatiya Party MPs made two walk-outs, first one briefly against the placing of the ordinances which were decreed since the last session of parliament.

Neither AL nor JP returned to the House whose business for the day was adjourned at 1-50 pm by Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali at the end of the President's speech.

The winter session, which will resume on Jan 8, at 3 pm is expected to take up the controversial issue of Prof.

Goleam Azam, who was last week elected Ameer of Jamaat despite his losing Bangladesh citizenship for his anti-liberation role in 1971.

Rising on point of order AL MPs Sheikh Selim and Col.(Ret'd) Shawkat Ali raised the issue of Goleam Azam and demanded a discussion on him and his activities in Bangladesh. The Speaker said this could be taken up on January 8.

But before this assurance came, more than a dozen opposition members, including Tofael Ahmed, Sudhansu Shekhar Halder, Salahuddin Yusuf, SM Firoz of Awami League, Rashed Khan Memon (Workers Party) Shamsudoha (CPB) and Maj. (ret'd) Hafiz (Independent) were on their feet to support Sheikh Selim who first raised the issue.

Citing the privilege of members, Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim pressed the button of his microphone and said Information Minister Nazmul Huda violated the privilege of the house by making certain remarks about the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill.

The Information Minister is on the 15-member Special Parliamentary Committee headed by Law Minister Mirza Hafiz, which is considering if the bill brought by Mohammad Nasim five months ago can be introduced in the House as a bill or not. The committee, headed by Law Minister Mirza Goleam Hafiz, is scheduled to finalise its report by January 14.

Mohammad Nasim, referring to some press remarks of

the Information Minister about the bill, wondered how a member of the committee could speak about it outside Parliament when the matter was still under consideration of the Parliamentary committee. On several occasions Nazmul Huda told the Press that the ruling BNP saw the bill as redundant.

Nazmul Huda defended himself by saying that there was nothing wrong in his remarks. "What I told journalists is that the bill is redundant and we cannot help Awami League members who did not help themselves with regard to the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the past." He said Awami League even failed to file a single FIR against the killing.