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**Inside Today**

**Article**

**Not Even Pretence of Consensus**  
By Kuldip Nayar  
Page 4

**International**



**Hollywood's film star Audrey Hepburn presents a general view of her career and her life at Munich's cultural centre Crasteig**

**Thai parliament dissolved to pave way for Sept 13 polls**  
Page 5

**Business**

**ESCAP nations agree on regional industrial development strategy**  
Page 6

**Supplements**

**Tree planting campaign '92 on Pages 10, 11**  
**Canada Day on Pages 8, 9**

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**Hospital Garbage — A Deadly Menace**  
Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Biswas assents to 3 bills**

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Tuesday assented to three bills passed by the parliament during the current session. The bills are 'the Appropriation (Supplementary) Bill: 1992', 'the Appropriation (Vote on Account), Bill, 1992 and Finance Bill, 1992', reports BSS.

**AL PP meet today**

A meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Party will be held today at 3.30 pm at the Jatiya Sangsad conference room of the Leader of the Opposition in parliament with Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim has requested all party MPs to attend the meeting, reports UNB.

**Muharram moon may sight today**

The Muharram moon is expected to be sighted today, an Islamic Foundation press release said in Dhaka yesterday. A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee will be held today at 7.30 pm at the conference room of the Foundation with Religious Affairs Minister Prof M A Mannan in the chair to confirm the sighting of the moon, reports BSS.

**Railway earns Tk 230.20 cr**

Bangladesh Railway earned Tk 230.20 crore during the first 11 months of fiscal 1991-92. Replying to a question, Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed told parliament yesterday that the amount is Tk 23.57 crore more than the earning of the corresponding period of fiscal 1990-91, reports UNB.

## Opposition joins JS session today

By Staff Correspondent

The boycotting Opposition finally announced yesterday that it would join parliament session today.

The decision, the outcome of an agreement signed between the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Opposition in the early hours Tuesday, was announced by Sheikh Hasina, leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

Briefing newsmen immediately after the adjournment of Tuesday's session of the House till 4 pm today, Hasina said "We consider it (the agreement) a great victory of the people. We also thank the government for its good sense although belated, in understanding the popular demands and the demands of the Opposition."

The Opposition chief further said that they boycotted the House to uphold the cause of the people and expressed the hope that the government would take necessary steps to implement the accord.

The press briefing was attended by Awami League (AL) leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, Ganatantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta, Five-Party Alliance leader Rashed Khan Menon, Shamsuddoha and Abdul Hafiz of Patriotic Democratic Front, Maulana Obaidullah of Islami Otkya Jote and Major (Rtd) Abdul Hafiz, an independent MP.

The decision by AL-led opposition did not include the Jatiya Party (JP) of former president Ershad.

The JP started its boycott a day before the Opposition but later joined the mainstream opposition. Its main demand is the release of Ershad, now in jail convicted to a 13-year term pending confirmation by higher courts.

The Opposition in Parliament, barring the Jamaat-e-Islami, was boycotting the current session since it was convened June 18

to discuss and approve the national budget for the current financial year.

The reason for the boycott was a four-point demand put forward by the Opposition which included: trial of Golam Azam under the International Crimes Act, 1973, dropping of charges against 24 sponsors of Gana Adalat, ensuring due honour to the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and extending democratic behaviour to the Opposition political parties.

The Opposition staged the first angry walkout during the last session of Parliament April 16, demanding trial of Golam Azam. Keeping the Opposition away, Parliament passed a resolution April 19 urging "constitutionally acceptable legal actions against non-citizen Golam Azam and speedy disposal of the same."

The Jamaat-e-Islami also walked out in protest against the resolution.

See Page 12 Col 1

## Budget to be amended if required, says Saifur

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said that the proposed budget for the current financial year 'would be amended and adjusted if required.'

Saifur made this observation in the morning session of the House while answering to notices given by members of the Opposition on the Finance Bill 1992. Barring members of the Jamaat-e-Islami, no one from the Opposition was there to discuss their notices asking public opinion on the Finance Bill.

Saifur in his turn said that there was no precedence of soliciting public opinion on a Finance Bill. He, however, added that the members of the House would get about three weeks' time to discuss the budget and added that suggestions to amend and change some of the proposals would be considered.

Expressing the hope he said, with the participation of boycotting members, the discussions would be lively, thus reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people.

## 'Tinbigha areas normal' Delhi's move to implement '74 accord 'fully'

CALCUTTA, June 30: Indian authorities have taken initiative to fully implement the 1974 Indo-Bangladesh agreement over the Tinbigha corridor, reports PTI.

The West Bengal Chief Secretary N Krishnamurthy told newsmen here today that a central team comprising secretaries of the Union Home and External Affairs Ministries were scheduled to arrive here next week to have discussions with the officials of the West Bengal government to discuss matters relating to 'full implementation' of the 1974 Indo-Bangladesh agreement.

The Chief Secretary said that the meeting would discuss mainly the exchange of enclaves between the two countries.

The adverse position of certain areas like Berubari

would be discussed at the meeting, Krishnamurthy said.

The Chief Secretary, who spoke to the Union Ministry in this regard today, said that the meeting would be held following an instruction received from Delhi 'to go ahead' in formulating measures for 'complete implementation' of the 1974 accord.

The outcome of the meeting would be conveyed to the External Affairs Ministry to take up the issue with the Bangladesh government to expedite implementation of the 'left out' portion of the accord at the earliest, he said.

The Chief Secretary said that since the West Bengal government was committed to implement the accord, all efforts would be taken to ensure uninterrupted movement of

See Page 12 Col 8

## Upazilas renamed thanas

The government has decided that all the upazilas in the country will be named as thanas and that the word 'upazila' after designation of the officials engaged at the upazila level will be replaced by the word 'thana', reports BSS.

According to an official handout issued Tuesday the word 'thana' will be used instead of the word 'upazila' in the laws, and regulations relating to upazila, government orders, circulars, directives, in the executive orders and in all matters constituted, directed, controlled and reserved or managed under the executive orders and under them.

The government has taken a decision to this effect since it deems it proper and necessary to change the name of upazila and other relating matters.

Meanwhile, the hearing of appeal against the verdict of the High Court Division on the promulgation for dissolution of the Upazila Parishad continued Tuesday before the Appellate

See Page 12 Col 7

## None held during JP programme

By Staff Correspondent

None was arrested Tuesday during the "court arrest" programme of the Jatiya Party although dozens of crackers were blasted when several hundred party activists gathered near Baitul Mokarram.

Several shops and a bank at the Bangabandhu Avenue came under attack of youngsters who created panic in the area.

A JP source alleged that government agents had hurled bombs on their procession but witnesses said that the trouble-makers were the participants in JP procession.

Several shots were also heard during the incident when a BRIC bus was also attacked by the group.

A JP leader said that five of the party supporters were injured during the incident. Police lobbed at least four tear gas shells to disperse the unruly crowds.

Later, the JP supporters thronged in front of the Press Club and held a rally which was addressed by Acting Party Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury. Parliamentary Party leader Moudud Ahmed, former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, party Secretary General Shah Moazzem Hossain, former Minister Strajul Hossain Khan, former Deputy

Minister Golam Sarwar and Monirul Huq MP.

At a stage when Moudud Ahmed offered himself for arrest at the meeting the JP workers started a commotion and shouted "Arrest us and free Ershad" but police standing a short distance away smiled at them and looked on.

The party organised the programme to mark the "release Ershad day."

The JP leaders reiterated their resolve to continue a non-violent movement to free their party chief deposed president IIM Ershad serving a 13-year prison term for possessing illegal weapons and amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income.

A number of other charges against Ershad were also being heard at the special tribunals.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury in his brief speech announced a week-long signature campaign beginning July 1 to press home the demand for Ershad's release.

Chowdhury claimed that 90 per cent of the people of the country wanted immediate release of Ershad but the BNP government was implicating him in 'false' cases one after the other.

See Page 12 Col 4



Jahanara Imam, Convenor, Ghatik Dalal Nirmul Committee addressing a rally in the city yesterday. —Star photo

## Nirmul Committee's fresh demands, programmes

By Staff Correspondent

The National Coordination Committee for the Realisation of the Spirit of the Liberation War and Resistance to the Killers and Collaborators of 1971 announced at a massive rally yesterday fresh programmes and put up new demands including the resignation of both the Home and Information ministers.

Jahanara Imam, the Convenor of the Committee, while announcing the fresh programmes and new demands, told the rally that the agreement signed between the government and the boycotting Opposition parliament members early Tuesday morning was the "people's victory as the government bowed down to their demands and signed the agreement fearing today's programme."

However, Imam called on all pro-Liberation forces to continue the movement with renewed vigour until the People's Court verdict on Golam Azam was fully implemented by the government.

Attended by thousands of slogan-chanting people from all walks of life, the rally was held in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh at around 4.30 pm.

In an impromptu decision the organisers held the rally instead of the scheduled

protest march towards parliament as the Jatiya Sangsad session had been adjourned earlier in the afternoon.

Earlier, scores of banner-holding processions marched from different parts of the city and gathered around the Shahbagh avenue.

Besides a few scattered incidents, nothing untoward was reported and the rally was generally held peacefully.

In one incident, a cracker coming along the Science Laboratory road from inside one of the residential halls of the Dhaka University.

A group of young men also pelted stones at the processionists from the roof-tops of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Ziaur Rahman halls.

The crowd also replied back in kind while a young man brandished a stungun at the crowd from inside one of the residential halls.

However, the incident did not proceed any further as the processionists soon left the scene to join the rally.

In a separate incident, people at the rally held three youths with a sack of explosives at the meeting venue.

They were severely beaten up and later handed over to the police along with the explosives.

Heavy contingents of police and BDR were posted at different points in the city. Police also placed barbed-wire barriers.

See Page 12 Col 4

## Implement tree plantation programme: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said that political commitment was necessary to make the national programme of tree plantation a success, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the national tree plantation week, the Prime Minister said environmental degradation was the greatest problem in today's world and Bangladesh was also a victim of the situation.

She said a vast population and poverty were the main reasons of environmental degradation. Widespread elimination of forest is destroying ecological balance and making adverse effect in the climate.

See Page 12 Col 6

## Finance Bill passed

The Finance Bill, 1992, as amended by the Jatiya Sangsad was adopted unanimously to give effect to the financial proposals of the government and to amend certain laws when the House resumed its sitting one hour delayed yesterday morning, reports BSS.

Piloted by the Finance Minister, M Saifur Rahman, the bill will come into force from the first day of next financial year (1992-93) beginning today.

The boycotting Opposition Awami League and its allies did not join the House during the passage of the Finance Bill.

Moved by Treasury Bench member from Tangail, Mohammad Abdus Salam

See Page 12 Col 2



Violence marks Jatiya Party's meeting in city yesterday.



—Star photo

## Malaysia flushes out illegal foreigners today

KUALA LUMPUR, June 30: At the break of dawn Wednesday, Malaysia will launch its most organised crackdown to flush out tens of thousands of illegal immigrant workers drawn to a booming economy in search of jobs, reports AFP.

As a seven-month government order for employers to register their illegal workers drew to a close Tuesday, enforcers were awaiting a directive from the authorities to

begin tracking down those who had missed the deadline. Malaysians were waiting with bated breath for the drama to unfold, described by officials as the largest enforcement campaign ever to be mounted against illegals and those harbouring them.

Deporting illegals and convicting their employers is not new in Malaysia, but the June 30 deadline was different. It marked the end of a grace period for those employ-

ing illegals in the domestic construction, plantation, manufacturing and service sectors to register them with the immigration authorities to legalise their stay.

The registration is aimed at offering the aliens temporary employment, subject to periodic review, in sectors with labour shortages. It is also to form a systematic structure of tax collection.

Authorities said it would help put an official number on

alien workers in the country and ease repatriation when necessary.

Illegals who missed the exercise are to be detained at seven temporary camps being set up at a cost of 10 million Malaysian dollars (4 million US) before they are deported.

Officials estimate the presence of about 400,000 illegals in the country, most of them Indonesians and Filipinos drawn to Malaysia's booming

See Page 12 Col 7

## Transport strike nears collapse

By Staff Correspondent

The indefinite transport strike virtually collapsed in Dhaka and in Chittagong while a meeting of the striking leaders with the Chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) failed to make formal announcement calling off the strike on Tuesday.

The bomb attacks on the passenger buses continued for the ninth day of strike Tuesday in which at least 10 people were injured. Five of them were hospitalised with acid burns and petrol bomb injuries, our DMCH correspondent reported.

Tuesday's negotiatory meeting at the office of the BRTA Chairman continued for about five hours attended by Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Abdur Rouf, Roy Romesh Chandra, Shahjahan Khan MP, Abdul Khaleq, Abdul Wadud Nayan

See Page 12 Col 6

## Dhaka official visits Rohingya villages

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

The Myanmar authorities recently allowed a Bangladesh consulate official to visit the places from where the Rohingyas have fled, responding to the latter's proposals.

Vice Consul H M Glasuddin based in Sittwe of Akyab visited the village in Rakhaine

See Page 12 Col 3

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