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## Khaleda returns : No headway in asset sharing

# Pakistan to take back 3000 stranded families by Dec

**By Staff Correspondent**

Pakistan has promised to start airlifting the first batch of its 2.88 lakh nationals stranded in Bangladesh by December this year.

A joint press statement, released simultaneously from Dhaka and Islamabad yesterday at the end of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's three-day visit to Pakistan, quoted Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as telling his Bangladesh counterpart that "the repatriation of the first batch of some 3000 families of stranded Pakistanis would commence by December 1992, on completion of the first phase of construction of housing facilities, for which funds were available."

Begum Zia returned home last night after visiting Bahrain and Pakistan for four days.

The whole repatriation process would take place in phases.

Sharif informed Begum Zia that Pakistan had begun building the housing settlements in Punjab province and stepped up campaign to raise the required funds, the joint press statement said.

The accord on the 21-year-old problem is being seen as a major breakthrough, but on the other major issue, division of assets and liabilities, nothing concrete came.

The statement said that the two Prime Ministers had "agreed to take steps through mutual consultations on an expeditious resolution of the problem."

The Prime Minister upon her arrival at the airport also evaded queries from newsmen on this issue but referred to the joint press statement.

The Prime Minister told reporters that she had discussed, with both Bahrain and Pakistan leaders, expansion of bilateral trade and commerce and setting up of joint ventures.

She said that Pakistan and Bangladesh agreed to set up separate special teams headed by commerce ministers and composed of officials and representatives of the private sector to suggest steps in this regard.

Begum Zia said that leaders of both the countries spoke of "direct communication" between the businessmen and industrialists.

Asked if she had met any opposition leader as she did during her India trip, Begum Zia replied in the negative, citing "time constraints".

**Text of the joint press statement on back page.**



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia speaking to newsmen last night at the Zia International Airport on return home after visiting Bahrain and Pakistan. — PID photo

## Open varsity bill: Sircar fails to admit mistake

**By Staff Correspondent**

Against the backdrop of heated arguments and counter arguments, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni yesterday adjourned discussions on the Open University Bill.

While opposition members criticised the faulty introduction of the Bill, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar failed to differentiate between a mistake and ego satisfaction.

The Bill was introduced on August 3 without any mention that it had the mandatory approval of the President. The lapse was raised Monday by opposition member Jubed Ali while discussing amendments to the Bill.

As the House resumed yesterday, Parliament Secretariat circulated a note among the members saying that the President consented to its introduction on July 21.

The opposition observed that as the Bill had no consent from the President it should be withdrawn. The Education Minister, went on arguing without conceding that it was a mistake.

Amnul Haq, State Minister for Law, tried to salvage his colleague by saying that "it was an open mistake" which could be corrected by the Speaker as per provisions in the Rules of Procedure.

But the Education Minister was in no mood to accept the explanation and went on arguing. He, however, added that he was ready to accept the ruling on the subject from the Chair.

The presiding Deputy Speaker then announced his decision to adjourn discussion on the subject saying that "time was required to give a ruling on it as it involved legal issues and interpretations".

The debate, lasting about two hours, featured arguments with pointed references to the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure and quotations from Kaul, an oft-quoted authority on parliamentary procedures.

UNB adds: Nearly a dozen opposition lawmakers raised their objections, alleging that Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar did not strictly follow the procedure in obtaining the prior approval of the President and submitting the copy of the certificate of the approval along with the Bill to Parliament Secretariat.

Deputy leader of the opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Sheikh Selim, Shudhangsu Shekhar Halder, Tofael Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Salauddin Qader Chowdhury, Advocate Fazle Rabbi, Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury and Rashed Khan Menon spoke against considering the Bill because of its procedural flaws.

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## Seen from the Gallery

**By Sabir Mustafa**  
**Education Minister**

Zamiruddin Sircar, native of Panchagarh but elected to Parliament from Mohammadpur-Dhanmandi in Dhaka, had that sinking feeling last night.

He struggled against high winds and heavy seas in his sailing-ship "the Bangladesh Open University Bill, 1992," whose sea-worthiness was questioned by more deckhands than was good for the captain.

Captain Sircar had expected a plain sailing no doubt, but the storm that blew up the day before kept growing stronger as he vainly tried to pilot a safe passage through the tricky waters of Sangsad Straits.

The storm subsided only after Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni cut the Open University ship adrift and Sircar sank without a trace, to be salvaged later.

Panni postponed discussions on the Bill after a plethora of Opposition members termed it "illegal" as it did not have presidential permission prior to being tabled, and requested its withdrawal and re-introduction at a later date.

Sircar protested, saying he had already obtained permission from the President on See Page 12 Col 7

## One of two judges delivers verdict

# Golam Azam's writ rejected

**By Staff Correspondent**

One of the two Judges of the High Court Division Bench Tuesday rejected the Writ petition on controversial Jamaat chief Golam Azam's claiming Bangladesh citizenship.

Justice Mohammad Ismailuddin Sarker, the senior Judge with Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury in the Dench, upheld the government order of 1973, stripping Golam Azam, the Amir of the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh of his citizenship.

"The rule is discharged... Golam Azam is guilty of laches," Justice Sarker said at 3:20 pm adding that "the principle of natural justice is applicable in Azam's case."

The other Judge Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury started delivering his judgement when the court adjourned for the day. Justice

Chowdhury expressed difference on material points with Justice Sarker's judgement. The Court resumes this morning (Wednesday).

The Writ petition challenging the government notification of April 18, 1973, was submitted in the Court last April. The court issued the rule on April 20, 1992.

The name of Golam Azam was placed in the third position on the list of 39 persons disqualified for Bangladesh citizenship for their collaboration with the Pakistan forces during the Liberation War.

Azam had stayed in Pakistan since November 22, 1971 and returned to Bangladesh on July 11, 1978 with a Pakistani passport on the plea to see his ailing mother. He registered with the airport authorities as a foreigner but later applied for Bangladesh citizenship.

Citizenship was not granted but he was elected Amir of Jamaat creating mass protests in the country. The authorities arrested him on March 24 this year for violating country's Foreigner's Act.

He is now detained in the Dhaka Central Jail.

Justice Sarker also rejected the petitioner's claim that government action against Azam was ultravires of the Constitution.

The Judge said that when a person becomes a victim due to government action or executive order, he (the victim) should come to the Court at the first opportunity. But in the case of Golam Azam, he did not do so, Justice Sarker added.

The Judge concluded his judgement after nearly 13 hours of dictation which started last Thursday. The hearing of the case was started July 19 and continued for 15 working days.

Attorneys and lawyers of both the Prosecution and the Defence were present during the delivering of the judgement.

Meanwhile, security in the court areas was beefed-up as had tension mounted before judgement in the much-talked-about case was delivered.

On Tuesday only the lawyers of the Supreme Court, High Court and newsmen were allowed to enter the Court areas.

A large number of Jamaat workers thronged the court areas to hear the judgement.

The judgement may be completed today (Wednesday) or tomorrow.

## Prison guards storm RMCH: Two hurt

**From Our Correspondent**

**RAJSHAHI, Aug 11:** Doctors across Rajshahi district late Monday launched a wildcat strike protesting assault on a doctor and ransacking of the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) by prison guards.

The strike for an indefinite period was called by the Rajshahi unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) after a RMCH doctor and a ward boy on duty were beaten by the guards of Rajshahi prison at about 11:30 pm Monday.

Two wards of the Hospital including the sensitive post-operative ward were also damaged when more than 100 jailguards stormed the hospital and beat the doctor and the boy with bamboos and furniture.

BMA secretary here said that the doctors of the district would not join their duties before the "sacking" of the Deputy Inspector General of Rajshahi prison and the guards involved in the incident.

He also resented inaction of the district administration in not taking prompt action during the incident.

Hundreds of patients were going back after finding the doctors abstaining from work. Only a few doctors were present in the emergency room.

At least two platoons of police were guarding the hospital, witnesses said.

Top prison officials said that they would take departmental action pending investigation against those involved in the ransacking.

Hospital sources said Dr Tofazzal Hossain, 38, an on-duty physician, was hospitalized. See Page 12 Col 6

## Debate on no-confidence motion today

**By Staff Correspondent**

Parliament resumes today at nine in the morning to discuss the no-confidence motion tabled against the Cabinet of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The House accepted the motion August 9 proposed by seven opposition parties. The Speaker, while commenting on the procedural flaws in the no-confidence motion notice, set August 12 for discussions.

According to sources, the discussion would continue for about 12 hours spreading upto three in the morning tomorrow. The Treasury bench and the Opposition have six hours each to discuss the motion.

Sources further said that some of the procedural formalities like whether the mover of the motion (in this case the Deputy Leader of the Opposition) would be given a See Page 12 Col 8

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Khaleda accorded reception**  
 LAHORE, Aug 11: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was accorded a colourful civic reception at the magnificent Shalimar Gardens here this afternoon by the mayor of Lahore Municipal Corporation. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia thanked the mayor for the civic reception and a precious gift — the key of this historic city. She was thankful to Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for his gracious presence on the joyous occasion, reports BSS.

**DUJ observes 3-hr strike**  
 Three hours work-stoppage was observed in all newspapers and news agencies in Dhaka from 11 am yesterday demanding the reinstatement and protesting against the termination of Executive Editor of the weekly Bichitra Shahriar Kabir, reports BSS.

**UNB-ANSA accord**  
 United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associate (ANSA) of Italy have signed an agreement on cooperation and exchanging news between the two agencies. Director General of ANSA Alfredo Roma and UNB Managing Director and Chief Editor Enayetullah Khan initialled the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations, reports UNB.

## Plan to recast hospital boards with MPs at head

**By Masud Hasan Khan**

The government is planning to set up management boards involving members of parliament (MPs), NGOs, and the elite to ensure smooth running of state-owned hospitals and clinics, officials said Tuesday.

The boards would be formed to deal with organisational and management problems at the district hospitals and health clinics at the thana level, they said.

Health Ministry officials said that the proposal to set up the boards had already been drafted and that copies would soon be sent to the MPs.

The hospital and health clinic management boards would be finalised after the MPs okayed the draft and

## Rohingya repatriation Dhaka-Yangon talks Aug 22

**By Farid Hossain**

In continued efforts to start the stalled repatriation of 265,000 Rohingya refugees, Bangladesh and Myanmar officials will meet again on Aug 22, the eighth round of talks since the two countries signed a repatriation pact in April this year.

Official sources said Myanmar would send a 15-member delegation for the talks scheduled in Cox's Bazar town.

The sources did not give details, but said Myanmar confirmed its participation in the meeting on Tuesday.

It is still undecided if the Myanmar officials will fly directly to Cox's Bazar by helicopter or arrive in Teknaf and See Page 12 Col 7

## Time has come to resist killers, says Hasina

Sheikh Hasina Tuesday urged the people to make a success of the countrywide half-day hartal on August 15 and register their protest against the self-confessed killers, black laws and injustice to ensure democracy and rule of law, reports UNB.

"We will no longer shed tears or observe August 15 through floral tributes or religious rites... Time has come to stand up to resist the killers and save democracy for peace and development," she said.

The Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in parliament was addressing an extended meeting of the Dhaka city unit of the party at its central office this evening.

"The self-confessed killers of the father of the nation must be tried so that none can ever dare to oust a government by dint of guns," Hasina said.

The meeting was organised to gear up campaign for making the hartal a success on Saturday. The day is also observed by Awami League as national mourning day commemorating the brutal killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, members of his family and some of his relatives.

Presided over by Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Abdus Samad Azad, Amir Hossain Amu, Mirza Sultan Raza, Mozaffar Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Sahara Khatun, Abdul Aziz and Akhtarul Islam.

Calling for scrapping of the Indemnity Ordinance, Hasina said the ruling BNP betrayed with its promise

## Montu-backed BCL opposes Aug 15 hartal

Chhatra League Montu faction yesterday opposed the Awami League call for hartal on August 15 and urged the government to declare it as national mourning day, reports UNB.

"We'll not abide by the hartal call because the day is only for mourning the loss of our great leader, Bangabandhu, killed barbarically," said a leader of the dissident group.

Mizanur Rahman Azad was addressing a rally organised on the Dhaka University campus by BCL (Azad-Loni), backed by the expelled AL leader Mostafa Mohsin Montu.

The rally demanding immediate release of Mainuddin, a leader of the faction, was also addressed by Mahfuzur Rahman Ripon, Shahiduzzaman See Page 12 Col 3

# Bush okays \$ 10b in loan guarantees to Israel

**KENNEBUNKPORT (Maine), Aug 11:** President Bush announced his approval Tuesday of up to dollars 10 billion in loan guarantees that Israel has long sought to help settle a flood of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, reports AP.

The President said he would "recommence enthusiastically" acceptance of the guarantees by Congress, which has the final say.

At a news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Bush said he expected to submit the legislation later in the day. He said the guaran-

tees, long a sticking point between the two nations, "can make a critical contribution to Israel's future."

Bush also hailed the newly elected Rabin's commitment to reinvigorate the Middle East peace process, and called on Arabs to show a similar commitment.

He said he would continue to uphold Israel's military edge over its neighbours.

Rabin called Bush's action on loan guarantees "a significant step" in Israel's attempt to deal with refugees from the former Soviet Union as well as from Ethiopia.

"It means a lot to me and to Israel, and again thank you very much," he said.

The announcement — following Bush's hosting of Rabin at his Maine seacoast home — underscored a distinct warming in relations between the United States and Israel.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had long sought the guarantees, but the US government refused to agree as long as Israel persisted with construction of new housing settlements on land taken from Arabs in the 1967 war.

Rabin, elected in June, has essentially suspended new settlements, and taken other steps to demonstrate interest in accommodation with Arab nations.

Bush said US policy would continue to favour a "qualitative edge" in military power for Israel. He said it's never possible to predict where the next crisis may arise.

"You rely on friends. Israel is not only important as a friend, but has demonstrated strategic reliability," he said.

Both leaders devoted a portion of their remarks to the peace talks, expected to resume in Washington on Aug 24 with Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestinians.

An earlier report adds: US approval of loan guarantees could help Israel attract more Jews from the Soviet Union, according to the agency charged with bringing Jews to Israel.

"The loan guarantees are a factor affecting the psychology of immigration," said Simcha Dintz, the head of the Jewish agency. Many Soviet Jews have delayed moving to Israel because of the lack of jobs.

"If approved today... before there is a single new job created, the knowledge the guar-

antees are available will have an effect on Soviet Jews," he said.

The Bush administration was expected Tuesday to announce approval of all or part of dollars 10 billion Israel has requested in loan guarantees.

The guarantees will allow the Jewish state to borrow funds on international markets at favourable rates.

Israel is expected to use most of the money it raises to create jobs and improve the country's roads, telephones, and water and sewer systems.

**(Related story on Page 6)**

## WB happy over retrenchment plan

The fiscal measures taken by the Bangladesh government to invigorate the national economy came under commendation from a top official of the World Bank, reports BSS.

In a letter to Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, the Regional Vice-President, World Bank, South Asia Region, D Joseph Wood, lauded the efforts to liberalise international trade, broaden tax base and increase investment. He also appreciated the steps of the Bangladesh Finance Minister for improving See Page 12 Col 7