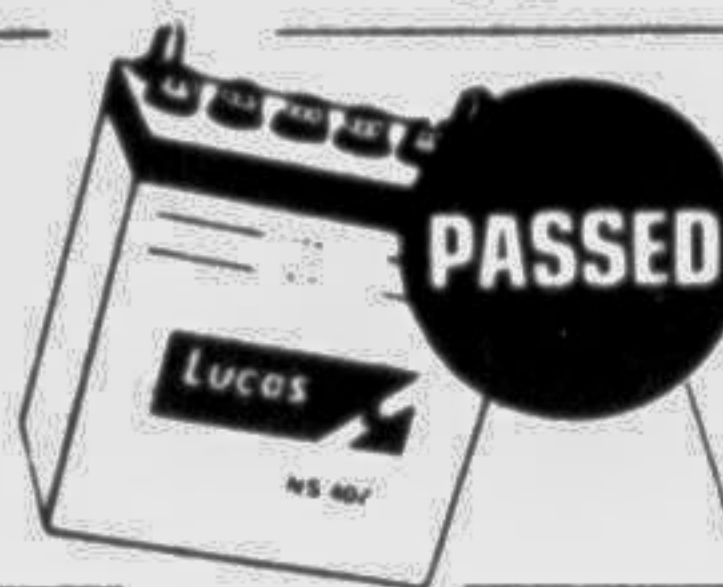


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AL relieves Dr Kamal

From page 1 col 7
of Maj Gen (Retd) Khalilur Rahman, Mofizul Islam Khan Kamal and Advocate Zahurul Islam.

The resolution said Gano Forum president Dr Kamal Hossain was involved in anti-party activities violating the decisions of the presidium, central working committee and the extended meeting of the working committee.

"His anti-party activities were exposed through the formation of the Gano Forum on August 29," the resolution said. It observed that each and every step taken by Dr Kamal over the last few years was in flagrant violation of Article 44 (Ka) of the party constitution.

The resolution said Bangladesh Awami League and its President Sheikh Hasina had expected that good sense would prevail and Dr Kamal would remain loyal to the party. Several moves were also taken in this regard, but Dr Kamal himself blocked all paths by floating a new political party and creating confusion among the pro-Liberation forces.

PM's remarks slated

In another resolution the ALCWC, criticising Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's speech at the opening session of the BNP national council, termed it "distorted and untrue".

Sheikh Hasina said that the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh

BNP MP harassed by securitymen at Sugandha

By Staff Correspondent

A ruling party Member of Parliament (MP) was harassed by some securitymen at the Prime Minister's Sugandha office yesterday evening.

Witnesses said that M. Shahidul Islam, a BNP MP elected from the Jhenidah-3 constituency, was harassed at the main gate of Sugandha, where the third business session of the BNP council was taking place.

When contacted over telephone, Shahidul Islam admitted the incident and said he was very shocked at the indecorous manners of the security personnel.

Witnesses said Islam, after attending the council session, came out amid incessant rains at about 7:30 pm. As his secretary went out to catch an autorickshaw, the MP waited under a shade at the main gate of Sugandha where a group of newsmen were present.

At this time, an assistant superintendent of police challenged Shahidul Islam and asked him to leave the place immediately.

The police officer left and returned with an officer of another security agency. The two then charged Islam and once again told him to leave, witnesses and journalists present said.

Before Islam could explain, the officer caught him by the hand, shook him and barked: "You know I can arrest you, if you don't leave at once."

US asks Serbs, Croats

From Page 1 Col 5

NATO military response "is very much alive."

"If while talks are in abeyance, there is abuse by those who would seek to interfere with humanitarian aid — attacking protected areas, resume the sustained shelling of Sarajevo, for example — then first I would remind you that the NATO military option is very much alive," Clinton told reporters.

He also said he continues to favour lifting the United Nations arms embargo against the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

Clinton said he hoped the warring factions in Bosnia would resume their Geneva peace talks, which collapsed on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a tense quiet prevailed Thursday in Bosnia after peace talks collapsed in Geneva, but a UN official warned that fighting could resume and even spread to other states.

Only sporadic small-arms, sniper and mortar fire were reported across the former Yugoslav republic, UN peacekeepers' spokesman Idesbald van Dieënbroek said Thursday. UN representative Cedric Thornberry, however, said there was a "real possibility" of renewed fighting that could last through the winter.

Serbs and Croats may divide Bosnia between themselves and

Mujibur Rahman was not present in the council meeting with due honour.

The ALCWC also said: "The picture of economic development portrayed in the Prime Minister's speech had not reflected the prevailing situation."

It said the claim that per capita income during the present government's rule had increased to 210 US dollar from 170 was a lie, and cited a UNDP report which said the per capita income had reached 210 US dollar during '90-91, not afterwards.

The increase of foreign currency reserve during the recent years signified a stagnation of the country's economy, the ALCWC observed. In addition, thousands of workers were being retrenched in the recent years although, the BNP had promised to create job opportunities for lakhs of people before the elections.

Although Khaleda Zia claimed in her speech to have reduced the prices of agricultural inputs, the ALCWC pointed out, the government had, since August '91, enhanced the price of TSP fertiliser four times.

The ALCWC also said that the Prime Minister, before praising her government's achievement in the education sector of the country, must remember that her Finance Minister had earlier said that the amount of system loss in that sector was Tk 300 crore.

Begum Khaleda Zia also blamed other political parties for terrorism yet a recent example of violence in the Jahangirnagar University proved that her party was patronising terrorists, the ALCWC observed.

Regarding the government's claim that it had no master abroad but only friends, the ALCWC said the foreign masters were dictating the economic, agricultural, industrial, and foreign policies, and alleged that the government had completely failed to deal with the water-sharing talks, the Rohingya refugee and the Hill Tracts issues.

Huda

From page 1 col 7

Huda's accusers observed that they had not only been ignored but the Information Minister had proved himself, by means of avoiding the members, to be an "undemocratic" person.

Prime Minister and the BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia was made aware of the incident last evening, sources said, adding: "She is supposed to settle the issue some time later."

The councillors from across the country, however, had approved most of the proposed amendments yesterday while the rest of the amendments will be considered today.

Meanwhile, Barrister Huda, following the incident, talked to one of his detractors and explained that he had no intention to avoid any member of the committee, a source close to the Information Minister told this correspondent.

The Information Minister was not available till late last night for comment.



Low lying areas of the city went under knee-deep water due to incessant rainfall for the last two days. — Star photo

Councillors castigate

From page 1 col 7

According to sources in the closed-door sessions, eight councillors yesterday suggested that the party now needed a full-time Secretary General to effectively coordinate the party activities all over the country.

Although the issue of changing the party Secretary General was not on the agenda, some six district-level representatives observed that a new Secretary General should be appointed to revitalise the party, especially when the BNP had increased in size.

These leaders, however, told the session that they had unquestionable confidence in the prudence of the party chief who is the one to take any decision relating to the Secretary General.

A few others observed that the present Secretary General should be retained. They praised Barrister Salam Talukder for his contribution in the nine-year-long democratic movements that ousted the Ershad regime and paved the way for the BNP to win the 1991 parliamentary polls.

A number of councillors also resented activities of the Jamaat and its front organisation the Islamic Chhatra Shibir and said these groups were terrorising many parts of the country.

Mentioning recent incidents at the Islamic University in Kushtia, one councillor de-

manded stern steps to check such violence.

Some delegates also criticised the Awami League for its role hindering development programmes undertaken by the government.

A number of councillors said that the AL opposed the BNP government for the sake of opposition alone.

The source said that chairperson Begum Zia carefully listened to all the speakers and will make her summing-up speech today.

BNP

From page 1 col 7

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Barrister Salam Talukder, in a short press briefing yesterday evening, informed newsmen that the councillors spoke about strengthening the party at the grassroots level through increased organisational activity.

He also said that a number of councillors alleged that farmers were being deprived fair price for paddy due to a market slump.

Some councillors also urged the government to use the national media for enhancing socio-economic development activities, Salam Talukder informed.

Asked if any new committee announcements could be expected, the Secretary General said, "It depended on the party chairperson."



Miss Asia 1993 Candy Au (R) and runner-up along with Bank of China officials posed with the Beijing 2000 Olympic flag prior to rising it in front of the bank's headquarters in Hong Kong yesterday. There is a mounting pressure in Hong Kong for Beijing to be chosen as the city for the 2000 Olympics with just three weeks to go for the Olympic Committee to decide in Monaco on September 23. — AFP photo

DCC clarifies fees for public meetings

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday said the decision regarding payment of fees for holding public meetings and rallies at important places of the city has been taken in the public interest, reports BSS.

There is no political motive behind the decision and the only objective of introducing fees is to discourage holding of meetings and rallies at Manik Mia Avenue, Motiheel Commercial Area and Panthapath, a press release of the DCC said.

It said, the population and number of vehicles and cars in the greater Dhaka city have increased manifold and the city dwellers suffer if meetings and rallies are organised in any part of the city.

It said, the Manik Mia Avenue, situated in front of Jatiya Sangsad, is the main road of a part of the city and if the road is closed people living

in that part of the city face a lot of difficulties.

Similarly, the press release said, Motiheel is a busy commercial area and the centre of business and trading. Such activities suffer if meetings are arranged there.

Besides, it said, meetings or rallies arranged on the Panthapath, which is adjacent to the VIP Road and on which international reputed Hotel Sonargaon is situated, also affect the normal life of the city.

The press release pointed out there was no ban on holding meetings in any part of the city and no prior permission is required.

Since Manik Mia Avenue, Motiheel Commercial Area and Panthapath are the some of the more important places of the city, fixed fees have been introduced to discourage holding of meetings at those places.

The city dwellers, the press release added, have lodged complaints in the past for inconvenience caused through the holding of meetings at those places. The decision to introduce fees has been taken considering all aspects and keeping in mind the overall interest of the city dwellers.

Regional meet

From Page 1 Col 4

In New Delhi earlier this year and was attended by a five-member Bangladesh delegation which included the chief engineer of the Flood Plan Coordination Organisation and the director of the Joint River Commission.

Chairman of the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Dr Q K Ahmad and Professor K B S Rashid, a water expert, also attended the meeting as part of the government delegation. The proposal to hold the next meeting in Dhaka was floated at the Delhi meet.

Earlier, at the meeting held in the city last month, the regional experts discussed the water and related issues with a view to finding regional solutions to the problems.

"Thorny issues like the Ganges water sharing, which is the most important unresolved issue between Bangladesh and India, was also discussed at the meeting," said Dr Q K Ahmad, who led the 3-member Bangladesh team at the meeting.

The Indian delegation from the Madras-based Centre for Policy Research included noted journalist and water expert B G Verghese and Ramaswamy Iyer, a former Indian irrigation secretary.

The Nepalese team included D B Pradhan, a former minister, and S K Mallia, also a former Nepalese irrigation secretary.

The three research organisations have been meeting periodically for the past one year, attempting to identify common areas of ecological and environmental problems in the region.

All participants of this meeting would also attend the November meeting convened by the GIF.

(See related article in "My World" on Page 10)

Karachi protest

From Page 1 Col 5

people are with us."

Ahmad, who leads the coalition Islamic Front, called last week for a nationwide strike to protest against price increases after caretaker Prime Minister Moen Qureshi unveiled a ambitious package of economic reforms last month to revive Pakistan's flagging economy.

Prices of petroleum products, cooking oil, flour and other essential items have risen by as much as 15 percent as a result of the package.

Canadian ship with ammunition heading toward India?

NEW DELHI, Sept 2: The navy has stepped up patrolling the southern coast following reports that a Canada-registered vessel laden with ammunition is heading toward India, a news agency reported Thursday, says AP.

Navy and Coast Guard ships are sailing along the coasts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu states and fishermen have been alerted about the mystery ship, said K. Karunakaran, chief minister of Kerala state, United News of India news agency reported.

Details about the ship or the consignment was not immediately available.

The Midnight File

US-Russian accord on space, energy

WASHINGTON, Sept 2: The United States and Russia signed agreements Thursday promoting joint space exploration and energy development that Vice President Al Gore said could lead to an improved international space station. The leaders signed a series of agreements to promote cooperation on space and high-technology ventures. One gives Russia access to the international commercial space launch market and another sets out a plan for cooperation on human space flight, reports AP.

Sister defends Jackson

LOS ANGELES, Sept 2: Michael Jackson's sister LaToya said on Thursday the superstar used to spend the night in his room with young boys and that "we really don't know" if the sexual abuse allegations against him are true. But Miss Jackson said on NBC's "Today" that the public has been unfair to her brother and that "I stand by him 1,000 per cent." "If you really think about it, he's been convicted before a trial," Miss Jackson said from NBC's London bureau, reports AP.

BNP constitution

From Page 1 Col 6

The amendment sub-committee placed the proposals before some 2000 councillors at around 8:30 pm and answered some queries from the delegates regarding the changes. Later these were passed by a voice vote of the councillors.

According to the new provisions the national council will elect and remove the party chairman instead of the electoral college, which has been dropped altogether.

The constitution now also makes it mandatory that the national executive committee hold at least one meeting every three months.

Most of the committees, including the Central Executive Committee have been expanded. The CEC will now comprise 251 members. The district and city committees are to have 101 members, the town and municipal ward committees 51, and the thana committee 71.

A number of secretarial posts have also been increased.

Earlier, there was no provision for front organisations in the constitution but after last night's amendments the party will have 12 front organisations whose activities will be monitored by the party chairperson. The party chief also has been empowered to reshuffle the front organisations.

The party will have overseas committees with the bodies in capital cities enjoying the status of a district.

A total of 40 amendments have been proposed and passed by the councillors, sub-committee sources said.

Foreign delegates to meet Hasina

Dignitaries from India, Pakistan and Nepal who arrived in the capital in connection with BNP council will make courtesy calls on Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina, reports UNB.

Awami League sources said former Indian Minister Ms Mohsina Kidwai, Manoranhan Bhaktia MP, Shankar Dayal Singh MP and Dr Mumtaz Ansari MP of India will meet Hasina at her official residence at 10 am today.

Majid for Cairo

From Page 1 Col 8

Dr Eduard Saouma, who has been in the post for 18 years, will end this year.

According to the sources, Majid ul-Huq will visit the Egyptian capital Cairo and then Morocco and Senegal. The trip may last from seven to ten days.

During the visit, the minister will try to convince the governments of the three OIC members and seek their support in favour of the Bangladeshi candidate.

Salahuddin Ahmed, who has been in his present position since 1982, was the first permanent representative of Bangladesh to the FAO in 1973. He continued in the position until 1975 and after a two-year gap, he was again appointed the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Council in 1978.

The World Food Council and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are the outcome of his proposal for three separate institutions, placed at the World Food Conference held in Rome in 1976, sources said.

Special Drive for Gas Line Disconnection

With a view to realising the arrears, the special drive for gas line disconnection of all defaulting consumers, including govt & autonomous establishments, has been started from 31-7-93. In this first special drive of 1993-94 financial year, total 1450 gas connections have been disconnected up to 01-9-93.

All esteemed consumers are requested to pay the arrear gas bills immediately and show the payment receipt to the disconnection squad on the place of gas use. On production of the bill payment receipt by the disconnected consumer at the concerned zone/office of the company by 7-00 pm on the day, steps will be taken for immediate restoration of his line.

If the reconnection is not taken within 3 (three) months of disconnection, the gas line will be permanently disconnected with cancellation of gas supply contract.

Pay the gas bill in time and abstain from any sort of illegal gas use.



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