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Action plan for admin reform by Dec

The government will soon start preparation of an action plan for reform of public administration in Bangladesh.

By A Special Correspondent within a short period of time, the economic growth rate is still hovering around only four per cent per annum.

Ironically, the slow growth of the economy is not due to shortage of resources. There are enough resources to push up the growth rate by a few percentage points.

This is highly unusual for a developing country. Such a situation has arisen because several ministries have failed to invest the money earmarked for them.

Strangely, this collapse has occurred even though the public administration system in Bangladesh has been examined, researched and reviewed quite extensively and intensively in the last four years.

All of these movements and actions have not produced results—leading to considerable frustration among the donors. Many donors have become skeptical about the government's commitment towards

Point to ponder

By Staff Correspondent

The low ranking of the Members of Parliament in the Warrant of Precedence has seriously undermined their position and status.

This was observed by Prof Mohabbat Khan while reading out his paper in 'The Legislature in Bangladesh: Past Experience and Present Concerns' at a seminar in the city yesterday.

Prof Khan said the Warrant of Precedence was 'last amended in 1985 and 'Interestingly, civil and military servants like the Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the President and Chief of the Army, Navy and Air Force have been given higher rankings compared to the MPs.'

He said this relegation has seriously undermined the prestige and status of the MPs and lowered the image and position of Parliament overall.

Kamal for dialogue to end JS impasse

By Staff Correspondent

Gana Forum (GF) President Dr Kamal Hossain has said the on-going stalemate in the Jatiya Sangsad, caused by the Opposition boycott of the House, could be ended through an effective dialogue among the parties.

'I hope the Leader of the House Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will soon initiate a dialogue to resolve the crisis. In this case, the leaders of the opposition parties, including the main opposition party (the Awami League) should respond positively,' Dr. Kamal told newsmen at a press conference at his party's Segun Bagicha office in the capital yesterday afternoon.

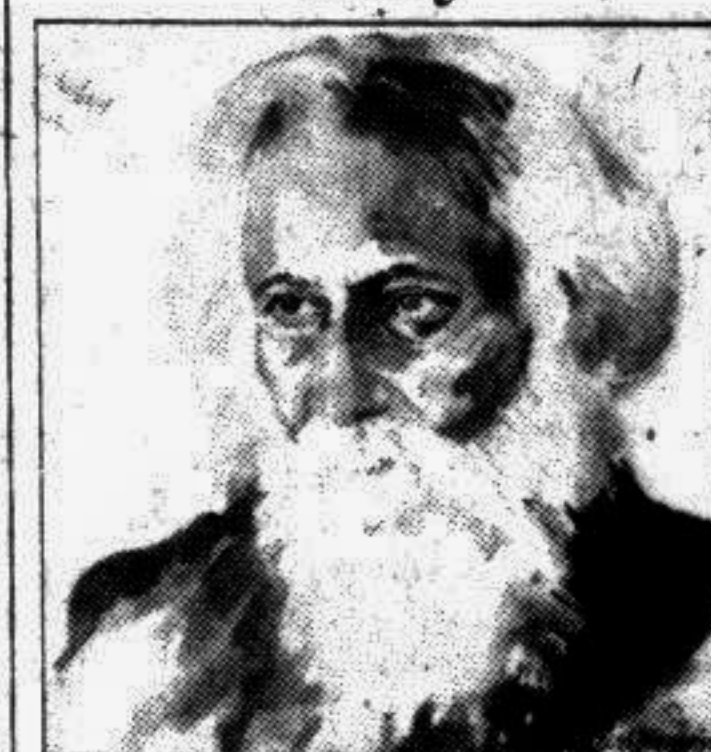
Blaming the top leaders of the major parties for the present political crisis, the GF chief said 'The Head of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition should have

taken initiatives long ago for an effective and meaningful discussion among them in this regard.'

Dr. Kamal appealed to the ruling and all democratic parties to avoid the path of confrontation, behave responsibly and proceed towards a consensus for the sake of making Parliament effective. The GF on its part, would continue agitation in and outside Parliament to achieve the objective, he added.

The GF leader accused both the government and the opposition parties of making the JS ineffective during the last three years. He particularly blamed the ruling party for its alleged failure to fulfil its commitments to the nation, remove the obstacles hindering national development and arrive at a consensus with the

Tagore's 133rd birth anniversary today



By Staff Correspondent

Today is the 133rd birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, the undisputed doyen of Bengali literature.

Various socio-cultural organisations as well as the Cultural Affairs Ministry have drawn up separate programmes to celebrate the occasion.

Musical soiree, dance drama, recitation of poems will be held to mark the occasion popularly dubbed as Rabindra Jayanti.

The 'versatile litterateur, who revelled in all the genre, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913.

In a message on the occasion Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, has called for giving her the highest regard.

Tornado hits Netrakona: 3 killed, 24 hurt

NETRAKONA, May 7: Three persons including two minor children were killed and 24 others injured, five of them critically, at Purbodhata thana under Netrakona district when a severe tornado lashed the area late last night, official sources said today, reports BSS.

Hasina goes to Tokyo today

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka today for Tokyo to attend a seminar on Democracy and Socio-Economic Development in Asia and the Pacific Region.



South African leader Nelson Mandela (C) addressing newsmen in Cape Town Friday. Flanking him are Thabo Mbeki (R) of the ANC and the outgoing President F.W. de Klerk, both of whom have been nominated as deputies to Mandela in the new government to be installed today.

Pre-budget dialogue in city

More investment in agriculture stressed

Parliamentarians, economists and cabinet ministers, at a dialogue today, observed that the coming budget should concentrate more on the agriculture sector in terms of

By Staff Correspondent investment and should take measures to cut wastage of resources in unproductive sectors.

They also stressed the need for adopting comprehensive and targeted programmes for poverty alleviation. The dialogue, organised by the Finance Ministry yesterday at the NEC auditorium and presided over by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman was aimed at

discussing the country's economic activities keeping in view the forthcoming budget.

Among the participants were noted economist Prof Rehman Sobhan, Agriculture Minister Majid-ul-Huq, Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan, Environment Minister Akbar Hossain, State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, MPs Shahjahan Siraj, Abdul Hafiz, Ansar Ali, Kazi Salimul Haq and Editor of the Sangbad Ahmedul Kabir.

Saifur Rahman said the government is trying to build a self-reliant economy, reducing dependence on foreign aid.

'The international aid climate is also sluggish because of the recession in the West,' he said, adding that some of the conditionalities prescribed by the donors were 'humiliating and disturbing.'

'Let us avoid this aid culture,' he said.

Saifur terms Opposition demand a 'monstrosity'

By Staff Reporter

The Opposition demand for a caretaker government to conduct general elections is an 'anarchism in the political process,' Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said today.

'Keep people's faith in democracy'

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali yesterday called upon the Members of Parliament belonging to both Treasury and Opposition benches to rise to the occasion and uphold the people's faith in parliamentary democracy, reports BSS.

'Let us not allow the people to say that our politicians have failed us again and again,' Razzak Ali said while inaugurating a national seminar-cum-workshop on 'The Legislature in Bangladesh: Past Experience and Present Concerns,' at the Academy for Planning and Development at Nilkhet in the city.

Dr. Mohammad Mohabbat Khan of the Department of Public Administration of Dhaka University read the key-note paper. Organised jointly by the Manabik Shahajya Sangstha

(MSS) and the Study and Research Group (SRG), the inaugural function was addressed by Tarikul Ghani, Executive Director of MSS and M Feroz Hassan, Convenor of SRG.

The Speaker said, 'We are now passing through a very crucial and challenging time. Any misdirected action on our part at this juncture of national history may endanger our hard-earned democracy.'

Shaikh Razzak Ali, however, said that there are allegations and counter-allegations from the government and the Opposition blaming each other for making Parliament inoperative and ineffective. 'Without going into details of these allegations, and without being a party to these, I can simply say that never before were restraint and tolerance so badly

SSC question papers on sale in Comilla!

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, May 7: The question papers of various subjects of the on-going SSC examinations under Comilla Board were leaked and are being sold at different places of the district.

These persons were arrested by Barura Thana police today while they were photocopying some of the leaked question papers. They are Md Hanif, Zahirul Huq and the owner of the photocopier Anathbandhu Devnath.

The question papers for English and Mathematics were found being sold at various photocopying shops in Comilla town and its suburbs last night. Those were fetching prices between Tk 100 and 200.

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Shopowners demand Opposition news in state media

Shopowners yesterday requested the government to broadcast Opposition news and programmes over the state-run electronic media so that they do not call frequent hartals, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, leaders of the Federation of Bangladesh Shopowners' Association said shopowners throughout the country were facing huge financial losses due to frequent shut-downs.

Federation chairman Amir Hossain Khan vice-president MA Manzur, secretary general SA Qader Kiron and the federation's Dhaka city chief Helal Uddin Helal spoke at the conference.

'We're not against hartal which is a democratic means of protest. But hartals lose their effectiveness if used excessively,' he said.

The Speaker stressed the need for developing a democratic culture and learning to 'speak in a democratic language to make parliamentary democracy a success. 'Intolerance and disrespect for others views is dangerous for democracy,' he said, adding 'if we fail to respect each other's views and reach consensus on fundamental issues of national interest, we are bound to land at a wrong place again.'

He said the people would not blame the government or the Opposition but the politicians and the parliamentarians as a whole for the failure of democracy. 'This is because under parliamentary system there is no way to look at the government or the Opposition

needed as it is today,' he said. 'The Speaker stressed the need for developing a democratic culture and learning to 'speak in a democratic language to make parliamentary democracy a success. 'Intolerance and disrespect for others views is dangerous for democracy,' he said, adding 'if we fail to respect each other's views and reach consensus on fundamental issues of national interest, we are bound to land at a wrong place again.'

JS session resumes today BNP continues efforts to bring back Opposition

By Staff Correspondent

The current session of Parliament resumes this afternoon.

The fifth Jatiya Sangsad (JS) went into its 14th session Wednesday and the entire opposition abstained from attending the session to press home the demand for holding the next general elections under a caretaker government.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia has asked her colleagues in the BNP standing committee to continue efforts to bring back the opposition to the House. Addressing the first sitting of Parliament's current session, she observed that all contentious issues confronting the nation could be discussed openly on the floor of the Jatiya Sangsad. But the Opposition rejected the call on the ground that the prime minister said nothing about their demand for a caretaker government.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder had a meeting with the Jamaat leaders Tuesday. According to sources, the Jamaat leaders said that it would be easier for them to return to the House if the treasury

15 more bodies of foreigners recovered

From Our Correspondent

COXS BAZAR, May 7: Police today recovered the bodies of another 15 foreign nationals who were drowned in separate boat capsizes in the Bay of Bengal during the May 2 cyclone, officials here said.

With this, the number bodies of foreign nationals recovered so far rose to 43 and the death toll in the cyclone to 208.

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STAR QUIZ 3 LUCKY DRAW & PRIZE GIVING OF STAR QUIZ 2 TODAY

The Lucky Draw to find the winners of STAR QUIZ 3 and prize-giving ceremony of STAR QUIZ 2 will be held today, 8-May, 1994 at the Jatiya Press Club Auditorium at 5:30 PM.

Poet Shamsur Rahman will be the Chief Guest.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

The Daily Star we choose to lead



PHILIPS All Prizes Courtesy: Transcom Electronics Ltd. Licensed manufacturer of Philips Lighting products, Radio and T.V. Sets.

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