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JS goes into session in 4 days Contradictory versions still cloud political horizon

By Staff Correspondent

Contradictory statements from the government and Opposition camps regarding efforts for resolution of the current impasse continued to cloud the country's political horizon.

With only four days to go before Parliament goes into its budget session, there was little indication that the Opposition legislators might return to the House in the near future.

Ruling BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder told this correspondent last night that he had specifically communicated to the Opposition camp his party would be willing to discuss the demand for a caretaker government. But Opposition Chief Whip

Mohammad Nasim said there had been very little change in the original position because the government side was not being particular in its proposals.

Meanwhile, a two-day session of the main opposition Awami League's (AL) presidium, which began yesterday at the official Minto Road residence of party chief Sheikh Hasina, reviewed the latest situation. The adjourned meeting resumes this morning.

According to meeting sources, a new theme was heard regarding the formation of a possible caretaker government to conduct the next general elections. In a marked departure from its hitherto held position that the Khaleda

Zia government would have to transfer power to an acceptable interim administration, the participants in yesterday's discussions opined that in addition to the cabinet the head of state, too, would have to resign.

Discussing the draft of a proposed outline prepared earlier by an 8-man party sub-committee, AL presidium members yesterday also demanded inclusion of the resignation of President Abdur Rahman Biswas, whom AL leaders described as a 'controversial' personality. They felt a person acceptable to all parties would have to replace President Biswas as head of state when an interim

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Cabinet approves privatisation policy

The cabinet in its regular weekly meeting yesterday at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair approved the privatisation policy and procedures, reports BSS.

The policy encompasses various aspects like institutional set-up of privatisation, selection of industrial and commercial units for privatisation, methods of privatisation and valuation of units.

This is the first comprehensive policy statement on privatisation since 1976. The existing privatisation policies and guidelines issued from time to time have been consolidated and updated in the present policy to suit the needs of the time.

The cabinet also considered the report of the State Minister for Textile on his visit to Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Thousands attacked in Sunamganj Cerebral malaria kills 196 in Tahirpur alone

From Iqbal Siddique

SYLHET, June 2: The outbreak of 'cerebral malaria' has taken a serious turn in different areas of Tahirpur thana under Sunamganj district with at least 25 more deaths during the last one month.

The number of deaths from the disease in the thana since January last now stands at 196. Official sources said 14 thousand people were attacked with the disease in the district.

Unofficial sources, however, claimed that about 40 thousand people were attacked with the killer disease and more than 400 had died. The number of attacks began to go up with the onset of summer, they said.

The disease has spread creating panic among the people of the affected areas. Ac-

ording to district health officials, when a rare type of mosquito named 'maculetus' bites someone, the patient becomes unconscious and brain haemorrhage causes his death within 24 to 72 hours. A physician working at the Tahirpur Thana Health Complex said that, the germ carried by 'maculetus' mosquito is termed 'falciparum'.

Tahirpur thana and its adjacent areas have no road communication with the district headquarters. Besides, boat is the only means of communication between the thana headquarters and the affected villages.

The disease is now spreading to adjacent villages in Biswambaharpur, Dharmapasha, Doarabazar and Sunamganj. See Page 12 Col 6

Fresh areas inundated in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, June 2: The overall flash flood situation in the district has worsened further with the inundation of new areas in Kanaighat thana due to continued onrush of waters from the hilly areas across the border.

The other affected thanas are Gowainghat, Jointapur and Companyganj. Some 35 villages in Jointapur thana have been affected and at least 15,000 people have become marooned in different villages.

The rivers, Sari, Rangpani, Nayaganj and Plain were flowing above the danger level today.

All the eight unions of Gowainghat thana have been affected with 5000 people marooned.

In Companyganj thana, many villages in Ronykhai, Telighat and Islampur unions have been affected.

More than 70 per cent of the standing paddy crops have been inundated in the area.

Mostafiz discusses Farakka issue with Indian FM

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, now in Cairo to attend the 11th Non-Aligned Foreign Minister's conference, yesterday met with the foreign ministers of India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Iran, Kuwait and Brunei, reports UNB.

Matters of regional and international concerns were discussed during the meetings, according to a message received here.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister had a detailed discussion on Farakka and other related issues with his Indian counterpart.

Mostafiz apprised the foreign ministers of other countries about Bangladesh's position on Farakka and the effective role being played by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the chairperson of SAARC.

The Foreign Minister had See Page 12 Col 8



This gaping hole on the Bijoynagar Road, dug sometime ago for development works by a government agency, now awaits the onslaught of the monsoon rains. — Star photo

News Analysis ADP stands for annual development politics

By A Special Correspondent

Last Wednesday the government announced that the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the coming fiscal year shall be Taka 110 billion (1100 crore) and that domestic resources would finance 38 per cent of the total outlay.

The government's ADP has major economic significance in Bangladesh. At present, around half of the aggregate annual investment in the economy takes place in the private sector. But with the private sector continuing to remain hesitant, medium-term growth prospect is critically dependent on public sector spending — particularly investment spending.

But planned ADP and actual development expenditure are, unfortunately for Bangladesh,

yet two substantially different figures. The difference, always against actual development expenditure, is a measure of the failure of the government to make best use of the resources that the taxpayers had made available to it.

In the current fiscal year, for example, the planned ADP was Taka 97.5 billion. The government's revenue plan was built around this number to ensure that there is enough money left after meeting the annual revenue expenditure to fund an ADP of this size. Had this surplus extracted by the government been utilised to a significant extent, an equivalent momentum in economic activities would have been lost. Put differently, the savings See Page 12 Col 4

45 Hizbullah guerillas killed in Israeli air raid

BAALBEK (Lebanon), June 2: Forty-five Muslim guerillas were killed when Israeli helicopters and planes blasted a Hizbullah training camp in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley today, Lebanon's foreign minister said, reports Reuter.

Hizbullah put the toll at 26 dead and 30 wounded and hospital sources in the Baalbek area said there were 26 dead and 70 wounded.

It was the bloodiest Israeli air raid into Lebanon in seven years and the most ferocious attack since 'Israeli's week-long artillery blitz on South Lebanon last July.

The guerillas hit back, firing three Katyusha rockets into northern Israel and another three into its occupation zone in South Lebanon. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Pro-Iranian Hizbullah said in a statement in Beirut the killings would not deter its 'resistance path against Israeli', and vowed to serve a comprehensive response on all

levels. The raid was Israel's second spectacular attack on Muslim guerillas in the Bekaa Valley in 13 days. It deeply embarrassed Lebanon and Syria by sending helicopter-borne commandos to kidnap militant leader Mustapha Al-Dirani on May 21.

Foreign Minister Faris Boueiz called today's attack 'a massacre' and an aggression against Lebanon and said it showed Israel was trying to torpedo the Middle East peace process.

Security sources said four helicopter gunships struck before dawn, firing machine-guns into tents of a Hizbullah (party of God) training camp in Ain Kawkab hills near Baalbek, 70 km east of Beirut.

Six warplanes then fired rockets into the camp close to the Syrian border, where about 120 guerillas were taking part in a training exercise, they said.

Lebanese and Syrian troops based in eastern Lebanon fired

anti-aircraft guns at the Israeli planes, the Lebanese army said in a statement.

'Until now 45 martyrs have fallen in the latest air raids and operations,' Foreign Minister Faris Boueiz told reporters in Beirut.

Lebanon today called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council after the air raid on Hizbullah camp.

Defence Minister Mohsen Dallu said the decision was taken at a meeting of the Supreme Defence Council, which groups the President, Prime Minister, Defence Minister and army chief.

The raid was the 13th Israeli air strike into Lebanon this year.

Hizbullah and other groups mount almost daily attacks on Israeli forces in South Lebanon in a bid to drive them from a zone they occupy there.

The Lebanese government, at a stalemate with Israel in peace talks, says guerillas have a right to fight the occupying forces.

Prokrichi gheraoes PWD chief engr

By Staff Correspondent

The members of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council 'gheraoed' the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD) for sometime yesterday morning demanding withdrawal of the transfer order of Ruhul Matin, a senior engineer of the PWD.

The government on Wednesday transferred Ruhul Matin, a vice-president of the council, to Bagerhat apparently for his involvement in the campaign for restructuring the country's bureaucracy.

The agitating professionals raised slogans against the PWD Chief Engineer, the government and the BCS (Admin) Action Committee. Later the Prokrichi leaders met him and demanded withdrawal of the transfer order. At one stage, some young leaders of the Prokrichi had exchange of hot words with the Chief Engineer who also threatened to lock up his room. However, the situation calmed down when the Chief Engineer assured to send a note to the ministry concerned.

Meanwhile, the Prokrichi, See Page 12 Col 5

Italian investors keen on jt ventures in Bangladesh

From M Anwarul Haq

ROME, June 2: Italian investors are keenly interested in joint venture industrial undertakings in Bangladesh in the textiles, garment and leather sectors.

This was stated by Cesare Frittelli, director of the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade (ICE), a wing of the Foreign Trade Ministry, while talking to a visiting Bangladesh press delegation today.

Frittelli said there is also scope for relocating some of Italy's textile mills to Bangladesh's export processing zones in view of 'an enabling investment atmosphere in Bangladesh.'

He also said that Italy was interested not only in expansion of the textile and garment sectors in Bangladesh but also in improvement of the quality of textile products to cater to

the ever changing fashion designs in Italy and other-European countries.

Frittelli said Bangladeshi entrepreneurs can export to receive positive response from Italian investors if they come forward with specific proposal for joint ventures.

'If Bangladeshi entrepreneurs take individual initiatives, the Italians shall respond favourably', Frittelli assured. He also said that financing could also be organised from international financing institutions and some Italian government organisations.

The director said that a new thrust by Italian investors for investment in Bangladesh will be made when a trade delegation representing different segments of trade and industry in Italy visit Bangladesh in October. See Page 12 Col 4

Qul

The qul of our father Dr. Mafiz Choudhuri will be held after Asr prayers on Friday, 3rd June 1994 at House 114A, Road 115, Gulshan, Dhaka.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to participate and join the prayers for the departed soul.

Jamshed Choudhuri and Mala Choudhuri Niloufer Manzur and Manzur Elahi Yasmin and Alimul Hauque

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বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন

এইচ বি এফ সি সরল হারে সুদ চার্জ করে

স্বাধীনতার পর হতে সরকার নির্ধারিত পদ্ধতিতে সুদ চার্জ করা হয়। মূল ঋণের উপর সুদ এবং মূল ঋণ (ডিপিপি) ব্যাংকের ন্যায় একত্রিত করা হয় না। এখনও পর্যন্ত এইচ বি এফ সি সর্বনিম্ন হারে অর্থাৎ ১৩% সরল সুদে (চক্রবৃদ্ধির ৯.৮% সমতুল্য) সাধারণ গ্রাহীদের ঋণ প্রদান করেছে। কতিপয় গ্রাহীতার উদ্দেশ্যমূলক প্রচারণায় বিভ্রান্ত হবেন না।

চাকা জোন-এ' এবং 'বি' কে ধানান্তিক ৪টি জোনে বিভক্ত করা হয়েছে। নবগঠিত জোন-১, ২, ৩ ও ৪-এর জন্য নির্ধারিত রঙের মেমো বইতে (ডিপোজিট স্লিপ) ১লা জুলাই '৯৪ হতে ঋণের কিস্তি জমা করতে হবে। ঋণ গ্রাহীদেরকে নির্ধারিত ছাপানো মেমো বই সংশ্লিষ্ট জোনাল অফিস হতে জুন '৯৪ মাসের ১৫ (পনের) তারিখ হতে সংগ্রহ করার অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

১৪ই এপ্রিল, ১৯৯৩ (১লা বৈশাখ, ১৪০০) হতে ২৬-৫-১৯৯৪ পর্যন্ত যারা ঋণের আবেদন করেছেন তাদের সকলের ঋণ কেইস নম্বর (০০০০) হতে ০১৯২৫ পর্যন্ত এবং ২০০০১ হতে ২০০৪৫ পর্যন্ত পরিবর্তিত হয়েছে। এ সকল আবেদনকারীদেরকে তাদের নতুন ঋণ কেইস নম্বর ও মেমো বই সংগ্রহ করার অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

ঋণ পরিশোধের বিশেষ সুবিধা

১. আপনি ঋণের কিস্তি পরিশোধে নিয়মিত আছেন কি? যদি হাল নাগাদ কিস্তি পরিশোধ না করে থাকেন তাহলে ১৫ই জুন '৯৪-এর মধ্যে হাল নাগাদ কিস্তি পরিশোধ করে ৫% ইনসেন্টিভের এর সুবিধা গ্রহণ করুন। যারা ইতিমধ্যে রিসিডিউলিং-এর সুবিধা গ্রহণ করেছেন তারাও হাল নাগাদ কিস্তি পরিশোধ করে ইনসেন্টিভের সুবিধা গ্রহণ করুন।
২. খেলাপী গ্রাহীতার যারা এখনও ৪টি কিস্তি জমা করে রিসিডিউলিং-এর সুবিধা গ্রহণ করেননি, আইনগত বামেলা এড়াতে হলে এখনই রিসিডিউলিং-এর সুবিধা গ্রহণ করে হিসাব হাল নাগাদ করুন।
৩. জুলাই '৯৪ হতে খেলাপী গ্রাহীদের বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিকার নাম প্রকাশসহ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে।
৪. মামলা সংক্রান্ত কেইসে যারা ৪টি কিস্তি জমা দিয়ে রিসিডিউলিং-এর স্বত্ত্বিপত্র দাখিল করেছেন অথচ মামলা খরচের টাকা জমা করে সোলেনামা করেননি, তাদেরকেও যথাশীঘ্র সোলেনামা করে কেইস নিষ্পত্তির জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া হচ্ছে।
৫. মাসিক কিস্তি পরিশোধের সময়সীমা ৭ তারিখ হতে বাড়িয়ে ১৫ তারিখ করা হয়েছে। অর্থাৎ প্রতি মাসের ১৫ তারিখের মধ্যে কিস্তি পরিশোধ করলে মাসিক কিস্তির আসলের উপর ঐ ১৫ দিনের সুদ চার্জ করা হয় না। এই সুযোগ নিয়মিত গ্রহণ করুন।
৬. নতুন গ্রাহীদের জন্য এপার্টমেন্ট লোন স্বীকৃত, গ্রুপ লোন স্বীকৃত চালু রয়েছে। যৌথ ঋণ গ্রাহীতার ঋণ বিভাজন করার সুবিধা পাচ্ছেন। প্রতি মাসে কিস্তি জমা দেয়ার বামেলা যারা এড়াতে চান, এখন থেকে তারা কিস্তি অগ্রিম পরিশোধ করতে পারবেন। এককালীন সম্পূর্ণ ঋণ পরিশোধ করে যারা হিসাব নিষ্পত্তি করতে চান, তাদের জন্যও ইনসেন্টিভের সুযোগ অব্যাহত রয়েছে।

ঋণের কিস্তি সময়মত পরিশোধ করুন এবং অপরকে ঋণ গ্রহণের সুযোগ দিন