

Hearing of JS boycott writ continues

The hearing of the writ petition challenging the legality of the Opposition's boycott of Parliament continued yesterday for the fifth day before a High Court bench comprising Justice Kazi Shafuluddin and Justice Kazi A T Monwar Uddin, reports BSS.

Appearing for the petitioner Asrarul Hossain Bar at-Law, said that after being elected, an MP not only represents his particular constituency but also the whole nation in Parliament.

Hossain argued that the name of our Parliament is described in the Constitution as the House of the Nation. The Members of Parliament (MPs) have been elected to represent the nation in Parliament. By abstaining, the opposition MPs cannot waive the right of the people of the country although they can waive their individual rights, he added.

Hossain further said that after being elected they cannot show any provisions of the Constitution to support their contention that they are entitled to remain absent from Parliament without leave.

He also argued that when the MPs had taken oath of office under the Constitution to discharge their functions and duties in Parliament as entrusted by the people, they cannot remain absent without leave.

He further argued that under parliamentary democracy, the majority party would rule the country according to the

Lutfar Rahman dead

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spired the nation during its crucial hours of the 1971 Liberation War and in the 1969 mass upsurge against Ayub regime.

Sheikh Lutfar Rahman, who earned name and fame at home and abroad, received a number of awards including "Swadhinata Padak", "Ekushey Padak", "Sher-e-Bangla Padak", "Nasiruddin Padak", and "Nazrul Academy (Churulila) Padak".

Born in 1920 at Satkhira, Sheikh Lutfar Rahman was associated with All India Radio before the partition of the South Asian sub-continent. After partition in 1947 he joined the then Pakistan Radio, Dhaka centre.

He left behind his wife, five daughters, one son and a host of relatives, friends and admirers.

His *namaz-e-janaza* was held after *Magreb* prayers at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque and later buried at shaheed intellectual graveyard at Mirpur.

His *qulhwani* will be held after *Asr* prayers at his Siddeswari road Crystal Garden residence.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday conduced the death of Lutfar Rahman.

In similar messages they expressed deep shock at the death of Lutfar Rahman and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

They also conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Bosnia won't compromise

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general would not go to Serb-held Lukavica south of the city for the meeting.

And Izetbegovic's comments indicated that the Bosnian government was in no mood for compromise, either.

constitutional provisions but if the minority party wants to amend the Constitution it has to be done by attending Parliament through the constitutional process.

In reply, respondent Sheikh Hasina's counsel K S Nabi, Bar at-Law, said the question of the maintainability of the writ petition will be disposed of at first and then only it will go into merit through the reply of the petitioner.

Hearing resumes today.

Asrarul Hossain, Mohammad Ali, Bar at-Law, Humayun Kabir Bulbul and Mozammel Huq appeared for the petitioner.

K S Nabi appeared for the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina.

HC rejects writ

The writ petition filed by Advocate M Saleemullah challenging the government decision to participate in the UN-sponsored multinational force to take part in and assist the UN-led invasion of Haiti was yesterday rejected by a High Court division bench comprising Justice M Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Mohammad Asaduzzaman, reports BSS.

The court, while rejecting the writ summarily, said Bangladesh had participated in response to the United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 940 and the multinational forces would participate in such a war in response to the resolution and, therefore, there is no violation of the Constitution.

Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury and Advocate M I Faruqi appeared for the petitioner.

BMA polls

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and clinics during the whole day yesterday.

The five panels of candidates are contesting the elections are headed by Dr M A Majed and Dr Gazi Abdul Haque (for the posts of president and secretary general respectively), Dr T A Chowdhury and Dr Qazi Shahidul Alam, Dr Sirajul Islam and Dr Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury, Dr Md Nurul Islam and Dr Rafiq Chowdhury and Dr Mujibul Haq and Dr A M Ashiqul Alam.

The biennial elections, being held one year behind schedule, created much enthusiasm as, unlike the previous polls, more than two panels are contesting this time.

The central BMA office in the capital is a polling centre with 151 booths for today's election.

The BMA elections, to be contested by a total of 452 candidates across the country, however, gained a political overtone this year. Dr Majed-panel is being supported by BNP-backed Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB), Dr T A Chowdhury-panel is being supported by Awami League-backed Shadhinata Chikitsak Parishad while Dr Nurul Islam's panel is backed by a faction of the DAB and Dr Sirajul Islam panel is being backed by JSD supporters.

The highest number of voters — 3835 — is in Dhaka followed by Chittagong, having 1033 voters.

with Yugoslavia did not come up directly in the talks.

In brief remarks, Boutros-Ghali termed the meeting with Izetbegovic 'positive'.

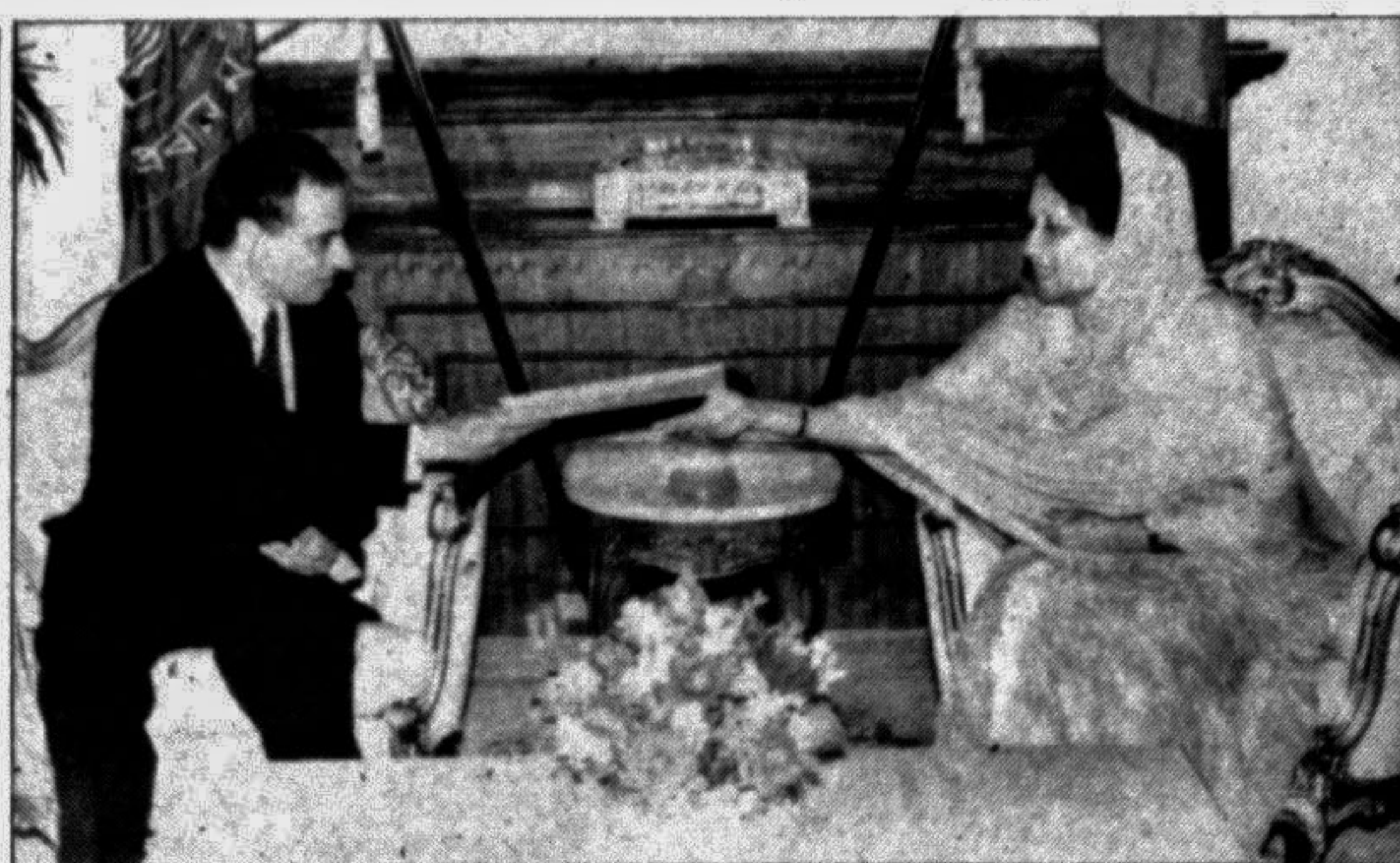
Anti-sniper teams, police and at least one French light tank, with its 90mm gun pointed towards Serb positions opposite the Bosnian presidency building, provided tight security.

On the eve of the visit, UN sources said Dutch peacekeepers in the Srebrenica safe area came under sustained fire, and asked for support from NATO warplanes.

But the sources said that the UN chief for Bosnia, Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose, had asked NATO not to fly until late tomorrow in a bid to ease tensions in Bosnia.

Several hundred of the 24,000 peacekeepers have been detained by Bosnian Serbs as insurance against further NATO airstrikes.

UN officials said group of 45 British soldiers was released this morning.



Special envoy of King Hassan of Morocco and Minister for Youth and Sports Dr Idriss Aloui Mdaghri called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday and handed her a letter of invitation to attend the forthcoming OIC Summit in Casablanca, Morocco. — PID photo

Khaleida

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Referring to cordial bilateral relations with Morocco, Begum Zia stressed the need for increased economic relations between the two countries.

She also emphasised on expansion of trade and commerce between the two Muslim countries for mutual interest.

Expressing similar views, the Moroccan envoy, who is also his country's Minister for Youth and Sports, said King Hassan is looking forward to welcomed the Bangladesh leader.

Dr M'Daghri left Dhaka yesterday after a brief but "very successful" visit to Bangladesh.

Death in custody

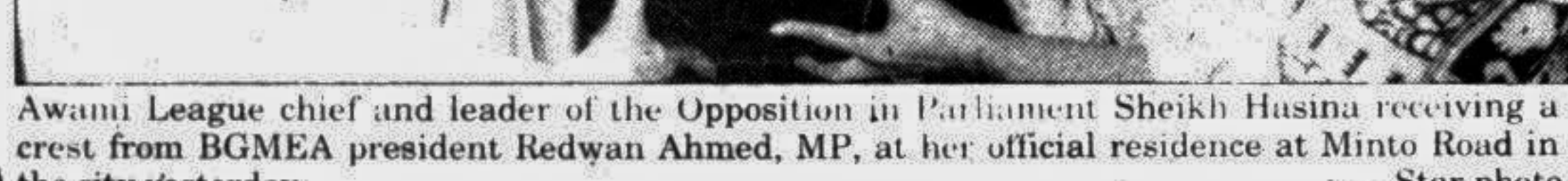
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DMCH where he expired after about an hour, according to Mirpur police.

An autopsy was done at the DMCH Monday. The forensic experts in their primary report said that Sanaullah had died of heart failure, but that they were waiting for other pathological reports to be sure about the cause of death.

The police department has also set up a one-man probe with the chief of the Detective Branch (DB).

The unnatural death of Sanaullah made headlines and led to a public outcry. Local people staged a demonstration near the Jatiya Press Club and in the Mirpur area demanding proper investigation into the incident and punishment of the policemen, whom they held responsible for the young man's death.



Awami League chief and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina receiving a crest from BGMEA president Redwan Ahmed, MP, at her official residence at Minto Road in the city yesterday. — Star photo

BGMEA team meets Hasina

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speech gave her opinion and advice on many relevant matters in the light of the current political situation," he added.

Salam Talukdar said in her speech the Prime Minister recalled the historic role played by the student community right from the Language Movement to all other mass struggles and advised them to become worthy citizens by pursuing their studies properly.

The Prime Minister simply said, the massive assembly of students had proved that the student community was in favour of social development, production and nation-building.

Referring to frequent Opposition threats to immobilise everything and their violent behaviour, anti-development activities, the Prime Minister held the Opposition responsible for impeding the development process and said, "The student friends are enough to keep the country stable in the face of frequent threats of those who want to destabilise the country," Talukdar added.

Talukdar stated that the Prime Minister, in the same breath, said, "We believe in democracy and we will have to carry forward our activities with patience."

World AIDS Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The World AIDS Day will be observed in the country today to create mass awareness against the dreaded disease.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, in a message on the eve of the Day, underscored the need for proper implementation of the AIDS prevention and control programme by incorporating it in all tiers of health services.

He said that a broad-based social movement should be launched for creating mass awareness against the deadly disease.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in a message on the occasion, said the theme of the day, "AIDS and the family-families take care" is very timely and meaningful.

Emphasising the need for strengthening the preventive and controlling mechanism to make the humanity free from this deadly disease, the Prime Minister said since an effective cure for AIDS is yet to be found, if one gets infected with this disease, the only result is untimely death.

Begum Zia, however, stressed the need for effectively utilising the available resources and expertise in the country to keep one protected against AIDS.

Various socio-cultural organisations have taken up programmes to observe the Day.

The Directorate of Health will observe the Day in a befitting manner. The programmes include a colourful march from the National Museum in the city to the Jatiya Press Club in the morning, discussion on AIDS at the auditorium of the

ICDDR, B at 10 am and a day-long publicity campaign at different places in the capital. Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf will attend the discussion as chief guest.

Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) will hold a debate on AIDS at the Press Club at 3 pm. Students from the Holy Cross College and Notre Dame College will take part in the debate.

The VHSS will also organise a poster display on the occasion in cooperation with the Salvation Army and Alliance Francaise de Dhaka at the same venue.

Govt has no plan to disinvest units under Muktiyoddha Trust

Government had no plan to disinvest any industry or commercial establishment of the Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust Agriculture Minister M Majedul Huq told Parliament yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention notice raised by BNP member Akhteruzzaman (Kishoreganj-2), Huq who is also in charge of parliamentary affairs of the Ministry of Defence, said the government had undertaken a plan for spending the income of the establishments of the trust for the family members of the martyred and disabled freedom fighters through various options including long-term lease or joint venture management or management lease.

He ruled out the apprehension of the member regarding disposal of any of the establishments of the trust to the Jamaat-Razakar clique. He said the modern hospital of the trust had been leased to Islami ummah corporation which is a commercial organisation and a public limited company.

'Spirit of Liberation War being destroyed'

By Staff Correspondent

The Muktiyoddha Sangkritik Command yesterday alleged that the country was now being in a way which would destroy the spirit of the liberation war and the freedom fighters were being harassed.

"We fought the war against communalism and repression and for democracy but in the recent years, the parties in power have been resorting to communal politics destroying democracy and the spirit of the independence. Convener of the Sangkritik Command Central Committee Belal Mohammad said at a press conference in the city yesterday.

He said that the political parties were presently playing a suicidal role by resorting to violence and communalism for their partisan interests.

The ruling party was trying to "Politicise the Muktiyoddha Central Command Council by replacing the elected chairman and others by outsiders," he alleged.

The press conference was also attended by, among others, Abul Kashem Sandvip, Subrata Sen Gupta, I N Mulla, Badruddoza Sentu, Md Yunus, Shamsul Haq Mohan and M A Hanif.

They called for upholding the spirit of the liberation war and the 'Bengali culture'.

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The magistrate refused bail and sent them to jail.

Morshed resents present day politics

The special envoy of the prime minister yesterday cautioned that securing foreign investment in Bangladesh may become difficult due to the present day politics which he said is devoid of moral scruples, reports UNB.

"We're already facing adverse publicity in the international media," M Morshed Khan said at a certificate awarding function of five training courses of businessmen at Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) organised by the DCCI in cooperation with ZDH, a German federation of small industries.

"We must raise our voice against this kind of politics pursued by politicians, be they in the government or the Opposition... National economy must not suffer for their politics," he told the businessmen.

He said the politics of strikes and blockades are curtailing the freedom of movement of the people, particularly the business community.

Khan, a leading businessman, suggested that the government's role in business be limited to capital intensive areas and the private sector be responsible for running the wheel of the economy.

He suggested that the government should off-load its shares in various multinational companies to boost the capital market.

Referring to the Investment Credit Guarantee Scheme of Bangladesh Bank, he said the fund remained mostly unutilised as the new entrepreneurs do not have any business background.

The Midnight File

Ghali leaves Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Nov 30: UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali left Sarajevo today without meeting Bosnian Serb leaders who had demanded that their talks be held on Serb-held territory, reports Reuter.

SAARC summit in India Apr 15-17

COLOMBO, Nov 30: The eighth summit of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will be held in India from April 15 to 17, officials said today, reports AFP.

Troops withdrawn from Karachi

KARACHI, Nov 30: The army, which has patrolled the streets of this troubled port city for the past 30 months, withdrew its troops today amid fears that violence and crime could spiral out of control, reports AP.

More than 500 people have been killed in political and ethnic violence in Karachi this year and there have been almost daily gun battles in recent weeks.

Opposition

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hold separate rallies in the city on December 6, ahead of their 48-hour hartal scheduled for December 7-8.

"There is no scope of a fresh dialogue with the ruling party because the rulers took our programmes as a challenge," the AL leader said, preferring anonymity.

When contacted over telephone, Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim confirmed today's meeting, terming it a 'crucial' one.

He said, "We have given up the idea of dialogue since the ruling party has taken up a tougher stand. Now we have to take our final decision."

Referring to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's speech at Motijheel Shapla Square Monday, Nasim said "such highly provocative speech would only worsen the situation."

The opposition chief whip also accused BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar of making "similar statements".

"He wants to see us resign from Parliament," Nasim added.

FAP report available

By Staff Correspondent

The draft report of the recently released Flood Action Plan (FAP) is now available for public and institutions interested in research.

Those who are interested in the report could read it at the Library or procure copies on payment from the Flood Action Plan Coordination Office at 7, Green Road, says a press release.

The draft FAP report was formally launched by Water Resources Minister M Majidul Huq on November 24 at a press conference at Padma state guest house.

FBCCI invites

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gum Khaleda Zia and Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina to send their representatives to the meeting. The Opposition leader responded positively.

Awami League informed the federation yesterday that Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad MP, party president's adviser S A M S Kibria, party's economic affairs secretary Ataur Rahman Kaiser MP and Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP would be attending the meeting.

The FBCCI is now awaiting confirmation of the governing party's participation to fix a date for the meeting in which leaders of the business community may call for a negotiated settlement of the eight-month-old political crisis.

"We want the government and the Opposition political parties to resolve the current political crisis for the sake of the economy," said Salman Rahman.

The FBCCI leader, in a press statement, had earlier urged the politicians to end the stalemate and lead the country to economic prosperity by utilizing the opportunities in a changed global economic environment.

The business community warned that the present politics of confrontation would ultimately lead to the collapse of the economy and result in untold sufferings to the people at large.

Manpower

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force from Bangladesh and other least developed countries. Manpower export would go up again when an increased number of people start going to these countries, they pointed out.

About 12,000 workers from Bangladesh were employed in the countries like South Korea, Laos, Cambodia and Mauritius during the last few months, the officials said. Most of them were employed in factories and other establishments in South Korea while in Laos, Cambodia and Mauritius, they were employed in plantation farms.

"Formulation of an academic calendar can help remove the session jam of this residential university" — many teachers and students said pointing to the success attained by the Dhaka University in taming its session jam.

"We must eliminate terrorism from student politics if we want to see our educational institutions free from session jam," they added.

Hasina

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livelhood. "The government has snatched the voting right of the people," she told the newcomers.

The government is passing Bills as a single party and these Bills cannot be legitimate as all opposition parties are absent from the House, said the Leader of the Opposition who has been leading a boycott of Parliament by all the opposition groups for nearly nine months to press their demand for elections under a caretaker administration.

She said a crisis had been created in society by the misuse of BNP and that the people want relief from this situation. "We are fighting to establish the right of the people and free the people from this misrule," Hasina said.

The meeting was also addressed by Amir Hossain Anu, Montaz Hossain and Alhaj Abdul Awal.

JS passes Bill

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son under the above clause, the EC would also enjoy the authority to refer the matter to the appropriate authority for taking disciplinary actions against the person concerned," the new law says.

Mostafiz

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discipline. It is the responsibility of the UN to look after their safety and welfare, he stated.

The foreign minister said, "We have been repeatedly assured of the sincere and serious efforts of the UN regarding the welfare of our forces engaged in peace operations there." He said, the UN Secretary General is already on way to Yugoslavia to ensure ceasefire in Bosnia.

Mostafiz said, "We are proud of our troops in Bosnia as they are performing their responsibility with courage and resolution despite hazardous situations. They have also earned praise of the UN and other organisations for their performances." He dismissed reports regarding shortage of food and other supplies of the Bangladeshi forces. He described such reports as not based on facts and added that it has been subsequently established through direct telephonic contacts with our forces in Bihar.

The foreign minister said, "We are deeply concerned over the prevailing situation in Bosnia not only for our soldiers but also for others."

He said the UN peacekeeping forces including troops from Bangladesh are occasionally facing problems in the discharge of their duties there. Bangladesh, he said, together with other member countries of the UN have been demanding effective measures against Serb aggressions in Bosnia.

JU session-jam

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the students, teachers, and officers affected about one hundred academic days during the last three years — official sources said. The agitation of the students for rescheduling examinations is another cause of session jam — sources added. Preferring anonymity, a teacher told this correspondent that reluctance of some teachers in taking their classes is another cause of session jam. The examination system often leads to delays in taking examinations and publication of results which in turn affects the classes another teacher said. According to university regulations, examinations of all departments are held centrally under the control of examination department. If the classes of a department do not end, the other departments have to wait — he added. He also suggested that the departments should have the authority to conduct their examinations. Sources also told this correspondent that complicated admission procedure is the another cause of the session jam. "First year students have to lose more than one year to be admitted to the university" — they added.

"Formulation of an academic calendar can help remove the session jam of this residential university" — many teachers and students said pointing to the success attained by the Dhaka University in taming its session jam.

"We must eliminate terrorism from student politics if we want to see our educational institutions free from session jam," they added.