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Opposition allowed to file appeal by Jan 15 HC verdict stayed

By Staff Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed till January 15 the execution of the judgement passed by the High Court Division which asked the leaders of the three major opposition parties to return to Parliament when it is summoned.

Justice A T M Afzal of the Appellate Division passed the 'provisional' stay order and allowed the leaders of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, Jatiya Party's Moudud Ahmed and Jamaat-e-Islami's Muttir Rahman Nizami to file their appeals during this period.

Barrister Rafiqul Haq, on behalf of Moudud Ahmed, submitted that the High Court had acted beyond its jurisdiction and the order passed by it, if implemented, would prejudice the political right and interest of Moudud Ahmed.

"Such kind of judgement on political issues would only cause further conflict, disharmony and disorder in society in the present political context," Barrister Rafiq argued.

While the hearing was proceeding, Barrister K S Nabi, Barrister Abdur Razzaq and Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder representing Sheikh Hasina and Barrister Abdur Razaque and advocate Sheikh Ariser Ali representing Nizami entered the judge's chamber and supported the arguments made by Barrister Rafiq.

Barrister Mohammad Ali and Abu Siddiqui appeared for the petitioner. Advocate Anwar Hossain Khan.

Hearing both the sides in his chamber, Justice Afzal gave the stay order.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Kazi A T Monwaruddin and Justice Kazi Shafiqul Islam on Sunday declared the continuous Opposition boycott of Parliament sessions for realising the demand for a caretaker government 'illegal, unconstitutional and void.'

The HC Bench also said the salaries, allowances and other benefits received by the absenting members since March last is recoverable by the appropriate authorities upon due process of law.

The opposition members had already declared that they would resign en masse from Parliament on December 28 if the ruling party failed to accept the demand for a caretaker government for holding general elections.



Sheikh Hasina presenting pens and paper to BCL leaders during yesterday's students rally at Shapla Square in the city. — Star photo

Casablanca summit opens today Inter-Arab disputes block accord on agenda

By Staff Correspondent

CASABLANCA, Dec 12: Foreign ministers raced today to resolve inter-Arab disputes blocking agreement on the agenda of an Islamic summit, but obstacles that prolonged their meeting persisted as heads of state arrived, reports AP.

The ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) failed to seal an agenda Sunday night as planned.

Their 23-member Political Committee worked to hammer out differences between Jordan and the Palestinians over a draft resolution on Jerusalem and between Iraq and Kuwait, in confrontation since Baghdad's August 1990 invasion of the emirate.

The ministerial conference, which began Saturday, has drawn delegations from all 52 members of the OIC, plus a handful of observers including Bosnia.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan was among the first of the heads of state and government to arrive for the two-day summit meeting that starts tomorrow.

The dispute between Iraq and Kuwait persisted today. Kuwait was seeking a strongly worded resolution stating that the embargo against Iraq not be lifted — a move one Iraqi delegate to the talks called "unacceptable."

Iraq also wanted a reference to the plight of its people because of stifling sanctions in force since the invasion of Kuwait.

The ministers were preparing a 56-point agenda to be presented to their leaders for endorsement.

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"There will have to be a compromise," declared Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa after a late night plenary session adjourned until this evening.

Jordan wanted a proposed resolution on Jerusalem to include a reference to its role in administering the holy sites in the city. The Palestinian feel such a declaration would undermine their position.

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PM slates attack on judge's residence

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has condemned and expressed her grave concern at the attack on the residence of the judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, Justice A T Monwar Uddin, reports BSS.

In a statement prior to her departure here for Morocco to attend the seventh OIC summit, the Prime Minister said that in order to uphold democracy, human rights and individual freedom, the supremacy of the legislature and the judiciary must be maintained.

She sought the cooperation of all to uphold those values.

Secretary-General of the BNP and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder in a statement also strongly condemned the attack, describing it as a total disregard of certain quarter towards the judiciary and rule of law.

Referring to certain comments of the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Whip of the Opposition before the judgement Talukder said the

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Hasina hands over pens & paper to students 'Avoid violence and devote yourselves to studies'

By Staff Correspondent

Underlining the need for properly educated leadership for the well-being of the people, Hasina said, "A leader devoid of proper education and ideals cannot give directives to the nation."

The Leader of the Opposition said that the nation was now realising it well what its fate could be when ruled by 'uneducated leadership'. Mentioning the steps taken by the post-liberation government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for development of education and increasing the rate of literacy, she said the rate was 26 per cent in 1973 and it rose to only 30 per cent during the last 20 years.

The BCL rally was held 13 days after the ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) held a rally at the same venue. The BCL programme, as stated by its president Enamul Haq Shamim, was also a response to the BNP chief's challenge at the JCD rally that the three (chiefs of three major opposition parties) together would fail to mobilise a gathering as JCDs.

Chaired by Enamul Haq Shamim, the rally was also addressed by AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzaq, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Abdul Mannan and Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed and BCL General Secretary Ishaq Ali Khan Panna.

Sheikh Hasina ordered her party's student activists to shun politics three months ahead of their examinations. "I don't want to hear that any of the BCL members has done bad in the examinations for his/her preoccupation with

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At the DSE Monday

DSE All Price Index	871.65668
Market capitalisation Tk	41956327382.56
Turnover in volume	69649
Turnover in value Tk	14312350.00
Total issues traded	80
Issues gained	6
Issues incurred losses	60
Issues unchanged	14

NEWS BRIEFS

Tk 60cr Dutch loan exempted

The Netherlands government has decided to waive about Tk 60 crore debt of Bangladesh, which forms part of the remaining bilateral loan agreement of March 1981. The debt consists of NGL 21.8 million of outstanding principal and the rest being service payment over current calendar year. Through this debt relief the last outstanding Bangladesh Government debt with Netherlands Government has been exempted.

Strike at DU

By DU Correspondent

No classes were held at the Dhaka University yesterday because of a day-long students' strike demanding takeover of the Kataban mosque by the university authorities. Committee for implementation of the demand called the strike. All departments, administrative offices and libraries also remained closed on the day.

Liqueur poisoning

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 12: A young man died and eight people fell sick after taking home-made liquor at a village in Sadar thana early today. Police said Abdur Sabur (30) of Kalta village became sick after taking the liquor with a group of nine people Sunday night. He died at his residence at about 5 am. Of the sick Abdul Matin (27), Suzan (28) and Ali Hossain (30) were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital, reports UNB.

Shelling injures 5 in Bihac

ZAGREB, Dec 12: Five civilians were wounded by shelling in Bihac town, northwest Bosnia, a UN spokesman in Zagreb said today. Five mortar shells, two tank shells and four heavy artillery shells were fired into the town which is besieged by Bosnian Serb forces, the spokesman said, reports AFP.

Contraband seized

RAJSHAHI, Dec 12: BDR personnel of 20 rifle battalion seized Indian contrabands worth over Tk 16 lakh at Godagari, Charghat, Sonakandi, Khar Chaka, Majhordia and Pear Court, Ishwardi yesterday. The seized contrabands included Indian cattle, rice, salt, surms, bicycle, cloths, saree, medicine, shell of rice mill and truck, reports BSS.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia being received by King Hassan of Morocco on her arrival at Casablanca yesterday to attend the seventh Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). — PID photo

Japanese telecom loan Half of \$150m likely to remain unused

Star Report

Nearly half of the 150 million US dollar Japanese project loan for the Greater Dhaka Telecommunications Network Improvement and Expansion Project (Phase-II), would remain unused if the project is implemented as tendered.

According to sources concerned, the quoted prices of the three lowest qualified bidders, for setting up 67,500 digital telephone lines in the city, does not even exceed 73 million dollars, leaving the balance amount unused although their proposal contains several technical deviations from the specification.

The huge difference between the quoted price and the sanctioned loan amount, they added, is because of the fact that the international price of the tendered equipment declined sharply during the last couple of years compared to the price when the feasibility study for the project was conducted several years ago.

Moreover, it is also learnt that there is substantial differences of opinion over selecting the final bidders between the Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTB), the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) and the Japanese consulting firm Nippon Telecommunication Consulting Co Ltd (NTC).

The tender for the project was floated in November last year and it was opened in February this year. Thirteen bidders from Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Turkey and Singapore submitted quotations for the three packages of the tendered project.

The loan agreement between Bangladesh and Japan was signed in May 1992 for an

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CJ urged to take action against Monwaruddin

Leaders of the opposition parliamentary parties yesterday urged the Chief Justice to take constitutional and legal measures against Justice A T Monwaruddin for his alleged "misconduct", reports UNB.

The appeal was made at a meeting of opposition leaders held in Sangsad Bhavan yesterday evening, with Deputy Opposition Leader Abdus Samad Azad in the chair.

Abdus Samad Azad told reporters that Justice Monwaruddin had proved himself to be a BNP man by holding a press briefing on the judgement of the High Court with Chhatra Dal President Fazul Haq Milon at his residence on Sunday.

He said that the justice, a former president of BNP's Bagerhat unit, had undermined the image of the Judiciary through his unbecoming acts. "He could not make himself

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EU-Bangladesh joint body meets today

A new GSP scheme and a programme to facilitate European private investment are the issues, apart from aid and trade, likely to dominate the 12th session of the European Union-Bangladesh Joint Commission, due to begin in Dhaka today, reports UNB.

Dr Emiliano Fossati, Director for Asia at the EC Commission, will lead the 16-member EU delegation at the meeting which takes place once every two years.

Commerce Secretary A H Mofazzal Karim will lead the home team at the session that is also expected to take up the three-year EU-Bangladesh Cooperation Strategy (1993-96).

Effecting the European Community Investment Partner (ECIP), a programme to promote EU-Bangladesh joint ventures, will feature in the discussion.

The meeting is also due to review the on-going EU-aided projects and discuss future ones in the light of the cooperation strategy.

Opposition's condition for fresh dialogue

By Asiuzzaman

The opposition parties would accept only fresh proposal from the Commonwealth Secretary General if the ruling party agrees in principle to the caretaker government provision before a formal dialogue. Opposition sources said yesterday.

A reply to Chief Emeka Anyaoku's latest letter is likely to be given in the light of the above suggestion given by the opposition leaders in a meeting with Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad.

Chief Emeka has sent separate letters to the Leader of the Opposition and the ruling party chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia reportedly saying that if both sides agree, the Commonwealth could take a fresh initiative to resolve the political crisis in Bangladesh.

The opposition leaders said, "fresh dialogue would not be fruitful if the ruling party does not change its stand."

Sources said the ruling party would bid for time if the negotiations resume. The Opposition would still stick to the deadline for resignation from Parliament although Emeka requested them not to take such a final decision.

Salaudinn Yousuf, Tofael Ahmed, Matiya Chowdhury, S S Halder, Suranjit Sengupta, Rahmat Ali, K M Jahangir of the Awami League; Moudud Ahmed; Anwar Hossain Manju, Monirul Haq Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party; Muttir Rahman Nizami, Maulana Abdus Sobhan and Shaikh Anser Ali of Jamaat and Maulana Obaidul Haq of IOJ attended the meeting at the Parliament building.

Ruling party sources said their reply to Emeka's letter

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Seoul to employ more Bangladeshis

By Chapal Bashar

The export of manpower from Bangladesh to South Korea is on the increase and there is a bright prospect to send many more workers in the coming years.

About 1600 Bangladeshi workers were recruited for jobs in South Korea from mid-1993 until last month. Another 1200, who have already been selected by South Korean employers, are scheduled to reach Seoul by the end of this month, according to official sources.

During 1995, some 3000 Bangladeshi workers are likely to be employed in South Korea while the number is expected to rise in the following years.

South Korea is now speedily switching over to high technology to run its industries which were labour intensive ones. But the small and medium industries are still dependent on manpower which necessitates employing foreign workers since the locally available manpower is not adequate to meet the requirement.

According to informed sources in Seoul, South Korea presently needs at least 50,000 foreign workers for labour intensive industries and other jobs. The requirement may go up to 200,000 in the near future, they pointed out.

Recruitment of foreign workers in South Korea is still officially illegal. However, to meet the urgent needs, the government has allowed import of manpower under training schemes, which has enabled the employers to bring in foreign workers.

As regards the number of foreign workers recruited in South Korea, Bangladeshis are at the top since last year. Workers from the Philippines, Vietnam, China and Indonesia are also being employed there.

The wages of foreign workers in South Korea range from US dollars 250 to 300 per month and they also enjoy

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HSC examination results Dec 20

The results of HSC examinations of 1994 held under the four education boards will be announced on December 20 simultaneously at the respective centres, reports BSS.

The principals of all the centres have been directed to collect results from the Deputy Commissioners within 8 am on December 20.

No results will be hung at the offices of the education boards this year. Only talent lists and statistics will be published in the newspapers television and radio will air the results.

Two copies of results will be sent to each centre and talent lists and statistics will be sent to each district.

'No plan to sell units owned by FFs' trust

By Staff Correspondent

The Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust authorities yesterday announced that the government has no plan to sell any of the industries or commercial installations under the Trust.

Senior officials of the Trust, however, said there were plans to go for long-term lease, management lease and setting up of joint ventures for making those mills and industries profitable.

Speaking at a press conference, they said, the development programmes of the Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust have been seriously hampered because of unruly activities of 'a section of fake freedom fighters'.

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20 fall from first floor, hurt

By Staff Correspondent

Over 20 people were injured when they fell from the first floor of a supermarket in the city's New Market area yesterday afternoon.

Two of the injured, Abdul Mannan and Rafiq were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while the others received first aid.

Hundreds of people rushed to the first floor of the three-

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