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JS session resumes today

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad session resumes at 4.30 pm today after a 19-day recess for the SAARC Speakers' Council in Dhaka and the holy Eid-ul-Azha.

The current session — the 12th of the Seventh Sangsad — began on January 25. The House was adjourned on March 15.

The JS Business Advisory Committee (BAC) is due to meet on April 7 to decide duration of the current session, which was earlier planned to continue till April 8. The BAC met twice on the 12th session but BNP representatives in the Committee did not attend any of those meetings.

Duration of the current session largely depends on disposal of pending businesses, especially the general discussion on the President's address to the House.

Till March 15, the House witnessed only six hours of discussion against 20 hours planned earlier.

BNP plans to raise in the House the issues of recovery of a body from the overhead water tank at BD office in the city, killing of a student of Adamjee Cantonment College, Atrai killings and some other incidents that took place during the period of adjournment.

Meanwhile, the AL Parliamentary Party meets at 3 pm today to discuss the political developments and law and order in the country.

Restriction on presenting bouquets to Khaleda

The BNP has placed restrictions on presenting bouquets to opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia on various occasions for security reasons, reports UNB.

The decision was taken by the party high command recently, said a member of the private security force for Begum Zia.

The measure has been taken as a precaution against any attempt on the life of the opposition leader following the recent spate of political killings, he said, preferring anonymity.

Instead of bouquet, now only two or three sticks of *Rajani-gandha* or rose can be presented to Begum Zia on different occasions.

Yesterday evening, the car of the opposition leader was also seen parked at a different place at her 29 Minto Road official residence instead of its usual residence.

ALPP meets today

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held today at 3:00 pm at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the city, reports BSS.

Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting.

Inside Today

Article

Telecom: Insight into a Grameen Bank Initiative

Column: Beneath the Surface
by Abdul Bayes
Page 4

Law and Our Rights

The decomposed DB and the demoralised police; Corpse in the DB office watertank: Whither protection?
Page 5

Business

Donors for transparency in defence spending
UN urges Pakistan not to cut poverty alleviation fund
DSE, CSE price quotations
Pages 6, 7 & 8

Prayer Timings

April 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	5:35
Zohr	12:45	1:20
Asr	4:30	4:35
Maghrib	6:20	6:23
Esha	7:30	7:35

Source: Islamic Foundation

Serbian, Yugoslav home ministries destroyed

NATO bombs Belgrade

Italy & France back Yeltsin's call for G-7 meet on Kosovo

ROME, Apr 3: Italy and France backed Russia's proposal for a conference of the world's powers on Kosovo, with Italy's Foreign Ministry saying today it wants a political solution to the conflict, reports AP.

Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini said he also expected "positive responses" from the United States, Britain and Germany—even though the United States earlier had rejected the request by Russia, which opposes the NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia.

Italy, with 11 NATO bases, is an essential partner in the allied airstrikes on Yugoslavia.

Premier Massimo D'Alema's centre-left government, under pressure from its Communist partners, has been pushing harder in recent days for diplomatic resolution of the crisis.

Dini said in a statement to— See Page 12 Col 6

BELGRADE, Apr 3: NATO's first attack on downtown Belgrade today destroyed the headquarters of the Yugoslav forces accused of routing ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, and the alliance decided to send troops to help deal with the refugees, reports AP.

Three explosions rocked a government quarter of Belgrade just before 1 am (2300 GMT Friday). Flames quickly engulfed the buildings of the Yugoslav and Serbian interior ministries.

Serbian Interior Minister Vlatko Stojiljkovic, whose police centre was burned to the ground, said the attack was "an act of monsters and criminals."

The bombings, close to residential areas and the city's main medical complex, shook a nearby maternity hospital and a row of embassies but they were untouched by the fire.

Angry residents joined hands, shouting "Serbia! Serbia!" Many pinned target symbols to their jackets, challenging NATO to hit them.

Hours after the bombings, fires at the Yugoslav and Serbian interior ministries were mostly extinguished.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon confirmed that downtown Belgrade was targeted.

State television reported NATO missiles hit an army barracks in Vranje in southeastern Serbia, while Tanjug said NATO jets struck targets near the western Kosovo town of Klina, 50 kilometres west of Pristina, the provincial capital. It was the first reported attack near Klina, located along a major highway — See Page 12 Col 7



Belgrade fire brigades stand outside the burning Serbian Interior Ministry while battling the fire in downtown Belgrade early yesterday. NATO fired eight cruise missiles at targets in downtown Belgrade where the Serbian and Yugoslav interior ministries were blazing out of control. — AFP photo

Hasina orders Nasim to 'go to any extent'

AL leaders vow to fight crime, violence

By Staff Correspondent

Ruling party central leaders have vowed to curb crime and violence, amid concerns that the rising acts of terrorism could "outshine the government's achievements in the past three years."

The resolve came yesterday from a daylong meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC), chaired by party chief and prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Responding to the concern expressed by party colleagues, Hasina asked her new home minister "to go to any extent" in dealing with offenders causing unrest in public life.

The meeting of 67-strong ALCWC, also joined by entire cabinet of Hasina's 33-month old government, took note of the recent incidents of violence, notably those in Kushtia, Jessore, Chhatak and Narail.

Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, who is not a member of the Awami League, was also present and spoke at the meeting.

According to party sources,

the prime minister told the meeting that there was no reason to fail to deal with the law and order situation for the Awami League government that faced the 1998 floods, the worse in a century, effectively.

She assured the party men that she would personally take care of the issues involving the recent killings in Jessore, Kushtia and Chhatak. Mohammad Nasim, the new home minister and the party's organising secretary, said he would "do his level best to rid the country of the curse of violence."

The ruling party leaders also discussed the opposition threat to launch an out-governments movement and gave no signs of change in party position.

The meeting brushed aside demands for holding upcoming Upazila and City Corporations polls under a neutral caretaker government and resolved that the party's position in this respect would be made clear to aid-giving countries' diplomats, who are seeking a peaceful

resolution to the political conflicts.

It, however, resolved that government's dialogue offer for the agitating Opposition would remain valid if the latter was willing to talk without any precondition.

Nasim, who replaced Rafiqul Islam as home minister on March 11 in the backdrop of worsening law and order in the country, said there would be an immediate need for strengthening the police force with adequate logistic support.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, the minister said he had also raised such issues as reforming and modernising the law enforcing agencies to deal with the changing nature of crime and violence.

Several ALCWC members noted with regret that there had been "criminal tendencies" among a section of the law enforcing agency men and that law enforcers themselves were turning into law breakers. "Police must be able to treat — See Page 12 Col 3

Representatives of donor states, aid agencies meet PM today

Diplomats of donor countries and representatives of aid agencies will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister invited them to a meeting at her official Ganobhaban residence at 7.30 pm, which will be followed by a dinner.

Sources in the ruling party said Prime Minister Hasina wanted to hold the meeting with the representatives of Bangladesh's development partners last year, but deferred it because of floods.

Incidentally, the meeting has finally been scheduled just ahead of the Aid Consortium meeting to be held in Paris on April 19-20.

The Prime Minister is expected to attend the meeting. — See Page 12 Col 1

Train accident Condition of 5 still critical

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Apr 3: Condition of five persons injured in Friday's train accident near Shohagi station in Iswarganj thana of the district remained critical, doctors at the MMCH said today.

The critically injured persons are Jalaluddin, 20, Gulzar, 35, Saidul Mia, 25, Azhar Ali, 75, and Abdul Khaleque, 20.

Earlier, some 40 others were released from the hospital after preliminary treatment.

The body of the unidentified young man is still lying at the MMCH morgue.

Meanwhile, the four-member body formed to investigate the accident left for Dhaka today to submit the probe report.

Pepsi Cup India-Pakistan final today

Sports Reporter

Perennial foes India and Pakistan clash in the Pepsi Cup tri-nation cricket tournament final at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore today.

The day-night 50-over-a-side match will start at 3:00pm BST. Live coverage of the match on ESPN as well as Bangladesh Television will begin 10 minutes before the game.

Three DB men knew victim Shafi was murdered over share of money from smuggling?

By Staff Correspondent

Jalal Ahmed Shafi may have been killed following a dispute over distribution of money collected from gold smuggling in which some DB (Detective Branch) officials were also allegedly involved, sources in the CID investigation team said yesterday.

They however refused to disclose the names of the DB officials for the sake of investigation.

Meanwhile, three of the six DB officials who were interrogated on Friday confessed that they knew Shafi, the sources said.

Shafi's decomposed body was found in the rooftop water tank at the Minto Road DB office on March 25. The body was identified on March 31.

Investigation officer Munshi Atiqur Rahman interrogated Sub-Inspector Arju at Louhajang in Munshiganj district yesterday. Arju had worked at the DB office before his current posting there.

During investigation Arju confessed that Shafi worked for the DB with his vehicle. Arju also said that he used Shafi's vehicle several times, the sources said.

Another CID team has gone to Sylhet to seize Shafi's microbus which went to Sylhet from Dhaka on a trip.

The CID officials are also looking for one Kabir, a driver and friend of Anwar, contractor of the DB office canteen. Kabir is absconding since the incident.

CID sources hope that if they can arrest Kabir, they may be able to find out some clues to the murder of Jalal. Anwar, now on a five-day police remand, however declined his involvement in the murder.

Meanwhile, CID has started interrogating another 19 DB personnel. They are three SIs, two Naiks, one Havildar and 13 constables who were on duty from March 19 to 25 when the murder took place. — See Page 12 Col 6

Law & order situation Opposition to observe protest day Apr 8

The BNP-led opposition alliance will observe "Demonstration Day" across the country on April 8 to protest the deterioration of law and order, water and fertiliser crisis, reports UNB.

A meeting of the Liaison Committee at 29 Minto Road yesterday afternoon observed that the law and order situation had deteriorated alarmingly in recent days.

And this has been evident from recent incidents like murder of four people over cattle selling, killing of a maid by police in Chittagong and killing of two Awami League leaders in Noagaon, it said.

The meeting viewed that the AL government's 32-month rule

is featured by killings, robberies and rapes.

It also observed that the death of a man in DB office left the countrymen shocked but failed to have any impact on the government.

Instead of restoring the law and order, the meeting said, the government and ministers are issuing provocative statements.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, BNP leader Anwar Zahid said under the circumstances, the opposition had decided to stage a countrywide demonstration.

The next course of action would be announced on April 8, he said.

Later, a meeting of BNP-led seven-party alliance was also held at the same venue.

No laws yet to ensure safe disposal of hospital waste

By Naimul Haq

There is no move yet by the government to introduce proper laws for safe disposal of hospital waste that spreads deadly diseases.

In the absence of proper laws, all waste generated in government hospitals and private clinics are thrown into roadside dustbins, spreading deadly microbes.

"There are sufficient evidences that deadly pathogens

spread from waste dumped in the dustbins. This causes various skin and digestive tract diseases. Some patients carrying these diseases said they had collected garbage from dustbins located near private clinics," said a pathologist at a city hospital.

Studies showed that some pathogens are highly contagious while others cause deadly diseases.

When contacted, a high offi-

cial of the Health Directorate told The Daily Star that there was no guideline for disposal of hospital waste.

According to the study, on an average, about 0.6 kg of clinical waste is generated per person per day in the country. All these are dumped in municipal dustbins.

"There is no facility in government or private hospitals

Jubo Dal activist shot dead in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 3: A pro-BNP Jubo Dal activist was shot dead at Motiarna in Lalkhan Bazar area last night, police and party sources said.

Moinul Islam, 24, was shot by the unidentified assailants while he was returning home after offering prayer in a local mosque at about 8 pm. He was immediately rushed to Chittagong Medical Hospital by the local people where he succumbed to his bullet injuries.

The death of Moinul sparked tension in the entire Lalkhan Bazar area.

According to sources, Moinul was killed as a sequel to rivalry over domination in Lalkhan Bazar area.

Local BNP and Jubo Dal blamed the ruling party backed Chhatra League for the killing, but the BCL denied the charge.

Meanwhile, BNP and Jubo Dal city units threatened to enforce a hartal if the killers were not arrested within 24 hours.

The victim's mother filed a case with Doublenmooring thana accusing 10 people, police said.

5 killed in Feni road accident

FENI, Apr 3: Five passengers, including four young girls, were killed and seven others injured when a speeding truck rammed a tempo on the Feni-Majdee road in Kashempur area here today, reports APB.

The dead were identified as Kohinur Akhter, Shirin, 17, Nasima Akhter, 24, Monwara Begum, 17, Panna, 12, and Iqbal Hossain, 16.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when the truck collided with the Senbagh-bound tempo carrying passengers from a nearby village at about 12 noon. The truck sped away after the incident.

Three passengers of the tempo died on the spot while two were admitted to their injuries at Feni Hospital.

Among the injured, three were undergoing treatment at Feni Hospital while four at different private clinics.

In another incident, a truck knocked a rickshaw on Feni bypass road in the morning, injuring two passengers.

The injured, identified as Hajera Khatun, 60, and Sarwar, 10, were admitted to Feni Hospital.

UP chairman shot dead in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 3: Mostapha Habib, 50, Chairman of Shukhathi union parishad of Batiaghata thana was gunned down by some unidentified miscreants at about 2:50 pm today.

Habib was returning home from union parishad office when the gunmen opened fire from a close range. He died on the spot.

Eyewitnesses said the killers left the place raising slogans in favour of an outlawed organisation.

The deceased was also a member of Batiaghata thana committee of Awami League, said a press release of the party.

The murder sparked tension at Batiaghata where Awami League brought out a procession demanding arrest of the alleged killers.

Supporters of Awami League also laid a siege of the police station protesting police inaction.

The UP chairman had filed a general diary with the police station last month asking for security of life.

BNP calls hartal in Rajshahi on Apr 7

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 4: Rajshahi city and the district units of BNP have called a half-day hartal on April 7 in the district to realise its seven-point demand.

The demands include an end to alleged repression on BNP activists, immediate repair of the town protection embankment and improvement of law and order.

The BNP will bring out processions and put up barricades on the roads at different points tomorrow as part of its programme.

Rajshahi City Mayor and the BNP central leader Mizanur Rahman Minu announced the programmes at a press conference at the party office at Sonadighi Crossing in the city yesterday afternoon.

The BNP leaders alleged that the law and order has deteriorated in the district as the ruling party leaders and activists unleashed a reign of terror.

The administration is being used to oppress the opposition party activists, they said. Section 144 was imposed on at least 25 public meetings of the BNP in Puthia and Durgapur thanas, they alleged. — See Page 12 Col 2