



VOL. IX NO. 215 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

BHADRA 16 1406 BS

DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 31, 1999

JAMADIUL AWAL 18, 1420 HIJRI

16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

JS goes into 6-day recess

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad went into a six-day recess after a brief sitting yesterday to facilitate its members to attend the Asian Parliamentarians' Conference for Peace and Cooperation beginning in the city tomorrow.

The session will resume at 9:30 am on September 6 when the House is scheduled to discuss the controversial transhipment issue. The Opposition earlier announced not to attend the session unless the government cancelled its decision to examine the proposal to allow transhipment facility to India through Bangladesh's land.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid adjourned the House at 11:30 am after a two-hour sitting, with the members of opposition BNP, Jatiya Party (Ershad) and Jamaat-e-Islami continuing their abstention. But the rival JP faction led by Communication Minister Anwar Hossain attended the sitting.

After the question hour, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khashru introduced a bill titled The Trusts (Amendment) Act, 1999. The bill was later sent to the JS Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and

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Welfare trust for non-govt primary school teachers approved

The government will form a welfare trust for teachers of non-government registered primary school, reports UNB.

An official announcement said the Cabinet at its weekly meeting yesterday approved in principle the Registered Non-government Primary School Teachers Welfare Trust Act 1999.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting at her office.

Official sources said a Bill to form the trust would be placed before the Jatiya Sangsad.

After passage of the Bill, the teachers of non-government but registered primary schools will get retirement facility from the trust funds.

Besides, they will also be provided financial assistance if any of them become incapable to work during their service period," said the announcement.

Quoting the meeting resolution it said the fund would also provide financial assistance to the families of those teachers who will die from accident while in service.

Shamsur Rahman not sacked or removed

The government yesterday said poet Shamsur Rahman was not sacked or removed as chairman of the Bangla Academy, reports UNB.

"As there is no provision for appointing a person as chairman of the academy for a third consecutive term, a new appointment was given after the expiry of Shamsur Rahman's second tenure on August 18," the Press Information Department of the government said yesterday.

The government hoped that all confusions regarding this would be over after this clarification.

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Business

Imported, smuggled ceramic ware whack local industry

DSE, CSE price quotations
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Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a three-page special supplement on the 42nd National Day of Malaysia
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Prayer Timings

August 31	
Azan	Jamaat
4:10	4:15
Zohr	12:45
Asr	4:45
Maghrib	6:40
Esha	8:00
	8:30



Flood waters have submerged low-lying areas of Nandipara near the city.

— Star photo

Khaleda leads massive procession in city People now united to oust govt thru' mass upsurge'

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday led a massive procession in the city, organised by the party to protest the government's move to provide "corridor facility to India in the name of transhipment".

Thousands of BNP leaders, activists, supporters and people started gathering in front of the BRTC Bhaban at Rajuk Avenue since 3pm carrying banners, festoons, party flags and the National Flag.

The Rajuk Avenue, Dilkusha, Motijheel, Baitul Mukarram, Fakirpool and Nayapaltan areas turned into a human sea within one and a half hours. BNP erected a stage on a truck and fixed microphones with roadside light posts.

Begum Zia reached there at 4:50pm and addressed the huge gathering for about 27 minutes, bitterly criticising the government for its "policy of sub-service to India".

The procession started at 5:25pm and terminated at Sonargaon Link Road at 6:35pm after crossing Nayapaltan, Kakruli, Shantinagar, Malibagh, Moghbazar, New Ekaton and Bangla Motor.

Begum Zia stood in a jeep at the middle of the long procession and waved to cheering people along the roads.

When the front part of the procession reached Moghbazar crossing at 6:15pm, the rear part was at Kakruli crossing.

The procession was peaceful barring some incidents of violence in front of the passport office at Moghbazar at about 6:45pm in which two persons were bullet hit.

Witnesses said when the rear part of the procession reached there, a group of armed terrorists burst forth from a lane opposite the Janakantha Bhaban, chased the marchers and fired 2-3 shots.

BNP activists chased them.

A chase and counter-chase there lasted for about half an hour. Two employees of Daily Janakantha - Motalleb (35), an electrical engineer and storekeeper Nazrul Islam (32) were bullet hit at that time.

Police rushed to the spot at about 7:15pm, resorted to lathi charge, hurled tear gas shells and fired rubber bullets.

During the chase and counter-chase, seven vehicles parked in front of the Janakantha Bhaban were damaged and an autorickshaw of the daily torched. Some shops on the footpath were also ransacked.

City BNP Convener Sadek Hossain Khoka MP declared the procession terminated at the Sonargaon Link Road Crossing at 6:35 pm in presence of Begum Zia and senior leaders including Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Oli Ahmed, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain, Tariqul Islam, Shahjahan Siraj and Salahuddin Gader Chowdhury.

Addressing the pre-proces-

son, Begum Zia said: "The government has been shaken. It has no scope to stay in power anymore as the people have become united to oust it through a mass upsurge." Begum Zia told the participants in the procession.

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Addressing the pre-proces-

Ershad says Beginning of oust-govt movement

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad led a mass procession in the city yesterday in protest against the government move to provide transhipment facility to India.

The procession, started from Paltan Maidan and paraded different streets before dispersing at Maghbazar peacefully. It was part of the four-party opposition alliance's mass procession programme.

Addressing the participants in the procession both at Paltan and Maghbazar, Ershad said this was the beginning of an oust-government movement.

This government is "subservient" to India and is signing anti-people accords with that country one after another, he said.

Citing the reported intrusion of police force from one of the Indian states into Rajshahi, Ershad said, "A government which can afford to remain ignorant about such an incident is not a government at all. What is the use of having such a government in the country?"

The JP chief expressed the fear that if transhipment facility is given to India, the country would be "flooded with arms and phenesidyl".

Ershad noted with satisfaction that a ruling party lawmaker has resigned and "alleged that the party has resorted to 'horse-trading' to break Jatiya

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Probe UCBL incident, HC orders BB Stay extended by two weeks

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday ordered the central bank to investigate into the UCBL incident and submit a report to the court "as soon as it is ready".

It also extended by two weeks the stay on the central bank order which had suspended all activities of the United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) board.

The court directives came after a writ petition by Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and other directors were allegedly forced out of the bank by Aktheruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and his men.

The three-member committee, headed by BB Executive Director Murshid Kuli Khan, will submit its report by Thursday.

Meanwhile, the UCBL situation became normal to some extent yesterday as the panic among the depositors slightly died down.

But there were still some panic withdrawal, but the BB did not have to intervene.

The bank has about Tk 200 crore in excess liquidity which is enough to meet emergencies," said a BB source.

Meanwhile, the BB in its board meeting Sunday felt that the regulator was forced to take the decision to issue the show cause notice to safeguard the rights of the depositors.

It decided that the Bank's measures should be taken in line with the decisions taken at the court.

BB forms probe body

Star Report

Bangladesh Bank yesterday formed an inquiry committee to investigate the Thursday's incident at the United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) in which its Chairman Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and other directors were allegedly forced out of the bank by Aktheruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and his men.

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Bank CEOs slam BB's two-notice approach

By Staff Correspondent

The Bankers Club, an association of bank CEOs, has expressed grave concern at the violent incident at UCBL boardroom and said that the incident reveals the security of the bank employees are also at stake, sources said.

The meeting held yesterday hailed the central bank's prompt decision of appointing an administrator but criticised its serving notices on two persons addressing both as chairman, the sources said.

They also criticised sealing

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Babu goes to court claiming UCBL chair

By Staff Correspondent

Aktheruzzaman Chowdhury Babu yesterday filed a writ petition seeking to establish his claim as chairman of the United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL).

The High Court bench, which is also hearing the petition by rivals Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and 10 other directors, refused to hear his case yesterday, citing time constraints.

Soon after hearing on the other writ petition, Babu's lawyer insisted that the judges now hear his case.

In the petition, Babu said the board members duly resigned and that he was elected chairman of the bank.

Former Supreme Court president Habibul Islam Bhuiyan and Barrister Abdur Razzak appeared for Babu.

BOC rejoinder

By Staff Correspondent

The following rejoinder was received from BOC Bangladesh yesterday.