

9-day JS session begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into its 19th session today with opposition lawmakers still unwilling to end their long boycott of JS proceedings.

The session is due to start at 9.30 am with Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury in the chair.

Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is now in New York to attend the UN millennium summit. She is scheduled to return on September 11.

As decided by the JS Business Advisory Committee earlier, the session will continue till September 14 with only seven working days.

The last session -- the budget session -- was prorogued on July 9. Boycotting the proceedings since July last year, MPs belonging to the main opposition BNP and its allies registered their brief attendance during the last session to protect their membership.

Though brief, the current session is expected to deal with some issues of political significance. The fate of a crucial bill seeking retention of the 30 reserved seats for women in Parliament is likely to be decided during the session.

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Akhteruzzaman to join JS session

By Nazmul Ashraf

BNP lawmaker Akhteruzzaman, better known for his over actions, has again stepped into the limelight thanks to his latest move to join the parliament session beginning today.

The Major-turned-lawmaker said he is obligated to his electorate to speak about their problems and that is why he is going to attend the session.

But he is undecided about the timing for attending the session, which is due to continue until September 14.

"I'm trying to bring my party back to the House and thus make the parliament effective. In case I fail, I will attend the session alone in accordance with my recent commitment to the people of my constituency," Akhter told the Daily Star last night.

Elected from the Kishoreganj-2 constituency in the 1996 election, the outspoken BNP legislator faced punitive actions including temporary expulsion from the party on several occasions for making public statements blasting the party's role on crucial political issues.

Akhter was also vocal against BNP decision to boycott parliament proceedings and the party's alliance with HM Ershad's Jatiya Party and the anti-liberation Jamaat-e-Islami. He was manhandled at a

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By M Rashiduzzaman

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Twelfth instalment

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Triangular fight for top FBCCI post likely

DSE, CSE price quotations

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Sun Rises Sun Sets

Sept 6 6-11 pm

Sept 7 5-42 am

Prayer Timings

September 6

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 4-30 5-05

Zohr 12-45 1-30

Asr 4-45 5-00

Maghrib 6-20 6-25

Esha 8-00 8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Airbus purchase case Khaleda, Saifur, Mannan and seven others chargedsheeted

By Court Correspondent

The Bureau of Anti-corruption yesterday submitted a charge sheet accusing BNP chief and former prime minister Khaleda Zia, former finance minister M Saifur Rahman and eight others for embezzlement of about Tk 175 crore in purchase of two Airbuses during her tenure.

The eight others are: former state minister for civil aviation and tourism MA Mannan, former cabinet secretary Ayubur Rahman, former MD of Biman Abab Ahmed, its former director finance Abbas Uddin, former general manager (cost and budget) Anwar Hossain, former director store and purchase Siddiquer Rahman, Deputy GM Zamir Ahmed, and Marketing and Planning Director Mahmudur Rahman.

Inspector Haroon-ur-Rashid submitted the 12-page charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan magistrate's court.

Haroon told newsmen that he had filed the case with Motijheel thana on August 30, 1988 against the persons for allegedly misappropriation Tk 174,88,62,500 by abusing power when Khaleda Zia was prime minister.

The two Airbus A 310-300 were purchased from France in 1994.

The charge sheet has a list of 37 witnesses, Haroon said.

Haroon, who is also the IO of the case, said permission was taken from the Prime Minister's Secretariat for submitting the charge sheet, which is a legal requirement in such cases.

He said the charge sheet was submitted after two years' investigation in the country as



Khaleda Zia

Charge framing is in process.

UNB Adds: BNP has planned to move the High Court against implicating Khaleda in a fabricated corruption case regarding purchase of airbus during her rule.

The case was discussed at the party standing committee meeting last night. BNP legal expert said permission was taken from the Prime Minister's Secretariat for submitting the charge sheet, which is a legal requirement in such cases.

The meeting decided that Khaleda will appear before the lower court where the case was filed by the Bureau of Anti-Corruption.

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BNP suspends priv membership of Akhteruzzaman

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP yesterday suspended primary membership of Major (ret'd.) Akhteruzzaman MP for an indefinite period on charges of violating the party discipline and acting against its interests.

The decision to suspend the outspoken legislator was made at an emergency meeting of the National Standing Committee, the highest policy-making body of BNP, held last night on 29 Minto Road with party Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The action against the BNP MP followed his letter to the party chief, which was subsequently published in different national dailies. Akhter in his letter advocated for BNP's joining in the parliament and bitterly criticised alliance with Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami. He also criticised Khaleda's visit to the residence of deposed President HM Ershad.

Akhter had also threatened to join alone in the parliament

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Intra-party rivalry in Khulna AL Boral murder may lead to more secret killings'

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Sept 5: The activities of Awami League's Chitalmari thana chapter have been suspended for a month with effect from September 2.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting held the day before in view of the humiliation suffered by Sheikh Helal MP, elected from Bagerhat-1 constituency, at a condolence meeting on Friday following the killing of Kalidas Boral at Chitalmari.

Different government agencies are reported to have launched investigation into Friday's incident that took place in presence of Home Minister Mohammad Nasim. The incident had forced Sheikh Helal, who is also a cousin of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, to leave Chitalmari incurring a political setback and division in the Bagerhat district Awami League.

Awami League leaders sympathetic to late Kalidas Boral justified the showdown against Helal, while others wanted dis-

Lofty goal for global peace & prosperity UN Millennium Summit opens in NY today

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 5: Kings, generals, presidents and prime ministers are assembling in New York with the lofty goal of turning the 21st century into an epoch free of war, poverty, ignorance and disease.

But they are also using the UN Millennium Summit - the largest gathering of world leaders in history - as a soapbox for issues in their homelands, reports AP.

Tight security around the United Nations inconvenienced New Yorkers and netted several arrests over the weekend. At least 91 demonstrations are planned during the gathering of more than 150 heads of state and government, which runs from tomorrow through Friday.

At the summit's conclusion, world leaders are expected to adopt the so-called Millennium Declaration, which commits them to meeting tough targets in eradicating poverty, promoting education and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Noting that more than 5 million people have lost their lives in wars during the last decade, the document says, "we will spare no

effort to free our peoples from the scourge of war."

A nine-page draft circulated yesterday also vows to promote democracy and strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, "including the right to development" - a key demand by Third World countries.

While the overall declaration was being drafted, individual leaders were stating their own goals.

Pakistan's military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf plans to highlight a simmering dispute with India over the Kashmir region. South Korean President Kim Dae-jung will discuss thawing relations with North Korea. Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong might use the summit to invite US President Bill Clinton to visit. Cuba's Fidel Castro, one of 18 dignitaries deemed "high risk" and given extra police security, was expected to build on his career of battling US influence.

All the world's problems are going to be thrown on the table for discussion.

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PM addresses today

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will deliver her speech at the Millennium Summit beginning at the United Nations Headquarters in New York today. Her speech is due to be broadcast live by Bangladesh Betar at 7.30 p.m. today.

Hasina will be the third speaker among the heads of states and governments, according to a message received

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Hasina-Vajpayee meeting on Sept 8 or 9

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Sept 5: Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee will have talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina in New York on the sidelines of the UN Millennium Summit, official sources said here today.

The Vajpayee-Hasina meeting is likely on September 8 or 9 and this is one of the two bilateral meetings arranged for the Indian Prime Minister so far. Vajpayee is also to meet Prime Minister of Nepal Girija Prasad Koirala in New York, the sources said.

Vajpayee's itinerary during his 10 day visit to the United States commencing on September 7 has been rescheduled keeping in view the persisting pain in his knee which had forced him to cut short his participation in the crucial meeting of BJP National Council in Nagpur last week.

Vajpayee's interaction with other world leaders during his stay in New York has been kept to the minimum, the sources said. But programmes connected with the Millennium Summit and the bilateral part of the visit in Washington remain unchanged.

The Indian Premier will call on September 14. Vajpayee will address the US Congress followed by meetings with Senate foreign relations committee, the House International Relations Committee and the India Caucus.

Ershad meets Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Deposed President HM Ershad met BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at her 29 Minto Road official residence at 10.30 pm yesterday.

JP secretary general Nazirul Manju and President member Kazi Firoz Rashid accompanied Ershad.

The BNP Chairperson along with her party and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders visited the residence of Ershad on August 24 after the High Court awarded Ershad five years jail and fined Tk five and a half crore in Janata Tower Case.

BNP leaders Dr Khanda Mosharraf Hossain, M Shamsul Islam MP and Anwar Zaidi were also present at the meeting.

Khaleda and Ershad discussed next course of action programmes and current political situation, sources said.

Bid to kidnap lawyer from CMM's Court area, one held

By Court Correspondent

One person was arrested from in front of the CMM's Court. Dhaka yesterday as he along with his two accomplices allegedly tried to kidnap a lawyer.

The arrested was identified as Lutfur Rahman of Pallabi in the city.

Mohammad Asadullah, lawyer for a complainant in a case filed with Pallabi thana, appeared before the CMM's court yesterday to oppose the bail petition of the accused in the case.

To make matters worse, leadership conflict has once again surfaced within the JP owing to the race for the position, sources said. Though Roushan Ershad is the senior vice-chairman of the party, most party leaders have expressed their no-confidence in her. Party insiders said the party will definitely be split into pieces if Roushan Ershad is given the charge.

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No buses could leave the Mohakhali terminal for several hours yesterday after a section of transport workers put up a barricade in front of the terminal. The workers were protesting arrest of one of their leaders. Picture shows the buses at the terminal after they started plying again around noon.

— Star photo

Opposition now

programmes

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance, which had earlier planned to intensify the anti-government movement from the middle of this month, is now thinking about announcing a warm up programme beforehand.

Sources said the policy makers of the parties have suggested mass contact programmes, including holding of grand rallies and mass processions in major cities and district towns by the chiefs of the parties to mobilise public support.

To take up fresh programmes, the Central Liaison Committee held a meeting yesterday and discussed the next course of action.

The CLC will meet again this morning at 29 Minto Road, the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, to draw up programmes to be announced from a "grand" rally of the alliance at Khulna Circuit House Ground Friday afternoon.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam and Islami Okiya Jote Chairman Aizul

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HSC result scam

steps against 4

CHITTAGONG, Sept 5: Chittagong Education Board recommended punitive action against the four persons, including two board officials and a college teacher, for placing two students on the merit list of 1998 HSC examinations through fraudulent means, reports UNB.

The board authorities earlier cancelled the Chittag