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Power situation: PM's instruction goes unheeded

Star Report
Despite the Prime Minister's instruction about keeping shops and marketplaces in the city closed after evening to improve the power supply situation, the Power Division of Energy Ministry took no step in this regard so far.

The Prime Minister issued a number of instructions to the Power Division in late July, including one for avoiding load shedding in the city. It is unavoidable, advance public notification should be given.

But the authorities concerned followed none of these

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UN Millennium Summit opens with call to eradicate war, poverty



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on Jordan's King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein at St Regis Hotel in New York on Tuesday. - PID photo

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 6: The largest gathering of world leaders in history opened today to chart the course of the United Nations in the 21st century - particularly its efforts to forge peace. The meeting was clouded by a faraway reminder of the challenges facing the international body: the killings of three UN aid workers in West Timor, reports AP.

US President Bill Clinton said he was deeply saddened to learn of the "brutal" slaying of the three workers and told the

Details of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's speech at the UN Millennium Summit were not available till 11.30 pm

UN Millennium Summit - a gathering of more than 150 world leaders - that the United Nations must be better prepared to confront such hostilities.

"Increasingly, the United Nations has been called into situations where brave people seek reconciliation but where the enemies seek to undermine it," Clinton said, citing UN peacekeeping operations in East Timor and Sierra Leone.

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Alliance not at the cost of party ideals: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said her party has forged an opposition alliance in the greater interests of the nation, but it has not compromised its own ideals and programmes.

"BNP is a liberal democratic party. It has specific policy, ideals and programmes. We did not form an alliance with Jatiya Party, Jamaat-ul-Islami and others by compromising our ideals," she said while exchanging views with editors of national dailies, weeklies and news agencies at Hotel Sheraton yesterday.

She said while in opposition, the Awami League along with the JP and Jamaat had launched movement against the BNP government. So there is nothing wrong with BNP's ally-ing with those parties.

Khaleda said the BNP formed the alliance with the objective to ensuring peace and stability and establish rule of law and people felt relief after the latest joint declaration of the four parties.

The AL came to power by rigging in the 1996 elections and unleashing a reign of terror in the country. It is planning to repeat the act this time too, she

said.

Replying to questions during the nearly three-hour meeting, the opposition leader said the BNP and other opposition parties refrained from attending the Jatiya Sangsad sessions due to the absence of the right atmosphere.

She said the government

forced the opposition to stay out of parliament to cover up its corruption, misrule and terrorism during the last four years.

The Leader of the Opposition in parliament alleged that the government has politicised the administration and Election Commission, earned millions of takas illegally and cultivated terrorists to influence the results in the next election in its favour.

She said the prime task of the next caretaker government would be to recover the illegal arms and involve the police, BDR and armed forces in the recovery drive to ensure a free and fair election.

Khaleda said the caretaker government should also remove the partisan people planted by the government in important positions, including the EC. She said the chief election commissioner and one of the election commissioners belong to the ruling party. They had better resign; otherwise they have to be removed.

The opposition leader expressed her optimism that the opposition combine will win the next general election and form

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Khaleda Zia

FBCCI polls: BB move to bar loan defaulters shelved

By Shahriar Karim

A central bank move to bar loan defaulters from contesting trade body elections has been shelved as the finance ministry did not get any such proposal.

Bangladesh Bank in a letter on July 3 requested the Finance Secretary to take necessary steps so that loan defaulters can not take part in elections of chamber bodies, trade associations and local governments.

Instead of sending the proposal to the commerce ministry to take necessary steps, the finance ministry asked the Election Commission (EC) to send it necessary papers regarding rules banning loan defaulters from contesting in parliamentary election, finance ministry sources said.

The commerce ministry

usually formulates and amends rules for chamber bodies and trade associations. The ministry did not get any such proposal.

"We did not receive any such proposal. If we get a proposal like that, we will seriously consider it," Commerce Secretary Golam Rahman told The Daily Star last night.

The BB board in a meeting in June decided to suggest the government to bar loan defaulters from participating in election of trade bodies.

According to commerce ministry sources, a committee is working on making certain changes in the Trade Organisation (TO) rules. It will also consider laws to bar loan defaulters from contesting election of trade bodies as suggested by some trade associations.

The central bank in its letter to the finance secretary mentioned that the government has already barred loan defaulters from contesting the parliamentary election.

As there is no such bar, some loan defaulters would contest the upcoming FBCCI election, scheduled for October 12, sources said.

Earlier, a move in this regard by a section of the present Executive Committee Members of FBCCI ended in failure. The FBCCI board decided that any one convicted by court for defaulted loan would be barred from contesting election of trade bodies.

Some business leaders recently urged the finance and commerce ministers to make laws barring loan defaulters from contesting FBCCI election, chamber sources said.

Khaleda may seek anticipatory bail today

By Court Correspondent

BNP chief and former prime minister Khaleda Zia, charged with embezzlement of Tk 175 crore, is expected to appear before the Metropolitan Court of Sessions (MCS), Dhaka, at around 10 a.m. today to seek anticipatory bail, court sources said.

Khaleda and nine others have been charged with misappropriation of the amount in the purchase of two Airbus aircraft during the tenure of her government.

The MCS yesterday accepted the charge sheet submitted by the Bureau of Anti-Corruption on Tuesday where accusing Khaleda Zia and nine others of graft.

Others accused in the case are former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, former state minister for civil aviation and tourism MA Mannan, former cabinet secretary Ayubur Rahman, and former Biman officials Ahsan Ahmed, Abbasuddin, Anwar Hossain, Siddiqueur Rahman, Zamir Ahmed and Mahmudur Rahman.

Haroon-ur Rashid, inspector of the Bureau who filed the charge sheet in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka on Tuesday, had earlier lodged the case with Motijheel thana on August 30, 1998.

Akhtaruzzaman backs out

By Staff Correspondent

Dissident BNP lawmaker Akhtaruzzaman has shelved his move to join the current parliament session after suspension of his party membership.

"I'm waiting for the outcome of a meeting of BNP lawmakers on September 9," said the Major-turned-legislator about his plan to attend the session, which will continue until September 14. But he refused to make it clear whether he would go back to parliament even if his party decided against it.

"Let's see what the BNP lawmakers decide on September 9; only then will I clarify my position," Akhtar told The Daily Star last night.

The outspoken politician, who had got himself into trouble

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Ershad's membership HC stays JS order for two months

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday stayed for two months the operation of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat notification vacating HM Ershad's Rangpur-3 parliamentary seat.

A Vacation Bench comprising Justice M Hamidul Huq and Justice SK Sinha also issued a rule upon the respondents to reply within two weeks why the notification should not be declared illegal.

The respondents are the Additional Secretary of the JS Secretariat who signed the notification and the Speaker.

Ershad had filed a writ petition on Sunday challenging the notification. The notification was issued after the High Court upheld with some modifications a lower court verdict in the Janata Tower case against Ershad.

The Division Bench also examined the file regarding the notification.

The Bench issued the rule to

examine whether the order passed by the Additional Secretary was legal and whether he was competent to do it.

It also said the case involved interpretation of Article 66 (2) and (4) read with Article 77 of the Constitution, Rules 172 and 178 of the Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad and other laws relating to election disputes.

During yesterday's proceedings, the court asked Attorney general Mahmudul Islam how the Speaker came to know that the High Court had sentenced Ershad to jail.

The AG said that the JS Secretariat was closely watching the developments since Ershad appealed to the High Court against the lower court verdict.

Appearing for the Speaker, Barrister Amirul Islam prayed for disposal of the writ within seven days instead of staying the operation of the notification. But the court refused it.

Bomb scare at ZIA

By Special Correspondent

The authorities declared a high alert at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday after an anonymous caller warned over telephone that a bomb was planted in an Emirates Airlines' plane scheduled to leave Dhaka for Dubai at 12:15 pm.

Carrying 341 passengers including 11 Americans, the flight however left for its destination an hour later as security check revealed that the warning was a hoax, aviation sources said.

The Emirates Airlines after receiving the telephone call informed the authorities and halted the take-off.

Civil Aviation security backed by several platoons of riot police led by DC (north) Mizanur Rahman ringed the aircraft and took position in and around the airport.

Passengers were asked to disembark and a bomb disposal squad scanned the aircraft and baggage.

Two officials from the US Embassy also rushed to the airport to take stock of the situation. Identity of the 11 US citizens among the passengers could not be known.

The plane was allowed to take-off at 1:10 pm.

APAC calls hartal in Ctg today

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 6: All Party Action Committee (APAC), Chittagong unit has called an 8-hour hartal in the city from 6 am tomorrow demanding release of its leader Mufti Ezzahul Islam.

APAC organised a rally in the city this afternoon in support of tomorrow's hartal.

Mufti Ezzahul Islam, convenor of Chittagong unit of IOJ and principal of Lalkhan Bazar Madrasah was arrested yesterday for his alleged involvement in subversive activities.

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Biman's privatisation Consultants due with new drafts Sept 11

By Shehab Ahmed

Consultants working on off-loading of 49 per cent shares of Bangladesh Biman are coming to Dhaka on September 11 with new drafts on restructuring of the national airline, retaining either its corporation status or converting it into a Public Limited Company (PLC) as per an accord with the employees.

The consultants from the New York based Citicorp were asked in July to prepare the new outline following a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the employees for two sets of tender documents for off-loading of the shares.

Civil Aviation Ministry sources said the bidding documents being prepared by the consultants are based on two proposals - one retaining the current status of Biman as a corporation and another for its conversion into a PLC.

Biman would retain 51 per cent shares, nine per cent would go to employees and officials and 40 per cent would be offered to a strategic partner. The interests of employees would be adequately protected and an employee would sit on the Board.

The tender would be floated

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Gunfight leaves 40 injured at AJM

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 6: At least 40 people were injured in a gunfight between two rival groups of workers at Adamjee Jute Mills today.

The gunfight was a sequel to an earlier clash that took place on Tuesday night at mill No 2 over termination of five workers belonging to Rehannuddin Group.

At least ten workers were injured in the clash and production at mill No 2 was suspended for an hour.

The mill authorities terminated the five workers as they were absent from their duties for the last six months.

The trade union activists split into two groups - one led by former CBA president Rehannuddin Rehan and the other by incumbent CBA president Ruhul Amin Sardar over the issue.

Both the groups held rallies and staged demonstration in

the mill area on Tuesday night for and against the termination orders.

Witnesses said, the situation became violent early this morning when two rival groups charged each other, exchanged gunshots and exploded crackers, leaving 40 workers injured, six with bullets.

The bullet injured were identified as Hanif Delwar, Bilal, Shahjahan, Mostafa and Aminullah.

Production in the mills remained suspended for 17 hours since 10 pm on Tuesday night. Police said production resumed at 3 pm today following a meeting between BJMC officials and CBA leaders.

BJMC Chairman Lt Col (Rtd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, who attended the meeting, around the agitating workers of withdrawing termination orders on five workers.

BASHUNDHARA CITY WILL BE COOLED BY CARRIER CFC FREE AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM



The signing of the Air-conditioning contract for Bashundhara City by the Chairman of Bashundhara Mr. Ahmed Akbar Sobhan (right) and the Managing Director of Haroon Engineering Limited Mr. Rizwan Haroon (left).

On the 4th of September 2000, Bashundhara City Development Ltd, signed a contract with Haroon Engineering Ltd, for the supply and installation of the largest air-conditioning plant in the Country comprising of 6688 TR. Our congratulations to Bashundhara for purchasing the latest and the most sophisticated air-conditioning equipment in the World. Our admiration to Bashundhara for not compromising with the quality and choosing a plant that is currently installed in the most advanced nations. Our appreciation to Bashundhara for choosing a plant that is environment friendly and for choosing a Non Toxic and Non Ozone depleting refrigerant (R134a). We wish Bashundhara all the success.

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