

AL lawmakers

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take the credit. How could a government construct a bridge in ten months?"

She also said leaders and activists of the AL are being implicated in false cases. "In most cases, the government arrested our leaders and workers without any specific charge and later they framed cases and sent them to prison."

Former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria made a similar claim about the bridge. "There was a proposal all right; however, but no one took the initiative to implement it."

The immediate-past prime minister laid the foundation stone of the bridge in December 1999, he recalled.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia claimed at a public rally in Bhairab that she had laid the foundation of the bridge in 1995. Construction had been halted for two years by the AL government, she added.

Earlier, in its meeting yesterday, the ALPP finalised a strategy to face the government in parliament and decided to raise all major events that had taken place across the country since the budget session was prorogued, AL sources said.

Also, proportionate representation in the parliamentary standing committees came for discussion.

The ALPP expressed dissatisfaction over delay in formation of the standing committees and alleged that it was a treasury bench play to make sure that the government's performance did not come under any scrutiny.

The ALPP decided to seek discussion on police atrocities on students of the Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University at the dead of night on July 24 and again on fasting students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) on Sunday.

Moreover, increasing prices of essentials, attack on Hasina's motorcade in Sathkira, closure of the Ekushey Television, spread of dengue fever, closure of educational institutions following student unrest and law and order downside are also on the AL's parliamentary agenda, party sources said.

Besides, the main opposition party will make attempts to raise issues like forced resignation of President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and closure of Adamjee Jute Mills, on which the AL had asked for discussions in the last session.

Pvt TV camera

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electronic media are barred from covering events inside the parliament. If the state-run BTB is allowed, why the private electronic media won't be?" Hasina asked.

Meantime, the Chief Whip of the Opposition Principal Abdus Shahid wrote a letter to Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday informing him of the incidents and asked why the newsmen of private electronic media were not allowed to cover the opposition briefing and meetings inside the parliament.

The opposition chief whip is yet to receive any reply from the Speaker.

Hasina at the briefing claimed her government believed in free flow of information and allowed private TV channels. "During our tenure there was no bar on private electronic media," Hasina, also the AL President, said.

"Already a private TV channel has been closed. And now they are obstructing other private electronic media to cover the events inside the parliament," she said.

Bangladesh to head

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at the conference it was decided that Bangladesh will head the mission for one year," the minister said.

This year, the World Health Organisation announced that the 56th WHA would be headed by a member state of SEARO, one of the six regions in the world.

Sources said the decision caught the conference delegates by surprise and so there was no scope for campaigning.

In view of this decision, the country office of WHO in Bangladesh will be strengthened further, which will basically act as the working office of the WHA president.

The WHA usually includes a series of discussions on various matters related to global health, tobacco product regulation, tuberculosis, leprosy, violence and health, polio eradication, scaling up efforts to combat diseases associated with poverty and emerging and re-emerging diseases.

The WHA comprises representatives from WHO member states.

The director-general, who is nominated by the executive board and elected by member states for a period of five years, heads the secretariat.

Some of the major challenges for WHA in the coming years are reducing excess mortality, morbidity and disability, especially in poor and marginalised populations; promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing risk factors to human health arising from environmental, economic, social and behavioural causes.

Developing health service systems, framing enabling policy and creating an institutional environment for the health sector are also on the WHA agenda, he said.

The health minister also spoke of the coming global funds to fight TB, Malaria and HIV/AIDS. After successful application, Bangladesh expects to get funds to fight these

diseases, specially TB and Malaria. He also discussed about the regional bulk purchase of drugs by the WHO.

"We strongly recommended to WHO the that it should include Bangladesh in its list of countries from where bulk purchase is made. Many pharmaceutical companies in Bangladesh manufacture medicines of international quality and I see no reason why we cannot be in the list," the minister said.

A WHO inspections team is expected here soon to verify this.

Indian train accident Bodies of three Bangladeshis arrive in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The dead bodies of three Bangladeshi victims of the Indian train accident in Bihar were flown to Chittagong from Kolkata last night.

The victims, Chittagong businessman Ashraf Khan, 35, his wife Rokeya Begum Rumman, 28, and their 2-year old daughter Subha Ibnat Khan, were killed when their train Rajdhani Express met a deadly accident on way to Delhi on Monday night.

Ashraf Khan is the son of Alif Khan of Panchlaish of the port city, and his wife Rumman, is the daughter of Md. Yakub Sawdagor of Khatungonj.

A regular flight of Bangladesh Biman carrying the dead bodies reached Chittagong International Airport at around 10:00pm.

Rumman's younger brother Md. Ishaq who survived the accident also came back home in the same flight.

The victims will be buried at Ashraf Khan's family graveyard at Bakolia after nama-z-janaza in the afternoon today.

Meet on BUET reopening tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Academic Review Committee of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will meet tomorrow to discuss reopening of the university.

BUET VC Prof Aleem Murtaza will preside over the meeting.

The BUET authorities will form an inquiry committee soon to investigate last one month's agitation by students on the campus, sources said.

The BUET Academic Council at its meeting on Tuesday retained the suspension orders on 15 students for various terms for violating discipline. The punishments will be effective if these students involved themselves in such activities in future.

Of them, nine belong to Jatiyatabi Chhatra Dal, ruling BNP's student front, four to Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SSF), one to Awami League's student front Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and one belong to Bangladesh Chhatra Union.

Sources said, two of the 17 students given punishments filed writs with High Court challenging their punishment.

Earlier, BUET authorities took disciplinary actions against 23 students following an investigation report on Sony killing.

Of them, Mokammel Hayat Khan Muki, Sharif Imam Ibne Ameer, and Saiful Islam Saiham were expelled from BUET for their involvement in the Sony killing. All of them were JCD leaders.

The authorities also requested the BUET Chancellor to cancel certificate of Muki.

Pro-AL panel

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"Thin turnout of voters in the capital and casting of a huge numbers of fake votes do not prove clarity of the election," Dr Ruhul Huq told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Raising question about the fairness of the election, he said the voters across the country were intimidated and harassed in various ways following the announcement of election schedule.

Besides, he said, casting of votes at Bhola, Barguna, Gazipur, Sherpur, Netrokona, Manikganj, Bandarban, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat and Saidpur centres was 'unimaginable'.

Dr Ruhul Huq said threat of transfer, forced voting in front of civil surgeons and obstruction to voters in some centres made the elections unacceptable.

"We can not accept the results," he said but avoided a question on whether they are demanding a fresh election or cancellation of the results.

He alleged that BMA secretary general Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin was threatened in Rajshahi and his chamber was damaged by the ruling party-backed people.

"Vote casting in Dhaka was lowest in the face of threat. Some fake voters were caught in Dhaka and we have already filed written allegations before the election commission."

Dr Ruhul Haq, however, stressed the importance of keeping the BMA elections free from political influence.

Immediate past BMA secretary general Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Dr Sharfuddin and Dr Salahuddin were present, among others, in the press conference.

War on terrorism

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Pentagon and other strategic parts of Washington in the days ahead of September 11. F-16 fighters were put on duty overhead and AWACS radar planes have also been patrolling the skies.

Across the globe, security was stepped up at US embassies around the world following warnings of attacks by al-Qaeda militants in Asia and the Middle East.

In Britain, the United States' closest military ally since the September 11 attacks, the anniversary was marked by a minute's silence and a moving memorial service in the capital's Saint Paul's Cathedral.

Hundreds of people -- many of them US tourists -- lined the streets outside the historic domed cathedral, where Prince Charles and Prime Minister Tony Blair joined 2,000 others in remembering the victims.

"We come to commemorate innocent lives cut short by the devastation of that day and to light a candle of hope to honor their memory," said canon in residence Philip Buckler, before the congregation sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

More than 3,000 white rose petals, representing the victims including 67 Britons who died in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, were released inside the cathedral's great dome.

Tributes and condolences poured in from around the world, along with notes of caution tempered by worries about the threat of an anniversary attack and US sabre-rattling against Iraq.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan warned that only the UN Security Council could offer the legitimacy needed to react to a global threat of terror.

"When one is trying to deal with the broader threat to international peace and security there is no alternative but to go through the council. It is only the council that can provide the unique legitimacy that one needs to be able to act," Annan told the BBC.

At the Vatican, Pope John Paul II

condemned "barbarous and cruel" terrorism and paid homage to its victims while praying for forgiveness for those behind the attacks.

"Let us pray for the victims to rest in peace, and may God show mercy and forgiveness for the authors of this horrible terrorist attack," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin made a midnight phone call to Bush and Russian lawmakers held a moment of silence at the start of their session.

"In Russia, we say that time heals everything, but there are things that we cannot forget and which must not be forgotten," Putin said.

In Paris -- where overnight two shafts of light pierced the sky in a symbolic recreation of New York's fallen twin towers -- President Jacques Chirac attended a ceremony at the residence of US ambassador Howard Leach.

Stock exchanges across the world also held a minute's silence for the 3,025 victims of all nationalities killed in the attacks.

In Brussels, the European Union and NATO were holding separate ceremonies, with the US Stars and Stripes raised alongside the flags of EU member states outside the European parliament.

Vienna and Lisbon were to be among 125 locations around the world taking part in a series of performances of Mozart's Requiem mass for the dead which started off in Auckland, New Zealand, and was echoing across the time zones.

In the Middle East, Washington's major ally Israel held a string of ceremonies while the Palestinians were on the lookout for any embarrassing repeats of the rejoicing that burst out in some areas a year ago.

In predominantly Muslim nations, no or low-profile events were planned.

The government of Iran's reformist President Mohammad Khatami however expressed "solidarity with the innocent victims" of September 11, but voiced concern over Washington's war on terror.

PM: Power abuse

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tions... I will be as tough as needed to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people. We must eliminate violence, corruption and other crimes from the society."

In this connection, she said, "There was an unspecified number of illegal arms across the country and corruption spread in every sphere of national life during in the period of the previous government. Moreover, politicisation by them (previous rulers) weakened the administration and local governments. They made the national exchequer almost empty by misusing public funds and also made the country known as a country of corruption and violence patronised by the government."

The prime minister noted that it is now very difficult to restore the image of the country but her government is trying hard to do so.

Turning to party affairs, the BNP chairperson said that both the people and the BNP faced an adverse situation after the death of party founder and president Ziaur Rahman. Many of the party leaders either joined hands with the then military ruler or became inactive.

"At that time, I had to take charge of BNP and there was a common feeling in political circles that the party would not survive in the absence of Shaheed Zia. But that proved wrong and BNP emerged as the main political force in the country," she said.

The BNP chief stressed the need for strengthening the party, expanding its network and consolidating its present position. Steps would be taken soon to achieve these goals. Training programmes will be introduced so that BNP leaders and workers can face the opponents politically, she said.

Earlier, the BNP chief inaugu-

rated the meeting by hoisting the national flag and releasing balloons. Party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan gave the welcome address.

Meanwhile, Tareque Rahman, who was recently made joint secretary general of the BNP, conducted yesterday's meeting as chief coordinator. He had also conducted three other divisional representatives meetings held earlier.

It was witnessed that the grassroots level leaders attending these meetings were very much enthusiastic to talk with Tareque and shake hands with him. The young BNP leader is the eldest son of Khaleda Zia and late president Ziaur Rahman.

Tareque received the grassroots level leaders attending yesterday's meeting. The participants seemed happy at his cordial gesture.

Titas jobs

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ruling party leaders over the years has sent the state run Titas hurtling down the road to complete breakdown.

On September 7, the government made the managing director of Titas officer on special duty (OSD) for transferring 50 employees under pressure from trade union leaders. A deputy general manager was suspended the same day.

According to sources, trade union activities are affecting administrative and financial discipline in most of the eight companies. However, the situation in those is not as bad as in Titas.

The government had earlier banned trade union activities in Titas for three months from May 17. But the ban proved ineffective as trade union leaders continued to interfere in administrative activities.

DU to reopen

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added he would reopen the university only after ensuring security on the campus and making the atmosphere conducive to academic activities.

The university was closed on July 27 in the face of a student uprising against the police excesses on the female students of Shamsunnahar Hall of the university on the night of July 24.

The agitation ended with the resignation of the then VC Prof. Anwarullah Chowdhury and Proctor Prof. Nazrul Islam on July 31. The university was supposed to reopen later that but the indefinite closure continued due to what the authorities say unfavourable campus situation.

Since then, the acting VC had repeatedly announced that the university would reopen soon but failed to fix a date. Later on August 29, the authorities announced that the residential halls of the university would open on September 8 and classes resume on September 12.

But in an unexpected move on September 4, the authorities deferred the reopening terming the campus situation unfavourable. The decision was based on a press report, which claimed that some quarters were plotting to create disturbances on the campus once the university reopens.

Sept 11 victims

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"It is only through friendship that animosity can be ended," Reverend Buddhaapriya Thero quoted from the Tripitak.

Bishop Theotonius Gomes hoped that neither the present nor the future generations would suffer from the horror of war and terrorism.

ANM Khaliquzzaman, WTPC president, regretted that the actual figure of deaths of the Bangladeshis is still unknown. He underscored a proper investigation into it.

A memorial meeting was held by the Bangladesh Human Rights Commission to mark the day. Speakers called such attacks inhuman.

At the same time, they urged the USA to solve the Palestine issue and work for world peace.

The Bangladesh American Business and Cultural Forum organised a meeting to condemn the terror attacks.

The World Peace Unity Organisation (WPUO) brought out a procession yesterday, commemorating the day.

A condolence meeting was held by the Bangladesh Embroidery Manufacturers and Exporters Association. The Contribution, a social welfare organisation, distributed education materials among poor students to observe the day.

The UNB adds: An informal memorial service was held at the US Embassy in Dhaka yesterday on the anniversary of the attacks.

US Ambassador Mary Ann Peters presided over the programme attended by representatives of the foreign ministry, some family members of Bangladeshi victims and the embassy staff.

The US ambassador praised Bangladesh for being a strong supporter of the campaign against global terrorism.

Tricky one-day tourney

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unlike the previous two editions at Dhaka (1998) and Nairobi (2000) which were played on the knock-out format.

However, a team can still be knocked out of the tournament after losing a match to a strong team.

Twelve teams have been divided into four groups of three each, with the winners advancing to the semi-finals.

Each group consists of two experienced and one inexperienced team. The fear of a knock-out punch still remains, for each big team is aware it is virtually out of the competition after losing to the experienced rival.

Australian skipper Ricky Ponting will draw little solace from the fact that his team will play two matches for the first time in what has been a jinxed tournament for his country.

Australia have never played more than one match in this event despite parading star players at Dhaka and Nairobi as they were twice beaten in the first round by India.

The first-match blues haunt Ponting's skillful team which is learning to live without the Waugh twins, Steve and Mark. Australia are favourites on form, but also familiar with the fickle nature of the one-day game.

Australia again find themselves in a must-win situation with the first match itself as they clash with defending champions New Zealand in their opening league encounter on Sunday.

"It's a disturbing fact that we've been knocked out early on two previous occasions," said Ponting.

"There are some talented teams in the competition this time, but we're well equipped to deal with any situation. We're ready to set the record straight this time."

Their first match in the league is virtually a knock-out contest for both Australia and New Zealand because a victory in the second, against minnows Bangladesh, will then prove inconsequential.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming does not believe the 'champions' tag will be a burden.

"We go into the tournament with pride as defending champions, but pressure will be there. It's a crucial tie having to play Australia first," he said.

New Zealand beat India in the final of this event in Nairobi two years ago for their first major international success, thanks to Chris Cairns who hammered an unbeaten century battling with an injured knee.

New Zealand, however, will miss the services of dashing all-rounder Cairns along with star batsman Craig McMillan this time.

India are currently in form, having beaten England in the final of a triangular one-day series on the strength of their talented young players. They meet England again here hoping to repeat their performance.

Shaun Pollock's South Africans are also to be feared despite their defeat against Sri Lanka in the Morocco Cup final at Tangiers last month.

Sri Lanka could turn out to be the dark horses as they have the resources to stun the best in their backyard.

Pakistan and the West Indies are the other big teams in the fray, hoping their key players overcome inconsistency to do justice to their stature.

GROUPINGS

Group A: Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand.

Group B: England, India, Zimbabwe.

Group C: Kenya, South Africa,

West Indies.

Group D: Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Holland.

(One team from each group will qualify for the semi-finals)

Murder case

BCL leaders Babu, Liaqat remanded

BSS, Dhaka

Nazrul Islam Babu and Liaqat Sikder, president and general secretary respectively of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), were placed on a one-day remand by the CMM's Court here yesterday in connection with a murder case filed with Tejgaon thana.

They were produced before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Nurul Karim Majumder by Tejgaon police with a prayer for a five-day remand.

A group of lawyers led by Advocate Rahmat Ali, MP, Advocate Shahara Khatun and Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman moved the bail petition while the prosecution side strongly opposed it.

After hearing both sides, Metropolitan Magistrate Nurul Islam Majumder granted one-day remand for Babu and Liaqat Sikder.

Saifur

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said the country has a lot of achievements that are recognised globally.

Chaired by Wahiduddin, the function was also addressed by UNAB Secretary General Syed Mohammad Shahed and Treasurer Abdul Hamid Chowdhury.

Non-students crowd JCD

FROM PAGE 12
Hossain Azad, Rehana Akhter Ranu, Shaiful Bari

Danny, Kazi Raonakul Islam Tipu, Harun-or-Rashid Harun, Abdus Sattar and Shammii Akhter. Most of them have children. All of them completed their academic life three to five years ago, the sources said.

Asaduzzaman Asad got married few months back. He enrolled himself with the department of geography in Dhaka University after BNP came to power this time.

The other non-student members of the central convening committee are Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Mamun Hasan, Shamsuzzaman Mehedi, Jayanta Kumar Kundu, Haider Ali Lelin, Rafiqul Islam Majnu, Habibur Rashid Habib and SM Zilani. They also completed their study much earlier.

Those who have retained their studentship are not regular students. They either availed the chance of readmission in various courses in DU or did not appear at examinations for years to retain their studentship.

Central convening committee members having criminal records are Sultan Salauddin Tuku, ATM Abdul Bari Danni, Asaduzzaman Asad, Mamun Hasan and Kazi Raonakul Islam Tipu.

Mamun and Tipu, president and general secretary of Jagannath University College unit of JCD are closely associated with BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu.

The eight non-student members of JCD's Dhaka University convening committee are Haider Ali Lelin, Amiruzaman Shimul, Dulal Hossain, SM Munir Hossain, Saiful Islam Shahjahan, Enamul Haq Uzzal, Shaiful Islam Razan and Atiar Rahman. Sources said Razan was never a student of Dhaka University.

BNP on Monday night withdrew the suspension on activities of JCD and announced its central and DU convening committees. It plans to form full-fledged central and DU committees by December 31 through holding councils.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia suspended activities of central unit of JCD following clashes between its two factions and involvement of some of its members in criminal activities.

She then proposed in the Jatiya Sangsad to ban student politics through a national consensus. But no other political party responded to the proposal.

After the recent student movement in Dhaka University forced resignation of its vice-chancellor

and proctor, she asked BNP's student affairs secretary Amanul Hossain to revive JCD's activities through formation of new leadership.

Though criticised for inclusion of non-students, the withdrawal of suspension and formation of the convening committees were welcomed by JCD leaders and workers.

Several hundred leaders and workers crowded the Madhu's canteen at DU throughout the day yesterday. Many of them distributed sweets and embraced each other in jubilation.

Meanwhile, members of the convening committees visited the mazar of BNP's founder late President Ziaur Rahman yesterday afternoon and placed wreaths. BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Shahiduddin Chowdhury Ani MP were also present there.

Many of its leaders and workers believe that JCD would now be very active and be able to politically face student bodies of opposition parties in educational institutions, particularly Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

BDR besiege DU

FROM PAGE 1
(DB) of police, National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Director General of Forces Intelligence (DGF) made the entire campus off-limits also for teachers and other people.

Vehicles and even rickshaws were not allowed to ply on campus streets after 3:00pm. However, police allowed private cars of university teachers which had DU stickers.

After 3:00pm police only allowed students into the campus after checking their identity cards. A number of students alleged that police at different points misbehaved with them while they were entering the campus.

Police forced 25 to 30 students to leave when they gathered in front of the National Museum at around 5:00pm to go to the TSC at attend the 'mass gathering'.

Police put up barbed wire fences at all the entry points of the campus -- Shahbag intersection, Nilkhet intersection, Palashi intersection, Chankharpool and Doel Chatter so that no procession can proceed towards the TSC to join the 'mass gathering' at the 'Swojarjito Swadhinota' there.

Barbed wire fences were also placed in front of Shahidullah Hall and near the