

JS session opens today AL lawmakers storm out of BAC meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday walked out of a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of the Jatiya Sangsad on rejection of its proposals about length and business of the parliament session beginning today.

"We had to leave the meeting as the ruling BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) did not accept any of our proposals for discussion in the House on issues of national importance and on duration of the session," Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid later told reporters.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan later termed the AL walkout as "pre-planned and unprecedented."

"Their attitude proved that they had come to the meeting to stage the walkout," Bhuiyan told journalists at the Prodhano Mitr Bhaban later on the day.

The BNP leader regretted that the AL lawmakers left the meeting when

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Navy contingent at Moheshkhali withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The navy contingent deployed at Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar was withdrawn yesterday along with its commander Mostaq Ahmed in connection with Tuesday's incident of assault on a police officer and a physician.

The authorities concerned have also started an investigation into the incident.

Officer-in-Charge of Moheshkhali Police Station Mohiuddin and a local physician, Dr Pranab Bikash Chowdhury, were allegedly beaten up by navy personnel. The incident occurred centering

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Army-criminal shootout at Aminbazar

3 labourers bullet-hit, 3 criminals nabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three day-labourers received bullet wounds in a shootout between joint forces and armed criminals near the Gabtali Bridge at Aminbazar in the city yesterday afternoon.

The shootout over, the joint forces arrested three listed criminals - Khata Masud and his accomplices Samad and Rana.

The day-labourers, injured in the crossfire, are Abu Musa (30), Mohammad Alamgir (34) and Mohammad Hakim (18).

The victims are from Shibaloy, Manikganj and were loading and off-loading sands on the riverbank when the shootout took place.

Musa was hit in his right leg and abdomen, Alamgir in his right leg and thigh and Hakim in the throat. They were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Doctors at the hospital said Hakim's condition was

critical.

The shootout began when joint forces went to the Balughat area to nab some listed criminals. The criminals, who were on a boat, started shooting as they saw the personnel approaching. Some jumped into the river Turag in a bid to escape.

When the joint forces returned fire, one of Khata Masud's accomplices received bullet injuries and so did the three day-labourers, who had taken shelter in a nearby shop.

Apart from Khata Masud, Samad and Rana, the rest of the criminals managed to escape.

The joint forces later recovered a revolver from the area.

Meanwhile, the troops hauled up 103 people, includ-

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Funds spread over too many ADP projects

WB fears resource dearth leading to govt borrowing

INAM AHMED

The World Bank (WB) has raised serious questions about the project allocation pattern in the current annual development programme (ADP), saying it would lead to substantial time and cost overrun and worsen rate of return.

The bank believes that some uncertainty in the overall budgetary resource envelope may necessitate

downsizing of the Tk 19,200 crore ADP for FY03.

At the same time, a measure to improve quality of project, identification and appraisal is now the need of the moment so as to build up a pipeline of worthwhile projects for future funding.

In a letter to the planning commission, the bank has said the ADP investment portfolio of Tk 17,850 crore for 1,288 projects is large in

relation to the total ADP funding of Tk 19,200 crore. And so, resource is being spread thinly on too many projects.

"Such allocation is likely to lead to substantial time and cost overrun, deferral of project benefit further into the future, worsening the rate of return," the bank said.

"The sizeable number of new projects (181) has compounded the

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PHOTO: STAR

Two farmers yesterday check rice plants in a field at Demra on the outskirts of the capital. The plants were damaged in lashing rains and gales induced by the depression over the Bay Tuesday.

Crops damaged Two fishermen's bodies washed ashore, 150 still 'missing'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bodies of two fishermen were washed ashore yesterday while at least 150 others remained missing after Tuesday's cyclone that lashed the coastal belt.

Our correspondent in Cox's Bazar reports that local boat owners claimed that at least 25 trawlers with around 150 fishermen are still missing.

Some fishermen who returned from the Bay said they saw three

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Baghdad accepts UN resolution

AP, United Nations

Iraq, facing a Friday deadline, has accepted a tough new UN resolution that will return weapons inspectors to the country after nearly four years, Iraq's UN ambassador said.

"The letter says that Iraq will deal with Security Council resolution 1441 despite its bad contents," Ambassador Mohammed Al-Douri said Wednesday. "We are prepared to receive the inspectors within the assigned timetable. We are eager to see them perform their duties in accordance with international law as soon as possible."

Iraq's acceptance clears the way for the arrival of an advance team of U.N. inspectors on Monday.

The team will be led by U.N. chief inspector Hans Blix, who is in charge of biological and chemical inspections, and Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is in charge of nuclear inspections.

Al-Douri said Iraq hopes its acceptance of the resolution will avoid the

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File complaints, if any, army urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army has requested people to lodge complaints if anyone is harassed by troops.

The move came following a series of news reports and photographs published in different dailies on harassment of people by the army.

Briefing reporters yesterday, Principal Information Officer Khondker Manirul Alam said a complaint centre has been opened.

Victims of harassment can complain by telephone at 8821281 (from 8:00am to 2:00pm) or by e-mail at midte@bdmail.net.

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Crackdown on Buriganga encroachers shortly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to evict all encroachers from the Buriganga and ensure its natural flow and navigability within a 'very short period'.

The decision was taken yesterday at the first-ever meeting of the

taskforce formed recently with the heads of various ministries, departments, the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), WASA, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and eminent members of the civil society. Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain chaired the meeting.

To recover the shores, foreshore and the channel of the Buriganga from encroachments, the government decided to use the original central survey report (CS Khatian) in which the history of the shores and thus ownership and proper measurements would be found.

The meeting also decided to sue the encroachers for illegal occupation of public land and environmental damage.

The meeting was told that many obtained forged documents through the deputy commissioner's office and managed to complete all procedures and record the land in their own names. When the government tried to evict them, they sought judicial refuge and obtained temporary injunction.

The government had handed a lease of 451.8 acres along the river over to the BIWTA. But due to negligence and corrupt practices, the

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
8	14		5-17
9	15	4-51	5-16
10	16	4-51	5-16