

Hasina accuses president

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when it resumes on February 2.

The party will strongly oppose the 'black law' in the House, she said. 'We've so far submitted 36 notices seeking disapproval.'

She pointed out that the president who earlier accused custodial deaths as an extreme violation of human rights signed the indemnity ordinance in a hurry.

"The president could have sent the ordinance back. Furthermore, he did not do anything to check gross human rights violations in the country."

The former prime minister also opposed the way Iajuddin was elected the president. 'He was made the President after Badruddoza Chowdhury was forced to resign by a resolution of the BNP Parliamentary Party. It doesn't go with parliamentary democracy.'

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has to shoulder responsibilities for all the killings in custody as she had ordered the army-led drive, she warned.

"The army did not come out of barracks on their own. The prime minister called them out and ordered them to kill," Hasina said. 'In fact, the prime minister indemnified herself through the ordinance.'

No official order brought the army out and no specific guideline was formulated for them to follow, she claimed. 'There was no state of emergency to deploy

the army. There is a specific law for the armed forces, which could be applied to the undisciplined action of the disciplined forces.'

Hasina regretted that the Business Advisory Committee, which decides on length and business of the session, at its meeting earlier in the day rejected all ten issues. The AL demanded general discussion on them in the House.

The issues include deaths in custody, the US tagging Bangladesh as a terror-risk country, price-hike of essentials and petroleum products, pushing in India, violence in the Union Parishad elections, deaths from cold, law and order and corruption.

Still, her party will try to raise the crucial national issues in the House, she told reporters.

Hasina also spoke about the issues like coalition government's diplomatic failure, political repression and crime.

She blamed the government for the US decision to put Bangladesh on the terrorism watch list and push-in bids by India.

The AL cannot support the thanksgiving motion on the presidential speech and will rather oppose it in the House, she said, making it clear that the AL boycotted the presidential speech but will take part in discussion to oppose the thanksgiving motion.

UP elections results

UNB, Dhaka

Partial results of UP elections held on Saturday.

Rajshahi: Elections were held in nine unions of Godagari upazila. Five of the elected chairmen are BNP supporters, two AL, one Jamaat-e-Islami and one independent.

Khulna: Elections were held in 10 unions of Digholia and Fultola upazilas. Four of the elected chairmen are AL supporters, three BNP, two BJP and one independent.

Mymensingh: Elections were held in seven unions of Dhabaura upazila. Five elected chairmen are BNP supporters and one each AL and JP (Ershad).

Bogra: Elections were held in six unions of Adamdighi upazila. Among the unofficially elected chairmen, three are BNP supporters, two JP (Ershad) and one AL.

Pabna: Elections were held in five unions of Sadar upazila. Three of the unofficially elected chairmen are Awami League supporters and one each BNP and JP (Ershad).

Chuadanga: Elections were held in three unions of Jibonagar upazila. Two of the elected chairmen are Awami League supporters and one BN.

Kishoreganj: Elections were held in six unions of Hossainpur upazila. Three of the unofficially elected chairmen are Awami League and one each from BNP and JP (Ershad).

Kurigram: Elections were held in five unions of Bhurungamari upazila. Four of the unofficially elected chairmen are JP supporters and one BNP.

Panchagarh: Elections were held in three unions of Tentulia upazila. Two of the unofficially elected chairmen are Awami League supporters and one independent.

Jhalakati: Elections were held in three unions of Kathalia upazila. Two of the unofficially elected chairmen are Awami League supporters and one independent.

Meanwhile, peaceful voting was reported from Narayanganj and Magura.

She came to vote, too

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A visit to nine of the 32 centres in three unions revealed high presence of female voters although many of them do not know names of all the candidates. Habib Bibi, 70, of Kaetpara could only say that she has heard that Abdul Bashar is a chairman candidate. She does not know more than that.

More than 300 police and 400

ansar were deployed yesterday at the polling centres of the three unions. No major disturbance during the ballot was reported till the end of balloting. Three young people were held for moving suspiciously around the polling centre, according to the Rupganj Police Station. Ajit Kumar Roy, duty officer of the Rupganj Police Station, said till 2:00pm things were running smoothly.

As many as 13 people were contesting for three chairman posts - three each in Rupganj and

Kaetpara union.

In the Rupganj Union, Md. Mujibul Rahman (pineapple), Islamuddin Bepari (chair) and Abu Hossain Bhuiyan (umbrella) were fighting for the chairman post. Nuruzzaman Khan (umbrella), Rafiqul Islam (chair) and Abdul Bashar Tuku (pineapple) are the contenders in Kaetpara Union.

But in Daudpur Union seven candidates are in the race. They are Moazzem Hossain (umbrella), Sharif Ahmed (pineapple), Md. Asaduzzaman (winnowing fan), Zahurul Islam (wheel), Tofazzal Hossain (candle), Mostofa Kamal (chair) and Shahadat Hossain Akhund (butterfly).

Abu Taleb Patawari, presiding officer of the Kaetpara Community School Polling Centre, said till 2:00pm he did not see anything unusual during the polling.

BGMEA polls

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short by a Oikya Jote leader. The Oikya Jote supporters shouted at the voters to go back and said elections would not be held.

A little later, some Oikya Jote supporters allegedly led by Zainal Abedin Faruk swooped on the BGMEA leaders and supporters of the opposite panel.

At the Chittagong BGMEA office, police posted a notice which said, 'Law and order may deteriorate in the context of the High Court order and so the election cannot be held.'

Sources said a faction of garment owners belonging to the Oikya Jote supported the government move to postpone the election and tried to stop election board member ASM Naim from entering the office.

Naim forced his way into the office, summoned leaders of both sides and asked them to apologise for their behaviour. Later, Naim stopped the polls after having a word with the chairman of the BGMEA election board in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, till filing of this report at 10:00pm last night, the BGMEA could not fix a fresh date for holding its polls.

BGMEA Election Board Chairman Anisuzzaman said a new date would be announced soon.

Meantime, some garment exporters could not obtain 'utilisation declaration' (UD) to export their goods because of the fiasco.

Police act

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off the polls due to police intervention.

Earlier on Saturday, the Appellate Division upheld a High Court ruling that the elections should be held as per schedule.

However, the police ignored the order and sealed off the BGMEA offices in the capital and Chittagong, forcing suspension of the polls.

Barrister Mahmud also told the court that Chittagong police had issued a notice saying, 'In the context of the High Court order, law and order may deteriorate. So, we are stopping the election.'

The submission over, a High Court judge commented, 'Where are our police leading us to?'

The court also summoned a sub-inspector of Chittagong police to appear in person before the court on February 1 to explain the content of the notice.

HC asks govt

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reputation.

Professor Muntasir Mamun and Awami League leader Shafi Ahmed also filed writ petitions for compensation. However, the court is yet to give any order on their petitions.

All the three - Kabir, Mamun and Shafi - were arrested on December 8 last year on suspicion of anti-state activities. All of them were recently freed on High Court orders.

Sony murder

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Khan Mukhi, have been absconding since the incident.

The court framed charges against the absconders in absentia.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police submitted a charge sheet against Mukhi and 14 others on January 4.

Sony, a student of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), was killed on the BUET campus during a gunfight between two factions of JCD. The BMA also formed a six-member probe body to investigate the incident.

BUET Security Officer Golam Kuddus Khan filed a murder case with the Lalbagh Police Station saying that Sony died during crossfire when the JCD factions were engaged in a gunbattle.

The two factions - one led by Mukhi and the other by Tagar - clashed over establishing dominance on the campus and tender manipulation.

Special public prosecution Abdul Latif Talukder appeared for the state.

Dhaka asks Delhi

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high commissioner that "the people and the government of Bangladesh have been observing the development with utmost seriousness".

Meantime, our Khulna correspondent adds: Over 4,000 Indian Muslims brought from different slums of New Delhi and Mumbai have been assembled at different BSF camps close to the Jessoror border for pushing in.

The sector commander of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and other senior officials visited the strategic border points yesterday to assess the situation.

The BDR and BSF troops are on high alert at Sadipur border.

An uneasy calm is prevailing along the border at Jessoror, Satkhira and Jhenaidah districts after the BSF tried at least 13 times to push in people since Saturday night.

Meantime, the BSF denied any push-in attempt, the BBC Radio reported last night.

At least 15 companies would get spaces at the centre for permanently display their products, he told the FICCI members.

The Bol chairman also said the government took specific plans and programme to bring \$1 billion in investment in the country by 2006.

The situation has changed now as the number of container ships in the country has increased to a satisfactory level," he said.

Road accidents kill 5 in Comilla, Pabna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rashid, Siraj and the unidentified man died.

A case was filed with Daudkandi police.

In Pabna, two persons were killed and three others injured in a traffic mishap on Pabna-Nagarbari road near Chargobindupur Bazar in Sujanagar upazila.

The dead were identified as Beauty, 12, student of Dulai High School in Sujanagar upazila and van puller Mohammad Ali, 25, of Dulai village. Police said the accident occurred at about 10:30 am when a Pabna-bound bus from Sirajganj hit the van, killing Beauty and Ali on the spot. One of the injured, Lovely, was admitted to the upazila health complex. Local people put up a barricade on the road after the accident, disrupting traffic for nearly two hours. A case was filed with local police station.

Power play

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Moniruzzaman and Anisul Huq, and the Oikya Jote led by Fazlul Azim.

Sammilito Parishad and Forum participated in previous elections as rivals but forged an alliance this time around.

Sircar assured the House in a short opening speech that he would run the affairs impartially and picked a five-member panel of chairman to preside over the session should he himself and his deputy remain absent.

Abdul Mannan Talukder (Sirajganj-3), Golam Mohammad Siraj (Bogra-2), Moshirul Rahman (Jhenaidah-2), Dewan Farid Gazi (Habiganj-1) and Mohammad Mojibur Rahman (Lalmorhata-2) are the panel members.

Azim happens to be a relative of a senior official at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The same official is a close relative of the prime minister.

To gain support from the PMO, the Oikya Jote tried to portray the Sammilito Parishad Forum as a panel of the Awami League.

Azim persuaded the commerce ministry to issue an order postponing the polls.

Later, the BGMEA went to the High Court challenging the commerce ministry postponement order. On January 18, the court stayed the order for two weeks.

On January 25, the Appellate Division upheld the High Court stay order, paving the way for the election to be held the next day.

On the same day, two garment owners obtained injunction on the elections from the lower court.

They contended that the BGMEA had taken Tk 25,000 from each panel to hold a joint projection meeting, which should have been held before the polls.

Enam, Shuvra

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Faruq later died in police firing while allegedly trying to make a getaway.

While in custody, Shuvra was served with an order of detention under the Special Powers Act. The detention was later declared lawful by the High Court.

Another bench of the High Court yesterday ordered the government not to arrest or harass Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, general secretary of Dhaka City Awami League, without due process of law. The court also issued rule upon the government in this regard. The order came upon a petition filed by Maya.

Condensed milk

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Star Ship brand while Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud appeared for Danish Condensed Milk Bangladesh Limited, producing Danish brand milk.

The BSTI on January 23 cancelled licenses of four condensed milk plants, banning production and marketing of their products for being potentially hazardous to health. The decision was taken at a review meeting of the Ministry of Industries with Industries Minister MK Anwar in the chair.

The decision came after BSTI chemists found traces of vegetable fat, which might cause stomach disorder, instead of milkfat.

"According to the BSTI Ordinance, the institution has no power to ban any product and stop production of any plant," said Rokonuddin in his argument.

If the government wants to ban an item and stop its production, the company should be given two months' time and the order has to be gazetted, he added.

BOI chief

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"Every year, we have a target of bringing at least 400 million dollars worth of FDI." Giving the current rate on the FDI flow, the Bol chief claimed that around \$256 million came in last year.

He stressed on wider partnership between the private sector and government for luring investment.

Walir observed that if the existing investors were happy only then would the prospective ones be encouraged to invest in Bangladesh.

Shippers

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Chittagong port. Bangladeshi ships are capable of handling as many containers as needed."

Chowdhury said local ships used to get full protection in the 1980s and the 1990s.

Local ships started losing business with emergence of container service, he added.

"The situation has changed now as the number of container ships in the country has increased to a satisfactory level," he said.

Promotion commotion

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There should be an examination for promotion, but promoting the officials on the basis of previous academic records does not show efficiency, he said.

The marks in the ACR depend on their closeness to superiors and connections with the ruling party, he thinks.

The government now plans to abolish the ten per cent quota of the President for additional secretary, aiming to give contractual appointments.