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AL makes JS comeback

Main opposition joins House today, sends MPs to JS bodies, accepts proportionate distribution of women's reserved seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) joins the budget session of parliament today and moves to participate in the House activities including nomination of party deputies to parliamentary standing committees in a major shift in the main opposition party's position.

The AL at its parliamentary party meeting yesterday also agreed to accept proportionate distribution of women's reserved seats in parliament and contest the upcoming by-election to Gazipur-2 constituency that fell vacant with the killing of AL lawmaker Ahsanullah Master on May 7.

Introduction of 45 reserved seats for women in a set of provisions in the 14th constitution amendment

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PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina presides over a meeting of the parliamentary party of Awami League, which she also heads, at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan yesterday.

Lying dead on a foreign land

Bodies of 40 Bangladeshis still in Saudi morgue

RAFIQ HASAN

Some 40 bodies of expatriate Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia are lying in morgue to be identified and sent back home, according to official sources.

But Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA), in a paper at a function in Dhaka yesterday, said 250 bodies of Bangladeshi expatriates are lying in the kingdom.

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Maoists kill 21 Nepali cops

200 students kidnapped, cop's house blown up

AGENCIES, Kathmandu

A landmine blast killed 21 policemen and injured 16 others yesterday in Nepal in the deadliest attack attributed to Maoist rebels since the prime minister was reappointed and called for new peace talks.

The policemen were on a search mission for Maoist hideouts in the insurgency-torn southwestern Nepalgunj district when their truck was blown up by underground explosives, police said.

"Two of the 21 policemen who

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Dhaka-10 by-polls on July 1

CEC wants army deployment in centres, his secretary doesn't want to send request letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By-election in Dhaka-10 constituency will be held on July 1 amid tight security, the Election Commission (EC) said yesterday, asking the government to deploy army in each polling centre to ensure fair polls.

The EC at a meeting on the day also asked Inspector General of Police

Shahudul Haq to ensure the security of Bikalpa Dhara candidate retired army major MA Mannan, who is fighting to win back the seat he vacated on March 10.

"As MA Mannan has applied to us for security, we want to ensure his safety. If other candidates want

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Hard bargaining on for OIC top job

UN urges Islamic nations to back Iraqi govt

AGENCIES, Istanbul

Hard bargaining between foreign ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) began yesterday to try to select a replacement for the Islamic group's leader Abdelwahed Belkeziz.

Turkey has been setting the pace in the negotiations over a successor to the Moroccan, who has been OIC secretary general since 2001 and who is set to be replaced at this three-day gather-

ing of 57 ministers from Muslim countries.

Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul underlined the "growing interest" his country had in "revitalising the OIC."

"We would like to contribute to this by all the means at our disposal and it is in that spirit that my government has decided to put forward a candidate for secretary general of the OIC," he said.

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PM asks JS bodies to work for better budget use

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has asked the parliamentary standing committees to work as effective anchors for successful implementation of the new budget that she thinks will bring about a "revolution in development" of the country.

She asked them to create an atmosphere that will ensure timely and effective use of the allocations in the new national budget against every ministry.

The prime minister also advised the heads of the parliamentary watchdog bodies to ensure "transparency and accountability" in activities of their respective ministries.

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