

BNP boycotts JS as seat row not resolved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led opposition yesterday decided to abstain from parliament proceedings until the speaker decides on their demand for three more seats in the front row of the House.

The opposition lawmakers boycotted parliament on its second sitting on Wednesday, placing their demand to the speaker, and remained out of the House for three working days out of four since the ninth parliament began its journey on January 25.

The treasury bench outright rejected the opposition demand.

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All 21 opposition demands rejected

Speaker says law, order situation could be addressed under existing law; other notices based on assumption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker of the Parliament Abdul Hamid yesterday turned down all 21 notices from BNP-led opposition lawmakers for holding discussions on various issues adjourning other scheduled businesses of the House.

The opposition lawmakers in their notices, submitted to the parliament secretariat, demanded discussions on 'violation of the constitution by the im-

mediate past caretaker government led by Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed', law and order situation, post parliamentary election violence, price hike of essentials, fertilizer crisis, unusual voter turnout in the parliamentary election, etc.

In defence of his action, the speaker said the notices regarding the law and order situation could be addressed under existing laws while the subjects of some other notices were based on assumptions.

"So, the notices could not be accepted for discussion," Hamid told the House while scrapping them, evoking haunting memories of the last parliament among observers.

Referring to the content of a notice regarding harassment of an upazila executive officer in his own constituency, Speaker Hamid said the perpetrator had been arrested.

"The matter is under investigation and

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No thanks for president

AL lawmakers lambast Iajuddin for his role in 2 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) lawmakers in parliament yesterday blasted President Iajuddin Ahmed for "violating the constitution and conspiring against democracy" in the last two years.

They were discussing the thanksgiving motion on the president's address to the inaugural session of the ninth parliament.

A few ruling party lawmakers including AL Presidium member Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir came down heavily on the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). They termed the ACC the most corrupt institution, and called for a parliamentary probe into its last two years' activities.

The lawmakers accused the president of betraying the nation by remaining silent and approving all misdeeds of the BNP-Jamaat government and the caretaker government.

They also opposed giving thanks to the president for his

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SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS 5 banks get BB notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday issued show cause notices to five banks for not informing the central bank about suspicious transactions.

The banks include three local private commercial banks and two foreign commercial banks.

BB sources said the notices asked the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the banks to show cause why action would not be taken against their suspicious transactions.

Anti-money laundering law says if any transaction seems suspicious the bank concerned must inform the matter immediately to

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2 die, 200 injured on way back from Ijtema

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two devotees drowned, and over 200 others were injured in two separate accidents when people were heading home from Biswa Ijtema yesterday.

The two drowned while five others went missing when a trawler carrying devotees home from the Ijtema ground capsized in the Turag at Diabari near Mirpur.

Firemen recovered the bodies of Zayed, 14, and Jewel, 25, after the trawler capsized around 3:00pm.

Sanowar Hossain, an officer of the Mirpur fire station, said the Gabtoli-bound vessel carrying over 35 passengers capsized when another trawler hit it in the stern.

Witnesses said they saw a

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A train crammed with devotees; thousands of people crowd Tongi Railway Station as they head home after the end of three-day Biswa Ijtema yesterday. Inset, a devotee taking part in the Akheri Munajat, the final prayer of the world's second largest annual Muslim congregation.

PHOTO: STAR

Pilgrims seek global peace

Biswa Ijtema ends

KAILASH SARKAR

Over two million Muslim pilgrims from home and abroad took part in the Akheri Munajat (final prayer) of Biswa Ijtema, the second largest Islamic congregation after the hajj, seeking divine blessings from the Almighty for the Muslim ummah.

The chief cleric, Moulana Jubayerul Hassan from India, led the prayer and sought global peace and prosperity, an end to worldwide conflict and anarchy.

The three-day World Congregation of Muslims mainly focused on prayers and meditation for spiritual adulation, exaltation and welfare of the Muslim community.

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, leader of the opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia, former Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, and ministers, among others, joined the Akheri Munajat.

A record number of 10,500 foreign devotees from 105 Muslim countries joined the congregation that kicked off on January 30 this year.

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28TH BCS EXAM Preliminary test results published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Public Service Commission (PSC) yesterday published the preliminary test results of the 28th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations with a total of 11,785 candidates qualifying for the written test.

Around 98,000 students took the preliminary test held on November 28 last year at 103 examination centres in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi,

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FULL RESULTS ON PAGE 18, 19

Govt to ensure campus peace

Assures PM, opens Amar Ekushey Boi Mela

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would ensure congenial atmosphere in all educational institutions across the country and reduce session jam at any cost.

"Session jam is to be reduced and criminal activities stopped in educational institutions. We will maintain peaceful atmosphere there at any cost," she said while inaugurating the month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela-2009 on Bangla Academy premises in the capital.

Hasina, also the president of Awami League, directed all to

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AL men grab taxicab business at ZIA

Drive out 3 CAAB lessees; passenger sufferings mount

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Airport police station unit of Awami League (AL) and its front organisations yesterday took control of the cab service counters at Zia International Airport after driving out the three lessees of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).

They locked the rooms of the three firms--BM Transport, Green Bangla and Baba Auto Gas and took the possession of those offices claiming that they have obtained a ruling of the court recently in favour of them as it stayed operating the counters by the firms.

On Saturday, some Juba League activists swooped on Sramik League men at the airport to take control of the car park there, leaving three people injured.

Meanwhile, passengers at the airport are facing sufferings while trying to travel to their destinations as they couldn't get any cab from inside the terminal following shutting down the counters inside it, sources at the airport said. Besides, brokers are irritating the passengers while trying to hire a cab.

Abul Hossain of Brahmanbaria district who arrived at the airport at 11:30am yesterday from

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BNP starts process to reorganise party

Grassroots asked to come up with opinions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP National Standing Committee (NSC) yesterday decided to call in its grassroots leaders to the capital and give their opinions on party activities so it can finalise strategies to reorganise the party from top to bottom.

Six teams for six divisions comprised of joint secretaries general and organisational secretaries will hold meetings with the upazila level leaders under their divisions throughout this month starting from Tuesday.

The BNP National Standing Committee took the decisions at a meeting last night besides discussing party leaders' demand for impeaching President Iajuddin Ahmed for not mentioning

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OBITUARY



Mr. Abu Sayeed Mohammed Shahid, former chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation, passed away late evening Thursday, January 29th 2009 at the age of 71.

He was a loving husband and father to a son and daughter, whom he leaves behind. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Shahid was a successful scholar of the Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT). He was honored as the first Bangladeshi Fellow of Textile Institute (FTI) in Manchester, England, and later the Convener of the Textile Institute, Manchester, England of the Bangladesh Section. Mr. Shahid continued on to be Founder Convener of the Institution of Textile Engineers and Technologists, BD (ITT). He contributed monthly columns to Textile Horizon, Manchester, England and Textile Asia Hong Kong for over 22 years. His career efforts rendered him the privilege to travel and represent Bangladesh in over 30 countries. It can be said that Mr. Abu Sayeed Mohammed Shahid dedicated his life to the improvement of the textile sector in Bangladesh.

The family cordially invites all relatives, friends and well-wishers to attend his Qulkwani at the Azad Central Mosque, Gulshan - 2 after Magrib prayer on Monday, February 2nd 2009.

Khaleda spent only Tk 3 lakh in Bogra-6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia spent only Tk 3 lakh in Bogra-6 (Sadar) constituency in the last parliamentary election when her nearest rival Awami League Bogra unit President Momtaj Uddin spent Tk 14.92 lakh.

In her other constituency Bogra-7 (Gabtoli-Shahjahanpur), Khaleda spent Tk 5 lakh while her nearest contestant Grand Alliance nominee and Jatiya Party leader Altaf Ali spent Tk 6.75 lakh.

The election expenditure limit in both the constituencies was Tk 15 lakh.

Khaleda's election expense statements for the two seats, apparently written by the same person and submitted to district election office, said she spent Tk 30,000 on publicity in Bogra-6. Momtaj spent Tk 8.67 lakh on publicity.

Khaleda showed Tk 60,000 expense on public rallies while Momtaj spent Tk 1.35 lakh on rallies. He spent Tk 2.32 lakh in election camps while Khaleda spent Tk 40,000.

She spent Tk 20,000 on administration and accommodation

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Health minister, Inu yet to turn in returns

STAR REPORT

Health and Family Planning Minister AFM Ruhul Haque and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu are among those who have yet to turn in their election expenses returns.

Saturday was the closing date for submitting expenditure statements to the Election Commission (EC).

The health minister did not hand in his statement as of 8:00pm yesterday, reports our Sathkira correspondent, quoting a staffer at the district election office.

In Kushtia, except Inu, all who contested four seats in the district have submitted expenditure sheets, reports our correspondent there.

The JSD president, who won the Kushtia-2 seat on the AL-led grand alliance ticket, has sought two to three more days for submission, said sources close to the returning officer.

Earlier, the EC had announced that it would take legal action against those who would not submit their statements within January 31.

The defaulters may face up to seven years in prison or fine as the failure to submit returns constitutes a criminal offence, said EC sources.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports: Twenty out of 32 parliamentary candidates in the district have submitted expenses returns.

BNP stalwart and former finance minister M Saifur Rahman is among those who have not.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, who defeated Saifur in the race for Sylhet-1, has showed the highest Tk 14,33,412 as election expenditure.

In his statement, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said his spending on the December 29 election stands at Tk 13,77,495.

Only 16 of 28 candidates in six constituencies of Rajshahi

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Transit used as political weapon

Says Faruk Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan yesterday blamed politicians' attitude towards trade for their failure in understanding the potentials of trade.

The minister said trade is not seen as means of national development, rather a weapon in politics. The issue of transit is a case in point. "We have often failed to understand the requirement of the

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MORE STORIES IN STAR BUSINESS

More shake-up in admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two secretaries and two additional secretaries were made officer on special duty (OSD) and attached to the establishment ministry yesterday in another shake-up in the civil service.

Expatriate Welfare Secretary Abdul Matin Chowdhury and acting Labour and Employment Secretary Mahfuzul Haque have been appointed as OSD according to government notifications.

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QULKHWANI



E A Choudhury, a retired Inspector General of Police and former Chairman of Pubali Bank Limited passed away on 28 January 2009.

His qulkwani will be held at his own residence at Gulshan-2, Dhaka.

On Monday, February 2, 2009 immediately after Magrib prayer

We on behalf of the family members of Late Mr. E A Choudhury humbly request your presence on this occasion.

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