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Forgotten JS pledges

BNP, Jamaat remain absent from House for 38 out of 59 working days already; Khaleda attends only 3 sittings; no effective initiative of ruling party to make JS functional

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The main opposition BNP and its key ally in four-party alliance Jamaat-e-Islami remain absent from joining the House proceedings, paying no attention to their electoral pledges made to the people before the December 29 parliamentary election.

In their election manifesto, both BNP and Jamaat promised that if voted to power, they will take strong stance including the ones for bringing amendment to the constitution, if required, to bring an end to the pervasive culture of boycotting

the parliament sessions.

Though the four-party alliance failed to return to power in the polls, they got around 38 percent of the total vote cast in the elections.

Ignoring their electoral pledges, the opposition lawmakers remained absent from the current budget session without taking the opportunity of reviewing the government's policy through participating in the ongoing general discussion on proposed budget for the new fiscal year.

It is uncertain whether the opposition lawmakers will join the current session that already have passed 20 working days as

BNP's top leaders are divided over joining the House proceedings "in the current situation," a policymaker of BNP said.

The national budget for 2009-10 fiscal year was passed in parliament on Tuesday in absence of the main opposition party.

A lawmaker of BNP said Chairperson Khaleda Zia is not much interested in joining the House since she feels the government is not respectful to her. But many of its lawmakers want to join the session, the lawmaker said, adding seating arrangement in the parliament is not that big a problem right now.

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Pinak 'might have broken' diplomatic norms

Says Dipu Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty might have violated diplomatic norms through his comments on controversial Tipaimukh dam and Bangladeshi water experts.

"I personally feel he [Indian envoy] might have breached diplomatic rules," Dipu Moni told journalists in reply to a query at a press conference at

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Probe report on BNP trio to be placed in JS

All-party body to ask House to recover the money from them

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The all-party parliamentary probe committee yesterday decided to submit its report to the House on corruption by former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, his deputy Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain on July 7.

The probe body found evidence and proofs of the trio's "misappropriation" of Tk. 1.71 crore. They took the money as medical expenses and additional fuel allowances ignoring the law, sources in the committee claimed.

In a set of recommendations in the report,

the parliamentary body will ask the House to recover the money from Sircar, Akhtar and Delwar and file criminal cases in this connection against them if they fail to return the money, a member of the committee said.

"We decided to place the probe report in parliament on July 7. We want to read out the findings of our investigation in the House so that people can know what happened in the Parliament Secretariat in the past," Shajahan Khan, a member of the probe body, told The Daily Star.

The House will decide the next course of

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Information Commission formed

Ex-secy Azizur Rahman made CIC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Right to Information (RTI) Act went into full effect yesterday with the formation of the three-member Information Commission by President Zillur Rahman.

Retired secretary M Azizur Rahman was appointed the chief information commissioner (CIC), while former secretary Mohammad Abu Taher, and Prof Sadeka Halim of the sociology department at Dhaka University were appointed as the other two commissioners.

A selection committee

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Gloomy faces turn up in front of the burned-down factories of Ha-Meem Group in Ashulia near the capital as uncertainty of the factories running in full swing anytime soon worries the workforce.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL RAQ

RMG wheels move amid strict security

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA and KAILASH SARKAR

The government doubled security in and around Ashulia yesterday as garment factories resumed production in full swing to end three days of violent labour unrest in the industrial area.

Meanwhile, police revealed that Jubo League members joined the labourers and caused most of the damage during the unrest to establish control over the jhoot (garment rejects) business.

An additional 4,000 personnel from police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and armed police battalion watched over the area as garment factories opened their doors to let thousands of workers get back to work.

Meanwhile, factory owners were scrambling to fix the damaged factories in order to meet their export deadlines.

Col (retd) Delwar Hossain, deputy managing director of the hardest-hit Ha-Meem Group, said they started partial production at the sweater factory amid very tight security measures.

"We are trying to convince the buyers and aiming to meet our deadline to ship the goods," Delwar said.

A team of experts visited the Ha-Meem Group sweater factory building, which was set alight by rioters, and told the management

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Criminals with ruling party tag responsible?

Ha-Meem boss meets PM

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Unruly miscreants under the shelter of the ruling party might have been involved in the arson attack on the sweater factory of Ha-Meem Group, said business sources.

However, Managing Director of Ha-Meem Group A K Azad, who met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday, declined to comment on the issue.

Annisul Huq, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), Awami League lawmakers Golam Dastagir Gazi and Mostafa

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