

No unrest

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During the question hour, lawmaker Azim asked whether there is any possibility of hindrance to country's overall development for the current political situation centring the caretaker issue. The premier said they don't want to be tortured and repressed by any unconstitutional elements again. "We don't want to give further opportunity to anyone, whom we show sympathy, will come to power, label us as thieves and resort to torture and repression on us again. Does she [Khaleda] want to open that path again?"

Hasina alleged Khaleda made Moeen U Ahmed the chief of army staff by superseding nine officers and her close people formed the last caretaker government. "Even then she [Khaleda] along with me was tortured and sent to jail. Her two sons were beaten up and forced to leave the country. Did she forget it?"

"They [caretaker government] portrayed themselves as innocent and labelled politicians, businesspersons, journalists, teachers and students as thieves. Did she [Khaleda] forget that so early?"

Criticising Khaleda for placing an alternative budget proposal in a city hotel, the premier said had she placed the proposal in parliament, the finance minister would have listened to her and might have incorporated any of their suggestions in the budget.

"She [Khaleda] does not like parliament. She rather likes winter garden of the hotel," Hasina added.

**STRENGTHENING THE ARMY**

Replying to a query, the premier said her government has taken a number of steps to modernise the Bangladesh Army. "Process of finalising and implementing the Forces' Goal-2030 is in action. If the goal is implemented, the army will turn into a modern, effective and time-befitting force."

Modern and sophisticated weapons, ammunition, helicopters, armoured personnel carriers, fighter planes, among other equipment, have already been brought for the armed forces as part of its modernisation, added Hasina.

Replying to another query, the leader of the house said her government has taken projects to set up three fertiliser factories at a cost of Tk 16,200 crore to fulfil the increasing demand of fertiliser.

She expressed the hope that shortage of urea would be resolved after setting up the three factories each with 577,500 tonnes of production capacity.

Hasina said the government is going to set up a Tk 200 crore fund under the Bangladesh Bank to give soft loan for setting up Effluent Treatment Plant at the factories. She also informed the House about her government's activities on autistic children's rehabilitation, industrial development and poverty reduction.

**HASINA AT ALPP MEETING**  
If BNP does not come up with its proposal on caretaker government system (CGS) in parliament, the JS will pass the bill on constitution amendment in line with the special committee recommendations and the Supreme Court verdict, said Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

At a meeting of AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP) at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, she said she would not entertain any proposals of the opposition if it comes outside the House.

Citing the SC observation that parliament would decide on the matter, she said there is no scope for settling it anywhere but the House.

The premier is likely to address the nation to clarify the government position on the CGS and constitution amendment, said lawmakers after the meeting.

4 killed

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They cut the wreckage of the Nasiman and recovered the bodies, according to witnesses.

The rescuers also rushed the injured to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

Seven of the wounded passengers undergoing treatment are Sultana, 32, Mahfuza Begum, 40, Fahima Begum, 25, and her two-and-a-half-year-old daughter Minu, Shefali Rani, 40, and her son Victor Roy, 15, and Yasmin, 25.

Why state religion

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Hossain, Fida M Kamal, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, AFM Mejbahuddin and Abdul Matin Khasru.

Petitioners' counsel advocate Subrata Chowdhury told reporters that there is no scope for retaining Islam as state religion after the apex court had declared illegal the fifth amendment to the constitution and restored "secularism" in the constitution.

If the section is cancelled, the spirit of the original constitution of 1972, and the liberation war will be restored, he said.

Subrata said they have not moved the writ petition for so long in the hope that political governments will annul it by amending the constitution.

The government led by military ruler HM Ershad on

June 9, 1988 inserted a section in the eighth amendment to the constitution to give Islam the status of state religion.

The petitioners include Begum Sufia Kamal, former chief justice Kemal Uddin Hossain, Khan Sarwar Murshid, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Mosharruf Hossain, Maj Gen (ret) Chitta Ranjan Datta (Bir Uttam), Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury, Badruddin Umar, journalist Foyez Ahmed, Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir, Prof Anisuzzaman, Justice Devesh Chandra Bhattacharjee, Justice KM Sobhan, Syed Istiaq Ahmed and Kalim Sharafi.

Of them, Begum Sufia Kamal, Justice Devesh Chandra, Justice KM Sobhan, Syed Istiaq Ahmed and Kalim Shrafi passed away.

Problems plentiful

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our workers -- they after all pump \$10 billion into the reserves. These two could easily ease the pressure on exchange rate and taka could retain its strength. We really did not seriously seek foreign direct investment -- nor that it would have come given the dismal power situation which has improved following the government's crash programme but still remains wobbly.

On the other hand, credit flow has increased quite extraordinarily as more and more money went out of banks into public hands. It has grown mostly to import power equipment and buy fuel. The sudden spurt of the much-needed infrastructure projects also required more credit flow. All together, they mounted pressure on price.

Subsequently, all our monetary targets have gone haywire and the central bank looked on haplessly as one after another figures went tumbling. There goes inflation. Now goes credit flow. And so on.

Now what can the finance minister do about this? Does he have enough political power to do anything at all? Can he go for squeezing credit flow? Or will squeezing credit flow by making it costlier work at all? Can he control credit flow without hurting the real economy? Will controlling money flow lead to stagflation -- with inflation remaining high and growth rate low?

For our finance minister this remains a real challenge.

If interest rates are upped say to 20 percent, can our industry remain in the global competition with global interest rate remaining much lower? When interest rates are high, the industry should have other areas of relief such as uninterrupted power, better business environment, quicker decision making, and so on. There is little hope that these areas will improve radically overnight. If not what will be the fall out on the economy? And exports? If inflation keeps rising, that will lead to wage pressure for the readymade garment sector.

And exchange rate? And inflation again? We are then looking at a vicious cycle, probably.

There are other major areas of concern such as the Annual Development Programme (ADP), high amount of subsidy, and budget deficit.

An over ambitious ADP that critically depends on domestic financing has many consequences. First, the implementation.

Although the finance minister had rightly identified poor implementation last year as a cause for concern, and promised close monitoring, he could not live up to his words. We are now again seeing last minute fund release. This may push up the implementation figure but not the physical work. This will lead to a backlog of funds and a lapse of quality. When quality question comes, it is critical to note that we only know who is spending the money but not the impact. There is no institutional mechanism for monitoring and reporting what the public money,

particularly development spending, is buying and what development outcomes these expenditures are producing.

The financing mode of ADP is also a cause for concern as more than a half of it will come from domestic sources. This will have two implications -- more internal borrowing at the cost of cheaper foreign funds, and less accountability in spending. Corruption, at the end of the day, becomes a major reason for a party to become unpopular.

The other challenge the finance minister will have to bear is the rising subsidy. In the past years the amount of subsidy increased, and quite justifiably. But we have to keep in mind the "hysteresis" effect of subsidy -- a phenomenon manifested by the tendency of some politically sensitive decisions, which cannot be reversed even when necessary. Once subsidy becomes a habit, it becomes a part of the political economy and cannot be adjusted downward.

And if all these realities are put together -- a big ADP, huge subsidy, and rising prices -- they will eventually raise the necessity for higher and more efficient revenue collection. Otherwise financial insolvency will surface. This year's revenue collection is quite impressive. But aiming for a big growth following a big collection year can be difficult. And if revenue falters, that will have a domino effect across the board.

We find little solace for next year. Remittance risk from the Middle East situation will get more entrenched. Global economic revival is still doubtful. And the political calm on the domestic front is disappearing fast, making it even more difficult to deliver results.

The finance minister will have to negotiate all these fault lines this year -- each of them equally dangerous and linked to the other. A slip can cause heavy reckoning for everybody, especially the finance minister himself.

35 illegal

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"The task force is continuing the eviction drive in the upazila. The other sawmills, if they are found to be illegal, will be evicted at any cost," Mozibor told The Daily Star.

Twelve more illegal sawmills were evicted earlier in a drive led by a magistrate, he said.

Besides eviction, departmental cases will be filed against the owners of the illegal sawmills, local forest department sources said.

Earlier on June 6, the High Court directed the government to immediately shut down the sawmills illegally set up in the Sakhipur reserve forest area.

It also ordered the authorities concerned to constantly monitor the forest area to prevent further felling of trees.

The court order came in response to a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh on the basis of The Daily Star report headlined "52 mills sawing reserve forests" on June 5.

51 proposals

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the highest punishment for unconstitutional takeover of state power.

Placing the report in parliament, committee chief Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said although the caretaker government system is imperative in the country's political context, it is certainly against democracy.

"Abiding by the Supreme Court verdict on the issue, the committee has come up with a decision that keeping the democratic trend is better than the caretaker government system," she added.

She however said fresh discussions might be held if the opposition comes to parliament and places proposal on the caretaker government issue in a constitutional way.

"We can come up with a decision on the issue through consensus to avoid political conflict."

Sajeda went on, "We hoped the leader of the opposition [Khaleda Zia] will join the discussion (in parliament) on constitution amendments. But she neither joined it nor sent any representative. The nation still hopes she and her party (BNP) lawmakers will come to parliament and take part in the discussion for the sake of building a positive political trend."

The House body's recommendations include raising the number of reserved seats for women in the House to 50 from 45. It placed a 40-page report after working for almost a year.

It recommended keeping Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim in the preamble of the constitution, Islam as state religion ensuring equal rights also for the Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and people of other religions.

The committee recommended inclusion of the historic March 7 address of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his declaration of independence in the constitution, giving him constitutional acknowledgement as father of the nation, displaying his portrait at government and other offices, instead of the prime minister's or the president's.

The prime minister formed the 15-member committee on July 21 last year.

Its recommendations have been sent to the law ministry for its scrutiny.

Committee members Rashed Khan Menon and Hasanul Haque Inu gave written note of dissent on the recommendations concerning Bismillah, Islam as state religion and allowing religion-based parties.

Illegal colleges

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eleven by some educational institutions illegally have drawn its attention.

The disapproved institutions, especially in Dhaka, through their advertisements are alluring students for the admission, which is a great deception, the ministry observed.

Legal measures will be taken against the institutions involved in such deceptive activities, the release said.

Necessary information can be available on the relevant education board's website or by phone calls or direct contact, it added.

Facebook

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have the option to switch it off, some complained that they were not explicitly asked if they wanted it activated.

Facebook said that the system was intended to speed up the process of assigning a name to a picture, known as tagging.

It was introduced in the US in December 2010 but has only now been launched globally.

Graham Cluley, senior consultant with security firm Sophos, said that users' annoyance was less about the product's purpose than the manner in which it was made live.

"Many people feel distinctly uncomfortable about a site like Facebook learning what they look like and using that information without their permission," said Cluley.

70 housing projects illegal

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companies to protect the environment.

The petitioners included Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan, Institute of Architects Bangladesh and Paribesh Banchao Andolan.

The petitioners mentioned failure of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, and Rajuk in preventing advertisements, earth filling and sale of plots of unapproved private housing projects.

These included proposed projects or those being implemented in the area under Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan, comprised of the Structure Plan, Urban Area Plan and

Detailed Area Plan (DAP). The petition listed the 77 projects where earth filling has to be stopped.

Following the petition, an HC bench of Justice Wahab Miah and Justice Kazi Rezaul Hoque on July 27 last year issued a rule upon the government to explain as to why the activities of the unapproved and unauthorised housing projects in and around Dhaka should not be declared illegal.

It had also directed the government to take effective steps to stop earth filling and sale of plots in the unauthorised private housing projects, and advertisements on those.

The government did not respond to the rule.

As the July 27, 2010, directives were not being exe-

cuted properly, Bela filed another petition with the HC in January this year seeking remedy.

On January 17, the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain directed the government to stop advertisement, earth-filling and sale of plots by those housing projects and remove their signboards, hoardings and other advertising means.

Iqbal Kabir claimed the authorities have not properly followed the January 17 directives.

Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain and Assistant Attorney General Shaikat Basu represented the government.

AL lawmakers

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issue at a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, meeting source told The Daily Star.

Hasina raised the proposal at the very meeting.

"People all over the country pay tax, then why you [MPs] will enjoy the privilege of not paying the tax. I, therefore, call upon you to think about the proposal," a lawmaker present at the meeting quoted the premier as saying.

"It is not a good practice that lawmakers do not pay tax for their salaries and perks," she was quoted as saying.

Lawmakers are now exempted from tax on remunerations and allowances, in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Remunerations and Allowances) Order, 1973.

BNP won't join

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government move to bring amendments to the country's constitution.

The formal announcement regarding hartal may come on Friday, said party insiders after the closed-door standing committee meeting at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office.

Sources said the party also discussed a long march programme but could not make any decision.

After the hour-long meeting with the standing committee from around 8:00pm, Khaleda Zia discussed agitation programme with her party allies.

Asked about the meeting agenda, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam said, "We have discussed about next agitation programmes and you will know about it on Friday."

Sources said a few members of the standing committee requested the chairperson to take time before announcing hartal as the party has just observed a hartal on June 5. However, a few others demanded hartal as soon as possible.

"She [Khaleda Zia] looked very adamant regarding a tougher movement against the government," said a member of the standing committee.

The EC had earlier invited BNP for a dialogue on key issues like RPO, laws on demarcation of constituencies, appointment of election commissioners and use of electronic voting machine (EVM).

BNP has already rejected the idea of using EVM in the next parliamentary elections.

4 burqa-clad

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The authority handed the girls to Rab at about 3:00pm, he said.

During preliminary investigation in Rab custody, it transpired that one of the detainees is a student of the college while two went to collect information for admission to the masters programme, Major Harun said.

The other girl, who was carrying with her two diaries, is the friend of one of the college students, he added.

Prof Mahafuza Chowdhury, principal of the college, said students held four burqa-clad girls from the college premises for their suspicious involvement with Islamist militant organisations.

Sony murder

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caught in the line of fire.

Habibur urged the government to take measures to stop campus violence. By no means should such an incident recur, he insisted.

He also demanded the authorities name the place "Sony Chattar" where she was killed.

Among the five convicts, Mushfiquddin alias Tagar and his two cohorts are now serving the sentence, while Nurul Islam Sagor and Mokammel Hayat Khan Muki have been absconding.

The JCD factions had a dispute over tenders for construction of a new residential hall and a Power Development Board office on the campus.

Sl No.	Name of Project	Area of Project
1.	Ashulia Land Development Ltd.	Dakkhinkhan
2.	Zanovally Properties Ltd.	Baro Kathaldia
3.	Bangladesh Development Company Ltd.	North Town, Tongi/Gutia
4.	Bangladesh Development Company Ltd.	North Town, Keraniganj/Bagoir
5.	Bangladesh Development Company Ltd.	East Town, Kanchpur/Madanpur
6.	Sunvalley Abasik Prokolpo	Badda, Sutivola
7.	Notun Dhara Housing Company Ltd.	Badda
8.	Mission Energy and Properties Ltd.	Dhour, Ranabhola
9.	MN Housing Ltd.	Baunia
10.	Rupayan Housing Estate Ltd.	Baro Ashulia, Savar
11.	Jubok Housing and Real Estate	Bagoir, Keraniganj/Mouza
12.	New Heaven Medical Center	Dhour Mouza
13.	Baitul Aman Bahumukhi Somobai Samity Ltd.	Goran, Chatbari
14.	Hirajhil Properties Development Pvt. Ltd.	Kathaldia, Satarkul, Bhatara
15.	Bismillah Real Estate	Moddhair Char, Keraniganj
16.	Mecca Housing Ltd.	Keraniganj
17.	Ramjan Nagar Housing	Char Gulgulia, Keraniganj
18.	M/s. Amir Enterprise	Brahmankitta, Keraniganj
19.	Moulana Real Estate	Brahmankitta, Keraniganj
20.	Haji M Gafur Land Developers Ltd.	Amulia, Shunnya
21.	Nur Nagar Housing Prokolpo	Satarkul, Badda
22.	Town View Abashik Prokolpo	Satarkul, Kathaldia, Badda
23.	Ashulia Model Town Prokolpo	Ashulia, Savar
24.	Modhumoti Model Town Prokolpo	Amin Bazar, Savar
25.	Dhaka Uddyan Bahumukhi Somobai Samiti Prokolpo	Mohammadpur
26.	New Uttara Model Town Prokolpo	Ashulia, Savar
27.	Jamuna Builderser Abason Prokolpo	Dumni, Barua, Badda
28.	Green Model Town Prokolpo	Manda, Sabujbagh
29.	Bashundhara Riverview Prokolpo	Keraniganj
30.	Vacation City Prokolpo	Keraniganj
31.	BCS Police Officers' Cooperative Housing Prokolpo	Savar
32.	Savar Model Town Prokolpo	Savar
33.	Baipail Prokolpo	Savar
34.	Ashulia Abashan Prokolpo	Ashulia
35.	Ashulia City Prokolpo	Ashulia
36.	Paradise Real Estate Prokolpo	Ashulia
37.	Rangdhanu Abashik Prokolpo	Ashulia
38.	Rainbow Town Prokolpo	Ashulia
39.	Prattashya Housing Prokolpo	Tongi, Ashulia
40.	Mainland City	Mohammadpur
41.	Shyamoli Jonokalyan Bahumukhi Prokolpo	Mohammadpur
42.	Nabinagar Prokolpo, Mohammadi Housing	Mohammadpur
43.	Meena Bazar Prokolpo, Ajker Kagoj	Mohammadpur
44.	Ali Nur Real Estate Prokolpo	Mohammadpur
45.	Janok-Janani Model Town Prokolpo	Mohammadpur
46.	Rayer Bazar Model Town Prokolpo	Mohammadpur
47.	Fancy International Prokolpo	Mohammadpur
48.	Mohammadia Housing Abashon Prokolpo, Mohammadia Housing	Adabor, Mohammadpur
49.	Chand Housing Prokolpo	Adabor, Mohammadpur
50.	Nobodoy Housing Prokolpo	Adabor, Mohammadpur
51.	Latif Real Estate	Katasur, Mohammadpur
52.	Bashumati Abashik Prokolpo, Hirajhil Property Development Property Ltd.	Kathaldia, Badda
53.	Prominent Housing Prokolpo	Mohammadpur
54.	Private DOHS (Northern Holdings Ltd.)	Aukpara, Savar
55.	Northern Holdings Ltd.	Aukpara, Savar
56.	Jubok Housing & Real Estate	Ranavola, Uttara
57.	Shodesh Properties Ltd.	Sornali Abashik Prokolpo (First Part)
58.	East West Property Development (Pvt.) Ltd.	Bashundhara Abashik Prokolpo (First Part)
59.	Eastern Housing Ltd.	Rampura Extension (Mohanagar section only)
60.	BDDL Notundhara Housing Company Ltd.	BDDL Notundhara Abashik Prokolpo (First Part)
61.	Eastern Housing Ltd.	Mayakanon Lake City Abashik Prokolpo
62.	Rupayan Housing Estate Ltd.	Rupayan City, Uttara
63.	Neptune Lands Development Ltd.	United City Abashik Prokolpo (First Part)
64.	Navana Real Estate Ltd.	Navana Valley-1
65.	Hamid Real Estate Ltd.	Priya Prangan Abashik Prokolpo
66.	Concord Lands Ltd.	Rajdhani Abashik Prokolpo
67.	Navana Real Estate Ltd.	Navana, Bhuiyan City
68.	Mamson International Ltd.	Evergreen Model Town
69.	Navana Real Estate Ltd.	Navana, Keraniganj Abashik Prokolpo
70.	NM Housing Ltd.	Saughta Abashik Prokolpo
71.	Asian Land Development Ltd.	Asian City Abashik Prokolpo
72.	Rapayan Housing Estate Ltd.	Rapayan Abashon-1
73.	Reliance Development Associate Ltd.	Reliance Model Town
74.	Havelly Property Development Ltd.	Ali Nagor Abashik Prokolpo
75.	Taninkunju Housing Prokolpo Ltd.	Taninkunju Prokolpo
76.	Bhulua Royal City (Pvt.) Ltd.	Bhulua Royal City
77.	Anwar Real Estate (Pvt.) Ltd.	Anwar City Prokolpo