

JSS goes into session on Sept 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 10th parliament goes into its seventh session on September 1. President Abdul Hamid convened the session, exercising his power bestowed upon him by Article 72 (1) of the constitution, a release of the parliament secretariat said yesterday.

The House is set to sit at 5:00pm that day.

Before that, the business advisory committee of parliament will have a meeting with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair to decide duration and businesses of the session.

Sources at the parliament secretariat said the session might continue for a short period of time.

According to the constitution, the president must convene a session within 60 days of the last sitting of the previous session and the first sitting of the next session.

The last session, which was a budget one, was prorogued on July 8 with 26 working days.

The 10th parliament was formed through the January 5, 2014 election boycotted by the BNP-led 20-party alliance and most other political parties.

The maiden session of the House took place between January 29 and April 10 last year.



Some of the schoolkids, who were injured in an attack by suspected Jubo League activists yesterday, lie in Kachua Upazila Health Complex. The pro-ruling party men allegedly swooped on the students with sharp weapons and sticks as the school authorities refused to give them money for programmes to mark the National Mourning Day.

PHOTO: STAR

Students beaten

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Helal Uddin, former convener of the unit, claimed Faruque and Monir were actually activists of Awami League but AL denied it.

According to Helal, yesterday's attack was carried out after some students on Saturday allegedly vandalised the houses of Faruque and Monir in the area for assaulting the teacher.

Visiting the school, Ibrahim Khalil, officer-in-charge of Kachua Police Station, said action would be taken after investigation.

Talking about the two students who were referred to the Comilla hospital, Bijay Dutta of Kachua Upazila Health Complex said, Sujon, a class-10 student, was stabbed in the leg and had 26 stitches. Sonia Aktar, of the same class, had a severe head injury.

The other admitted to the Kachua hospital include class-10 students Muni Aktar, Beauty Aktar, Shabnur, Arif Hossain, Pakhi Aktar; class-IX student Riyad Hossain, class-VIII students Popy Aktar, Ripa Aktar, Kadija Aktar Bristy, class-VII students Shakila Aktar, Sayma Aktar and class-VI students Tanjila Aktar and Meem.

Abdul Hanif, assistant superintendent of police (Hajiganj circle), said a case was filed against 28, including Faruque, Monir and Liton, in connection with the attack.

Later, police detained Mozzamel Haque, brother of Liton, for his alleged involvement in the incident, he added.

The other accused went into hiding.

I'm ready to make sacrifice for people

PM tells AL discussion

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she is ready to make any sacrifice for changing the lot of the people and materialising the dream of Bangabandhu.

"The fate of the Bangalee nation must be changed and the dream of Bangabandhu must be fulfilled. So, I am always ready to make any sacrifice for ameliorating the condition of the Bangalee nation and materialising the dream of Bangabandhu by bringing smiles on the faces of the commoners," she said.

Talking about repeated attacks on her life, she said no conspiracy would deter her from establishing a poverty and hunger-free "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



The prime minister said after losing her father, mother, brothers and other near and dear ones, she has nothing to desire and attain. "My only desire is changing the fate of the nation for which my father, mother and brothers laid down their lives," she said.

She mentioned that with the August 15 massacre the whole nation was disgraced in front of the entire world. "Again I want to put the nation in a respectable position and bring smiles on the faces of the common people of the country," she said.

She said the Father of the Nation dreamt of ensuring food, clothes, homes, healthcare and education for all building a poverty- and hunger-free nation.

"To fulfil that dream is the only aim of mine and I am working for that," she added.

Deputy Leader of the House and senior Presidium Member of Awami League Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, AL Advisory Council Members Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta, Presidium Members Matia Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim and Engineer Mosharrif Hossain, General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam, eminent writer Syed Shamsul Haque, AL Joint Secretaries Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Mahbul Alam Hanif, Organising Secretaries Ahmed Hossain and AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Dhaka City AL President MA Aziz and General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya took part in the discussion.

13 charged with Rajon killing

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The official, however, said the Saudi authorities didn't mention any date for Kamrul's repatriation.

"Our embassy there is working hard to that end," said the official on condition of anonymity.

Around 5:00pm yesterday, Investigation Officer Suranjit Talukder, also an inspector of the Detective Branch of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, submitted the charge sheet to the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Shahedul Karim.

Apart from Kamrul, the other accused are Muhit Alam, Ali Haider, Nurul Amin, Dulal Ahmed, Nur Mia, Ayaz Ali, Badal, Firoyz Ali, Shamim, Ruhul Amin, Pavel and Asmat Ali.

The investigation officer prayed to the court for relieving two other detainees -- Lipi Begum and Ismail Hossain Ablush -- of the charges as their involvement in the incident was not found, said police.

Public Prosecutor Misbahuddin Siraj said eight of the arrestees confessed to police their involvement in the killing.

Rajon's father Sheikh Azizur

Rahman expressed satisfaction at the charge sheet.

"I will feel relieved when the culprits walk the gallows. I want speedy trial," he told The Daily Star.

On July 8, thirteen-year-old Rajon was beaten to death by Kamrul and several other brutes in Kumargaon Bus Stand area of Sylhet Sadar upazila.

His "crime", they claimed, was trying to steal a rickshaw van. One of culprits filmed the murder incident on a mobile phone and shared it on the social media.

The sickening torture video shook the nation to its core and stirred outbreaks in the social network and the mainstream media.

Tied to a pole, the boy screamed for help, cried for water and begged for his life. But the group showed no mercy. They laughed, joked and filmed their madness to show it off to people.

In the video footage that went viral, Kamrul, in a black T-shirt and lungi, was seen hitting the boy with a stick in the feet, joints of legs, shoulders and in the head.

They kept beating him, at times knocking him down to the ground,

and asking how he would like to take the beating. When Rajon cried for water, they told him to drink his own sweat.

The boy died of brain haemorrhage. His body bore 64 injury marks.

After the killing, the culprits were taking his body on a microbus to dump it in a secluded place, but the locals spotted them and managed to catch one of them. The police recovered the body from the microbus.

A murder case was filed with Jalalabad Police Station on July 8 night.

On July 13, some expatriate Bangladeshis spotted Kamrul in Jeddah, caught him and handed him over to the Bangladesh mission there. Later, Jeddah police took him into custody.

Sylhet Metropolitan Police closed officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Police Station Alamgir Hossain and suspended sub-inspectors Aminul Islam and Zakir Hossain on July 24 after a probe found their negligence in arresting the killers.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent contributed to this report.

Punjab minister

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Jamaat-ul-Ahrar faction of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) movement claimed responsibility for the attack on Twitter, saying it was revenge for the killing of a sectarian militant commander and others.

Last month the leader of an anti-Shiite group behind some of Pakistan's worst sectarian atrocities was killed in a shootout with police, along with 13 other militants.

Malik Ishaq was shot dead along with fellow Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) militants, including senior commanders, in Punjab.

"The Attack attack is revenge for the martyrdom of Malik Ishaq shaheed [martyr] and other mujahideen brothers," Ehsan said.

Khanzada, a retired army colonel, had been a member of the Punjab assembly since 2002 and an active member of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), the party of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The prime minister, along with President Mamnoon Hussain and army chief General Raheel Sharif condemned the attack and expressed their resolve to fight terrorism.

Punjab's government announced a three-day mourning in the province starting Monday.

Officials said there were up to 40 people in the compound when the suicide attack took place. The attack caused the entire roof slab to fall in one piece -- complicating rescue efforts.

Joint team to verify complaints tomorrow

FORMER INDIAN ENCLAVES

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

An India-Bangladesh joint team is set to begin verification of complaints filed by people of 32 former Indian enclaves inside Bangladesh tomorrow.

According to the Kurigram district administration, a number of people have submitted complaints to the Cooch Bihar district magistrate in India and the upazila nirbahi officers (UNO) concerned in Bangladesh during the recent India-Bangladesh joint enclave survey saying they could not place their right choices due to "local threats".

The Indian team would also visit three border checkpoints -- Chilahati-Haldibari, Burimari-Changrabandha and Shahebganj-Bagvandar -- besides verifying the complaints.

"A two-member Indian team will hold hearing on six complaints in Dashiarchhara [enclave] in Kurigram. An executive magistrate from Bangladesh will be included in the team," said Aktar Hossain, additional deputy commissioner (General) in Kurigram.

Members of the team are Rabindra Nath Bosh and Md Nur Alom, deputy district magistrates of Cooch Bihar district in India, and Nasir Uddin Mahmud, UNO of Phulbari.

The team would also verify the Shahebganj-Bagvandar border checkpoint where enclave people [who have been interested to take Indian citizenship] would be checked before entering India, the ADC added.

The Indian team would hold hearings on six complaints in Dashiarchhara of Phulbari upazila. Five enclave people have appealed to the Cooch Bihar district magistrate and one to the Phulbari UNO to take Indian citizenship.

Baby Suraiya

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thank the Almighty Allah," she told reporters at the DMCH.

When eight-month pregnant Nazma was shot in the lower abdomen during a clash between two factions of Magura Jubo League on July 23, her unborn baby too sustained critical injuries in the shoulder and in one of her eyes.

Although both of them survived after a two-hour caesarean operation, doctors in Magura hadn't expected that the bullet-injured newborn would be able to cling to life.

Suraiya was immediately rushed to the DMCH where doctors saved her putting in a commendable collective effort. However, Nazma stayed in Magura to recuperate but was brought to the DMCH about a week later to

breastfeed Suraiya as per doctors' advice.

Until yesterday Nazma could visit Suraiya now and then to breastfeed her but from now on the two can stay together, said doctors at the DMCH.

Dr Kaniz said they were so relieved that they could finally give the baby to her mother.

She said although the mother and the baby are out of danger now, the baby is still at risk of infection for her low birth weight.

"We will observe both of them for three or four more days before deciding on their discharge," she told The Daily Star.

A team from National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital will examine the baby's eye injury on Monday, she added.

Toxic Paracetamol Verdict in 2 cases today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Drug Court is scheduled to deliver its judgment today in two cases filed in 1992 against six owners and employees of now-defunct BCI (Bangladesh) Ltd for manufacturing toxic paracetamol syrup.

One of the BCI directors, Shahjahan Sarker, has been attending the court proceedings. The other five accused are being tried in absentia.

BCI (Bangladesh) Ltd is one of the five companies whose paracetamol syrups tested positive for cheap and lethal diethylene glycol in 1992. It used the toxic industrial substance instead of ethylene glycol to produce the drug branded "Paracem".

Four of the five companies were sued based on the test results. However, the fifth one, City Chemical Ltd, managed to go scot-free, thanks to their alleged connections in the then BNP government.

In 1994, the owners of all the four companies managed to secure High Court stay orders on the cases' proceedings.

The four cases refer to deaths of 76 children because of the tainted drugs.

However, according to a study by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical

University, as many as 2,700 children died across the country between 1982 and 1992 due to renal failure allegedly after they had been given paracetamol syrups.

The cases remained stuck until a 2009 investigation by The Daily Star disclosed how corruption and manipulation by an employee of the drug regulatory body Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) and a court clerk kept the trial on hold for so many years.

The copies of the stay orders had been found hidden under piles of documents of cases disposed off.

Although the stay on the BCI cases was lifted in 2011, the trial could not begin in the next two years as the complainant, DGDA Director Abul Khair Chowdhury, did not appear before the court that had summoned him 18 times.

Finally, the trial began on August 7 last year, and the court sent Khair to jail for not complying with its orders. Khair was released later on condition that he would appear before the court regularly to testify.

The judgment was scheduled to be delivered on August 13 but Judge M Atoar Rahman deferred it until today.

Militants change

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socially, politically and religiously."

Such a campaign was launched in 2009 involving imams, teachers and media persons but it fizzled out within months, apparently for the government's lack of political will.

The Detective Branch of police alone arrested 166 suspected militants of different outfits since January 2014. Most of the arrestees were in leadership positions with expertise in information technology and explosives.

Apart from police, the Rapid Action Battalion hunts for militants.

But, officials observe, the lack of coordination and intelligence sharing among the agencies is rendering the fight ineffective, leading to failure in tackling new generation of terror organisations like Ansarullah Bangla Team and Hizb-ut Tahrir.

"The killings of bloggers one after another and the failure in tracking down the killers prove that the evil forces are well ahead of us," a police officer said, seeking anonymity.

"Ansarullah Bangla Team has turned out to be the most dangerous of the terrorist bodies... It is now a real threat," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of police officers involved in counter-militancy drives, said not trying the arrested militants has become a major setback in fighting the elements.

They said the militants sentenced to death could not be executed as they are accused in dozens of serial bombing cases and the trials are yet to be completed.

"From jails, the convicted terrorists are playing a big role in spreading militancy. They even meet their followers as they are frequently being shifting from one jail to another for case hearings," one of the officers said.

Prof Ziaur Rahman, chairman of Dhaka University criminology department, said only arrest could not wipe out terrorism. He said awareness campaigns in educational institutions and reform curriculum in Qawmi madrasas were crucial in fighting a force that is working in a well-planned manner.

In the last 10 years, more than 400 militants were arrested -- most of them JMB operatives. So far, 478 JMB men have been tried in 185 cases. Of them, 51 top leaders of the JMB were sentenced to death, 178 given life term and 245 jailed for different terms,

Bodies of

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Haider Siddiqui, captain of Bangladesh Army's Baghaihat zone, told reporters on Saturday.

One army corporal, Liaquat, was injured during the fight and was brought to the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka by helicopter, he added.

Initially, it was suspected that the victims belonged to two regional political groups -- United Peoples' Democratic Front (UPDF) and Jana Sanghati Samiti (JSS-MN Larma).

But both groups denied having links with those killed.

Jakir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Baghaihatari Police Station, confirmed the body handover after autopsies at Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

The dead are Tatu Moni Chakma, 29, of Rakhail Tila area of Mahalchhari upazila; Khokan Tripura, 27, of Masterpara area of Guimara upazila of Khagrachhari; Kiran Chakma alias Rupayan, 26, of Balukhali area; Babul Chakma, 32, of Dipupara in Baghaihatari upazila; and Rubel Chakma, 28 of Naniyarchar of Rangamati.

Al-Qaeda frees US-trained rebels

AFP, Beirut

Al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate Al-Nusra Front has freed several members of a US-trained rebel force that it kidnapped two weeks ago, the Western-backed unit said in a statement.

In a statement circulating on social media, Division 30 said seven of its members had been freed by Al-Nusra after being captured in late July.