

Proceedings

BNP keen to see Parliament lively: Khaleda Hasina says she's suffering from lack of security

The Jatiya Sangsad Monday resumed its sitting at 11.15 am with Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

doja Chowdhury clarified that the Prime Minister had not said that she did not know anything about the incident.



Sheikh Hasina

The Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina said she was suffering from a lack of security, because the Prime Minister did not know the state of affairs of the country and the nation.

Begum Khaleda Zia said under the presidential form of government, all power still remained vested with the President.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad said, "We want to make the House sovereign and give more power to the Prime Minister."

Education Minister Badruddoza Chowdhury said the present House was sovereign and there were many evidences to prove this.

The Deputy Speaker said that the House had rejected the other two adjournment motions.

He said that the House Monday received four adjournment notices and 14 call attention notices.

Disposing the call attention notices, he said only one notice moved by Nurul Islam Mont (Ind) was accepted by the House.

Mohammad Nasim

Rising on a privilege motion, Mohammed Nasim (AL) said the walk-out staged by the Opposition was not covered by the Television in its Bengali news-cast Sunday night.

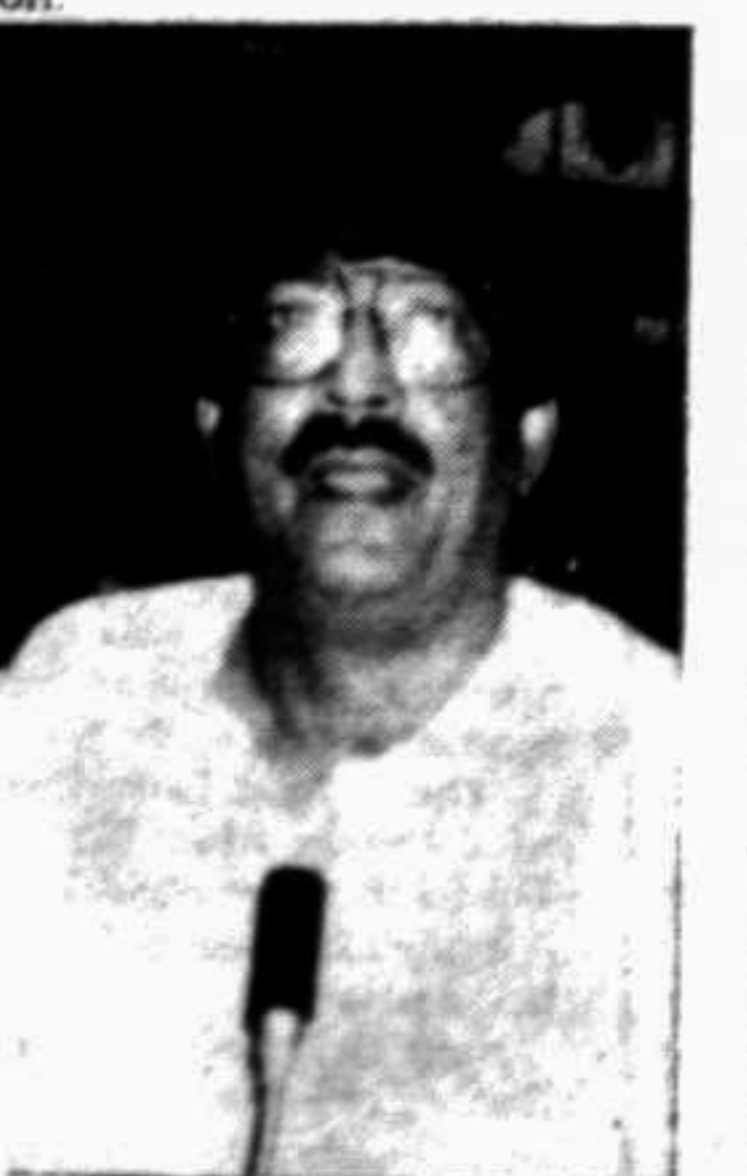
He regretted that the proceedings of the Jatiya Sangsad, won through a bloody-drenched anti-autocracy movement, were not properly covered by the Television.



Zamiruddin Sircar

The State Minister for Land, Barrister Zamiruddin Sircar said, the privilege motion of Nasim could not be allowed under Section 164 of the Rules of Procedure which required prior notice.

The Deputy Speaker rejected Mohammed Nasim's privilege motion as no prior notice was served for the motion.



Shahjahan Siraj

Next, Shahjahan Siraj drew the attention of the chair displaying a copy of the country's Constitution some pages of

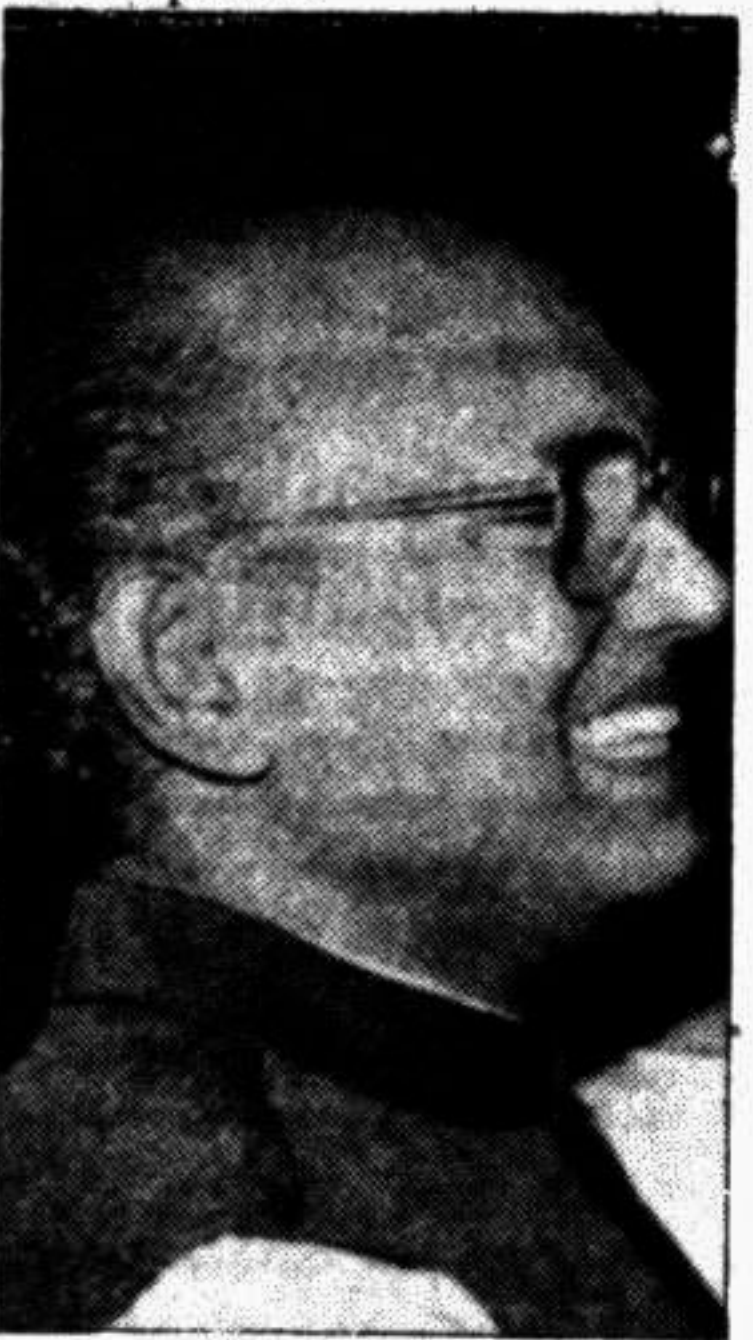
which were completely white (blank). He said if the members of the House were supplied with such incomplete copies of important documents and papers, the business of the House could not progress smoothly.

The Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in an attempt to evoke some elements of humour in the House quickly told Siraj, attired in white pyjama and punjabi that "since you are in all white some pages of the Constitution might have been kept white for making it a happy coincidence."

No sooner had the Deputy Speaker completed his remark, than some more members from the Opposition Bench said that their copies of the Constitution also contained similar blank pages.

Major (Retd) Hafizuddin, an independent member, said the country's Constitution contained some blank laws, adding "possibly, the BNP government in a bid to make the black laws white, had supplied us with the Constitution having some white pages".

At this stage, Education Minister Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury informed the House that the printing date of the copy of the Constitution was clearly written as December 30, 1990, when BNP was not in power.



Tofael Ahmed

Awami League member Tofael Ahmed however, said the country, in fact, had a government under the Acting President and not under the BNP.



Badruddoza Chowdhury

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said the statement of Tofael Ahmed was contradictory because Tofael sometimes says there exists a BNP Government and some other time he says there is no BNP Government but the caretaker government under the Acting President.

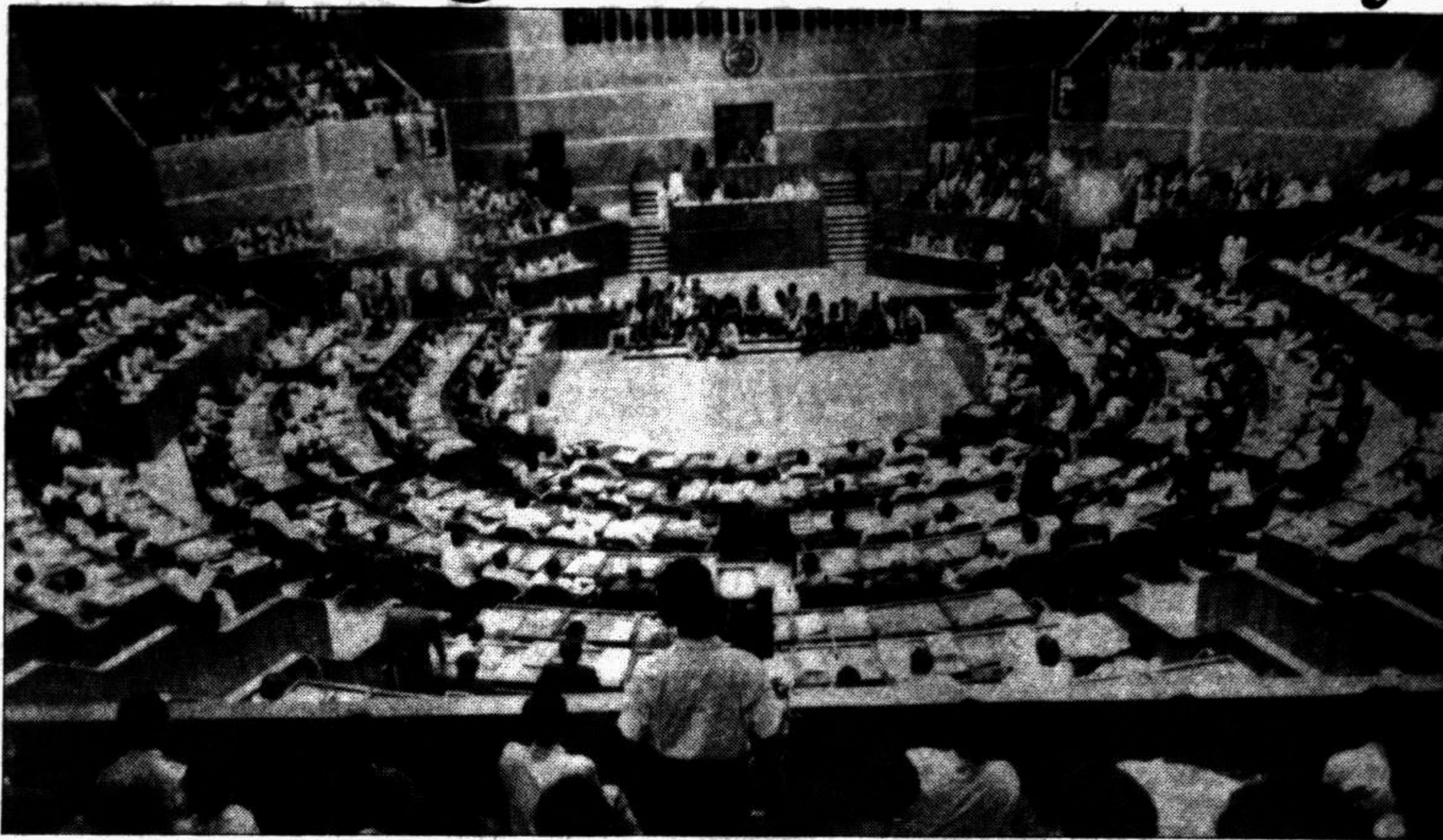
The Deputy Speaker took up the order of the day and asked Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz to place the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration) and Privileges (Amendment) Bill, 1991 to bring insufficient amendments to the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) Ordinances, 1978.

Salahuddin Quader

As the House reassembled at 2 p.m. with Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in the chair, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury (NDP) stood up and wanted to know whether the Council of Ministers would bear all responsibilities of the bill under question.

To clarify his point, Chowdhury said under the Presidential system, the Council of Ministers is accountable to the President and not to the Sangsad.

Chowdhury pleaded for giving higher remunerations to the Supreme Court Judges



Parliament session

than civil servants. Replying to Chowdhury, Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz said it would not be proper to oppose the bill before its introduction.

Underscoring the responsibility and role of the judges, the Law Minister said steps would be taken for separation of the judiciary from the executive.

The Deputy Speaker then put the bill to vote for its introduction in the House. At this stage, several Opposition members and Leader of the Opposition, Sheikh Hasina said it would not be fair to put the issue of introduction of the bill to vote.

The Deputy Speaker told the Leader of the Opposition that the Opposition members did not side with "a yes" vote when the Law Minister sought its introduction.

Col (Retd) Shawkat Ali (AL) said Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury did not oppose the bill, but he sought clarification on certain aspects.

The Deputy Speaker said the bill would be deemed to have been introduced without any Opposition.

Drawing attention of the Deputy Speaker Tofael Ahmed (AL) sought to know the result of the meeting between the Treasury Bench and the Opposition sides Monday morning at the Speaker's chamber.

The Deputy Speaker said together "we all" should put in our efforts to develop the Sangsad and for that one must

ignore petty matters and issues. He however, told the Sangsad that since the Speaker had dealt with the issue earlier, it would be proper for him to dispose the issue.

The Speaker will make a statement this morning on the matter, the Deputy Speaker said.

The chair then called Prof. M. A. Mannan, Minister of State for Religious Affairs, to introduce the Hindu Religious Welfare Trust (Amendment) Bill 1991, which sought further amendment to the Hindu Religious Welfare Trust Ordinance of 1983.



Suranjit Sen

Suranjit Sengupta took the floor submitting that according to Article 93 of the Constitution, the President was empowered to promulgate ordinances but those ordinances must be placed before the Jatiya Sangsad at the first available session.

In the present case, the bills being introduced could be avoided if the Government Bench would have brought a constitutional bill to conclusively finalise the anomalies regarding the form of government, he said.

The Deputy Speaker told Suranjit Sengupta that his objection was irrelevant because Article 93 of the Constitution had no relevance in this case.

The bill was then introduced.

Nurul Islam Mont (Ind) drew the attention of the chair submitting that objections could be raised even before introduction of a bill according to Sub-Section 4 of Section 75 of the Rules of Procedure.

The Deputy Speaker said the contention of the inde-

pendent member was not in order since Sub-Sections 2 and 3 of Section 75 must also be considered in this regard.

Jamiruddin Sircar

State Minister for Land, Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar sought the leave of the House to introduce the House Rent Control Bill, 1991.

S. S. Halder (AL) raised objection to the introduction of the bill. It has been said that the bill has already become a law and taken effect.

Making a brief statement, the State Minister for land said it was not made a law and the Acting President had promulgated an ordinance on the rent control on January 2, 1991.

The Minister then introduced the bill.



Menon

Rashed Khan Menon (Workers Party) said committees meant for dealing with important bills be formed immediately so that the bills like those intended to amend the Constitution on form of government were routed properly.

At this stage, Akhtaruzzaman Babu (AL) drew the attention of the chair on his breach of privilege but there was an uproar from the Treasury Bench when he mentioned a decision of the 1986 Parliament.

The Treasury Bench members objected to the mentioning of the 1986 Parliament since their party was not part of that House.

Amid repeated objections from the Treasury Bench members, Tofael Ahmed said he appreciated the feelings of the Treasury Bench members for reacting to the 1986 Parliament. But he wondered how 30 women members were sitting in the House today without accepting the decision of 1986 and 1988 Parliaments.

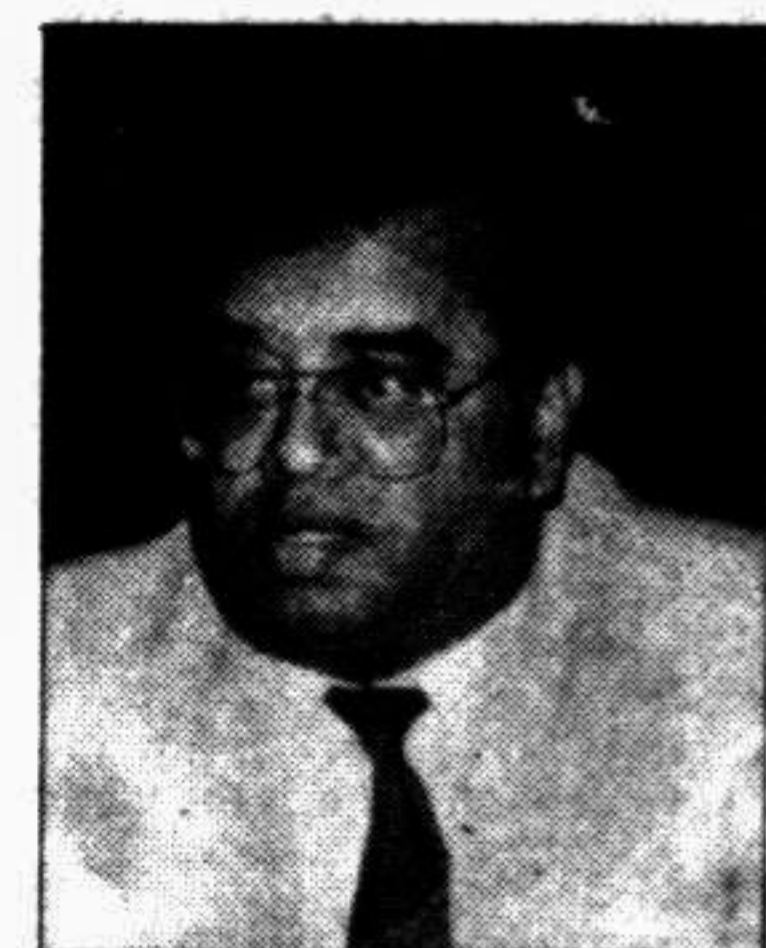
The Awami League member said it would have been better if the Treasury Bench had not accepted the decision of the 1986 and 1988 Parliaments.

Pourashava Bill placed

Union Parishad and Pourashava (Special Responsibility) Bill, 1991 was placed in the House on Sunday, reports UNB.

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder tabled the bill which seeks to entrust special responsibilities to the union parishads and pourashavas for maintaining peace and discipline during parliamentary elections.

ments relating to the restoration of the quota of women members. "How can you feel allergic to 1986 or 1988 Parliaments and at the same time take all the benefits of those two Houses?" Tofael Ahmed asked.



Najmul Huda

State Minister for Food Barrister Najmul Huda said that this Parliament was the product of a long struggle of nine years against the autocratic rule of Ershad and any mention of the Parliaments of that ignominious period in today's Parliament meant a negation to this House.

Amid accusation and counter accusation by the members of BNP and Awami League, the Deputy Speaker gave the floor to Mohammad Nasim, the Chief Whip of the Awami League Parliamentary Party.

The Awami League leader pointed out that while BNP members were criticising the 1986 and 1988 Parliaments they were sitting besides the 30 women members whose provisions were legalised by the 1988 Parliament.

Nasim also pointed out that the BNP nomination to Anwar, now a BNP Minister and MP, was strongly protested by the students.

MK Anwar

At this stage, MK Anwar took the floor and started refuting the allegations against him levelled by the Awami League leader. Despite being obstructed several times by the Opposition members, he continued saying that his role as a civil servant was known to all.

The former Cabinet Secretary also observed that the history of this nation could be otherwise if he as the then Cabinet Secretary had not organised the historic resignation ceremony of former President Ershad on December 6, last year.

Refuting allegations against him that he was an Ershad's man, Anwar also pointed out that he was elected a Member of Parliament by a big margin in the recent parliamentary elections.

Aman

After Anwar, the DUCSU Vice President and young BNP MP Amanullah Aman took the floor and said the participation of Awami League in 1986 elections was a betrayal to the whole nation. But Aman's

speech could not be heard properly due to consistent protests from the Awami League Bench.

However, Aman said that when the whole nation was in favour of the ongoing movement against President Ershad, the participation of a particular party in the election had frustrated the national hope. He also termed 1986 Parliament as illegal.

Sajeda

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, taking the floor, said the present Sangsad was the product of a nine-year long anti-autocratic movement. Refuting the contention of M K Anwar (BNP), Begum Chowdhury said it was the student-people of the country who had waged movement and freed the country from autocratic rule.

After the fall of Ershad, Anwar came to the Awami League for nomination. On being refused, he went to the BNP which gave him nomination for election in the Jatiya Sangsad, she added.

Maulana Sobhan

Maulana Abdus Sobhan (Jamaat-Pabna) drew the attention of the Chair and expressed his concern at the way the valuable time of Sangsad was being wasted.

The Jamaat member said everyone should understand the significance of the proper use of time of the Sangsad. The Treasury Bench members should show patience and restraints in the House, he observed.

Another Jamaat-member Kazi Shamsur Rahman (Satkhira) said order and discipline should be maintained in the House. Though Deputy Speaker was repeatedly stressing for maintaining discipline the Jamaat member defended his party's participation in the 1986 parliamentary elections and said, "we had participated in that elections as part of our anti-autocratic movement".

Farida Rahman

Farida Rahman (BNP) said the 1986 Parliament had given legal coverage to the illegal laws of President Ershad.

Motion of thanks

Initiating a discussion on the motion of thanks to the Acting President for his speech at the inaugural session of the House on April 5, Azizur Rahman (AL) welcomed the President's speech as "timely" and "realistic" giving a sense of direction to the nation.

Rahman said, the Acting President very correctly portrayed the prevailing economic situation of the country as well as other aspects of the national life.

He congratulated the President for taking appropriate measures to elect a sovereign Parliament through impartial and fair polls.

Shedding light on the present pitiable condition of the national economy Rahman said unless there were more industries set up to provide jobs to the unemployed and efforts take to attain food autarky and halt the population boom, the existence of the nation as a whole would be at stake.

He expressed grave concern over the gradual fall of GDP and the widening gap between import and export and said that the Acting President had discussed in detail these important national issues. In this connection, he cited the volume of foreign assistance and attainment of GDP during the rules of the Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party governments.

Rahman thanked the Acting President for courageously projecting the truth that certain quarters in different names had plundered money from various public sector loan-giving institutions in the pretext of establishing industries. He stressed the need for realisation of Taka 10,000 crore from the defaulters, as mentioned by the President in his speech.

Rahman in an emotion-choked voice, lauded the President for stressing the political importance of the modalities of transfer of power framed by the three political alliances on the eve of the fall of the autocracy.

Rahman called upon the Leader of the House to bring the necessary bills in the Sangsad to make the Parliament sovereign, one of the main objectives of the joint declaration of the three alliances.

Earlier, at the beginning of his speech, Rahman paid tributes to Bahabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, four national leaders who were killed in Dhaka Central Jail, and hundreds of people who laid down their lives for the fall of autocracy.

As Rahman ended his speech, the Deputy Speaker adjourned the House at 4:06 pm to meet again at 11 am today (Tuesday).

Bill to control rent tabled

A bill seeking to fix standard house rent on appeals from the owner or tenant every two years was introduced in the Parliament on Monday, reports UNB.

The Rent Control, of concerned areas appointed by the government, on request of owners or tenants, will fix the standard rent in such a manner so that the annual rent equals 15 per cent of the market price of the house.

State Minister for Land Jamiruddin Sircar tabled the bill, titled the House Rent Control Bill, 1991.

The bill envisages that the house rent fixed under the Rent Control Ordinance, 1986, will remain unchanged unless it is revised by the Controller.

Awami League member Sudhangsu Shekhar Halder ob-

- Statement on Indian chopper landing shortly
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