The day's proceedings began with recitation from the holy Quran.

The Deputy Speaker who chaired the meeting for the first time after his election to the post on April 5, thanked the members for electing him. He said so long as he would occupy the Speaker's chair, he would remain a neutral person and help nourish democracy.

The Deputy Speaker also reminded the members of their collective responsibility in the flourishment of the infant democracy. He said on the dawn of democracy, everyone should behave democratically so that democracy could take an institutional shape.

Shetkh Razzak Alt said he would also try his utmost to nourish the infant democracy and preserve country's independence and sovereignty.

The House Monday met in the absence of all the opposttion members. No members from Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Party, CPB. BKSAL, Workers Party, JSD (S). NDP. IOJ and NAP were seen in the House.

One of the three independent members. Nurul Islam Moni, was present for some time. But he too left the floor



Leader of the House.

Against this backdrop. Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Begum Khaleda Zia took the floor and requested the Deputy Speaker to adjourn the house for 20 minutes.Begum Zia said they wanted to see the Sangsad lively and so participation of the opposition in the business

of the house was essential. The Prime Minister pointed out that the opposition had boycotted the House Sunday on an issue. So she proposed a 20-minute adjournment for pursuing the opposition to come back to the House.

The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House for 20

minutes. As the House reassembled after nearly an hour of adjournment, the opposition and independent members entered the House.

Amicable settlement

During the recess, the representatives of the BNP, the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami held a meeting at the Speaker's chamber and settled the issue amicably by putting the name of the Leader of the Opposition immediately after the name of the Leader of the House in the list of the members of the **Business Advisory Committee.**

Taking up the business of the day, the Deputy Speaker said he had received seven ad-

journment motions Sunday Helicopter landing

Giving his decision on the adjournment motion moved by independent member, Nurul Islam Moni (Borguna) on the landing and taking off of an indian helicopter on Bangladesh territory without hindrance, the Deputy Speaker said though the issue was serious it was not necessary to adjourn the House to discuss the mat-

The Deputy Speaker suggested that the concerned Minister should give a state-

ment on the matter. The Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, holding the charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs, took the floor and said the Ministry of Home Affairs had so long been held by the Acting President when the incident of the Indian helicopter's landing on Bangladesh territory took place.

She said it would not be wise to speak anything without knowing the matter thoroughly. She wanted time and said she would make a statement on the matter later.

Tofael Ahmed

Awami League member Tofael Ahmed said the Prime Minister had taken oath on March 20. He said the country or the nation would not believe that the Prime Minister did not know anything about the incident of the Indian helicopter's landing at Bangladesh territory.

Education Minister Badrud-

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

doja Chowdhury clarified that the Prime Minister had not said that she did not know anything about the incident. What she said was that she did not know the matter thoroughly and as such she wanted time to make a statement on



Sheikh Hasina The Leader of the Opposttion 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 un der the presidential form of government, all power still remained vested with the President. Once we know accurately about the incident, we shall make a statement, she added.

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," adding he said, "we want to bring a bill immediately."

Education Minister Badruddoja 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

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 Moni (Ind) was accepted by the House. His notice on the outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases in southern Bangladesh will be included in the order of day on April 11, the Deputy Speaker

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 said it was unfortunate that the Television did not cover an important event taking place in the House when the Prime Minister herself was in charge

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



Zamiruddin Sircar

The State Minister for Land. Barrister Zamiruddin Sircar said, the privilege mo tion of Nastm 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 mo-



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

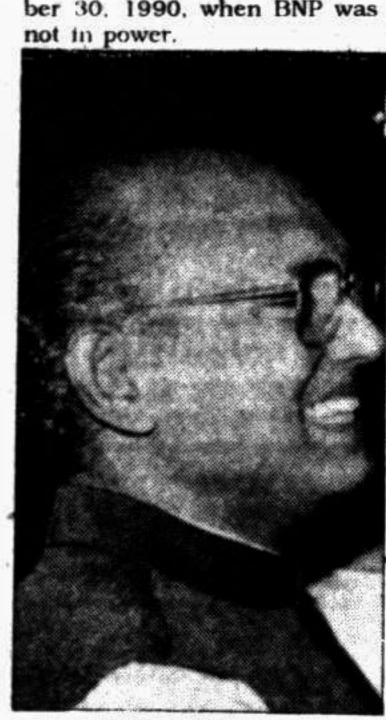
which were completely white (blank). He said if the members of the House were supplied with such incomplete copies of important documents and papers, the business of the House could not progress smoothly.

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 your 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) Haftzuddin, 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. But, he said the interesting part of it was that according to the Constitution, the Acting President would preside over the cabinet meeting while, in reality, the Prime Minister is



Badruddoza Chowdhury

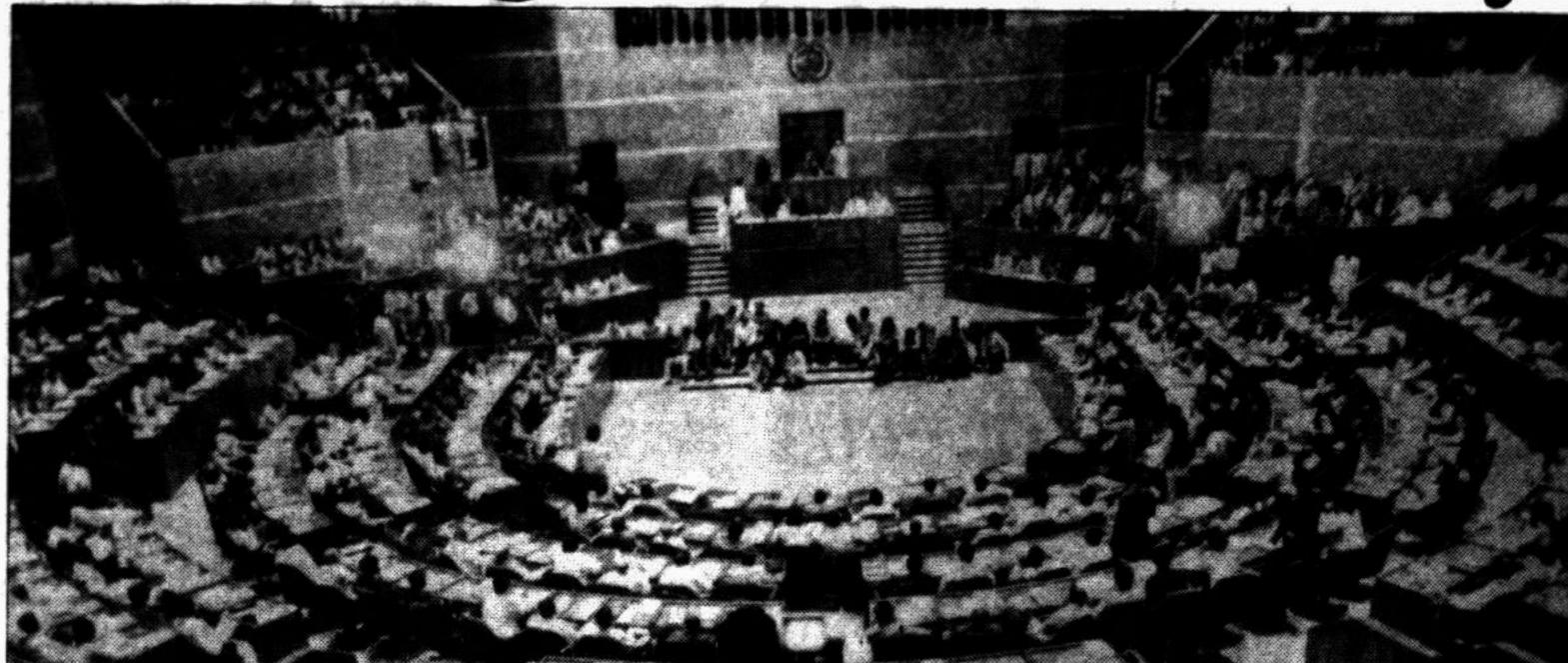
Prof Baduddoza Chowdhury said the statement of Tofael Ahmed was contradictory because "Tofael sometimes says there exists a BNP Government and some other time he says there is no BNP Government but the caretaker government under the Acting President".

The Deputy Speaker took up the order of the day and isked Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Haftz 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. The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House at 1-07 p. m. to resume at 2

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. Unless the Ministers were ready to take up the responsibility of a bill, they were not competent to introduce it before the House. He said, referring to Article 58 of the Constitution and Sections 75 and 78 of the Rules of Proce-

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. He said the bill had sought to provide 10 per cent dearness allowance to the Supreme Court Judges to cope with the rising prices of essentials.

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

utive. 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 chair should not hesitate to say that the "bill has been introduced unanimously." she added.

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. Suranjit Sengupta (Ganotantri Party) said it would not be fair to decide the introduction of a bill "a yes" or "no" vote. We want to set up example for ensuring the independence of judiciary, he said adding no controversy should be created on the in-

troduction of the bill. Col (Retd) Shawkat Ali (AL) said Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury did not oppose the bill, but he sought clarification on certain aspects. He questioned the propriety of putting the issue of introduction of the bill to vote.

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. He said members of both the sides had agreed that the name of the Leader of the Opposition would appear in the Business Advisory

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

A bill seeking to fix stan-

dard house rent on appeals

from the owner or tenant ev-

ery two years was introduced

in the Parliament on Monday.

The Rent Controlle. of con-

cerned areas appointed by the

government, on request of

owners or tenants, will fix the

standard rent in such a man-

ner so that the annual rent

equals 15 per cent of the mar-

State Minister for Land

The bill envisages that the

Jamiruddin Sirear tabled the

bill, titled the House Rent

house rent fixed under the

Rent Control Ordinance, 1986.

will remain unchanged unless

Awami League member

landing shortly

it is refixed by the Controller.

Sudhangsu Shekhar Halder ob-

blank

ket price of the house.

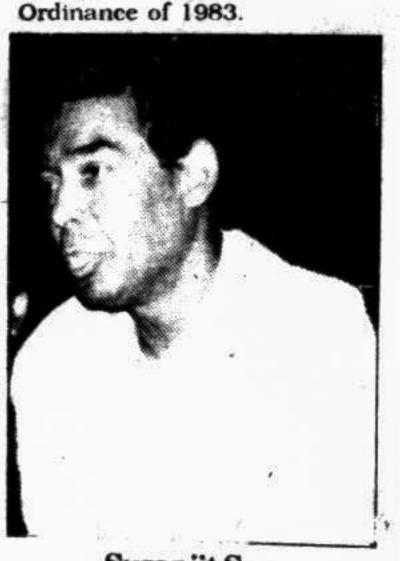
Control Bill, 1991.

reports UNB.

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

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



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 govern-

ment, 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 intro-

duced. Nurul Islam Moni (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-

jected to introduction of the

bill saying this should have

been through an amendment

as the Ordinance was already

the statement of object and

reason that a Premises Rent

Control Ordinance was pro-

the house rent but it was ef

Ordinance called the House

Rent Control Ordinance was

promulgated on January 2

permanent law in this regard.

1991, in order to introduce a

The new legislation is nec-

essary in view of the increasing

housing problem of tenants of

small and limited income

groups in the urban areas, he

fective for three years.

mulgated in 1986 to control

Therefore, he said, a new

The State Minister said in

Bill to control

rent tabled

Statement on Indian chopper

Some pages of Constitution

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. Haldar observed, adding this House cannot take the responsibility of the law which is said to have been taken effect earlier.

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. This bill had been intended to fill the vacuum, he said adding one could point out whether or not the bill was adequate enough to fill the vacuum.

The Minister then intro-



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.

The Deputy Speaker agreed that this should be done with no loss of time.

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 Treasure 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 befitting if the Treasury Bench had not accepted the decision of the 1986 and 1988 Parlia-

Pourashava Bill placed

Union Parishad and (Special Pourashava 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

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



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 ignonimous 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. Mohammad Nasim tried to refute at the top of his voice, the allegations of the Treasury Bench members against the Parliament elected in 1986, arguing that it would be sheer hypocrisy if we disowned the 1986 and 1988 Parliaments while enjoying their fruits.

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. Amid continuing protests by the Treasury Bench members, he also said that while BNP was criticising the 1986 and 1988 Parliaments elected during Gen. Ershad's tenure, it itself had rehabilitated many of Ershad-men including MK Anwar, who served Gen Ershad till his last day as the Cabinet Secretary.

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

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. Anwar said that he had support for the anti-autocracy movement in which many

people died and suffered. 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,

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 Awamt 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

Parliament as illegal.

had frustrated the national

hope. He also termed 1986

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. She said Anwar was nothing but a collaborator of autocratic ruler

President Ershad. war 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,

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 ob-

served. 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 por trayed the prevailing economic situation of the country as well as other aspects of the national

He said the speech of the President had inspired the whole nation to unite on im-

portant national issues. 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 govern-

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 10,000 crore from the defaulters, as mentioned by

the President in his speech. Rahman in an emotionchoked voice, lauded the President for stressing the political importance of the modalities of transfer of power framed by the three political alltances 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 al-

liances. Earlier, at the beginning of his speech, Rahman paid tributes to Bangabandhu 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 to-

day (Tuesday).

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury,

After the fall of Ershad, Anshe added.