

## Jail unrest

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Treasury Bench and the Opposition to probe into the situation that led to the riots in the jails. This is a 'dangerous situation' and the entire nation is worried, he said. The constitution of a commission should not be used as a pretext by the Treasury Bench to postpone any discussion in the House on such a matter of wide public concern, he added.

Supporting the GP member, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad wanted to know from the Speaker whether the members of the House will be allowed to discuss the jail situation in its entirety.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas reminded the House that the statement by the Leader of the House on the situation at Dhaka Central Jail was made under Rule 71 of the Rules of Procedure. He requested the Leader of the Opposition to nominate only one member to raise a question on the statement by the Leader of the House. This is allowed under Rule 71 of the Rules of Procedure, he said.

At this point, Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs requested the Speaker to allow a general debate on the issue. The Treasury Bench has no objection to any discussion on the issue, she said.

The Speaker later decided that the situation in Dhaka Central Jail will be taken up by the House for discussion today. He noted that there was no time for discussion on the matter on the day because the House would be adjourned soon, he added.

The Speaker later announced the adjournment of the House till 11 am today. Earlier, the House witnessed an uproar in its morning sitting on the admissibility of several adjournment motions tabled by the opposition members on the situation prevailing in the jails.

The Speaker disposed of a number of adjournment motions on the jail situation, stating that such motions were related to an 'on-going situation' and not concerned with any specific matter, warranting adjournment of the House to discuss the issue by-passing its normal business.

The Speaker's ruling caused an uproar in the House. Several Opposition members including Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury of National Democratic Party (NDP), Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party, Abdur Razzak of BKSAL, Mohammad Nasim, Chief Whip of the Opposition, Shamsuddoha of CPB, Asaduzzaman of Awami League and Maulana Matkur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat-e-Islami, were restive. They pressed for an adjournment of the House to discuss the jail riots describing the issue as a matter of vital public concern.

The Opposition members said their adjournment motions on the issue were specific in nature and concerned the incidents which took place in Dhaka Central Jail on Monday.

The Speaker said he had not disposed of all adjournment motion which were tabled on the jail riots. The motions for which notices were received on Tuesday morning had not been disposed of, and would be taken up for consideration on Wednesday.

He said the members would be free to discuss the general situation in the jail in course of their deliberations on the vote of thanks on the Acting President's address to the Jatiya Sangsad.

Education Minister Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, taking the floor, informed the House that the Prime Minister would make a statement in the Sangsad on the day. He suggested that discussions on the prevailing situation in the jails including that in Dhaka Central Jail could take place after the Leader of the House made her statement.

But, the Opposition members were not satisfied and they pressed for an adjournment of the House to discuss the situation.

The pandemonium in the House dominated its proceedings for most of its first sitting on the day until 1 pm.

When the Speaker proceeded with the legislative business of the House, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina took the floor and announced that she would like the discussion on the jail situation to be continued under Rule 71 of the Rules of Procedure. The Rule relates to a call attention, providing for a statement by the concerned minister on the issue and only one question relates to that statement, she said.

The Speaker ruled out the

matter and proceeded with the next agenda for business by the House for the day. The Opposition under their leader Sheikh Hasina staged a token walk-out in protest. The members belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami and also the independents MPs joined walk-out. The entire opposition however came back to the House after about 10 minutes. By that time, the legislative business was on in the House.

BSS adds : Begum Khaleda Zia told the Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday the situation in Dhaka Central Jail was under full control of the government.

The Leader of the House said the government was quite aware of the situation.

She told the House one prisoner died Monday while trying to escape by scaling the wall of Dhaka Central Jail. Quoting jail administration the Prime Minister said 13 prisoners had escaped from Dhaka Central Jail.

She said two deputy jailers, four jail wardens and six prisoners were also injured.

The Prime Minister said some prisoners tried to escape from Dhaka Central Jail at 3 p.m. on Monday by creating terrorism through bursting of handbombs. Armed with different kinds of sharp weapons and sticks they obstructed the jail wardens in performing their duties and indulged in clashes, she added.

She informed the House two were detained while attempting to flee by scaling the boundary wall of the jail. One of them died from injuries while trying to escape, she said.

The Prime Minister said two Deputy Jailors, four Jail Wardens and six prisoners were injured during search operation which was conducted inside the jail in cooperation with the police and BDR to bring situation under control. The injured persons had been sent to hospital for treatment, she added.

She further said a huge quantity of sharp weapons and sticks have been recovered from the prisoners.

Tracing the background of incidents in different jails of the country from time to time, Prime Minister said the autocratic regime of deposed President Ershad had let loose a reign of terror and repression on the people during its nine-year rule and sent many to prison. Though Dhaka Central Jail had a capacity to accommodate two thousand prisoners, five thousand prisoners had been lodged inside it. After the fall of the autocratic regime the Acting President ordered the release of 4,500 prisoners (from different jails). Of them 1000 prisoners were released from Dhaka Central Jail. About four thousand prisoners still remain in Dhaka Central Jail, she added.

The Prime Minister told the House that many of the prisoners interned during the autocratic regime had been nursing the feeling that their detention was illegal. This caused resentment among many prisoners. The incidents in jails were the outburst of pent-up resentment and demand for their release, she said.

The Prime Minister blamed the autocratic government for its failure in maintaining proper administration. This, coupled with the accumulated resentment of the prisoners, gave rise to incidents in jails, she said adding a certain quarter was involved in it to realise its political motive.

She held out the assurance that the designs of the certain quarter in this respect would not be fulfilled and that the situation would remain under the control of the government. In this connection, she pointed out that the responsibility of the Home Ministry was assigned to her only on April 7.

The Leader of the House told the Sangsad that prisoners of Dhaka Central Jail made an appeal to Acting President and the Divisional Commissioner on April 2 to consider their demands. Their appeal is now under consideration, she said.

She further said employees of prisons had been facing great difficulties in discharging their duties in face of threats and unruly behaviour of prisoners.

The Prime Minister said, Shaheed Ziaur Rahman had constituted a Jail Reforms Commission. Though the commission had submitted its report for jail reforms Ershad government did not implement the recommendations of the report properly. As a result resentment, was created among the prisoners. The reason behind the violence in jails was the result of accumulated resentment, she said.

The Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill introduced by Rafiqul Islam Mia also seeks to validate an ordinance promulgated in 1990 to keep the Security Printing Press of Bangladesh Bank outside the purview of the Industrial Relations Ordinance of 1969.



BAISHAKHI MELA . . . A traditional Bangla new year fair started in Azimpur Girls School premises in the city Tuesday.

**JP**  
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they were continued to be denied the floor, they would be "compelled to take action against the Speaker as per rules of procedure of the Sangsad."

Replying to questions, Mr Chowdhury said that they had already sought cooperation from the Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition for the protection of their rights and privileges as members of the House.

Mr Chowdhury pointed out that his colleagues in the House on Tuesday wanted to participate in the debate seeking adjournment of House for discussing the jail incidents, but the chair did not give any one of us the floor.

## Provost of S M Hall removed

By DU Correspondent

Abdul Mannan, Provost of S M Hall, has been relieved of his responsibilities by the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University on Tuesday, official sources said.

He has been held responsible for the recent incident in the hall in which several rooms were damaged by rival groups.

Mannan appointed by former Vice-Chancellor Prof M. A. Mannan was a stalwart of Pink group.

## Road mishap

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The traffic movement through the road remained blocked for about two hours following the accident and skirmishes between police and the mob.

The killer bus Rajdhani Super Deluxe no Dhaka Metro Cha-9839 was seized by the police. The driver managed to escape.

## Token strike

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Bangladesh Times.  
The programme was announced at a rally of DUJ at its office at the National Press Club on Tuesday. A procession followed the rally. DUJ President Zahurul Huq presided over the rally.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Rezauddin Ahmed, DUJ General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, BFUJ ex-secretary general Syed Zafar, BFUJ member Borhan Ahmed, DUJ Joint Secretary M A Aziz, DUJ Vice President Masud Nizami, DUJ executive committee member Shafiq Chowdhury, Dainik Desh unit chief Abul Kalam Manik, Dainik Dinkal unit chief Shurshid Alam, Dainik Naba Abhjan unit chief Mohammad Modabber, Bangladesh Observer unit chief Syed Sarwar Alam Chowdhury and Abdul Karim, former news editor of Dainik Azad addressed the rally.

## Walkout

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from the House following the walkout.

Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed introduced the Eastern Railway Servants Group Insurance (Amendment) Bill; and the Eastern Railway Servants Benevolent Fund Amendment Bill. The two bills are to validate two ordinances promulgated by the caretaker government.

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## Ganges water

From Page 1 Col. 8  
the desire of all who fought the autocratic regime. "Transfer of power to a sovereign parliament was the commitment of three alliances during the movement against autocracy, but BNP has been maintaining silence on this issue", he added.

The AL Leader expressed concern over the landing of an Indian helicopter on the soil of Bangladesh. He said, "it is surprising the Prime Minister is not aware of it. He also mentioned BSF's firing in border areas."

As regards Farakka issue, Salauddin Yusuf maintained that Awami League government ensured due share of Ganges water, but after the killing of Bangabandhu in 1975, the situation deteriorated and all the governments who ruled the country during last 15 years failed to realise due share of water from India while the flow of water in Ganges reduced alarmingly. He called upon the government to take adequate measures to solve the problem.

He alleged that the History of Liberation was being distorted and said that none can deny that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the architect of Bangladesh who brought independence after 23 years' struggle. "We don't deny that late Ziaur Rahman gave a declaration of independence on 27 March of 1971 on behalf of Bangabandhu", he said.

He regretted that a certain quarter was engaged in propaganda against Awami League. He said it was a fact that India helped us during our Liberation War, but due to initiatives of Bangabandhu, Indian Army returned home only after three months of the victory in the Liberation War. "There is no such instance in the world that the foreign troops left a country so quickly."

He deplored that past government had failed to solve the problems of Tinbigha and Talpatty.

State Minister of Labour and Manpower Barrister Rafiqul Islam thanked Acting President for his speech and stressed on maintaining political stability in the country. He said that members of both the

## Seen from the gallery

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greeted by the Treasury Bench members with loud thumping of the tables.

Salauddin Yusuf resented the failure of the post-75 governments in resolving what he called the 'Farakka river' problem. When he mentioned Farakka as a river for the first time in the House during his speech on Tuesday it was taken as slip of the tongue. But when the learned MP repeated it everyone seemed to wonder whether the Farakka Barrage had really turned into a river.

Surprisingly none reacted in the House and probably 'Farakka river' was duly recorded in the proceedings to guide (or misguide?) the posterity.

Demagogy rather than parliamentary vocabulary dominated the proceedings at least during the discussion on the President's speech.

Out of eight members Altaf Hussain 'Gulandaz' set the record of demagogy. He devoted 80 per cent of his time in paying tributes to the late leaders of the Awami League.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam of BNP failed to impress the House with a parliamentary feat.

Surprisingly, Lt Gen (ret) Mir Shaukat Ali was an exception. He was forthright in making his speech and he was

Treasury Bench and the Opposition fought unitedly to bring an end to autocratic regime. "Now, we have to work unitedly to build the country", he added.

He said that it was late President Ziaur Rahman who reestablished democracy based on multi-party system. He mentioned the critical economic situation of the country as described in Acting President's speech and said "we have to overcome this situation for which we should be ready for any sacrifices".

Ansar Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami stressed on setting up parliamentary form of government and sovereign parliament accountable to the people. He appreciated holding of a fair election under the neutral government of Justice Shahabuddin and said that in future, free and fair election should be ensured.

Others who took part in the discussions, were, Mir Showkat Ali, Jahana Begum and Akbar Hussain of BNP, Abu Hasan Chowdhury and Altaf Hussain Golandaz of AL.

## Movement again if JS fails to play effective role : 5-party

The Five Party alliance, on Tuesday warned that if the Jatiya Sangsad failed to play an effective role in materialising the commitment of the three alliances, it would organise movement in the street again, reports BSS.

The alliance, in a resolution at a meeting of its central committee held in Dhaka Tuesday with alliance convenor Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan in the chair, said the framework announced by the three alliances on November 19 last year was a political commitment as the abstract of the nine-year anti-autocracy democratic movement.

The meeting attended by Rashed Khan Menon, Nirmal Sen, Sharif Nurul Ambia, Bimal Biswas, AFM Mahbubul Huq and Naim Jahangir.

## Campus

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Razuddin Ahmed and a representative of the Home Ministry with the rank and status of a joint Secretary Mr. Nuruddin M Kamal, Joint Secretary Ministry of Education, will act as the member-secretary of the committee.

The education system has been seriously hampered due to the increase of violence in the varsity campuses in the recent years. As a result, various problems, including session jam, have cropped up in case of university education.

The committee will identify the direct and indirect causes of violence in the university campuses. It will also determine possible and long-term measures for stopping violence in the campus and will also consider other relevant matters.

The committee will submit its report to the government within four weeks.

## Dhaka Jail

From Page 1 Col. 4  
of eight categories have already been released from country's 76 jails.

An under-trial prisoner Abdul Momin of Mymensingh was killed in Monday's revolt. He was injured seriously when he tried to cross the wall of the jail, jail officials said. But an eyewitness said the was mercilessly beaten by security guards.

The condition of six prisoners in the PG Hospital and three jail officials and warden in Dhaka Medical College Hospital was improving, hospital sources said.

The authorities after the count confirmed that 13 prisoners escaped from the jail on Monday. Police were hunting for the absconding prisoners, the source said.

## IG (Prison)

The situation inside Dhaka Central Jail is now under full control of the authorities after the recovery of a huge quantity of sharp and lethal weapons from the possession of the agitated prisoners, Inspector General of Prisons Colonel Abdul Matin told BSS on Tuesday night.

He said a vigorous search operation was conducted inside the jail with the help of police and BDR personnel Monday night following prisoners' violence inside the jail compound. BDR and police continued their search upto 2 am on Tuesday and seized various weapons made by the prisoners themselves like sharp knife, 'dao', 'bhojnali', sticks and rods.

BDR and police left Dhaka Central Jail after the situation became normal. Colonel Matin said.

During Monday's violence, two Deputy Jailors and four Jail Sepoys and several prisoners were also injured. One of the two jailors was admitted to a hospital, he said.

Col. Matin said the situation was normal Tuesday and "complete peace is expected to be restored in near future."

Speaking about the cause of jail violence, Col. Matin said educated prisoners were behind the agitation inside the jail who were using the illiterate inmates to take advantage of the transitional period following the fall of the Ershad regime.

"Prisoners like doctors, engineers, businessmen and also political workers are instigating the illiterate and general prisoners for an agitation inside the jail," Col Matin said, adding, their motive was to get out of the jail compound by synchronising their so-called movement with the movement of the opposition political parties.

## The Midnight File

### Afghan Senior Vice-President sacked

ISLAMABAD, Apr 9 : The Soviet-backed Afghan government has sacked senior Vice-President Sultan Ali Kishtmand, the official Bakhtar News Agency said today. He was replaced by a junior Vice-President, Abdul Wahid Sarobi, said the agency, monitored in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, reports Reuter.

### Li rules out Sino-Soviet alliance

BEIJING, Apr 9 : Chinese Premier Li Peng said today he feared a new world order led by one superpower or a bloc of countries, but ruled out a Chinese-Soviet alliance as a counter-weight. "A new world order led by one country or a bloc of countries cannot reliably guarantee the world's peaceful development, Li told a news conference, reports AFP.

### China wants to help Iraqi refugees

BEIJING, Apr 9 : China is ready to give humanitarian support to Iraqi refugees, Prime Minister Li Peng said today. In a press conference at the end of the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC), or Parliament, Li said he had been informed of the situation of refugees from Iraq by the media, reports AFP.

## Ershad's trial

From Page 1 Col. 7  
you did not recover any arms from Sena Bhaban on December 22.

D.L: Was any article shown to you?  
E.E: I can't remember if I said anything about the recovery of arms from the Sena Bhaban or not. I also can't remember that I told the police that we recovered four DBBL guns from the Sena Bhaban on December 24.

D.L: From where were the goods supplied to Sena Bhaban?  
E.E: The goods to Sena Bhaban used to be supplied by two authorities the MES and the PWD.

D.L: In the inventory serial no 184, one item was mentioned as gold coloured Tajmahal. But the name of 'Jatiya Party' was inscribed on the article. How can it be an item of Bangabhaban?  
E.E: There was a mark of 'BV' which means it is an article of the Bangabhaban.

D.L: You have mentioned that the arms were found in the 'coth'. What is the meaning of the 'coth'.  
E.E: The room which is designated for keeping arms by the army and the police.

D.L: Where are the gifts kept?  
E.E: The gifts are kept at the display centre of the Bangabhaban.

D.L: Do you know that the gift items are kept on display where the President stays?  
E.E: I know that the gift items are kept at the Bangabhaban, and not at the Sena Bhaban.

D.L: Do you have any idea about the Bangabhaban?  
E.E: Yes, I have.

D.L: Do you have any idea about other state guest houses like Sugandha and Karatoa.  
E.E: No I don't.

D.L: From where will you have an idea of those places when you can't visit those big houses? But do you know that the Sena Bhaban does not belong to Ershad?  
E.E: The Public Works Department has the responsibility to maintain that place. From the first of January 1989 the PWD has been maintaining the place.

D.L: What kinds of things did you supply to the Sena Bhaban?  
E.E: Furniture, fittings, screens etc.

D.L: Do you know that Sena Bhaban is an annex of Bangabhaban?  
E.E: It is not true that the Sena Bhaban is not annex of Bangabhaban. But the goods of Sena Bhaban are sometimes supplied to the Sena Bhaban.

D.L: From where was the chamber of arms taken?  
E.E: I don't know.

D.L: Do you agree that it was taken from the Bangabhaban?  
E.E: Yes.

D.L: Did you try to find out where Ershad is?  
E.E: That was not in our terms of reference for making the inventory.

D.L: Do you know who pays for state banquets in the Sena Bhaban?  
E.E: I don't know.

D.L: Do you know who pays for state banquets at the Bangabhaban?  
E.E: The state pays for state banquets at the Bangabhaban.

The Defense Lawyer then gave a suggestion saying, 'do you agree with the conclusion that this is a malafide prosecution based on mis conception. And you are telling lies to the court as a witness?'

Judge : How can he say that the case is malafide.  
D.L: Being an honest man he is lying about the fact for a baseless prosecution.

Judge: (pointing to the witness) Was the case a fact?  
E.E: The case was a fact.

D.L: In case of a changeover one has to lie.  
Attorney General : If there is a change one gets a defense lawyer like you.

After this cross-examination Judge Mohammad Habibullah adjourned the Tribunal.

D.L: You did not know about the arms till December 26?  
E.E: Yes, I did not know whose arms those were till December 26.

D.L: Was there any discussion about it?  
E.E: The CMM wanted a directive from the Home Ministry about the disposal of the arms.

D.L: So can we assume that these arms were undecided items in the inventory list?  
E.E: I know that no decision on those arms was taken till December 26. I was there to see the articles supplied by the PWD.

D.L: No arms were recovered on December 22 and all the arms were found on December 24?  
E.E: Some arms were recovered on December 22 and the DBBLs were recovered on December 24.

D.L: Do you know your items? Can you identify them among the other items?  
E.E: I can identify my goods and other departments can identify their goods.

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