# Call to place 25-yr Indo - Bangladesh accord in House

The Jatiya Sangsad resumed n s sitting at 3-02 pm Thursday with the Deputy Speaker, Sheikh Razzak Ali, in the cha dr. reports BSS.

A ' the question hour was an opposition Awami Leag ue Member Mohammed Azhar ul Islam from Nilphamari told the Speaker, on a point of order, that he members sitting in the b ack benches were generally us table to attract the attention o f the chair.

He refe rred to a recent infire in Jaldhaka Nilphamari district upazila in in which t hree persons were killed and 5 1 houses were gutted and sate he had personally gone to Jaldhaka Uzazila Hospital after the incident but no doctor was available there.

The Deputy Speaker asked the member to resume his seat and said he ha d received three notices on bren ch of privileges of the members of which those submitted by 1 I M Fazley Rabbi (JP-Gaibar, dha) and Col (Retd) Shawka t Ali (AL-Shariatpur) had be sen rejected

#### Rashed Mos harraf

On the third not ice submitted by Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf (AL-Jamalpur), the chair said he did not agree to the contention of the membe, r that his privilege was breached by the television for not mei itioning his name and speech in the Parliament.

The Deputy Speaker however, asked the Information Minister and the minist ry to take note of the issue and try to telecast the names and speeches of all the memberrs.

## Shawkat Ali

Rising on a point of ord er. Col (Retd) Shawkat Ali said he had submitted a question on the 25- year Indo-Banglades h friendship treaty demandin g that the contents of the treaty be placed before the House.

But he pointed out that the Sangsad Secretariat had rejected the question saying "It is ordinary, unclear and se-

Shawkat demanded that the contents of the treaty be supplied to the members because many had been trying to derive political gains by criticising the treaty.

Taking the floor. Zamiruddin Sircar, State Minister for Land referred to Article 145 of the constitution which said "no treaty shall be laid before the House if the President considers it to be against national interest".

The Deputy Speaker drew the attention of Col (Retd) Shawkat to Rule 53 (E) of the rules of procedure which said "it shall not seek information about matters which are secret in the eye of law".

Rising on a point of personal clarification Communications Minister Oli Ahmed drew the attention on the chair to a report published in the Bengali daily "Sangbad" on April 23 in which he alleged that an aspersion was cast on him for his use of Begali language in the House.

The Minister said he was a student of special Bangla and added, even if there were any mistakes such remarks should not be made against him.

He requested the paper to issue a corrigendum on the report.

#### Shudhangsu Shudhangsu Shekhar Haldar

( AL- Pirojpur) again raised the issue of the rejection of Shawkat's question. He quoted from Kaur's book on Parliament and said the members had the right to know about the treaties between the two countries. The chair again referred to

Rule 53 (C) of the rules of procedure in this regard.

The Deputy Speaker informed the House that he had receive 11 notices on adjournment motion Wednesday. Two of the motions had been submitted by eight members while three members had submitted one each. He said he

had rejected all the motions. Sheikh Razzak Ali further said that he had received eight notices Thursday of which one had been accepted by him. The notice was given by Azizur Rahman (AL-Moulavi Bazar) on the situation of Tabani Beverage Company, an undertaking of the Muktijoddah Kalyan Trust.

# Shamsul Huq

As he finished his speech, Hug (AL Shamsul Mymensingh) stood up and drew attention of the chair he said that his speech Wednesday on the motion of thanks on the address of the Acting President was no properly covered by radio and television, particularly those relating to his areas.

The Deputy Speaker then invited Latifur Rahman (Jamaat- Nawabganj) to move his call attention notice.

Moving his notice on "construction of a bridge on priority basis on the river Mahananda under Nawabganj district". Rahman said in the absence of a bridge on the river the trucks carrying man-

goes from Nawabganj remained stuck up, as a result mangoes worth crore of Taka are destroved. he said adding that the farmers were the worst af-

#### Oli Ahmed

Replying to the call attention notice. Communications Minister Oli Ahmed informed the House that the design work for the bridge would be completed by the end of May.

He said an agreement for construction of the bridge would be signed and work would start by the end of this

The Communications Minister further said that requisition of land had already been started. He said an agreement with China was signed on June 30, 1990 for carrying out survey and making design of the bridge.

Replying to a supplementary, the Communications Minister said Taka 80 crore would be spent on the construction work, with a foreign exchange component of Taka 40 crore. He said the construction work would be completed within 24 months.

The Deputy Speaker then adjourned the House for 20 natures for Asr prayer.

As the House reassembled after Asr prayer, the Deputy Speaker gave his ruling on the bills submitted by several members to bring about amendments to different clauses of the Constitution. The Deputy Speaker said a

controversy had arisen Wednesday in the House over su bmission of these bills in the Parliament Secretariat in Bangla and English languages.

He said several members had said that it was not neces sany to submit the bills in both Bangla and English languages and had insisted that those bills could be submitted only in

The controversy arose as 12 bills were received from members aimed at amending different clauses of the Constitution. Eleven of them were not submitted in both the languages. the Deputy Speaker said.

### Rashed Khan

He said Rashed Khan Menon \ Vednesday specifically said t hat he had submitted such b ills in the Third Sangsad only in Bengali and there was no objection to acceptance of the se bills.

1 he Deputy Speaker recall ed that he had told the

F'ollowing is the re-

would give his ruling on the subject Thursday and that he would like to inform the members that it was necessary for them to submit such bills in both Bangla and English lan-

members Wednesday that he

The records did not corroborate their assertions that in the past such bills had been accepted when submitted only in Bangla, he said.

The Deputy Speaker said the bills had to be submitted in both the languages and the copies had to be certified by the Speaker of the House. He said, however, Bangla would prevail in case of any conflict between the Bangla and English versions of the copies.

As such, the Deputy Speaker



said, it was necessary to submit the bills in both the languages and requested the members to do so. The members could do it whenever they like by observing the necessary formalities of the time gap required before the bills were taken up, he added.

The Deputy Speaker said the bills in question could not be included in Thursday's order of the day because of this prob-

### Nurul Islam Moni

After delivering his ruling on the subject, the Deputy Speaker picked up the legislative business and asked Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna) to seek leave of the House to introduce the bill aimed at total repeal of the Special Powers Act of 1974.

Moni sought the leave of the House to introduce the bill. Taking the floor, Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam

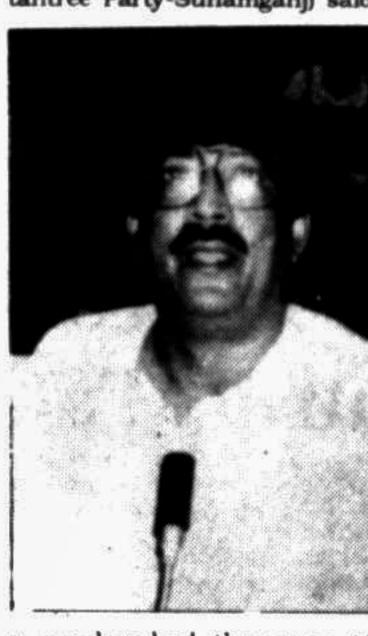
Haftz said the Prime Minister had said in the House Wednesday that the Special Powers Act of 1974, would be scrapped and necessary measures were being taken in this regard. He requested Moni to withdraw his bill in view of the Prime Minister's statement.

At this stage Moni appeared to be ambivalent whether to withdraw the bill but wanted to say something.

The chair observed that little scope existed for speaking anything on this except whether the member was willing to withdraw the bill or not.

#### Sahjahan Seraj

Sahjahan Seraj (JSD-Tangail) and Suranjit Sengupta (Gonotantree Party-Sunamganj) said



member had the scope to make his points even if he wanted to withdraw the bill. But the chair disagreed.

Mirza Golam Hafiz took the floor again and said the government was prepared to repeal the act, adding it was an election pledge of the BNP.

## Khaleda Zia

At this stage, the Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia stood up and said the act would be annulled in due course.

Moni then said in view of the assurance given by the Leader of the House he would like to withdraw the bill but expressed the hope that the act would be annulled during the current session of the

Moving his private members' resolution to turn Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television into autonomous bodies after freeing them from

government control. Rashed Khan Menon (Workers Party-Barisal) said this was not his individual demand. Rather it was the demand of the people that found adequate reflection in the mass upsurge that brought down the nine-year old autocratic regime of ex-President Ershad. This demand was also voiced in the joint declaration of the three alliances announced during the last mass movement, he added. He said Prime Minister

Begum Khaleda Zia, who is holding the charge of the Information Ministry, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and other leaders of the Five-Party Alliance promised both during and after the mass movement, time and again, to turn these two electronic media into autonomous organisations so that they could function independently reflecting the hopes and sentiments of the people. He was of the view that one of the foremost conditions to establish democracy was to free these media from the control of the government. Suitable law should be enacted immediately for transforming the two organisations into autonomous bodies.

In this connection, he pointed out that right to information was the fundamental right of the people. He regretted that during the nine-year rule of the autoeratic government the people of Bangladesh had to switch over to BBC. VOA and electronic media of other countries to know what was actually happening in Bangladesh. This is a shame for the nation, he said.

Menon said there was a basic difference between print medium and electronic medium. In the print medium people have the option to read news items of their choice. But in case of electronic medium either they have to watch and listen or shut it, he said.

During the World War -II the British rulers introduced radio in this country on a large scale for war propaganda in their favour. During the Pakistani period, the party in power used radio to propagate its thoughts, views and party programmes. President Ayub Khan introduced television in 1964 for personal and party propaganda and to maintain the integrity of Pakistan. In this way the culture and tradition of this country was sought to be destroyed, he added.

The Workers Party leader

also described how ex-President Ershad had misused radio and TV to enhance his own image. Television was eventually made an instrument to publicise the views of "saheb, bibi and golam". These two electronic media are also controlled by "uttar para" to sustain their power, he observed. He told the House that the

defeated forces had been lying low after the Liberation War in 1971. But these forces started raising their ugly heads soon after as we failed to sustain the unity of the people. Similarly the defeated forces are again trying to regroup themselves because of our failure to maintain the unity of the three alliances after the fail of the au-

Parliament turn "Durdarshan" into an autonomous body, he said.

He said BBC. Voice of America and electronic media of other countries function independently enjoying full freedom as they are autonomous bodies. Citing an example, he said VOA never put across into the air the views of the State Department. Menon made a strong plea for bringing radio and television under the control of the Jattya Sangsad.

He urged the government to turn the two electronic media into autonomous bodies as per the 19-point recommendation of the Sammilito Sangskritik Jote.

Menon's speech over, the



tocratic regime. This is unfortunate, he said.

He said it was a sad commentary that the programmes of radio and television were still decided by the bureaucrats. These bureaucrats, he went on to add, had been entrusted with the responsibility to scrutinise whether any alien culture was making in roads into the programmes of these

Rashed Khan Menon said when Congress government headed by Rattv Gandhi was in power in India the people of that country jokingly called "Durdarshan" as "Rajiv Darshan" because of its want on misuse by the then Indian Prime Minister. A bill has been

the Acting President had given

of some brave sons of the soil

during the mass movement

against the autocrat Ershad. He

said we achieved our indepen-

tion war in which 30 lakh

President's speech could have

been a nice one if he had

shown the courage to mention

the name of Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq

and Moulana Abdul Hamid

with the President's view that

the last election was fully fair

Expressing his difference

Khan Bhashani in his address.

The AL member said the

dence through a bloody libera-

people took martyrdom.

He said this House is the

march forward.

Deputy Speaker adjourned the House for half an hour for magreb prayer.

## Salauddin Kader

As the House resumed after the magreb prayer, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury (NDP-Chittagong) took the floor and wanted to speak on the private member's resolution along with those who moved the amendment. Moving his amendment on

the private member's resolution tabled by Rashed Khan Menon, Asaduzzaman (AL-Magura) said the people did not have any confidence in the Bangladesh electronic media. He urged the chair to in-

Minister to allocate Taka 500

and his leadership.

She said the Acting President in his address to the Sangsad noted that the outline of the three alliances had no constitutional basis though it has political significance. She was of the opinion that there is no point of discussing the outline in the Sangsad. Since it has political significance i could be resolved through discussions on the streets, she maintained.

realisation of Taka ten thousand crore loan from the defaulter industrialists before the coming budget session begins. In this connection, she pointed that though huge funds were given to the industrialists no industries were set up during the past regime.

Painting the worse living condition of womenfolk of Bangladesh, Rahman said they are living subhuman life under many constraints and limitations. While the manfolk is governed by the law of the land the womenfolk is guided by dual laws namely state law and Quranic law, she added.

make up about 50 per cent of the country's total population. She said hundreds of women were enduring torture, oppression and repression be cause of dowry system. There should be an end to the cruelty

was the government of late President Ziaur Rahman which enacted the anti-dowry law for saving womenfolk of whims and caprice of cruel menfolk and save them from their tyranny.

After Rahman completed her speech, the Speaker ad until 3 pm on Thursday.

cationists and mediamen could be included in the committee

# Shahjahan Omar

Shahjahan Omar from Barisal said no useful purpose would be served by converting radio and TV into autonomous bodies. He said the high officials, including the Managing Director appointed by the government, would tend to serve their interests.

private sector could be introduced along with radio and TV in the public sector.

# Sajeda Chowdhury

sion, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury able that radio and television in an independent country would not reflect the views of the people. The programmes of radio and television indicate that we are still in the Pakistani era, she said adding that their standard during the last nine years had worsened.

wanted to know from the chair as to why the broadcasting of popular song of the children "babu ram sapure of Sukumar Roy" and "anjali laho mor" of Kazi Nazrul Islam were stopped by the governmentcontrolled mass media.

Recalling the past, she said Governor Monem Khan in the then East Pakistan had banned Rabindra Sangeet on the radio and TV. We then had raised our voice against the action of Monem Khan and succeeded in our efforts to reintroduce it.

Liberation, she said, we the

At this stage, some other members from both the benches rose to their feet saying that they had also actively participated in the War of Independence.

Chowdhury said Freedom journed the House at 9-30 pm Fighters never die, they are alive even after their death.

mail ning part of Wednesday's Jatiya Sangsad proceedi ng



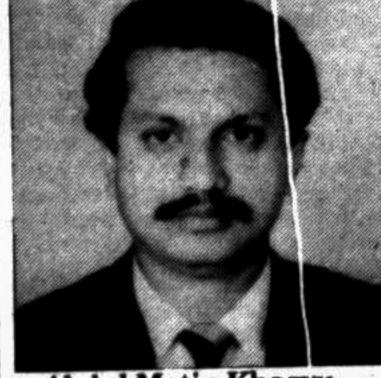
# Abdus Sa mad Azad

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition Mr Abdus Samad Azad, drew the attention of the chair and said although the order of the day contained thanks-giving on President's speech no discussion was being held on it. He demanded immediate discussions (thanks-giving) on the

Presidents speech Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas said "I was elected Speaker through votes in this House". He said he had a definite responsibility towards the people of the area who made him the Member of Parliament and thereby enabled him to become Speaker. He said, "my responsibility towards them becomes more when they are

in danger". He said he was the Speaker of the House but was also a Member of the Parliament and in that capacity he rushed to his area where the people were in distress. He said he had undertaken the visit due

to his feelings for his people. He said "the moment I have been elected Speaker, may be through vote, I am the Speaker of the House".



Abdul Matin Khasru

Matin Khasru (AL-Comilla) said that government had the obligation to construct roads for the benefit of the citizens. In the name of construction of roads they should not be penalised, he added.

He said the sugarcane grows had already been hit following large scale smuggling of sugar from India, and additional levy would be a severe

blow to them. Khasru requested the Minister to withdraw the bill for the greater public interest.

Sheikh Ansar Ali Sheikh Ansar Ali (Jamaat-Satkhira) participating in the discussions said the imposition of 12 paisa tax on sugarcane growers was made when a military general ruled over the country in 1960. At that time it was the aim of the government to oppress the farmers, he said.

Giving a comparative study

of the prices of sugarcane and

rice during 1960 and the pre-

sent days, Sheikh Ansar Ali

said at that time seven seers of

rice could be purchased by

selling a maund of sugarcane

while only two and a half seers

of rice could be purchased now

by selling the same amount of

lic opinion before passing the

Latifur Rahman

Nawabganj) pleaded for send-

ing the bill to elicit public

opinion and said the growers

would be the worst hit if the

ment to look for alternate

source for constructing the

roads in the sugarcane growing

As Rahman resumed his

seat. Industries Minister

Shamsul Islam Khan took the

floor and said that in view of

the demand from the opposi-

tion he was going to withdraw

thumping from the opposition

bench said he would later hold

discussions with them regard-

was brought for the benefit of

the sugarcane growers. He said

hundreds of bullock carts are

damaged while bringing the

sugarcane to the mills due to

the bad communication sys-

The House then unani-

The Minister Amidst

Khan, however, said the bill

He suggested the govern-

He called for eliciting pub-

Latifur Rahman (Jamaat-

sugarcane.

bill was passed.

the bill.

ing the bill.

mously withdrawn the 'sugar Participating next, Abdul (Road Development Cess) (Amendment) bill, 1991.

After the withdrawal of the sugar (Road Development Cess) Bill, 1991, the House picked up the discussion on the thanks giving motion on the address of the Acting President.

# Shamsul Huq

Participating in the discussion Shamsul Hug (AL-Mymensingh) paid tributes to Bangabandhu and those who had sacrificed their lives during all the democratic move-

ments in the past. He said many of the Treasury Bench members did not know the sacrifice of Bangabandhu for liberating the Bengali nation.

The Awami League member urged the Leader of the House and Prime Minister not to retain the Presidential form of

government considering the

the present parliament was

the result of the sacrifices of

the people on the street while

prices of essentials including

oil and kerosene had been

causing immense miseries to

the rural people. He demanded

creation of another upazila

comprising 10 unions under

Salauddin Ahmed

Ahmed (BNP- Dhaka) paid

tributes to late President Ziaur

Rahman and recalled his con-

tribution towards restoration

sented the industrial area of

Demra in Dhaka where the

Ershad government had sold

He said the Swedish com-

pany had terminated two

thousand workers from the

factory and now it had re-

mained closed for the last four

months causing untold suffer-

He said shaheed President

Ziaur Rahman once wanted to

convert the Dhaka-

Narayanganj-Dhaka (DND) area

into a residential area and de-

dream of the late President.

living in the DND area.

manded the fulfillment of the

Ahmed said at present

the Dhaka Match Factory to a

of multi-party democracy.

Swedish company.

ings to the workers.

Speaking next, Salahuddin

Ahmed said that he repre-

Huq regretted that the

fighting an autocratic rule.

He said the Constitution of

history of the past.

his constituency.

Abdus Shahid Participating in the discussion Abdus Shahid (AL-Moulavi Bazar) said the Acting President in his speech had portrayed a grim economic situation in the country and had cautioned the Sangsad in this regard.

He said in the past, nearly Taka ten thousands crore were misused in the name of industrial loan and those who had taken such loan did not utilise The Awami League member

said corruption was also increased manifold in the name of administrative decentralisa-He urged the government to take steps to make those

who had been involved in corruption accountable. He said untimely flood in his constituency comprising

and impartial, Hazari said if that was true then why so many chairmen of union and Srimangal tea growing area upazila parishads were re-

# Indian sugar saps growers' solvency

flood control programme to save the area. Shahid said the peasants in his constituency had been facing problem towards marketing their produce because of

had been badly affected. He

pleaded for taking a long- term

the communication problem. He demanded rehabilitation of the freedom fighters of his

# Abdul Latif Bhuiyan

Participating in the discussion on the vote of thanks on the Acting President's speech Haji Dr Abdul Latif Bhuiyan (BNP-Kishoreganj) said the Acting President had given a direction to our collapsing economy. He said the President also painted a grim picture about food situation in the country showing a shortfall of 12 to 15 lakh tonnes of foodgrains.

Dr Bhuiyan suggested various measures for overcoming the shortfall. He said efforts should be made for the development of fisheries. Referring to the jute indus-

tries. Dr Latif said the golden fibre could be saved by innovating the process of manufacturing pulp and paper from jute. He said if we could evolve the alternate uses of jute we could earn huge amount of valuable foreign exchange by exporting paper and pulp abroad.

#### Jainal Hazari Taking floor next, Jainal

twelve lakh people had been Abedin Hazari (AL-Feni) said moved or suspended for vio-

lating election directives. He alleged that the election was a blue print of the US to provide protection to the black money holders. He said there was a fear among the black money holders that if Awami League come to power they might have to face quarry of

their black money.

Hazari said mere enacting laws would not enough rather its implementation would benefit the people. Citing his personal experience he said he was involved in case in 1986 but that case had not yet been settled. Even, he said, he was not given declaration of a newspaper on the basis of a police report.

Citing the President's speech on the declaration of the three alliances. Hazari called upon all to show respect to it and establish parliamentary system of government in the country.

Hazari said Feni is the only district headquarters in the country where no government hospital had been set up. The only hospital of the district is about two miles away of the district headquarters. Drawing the attention, of the Communications Minister, he stressed the need for urgent repairing the Feni-Rajapur and Feni-Motshi roads for smooth communication.

He said his district is lucky as Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia belongs to his district. He called upon the Prime

crore for the overall developa direction to the nation to ment of Feni district. product of supreme sacrifices

# Farida Rahman

Farida Rahman (BNP-Jessore-Satkhira) began her speech by giving tributes to late President Ziaur Rahman

She further said the parlia mentary elections, took place in the country under the framework of the three alliances. In the elections the people gave their verdict in favour of the BNP in a big way. No political solution could come by running after the outline of the three alliances, she

thought. Farida Rahman called for the

She pleaded for taking up special programme for the development of womenfolk who

women, she said. She informed the House it

which read 'let there be opportunity for neutrally vantilat-

ing the news and views of all people and parties" with the original resolution.

He said in the event of any crisis in the country, the people become dependent on foreten electronic media, including BBC and VOA. He said even during the Liberation War the people used to switch on BBC for authentic news.

# Asaduzzaman

Asaduzzaman said people's dependence on the foreign media lessened to a great extent with the establishment of Bangladesh Betar just after the emergence of Bangladesh achieved through the sacrifices of three million people.

But, he regretted that after an announcement made one day in August 1975 by a dismissed major of Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Betar was changed into its English version "Radio Bangladesh."

Sengupta said the declaration was not only made by the opposition or the people in the Treasury Bench, rather it was a declaration jointly made by all

He said the independence of the country might not have been so quickly achieved if the people of the country had not heard the March 7 speech over radio and TV. He said the people also heard the voice of late President Ziaur Rahman over Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra saying "I am Major Zia

speaking. He said it was a demand of the nation to turn radio and TV into autonomous organisa-

He suggested the House that radio and TV could be well managed by a parliamentary committee comprising members of the sangsad. He said intellectuals including, cultural-minded people, edu-

Treasury Bench member

He said radio and TV in the

Participating in the discus-(AL-Gopalganj) it was unbeliev-

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury

During our War of

Freedom Fighters wanted to project the Bangali culture and heritage through radio and television. Many of these people now in this House belong to both the treasury and the opposition benches, she said Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali, Prof Badraddoza Chowdhury. Malik and many others were with us during the Liberation

Continuing, Begum Sajeda

(Incomplete)