

Notice on Talpatty situation accepted

The Jatiya Sangsad resumed its sitting Saturday at 3.12 pm after the Friday-break with Speaker Abdul Rahman Biswas in the chair, reports BSS.



Sheikh Hasina

At the outset of the day's business, the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina drew the attention of the Speaker regarding the Willis Little Flower School situation.

Sheikh Hasina said, a delegation consisting of the students, the teachers and the guardians of the school was waiting outside the Sangsad Bhavan to handover a memorandum to the Speaker.

Sheikh Hasina requested the Speaker to allow the delegation to handover the memorandum and send somebody to receive them.

The Speaker said that he had already received the information and the Deputy Speaker was requested to receive the memorandum on behalf of the Houses.

The Speaker then took up the order of the day.

After the question hour, the Chief Whip of Awami League Parliamentary Party, Mohammad Nasim (Strajganj) took the floor on a point of order and drew the attention of the chair to the presence of former minister and member of parliament, Anwar Hossain, who is facing a warrant of arrest was also seen within the house little while ago.

Nasim wanted to know from the chair whether Anwar Hossain had taken oath and whether the warrant of arrest against him had been withdrawn.

The Speaker said that Anwar Hossain was an honourable elected member of the House like the other members. After election he (Anwar) could take oath as per the constitution.

The Speaker informed the House that he had administered oath to Hossain in the morning.

At this stage, Shudhangsu Shekhar Halder (AL-Pirojpur) took the floor and said Anwar Hossain had participated in the elections from hiding because of warrant of arrests against him.

Quoting rule 174 of the rules of procedure, Halder wanted to know whether the Speaker had given necessary instructions that Anwar Hossain could not be arrested during the session.

Biswas said that none would be able to arrest Anwar Hossain from within the precincts of the House without obtaining the permission of the Speaker. Nothing can be said at the moment as to what would happen later because such a situation did not arise, the Speaker said.

The Speaker then disposed of the notices of privilege motions, adjournment motions and call attention notices, he had received on April 25 and on Saturday.

He said all the eight notices for adjournment motions had been rejected. Out of 30 call attention notices, only one from Maulana Obaidul Haq (Islamic Oikya Jote-Sylhet) on the illegal entry of Indian gun boats and Naval forces in to Talpatty Island had been admitted.

Referring to the large number of notices from the members seeking call attention and adjournment motions, the Speaker said that it was a good sign. Regarding the notices he

had received Saturday, the Speaker said he would give his decision on those notices today (Sunday).

At this stage Tofael Ahmed wanted to know the fate of notice of adjournment motion he submitted on the deteriorating law and order situation.

The Speaker said he had already given the assurance that he would give his decision regarding those today (Sunday).



Abdur Razzak

Abdur Razzak (BAKSAL-Shariatpur) also wanted to know the fate of his notice regarding some comments against the independence and sovereignty of the country published in a Pakistani newspaper "The Nation". Razzak recalled that the Deputy Leader of the House Prof. Badruddoza Choudhury had given the assurance that the issue would be discussed in the House.

The Speaker said since the Deputy Leader of the House had given assurance, "we must discuss the issue in the House."

The Speaker then took up the order of the day.



Matiuir Rahman Nizami

The leader of parliamentary group of Jamaat-e-Islami, Matiuir Rahman Nizami (Pabna), wanted to know the fate of his notice on the drought situation in the northern region.

He referred to a news item published in Saturday's Ittefaq and said that the people of northern region had been facing acute water crisis due to Farakka Barrage constructed by India.

He said due to Farakka Barrage, the people of northern region had been experiencing flood in the monsoon season and drought during the dry season.

The Speaker said he had already accepted one notice Saturday on Talpatty situation as per rules of procedure he could not accept more than one notice in a day.

As soon as the Speaker switched over to legislative business, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed moved the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1991, for adoption.

Advocate M. Mostafizur Rahman (AL-Dinajpur) said the amendment brought to the Motor Vehicles Ordinance was very sensitive and added that attempts had been made to ignore the interests of the people in a very subtle way. He said it was known to all that bribery made it possible to run unfit vehicles on the roads.

Rahman urged the chair not to pass the Bill which was contrary to the interests of the people. Instead, he pleaded for sending it to elicit public opinion.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas then adjourned the House for Asr prayer for 20 minutes.



Jamiruddin Sircar

As the House resumed after the Asr prayer with Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in the chair, State Minister for Land Jamiruddin Sircar rose on a point of order and said that the Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina Thursday disagreed with his submission that Manabendra Larma was a member of the Constituent Assembly in 1972. Sircar added that she also urged the chair to expunge the portion of his "submission" from the pro-

ceedings, describing his statement as untrue.

Sircar said Tofael Ahmed also supported Sheikh Hasina's contention that Larma was not a member of the 1972 constituent assembly.

Taking the floor, Tofael said he did not say that Larma was not an MC in 1972. He said he had mentioned the name of another MCA who later had gone to Pakistan.

The State Minister for Land read out the relevant portion of the proceedings of the 1972 Constituent Assembly in support of his statement that Larma was a member of the said assembly.

He then urged the chair to expunge the statement of Sheikh Hasina where in she had described Sircar's submission as untrue.

The Deputy Speaker assured Sircar that his statement would be recorded and said that he would examine the relevant portion of Thursday's proceedings and do the needful.

Nazrul Islam

Speaking in support of his demand that the bill be sent for eliciting public opinion, Principal M M Nazrul Islam (AL-Bhola) wondered as to how the present government could place this anti-people bill in the Jatiya Sangsad.

He said, the previous government had promulgated this Ordinance to gain cheap popularity among the bus owners by trampling the interests of the people. He said the Bus Owners' Association headed by a Minister in that government had realised its demands through "gherao".

He said if the bill was passed it would offer "license to the owners of buses and mini-buses to kill people." He expressed his optimism that the Treasury Bench would withdraw the bill without allowing it to be "the means and mechanism of people's death."

Azizur Rahman (AL-Moulvibazar) said it was a very tough thing to get a fitness certificate for a vehicle when he was a boy of only 12 (merely a few decades back).

He said, road accidents killing innocent people had now become a day-today affair in the country. He urged the House to send the bill to illicit public opinion.

Latifur Rahman (Jamaat-Nawabganj) pleaded for introducing fitness certificates of the drivers along with the fitness certificates of the vehicles.

In a firm voice, Latifur Rahman also advocated fitness certificates for the traffic police and said their appointing authorities should also have fitness certificates.

He urged the concerned Minister to withdraw the Bill and place it after making necessary amendments.

Khan Tipu Sultan (AL-Jessore) told the House that an Inspector of the Registration Department of Vehicles owned four-story buildings in capital Dhaka. He said, the concerned officials issued fitness certificates without inspecting the vehicles.

He said road accidents were taking place everyday killing at least five to ten people daily.

At this stage, Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman drew the attention of the chair to section 267 of the rules of procedures and said Suranjit Sengupta and Tofael Ahmed did not follow the rule to be observed by the members while Latifur Rahman was delivering his speech on the amendment bill.

He said the seniors in the house should behave in a way that the new member could learn from them.



Begum Khaleda Zia

Before Suranjit Sengupta could rise on his feet to say something, Leader of the House Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia promptly stood up to say "we are also new in the House, we want to follow the seniors by watching them in the House." Sengupta retorted, "new members can sometimes be smarter than the oldies".

Dhirendra Debnath

Advocate Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu (AL-Barguna) called for sending the bill for eliciting public opinion by June 15, 1991. In support of his contention Shambhu said the bill was linked with the safe safety of the people and as such it should not be passed hastily.

He said the autocratic government of H. M. Ershad had enhanced the punishment for the driver who were responsible for killing of innocent people under the wheels of their vehicles.

But later, the AL members said, the government in connivance with the transport owners and in the face of transport strike by the workers reduced the punishment.

Shambhu referred to the recent bus accident on Sutpara Bridge near Manikganj and said the conductor of the ill-fated bus had admitted that there were some problems with the steering of the bus.

Besides, Advocate Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu said, the old vehicles were creating health hazards by emitting black smoke on the streets. This was also polluting the environment, he added.

He suggested that the government should put ban on plying of old vehicles on the streets. He said the owners should be held responsible and punished for bringing out old transports on the streets.

Oli Ahmed

At this stage, the Deputy Speaker invited Communications Minister Oli Ahmed to wind up the discussion on the Bill. Razzak Ali held that since most of the members would either suggest to send it for eliciting public opinion or to the select committee he would request the Minister to sum up the discussion.

Salahuddin Yusuf

Salahuddin Yusuf (AL-Khulna) took the floor and drew the attention of the chair saying that the Jatiya Sangsad should not pass any bill hastily.

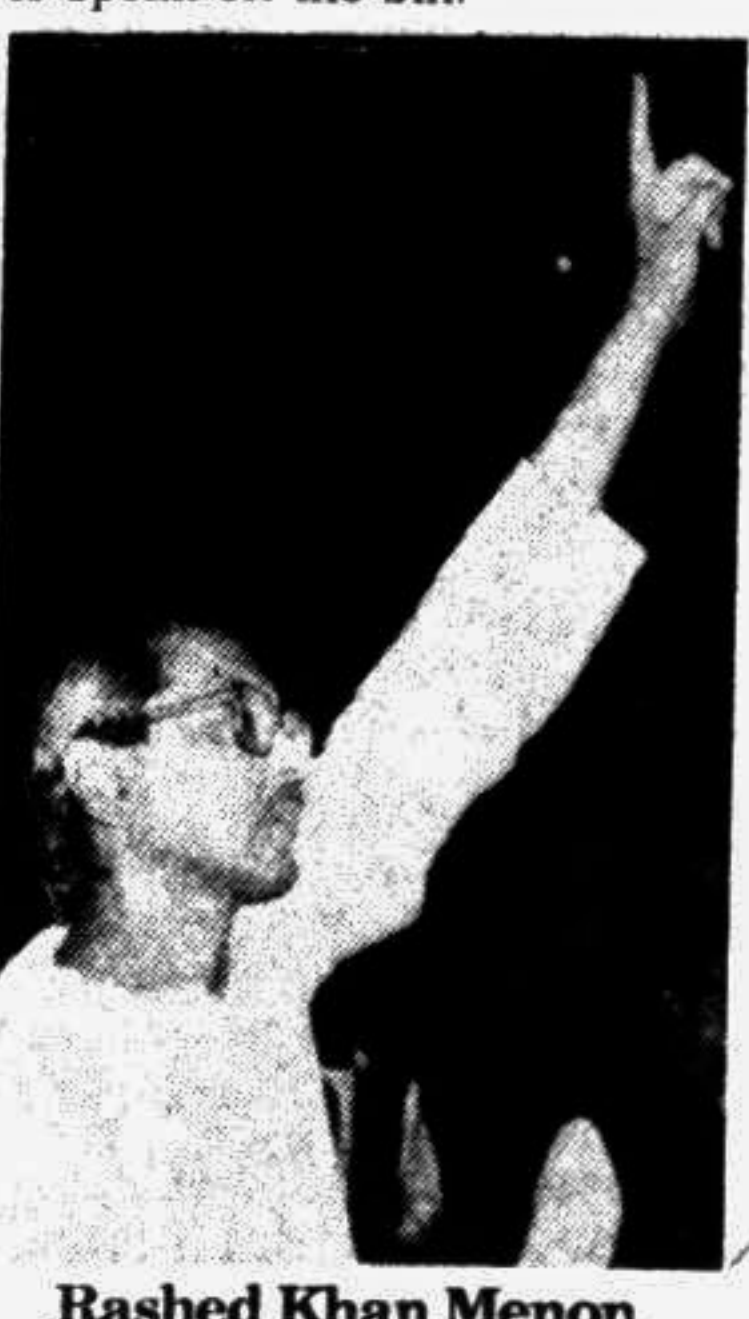
He said the lives of people were linked with the bill. Yusuf said the Jatiya Sangsad could pass only one bill a day if need be. But it should not make any haste to pass bill.

Replying to Yusuf, the Deputy Speaker said the present Sangsad did not want to pass any bill in a hurry. "Since there were no specific

amendment to the bill, I thought only two or three persons could take part in the deliberations," he said.

He said the proposal for sending the bill to the select committee was of no significance.

As the Deputy Speaker concluded his remark, Rashed Khan Menon (WP-Bartsal) sought permission of the chair to speak on the bill.



Rashed Khan Menon

Mr Menon said that sending a bill to select committee carried importance had it been an "ordinary matter" it would not have been incorporated in the Rules of Procedures.

Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury (NDP-Chittagong) rising on a point of order said that the Jatiya Sangsad should not pass a bill which could lead to a transport strike.

This would put the government in an embarrassing situation, he said.

Shudhangsu Shekhar

Shudhangsu Shekhar Halder (AL-Pirojpur) quoting Rules of Procedures said the Speaker should allow the members to discuss the bill.



Shahjahan Siraj

Mr Shahjahan Straj (JSD-Tangali) drew the attention of the chair and said the Speaker could not gag the members from taking part in the deliberations.

Explaining, the Deputy Speaker said he wanted to save the valuable time to the Sangsad and was allowing the "juniors" to take part in the discussion.

At this stage Mr Abdur Razzak (BAKSAL-Shariatpur) said as a representative of the workers he would also like to speak on the bill. The Deputy Speaker then adjourned the House for Magreb prayer.

After the Maghreb break, Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali gave the floor to Abdur Razzak (BAKSAL-Shariatpur).

Razzak said, we are demanding that the bill be sent for eliciting public opinion because it had sought to implement an agreement signed by the authorities and vehicles owners without considering the cause of the people.

Razzak said while motor vehicles emitted noxious fumes and polluted the traffic police remained a silent spectator. Drivers are accused of accidents but we never went into the causes of the accidents, he said.

The BAKSAL leader said, all our roads are in dilapidated conditions and were built in unplanned manners. Traffic weeks are observed without any efforts for motivation, he added.

He said the owners did not care to abide by the agreement over and above. Fake licences were issued in exchange of money.

As a result, he said, accidents were taking place on and off.

He said, "we can avoid accidents if we can combine the sincere intentions of the owners, workers and people in our efforts to check the problem."

Enamul Haq

Enamul Haq (Jamaat-Cox's Bazar) said it seems from the attitude of the owners and the drivers that they are above the law further, he said. There was no legal provision to apprehend the driver on the owner after an accident.

The Jamaat MP said during the nine years of autocratic rule, we were hostage to the owners and the drivers.

He suggested that the bill be sent for eliciting public opinion.

Rahmat Ali

Rahmat Ali (AL-Gazipur) said it was an anti-people bill and was signed during the autocratic rule of Ershad.

He called for a corruption-free system of issuing licenses, for checking road accidents. He said the traffic police must be honest and corruption free.

Rahmat Ali called for presenting the bill afresh with amendment.

Terminating road accidents as a national problem, the lone JSD member Shahjahan Straj said, the regulations to issue fitness certificates for vehicles should be strictly followed.

Straj said when an influential person was killed in an accident, we demand punishment otherwise we remain silent. He demanded of the government to stop the corrupt practice resorted to the traffic police on the Road and Highways.

Salahuddin Yusuf (AL-Khulna) said he would not say anything on the bill as the government was in a hurry to pass a bill which needed a thorough discussion.

Shudhangsu Shekhar Halder (AL-Pirojpur) said an 18-year old boy should not be given licence for handling a vehicle, as a minor cannot be given a licence. Accidents could not be checked by merely changing four words in an act, he called for moving a new, full-fledged bill in the House.

Ziaur Rahman

Treasury Bench member, Mohammad Ziaur Rahman Khan (BNP-Dhaka) said an ordinance should be examined before it was brought to the House in the form of a bill.

Ansar Ali (Jamaat-Satkhira) said law should be enacted for the welfare of the people. He said we should not pass any law that could be turned into a black law after a few days. He said the bill required many amendments.

Kazi Shamsur Rahman

Moving his motion for sending the bill to the select committee comprising five members, Kazi Shamsur Rahman (Jamaat-Satkhira) said a law should be enacted after a thorough examination without making haste, he said the committee members would consult experts before placing their recommendations to this House for consideration.

Oli Ahmed

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed then took the floor and said the Motor Vehicles

(Amendment) Bill, 1991 was not a new law. He said it was an improvement on the existing one.

He said the past government did not take proper steps for collection of taxes and examination of fitness of motor vehicles. Enforcement of law was also very inadequate, he added.

He pointed out that the present government within a very short period had made adequate arrangements for proper fitness testing of the vehicles and for this purpose the venue had been shifted to Mirpur where about 1000 vehicles could park.

In the meantime, he said, three committees had been formed to detect the violation of traffic laws in the metropolis and take lawful actions against them. The Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police had been instructed to take strict measures in this regard, he said.

He also said that police patrol had been strengthened on different roads and highways and measures were being taken to make use of radio and television for creating public awareness about the traffic laws.

He sought cooperation of the owners of vehicles and members of the parliament in enforcing the traffic laws strictly. He said adequate number of traffic inspectors would be appointed to enforce the law and cautioned that stern action would be taken against the violators of the laws after May 7.

The House then rejected the demand for eliciting public opinion on the bill and sending it to the Select Committee and accepted the bill for consideration.

Nurul Islam Moni

Mr Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna) brought amendments to the bill, limiting the period of fitness certificates to six months for vehicles more than seven years old from the date of manufacture and one year in the case of other vehicles. The amendments were rejected by the House. The House then passed the bill.

Taking up the next item of legislative business, the Deputy Speaker said the Bank-Company Bill-1991 was included in the order of day a few days back. There were a number of notices of amendments for eliciting public opinion and sending it to the select committee. He said adding many members also wanted time for discussion on the bill.

On the basis of the requests from the members, the Deputy Speaker said, the Leader of the House agreed to defer the consideration of the bill. The bill was included in today's order of the day, he said.

Mujibur Rahman

At this stage, the State Minister for Finance, Mujibur Rahman took the floor and said that the Finance Minister, Saifur Rahman, had introduced the bill before the House. Now the Finance Minister is outside the country.

He said that the Leader of the Opposition had also wanted time for studying the bill. Today many members also sought more time verbally and we also want to further scrutinise the bill, he added. The State Minister said for that reason, he would like to defer the bill for discussion till April 30.

Speaking next, Tofael Ahmed said that the Bank-Company Bill-1991 was a very important bill. Considering its importance, Tofael demanded that more time should be given to the members for studying the bill.

The Deputy Speaker said that the bill might be included in the order of day on April 30.

Discussion on Bank Company Bill deferred

By Staff Correspondent

Deputy Speaker Shethk Razzak Ali on Saturday deferred discussions in the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) on Bank Company Bill, 1991 until April 30.

He gave the decision following a request by State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman to postpone the discussions on the bill to facilitate the members to examine its various provisions.

The bill, providing a new legal framework for operations of the banks, was to be taken up for consideration on the day. The discussions on the bill were deferred once earlier.

Proposing postponement of discussions on the bill, the State Minister said, several members of the house had requested him to allow them more time to consider various aspects of the bill. The

At this stage, Mohammad Nasim (AL-Strajganj) took the floor on a point of order and said that the item of vote of thanks on the Acting President's address to the House was being included in the order of the day as the last item. As a result, the members could not participate in the discussion on the item for many days, he said.

Nasim requested the chair to fix at least one hour after the question-answer session for discussion on the motion for vote of thanks on the Acting President speech. He pointed out many members were being deprived of participating in the discussion on this item.

The Deputy Speaker said as per the decision of the Business Advisory Committee, the discussion on the motion for vote of thanks had been included in the order of day as the last item.

He advised Mr. Nasim to take up the matter in the business Advisory Committee meeting.



Suranjit Sengupta

Mr. Suranjit Sengupta said discussion on the vote of thanks was very important and he pleaded that a decision for placing it in the order of the day immediately after question-answer session could be taken by the House.

The Deputy Speaker requested Mr. Sengupta to discuss the issue with the Leader of the Opposition.

Matiur Rahman

Mr. Matiuir Rahman Nizami (Jamaat-Pabna) said that the Business Advisory Committee had decided to discuss the vote of thanks on president's speech at least one hour every day till May 4 and three hours a day after May 4.



Moudud Ahmed

As Mr. Matiuir Rahman resumed his seat Mr Moudud Ahmed (JP-Noakhali) took the floor and said that the Banking Company Bill-1991 was the most important bill brought to the house.

Because, he said, it related to the entire economy of the country.

Mr. Moudud Ahmed said that the bill had been brought to the House in Bangla version and suggested to the chair that authentic English version of the bill should also be circulated among the members.

The Deputy Speaker thanked Mr. Moudud for his suggestion.

At this stage, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Abdus Samad Azad took the floor and insisted on the holding of discussion on the vote of thanks on the Acting President's address on a regular and priority basis.

(Incomplete)

Speaker agreed on the proposal. Earlier, Awami League member Tofael Ahmed also pleaded for allowing more time so that the members could examine the bill in its totality. "This is a very important bill having bearing on the financial sector and the overall economic activities in the country", he said.

Acting leader of Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party (JPPP) Moudud Ahmed also took the floor and said the bill should be considered in all seriousness because it related to entire financial and economic problems facing the country. He proposed that the English version of the bill should be made available to the members for their clear understanding of the issues. He pointed out that the bill was originally drafted in English.