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The Daily Star

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Lathi-wielding police chasing Jatiya Party processionists who went on rampage near Dainik Bangla office in the city on Sunday. —Star photo

Storm over Anwar Hossain's entry into parliament

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad witnessed a heated debate on Sunday over the entry into the Parliament building and the oath-taking by Anwar Hossain Manju, a former Minister and Jatiya Party MP.

The Opposition members, mostly of the Awami League, demanded a clarification and a statement from the Leader of the House as to how could a fugitive MP-elect with a warrant of arrest against him sneak into the well-guarded Sangsad Bhavan.

The Chief Whip of the Treasury Bench Khandoker Delwar Hossain, the Acting Leader of the JP Parliamentary Party Moudud Ahmed and Salauddin Kader Chowdhury of the National Democratic Party (NDP) justified the oath taking by Anwar Hossain and said that this had established the rights and privileges of an elected MP which would uphold the

dignity of the Parliament.

Sheikh Razzak Ali, Deputy Speaker who was presiding over the session, brought an end to the two-hour debate clarifying the circumstances under which Anwar Hossain was administered the oath Saturday afternoon. He mentioned that the Speaker had already spoken on the issue after the oath was administered.

Deputy Speaker said that Anwar Hossain was an elected Member of Parliament and he had the right to take oath under the provision of the Constitution.

He added that under the existing law, MPs cannot be arrested from the precincts of the House.

The Deputy Speaker also mentioned the Acts of 1963 and 1965 which exempt an MP from preventive detention during the period beginning

14 days before to 14 days after the session.

He said that the status and dignity of this Parliament was different since it came into being after a nine-year struggle of the people for democracy.

The debate started soon after the question-answer hour, when Sudhangshu Sekhar Halder of AL drew the attention of the Speaker and wanted to know how a proclaimed offender like Anwar Hossain could enter the Sangsad Bhavan on Saturday.

Salauddin Yusuf (AL) also raised the same question and mentioned that Anwar Hossain was still under the 120 day detention order under the Special Powers Act and that the order was to be effective from the date of his arrest.

Moudud Ahmed contradicted the contentions of Salauddin Yusuf and said that it

Police lathi-charge violent JP workers: Three arrested, pistol seized

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested three persons from a Jatiya Party procession when they went on rampage at Dainik Bangla crossing and in its adjoining areas in the city on Sunday morning.

The processionists were demanding immediate release of the JP chairman and deposed president, HM Ershad.

Three arrested JP workers were identified as Biplob (22), Abdur Razzak (22) and Humayun Kabir (32).

Motilheal police who took the persons into their custody later recovered an unauthorised pistol with 10 rounds of bullets from Humayun Kabir.

The processionist became violent when riot police obstructed them on their way to the Bangabhaban from Dainik Bangla crossing where they held a rally. The mob started pelting stones at the vehicles

Cyclone may hit today

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

The administrations of 27 coastal upazilas were alerted between Sunday afternoon and night as the severe cyclonic storm with a core of hurricane wind moved further north-eastwards by 9 pm.

The severe cyclonic storm with sustained windspeed of about 165 kilometres to 185 kilometres per hour upto 74 kilometres of the storm centre is likely to cause storm surge ten to fifteen feet above normal astronomical tide in the low lying areas of 14 coastal districts, their offshore islands and shoals.

Twenty thousand volunteers of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme started alerting people living in low lying areas in 27 coastal upazilas by using megaphones from Sunday afternoon about the impending danger, and advising them to take to cyclone shelters.

Officials of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme held coordination meetings with upazila chairmen and upazila nirbahi officers of these areas to make all preparations to face the natural calamity.

According to wireless mes-

sage received from the coastal upazilas late last night, the sky was more or less cloudy. The windspeed, however, remained normal.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Office has forecast that the severe cyclonic storm may cross the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar coast by midnight tonight with its peripheral gusts and troughs hitting the Bangladesh coasts by this (Monday) morning.

By Sunday night the severe cyclonic storm was centred about 700 kilometres south west of Chittagong port. It was moving north-eastwards at a speed of 20 kilometres per hour.

The maritime ports of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar were advised to lower Local Warning Signal Number 4 and instead hoist Danger Signal Number 6. The port of Mongla was advised to hoist Danger Signal Number 5.

The river ports of the districts of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Feni, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Chandpur, Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, Khulna and Satkhira

Menu for Ershad in jail

Star Report

The Dhaka Central Jail authorities on Sunday contradicted deposed president Ershad's statement before the Tribunal that he was being provided sub-standard food, saying he was getting quality food entitled to a division prisoner.

"The food for him and his family is prepared separately by one of our cooks. The head cook is not a prisoner but he is assisted by some inmates," a jail official told The Daily Star.

Ershad told the Tribunal on Saturday that he was being provided sub-standard food and said, "I understand, by such repression the government is pushing me to certain death".

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Printing Presses Amendment Bill passed

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday passed the Printing Presses and Publications (Declaration and Registration) (Amendment) Bill which seeks

See Page 10 Col. 5

Drinking water supply in diarrhoea-hit areas

Tk 14 crore more for sinking tubewells

The government Sunday decided to sanction an additional fund of Taka 14 crore for installing and resinking tubewells throughout the country, particularly in diarrhoea-prone areas to ensure supply of pure drinking water, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting, held with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, to review and coordinate emergency steps for combating diarrhoea in the southern districts of the country.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Education Minister Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Shipping Minister MK Anwar, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Kabir Hossain, Cabinet Secretary Siddiqur

Rahman, Secretaries and high officials of the concerned ministries and departments.

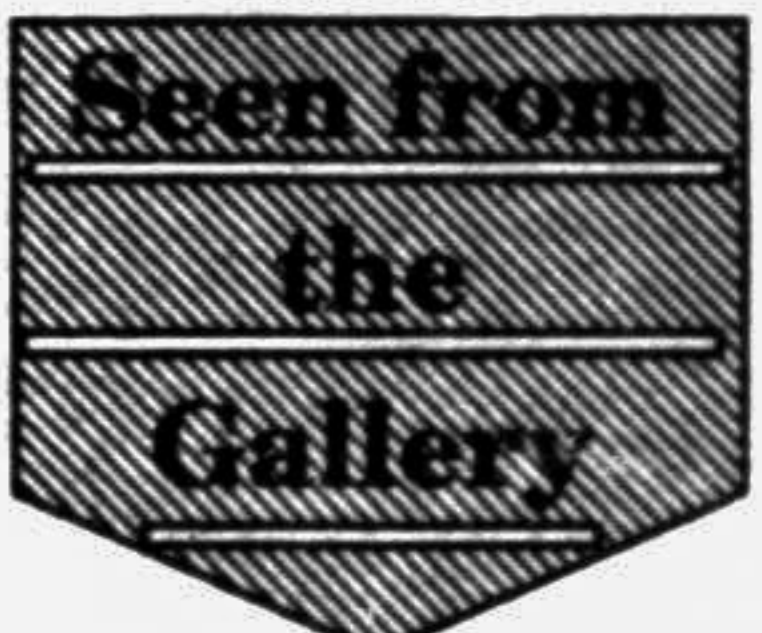
The meeting also decided to instruct the district administration for taking immediate measures to abolish hanging latrines on the river banks and to replace them with water-sealed latrines.

It was also decided to activate the local administration to motivate and assist the rural people to re-excavate derelict ponds for ensuring safe drinking water.

The meeting was told that at present 1372 medical teams are working in 103 upazilas and 316 unions of 23 diarrhoea affected districts of the country and a total of 157 medical centres have been set up in those areas.

The meeting was informed that so far 43,813 people were attacked with diarrhoea and out of them 747 died.

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By Mahfuz Anam

WHEN many of the senior Members of our Parliament (I do not want to call them parliamentarians, for they are anything but...) rise to speak, what they end up doing is shouting.

They ask for the floor on a point of order, but what they do to the deliberations is bring disorder literally.

By not sticking to the point, by making unnecessary remarks, by introducing totally irrelevant issues these members create pandemonium in the Sangsad which requires the gentle and soothing influence of the Speaker or the rather strongly suggestive moves of his Deputy to restore order.

See Page 10 Col. 6

Flyovers' construction grinds to a halt

By Asiuzzaman

Work on the Mahakhali and the Banani flyovers, the first of their kind in the country, has come to a halt with both the government and the contractor-cum-fund-organiser company Concord blaming each other for the situation.

The caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed cancelled the Tk 80 crore contract saying that the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakha (RAJUK) was unable to mobilise resources during the current Fourth Five-year Plan period (1990-95).

The contract was signed between the Roads and Highways, on behalf of RAJUK and Concord on Sept 3.

Another source, who was a member of the Planning Commission told The Daily Star that the project was

passed arbitrarily in the Planning Commission meeting by deposed President Ershad.

Concord denied this and said that the former Adviser in charge of the Planning Ministry, inclined towards Awami League, hastily cancelled the order on February 28 to put the new BNP government in trouble.

One of the directors of Concord Engineers & Construction Ltd, Serajul Majid Mamoon told The Daily Star that the cancellation was politically motivated and that the contract was a fair one.

"We have already claimed Tk 36 crore from the government as compensation. We invested a huge amount in the country and also abroad".

"Moreover the government

Riots continue in Gujarat reign of terror in Bihar

NEW DELHI, Apr 28: Riots continued in curfew-bound towns of Gujarat as Lalkhand militants let loose a reign of terror in Bihar districts of Gtridh and Dhanbad, report agencies.

Police fired rifles to disperse rioters today in the western Indian state of Gujarat as communal rioters hurled rocks at each other in Baroda's Panigate area, which was put under curfew Thursday following a flare-up of violence. PTI said there were no casualties from the shooting.

Trouble broke out in Baroda on Sunday after large-scale Hindu-Muslim rioting Saturday night in another local district, where eight stores were burned and several robbed in overnight clashes, PTI added.

Police arrested 44 rioters in Baroda, which was placed under an indefinite curfew along with two other Gujarat towns Thursday when Hindu-Muslim violence first erupted over a minor road accident.

At least nine people have died since the clashes began in the coastal state.

Lalkhand militants have let loose a reign of terror in the tribal south Bihar districts of Gtridh and Dhanbad, putting on tatteredhooks the administration, which is apprehensive of large scale violence during the May Lok Sabha polls.

The government has already sounded a "red alert" in the area in view of the forthcoming elections and almost all the polling booths in the region

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