

White Paper on Ershad's misdeeds demanded

The Jatiya Sangsad resumed its sitting at 3:06 pm on Sunday with the Deputy Speaker, Sheikh Razzak Ali, in the chair, reports BSS.

After the day's proceedings began with recitation from the holy Quran the Speaker invited Mr. Nurul Islam Moni to raise his question.

Shamsunnahar
Immediately after the question-answer hour, Begum Shamsunnahar Khwaja Ahsan Aullah (BNP-Narayanganj-Munshiganj) took the floor on a point of order.

She said the leader of the House and Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, had repeatedly demanded publication of a white paper on the misdeeds of the autocratic regime of Ershad. She wanted to know as to why this white paper was not being published.

The BNP member demanded immediate publication of the white paper so that people could know the misdeeds done during the last nine years by autocrat Ershad.

Sangsad members from both the Treasury and the Opposition Benches expressed their support to her demand by thumping tables.

Privilege motions disposed of

The Deputy Speaker then disposed of the notices of privilege motions. Referring to the notice from Mr. Dhirandra Nath Devnath Shamboo (AL-Barguna) regarding the disruption of telephone lines at the Shere-Bangla Nagar, he requested the Sangsad Secretariat and the Telecommunications Ministry to look into the matter.

On his notice of privilege motion Mr. Matur Rahman Nizami (Jamaat-Pabna) said that Bangladesh Television in its 10 pm news bulletin on April 25 had telecast his name as Ruhul Amin Nizami. The Deputy Speaker said the television as an important national mass communication medium should be more careful in presenting the names and identities of the members.

Sudhangshu Shekhar

At this stage, Mr. Sudhangshu Shekhar Haldar on a point of order said that Mr. Anwar Hossain was a proclaimed offender and absconder. Mr. Haldar wanted to know from the Chair as to how Mr. Anwar Hossain had entered the House yesterday. He quoted relevant Rules of the Rules of Procedure and wanted to know whether there was any order for bail or the Speaker himself had given Mr. Hossain any protection.

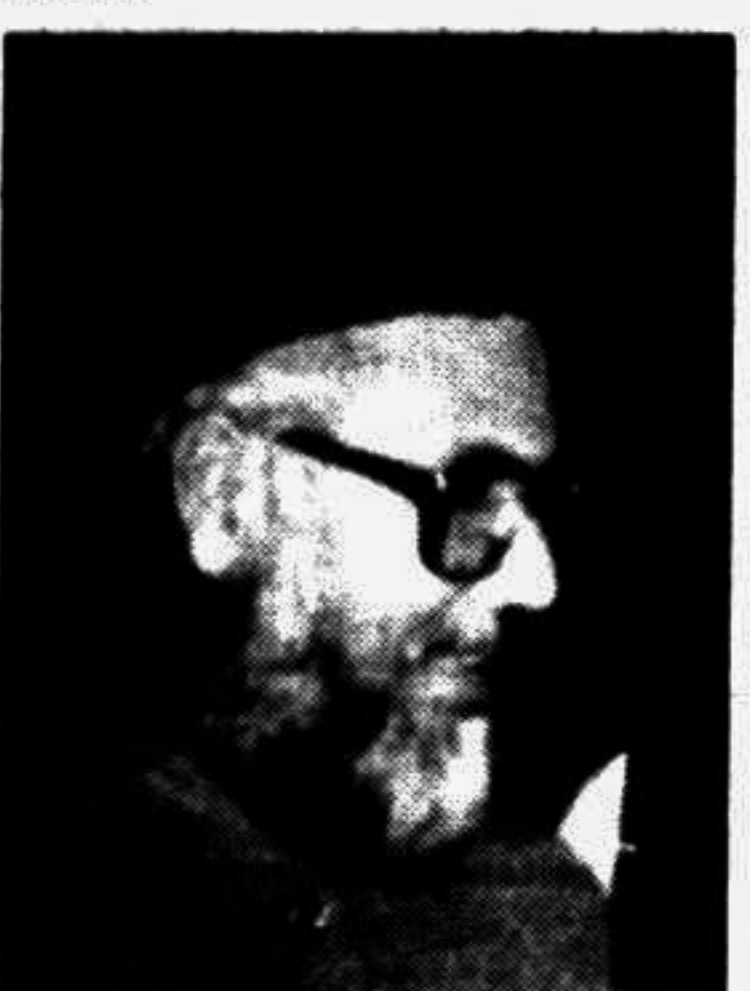
The Deputy Speaker said he would inform the House in this connection later.

About the influx of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh from Burma, the Deputy Speaker drew the attention of the relief ministry.

Salauddin Yusuf

Salauddin Yusuf (AL-Khulna) took the floor on a point of order and said an unusual incident took place in the Sangsad Bhaban Saturday. Former Minister and Jatiya Party Member Anwar Hossain though under warrant of arrest, came to the House, took oath and attended the session, he said.

Referring to the comments on the detention order against Anwar Hossain as published in Sunday's newspapers, Yusuf said, detention order against any person came into effect from the date of arrest not from the date of issue of such order.



Matur Rahman Nizami

Matur Rahman Nizami (Jamaat-Pabna) took the floor and expressed his resentment over the rejection of his notice for an adjournment motion to discuss the Indian entry into Talpatti island.

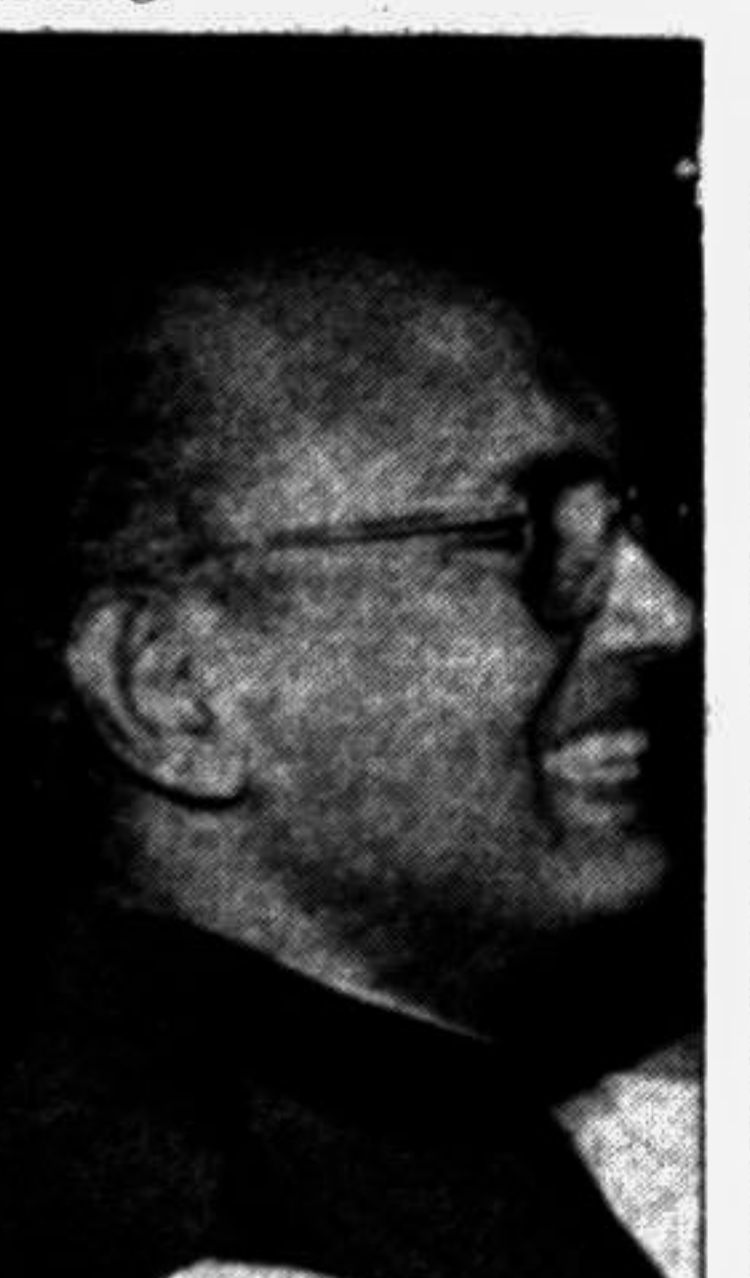
He said that the BDR had lodged a protest in this connection. The Jamaat member described the entry of Indian gun boats into Bangladesh waters around Talpatti island as a physical attack on the independence and sovereignty of the country.

He said he thought the privilege of the House was infringed by not allowing discussion on the issue.

Mustafizur Rahman

Replying to the Jamaat Member, Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman said it was not an incident of April 21. He said, one fisherman in the area had reported to the BDR on February 21 that four gun boats had entered into Bangladesh territorial waters and kidnapped 12 fishermen.

The Minister said on the basis of information, the BDR had communicated the matter to the Indian side during a flag meeting.



Moudud Ahmed

Mr. Moudud Ahmed (JP-Noakhali) took the floor and said Mr. Anwar Hossain was an honourable elected member of Parliament. He was not a convicted person. He suggested that Mr. Haldar should rectify his statement so that the chair could give its reply.

Drawing attention of the Speaker, Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman said the foreign visitors to the Sangsad Bhaban were facing difficulties as all the markings and signs in the House had been inscribed in Bangla. He said two foreign Ambassadors had personally told him that they had been lost in the Sangsad Bhaban. The Foreign Minister requested the Chair to take steps for inscribing the markings and signs in the English language too.

Mr. Mohtuddin Ahmed (BKSAL-Bakerganj) suggested that the proceedings of the House be interpreted in English for the foreign visitors.

Sh Razzak Ali

Going back to the order of the day, the Deputy Speaker said he had received 29 notices of adjournment motions on Saturday. He had accepted the notice from Mr. AM Razzak Ali (Jamaat-Satkhira).

Regarding notice on the adjournment motion on the Indian entry into Talpatti island, the Deputy Speaker said the correct position of the incident as reported in newspapers should be scrutinised before accepting the notice.

ing up special programme for them had been accepted.

Rising on a point of order Moudud Ahmed (JP-Noakhali) referred to a question earlier raised by Awami League member Salahuddin Yusuf about Anwar Hossain (JP-Pirojpur) who took oath Saturday.

Moudud said he had the expectation that the AL members would defend the case of Hossain as an honourable member of the House. As the Awami League members raised protest Moudud said it was the Awami League which had enacted the Special Powers Act.

The JP member said that the detention period of Anwar Hossain expired on April 10 or 11 as it had been mentioned that the detention would come into effect from the date of the issue of the order.

Mohammad Nasim

Taking the floor Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim referred to a news item published in a city daily Sunday reporting the oath taking of Anwar Hossain and his coming to the Sangsad secretly.

Referring to Moudud's contention, Nasim said, another member of the House Zainal Hazari was once taken into custody during a session of Parliament when Moudud himself was the Prime Minister.

He said he wanted to know as to how a person having a warrant of arrest on him could enter into Sangsad Bhaban evading the eyes of police.

As Nasim concluded his speech, the Deputy Speaker adjourned the House for the Asr prayer.

Nasim's attention drawn

When the House resumed after the Asr prayer Mr. Moudud Ahmed drew the attention of the Chair to the opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim's statement on the oath-taking of Anwar Hossain and his coming to the Sangsad on Saturday. He expressed the hope that Mr. Nasim would withdraw his comment since it was objectionable.

Delwar Hossain

Taking the floor, Chief Whip of the treasury bench Mr. Delwar Hossain said, Mr. Anwar Hossain came to the Jatiya Sangsad only three days after Mr. Moudud Ahmed had met the Leader of the Opposition in her chamber here.

He said it had now become clear with whom the Jatiya Partymen had understandings.

He said, "We are law-abiding and law will take its own course". He said we could not

ask the law enforcing agencies to apply the laws on Mr. Hossain as he got the benefit of the existing law.

He hoped that attempt to mislead the people would now end by his submission in the House.

Turning to the Chair, Mr. Moudud said "You have given Mr. Hossain his due right which is compatible with the Law". He said the oath was administered to Mr. Hossain on our request after examining the pros and cons of laws for long 12 and a half hours.

He said Mr. Zainal Hazari was a member of Parliament in 1986 on a ticket from Awami League which had participated in the General Election. He said another party, of course, did not take part in the polls due to their principled stand.

He said Zainul Hazari was arrested against a specific case and was not under preventive detention.

Mr. Moudud said the members of the smaller parties in the House must enjoy the protection of the larger parties to exercise their rights.

Asaduzzaman

Participating in the discussion Mr. Asaduzzaman (AL-Magura) said the House had the right to know the whereabouts of Mr. Anwar Hossain a statement by the Leader of the House could make it clear, he added.

He said after the appearance of Mr. Hossain in the House it was now clear who were the people having secret alliance with the Jatiya Party.

Mr. Asaduzzaman demanded a statement from the Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Begum Khaleda Zia, on the issue.

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Salauddin Quader Chowdhury

Taking the floor on a point of order, Mr. Salauddin Quader Chowdhury (NDP-Chittagong) thanked the Speaker for his bold step in administering the oath of office as a member of Parliament to Mr. Anwar Hossain (JP-Pirojpur).

He said the role of the Speaker in this connection would be written in golden letters in the parliamentary history of the country.

Referring to the comments made by some Awami League members about his presence during the time of the oath taking by Mr. Anwar Hossain, Mr. Chowdhury said, though Mr. Hossain belonged to the past autocratic government, he thought it appropriate to protect the right of an MP-elect for taking his oath.

In this connection, Mr. Chowdhury pointed out to the long standing tradition of bond of fraternity among the politicians in the country even though they belonged to opposite platforms.

Quoting his personal experiences, Mr. Chowdhury said his father (Fazlul Quadir Chowdhury) and the father of the Leader of the Opposition

had intimate personal relationship though they had differing political views. He said when the late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had visited Chittagong on political programmes, he sometimes used to take food at their (Chowdhury's) house and made speeches against his father's politics.

Similarly his father used to take food in the residence of the father of the leader of the opposition and then made speech at Paltan Maidan criticising the politics pursued by Sheikh Mujib.

In this context, Mr. Chowdhury said, the members of the House both in Treasury and Opposition Benches might also share the glory of protecting the right of oath taking by Mr. Anwar Hossain.

Sk Fazlul Karim Selim

Taking the floor to make a personal explanation under article 274 of the Rules of Procedure, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim (AL-Gopalganj) said he had met the former minister Anwar Hossain when he had been in the Sangsad Bhaban on Saturday. Sheikh Selim said he had a long personal friendship with Mr. Hossain and both of them were associated with newspaper industry.

He demanded a statement from the Leader of the House, who is in charge of the Home Ministry, on how Mr. Anwar Hossain had come to the House.

Zainal Abedin Hazari

The Deputy Speaker then gave the floor to Mr. Zainal Abedin Hazari (AL-Feni) to make his personal explanation regarding his (Hazari's) detention during the session of the Jatiya Sangsad in 1986. He said the statement of Mr. Moudud Ahmed (JP-Noakhali) that he (Hazari) was not under detention at that time was not true. Mr. Hazari said he was under detention, and it was withdrawn when the members of the opposition boycotted the session for three days.

Taking the floor, Mr.

Suranjit Sengupta (Ganatantrite Party Sunamganj) said the privilege of the members of Parliament was applicable to all. He wanted to know if the protection given to Mr. Anwar Hossain was applicable to other absconding members also.

Mr. Tofael Ahmed (AL-Bhola) then took the floor and said he wanted protection for all Parliament members. I would like to see Mr. Anwar Hossain in Parliament as a free man, he said.

Mr. Tofael Ahmed said the discussion on the oath taking of Mr. Anwar Hossain could be shortened. He demanded a statement on the issue from the Home Minister.

The Deputy Speaker said "It is our responsibility to clarify the issue as we conducted the oath of office."

Moudud Ahmed

As the House reassembled at 7:17 pm after the Maghreb prayer with the Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in the chair, Mr. Moudud Ahmed (JP-Noakhali) took the floor to clarify some points raised by Mr. Zainal Hazari (AL-Feni) he said it was true that his detention order was served after three days of the arrest. "But I was not the Prime Minister as stated by Mr. Hazari. In fact, I was the Deputy Prime Minister at that time."

Referring to the statement of the Chief Whip, Mr. Moudud Ahmed said he was invited by the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina to tea the other day. He would again see her if the Leader of the Opposition invited him once again.

Taking the floor, Mr. Mohammad Nasim (AL-Sirajganj) said, Mr. Moudud Ahmed on Sunday seemed to be very concerned about the rights and privileges of the opposition members but he was not so generous when he was in the Treasury Bench.

Mr. Nasim said, Mr. Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury could forget what sorts of oppressions and atrocities "we had to face during the long nine years of Ershad's autocratic rule and during the

Chief Whip Khondokar Delwar Hossain

(BP-Manikganj) then took the floor and said it seemed the controversy arising out of the appearance of Anwar Hossain ended before the Maghreb break. "We have given our statements on the issue," he said.

He said, "Law will take its own course and we do not like to interfere in it in any way and as such we do not like to give any directive to anybody."

Delwar Hossain said if there was any allegation or case against Anwar Hossain he would be tried. But as a Sangsad member he would get proper honour and enjoy his rights.

While giving his ruling on the question raised by some members in the House, as to how Sangsad member Anwar Hossain took oath after entering the Sangsad Bhaban without surrendering to the police though there was a detention order against him as per the Special Powers Act, the Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali said, the Speaker had spoken on the question yesterday. So it was not expected to raise the question again today.

(Incomplete)

'Sports Control Board a den of self-seekers'

Following are the remaining part of Saturday's Jatiya Sangsad proceedings.

Hafizuddin

After this, State Minister for Youth and Sports Mirza Abbas sought the permission of the chair to introduce the National Sports Control Board (Amendment) Bill, 1991. Taking the floor immediately, Maj (Rtd) Hafizuddin (Ind-Bhoid) sought the Speaker's permission to say something on the Bill.

Hafizuddin said that because of his staying abroad, he could not bring necessary amendments to the proposed bill in time. But as a football veteran and the only elected representative to FIFA from all the SAARC countries, Hafizuddin said, he had enough knowledge of the country's sport and as such, if he was allowed to make some suggestion, the entire national would be benefited, he said.

Abdur Rauf

The Speaker thanked Hafizuddin and assured him of proper consideration. The floor was then given to Abdur Rauf (AL-Nilphamarj).

Taking the floor Rauf said, he thought the amendment was brought merely to change its title, recalling the background of the law. Rauf said that the Bangabandhu had promulgated the ordinance to form a National Sports Control Board with an objective to improve the overall conditions of national sports activities. That objective was yet to be achieved, he added.

Rauf alleged that the Sports Control Board had turned into a den of self-seekers, he stressed the need for total democratisation of this organisation in the greater national interest. This organisation had been grabbed and controlled by the vested interest, he alleged.

Rauf said, time and again, people from a "certain place" were given the charges to run this organisation. But instead of improving the condition of sports they were engaged in plundering resources and achieving their self interest.

In this connection he pointed out that instead of carrying fame from abroad the self-seekers carried bad names for stealing towels from the hotels where they were put up while leading sports delegations on international and regional meets like the Asiad.



Rashed Khan Menon

Taking the floor next, Rashed Khan Menon (Workers Party-Bakerganj) said that he demanded sending the bill to elicit public opinion as he thought that by merely changing the name, the basic character of an organisation could not be altered.

Menon said that the State Minister for Sports, in a very bureaucratic manner, put the bill in our hands without deeply going into the detailed aspects. He again demanded obtaining opinion of the people, particularly those related to the sports world, so that the bill could fulfil the need of the nation.

Mizanur Rahman Manu

Next, Mizanur Rahman Manu (AL-Dinajpur) took the floor and said, despite having clear rules as to who would be the chairman of the board, none, excepting persons from a "certain place" were appointed as chairman of the board during the last nine years.

Mizanur Rahman said, when our boys from the Jatiya Krira Shiksha Pratishthan returned home with international awards like the Dana and Goshia Cups, we saw that the then sports minister received more importance in the Radio and TV than the boys themselves.

He said, mismanagement and corruption should have to be removed from the national sports arena. Otherwise, he said the youths would lose their spirit and initiative and be diverted towards heroin and other drug-addictions.

Rahman said, as there was no security in the fields, our younger generation were now practising indoor games like kudu.

A. K. M. Jahangir Hossain

The Speaker then gave the floor to A. K. M. Jahangir

Hossain (AL-Bakerganj) who said that the motive to bring the amendment was not to bring any qualitative change but to change the title of the organisation. It was like changing a "glass full of wine to a wineful glass" he added.

He said there were no efforts in the amendment to bring any structural changes in the organisation necessary for the good of the country's sports.

Criticising the functioning of the board Hossain said persons having no relevance with games and sports were being sent to lead country's sports delegations abroad. "We do know whether the minister had brought the amendment for their interest", he added.

He suggested that the bill be sent for seeking public opinion so that the amended bill could fulfil the needs of the nation.

Sheikh Harunur Rashid

Taking the floor next, Sheikh Harunur Rashid (AL-Khula) said that during the autocratic rule, the sports organisations were occupied by people who did not belong to sports world.

He said those who grabbed the chairs of the office bearers of those organisations were the beneficiaries of the autocratic government.

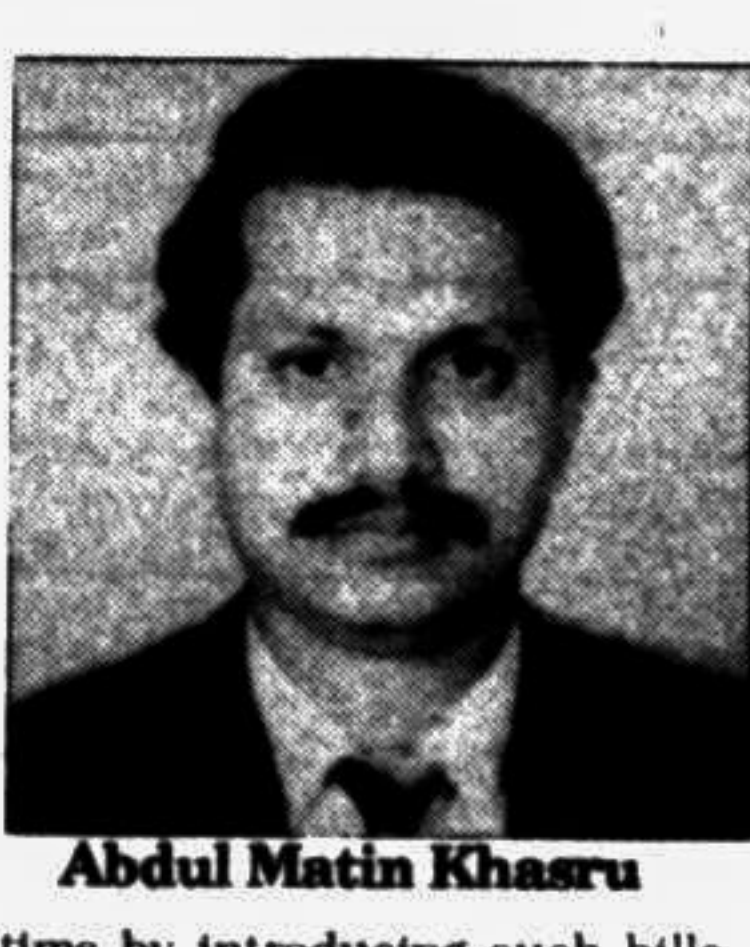
Sheikh Rashid said those people had always tried to please the then governments. In this regard, he mentioned the name of the Secretary of Khulna District Sports Association and said "this man remained secretary during the successive governments of Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party". The fellow is still there when the new government of BNP is in power, he said.

He expressed the confidence that with a young man like Mirza Abbas as State Minister for Sports and Youth the country would be benefited in the field of games and sports.

Sheikh Rashid said that sports should be kept above politics.

Proposing that the bill be sent for eliciting public opinion, Abdul Matin Khasur (AL-Comilla) said that the State Minister should have brought a comprehensive bill before the House.

Khasur said the entire nation was looking eagerly at this August House (Jatiya Sangsad) but we are spotting the valuable



Abdul Matin Khasur

time by introducing such bills prepared by the bureaucrats. He said "we have to prove that the Sangsad was more powerful than the bureaucracy."

Haji Rashed Mosharrarf

Haji Rashed Mosharrarf (AL-Jamalpur) participating in the discussion said that the bill be sent for eliciting public opinion by May 15, 1991. He said that time had come when sports organisations should have elected bodies.

He regretted that since independence only one election was held for Sports Organisation. Ad-hoc committees were by far the bodies to run those organisations.

Haji Rashed Mosharrarf said sportsmen now worked as country's image builders, citing example, he said, Argentina is now known for Maradona and Cameroon for Roger Milla.

He requested State Minister for sports to withdraw the bill and place a fresh one after consulting the concerned people.

Khademul Islam

Khademul Islam (AL-Thakurgaon) said he had reasons to believe that the bill was brought just to change the name as it was given by the Awami League government. To drive his point home he said the BNP government after coming to power had changed the name of Bangladesh Beter in to Radio Bangladesh. He said it appeared that the bill was not aimed at developing games and sports.

Ansar Ali (Jamaat-Satkhira) called for eliciting public on the bill in the interest of promotion of sports and games. He said a mere change in the name and nomenclature of the bill would not serve any useful purpose.

Hafizuddin Ahmed (Ind-Bhola) urged the concerned minister to withdraw the bill

as it was not a complete one. He said, as dismay and despair engulfed the sports arena. Sports enthusiasts were looking for a change in the infrastructure of the sports organisations. He said the people were also clamouring for the democratisation of the sports bodies.

Referring to the popular adage "keep sports clean of politics" the renowned footballer said sports in Bangladesh had become a "hotbed of politics". He also briefly mentioned in this regard how he had to resign from the post of President of Bangladesh Football Federation in the interests of keeping his dignity.

He posed a question what benefit the change of name would bring in when the prices of sports gears were very high and there was dearth of sports ground and stadiums in the country.

Hafizuddin urged the State Minister for sports to place a complete bill in the House in the greater interest of the nation.

Speaking on the bill, Principal Rafiqul Islam (AL-Jessore) said when the whole world was involved in the cold war, sports was the only bridge among the community of nations. He called for incorporating democratic provisions in the bill and place it in the House for its passage.

Mir Shawkat Ali

Taking the floor after being allowed by Deputy Speaker, Lt. General (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali supported the change in the name of the institute and he urged the State Minister to name the institution as the national sports promotion board or council.

He also advocated provision of more autonomy for the smooth running and efficient functioning of different sports federations.

Shawkat Ali who was once the president of the Bangladesh Football Federation called for placing competent man at the head of different sports bodies.

Mohtuddin Ahmed (BKSAL-Pirojpur) said a mere change in the name would not bring any good for the sports bodies which were now in the midst of an uncertain situation.

He urged the chair to send the bill to a five-member select committee.

Mirza Abbas

Winding up the discussions, State Minister for Youths and Sports Mirza Abbas said discipline from the sports arena would be removed for improving the situation.

He said, we will not sit idle after changing the nomenclature of the national sports body.

Accepting the criticism of the Sangsad members that some people had made money out of sports in the past, Mirza Abbas said necessary inquiries would be made.

He said he would not take the responsibility of the misdeeds done in the past. He, however, said, he would try to make the sports arena free from corruption. He said the government would give due importance to any information regarding corruption of the past regime.

Mirza Abbas said every effort would be made for raising the standard of sports, and assuring the House that corruption done in respect of sending sports delegations abroad would be thoroughly inquired and actions would be taken against the offenders.

He said steps in the sports arena would be taken after consulting with concerned people irrespective of their political affiliation. He called upon the members to withdraw their motions for sending the bill for eliciting public opinion and to the select committee.

Mohiuddin Ahmed

At this stage, Mohiuddin Ahmed (BKSAL-Faridpur) took the floor and said if the State Minister gave them assurance as to when the elections of the district sports associations would be held only then they would consider the withdrawal of the request.

Then the Deputy Speaker put the motions for sending the bill for eliciting public opinion and to the select committee to vote they were rejected by voice vote.

Mohammad Nasim

When the Deputy Speaker wanted to call the first speaker for participating in the vote of thanks on the address by the Acting President, Chief Whip of the opposition Mohammad Nasim took the floor and drew the attention of the chair to the lack of interest of the members for participating in the vote of thanks today.

He suggested postponement. The item and taking the next agenda of the day, discussion on matters of public importance "regarding postponement of appointment in government jobs."

The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House at 9:55 p.m. till 3 p.m. Sunday.