

Joint scrutiny of Amendment Bill by BNP, Opposition MPs urged

The second session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad began at 10.05 am Tuesday with Speaker Abdul Rahman Biswas in the chair, reports BSS. The proceedings of the day began with recitation from the holy Quran. The House then took up the proceedings of the day and nominated a five member panel of chairmen. The members are Humayun Khan Panni (BNP-Tangail), Mia Mohammad Mansoor Ali (BNP-Chudang), Farida Rahman (BNP-Jessore-Satkhira), Tofael Ahmed (AL-Bhola) and Nizamuddin Khan (BNP-Manikganj).

The House adopted a condolence resolution on the deaths of Ilyas Ahmed Chowdhury (AL-Madaripur), eminent eye specialist and social worker Dr Ahmed Sharif, and former MPA from Barisal Nirod Bihari Naag. The House also adopted a resolution condoling the death of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who was killed in a bomb blast last month. The House observed one-minute silence as a mark of respect to their memories and prayed for peace of the departed souls.

Ansar Ali
Sheikh Ansar Ali (Jamaat-Satkhira) raised the issue of assaulting Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General M Matur Rahman Nizami in the Dhaka University campus last month which was immediately protested by Rashed Mosharraf (AL-Jamalpur). A number of Members from both the Opposition and the Treasury Bench rose up and tried to speak simultaneously which created a chaos in the House. Calm was restored at the assurance of the Speaker that the issue would be discussed later. After the question hour,

The Speaker started disposing of the notices submitted by the members under different sections of the rules of Procedure. He said he had received two notices on the members' privileges submitted by Awami League member Tofael Ahmed and BNP member from Rajshahi Aminul-Huq, both have demanded issuance of diplomatic passports for the MPs. The Speaker said the issue was quite important and he drew the attention of the Minister of Home and Foreign Affairs in this regard. The Speaker said the parliamentary committee on members' privileges was yet to be constituted.

Tofael Ahmed
Taking the floor, Tofael Ahmed strongly pleaded for diplomatic passports for the Sangsad Members and amending the existing warrant of precedence to establish the position of the people's representatives above the government officials. He said three warrants of precedence had been made in 1974, in October 1975 and 1986 but the BNP government had not made any. Ahmed referred to article

68 of the Constitution and said the position of Jatiya Sangsad members could not be placed lower to that of the government officials. The position of the MPs could not be placed below that of the Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary and Three Services Chiefs. He urged the Prime Minister and Leader of the House to take a decision about issuing diplomatic passports for the MPs and amend the warrant of precedence as a first step towards democracy.

Prime Minister
Responding to the request from the Awami League member, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia announced in the House that all the members of parliament would be given diplomatic passports. She said the proposal for issuance of diplomatic passports had also come from many MPs of BNP as well. "We had struggled for the last nine years for the cause of democracy and we want to pay the highest honour to the representatives of the people," Begum Zia told the House. The Prime Minister's announcement was hailed by the AL members with table thumping. Referring to the demand for changing the warrant of precedence, Begum Zia suggested formation of a privilege committee of the House to settle the issue through discussion. The Speaker said it was a unique matter that the Prime Minister had accepted the demand immediately after its placing before the House. Creating a new precedence.

Salahuddin Quader
NDP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury said that budget had not yet been placed before the House. Replying to the member, the Speaker said discussion on an adjournment motion did not take place on the day the notice was submitted. The Chair told the members that they could make their points during the General Discussion on the national budget. Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury urged the chair to read out the names of those who had submitted notices for records. Jamaat member Moulana Abdus Sobhan said a member had received grievous injury on his head and wondered why this could not be discussed in the House. Shahjahan Sifaj (JSD) supported the contention of NDP leader and urged the chair to read out the names of those

members privileges calling for issuance of diplomatic passports for the MPs. The Speaker told the Minister that he had already mentioned the name of Amrul Huq (BNP-Rajshahi) who submitted the notice. The Speaker then referred to the Notices on Adjournment motion submitted by Jamaat members on the assault of their leader Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami at the office of the Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University. The Chair said the attack on Moulana Nizami was a "sad incident" but added that adjournment motions are not discussed during the budget session. At this, the Jamaat members rose to their feet demanding acceptance of the motion to facilitate discussion on the assault on Moulana Nizami.

who submitted notices mentioning their subjects. Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said the incident was under investigation and so this could not be discussed. The Speaker said he had received 18 Call Attention Notices of which one submitted by Azizur Rahman (AL-Habiganj) had been accepted. **Abdus Samad Azad** Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad drew the attention of the Chair to a Call Attention Notice submitted by Awami League Member Akhtaruzzaman Babu (Chittagong) on the situation prevailing in the Chittagong University. He said the issue deserved immediate discussions in the House for solution.

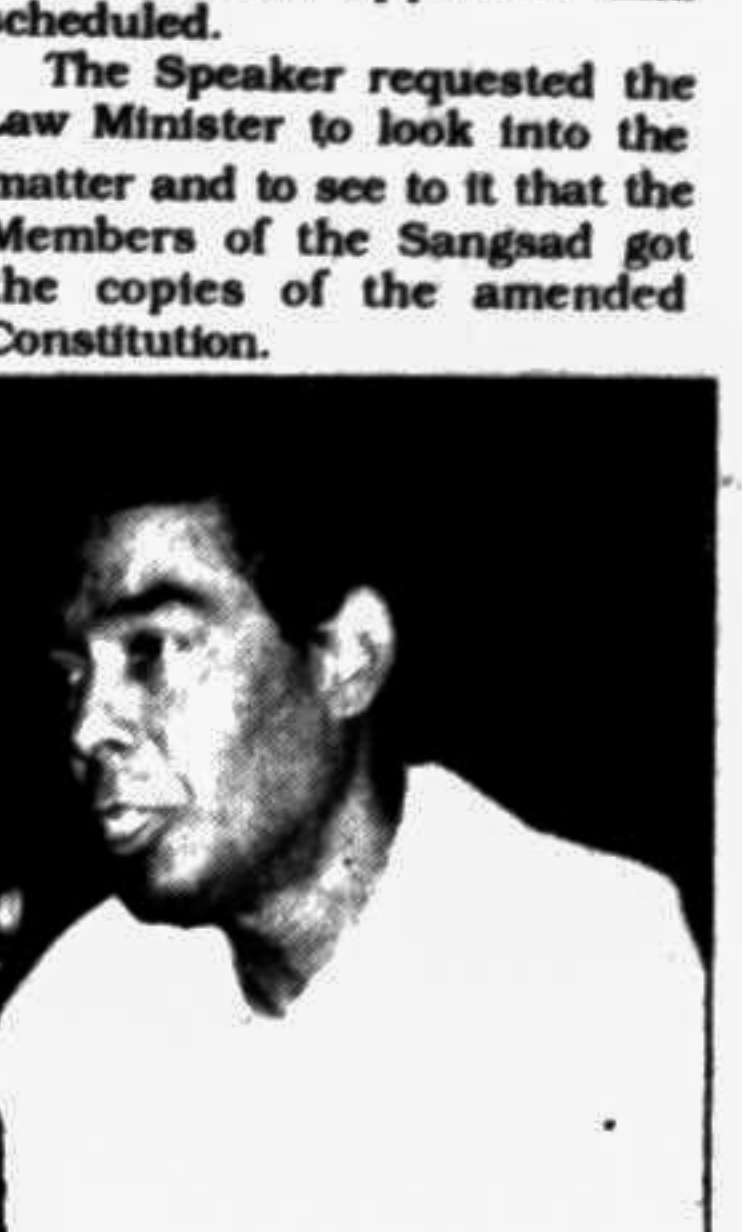
Abdus Sobhan
Rising next, Moulana Abdus Sobhan of Jamaat-e-Islami said no step had been taken to punish the culprits who had assaulted his colleague Moulana Nizami even after newspapers published their photographs. The Jamaat Members then staged a walk-out under the leadership of Moulana Abdus Sobhan in protest against the non-acceptance of the Adjournment Motion on the assault of Moulana Nizami. Moulana Mizami was not present in the House. **Abdur Razzak** BAKSAL Leader Abdur Razzak wanted to know from the Speaker the fate of his Notice for Adjournment Motion on the US Task Force. The Speaker told the House that he had received a number of notices from the Members of the Sangsad on the situation in Dhaka and Chittagong Universities, flood in Sylhet district, relief address of the Acting President and other

both Treasury and Opposition members in the Constitution Draft Committee for scrutinising the Constitution amendment bill. While the Speaker was explaining the position of different Adjournment Notices, the Jamaat MPs, who earlier staged a walk-out, returned to the House. **Md Nasim** Awami League Chief Whip Md Nasim hoped that the good atmosphere created in the House would continue. Referring to the Notice of the Adjournment Motion submitted by Abdus Shaheed (AL-Moulvibazar) on Chittagong University situation, he said the issue merited immediate discussion. He said the problem of Chittagong University was a long standing one many quarters, including All-Party Students Unity, had expressed concern over the frequent clashes taking place in the Chittagong University campus for a long time. He urged the Speaker to set aside at least one hour Tuesday for discussion of the Chittagong University situation. Through the discussion we could help the government as well as the Chittagong University authorities to thrash out a solution to the burning problem of that University, he added. **Khandoker Delwar Hossain** Joining the issue, Chief Whip Khandoker Delwar Hossain said the Speaker had already given his considered opinion on different Adjournment Notices. He, however, said armed clashes and show of arms in Chittagong and Dhaka Universities were not recent events, rather these were continuing for a long time. He said the Prime Minister had referred to this problem

while addressing a huge public meeting in Dhaka a few days ago. **Fazle Rabbi** Rising on a Point of Order, Fazle Rabbi (JP-Gaibandha) said the House was not in Order at the moment as arrangement of seats was not maintained conforming to the parliamentary practice. The Speaker asked Rabbi to resume his seat saying it was no Point of Order. The Members of the Jatiya Party at this stage walked out of the House protesting against the Ruling of the Speaker. The Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz placed the Value Added Tax (VAT) ordinance 1991 under clause 2 of Article 93 of the Constitution. **Abdus Samad Azad** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad at this stage took the floor and demanded a hour-long discussion on the incidents in Chittagong University. As the Speaker looked determined to continue with the legislative business the Deputy Leader of the Opposition appeared to be preparing to stage a walk-out and he also looked back at his fellow members. The Members belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami and other parties also appeared preparing to leave the House. As there was much noise in the House nothing could be heard distinctly. The Speaker, Abdur Rahman Biswas, adjourned the House at 12-43 pm to meet today at 4 pm and it appeared he did so before Abdus Samad Azad could say anything about the walk-out although it was clear that he (Azad) along with the Members of the Opposition were leaving the House at the moment in protest against the decision of the Speaker.

Suranjit Sengupta Ganotantree Party Leader Suranjit Sengupta expressed the hope that the Leader of the House would introduce the constitution amendment bill in the House as early as possible for the establishment of Parliamentary form of Government to pave the way for the flourishing of democracy. He pleaded for the conclusion of

Sudhangshu Shekar Haldar
Abdus Samad Azad
Md Nasim
Khandoker Delwar Hossain
Abdur Razzak
Suranjit Sengupta



for relief goods while the rest will be spent for rehabilitation activities. **FJET** The International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees (FJET), Geneva, donated \$1,000.00 to Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the cyclone victims in the coastal areas. **Three stabbed in city** A businessman and two students were stabbed in different incidents on Tuesday. Nazrul Islam (45), a member of Shaheed Nagar Samaj Kallayan Samity was stabbed by local musclemen at Kellar More (Lal Bagh). Nazrul Islam was admitted to DMCH and a case has been filed with Lalbagh police. In another incident, two students, Zahangir (24) and Khokon (22) were stabbed by the rival groups while playing football at the ground of City Corporation at Demra.

Plea to complete WDB projects on schedule

Mr Majedul Huq, Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control has urged the officials of Bangladesh Water Development Board to work hard for completion of its projects on schedule, a press release of Water Development Board said on Monday, reports BSS.

The Minister was addressing an inter-ministerial review meeting on WDB projects at WDB Conference Room, on Sunday. Ansar Ali Siddiqui, Minister of State for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, M.A. Malik, Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation, high officials of the Board and representatives of the Ministry of Finance, External Resources Division, Planning Commission and Monitoring and Evaluation Division were present in the meeting.

Mr Majedul Huq said that WDB officials must work with honesty and dedication and

warned them against all lapses and ineptness. Project-wise financial and physical achievement of WDB projects upto May this year, progress of the 24 projects targeted for completion this year, zone-wise finalisation of tender formalities, zone-wise land acquisition situation were amongst the things discussed in this review meeting. Among other matters the position of Teesta Barrage Project, the Pabna Irrigation Project, phase-I, G.K. Rehabilitation Project, Bhola Irrigation Project, North Rupponj Water Conservancy Project, Narayan-ganj-Norsingdi Pilot Project, Dutch Aided EIP Project came under review during the meeting.

Ansar Ali Siddiqui, Minister of State for Irrigation, M.A. Malik, Irrigation Secretaries and Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, Additional Secretary of the Ministry and Chairman Water Development Board also spoke on the occasion.

Relief Operations continue



Leaders and members of Bangladesh Hindu, Bouddha and Christian Oikya Parishad held a rally in city on Tuesday calling for protection of minority rights. —Star photo

Different organisations and individuals donated Taka 33,29,789 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, reports BSS. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia received the donations at her Sugandha office. Those who donated Tuesday included Bangladesh Caterers Association, Birmingham, England, Bangladesh Diploma Engineers Association, Probashi Bangladeshi Sangsad, Jeddah, International Oil Mills Ltd, International Tank Manufacturers Ltd, Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association, Scholastica School, SGS Bangladesh Ltd, Hifaf International, Development Design CPB. The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in a meeting on Tuesday urged the government to take effective steps for rehabilitation of the cyclone-affected people. The meeting presided over by CPB Secretary General Saifuddin Ahmed Manik was participated by those who conducted relief works in the affected areas. The meeting also decided to carry on programme for afforestation in the coastal areas. Diakonia-Bangladesh, a Swedish voluntary organisation, distributed various relief items among over 2,000 families of flood-hit Balaganj upazila of Sylhet district. Diakonia's Director Thomas M Das and Chief Executive of the Institute of Rural Journalists Mohammad Saiful Islam Dildar, among others, distributed the goods from June 5 to 10. Diakonia-Bangladesh has earmarked Taka 1,20,00000 for the cyclone-hit people of the southern districts of which Taka 60,00000 will be spent



Bangladesh Chhatra Union brought out a procession in the city on Tuesday demanding withdrawal of cases against a number of student leaders. —Star photo

IFAD to provide special assistance

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is formulating a special assistance to Bangladesh in the face of colossal damage along the country's coastline, a UN Information Centre press release says on Saturday, reports UNB. IFAD opened its 47th session May 29 in Rome amidst paying tributes to island dwellers of Bangladesh saying that these people have showed formidable courage in facing recurring natural calamities and admirable will to rebuild. In his opening remarks to the governing council session IFAD president Idriss Jazairy said, although it is not within the IFAD's working tools to provide immediate relief in times of emergencies it will assist in order to help these vulnerable people strengthen their capacity to survive. The project would support alternative survival strategies by building cyclone shelters on the mainland and develop low cost storm warning systems for the rural population. It would also help in the construction of low cost housing in the Bay of Bengal Area.

10 DU teachers get Ibrahim Memorial medals

Dhaka University Syndicate, at its meeting held on June 6, awarded Ibrahim Memorial Gold medals to several teachers of the University for their outstanding research work made during the period between 1980-81 and 1989-90, reports BSS. The gold medals were awarded as per the recommendations made on May 28 by the Justice Ibrahim Memorial Foundation Trustee Board of the university, a DU press release said Tuesday. The awardees are: Prof A F Sirazul Islam Chowdhury (English) - 1980-81, Prof. KMA Malik (chemistry) - 1981-82, Prof Mohammad Abdullah (Urdu) - 1982-83, Prof Haroon Quader Md Yousuf (Bio-Chemistry) - 1983-84, Prof Abdullah Faruque (Marketing) - 1984-85, Dr Md. Anwar Hossain (Mathematics) - 1985-86, Prof Abul Kalam (International Relations) - 1986-87, Prof Yuzzuddin Ahmed (Soil Science) - 1987-88, Dr Md Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan (Political Science) - 1988-89 and Prof Md Azizur Rahman (Physics) - 1989-90.

BCS Assoc meet June 15

By Staff Correspondent
A general meeting of the Coordination Committee of Bangladesh Civil Service Association will be held on June 15 at the Institution of Engineers, says a press release. This was decided at a meeting of the Convening Committee of the Coordination Committee of 23 cadres held on June 10 with its Convener Mohammad Abu Hena in the chair. The meeting was attended by the representatives of 23 cadres including agricultural, livestock resource, forest, engineering, ansar, railway and finance cadres. The meeting also formed a five-member committee to formulate a draft constitution of the coordination committee. The meeting also demanded of the government to remove the Additional Secretaries who were promoted without normal procedure. They reminded the government that earlier the government had pledged to review their promotion cases which created commotions among different ranks and files of the government officers. The meeting also expressed its resentment at the appointment of non-cadre personnel to the different posts of cadre services in violation of the normal service rule.

Bahrain army team meets Air Chief

Visiting Bahrain military delegation called on Chief of Air Staff Air Commodore Altaf Hossain Chowdhury at the Air Headquarters Tuesday, report UNB.

Rains disrupt normal life in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, June 11: Low-lying areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts including Port City have been submerged following incessant heavy rains during last two days, reports BSS.

Local Met office sources said 170 mm rainfall was recorded during the 24 hours ending 6 pm today. In the city, low-lying areas of Chakhabazar, Bakalia, Badur-tala, Chaktai, Bahaddarhat, Agrabad and Patenga are under knee-deep water. Normal city life has been interrupted due to heavy rain water rushing from hilly regions which also submerged Kashaipara, Ramu, and Padua on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road. The Matamohari at Chakaria was flowing three to four feet high above the normal level, according to reports received here.

Harbang, Baraitali, Kaiyarbil, Bheola, Manikrhari and Laksmirchar of Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar district have been inundated by waters rushing from hilly areas. Patenga coast has been submerged by tide water as the protective embankment there is yet to be reconstructed.

Good demand for tea

CHITTAGONG, June 11: The weekly tea sale held here today was marked by good demand for all categories of tea with the export buyers operating actively and the internal buyers showing moderate interest, market sources said, reports BSS. Buyers from Iran, Eastern Europe and the USSR and continent were in the market. Pakistan operated only for green tea and Egypt could not lift any tea owing to low limits. All brokers were held good market at firm to sometimes dearer levels, a small quantity of popular types sold between Tk.55 and Tk. 57.20 per kg. Primary Fannings met with a fairly good demand, particularly for good liquoring types of which ten tended dearer. A small weight of popular types sold between Tk.55 and Tk.57.50 per kg. 120 chests of Green tea including 70 chests of season 1990 on offer sold well. Fine Young Hyson sold at Tk. 61.50, Young Hyson Tk.66 and Hyson at Tk. 61.50 per kg. A total of 3,049 chests of dust category tea on offer met with less demand particularly the higher valued grades which sold at lower levels. Powdery dusts and Churamoni dusts were much stronger and often dearer, internal buyers once again absorbed the entire quantity of this category.