

Separate University, Medical College for girls demanded

The Jatiya Sangsad resumed its session Sunday at 4.10 pm with Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

The first hours was devoted to questions and answers and the House was adjourned at 5.10 pm for the Asr prayers. The House took up business matters after the break with and Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafez first on the floor.

He proposed that the date for submission of the report of the Select Committee on seven Constitutional Amendment Bills be extended by another four days.

As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Abdus Samad Azad supported the contention the chair said the time had unanimously been extended by four days.

After this, the Deputy Speaker mentioned the notices on different issues and explained why these notices could not be accepted.

Advocate Fazle Rabbi (JP-Gaibandha), Rahmat Ali (AL-Gazipur) and some other members drew the attention of the chair to their notices.

The chair said that all the notices would be looked into but expressed the hope that members would understand why it was not always possible for the chair to admit all the notices.

Muhiuddin Ahmed

Mohiuddin Ahmed (AL-Barisal) drew the attention of the chair to the ransacking of the Barisal Medical College Saturday and demanded a full-dress discussion on the law and situation in the country.

The Deputy Speaker said he would request the Deputy Leader of the House to fix a time for such a discussion.

Abdus Samad Azad

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Abdus Samad Azad said the Deputy Leader of the House had assured of a discussion on law and order situation. But he deplored that no such date had been fixed so far.

Badruddoza Chowdhury

Taking the floor, Deputy Leader of the House Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury, said a date would be fixed for discussion on law and order situation

after the submission of the report by the Select Committee on the Constitutional Amendment Bills.

Masur Rahman

At this stage, Masur Rahman (BNP-Jhenidah) said that the disturbances in different educational institutions in the country were between the supporters of the Awami League and the Jamaat-e-Islami and that supporters of the BNP were not involved.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury (AL-Faridpur) took the floor to say that disturbances in the educational institutions was a matter of overall law and order situation in the country and it deserved to be discussed in detail.

Matiur Rahman Nizami

Matiur Rahman Nizami (Jamaat-Pabna) said terrorism in the educational institutions posed a great menace to the nation and the government could not shirk its responsibility in maintaining law and order.

Nizami said students being killed and injured were the sons of the soil no matter which parties they belonged to. The government must take measures to arrest this situation because the increasing violence in the campuses were jeopardizing the career of the students.

After this, the chair picked up the order of the day and asked Abdul Awal Miah (AL-Kustia) to move his call attention notice on a matter of urgent public importance.

The opposition member drew the attention of the State Minister of Land to the complaints of widespread corruption in the department of land survey. He said surveys should be conducted by responsible officials so that people could have confidence on the decisions.

Jamiruddin Sircar

State Minister for Land, Jamiruddin Sircar, in reply to the member, said responsible officials were involved in land survey. However, he said, government was ready to look into specific cases of corruption in this regard.

Aminul Huq

Initiating Sunday's discussions on the national budget.

Md. Aminul Huq (BNP-Rajshahi) said tolerance was the essence of democracy. Under democratic dispensation, we must have the patience to listen to the views of others even though we might disagree with them, he added.

Turning to the budget, Huq said the VAT had unnecessarily created a scarce among the people who are by and large conservative in nature. Defending it as a most progressive system of taxation, he pointed out that it had been introduced in many countries of the world. He blamed a section of dishonest businessmen for pushing up the prices of some essentials on the false plea of VAT. These businessmen had manipulated prices of certain commodities and articles in new name of the VAT although they were not covered by this new system, he said.

He said the Finance Minister had already given the assurance that the government would reconsider the VAT on certain items if it really affected the people. In fact, the Finance Minister had withdrawn VAT from some areas considering the difficulties of the consumers and traders, he added.

In reply to the critics of foreign aid, Huq said none should oppose acceptance of foreign assistance if it was spent in productive sectors and income and employment generating enterprises. In this connection, he described how West Germany, Italy and some other European countries had rebuilt their shattered economy after the second world war under the marshal plan.

Huq said it would not be logical to expect quick results in the economic and other fields from the new BNP government which inherited destroyed economy. He narrated how the past autocratic regime had squandered millions of dollars of foreign aid and pushed the country on the brink of economic disaster.

It would naturally take time to bring the shattered economy on an even keel, he said.

Aminul Huq praised the government for its bold step to write off small loans of the farmers and recover defaulted loans of the big industrialists.

He particularly thanked the government for giving the

highest allocation to the education sector saying that many of the problems of the people would be solved if the literacy rate was raised.

Huq pleaded for equitable distribution of funds for the development of all areas of the country, and implementation of the Barind project in Rajshahi district.

Hafeza Asma Khatun

Taking the floor next Hafeza Asma Khatun (Jaumal) said the new taxation measures to the tune of Taka 250 crore would add to the burden of the people of this country. Taxes on kerosene and diesel oil and other agricultural inputs would also make the life of the people difficult, she added.



Abdus Samad Azad

She made a strong plea to eliminate the interest system, stop gambling of all sorts and close down all liquor shops in the country. She regretted that the government party should use its best efforts for the passage of the proposal for the VAT by ignoring the opinions of the people.

Hafeza Asma Khatun called upon the government to take realistic steps for the improvement of the lot of womenfolk. She demanded establishment of a separate university and a medical college for the country's girl students. Separate sitting arrangements should also be made in trains, buses and aircraft for women, she said.

Turning to her local problems, she called for improving the road communication in Shariatpur, Madaripur and Gopalganj districts. She called upon the government to establish a government mahila college in Shariatpur district and nationalise one mahila college each in Gopalganj and Madaripur districts.

The House reassembled at 7.50 pm after the Maghreb prayer with Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in the chair.

Dr Mozammel Hossain

As the speaker gave the floor to Dr Mozammel Hossain (AL-Bagerhat) the member said it seemed from the market trend that the budget meant a price hike of all essentials.

He said the Finance Minister had prepared the budget at the advice of the World Bank, IMF and other agencies and donors countries. Because of this reason, the Finance Minister had been compelled to impose an anti-people budget.

Termining the budget as the one for the richer section of the people, the Awami League member said the owner of a House worth Taka 50 lakh had been exempted from paying tax while the owner of a property worth taka 10 lakh had been heavily taxed. He said daily necessities of the poor had been over taxed through introducing the Value Added Tax. He said people would not forgive us if we assented to the passage of the budget.

Referring to the unemployment problem, Dr Hossain said there were 1.38 crore persons unemployed in the country. But the Finance Minister had failed to give any direction to provide them with job opportunities. He said the government in one hand had increased the age limit for entry into government services while on the other hand it had given directives to stop fresh recruitments.

The Awami League member said people had expected that after democratically elected government had come into power, they would not have to step into the street for any realisation of their just demands. But in fact, they have to do it for their bare survival.

Giving comparative figures, Dr Hossain said trade deficit during 1974-75 was Taka 770 crore while it rose to over Taka 2,000 crore during the 1980-81 financial year while the poverty level was 59 per cent and 76 per cent respectively during the respective periods. He said per capita in-

come was Taka 2,094 during 1974-75 which had come down to Taka 1,943 during the 1980-81 fiscal.

He said the southern zone of the country played an important role in fetching foreign exchange but little of it was spent for the development of the zone.

Dr Hossain said late President Zia had committed to the people of Khulna that a refinery and medical college would be set up there but that pledge is yet to be implemented.

Drawing attention of the Communications and Finance Minister, Dr Mozammel Hossain said the proposed Jamuna Bridge should be located at Aricha-Doulajida junction.



Badruddoza Chowdhury

tion to benefit of eight districts of the southern zone.

He demanded of the government to set up an agricultural college at Bagerhat and development of road communications in the district.

MA Matin

Taking part in the discussions, MA Matin (BNP-Chandpur) congratulated the Finance Minister for presenting a budget which reflected the hopes and aspirations of the people.

The Treasury Bench member said certain confusion was there in the mind of the people about the VAT because it was a new system in the country. There is a campaign against the system he said and suggested that the television should explain details of the system immediately after the Bengali news bulletin so that people could understand the system. He also urged strong measures against businessmen who are wrongly exploiting

VAT.

Matin referred to the campus violence and urged all parties to cooperate in restoring discipline in the educational institutions. He said the all-party conference called by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was a bold and unprecedented move and this deserved praise from all sections.

Matin referred to his local problems and said Chandpur is facing irrigation and navigational problems. He mentioned other problems of the area and called for their solutions.

Shamsul Huq

Awami League member from Mymensingh Shamsul Huq then took the floor on point of order and reiterated his earlier demand for a statement from the Sports Minister on the alleged corruptions in the Krira Parishad.

State Minister for Youth and Sports, Sadeq Hussain then took the floor, saying he would give a statement in the House today.

Mazhar Hussain

Participating in the budget discussion, Mazhar Hussain (CPB-Panchagar) termed the budget as "directionless". He said the budget proposed by the Finance Minister had frustrated 85 per cent people of the country. The CPB member pointed out that the policy of free trade by the present government was not only causing problem to the local industries, but also creating adverse reaction in the agriculture sector.

Explaining, the opposition member said in the name of free trade, unscrupulous traders have been given licence to import various agriculture inputs freely. This free licence has enabled them to increase the prices of agriculture inputs according to their will.

Referring to his local problem, Hussain drew the attention of the Finance Minister to the non-allocation of funds in education, communication and other vital important sectors in his constituency.

Khurshid Jahan

Mrs Khurshid Jahan Huq (women seat 1) taking the floor, recalled the contributions of late President Ziaur Rahman for building the nation and remarked that the present

budget, was the reflection of the principles and ideals of late Ziaur Rahman.

Mrs Huq termed the proposed budget as balanced, market-oriented and said it was aimed at generating internal resources. She pointed out that while in 1979-80, the leadership of Ziaur Rahman enabled the country to achieve 35 per cent domestic resources, it came to nil during the autocratic rule of Gen Ershad.

The BNP member appealed to the opposition members not to criticise the budget from their party angle. Referring to the present discontent about the Value Added Tax (VAT), Mrs Huq alleged that the opposition parties have been capitalising the new financial measure politically which, she said, was unethical.

Abdul Hamid

Speaking next Advocate Abdul Hamid (AL-Kishoreganj) was critical about the imposition of the Value Added Tax (VAT) which, he said, would not be good for the nation.

He said it was a moral obligation for the members of the opposition to point out the wrong-doings of the Treasury Bench. He said the people had entrusted us with that position by giving their votes in our favour to take the role of the opposition in the House.

He said tolerance was the essence of democracy, adding, "we must practise that to make this House meaningful".

Hamid said the Special Powers Act should be repealed although he said he was a member of parliament when it was passed in 1974. He said he also suffered imprisonment for two years and two months under the Special Powers Act.

The opposition member demanded the withdrawal of upazila courts. But, he said it would not be proper to withdraw the upazila system as a whole.

Hamid then pointed out the problems the people of his constituency were facing. He urged the Energy Minister to extend the facilities of gas to Kishoreganj. He also called for government attention to the Gurudayal College and the hospital in the district.

Incomplete

Metropolitan

'Folk literature helps know past language'

RAJSHAHI, July 21: A seminar on 'folk literature' was held at the Bengali Department of Rajshahi University yesterday, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by the Bengali Department and Bangla Samity, the seminar was attended by a large number of students and teachers.

Pan worth Tk 6.81 cr exported to Pakistan

Shipping Minister M K Anwar informed the Jatiya Sangsad that Bangladesh had exported Taka 6.81 crore worth of pan to Pakistan during the last three years, reports BSS.

In a written reply to Prof Rafiqul Islam (AL-Jessore), he said that Taka 4.23 crore, Taka 1.94 crore and Taka 64 lakh worth of pan had been exported to Pakistan in 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 respectively.

He further informed the House that there was no separate agreement with Pakistan on export of pan. However, pan had been included in the general trade agreement concluded with that country.

Mother of Saidabadi dead

Mother of Pir Dewan Mohammad Saidur Rahman Saidabadi died late Saturday and was buried at her village residence at Rampal of Munshiganj.

Lions Dist-115 President ill

By Staff Correspondent. Mr. Khalekuzzaman, President of Lions District-115, Dhaka, and Secretary of Bangladesh Customs Agents' Association, has been suffering from serious heart ailment for the last few weeks.

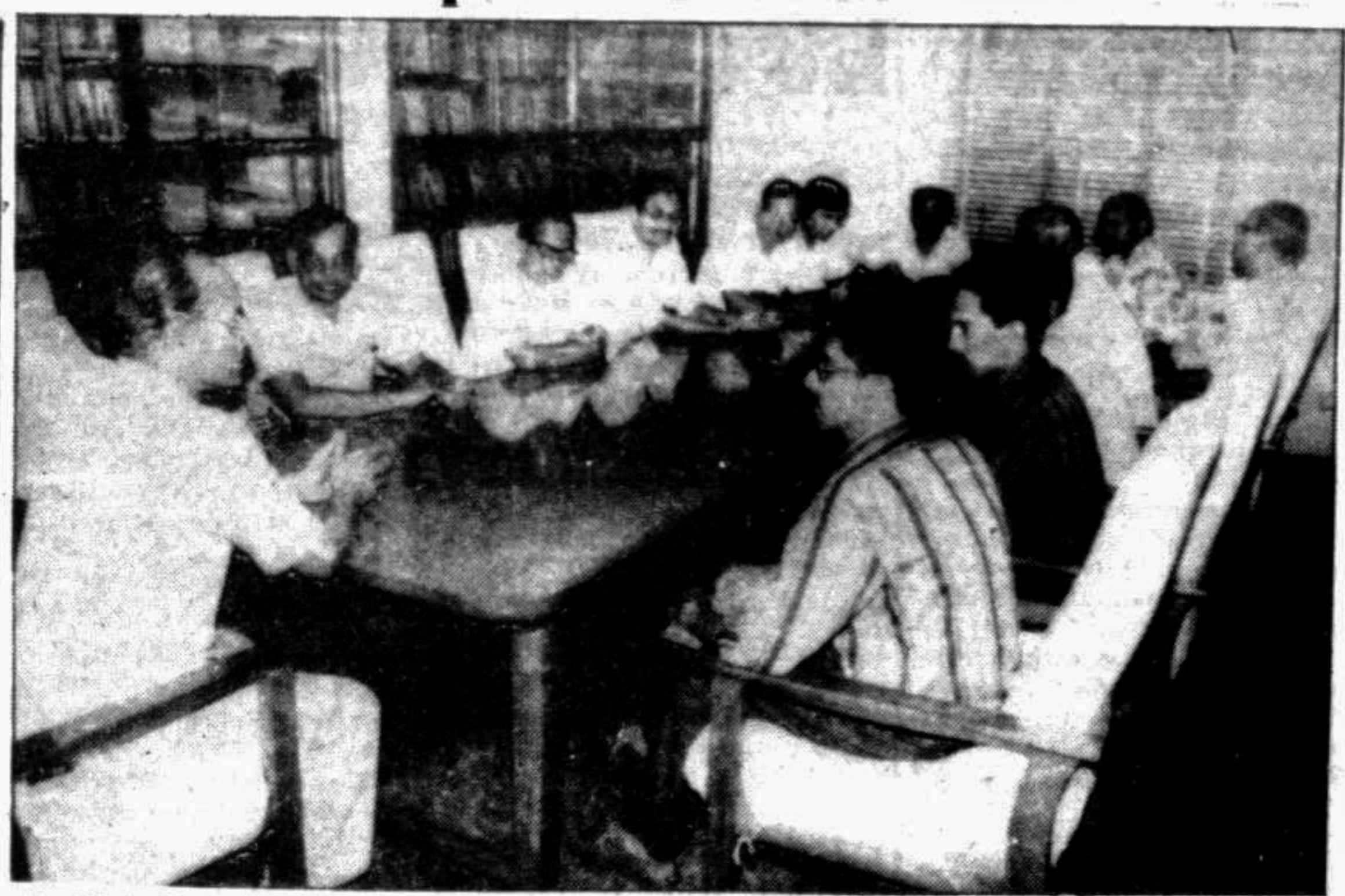
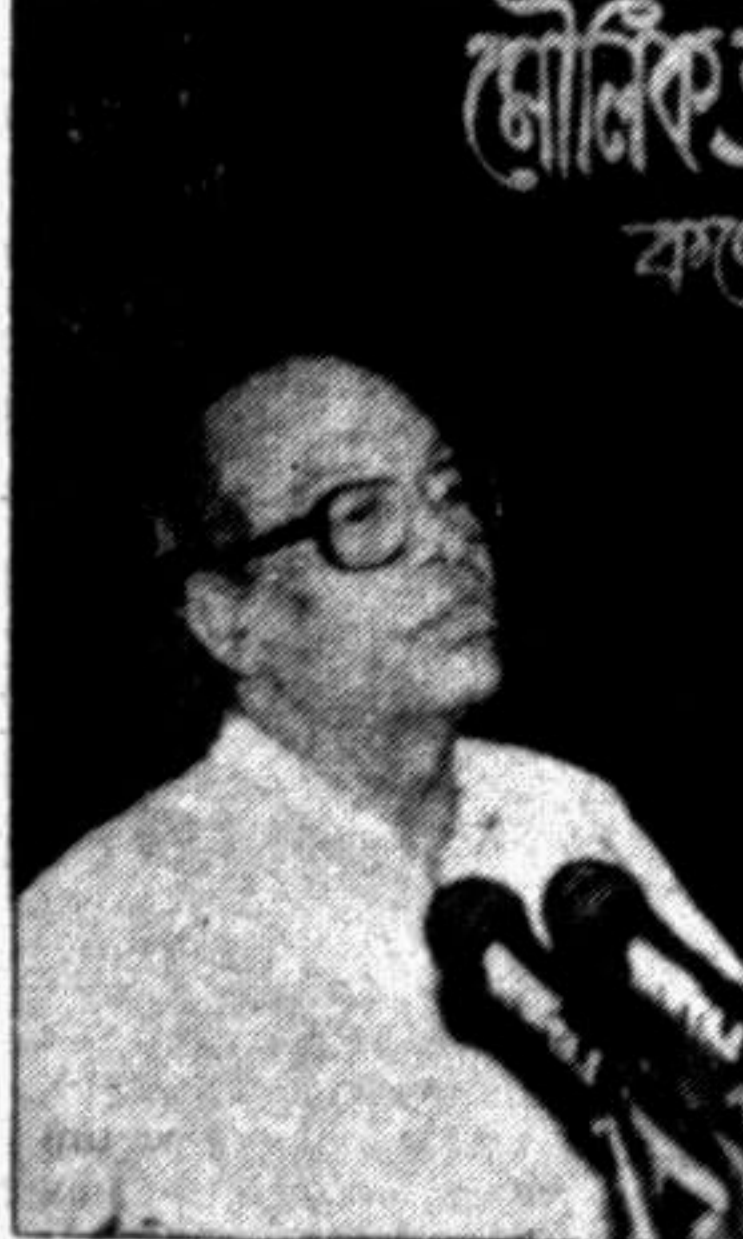
BDRCS despatches relief to flood affected areas

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) Sunday despatched a huge quantity of relief materials to seven different districts affected by the current floods, reports BSS.

The districts to be covered by these materials included Tangail, Mymensingh, Netrakona, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Manikganj and Serajganj. The local units of the society in these districts have already been in relief operation with materials available at their disposal to alleviate the suffering of the people.

The relief goods included biscuits, flour, rice, beans, dal (pulse), sugar and plastic roll. The society in a press release said more relief materials would be sent to the affected districts after assessment of the needs of the people.

Dr Ahmed Sharif speaking at a discussion on 'fundamental rights and trial under martial law' organised by Col (ret'd) Taher Sangsad on Saturday. —Star photo



Dr M A Mannan, Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission speaking to the Nepali trainees at a certificate distribution ceremony on Saturday.

72 Bangladeshi women in Indian, Pakistani jails

Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mostafizur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday that some Bangladeshi women were in different jails in India and Pakistan on the basis of the information available here, reports BSS.

Giving a written reply to a question from Sheikh Harunur Rashid Mian (AL-Khulna) the Minister said 23 women were under custody in the "Lilua Home" in Howrah District, India. He said arrangements were being made to bring them back home after determining their citizenship status on receipt of their names and addresses.

He said according to the information given by the Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad, 41 women in Karachi Central Jail and eight in Quetta Central Jail were under detention. He said steps were being taken to repatriate them after scrutinising their citizenship status.

The Foreign Minister said arrangements were being made to bring the better-off on their own expenses and the poor at the government cost after completing formalities.

Sajeda condemns attack on AL leader

By Staff Correspondent. The General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Begum Sajeda Chowdhury in a statement on Sunday condemned the attack on Md Harun Bashir, General Secretary of Bhuzpur Union Awami League, by the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir.

She said the Shibir activists shot Md Harun in his leg and also injured his family members. The victim came to attend the Qulqhwani of his father. He was staying in his father-in-law's house.

She said the Shibir activists are creating a reign of terror in the area under Fatikchhari of Chittagong.

BAEC ready to train foreign personnel

Dr M A Mannan, Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) distributed certificates to two technicians from Nepal who attended a three months training course in electronics in the morning in a simple ceremony held in the BAEC premises, says a Press release.

British aid for UCEP

The British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Sunday presented the Under Privileged Children Education Project (UCEP) with a computer and a printer, reports UNB.

Acting British High Commissioner George Finlayson handed over the educational apparatus to the UCEP, which imparts training for 600 students, including 171 girls, in various trades.

The computer will be used in the central stores of the NGO to maintain records of store items, said a British High Commission press release.

The Acting High Commissioner also presented a cheque to Eskender Welfare Foundation to purchase a motorcycle and jeep for its project in Pirojpur.

The Foundation will use the jeep as an ambulance to carry emergency patients to hospitals in Barisal and Khulna and assist the midwife and health education visitor in the remote areas.

The motorcycle will be used to facilitate transport between isolated villages for community development activities of the Foundation, the press release said.

T & T workers urged to improve services

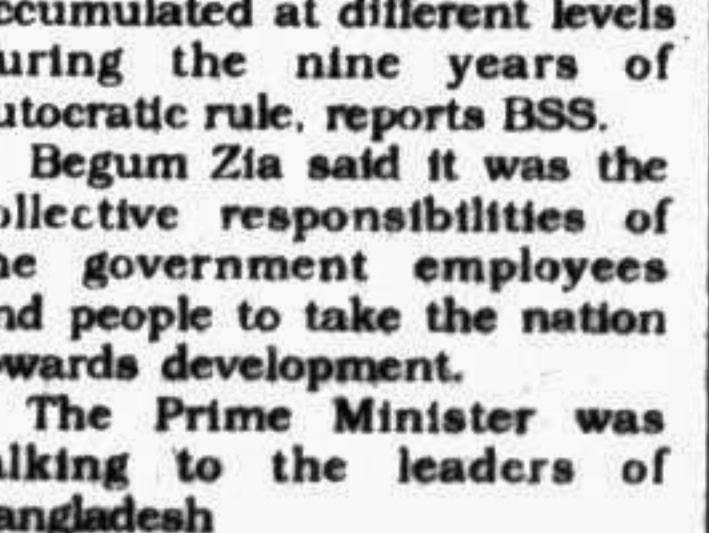
Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka Sunday that the present democratic government was aware of the problems of the government employees accumulated at different levels during the nine years of autocratic rule, reports BSS.

Begum Zia said it was the collective responsibilities of the government employees and people to take the nation towards development.

The Prime Minister was talking to the leaders of Bangladesh Telecommunication Workers and Employees Parishad who called on her at her secretariat office.

Donation to PM's Relief Fund

By Staff Correspondent. The students of Azizia Islamia High School in Dhaka donated Tk 3529 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The money was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner K M Nazrul Alam Siddiqui at a function held recently which was attended by school managing committee President and ADC Abdul Mazid Mia and Vice-President Akmal Ahmad.



Students of Azizia Islamia High School in Dhaka donating money to Prime Minister's Relief Fund.