

## Ershad nominates new set of lawyers

By Staff Correspondent

Deposed President HM Ershad, being tried for wealth amassing, yesterday nominated a new set of ten lawyers to defend him.

In his vokalatnama submitted to Special Judge Mohammad Ali Khan Ershad mentioned the names of Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Barrister Rabiya Bhuiyan and TIM Fazle Rabbi along with his Chief Counsel Advocate Sirajul Haque, who will be assisted by Barrister Kazi Shahadat Hossain, Yousuf Hossain Humayun, Mosharrif Hossain Kazzal, Sheikh Rezaul Karim, Barrister AR Mollah and Sudhir Kumar Hazra.

It is apparent from the list that two of his former lawyers Mafzur Rahman Mazumdar and Sharif Ahmed have been dropped.

Mafzur Rahman Mazumdar has been Ershad's income tax lawyer for the last three years.

The Special Judge Court which resumed yesterday at the Jail Warden Barracks near the Central Jail was adjourned after deposition of the Prosecution Witness till 10.30 am today.

Ershad had relieved all of his lawyers on July 27 when they refused to plead for him saying that they felt insecure after publication of reports in newspapers on unethical activities, like exchanging letters with the accused, by a section of the Defence Lawyers.

Advocate Sirajul Haque expressing the reason for his reluctance to conduct the case had said that in order to uphold the dignity of the lawyers and the profession he decided to withdraw from the case.

He said he felt insecure due to various reports in different newspapers.

Sirajul Haque was not present in the Court yesterday and he was not available to know what were the developments that provided him the sense of security to continue the case.

However none of the lawyers who attended the court yesterday including Sirajul Haque's junior could clarify why they had again conceded to Ershad's request to conduct his case.

Yesterday the case was conducted by Mosharrif Hossain Kazzal, Rezaul Karim, and Sudhir Kumar Hazra.

Judge Mohammad Ali Khan accepted Ershad's vokalatnama and allowed continuation of the prosecution.

Despite repeated appeals by

the Defence Lawyers to adjourn the Court as there was no senior lawyer present, the Court allowed the deposition of witness Major Saiful Islam, a member of the Inventory Committee, who had not completed his testimony at the earlier hearing.

Deposing in the Court Major Saiful Islam said that the Inventory Committee listed 933 items found in the Sena Bhavan as the personal belongings of Ershad.

He said that the value of the recovered goods was calculated at Taka 65,35,435.

He said that he was personally present when the Inventory Committee was making the list of the items and calculating the value of the articles. He said that the representative of Ershad Mostafizur Rahman identified the items found in the Sena Bhavan.

In the Court Ershad looked relaxed and was smiling.

During a brief recess in the court proceedings yesterday Ershad told reporters that he did not take any sleeping pills as reported in a section of newspapers.

He said that he generally does exercise for half an hour in the evenings which helps him sleep at night.

The Prosecution side was headed by the Attorney General Aminul Haque, Deputy Attorney Generals Hasan Arif, Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak and Fariduddin Ahmed.

Meanwhile Barrister Moudud Ahmed, when contacted, said that he had not been informed that he was named as one of the lawyers to conduct the case.

However, he said that if Ershad chose him as a lawyer to conduct his case he would obviously appear in the court.

### Mizan Chowdhury's release ordered

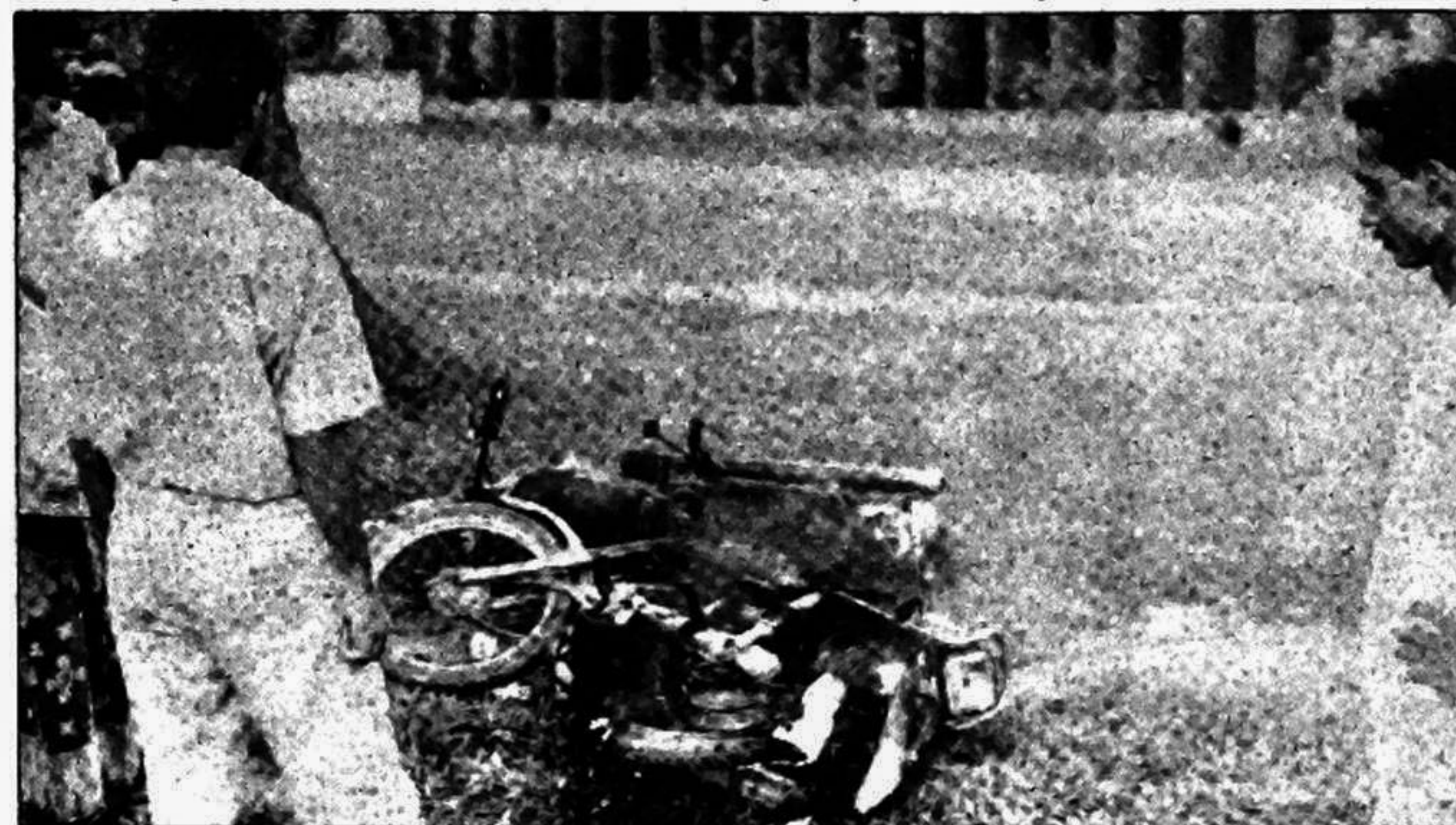
Meanwhile the High Court Division of the Supreme Court comprised of Justice Sadeque and Justice Haasib has ordered the release of Jatiya Party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury on bail.

### BKSAL

From Page 1 Col. 8  
The followers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to work unitedly under the banner of Awami League and complete unfinished task of the father of the nation.



Law enforcing personnel with their guns maintaining a safe distance; above and bottom: A motor cycle set ablaze on the Dhaka University campus Thursday. —Star Photo



## Dhaka University closed

From Page 1 Col. 4

The five injured students are Sohel, Tofael and Manju of the JCD and Nihar and Apu of the BCL. Jahangir Alam a passer-by was also injured.

Large number of police deployed at various points on the campus retreated to safe positions and remained totally inactive during the vicious gunbattles.

BCL activists launched repeated attacks on the strongholds of the JCD.

A series of chases and counter-chases took place at the Curzon Hall, Arts Building and the Administrative Building areas.

The most severe gunbattle took place in the field beside Mohsin Hall and the adjoining areas of the Arts Building.

The gunbattles began at 1 pm and continued up to 4 pm. During this time a large number of students of the Dhaka University, University Laboratory School and Udayan School were stranded in the Arts Building and their respective schools.

Later, police requested the warning students to hold their fire so that the little boys and girls stranded in their schools could return home.

Classes at these schools had ended at 2 pm but the children were compelled to stay in the schools for two more hours without food.

Meanwhile, BCL activists damaged a member of vehicles in the Elephant Road and New Market areas Tuesday night protesting the closure of the University.

Detective police arrested Chhatra League (S-A) leader Syedul Islam Khan Paul from Elephant Road Tuesday night, BCL sources said.

Chhatra League, Dhaka College unit, brought out a procession protesting the arrest of Paul, who was president of the college BCL and set ablaze two cars and damaged a dozen others in the Elephant Road area.

Police blocked the Elephant Road from Shahbagh and Mirpur Road from New Market after the incident, witnesses said.

Student unrest all over the country has caused grave concern among the people. The government is seemingly helpless in tackling the situation.

In all about 62 educational institutions including three universities and two medical colleges are now closed following clashes between rival groups of students.

The cause of the clashes are attributed to the political desires of certain student groups to establish their supremacy on the campuses and in the educational institutions.

The terrorism in the edu-

cational institutions is posing a great threat to a budding democracy.

The unprecedented unity and sobriety in parliament among the politicians raised the hope that the consensus would influence the situation outside Parliament. But Tuesday's incident belied that hope.

### JCD, BCL (S-A)

From Page 1 Col. 4

"unquestionable" during the incident.

JCD leader and DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Khokan, AGS Nazimuddin Alam and other leaders were present at the conference.

The BCL (S-A) at a press conference at its central office alleged that JCD activists fired on their peaceful procession on the campus with cover-up support from the law enforcing personnel.

They said that Sajal, Masud and Jewel were not Dr Milon's killers and the cases against them was a conspiracy.

BCL President Shah Alam, General Secretary Oshim Kumar Ukil and other leaders were present at the press conference.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Islami Chhatra Shibir in separate statements also condemned Tuesday's clash between JCD and BCL (S-A).

## PM assures growth of business

From Page 1 Col. 4

The representatives of trade and industry noted at the meeting that confidence of genuine businesses and enterprises was shattered by what they termed the ill-conceived and misdirected actions. They made it pointedly clear that the steps taken by the government, for whatever reasons, did not fit into its stated policy objectives and goals. Any move to malign the private sector on "unsubstantiated grounds" and "wrong premises" will only widen the gap between the government and the business community, and this will create only hurdles on the way of the implementing the announced policy objectives of the government for the growth of a vibrant and competitive private sector, they said.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Commerce Minister MK Anwar and Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan were present at the meeting.

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Al-Haj Md Akram Hossain, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Mahbubur Rahman, President, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Syed Manzur Elahi, and Acting President, Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCI) Rashidul Hasan represented the country's leading trade promotion organisations at the meeting. Also present were Latifur Rahman, President, Bangladesh Employers Association, Zahiruddin Khan, former FBCCI President, AS Mahmud, former DCCI President, Shamson Chowdhury, Vice-President, MCCI, Mosharrif Hossain, President, Bangladesh Garments Exporters Association, Salman

Rahman, former president MCCI, Mashur Rahman, Director, Uttara Bank Limited, Abdul Rob Chowdhury, Korshed Ali Mollah, Ismail Hossain Miah, MCA Kashiem, AY Md Kamal of DCCI, Akbar Ali MP, Former Vice-Chairman of Dhaka Stock Exchange, TIM Mannan MP, President, Sirajganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sohel Rahman of Beximco group, noted industrialists Zahirul Islam and Barrister Tamijul Haque, and Saiful Islam Kamal.

The discussions at the meeting centred on issues relating to Banking Company Act, loan defaulters list, outstanding loan liabilities of some private sector banks, VAT, BCCI, law and order, industrial policy, and foreign trade operations.

Both the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister told the meeting that the government would review, if necessary, the Bank Companies Act. The defaulters list will be scrutinised on a case by case basis, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister announced that a committee with representatives of the private sector included in it would be set up to monitor and review the operational aspects of VAT.

The Prime Minister told the representatives of trade and industry that the Government would continue discussions with them from time to time for effective corrective moves in the wider interests of all. She assured them that the problems and complaints of the private sector would receive all consideration of the government.

Earlier, the FBCCI Chief in his opening statement at the meeting observed that a congenial environment was still absent in the country for encouragement of investments in the private sector. The attempts by some vested interests to malign the private sec-

tor as a whole in a well-planned manner have further compounded the problems, he said. He pleaded for effective steps to solve the real problems of trade and industry.

DCCI President Mahbubur Rahman gave a detailed picture of the state of the situation in the private sector. He highlighted the incongruities of some recent steps by the governments in the banking sector and termed the same as inconsistent with its stated policy objectives and goals. He stressed the need for restoring bank-client relationships.

Instead of maligning the private sector as a whole, the government, he said, should take effective steps against willful and delinquent borrowers from the banks. The DCCI President also mentioned about the "illogical" provisions under the Banking Companies Act and demanded appropriate corrective steps to remove the same.

Acting President of BCI Rashidul Hasan said that the government should take firm measures to improve the law and order situation to allow uninterrupted economic activities.

President of Bangladesh Garments Exporters Association drew the attention of the Prime Minister to the plight of the BCCI clients and the adverse impact on the exports sector because of suspension of BCCI operations.

Zahiruddin Ahmed, former President of FBCCI, noted that the secrecy of operations between the banks and the clients must not be allowed to be undermined.

### DMCCSU

From Page 1 Col. 8

closed for three days starting today and has asked the students to vacate the residential halls.

The step was taken in anticipation of probable post election violence, sources said.

## GUFF renovation: Moudud, Mosharrif chargesheeted

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption has chargesheeted former Vice-President Moudud Ahmad and former BCIC Chairman and Industries Secretary AKM Mosharrif Hossain for causing financial loss to the government by Taka 588.30 crore besides misusing Taka 349.15 crore, reports BSS.

According to an official handout Tuesday, Moudud Ahmad, in collusion with Mosharrif Hossain, implemented the renovation project of Ghorashal Urea Fertilizer Factory (GUFF) without the approval of the ECNEC and also without the correct information on the project profile.

### Summit

From Page 1 Col. 5

Cold War."

The summit provided the setting for the signing of a series of agreements by Baker, Besmertnykh and other US and Soviet officials.

## Shahabuddin's return debated

From Page 1 Col. 7

were unanimous that Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed would be remembered for helping steer the country towards democracy by holding free and fair elections to the Parliament.

The members, however, differed as to whether or not Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed should go back to the Supreme Court bench. Some members said he should be requested to continue in the post of President under the amended constitution.

Some other MPs said Justice Shahabuddin should retire as a former Acting President. One independent member suggested that the Acting President should, after his retirement from the post, be made ombudsman, as provided in the constitution, with the rank and status of Prime Minister.

On constitutional issues MPs belonging Awami League and BASAL called for passage of the Indemnity Bill initiated by Mohammad Nasim to facilitate the trial of killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four other national leaders, and revival of the principle of secularism in the Constitution. They also called for passing the constitution amendment bill introduced by AL member Salahuddin Yusuf for separation of the judiciary from the executive.

Jatiya Party members while paying respects to the Acting President for holding a free and fair election, strongly opposed the idea of his resuming duties and responsibilities as the Chief Justice. The neutrality of the judiciary would be affected if Justice Shahabuddin sat in the bench hearing writ petitions against actions taken during his tenure as Acting President.

BAKSAL member Abdur Razzak made a plea for reviving Article 12 of the Constitution that prohibited the use of religion for political purposes. This Article was omitted through the Fifth Amendment in 1979 paving the way for opening of religion based parties like Jamaat, Muslim League, Nezam-Islam Party, Khelafat Andolan among others. None of the Constitution Amendment Bills introduced so far stand for revival of this Article.

Prof Abdul Mannan of AL said Justice Shahabuddin should go down in history as a rare personality, and the past examples of posting presidents to lesser posts should be avoided.

Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed (Independent) said that the 11th Amendment Bill truly reflected the hopes and aspirations of the people. The Acting President has through his honesty of purpose re-

stored the confidence of people in politics and the rule of law. He did not hesitate to retire two services chiefs for neglect of duty.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury urged all to rise above narrow party interests and help the establishment of a stable system for future generations. She called upon all MPs to unambiguously block the path of capture of power through coups and conspiracies. To ensure this, all black laws including the Indemnity Ordinance of 1975 should be repealed, independence of the judiciary, and freedom of the mass media established. She was of the view that holding of referendum was unnecessary and costly. Sajeda Chowdhury called for reviving secularism as a basic state principle.

Abdur Razzak of BKSAL thanked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for introducing Constitution Amendment Bills to fulfil a commitment made to the nation; and welcomed the leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina for her relentless efforts for restoration of parliamentary democracy. Razzak called for further democratisation of the constitution by repealing the indemnity Ordinance, and for revival of Article 12 of the Constitution to stop the use of religion for political ends.

Advocate Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party called for dropping the words 'illegal' and 'undemocratic' used to qualify the government of Ershad which handed over power to Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. Otherwise he said the appointment of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as Vice-President and all his actions as Acting President would also become 'illegal'.

BNP MP and former Minister Col (ret'd) Akbar taking part in the discussion on Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution said that the bill was unanimously accepted by the Select Committee and that should be passed without any hesitation.

Col Akbar who was the lone crusader within the BNP for transition to parliamentary form of government said that the protective Article of 142(1) of the Constitution providing referendum for any fundamental change should be retained so that there could not be any parliamentary coup like 1975, when one party BKSAL rule was imposed on the nation keeping the people in the darkness.

CPB leader Mohammad Shamsuddoha said that the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution was accepted in the Select Committee unanimously and there should not be any bar to pass the bill which was a commitment of

## The Midnight File

### Croatian President boycotts meeting

BELGRADE, July 30: Croatian President Franjo Tudjman refused Tuesday to attend a meeting of Yugoslavia's top leaders called to discuss a ceasefire in his strife-torn republic. The meeting of the collective presidency and the presidents of Yugoslavia's quarrelling republics started without Tudjman present later Tuesday in Belgrade, the nation's capital, reports AP.

### Qayyum sworn in as Pak Kashmir PM

ISLAMABAD, July 30: Former guerrilla leader Sardar Abdul Qayyum took power in Pakistan ruled Kashmir on Monday after controversial elections which his opponents say were rigged. Qayyum, 67, took the oath as Prime Minister of the territory called Azad (free) Kashmir in the state capital of Muzaffarabad. The official APP news agency quoted Qayyum as saying in a speech to the legislative assembly that India should immediately stop its "undeclared war against Pakistan and Kashmiris," reports Reuter.

### S. Africa to cut covert operations

JOHANNESBURG, July 30: Major cuts in covert operations were expected Tuesday after President F.W. de Klerk removed his top two security chiefs in an effort to revive talks on ending white-minority rule. Government officials said he would announce changes in secret funding of black political groups and reduce covert political activities to try and restore the administration's credibility, reports AP.

## Shahabuddin's return debated

storing the confidence of people in politics and the rule of law. He did not hesitate to retire two services chiefs for neglect of duty.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury urged all to rise above narrow party interests and help the establishment of a stable system for future generations. She called upon all MPs to unambiguously block the path of capture of power through coups and conspiracies. To ensure this, all black laws including the Indemnity Ordinance of 1975 should be repealed, independence of the judiciary, and freedom of the mass media established. She was of the view that holding of referendum was unnecessary and costly. Sajeda Chowdhury called for reviving secularism as a basic state principle.

Abdur Razzak of BKSAL thanked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for introducing Constitution Amendment Bills to fulfil a commitment made to the nation; and welcomed the leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina for her relentless efforts for restoration of parliamentary democracy. Razzak called for further democratisation of the constitution by repealing the indemnity Ordinance, and for revival of Article 12 of the Constitution to stop the use of religion for political ends.

Advocate Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party called for dropping the words 'illegal' and 'undemocratic' used to qualify the government of Ershad which handed over power to Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. Otherwise he said the appointment of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as Vice-President and all his actions as Acting President would also become 'illegal'.

BNP MP and former Minister Col (ret'd) Akbar taking part in the discussion on Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution said that the bill was unanimously accepted by the Select Committee and that should be passed without any hesitation.

Col Akbar who was the lone crusader within the BNP for transition to parliamentary form of government said that the protective Article of 142(1) of the Constitution providing referendum for any fundamental change should be retained so that there could not be any parliamentary coup like 1975, when one party BKSAL rule was imposed on the nation keeping the people in the darkness.

CPB leader Mohammad Shamsuddoha said that the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution was accepted in the Select Committee unanimously and there should not be any bar to pass the bill which was a commitment of

### Two bills

From Page 1 Col. 7

Sheikh Razzak Ali, who was in the chair told the House that the understanding would be honoured and ways would be worked out to pass both the bills simultaneously. Samad Azad told the House that the whole nation was eagerly waiting for the moment when the House would pass the bill reverting to parliamentary form of government.

During the discussion Awami League MPs mentioned about the Indemnity Bill and said the bill should be passed by the House. The Treasury Bench members said the Indemnity Bill and other bills could be moved later and the House should pass the two bills without further delay.

## The Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage

48, Azimpur Road, Dhaka-1205

Phone : Administrator - 501513, Superintendent - 501085.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has lifted the suspension order on the Executive Committee of The Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage. The suit filed by the Executive Committee has also been lifted.

At present The Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage is run by the president of its Executive Committee Nawab Begum Samsunnahar Ahsan Ullah and Honorary Secretary Janab Al-haj G A Khan. Under the circumstance, honorable donors, well-wishers and all concerned are requested to extend their valued donations and cooperations to the orphanage.

Al-haj G A Khan

Honorary Secretary  
Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage  
48, Azimpur Road, Dhaka-1205.

Nawab Begum Samsunnahar Ahsan Ullah (M P)

President  
Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage  
48, Azimpur Road, Dhaka -1205.

D - 73

Editor : S. M. Ali