25-yr accord prevents Bangladesh from solving problem with India'

The following is the remaining part of Tuesday's JS proceedings

He said time has come whether we would take the policy of appeasement or confrontation with our neighbour. He also demanded of the government to check intrusion of alien culture and literature with immediate effect.

The NDP leader said there was no communal tension in Malaysia where Muslims constitute 55 per cent and non-Muslims 45 per cent. In Bangladesh too there was no communal tension excepting that of one during the closing days of the ousted President Ershad's rule.

Arawding the attention of the Education Minister and Deputy Leader of the House, Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, the NDP leader urged him to take step to stop import of books of alien culture and called off all high educational programmes with neighbouring India.

Salauddin Yusuf

Speaking next on the adlournment motion, Mr. Salauddin Yusuf(AL-Khulna) said he had given the ad journment motion on a specific issue but deplored that irrelevant subjects were being brought into discussions on this motion.

He said it was the responsibility of the government to protect the lives of Bangladesh nationals but the government had failed to live upto the expectations.

The opposition member said it was a matter of concern that the Indian border guards were indulging in certain activities for some time past and also wondered why weapons like the mortars were used by the Indian force in these incident.

Mr. Yusuf, while condemning the Indian intrusion into the Bangladesh territory and killing of the Bangladesh nationals, criticised the government for its failure to come out with adequate reaction on the incidents.

'Mere expression of anxiety is not enough' the Awami League member said, adding the Prime Minister did not visit the site of occurrence.

Mr Yusuf accused the gov ernment of following a 'weakkneed' foreign policy and expressed doubts if the interest of the nation could be well preserved by the 'spineless' government.

Several members of the Treasury Bench burst into laughter as the Awami League member was accusing the BNP government of following a 'weak-kneed' policy as regards to India.

Mr. Yusuf said the Awami League government had extracted 44,000 cusecs of the Ganges waters from India but later it was settled for 34,000 by the subsequent govern-

The opposition member condemned the Indian actions along Bangladesh border and demanded unconditional apology from New Delhi for these incidents. He also demanded compensations for the victims and the injured.

The opposition member suggested that these problems should be taken up at the summit level with India by Bangladesh.

Akbar Hossain

The chair then requested Mr. Akbar Hossain (BNP Comilla) to take part in the discussions.

Mr. Hossain thanked Awami League member Mr. Yusuf for expressing concern at Bangladesh's sovereignty by Indian action.

But he referred to a clause in the 25-year Indo-Bangladesh Friendship Treaty and said that particular clause prevented Bangladesh from solving any problem with India other than talks with India. This is a policy of appeasement because you cannot take your case to anyone other than India" the Treasury Bench member said.

At this stage many Awami League members protested his observations and their orchestrated shouting made the proceedings of the House inaudible. The noise gradually led to a pandemonium in the House and several members were in no mood to relent but to stand on their feet.



Suranjit

Mr. Suranjit Sengupta (Conotranti Party-Sunamgant) was seen trying to speak something but the chair repeatedly asked him to take his seat. 'You always try to take chance unnecessarily" Deputy Speaker observed. The situa-



Sheikh Hasina

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, taking the floor, said adjournament motion had always been a privilege for the opposition and only opposition members were supposed to speak on this.

The chair disagreed with her and said Rules of Procedure contained nothing like this and Treasury Bench members could also take part in the discussions.

Sheikh Hasina also said that discussions on the motion must remain confined to the subject involved in the motion.

The Deputy Speaker said he would request the members to talk on issues relevant to the subject involved but in no way Treasury Bench members could be barred from taking part in adjournment motion.

Intervening, the Deputy Leader of the House, Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury, said all have the right to speak on the issue. Members belonging to both the Treasury Bench and Opposition side should be allowed to speak with reference to relevant issues, he added.

Mr. Suranjit Sengupta said it was the privilege of the opposition to speak on an adjournment motion. There is no scope for distributive justice in this matter, he added.

But the Deputy Speaker disagreed with the contention of Mr. Sengupta saying that there was no substance in his argu-



Moudud Ahmed

Jatiya Party leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed said he did not differ with the Deputy Speaker. He, however, pointed out that adjournment motion is the privilege of the opposition according to convention.

The Deputy Speaker said discussion on an adjournment motion could not be prototype. Its nature might vary. At the same time he said that two thirds of the speakers on an adjournment motion would be from the opposition side.

Resuming his speech Mr. Akbar Hossain said there are three ways to resolve a dispute with a neighbouring country. These are war, discussion and raising the issue at an international forum. But under the 25year Treaty signed between India and Bangladesh any dispute between the two countries could not be brought to any outside forum without consultations with India, he said.

Mr. Akbar Hossain said for a small country like Bangladesh it was not possible to embark on a war with a big country like India. India could conquer us but it could not destroy us, he stressed.

He said we could face a big country like India if we were united and if there were no Fifth Columnists.

Mr. Akbar Hossain said Bangladesh wanted to establish good neighbourly relations India on the basis sovereign equality.

Sakwat Hossain

Moulana Md. Sakwat Hossain (Jamaat-Jessore) said since the birth of Bangladesh in 1971 India had launched attack on our small country 279

Maulana Sakwat Hossain expressed his concern at the frequent attacks of Shanti Bahini on the army personnel appropriate time. and people at Chittagong Hill

Tructs. He regretted that problems of Angorpota, Dahagram and Talpatty had not vet been solved.

Nurul Islam Moni

Mr. Nurul Islam (Ind-Barguna) said the Leader of the House should have been present in the House when the Sangsad was discussing important national issues. If the government really thought that the national sovereignty and

indpendence was at stake, the Sangsad should discuss the issue exclusively by suspending all other businesses of the day. He suggested that the House should discuss the issues. threatening the national sovereignty Wednesday by suspending all other programmes.

Mr. Rashed Khan Menon (Workers-Party-Barisal) regretted that more often the external issue was utilised to meet

internal situation of the country. In this connection he pointed out that during the Pakistan period border incidents were used to be played up prominently to suppress the movement for democracy. At a time when the people of our country were looking for the establishment of parlia mentray democracy, the border incidents were taking place one after another, he

over the move to push the country toward communal divide. During the Ershad's regime attempt was made for a communal divide. This trend is manifest even after the successful mass upsurge, he

He expressed his concern

The Workers Party leader said certain quarters were making taunting remarks about culture and seasonal festivals

its sitting at 3-07 p.m. Wednesday with the Deputy Speaker, Sheikh Razzak Ali, in cepted.

the chair, reports BSS. The day's programme began following Tilwat-e-Quran.

The Jatiya Sangsad resumed



Rashed Khan Menon

After the question hour Mr. Rashed Khan Menon (WP-Barisal) took the floor and said he had submitted a notice on a bill in Bengali to the Sangsad Secretariat on April 4 but after a long gap he received a letter in which he was asked to submit an english version of the He said it was clear that all

proceedings of the House should be in Bengali and there was no need to submit the English version of the bill.

The Deputy Speaker told the member that the constitution itself had been written both in Bengali and English.

He referred to Article 153 of the constitution where it was mentioned that there should be an English version of the constitution.



Zamiruddin Sircar

Supporting the chair State Minister for Land Zamiruddin Sircar said it was mandatory to submit an English version of the Bill

Mr. Salauddin Quader Chowdhury (NDP-Chittagong) also supported the contention of Mr. Sircar but urged the chair to use his discretion in bringing the Bill in the House without submission of an English version.

Asaduzzaman

Speaking next Mr. Asaduzzaman (AL-Magura) said that he had submitted a notice on a Bill in Bengali giving a 15day notice as required under rules of procedure but after 20 days of submission he had been asked to submit an English version of the bill. He wanted to know as to which side was

The chair told the member that there was no provision under law that one should be reminded.

Mr. Nurul Islam Moni(IND-Barguna) drew the attention of the chair to the delay caused in issuing letter by the office but the chair dismissed his contention.

At this stage Mr. Moudud Ahmed (JP-Noakhali) took the floor and explained the constitutional provision in this regard. He said the member must bring the bill in Bengali.

Mr. Suranjit Sen Gupta (GP-Sunamganj) and Mr. Shudhangsu Shekhar Halder (AL Pirojpur) also spoken the issue following which the Deputy Speaker said he would review the matter and consult the constitutional provision as well as precedence before considering the issue.

Going back to the order of the day, the Deputy Speaker disposed of six notices on privileges of the members and rejected five of them. One notice was sent to the relevant committee.

He said 11 notices on adjournment motion were received on Wednesday. He would give his decision at an

The Deputy Speaker said he had received 25 call attention notices of which one was ac-

Mahbubul Alam

In a call attention motion the Whip Mr. Mahbubul Alam. said that Railway tickets were available in black market despite the announcement that all tickets had been sold out in the Dhaka Railway Station for Chittagong, Feni and Noakhali bound trains on the eve of Eidul Fitr. As a result, he said, hundreds of passengers had to face difficulties.

Col (retd) Oli Ahmed

Replying to the motion Communications Minister Oli Ahmed said the BNP government led by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was determined to root out corruption. He reiterated the government determination to take stringent measures against corrupt persons.

As the House resumed its sitting after Asr prayer with the Speaker. Mr Abdur Rahman Biswas in the chair, LGRD and Cooperative Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder sought the permission of the chair for keeping the introduction of the City Corporation (Amendment) Bill 1991 in abeyance. The chair obliged the Minister.

Abdullah Al Noman

Then the State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock, Mr Abdullah Al Noman, sought the permission of the chair to introduce the Protection and Conservation of Fish

(Amendment) Bill, 1991. But

Awami League leader Mr Tofael

Ahmed, opposed its introduc-

tion saying that the nylon nets

which were also known as cur-

rent net, were being burnt

down by the authorities after

fishermen were suffering heavy

financial losses. He supported

the measures to protect fish

fry from being destroyed by

catching them through current

nets. Unless these measures

are taken fish wealth of the

country would be depleted, he

instead of penalising the poor

fishermen by burning down

their fishing nets steps should

be taken by the authorities to

stop the smuggling and sale of

If the smuggling and sale of

yarn for weaving current nets.

yarn used for making current

net were stopped effectively.

the poor fishermen would not

be able to purchase it, and as a

result their nets would not be

burnt, he said adding in this

way they would be saved from

Abdur Rouf

Nilphamari) also spoke briefly

objection was rejected by voice

vote the Bill in question was

Mujibur Rahman

gave permission to State

Minister for Finance, Mr.

Mujibur Rahman, to place the

Bank-Company Bill 1991 for

consideration of the House.

Mr. Rahman placed the Bill as

Finance Minister Mohammad

Saifur Rahman is away from

Tangail) requested the chair to

take up the Bill after seven

days so that the members of

the Sangsad could get suffi-

cient time to go through the

details of the Bill. He argued

that the Bill came to the House

only three days ago and as such

the members got little time to

Straj Mr. Salauddin Quader

Chowdhury (NDP-Chittagong)

said the Bill contained certain

significant aspects which were

directly contradictory to the

Abdus Salam Talukder

Abdus Salam Talukder opposed

the demand for deferment of

the consideration of the Bill

saying that some opposition

members already spoke on the

Bill while raising objection to

LORD Minister Barrister

Supporting Mr. Shahjahan

Mr. Shahjahan Siraj (JSD-

Thereafter, the Speaker

introduced in the House.

Mr Abdur Rouf (AL-

After Mr Tofael Ahmed's

incurring financial losses.

on the issue.

the country.

scrutinise it.

constitution.

He, however, suggested that

Consequently, the poor

seizing them from the fisher-

its introduction.

But Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed said he did not agree with the contention of the LGRD Minister. He said there were something in the Bill which were against the fundamental rights of the people. Moreover, since the Finance Minister is away from the country discussions on the Bill should be postponed for some days, he said adding we could discuss the issue even outside the Sangsad.

Mr. Tofael Ahmed requested the Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to accommodate the views of the oppo

sition members. The Leader of the House urged the Speaker to defer the consideration of the Bill until Saturday next.

Shamsul Islam

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan then proposed that the sugar (Road Development Cess Amendment) Bill, 1991 be considered by the House to amend the sugar (Road Development Cess) Ordinance

Several members gave notices to circulate the bill for eliciting public opinion or to send it to the select committee before it is considered by the House for adoption.

Mustafizur Rahman

Taking part in the discussions, Advocate Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman (AL-Dinajpur) said that the main objective of the bill appeared to be raising the road tax in

the sugar mills area from pre-

sent 12 paisa to 25 paisa. He

said sugar industry of the

country was in the doldrums

because of manifold problems

including smuggling of Indian

The opposition members

said raising the tax would not

solve the problems facing the

sugar industry, and he ques-

tioned the wisdom of raising

the land tax because this would

fall heavily on the farmers.

Only 60 lakh tonnes of sugar-

cane were now being produced

in the country but the re-

quirement was one crore and

duty before the government

was to increase the produc-

Principal Nazrul Islam

Nazrul Islam (AL-Bhola) said

the farmers formed the back

bone of the nation but little

was done for them over the

He said the farmers had al

ways been subjected to ex-

ploitation in different forms

and government actions should

always be aimed at lessening

the bill sought to increase the

ably hit the farmers and their

cultivation of sugarcane would

Principal Islam called for

giving second thought on the

bill and sending it for eliciting

Asaduzzaman

Magura) speaking on the bill.

said smuggled sugar had

flooded the country because of

the wrong policies on the

made by the BNP included in-

dustrialisation of the country

and expressed the hope that

the party in power now would

remember its election pledges.

one minister said the other

day that more than one crore

people were unemployed in

the country and added that in-

dustrialisation would help

solve the unemployment prob-

industry was in big problems

and the government should

make every efforts to give a

boost to this sector of industry

rather than taking steps that

would destabilize it. He called

for eliciting public opinion on

Mr Nurul Islam Mont (Ind-

Barguna) said the basis issue

before the House was whether

this Sangsad - the product of a

mass upsurge - would do

the bill.

Mr Asaduzzaman said sugar

The opposition member said

He said election promises

Advocate Asaduzzaman (AL-

road tax and this would invari-

The opposition member said

their sufferings.

be affected

public opinion.

sugar industry.

Speaking next, Principal

tion, Mr. Rahman said.

10 lakh tonnes. The bounden

sugar into the country.

Plea to table

Bill in Bangla

something for the welfare of farmers who constituted bulk of our people.

He referred to the bunglings that existed in the sugar industry and said unscrupulous people were given scopes to make their fortunes through sugar at the cost of country's sugar industry.

Mr Moni said how Beximco had made its wealth through sugar permits was a wellknown fact and the question before the nation today was whether to protect the Beximco or the farmers.

The independent member opined that both government and the opposition should work in concert for the welfare for the farmers who produce sugar cane.

Mr. Moni, referring to the proposed increase in the land tax in the sugar mills areas, asked if the government was not capable of meeting this increased tax rather than charging the farmers and producers for this.

Matia Chowdhury

Speaking on the bill, Begum Matia Chowdhury (AL-Jamalpur) said touts and middlemen involved in the sugar industry had always extracted the benefits at the cost of the sugarcane producers efforts must be made to get rid of this situation so that the farmers were benefitted, she said.

The opposition member said the prices of sugar were increased substantially but the authorities chose to bring it down only when indigenous sugar was not being sold in the market. "This was too late to save the sugar industry" she said adding that conspiracy was hatched to cripple the country's sugar industry.

Mrs Chowdhury proposed that the bill be sent for eliciting public opinion.

Shamsul Haq

As soon as the House resumed after the Magreb prayer, Mr Shamsul Haq (AL-Mymensingh) rose on a point of order and expressed his concern at the attack made on the car of the Speaker while on a tour of the diarrhoea affected areas of Bhola. Mr Haq wanted to know from the Speaker if he was hurt in the

attack. Biswas thanked the member apprehension relating to the incident.

stituency

He said if we could go there we would have been able to explain the matter to the people well. He, however, requested the chair to inform the local MPs before undertaking such visits in future.

A Treasury Bench member. however, said the news appearing in the Banglar Bani was not based on facts.

Rising on a point of order Mr Suranjit Sengupta (Ganatantri Party-Sylhet) said "If the Speaker undertakes any visit along with a party man he gets himself involved with the politics of that particular party which is not proper." He said the whole nation would respect the post of Speaker and added everybody would like to accompany him wherever he

The Deputy Leader of the House and Education Minister Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury Promptly took the floor and disagreed with the suggestion of Mr Sengupta. He said the Speaker had gone to his own area and as a matter of right he could visit his area.

Mr Mohiuddin Ahmed

(Baksai-Barisal) stood up to say that the incident with which the name of the Speaker had been involved could not be acceptable. Referring to the chair he

said the post of Speaker was Minister and that the post of also a symbol of unity and digbe dragged into any contro-

(Incomplete)

including Baishakh celebration. He said with political will and unity of the people we can

face any outside treat to our sovereignty. Mr. Surenjit Sengupta (Gonotantri Party-Sunamgonj) said the people of the country are concerned over the intrusion of Indian Border Security Force into our territory and its

attack on our BDR personnnel. The intrusion of BSF personnel at the border belt of Meherpur with most modern arms and their attack on BDR and people the other day have made all of us alarmed.

Criticising the silence of the government, he said although the BSF had launched its attack on our BDR a few days ago, Bangladesh Foreign Office took up the matter with the High Commissioner of India here only Monday.

He lashed out at some political parties which remained vocal against the 25-year Treaty between India and Bangladesh while they were in opposition but remained silent when in power.

Mr. Sengupta called for stopping smuggling. He also laid stress on making the country self-reliant economically so that it does not have to live on the mercy of others.

Latifur Rahman

Mr. Latifur Rahman

(Jamaat-Nawabgonj) said the Indian citizens were crossing into Bangladesh frequently under the cover of BSF. He described the attack of BSF on our BDR and people as a threat to our sovereignty and called for taking effective measures to resist them. We would have to evaluate our problems in the light of existing situation and find out solution to them objectively. No problem could be solved by dragging the past unnecessarily, he added.

He suggested stopping smuggling and illegal trade between the two countries effectively and increasing the number of BDR personnel at the border belt. The number of BDR personnel guarding the border is too small compared to the need, he said.

Asaduzzaman

spect of Talpatty and protect-

ing the border of Bangladesh

discussion on the 25-year

treaty, its loopholes and fre-

quent attack on our border

Fazle Rabbi

sion Dr T I M Fazle Rabbi

Chowdhury (JP-Gaibandha)

said the BSF had been engaged

in "provocative" activities along

He charged the BSF with

The JP member said if such

terrorism looting and killing of

Bangladesh in the border ar-

acts of the BSF were the re-

sults of the weak-kneed for-

eign policy of the past gov-

ernment, the new government

should assert itself to safe-

guard country's independence

Tofael Ahmed

League member from Bhola Mr

Tofael Ahmed called for a

united protest by all against

the incidents along the border.

Sheikh Mujib was coming back

home to the independent

Bangladesh on January 10,

1971 he had raised the issue

of the withdrawal Indian

troops with the then Indian

Prime Minister Mrs. Gandhi.

Mr. Tofael said the Indian

Prime Minister had told

Bangabandhu that the Indian

troops would be withdrawn as

Bangladesh Border Agreement

of 1974 where it was men-

tioned "we shall create a bor-

der of peace, understanding

said no protest was lodged

when people were killed at the

border in Chhagalniya the con-

He said those, who had lib-

The Awami League leader

and prosperity."

He referred to the Indo-

soon as he (Mujtb) wanted.

He said when Bangabandhu

Speaking next Awami

and sovereignty.

the border for a long time.

Participating in the discus-

He demanded a full-dress

from outside attack.

Mr. Asaduzzaman (AL-Magura), said the people of the country wanted to know what steps have been taken in re-

Speaker Abdur Rahman for his concern about him and said there was no basis for his

At this stage, Mr Tofael Ahmed (AL-Bhola) said there was a convention of informing the local MPs prior to the visit of the Prime Minister and the Speaker. But he regretted to say that he was not informed when the Prime Minister and the Speaker visited his con-

He said, "We will be happy if the newspaper reports are un-

Mohiuddin Ahmed

stituency which Prime above the post of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Speaker was decorative. He herself represents. said the post of Speaker was erated the country sacrificing nity, and hence he should not blood would certainly safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the country at the cost of their lives.

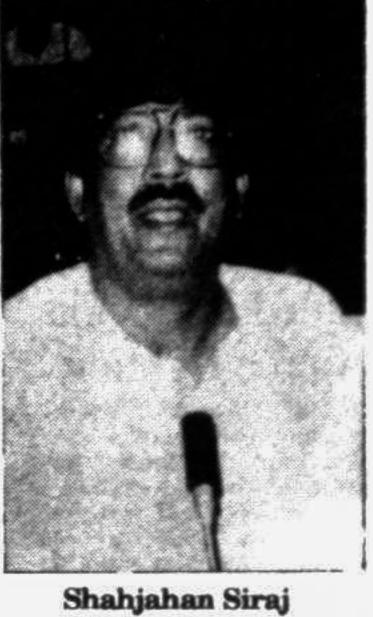
Mr. Tofael Ahmed said the nation had witnessed many events including the long march for Farakka water but the quantity of Bangladesh's share came down from the 44,000 cusecs which

Bangabandhu had brought. Mr Tofael Ahmed said the mover of the motion Mr Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury had read many books but he (Chowdhury) did not see that India had "ratified the border agreement through ninth (Constitutional) Amendment."

The Awami League member referred to a news item published recently in an English Daily "The Nation" from Pakistan where he said Bangladesh and Pakistan were described as one nation but two countries.

He wanted to know how such an article could be published in the supplement, sponsored by the Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad.

Mr. Tofael Ahmed said during the Pakistani regime the border and Farakka issue used to be raised for selfish political end of certain quarters to mislead the people.



Participating in the discussion Mr Shahjahan Straj (JSD-S-Tangail) accused India of behaving like "big brother" since the independence of Bangladesh.

He asked why India gave

Bangladesh 44,000 cusecs of water during Awami League regime and why it was not giving the same quantity during BNP rule? He, however, said that 20

years after independence it had been realised by all political parties that India was be-He wanted to know why all the political parties could not

unitedly protest the incidents

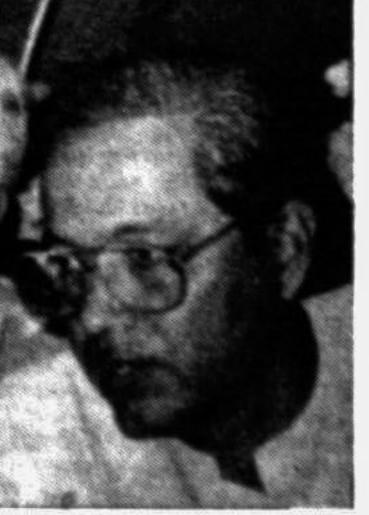
in Chittagong Hill Tracts where thousands of innocent people had been killed. As the JSD (S) member completed his speech Pandemonium prevailed in the House as the Deputy Speaker refused permission to any

other opposition members

who wanted to speak on the The chair told the House that the motion could not be discussed beyond two hours as per Rules of Procedure and invited the Leader of the Opposition to speak on the

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina requested the chair to allow Awami League General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury to speak before her but the Deputy Speaker, did not agree with her.

At this point many members from the opposition including the Jatiya Party. Jamaat-e-Islami, CPB and Baksal rose on their feet and demanded that they should be allowed to speak.



Badruddoza Chowdhury The Deputy Speaker stuck

to his decision but the Opposition and Treasury Bench members continued to shout creating a noisy scene in the House. At this stage the chair requested the Leader of the Opposition to speak but Shetkh Hastna said how she could deliver her speech in a noisy situation. Taking the floor Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury said the motion could not be discussed beyond two hours which, he said, was already over.

He also requested the chair to take action as per Rules of Procedure against the members creating noise.

The Deputy Speaker then said the motion had already been talked out as the discussion crossed two hour time

He adjourned the House at 9-50 pm till 3 pm Wednesday.