

Industries Ministry refuses to furnish answers to queries

The Jatiya Sangsad resumed its sitting Tuesday at 4-12 pm with the Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas, in the chair, reports BSS.

The day's proceedings began with recitation from the Holy Quran.

The absence of questions and answers in the order of the day prompted a number of members, mostly from the opposition, to rise up and ask the chair the reason. The chair allowed Awami League MP Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim to speak on point of order. Selim wanted to know why the question and answer hour, a privilege of the members, had been dropped today.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas said as per Article 41 of the Rules of Procedure, the chair could bring that change. Besides, today's questions which were related to the Industries Ministry, could not be discussed as the ministry expressed its inability to furnish answers and the minister concerned was absent from the House.

Selim requested the chair to see that such changes did not take place in future. BNP member Abdul Matin rising on point of order further requested the speaker to ensure that the question on the Industries Ministry be answered during the current session of Parliament.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas told the House that the Industries Minister would give reply on July 18.

Awami League Member Assaduzzaman did not agree with the contention of the chair saying no where in the rules of procedure, it is a said that the question and answers could not be raised during the absence of the concerned minister.

and the vacant front row demonstrated the level of ruling party's interest in the proceedings of the House. He requested the chair to allow members to make their points.

Hafizuddin Ahmed
Independent member Major (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed wanted to know the fate of his adjourned motion on an urgent matter of public importance. He said he had served the notice knowing fully that during the general discussion on budget such things were not allowed. Maj. Hafiz said since the butchering of three persons in board day-light in the capital deserved urgent discussion in the House, he demanded a ruling from the Speaker. As he said, all members were suffering from insecurity.

The Speaker said since there was no scope for an adjourned motion during the general discussion on the budget he, as per rules could not allow it. He however, hoped that the members would be able to raise the issue when they discuss the budget.

opinion of the House for introduction of a bill making provision for a referendum to determine whether the President would give his assent if a bill was adopted in the House according to Article 142(1) of the Constitution after amendment of the preamble or Articles 8, 48, 56, 58, 80, 92A or 142 of the Constitution.

As Prof Chowdhury was absent, the Awami League members raised an uproar and number of them wanted to speak at a time.

Nazmul Huda
State Minister for Food, Barrister Nazmul Huda said that Prof Chowdhury accompanied the Prime Minister who was inaugurating an important bridge in the northern part of the country.

ASM Feroze
Taking the floor ASM Feroze (AL-Patuaakhal), said only four state ministers were present and even the Chief Whip was not present in the House. He said this was an insult to the House and undermining its privilege.

Rahmat Ali (AL-Gazipur) questioned, as all the ministers were absent who would listen to the budget speeches and how could the inauguration of a bridge be so important that every minister had to go there.

Mujibur Rahman
The Speaker then gave the floor to State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman who said the Finance Minister was out of the country on an urgent matter of the state and he was representing the minister. He regretted that the members of the opposition were not recognising his presence.

The Education Minister who is in-charge of the Election Commission Secretariat in the Sangsad entered the chamber at 5-05 pm and sought opinion of the House in introducing the bill.

Salahuddin Yusuf
Opposing the bill, Salahuddin Yusuf (AL-Khulna) traced the background of referendum and said this was not in existence in the 1972

constitution. He said this was introduced after the 1975 takeover of the government, by amending the constitution.

The Speaker said this background had no relevance to the topic under discussion.

Opposing the remarks of Yusuf, State Minister for Food Najmul Huda demanded expurgation of these remarks from the proceedings.

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Speaking on point of order Shahjahan Siraj (JSD-Tangail) said the speaker earlier gave a ruling that not more than one person could speak opposing the introduction of a bill.

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Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder (AL-Pirojpur) pointed out that if the constitution was amended then the articles mentioned in the bill would not be there and there was no need for such a bill.

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Opposing the bill, Suranjit Sengupta (Ganatantrik Party - Sunamganj) said let the Constitution Select Committee decide it.

Prof B. Chowdhury
Deputy Leader of the House, Prof. Chowdhury said it was enough for one to speak on introduction of the bill. He said there was nothing wrong in introducing the bill as there was no law in existence for holding a referendum.

Deputy leader of the opposition Abdus Samaz Azad wanted to speak, but the Speaker said there was no scope for him after the speech of the Deputy Leader of the House on this matter.

The House then rejected the objections against the introduction of the bill by voice vote.

The opposition members except the Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami MPs walked out in protest.

Prof. Chowdhury then introduced the bill.

The Speaker adjourned the House for Asr prayer at 5-34 pm for half an hour.

Abdur Rahman Biswas
As the House resumed after the Asr prayer, Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas switched over

to the discussion on the 1991-92 budget, the last item on the order of the day.

Ataur Rahman Khan
Participating in the discussion, Ataur Rahman Khan (BNP-Narayanganj) described the proposed budget as people-oriented. He said the Finance Minister deserved praises for formulating such a budget with the limitations in our resources and doing it in a short time.

He said the Finance Minister's budget speech also gave guidelines for making the administration corruption free.

Rahman praised the allocation of Taka 1256 crore for the education sector, the highest in the budget. He however, pleaded for increasing the allocation for the health sector.

He stressed the need for shifting the upazila courts to the district headquarters for cutting down expenditures.

Turning to the problems of his constituency, the Treasury Bench member emphasised the construction of pucca roads in Aradhaz Upazila and extension of electricity to the area. He said the extension of these facilities would help the handloom and handicraft industries in his area. He also called for the nationalisation of the only college in Aradhaz Upazila.

Zainal Abidin Hazari
Speaking next Zainal Abidin Hazari (AL-Feni) described the budget as one having many loopholes.

Hazari welcomed the size of the allocation for the education sector. But he said, as a substantial portion of the allocated money is spent for construction purposes, the objective of the allocation was not always fully met.

The opposition member, however, expressed strong resentment against the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT). He said the imposition of VAT has infuriated the people so much that people in his area were thinking about not complying with it.

To generate internal resources, he rather suggested enhancement of taxes on liquor and cigarettes.

Referring to the recent movement and the holding of the elections under the framework of the agreement of the three alliances, he said the Acting President deserved commendation for all for holding a free and fair election in the country. He said, "I myself could also be elected due to such a election."

Hazari referred to the last speech of the Acting President in the House and recalled how his voice, during the course of his speech, became choked with emotion.

He posed a question as to what were the circumstances behaviour on our part that made the Acting President emotional and his eyes moist.

He said the Acting President insisted time and

again on making arrangements for his return to his original post. The member said many of us made unfortunate comments on the Acting President's insistence to go back to his post.

He requested the chair to apologise to the Acting President if any comments made by him (Hazari) or by any of his colleagues in the House had hurt the Acting President in any way.

He said, "It will say, if the Acting President so feels, he can address the House again and announce the dissolution of the House for the election of a new Sangsad."

Zainal Abidin Hazari urged the authorities concerned to stop the election of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) to check further violence in the campus at the moment. He said it was also true that a fair DUCSU election was not possible with Moniruzzaman Mian as the Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University.

The Speaker drew the attention of Hazari to Rule 270 of the Rules of Procedure which bars anybody from making any defamatory comment against the holder of a public office, among others.

Hazari, a freedom fighter himself called for the release of the valiant freedom fighter Kader Siddiqui from detention.

Pointing to the problems in his area, the opposition member demanded of the authorities for the construction of an embankment in Sonagad.

Besides, he also placed a five-point demand in the House for the development of his constituency. First, he said as the country's Prime Minister herself was elected from a constituency in Feni, the reasonable amount of Taka 500 crore needed for the implementation of his five-point demand would not be a problem.

Mosharraf Hossain
In reply to a call attention notice on urgent matter of public interest from Mosharraf Hossain (AL-Mymensingh), State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr Khandkar Mosharraf Hossain said that there were sub-soil deposits of white clay in the bordering areas of Dhubura upazila in Mymensingh district.

In this respect, the State Minister pointed out to a report on white clay (kaolin) deposits of Bijoypur area, Netrakona district, Bangladesh by compiled by M Nazrul Islam had published in 1985 which mentioned deposits of white clay of about 25 lakh tons lying within 60 metres of the surface in Netrakona and Mymensingh districts.

Dr Mosharraf Hossain said Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation was conducting digging work at Durgapur and Bijoypur areas and various private organisations were doing so in 10 other places. **Incomplete**

'All election commitments forgotten'

Following is the remaining part of Monday's Jatiya Sangsad proceedings.

Major Hafiz said the people, who opened private banks by taking loans from banks, would also be dealt with properly.

He said people also should know the facts about the people who were having houses in Gulshan and Banani are the majority of them politicians or bureaucrats. He posed a question.

He said 80 per cent of the people did not have any happiness adding they were required only when their votes were needed.

other relevant Ministers and even high officials of the relevant Ministries like the Finance and Planning Ministries should be present in the House.

Recalling his personal experiences as the Parliamentary Secretary during the sixties, the Speaker said, "I had seen the high officials of the relevant ministries taking notes of important and relevant points of the speeches of the members so that necessary steps could be taken in due course."

Mujibur Rahman
At this point, the Minister of State for Finance Mujibur Rahman, regretted his personal delay in arriving at the Sangsad saying he had to conclude as important piece of business with the Prime Minister.

Maksud Aziz
However, the Speaker then gave the floor to Maksud Ibn Aziz, (JP-Sylhet) for giving his speech on budget.

Maksud said, after passing the VAT and finance bills, the general discussion on the budget lost its importance. However, he said, the budget had already cast its shadow over the national life. In the whole rural Bangladesh including his constituency, the prices of essentials like salt, sugar and oil had gone up beyond the capacity of the common people.

Maksud said, even in Dhaka metropolises an essential item of Taka 100 is selling at Taka 110. When asked why the price - rise, the promptly reply of the shop-keeper is the price is Taka 100 and Taka 10 is the VAT. The prices of the essentials, in fact, had in-

creased not for the VAT but for the VAT phobia, he added.

Maksud said, the Finance Minister, in fact, imposed the VAT indiscriminately without assessing its detrimental effect on the national economy.

He demanded turning the Sylhet Osmani Airport into an international one. He called upon the government to give due emphasis on the development of vast tracts of haor areas of his district and on the tea gardens.

He said, we could attain self-sufficiency in food if we could properly utilise better the fallow haors and other arable lands of the greater Sylhet district.

ful in raising internal resources, she added.

She said, as there was no minimum government control over the market, the prices of essentials had gone up beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor and middle class people.

She said, without halting corruption and mismanagement, the internal resources could not be increased by merely increasing taxes.

She said, it is a reality that we have to accept foreign loans and aids. But she posed a question as how long the nation would be indemnified as 'the nation of beggars'. Whatever our hardship may be, we have to refrain ourselves from obtaining conditional loans, she pleaded.

Begum Rashida said, in the budget there was nothing for the development of the women community or to solve the problems of the females.

She demanded a separate university and medical college for the women. Even in the developed western countries, there are separate arrangements for women education, she pointed out. She also stressed the need for enriching national culture and heritage. Without enrichment of national culture no nation could ever be great, she added she also demanded nationalisation of the Noagaon Mahila College.

She said, problems confronting the nation could not be solved unless the rule of alah and administration of honest people was established in the country.

The Speaker then adjourned the House at 10 pm to meet again at 4 pm Tuesday.

Matiur Rahman Nizami
M Matiur Rahman Nizami (Jamaat-Pabna) suggested the chair to proceed with the order of the day.

Abul Kalam Azad
Speaking on point of order Abul Kalam Azad (AL-Jamalpur) said he had given a call attention notice on the flood situation in his constituency where three lakh people were marooned.

The speaker said he would have time to discuss it during the budget speech and suggested the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to put the name of Azad at the top. The relief Minister at that time must give his statement on the matter, the Speaker added.

Mosharraf Hossain
The Speaker then took up the order of the day and gave the floor to Mosharraf Hossain (AL-Mymensingh) with Netrakona). In his call attention notice on an urgent matter of public importance, Hossain said white clay was available in Dhubura Upazila of Mymensingh which could be used as the raw material in the ceramic industries and save a good amount of foreign exchange by import substitution. He drew the attention of the State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources in this regard and urged the government to conduct an immediate survey and make arrangements for extraction of the ceramic clay.

State Minister for Food, Barrister Nazmul Huda said the concerned State Minister would be present in the House after 5-30 pm when he would be able to make an statement on the matter.

The Speaker then invited the Education Minister Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury to seek

Abdus Shahid
Taking the floor Awami League member Abdus Shahid (Moulvibazar-4), raised a question on special privileges. He said despite specific directives of the chair, a telephone has not yet been installed at home in his constituency. He said his rights has been curbed.

The Speaker assured the House that all those honourable members who were yet to get telephone connections, would be furnished with the facility soon.

Rising on point of privilege, BAKSAL member Abdur Razzak drew the attention of the House to the fact that his question on the Joint Task Force was not properly answered by the Foreign Minister.

As a number of opposition members continued to jump up from their seats and had to be requested by the chair everyone to be seated, the Speaker requested the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad to assist him in conducting the House.

Abdus Samad Azad
Taking the floor, Azad said the absence of all full ministers

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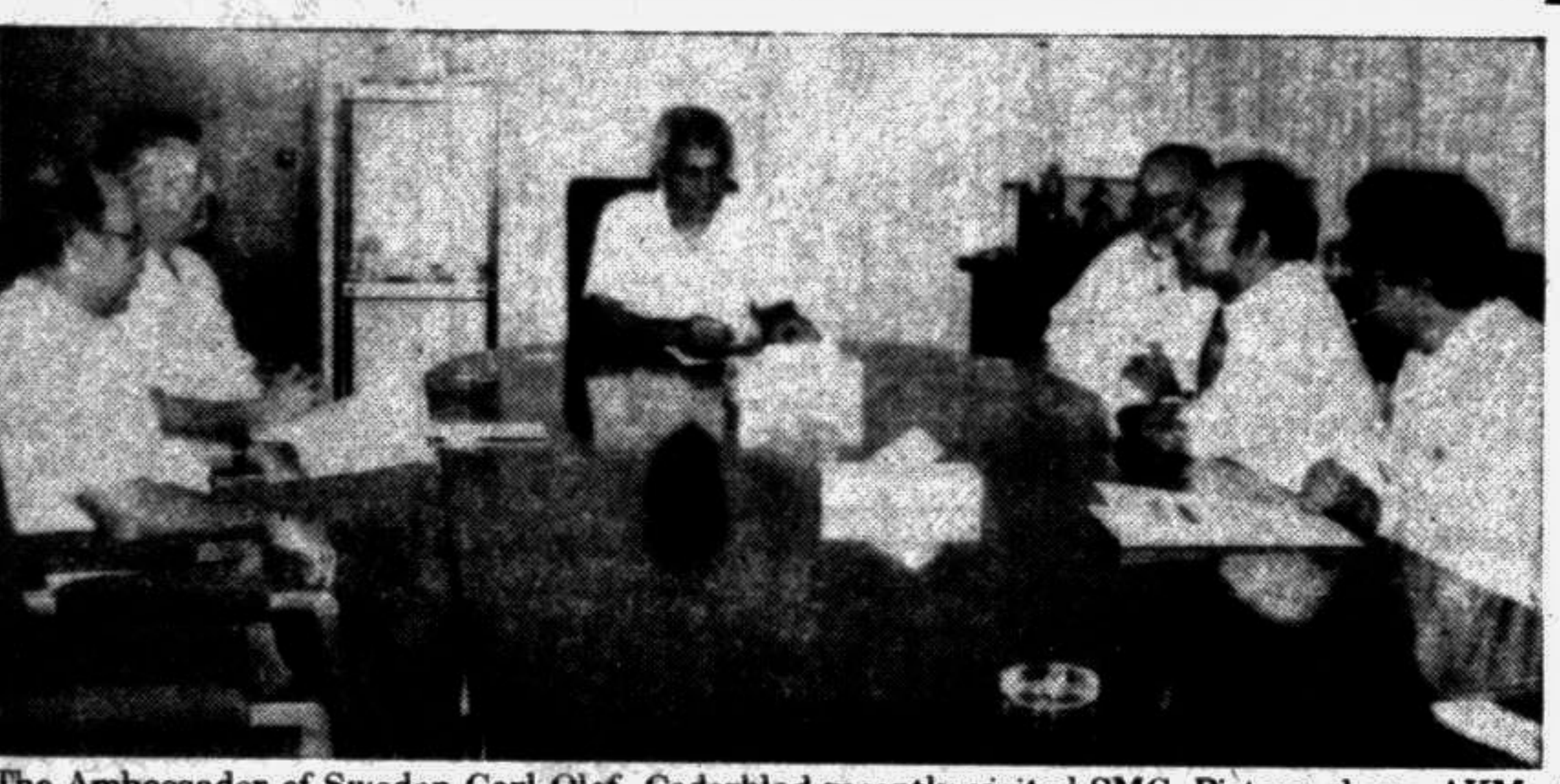
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Bangladeshis in UK keen to invest with guarantee

The President of the Bangladesh Youth League, UK Fatur Rahman Chowdhury, said in Dhaka Tuesday the Bangladeshis living in Britain are keen to invest money in the country, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen, Chowdhury, who is now in Bangladesh in connection with distribution of some cash and kind among the cyclone and flood affected people, said, "we are ready to invest in Bangladesh but 'state guarantee' should be given to the invested money."

He called upon the government to make easier the investment procedure for the persons living outside the country.



The Ambassador of Sweden Carl Olof Cederblad recently visited SMC. Picture shows AKM Shamsuddin, Executive Director of SMC explaining the activities of SMC to the Ambassador and Hugo Herm, First Secretary (Development & Co-operation) Embassy of Sweden in Bangladesh.

'Human resources management' course concludes

The twelve day regular course on 'Human resources management' conducted by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), concluded in Dhaka Tuesday at the institute's premises, reports BSS.

23 officers from different banks and financial institutions participated in the course.

ABM Mahbubul Amin Khan, Director, BIBM, presided over the concluding session of the course and distributed the certificates among the participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Khan expressed the hope that the participants would apply the knowledge and skills for augmenting the overall efficiency of their respective institutions.

Md Abu Bakar and Dr Bandana Saha, faculty members of the institute, served as coordinators of the course.

BARD to expand training facilities

The 15th meeting of the Board of Governors of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla was held in the Bangladesh Secretariat on Thursday, reports BSS.

The Chairman of the Board, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister, Abdus Salam Talukder, presided over the meeting.

The Board reviewed the performance of the Academy in the fields of research, training and comprehensive rural development programme.

It was stated in the meeting that during the eight months preceding June, 30 the Academy has arranged training courses for 35 batches in which a total number of 1184 trainees participated.

The board decided that the academy would expand its institutional capability to organise international training programmes.

The board also examined

CIRDAP technical body meet begins

The eighth meeting of the technical committee of the centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) was inaugurated Tuesday by Krishnakant, Governor of the Andhra Pradesh of India at National Institute of Rural Development, in Hyderabad, India, reports BSS.

The 4-day meeting is being attended by the delegates from the CIRDAP link institutions in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao, PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam as well as IRD expert from Japan and representatives from FAO, AARRO, ILO and WHO, a CIRDAP press release said.

ATM Shamsul Huq, Director, CIRDAP, is attending the meeting.

The technical committee meeting is being held for the first time outside CIRDAP headquarters and NIRD is providing host facilities.

Voluntary bodies asked to help uplift plan

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury has called upon the voluntary organisations to supplement the government programme for improving the lots of the down-trodden people, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking at the installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the Rotary Club of Dhaka held at a local hotel in Dhaka Tuesday night.

Presided over by K A Taher, MP, President of the club, the function was attended by State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Khandkar Mosharraf Hossain.

The Education Minister said in a least developed country like ours the government alone could not solve the problems. He said the well-to-do people must come forward in aid of the people stricken by poverty, hunger, malnutrition and illiteracy.

Prof B Chowdhury said illiteracy was a curse for a man as well as for the society as a whole. He called upon the rotarians to undertake mass literacy programme for spreading education to the masses.



The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof M Moniruzzaman Miah receiving a cheque for Taka 40 thousand for setting up of "Begum Shamsun Nahar Mahmud Stipend Fund" from Javed Mahmud and Jeba Mahmud on Tuesday.

Turkish envoy calls on Mannan

Ahmet Ermişoglu, Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh, called on Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism at his office on Tuesday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations.

Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism was also present on the occasion.

2,972 power lines snapped, 400 cases instituted

A total of 2,972 illegal electric lines were snapped by three Electricity Courts of Dhaka during the last fortnight in the areas of greater Dhaka district and Metropolitan areas of Dhaka, a press release said.

The electricity courts under three First Class Magistrates, Ranapat, Kumar Das, Md Yusuf, Md Mosharraf Hossain and the respective executive engineers took part in the drive.

Illegal lines were detected at dwelling houses, shops, small workshops, factories, supermarkets, multistoried buildings, illegal lines with connections without metres, illegal extensions, use of iron hooks and use of excess load besides electric heaters were found.

Four hundred cases were instituted and Taka 188,997 was realised as fines from 144 illegal users and 9 persons were sent to jail.

Janata Dal city unit body formed
By Staff Correspondent
A 109-member Conventing Committee of the Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Janata Dal was formed Monday at a meeting held at the Central Office of the Party at Asad Avenue, says a press release.

SM Alim was elected convener while Harunur Rashid Mithu, Anwar Hussain, Jamal Badshah and Shahidul Islam Badal were elected joint conveners of the committee.

Scholarship Fund created at DU

"Begum Shamsunnahar Mahmud Scholarship Fund," has been created at Dhaka University to provide scholarships to a meritorious student every year, a variety press release said Tuesday, reports BSS.

Javed Mahmud, grandson of late Begum Mahmud, this morning handed over a cheque for Taka 40,000 to the Vice-Chancellor Prof M Moniruzzaman Meah for the fund.

Every year, monthly scholarship will be given from this fund to a student securing the highest marks in honours final examinations of Social Welfare and Research Institute of Dhaka University.

Taka 40,000 is the value including interest of the independence day award-1989 which was given posthumously to late Begum Mahmud in recognition of her outstanding contributions in social services.

'VAT withdrawal action council' formed

By Staff Correspondent
The leaders of 69 chambers of the country and other professional associations met Monday in Dhaka and discussed the situation created after the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT), system from July 1.

A 'VAT withdrawal action council' with FI M Mohsin as its convener was formed at a meeting.

The speakers at the meeting termed VAT as harmful for the trade and industry of the country and demanded its immediate withdrawal.

It was held at the auditorium of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.