# 'Three alliances committed to bring an end to killing and coup'

The Jatiya Sangsad resumed its sitting at 4-15 pm Thursday with Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in the chair, reports

The proceedings of the day began with recitation from the

Holy Quran. As there was no question hour, the Deputy Speaker took up the order of the day, a private member's day and invited Salahuddin Yusuf (AL-Khulnal to move his Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1991, for consideration in the House.

The Bill, introduced on July 18, seeks amendment of Articles 95, 98, 109, 115 and 116 of the Constitution to ensure independence of the judiciary from the executive.

Before moving for consideration of the bill, Mr. Salahuddin Yusuf said the bill was necessary for the protection of the fundamental rights of the people, independence of the judiciary and to ensure the rule of law.

He said both leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at a seminar recently organised by the Supreme Court lawyers had supported the lawyers' demand for the independence of the judiciary.

He pointed out that from time to time judges in the higher courts were appointed according to the wishes of the executives by dint of their executive power.

Referring to the commitment of BNP. Awami League and other parties for establishment of rule of law in the country, he sought support of all MPs to pass the bill and said this would enhance the respect of the people towards the judiciary.

Supporting the bill. Law and Justice Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz suggested to refer it to an 11-member Select Committee to examine before acceptance by the House for consideration. He also suggested to form the select committee later.

He said, "We hold completely the same opinion about the basic principles of the bill" and suggested to move the bill in an amended form.

Yusuf then moved the bill to refer it to the select commit-



**Abdus Samad Azad** The Law Minister sup-

ported the move. Deputy Leader of the

Opposition Abdus Samad Azad said. Today is a good day for Bangladesh". He said we will move step by step this way in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people.

He congratulated Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina for their commitment to establish the rule of law in the country. He also congratulated the lawyers of the Supreme Court for their

cooperation in this regard. Thanking both the Law Minister and the mover of the bill. Azad said we want to cooperate to establish the rule of



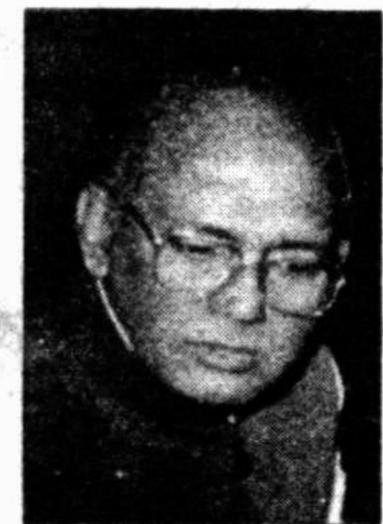
Prof Budruddoza Chowdhury

Deputy Leader of the House Prof. Badruddoza Chowdbury congratulated Awami League member Salahuddin Yusuf for introducing the constitutional amendment bill.

He commented that the bill for separation of the judiciary from the executive brought by Yusuf was now being felt most urgently because of the situation prevailing in the country. "We need self-introspection to find out the causes" of the law and order situation. Prof. Chowdhury said.

Prof. Chowdhury said Treasury Bench would welcome any move to establish rule of law in the country. He asked all for participation in the discussion on the bill with open mind.

As there was no objection on the bill the Deputy Speaker announced that it has been accepted by the House unanimously and said the bill would now go to the Select Committee. As for the formation of the committee. Shetkh Razzak Ali said it would be considered on the next day of the House.



**Tofael Ahmed** 

Awami League member Tofael Ahmed drawing the attention of the chair said since the Deputy Leader of the House also mentioned the seriousness of the law and order situation, therefore a day be fixed at the earliest to discuss the issue as was agreed upon earlier. He said the chair can designate any date for discussion on this issue of vital national importance.

The Speaker said it would not be proper on his part to fix a date. He suggested that let the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition fix the date for discussion on the bill. He also suggested that the Deputy Leader of the House and the Deputy Leader of Opposition take a decision on the matter.

#### Asaduzzaman

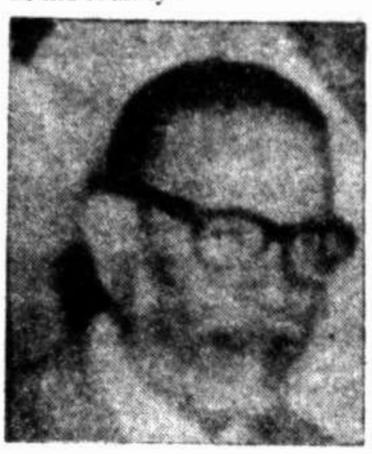
Awami League member Asaduzzaman drew the attention of the house on the law and order situation in Magura district and other parts of the country. BNP member ATM Aminur Rahman asked the Speaker about the fate of his call attention notice.

### **Mohammad Nasim**

Taking the floor Chief Whip of Opposition, Mohammad Nasim wanted to know the present position of the indemnity bill brought by him. He said since the whole House was of the opinion that justice and rule of law be established in the country, all black laws including the indemnity law be

Nasim said it was needed for the sake of humanity and for the establishment of rule of law. He said everywhere in the world trials are being held for political killings.

Nastm called upon all to rise above petty party interest and establish the fact that killings cannot go unpunished. He said because of the indemnity bill there could be no trial of the killings of Bangabandhu and four other leaders in jail He said trials for those killings are prerequisite for establishment of justice and rule of law in the country.



Mirza Gholam Hafiz

Law Minister Mirza Gholam Haftz informed the House that the bill submitted by Nasim is being examined. He assured the members that it is being examined as per law and impartially and said its fate would be known at the earliest. He told the House that he received the bill only this morn-

#### Fazlul Haq

A K M Fazlul Haq of BNP (Mymensingh-4) said his right had been infringed as the Sangsad bulletin did not mention his name as a member who took part in thanks giving motion on the Acting President's address.

The Speaker assured him he would look into the matter, but reminded the member that he should have given notice about the infringement of his right.



Abdur Razzak

BKSAL leader Abdur Razzak taking the floor said he felt assured by the words of Law Minister about the indemnity bill. Recalling the commit-

ments of the three alliances. Razzak said to establish rule of law. killing, coup and conspiracy must have to be stopped. He said people have been demanding the trial of the killings of the national leaders including Bangabandhu and those kifled in jail. Razzak appealed to the Law Minister to bring the bill in the current



#### Motiur Rahman Nizami

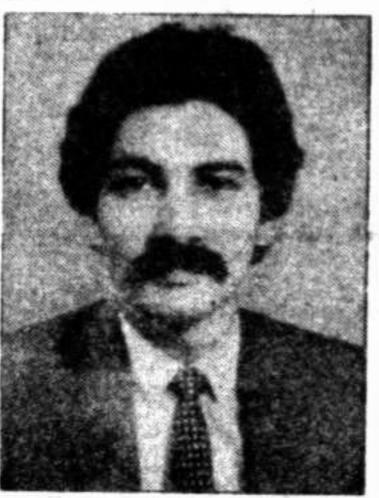
Meanwhile Jamaat leader Mottur Rahman Nizami stood up to make a point of order and wanted to know the fate of his bill in which he had proposed that all future elections be held under an interim government. He demanded that the bill be sent to the Select Committee and be presented to the House as part of the Constitution amendment bill.

The Speaker asked Nizami to bring his bill as per Rule 223(1). He assured the member that once it is presented as per rule, it will be duly consid-

Awami League member Mohiuddin Ahmed (Bakerganj-4) then drew the attention of the House to the law and order situation, particularly the recent happenings at Barisal Medical College.

At this stage, the Speaker adjourned the House for Asr prayers.

The House which reassembled at 5.45 pm after Asr prayers took up the private member's resolutions for dis-



Nurul Islam Moni

Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Borguna) then moved his resolution demanding government's subsidy at the rate of 50 per cent on fertilisers and posticides.

Moving his resolution, Moni presented a gloomy picture of the peasants, which constitute a major segment of the society. He said the farmers, the vital force for the national development, were being neglected for long and no governments in the past had tried for their well-being. He pointed out that as agriculture being the lifeblood of our economy, agricultural inputs should be supplied to them on nominal price with a view to boosting production in fields. The inde-

pendent member said that the prices of fertilisers and pesticides had already gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor farmers. He alleged that though fertilisers and pesticides were being imported freely, their prices had been fixed at an exorbitant rate, as a result agricultural production was being hampered.

Mont sought full support from the Treasury Bench for acceptance of his resolution.

A total of 25 amendments have been moved to Monf's resolution. Rahmat Ali (AL-Gazipur) who supported the resolution in an amended form, proposed for fixation of fertiliser price at Taka two per kg and distribution of pesticides free of cost for the greater interest of agricultural production. He pointed out that pesticides were distributed free of cost during the government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, He said prices of fertilizer was also nominal during the pe-



Mizanur Rahman Manu

Mizanur Rahman Manu (AL-Dinajpur) then moved his amendment to the resolution, seeking guarantee of distribution of fertilisers and pesticides from the government. He said these two vital farm inputs were not properly supplied to the farmers during the time of their needs.

#### Sudhangsu Shekhar Sudhangsu Shekhar Halder

(AL-Pirojpur) then moved his amendment, proposing 60 per cent subsidy for fertilisers and pesticides, instead of 50 per cent as proposed by Nurul Islam Moni. He said the subsidy of the government was vital for agricultural production. Halder also said pesticide was distributed free of cost during Bangabandhu's regime and fertiliser was supplied with a minimum price to the farmers to boost production. The BNP government should follow the principle, he argued.



Rashed Khan Menon Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon said

though subsidy on agriculture had been withdrawn Bangladesh at the instance of the World Bank it was still in vague in the United States of America and Japan.

He said refusal of Pakistan and Indonesia to withdraw subsidy on agriculture resulted in augmenting farm production in these two countries. He demanded of the government to give subsidy on seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, power pumps and other agricultural

Moving his amendment to the resolution, Ebadur Rahman Chowdhoury (JP-Moulvibazar) pleaded for giving subsidy on agricultural inputs.

Md Asaduzzaman (AL-Magura) said Articles 13 and 16 of the Constitution underlined the responsibility of the state in helping the farmers through promotion of agriculture, cooperatives and other measures. He regretted that the number of landless peasants has now shot up 77 per cent from 47 per cent in 1975. We must have to introduce subsidy to save our peasantry from rutnation.

He pointed out that though peasants were the main driving force in the agricultural sector they were unable to make any contribution to this sector due to lack of bullocks plough and other agricultural inputs. He demanded compulsory introduction of co-operative system to revitalise agriculture and improve the lot of the peasantry of the country.

#### ASM Feroi

A S M Feroj (AL-Patuakhali) said Bangladesh would live our peasants survived. With this end in view, the government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had made arrangements for the sale of fertilizer at a very nominal price and supply of insecticides to the farmers free of cost. He accused the government

for surrendering to the pressure of the World Bank on the issue of withdrawing subsidy on agriculture. He blamed the weak-kneed foreign policy of the government for this.

Feroj said Bangladesh had to import 19 lakh tons of foodgrains annually incurring an expenditure of Taka 3000 crore. If the peasants were given subsidy, the country would become self-sufficient in food, he added.

He urged the government to introduce subsidy on agriculture for one year to see its magic effect in making the country self-sufficient in food.

# **Mosharraf Hossain**

Mosharraf Hossain (AL-Faridpur) said the government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had sold fertilizer to the farmers at nominal price keeping the interest of 85 per cent of the country's total population in view. With the withdrawal of subsidy on agriculture, they were now unable to realise the production cost of their produce. Consequently, they were getting poorer day by day, he

# Harunur Rashid

Sheikh Harunur Rashid (AL-Khulna) said per capita land has been declining due to law of interchange and increase in population. The population of the country now stood at 12 crore and the number would rise to crore by the turn of the century .The only way to meet the food requirement of our people was to raise production.

This called for giving all possible facilities including subsidy to the farmers, he added

#### Ansar Ali

Taking the floor in support of the resolution, tabled by independent member Nurul Islam Moni (Barguna) Jamaat member Sheikh Ansar Ali (Satkhira) said that the peasantry and the village folk must not be hoodwink anymore. Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy and hence the agriculturists should be supported through heavy subsidisation. He urged the government to provide eighty per cent subsidy in agricultural in-

Jamaat member sympathised with the BADC employees, saying if the corporation was emaciated, their (employees) fate would be



Abdul Matin Khasru

Supporting the resolution. Awami League member Abdul Matin Khasru from Comilia said subsidisation for agriculturists would help boost production in the field, increase in farm produce can reduce dependence on ever-increasing import. He quoted Article 1 of the Constitution to supplement his submission and called upon the government to show respect to the national commitment.

Abdur Razzak (BKSAL-Shariatpur) proposed for giving 50 per cent subsidy on diesel along with fertilizer and insecticides to help increase agricultural production.

Referring to giving fertilizer, insecticides and power pumps in the private sector, he said this had benefited some private traders and not the farmers.

### Abdul Awal Mia

Abdul Awal Mia (AL-Kushtia) pleaded for increasing subsidy on fertilizer and insecticides up to 65 per cent.



Suranjit Sengupta Suranjit Sengupta (Gano-

tantree Party-Sunamganj) proposed for giving subsidy on all sorts of agricultural inputs to boost agricultural production. He said this would help a poor farmer to become self-reliant.

# Tofael Ahmed

Tofael Ahmed (AL-Bhola) pleaded for increasing subsidy on fertilizer and insecticides. He said such subsidy also exists in the developed coun-

Quoting a newspaper tender, he said prices of fertilizer had already been increased by Bangladesh Chemical Indus-

#### Khademul Islam

tries Corporation (BCIC) which

was against the election

commitment of BNP.

Khademul Islam (AL-Thakurgaon) proposed for increasing subsidy on fertilizer and insecticides by 71 per

Satish Chandra Roy Satish Chandra Roy (AL-Dinajpur) proposed for 65 per

cent subsidy on fertilizer and

# pesticides.

Shamsuddoha Shamsuddoha (Bangladesher Communist Party-Nilphamari) proposed for giving 50 per cent subsidy on fertilizer and insecticides.

M Nasim (AL-Strajganj) proposed for giving 75 per cent subsidy and said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave subsidy on agricultural inputs even in the war-torn Bangladesh.

# Rafiqul Islam

Prof Rafigul Islam (AL-

Jessore) also proposed for

giving subsidy on diesel and

other agricultural inputs to save the farmers. Nazrul Islam Principal M M Nazrul Islam

(AL-Bhola) proposed to increase the subsidy by 60 per

At this stage, Mr ASM Ferol (AL-Patuakhali) cited rule 296(3) of the Rules of Procedure and argued that the results of votce vote could be challenged if the members were not satisfied.

#### Motia Chowdhury

Begum Motia Chowdhury (AL-Sherpur) argued that the Treasury Bench was showing undemocratic attitude by not accepting the majority's view. She pointed out that the opposition members were in the majority in Parliament at that moment.

The demand for re-voting was also supported by Abdur Razzak and Mohiuddin Ahmed of BAKSAL and Moulana Mattur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat-e-Islami. At this time of controversy, the House spent some time in silence with the Speaker consulting with his

parliament officials. Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim proposed that for better working relations the Treasury Bench should defer the resolution. He said the issue was sensitive because it was related to the fate of the country's crores of farmers.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury again urged the opposition to accept the ruling of the Speaker and not to create a bad precedence. But Tofael Ahmed promptly countered Prof Chowdhury, saying that if the Treasury Bench tried two in on the issue, it would also be a bad precedence.

Revising his decision the Speaker deserred the resolution amid thumping of tables by the opposition members. He also declared that the other resolutions deemed to have been tabled.

He adjourned the House at 9.44 pm to resume at 11 am on July 28.

# ■ Metropolitan ■

# 95 pc rural children suffer from infection of intestinal parasites

Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury Thursday said the government would give due importance to science and technology in the development process of the country, reports BSS.

lnaugurating a seminar on "Research and Professional Problems of the Scientists in Bangladesh\* Prof Badruddoza said in the past BNP government had created separate ministry for development of science and technology and introduced observance of national science week.

Referring to the abundance of natural resources in the country, he said we are poor in the midst of natures bounty. He urged the scientists to evolve cheap processes for utilising the natural resources for the benefit of the people. Prof Badruddoza, who is

also a renowned physician. said we import different types of vitamins worth crores of Taka but the fruits and vegetables around us had of them and could meet our needs. He said staying bare bodied in the sun for sometime produces vitamin 'D' in the skin, but we import costly vitamins to meet that demand.

Organised by Bangladesh Association of the Scientists and the members of Scientific Profession (BASSP) the inaugural function was presided by its President Dr MA Wazed Mia. Held at the BARC auditorium the function was also addressed by BASSP Vice-President Dr MA Rahman, General Secretary M Junab Ali and council member Dr Aftabuddin Ahmed. Prof Badruddoza said lakhs

of children become blind every year for want of vitamin 'A' but all green vegetables including 'Kachu shak' have plenty of vitamin 'A'. Sweet potato also has vitamin 'A' and 'C' which rice

and wheat do not have, he said. He said we should change our attitude and take at least one potato during every meal. This would help reduce our food shortage in terms of cereals, he added.

He suggested evolving cheap sanitary system and said due to lack of hygenic knowledge 95 per cent of the rural children suffer from infection of intestinal parasites. These parasites cat up 50 per cent of the food taken by the children.

He said it was our national character to eat costly food

rice, put on costly cotton fabrics, to sleep more and work less. He urged the scientists to think over these and find out solutions to over come these problems.

# BNP believes in freedom of press'

State Minister for Information Mohammad Nurul Huda Thursday said BNP government believed in full freedom of press as it is the part and parcel of the right of expression of the people, reports

weekly 'Choukh' at Jatiya Grantha Kendra. Presided over by the Editor of the weekly, Salam Jahangir, the function was addressed. among others, by Reazuddin Ahmed, President of BFUJ.

He was addressing at the

inauguration ceremony of

The State Minister said the government immediately after its formation repealed a black law, the printing press and publication Act of 1974. He called upon the newspaper owners and the journalists to utilize the present unhindered environment

# Buddha Purnima today

The Buddhist community celebrates the "Suva Ashari Purnima" today throughout the country with religious fervour and festivities, reports BSS.

The occasion is of special significance to the Buddhist community as on this day the Lord Buddha after attainment of enlightenment had first preached dharma-chakra. Besides on this day, the monks start a three-month period of seclusion at their respective

monasteries. Various socio-cultural and religious organisations of the Buddha community have chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the occasion in a befitting manner.

On this occasion Bangladesh Buddha Krishthi Prochar Sangha has arranged a day-long programme to be held at Dharmarajik Buddha Bihar in the capital. Holding of provat ferri at 5

am, breakfast for the monks at 7 am, Buddha Puja and mass prayer at 10 am, "pindadan" at 11 pm, a symposium on the significance of the occasion at 4 pm and "prodip puja" and "panchashil grahan" at 6 pm are the highlights of the programmes. Mohashanganayak Bishudhananda Mahathero will

conduct the Buddha Puja and

mass prayer and preside over

the symposium.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Buddha Federation also chalked out a day-long programme to be held at Marul International Buddha Bihar at Badda in connection with the celebration of the holy occasion.

Among others, the Federation has arranged hoisting of national and religious flags at 6 am, breakfast for the monks at 7 am "pindadan" at 11 am, religious discussion at 4 pm. mass prayer for world peace at 7 pm and "Buddha kirtan" at 8

### Cancel Friendship Treaty with India: JAGPA By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA) on Thursday demanded immediate cancellation of Indo-Bangla Friendship Treaty, repeal of Special Powers' Act and other. black

The demands were made at the executive committee meeting of JAGPA. Party President Shafiul Alam Pradan presided over the meeting which was addressed by Dr A K A Aziz, Prof Rehana Pradhan, A K M Masud and M A Ahad. The meeting also de-

manded withdrawal of Value Added Tax (VAT) system to help flourish the industrial growth in the country.

# Rly won't close zones, retrench employees

Communications Minister Oil Ahmed Thursday said no zones of Bangladesh Railways would be closed down and none of its employees would be retrenched, reports BSS.

The Minister gave this assurance when leaders of Jatiyatabadi Railway Sramik deavours for stopping ticket

and Employees Dal met him at the secretariat here.

The Minister emphasised the need for making united efforts by all concerned to overcome the losses of Bangladesh Railway. He also called for making united en-

less traveling, pilferage of oil from trains and misuse of railway property. President of Bangladesh

Jatiyatabadi Railway Sramik and Employees Dal Kabir Hossain , General Secretary S.A. Khaleque, Executive Presidents Abu Taher, and Nurul Kader Chowdhury, Joint General Secretaries, M.A. **Qaiyum and Mokarram Hossain** and Divisional Convener Mohmmad Ullah Bhuiyan. among others, were present.



The Ambassador of China in Bangladesh Chen Songlu, called on State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan at his secretariat office on Thursday.