

A statement demanded on Pay Commission recommendations

The Jatiya Sangsad resumed its sitting at 11:07 am Sunday after a recess of two days with the Speaker, Abdur Rahman Biswas, in the chair, reports BSS.

After tilawat-e-Quran, the Speaker disposed of the members' notices on privilege motion.

Talking the floor Sahabuddin Yusuf (AL-Khulna) drew the attention of the chair to an agreement with the Deputy Leader of the House about a discussion in the House on law and order situation.

He said it was agreed that the issue would be discussed in the day and that the Sangsad was supposed to begin its proceeding two hours before its usual schedule.

The Speaker told the member that it would be discussed in the House next time.

Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury clarified the position and said it was agreed to discuss law and order situation, but since the report of the Select Committee would be placed following an understanding with the opposition, the issue was dropped for the day.

As the Deputy Leader of the House resumed his seat, a number of members both from the Treasury and Opposition Benches tried to draw the attention of the chair to the mosquito menace in the MP Hostel.

Fazlul Karim Selim
Rising next, Awami League member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim referred to the bloody clashes in the Rajshahi University and demanded a statement from the Education Minister in this regard.



Prof Badruddoza
Replying to the member, Deputy Leader of the House and Minister for Education, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said the incident of Rajshahi was not an isolated one.

He said the government want to discuss the campus issue as a whole with open mind.

He urged the chair to allot two hours time in the future to facilitate such discussion.

Going back to the order of the day, the Speaker deferred a call attention notice of Enamul Huq (Jamaat-Cox's Bazar) as the member was absent in the House.

Mohammad Nasim
Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim urged the chair to allow the motion to be moved by another Jamaat member but the chair dismissed the suggestion.

Shamsuddoha
CPB leader Shamsuddoha on a point of order drew the

attention of the chair to a notice that he had submitted under Rule 68 of the Rules of Procedure. He wanted a discussion on the incident at Saidabad Bus Terminal. The chair told the member that the notice would be duly considered in accordance with the rules.



Maitur Rahman Nizami
Taking the floor Jamaat leader Maitur Rahman Nizami said there were issues of grave importance which could not be ignored.

He said the ongoing transport strike had paralysed life in the country. Moulana Nizami demanded a statement from the Communication Minister in this regard.



Tofael Ahmed
Awami League member Tofael Ahmed said it seemed to him that the Treasury Bench remained unconcerned about the issues affecting the national life.

He said the government employees had launched a movement for the implementation of the Pay Commission recommendation but the government was silent about it nor it had opened a dialogue with the employees.

Tofael Ahmed said he had failed to understand as to who ran the government. He demanded a statement from the government in this regard.

Nazmul Huda
As the Minister of State for Food, Barrister Nazmul Huda tried to reply the queries of the opposition members on transport strike, he was opposed by the opposition members.

He said the Communications Minister was busy to deal with the transport strike.

As the opposition members questioned the capacity of the State Minister for Food to reply on behalf of the Communications Minister, the Deputy Leader of the House, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury

pacified the members saying that the Communications Minister was busy for the cause of the country.

Jainul Abdin Farook
As the Speaker switched over to the budget discussion, Jainul Abdin Farook (BNP-Noakhali) took the floor and thanked the Finance Minister for formulating a budget keeping in mind the interests of the poor.

He said it was true that the people of this country were not familiar with the Value Added Tax (VAT). But, he said, after the people came know about its benefits, there would be processions on the streets in its favour within a year.

He said the autocracy had been removed by the mass upsurge but vested quarters were at work to create misunderstanding among the people to undo democracy.

The Treasury Bench member then mentioned the problems that the people of his constituency were facing. Although it is an important place, the headquarters of Noakhali has only one road. He demanded the construction of another road there.

Jainul Abdin also drew the attention of the Education Minister to the problems of the schools, colleges and madrasahs in the district.

Mirza Golam Azam
Speaking next Mirza Golam Azam (AL-Jamalpur) called upon the Finance Minister to honour the sentiment of the members of the opposition by reducing the taxes proposed on the essential items.

He said measures must be taken to keep the prices of the consume goods within the purchasing power of the commonman. He said efforts should also be made to increase the purchasing capacity of the limited income group.

Azam
Azam, who is possibly the youngest member of the present Jatiya Sangsad, called for making recruitment to fill the vacancies of about one lakh different posts from among the 15 million educated unemployed youths in the country.

Turning to the problems in his constituency, he said the construction of a road linking Madarganj Upazila with the district headquarters of Jamalpur needed immediate attention of the authorities concerned.

He drew the attention of the Flood Control Minister to the serious threat of erosion at the Madarganj Upazila. He said if urgent measures were not taken, the upazila headquarters might be devoured by the River Jamuna soon. He said five villages of the upazila had already been eroded into the river recently.

He demanded of the government to establish a poly-technical institute in Jamalpur. He also called for opening honours course in Jamalpur Ashok Mahmood College, which was established in 1946.

Harun-ur-Rashid Khan
Participating in the discussions of the budget, Harun-ur-Rashid Khan (BNP-Manikganj) lauded the budget, which he said was a bold economic document formulated in a short time and under difficult circumstances.

One could criticise the bud-

get for the sake of criticisms but one conclusion was inescapable that the budget was different in many ways from the budget of previous years, he said.

The Treasury Bench member said many people were trying to raise hue and cry on the taxes without understanding the matter and added that this budget had simplified the tax and duty realisation.

Khan said that the people of Bangladesh had always looked for a happy and contented society but this hope had always eluded them.

Only ray of hope, he said, was late Ziaur Rahman who had sought to give a new direction to the nation but he was killed through conspiracies. The BNP government today again was making efforts to set things right, he said.

Khan said that the nationalisation programme of the Awami League soon after independence came as a severe blow to the economy which could not be overcome till now.

Referring to the local problems of his constituency, the Treasury Bench member said that continued erosion of Rivers Jamuna and Padma in the Shibabaya and Harirampur Upazilas left many people homeless in the area.

He also mentioned communications and other problems of his constituency and drew the attention of the concerned quarters to their solution.

Mizanur Rahman Manu
Mizanur Rahman Manu (AL-Dinajpur) said the budget had failed to provide any direction for easing the poverty level.

Expressing his concern at the deterioration of law and order situation, Rahman said it appeared to him that the country was heading to the November-December situation of 1990. He said we could not be on-lookers to such situation as this House was the fruit of a successful mass upsurge, and free and fair election.

Referring to the withdrawal of Value Added Tax from certain commodities particularly the ceramics, the Awami League member said some quarters had complained that it was done cause of lobbying. Despite this, prices of ceramic items have to come down, he added.

Rahman said All Party Students Unity (APSU) had demanded the trial of the associates Autocrat Ershad but it was not done till today. On the other hand, the framer of the anti-people health policy Dr. Chowdhury had been appointed national Professor for five years. He wanted to know from the government as to how it was done.

He demanded that the government publish the report of economic task force immediately so that people could know the real picture.

Turning to the agriculture sector, Rahman called for providing more subsidy for this sector so that country could be made self-reliant in agricultural produce.

Rahman said land for establishing a Medical College in Dinajpur had been requisitioned some years ago but no step had yet been taken for the implementation of the project. He called upon the government to implement the project without course in Dinajpur College.

Syeda Nargis Ali
Syeda Nargis Ali (BNP-Khulna-Bagherhat) termed the budget as people oriented.

She said the social, political, and economic conditions of the country had been reflected in the proposed budget, placed by the Finance Minister.

The BNP member said the Finance Minister budget proposals had ample directions for providing food, clothes, shelters and jobs to the people.

Referring to the Value Added Tax, Mrs. Ali said this modern method of taxation had been introduced in most of the countries in the world. She, however, stressed the need for educating the general people about VAT.

She thanked the Finance Minister for allocating highest amount for education sector, drawing the attention of education Minister, Mrs. Ali called for allocating more fund for Bagerhat College.

Mrs. Ali also demanded the opening of more faculties in the Khulna University. At present, she said, the university has four faculties.

Drawing the attention of the Communication Minister, Mrs. Ali urged the government to develop the Khulna-Bagherhat Road.

The House was adjourned at 1 pm to meet again at 4 pm.

General discussion on the national budget for the fiscal 1991-92 resumed when the House met at 4:10 pm with the Deputy Speaker, Sheikh Razzak Ali, in the chair.

Monirul Huq Chowdhury
Participating in the discussion, Monirul Huq Chowdhury (JP-Comilla) thanked former President H M Ershad for transferring power through constitutional way.

He said the legendary leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and late President Ziaur Rahman came to power but could not go out of power.

Chowdhury said it is history which would prove whether the Jatiya Party government was legal or illegal.

He pointed out that if the eight, ninth and tenth constitutional amendments were illegal then how could the present BNP women members in the House could retain their seats.

The JP member wanted to know whether the BNP government could remain in power in the seats of women members were declared illegal.

Chowdhury said the JP had honoured the will of the people. Therefore, it expects democratic behaviour from the government as well as from the main opposition.

Monirul Huq Chowdhury said those who called the JP government as an autocratic one, they should know that the presidential system was introduced in 1975 which late President Ziaur Rahman nurtured and former President Ershad pursued the same system.

He said a political understanding had developed between the BNP and the Awami League over the constitutional amendment for restoration of parliamentary form of government.

Chowdhury said the Jatiya Party would welcome such a

move if it brought welfare to the masses.

Chowdhury called for paying due honour to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by putting an end to controversy after 21 years of independence.

He regretted that whenever the question on Bangabandhu came, some people tried to put the name of late President Ziaur Rahman side by side him.

The JP member said history had decided the position of late President Ziaur Rahman for his contribution to the Liberation War.

Chowdhury said Bangabandhu himself had declared general amnesty to the Razakars and now none should raise the issue of Razakar to divide the nation.

The JP member referred to the works done by the Ershad government in the past and said despite all criticism, his name would be remembered for his good work like construction of bridges and others for the people's benefit.

Chowdhury referred to the alleged violation of jail code by former President Ershad sending letters outside.

He said there were instances of sending letters secretly from jail by many leaders including late Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru which ultimately became documents in history.

Referring to the national budget, he wanted to know as to how far it had incorporated the principles of the BNP.

Abdul Mannan
Speaking next, State Minister for Textiles, Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan said the BNP had come to power through people's mandate. Therefore, he added, the party was committed to deliver the goods to the masses.

He said it was an uphill task to prepare budget for a country like ours but very easy to criticise it.

The State Minister said Bangladesh had inherited 51 textile mills at the time of liberation but no new textile mill was set up between 1972 and 1975.

He said during the BNP rule under shahed President Ziaur Rahman, a total of 20 textile mills had been set up in the country at a cost of Taka 500 crore.

Major (Retd) Mannan emphasised the need for the mobilisation of internal resources to expedite the process of national development.

Nazrul Islam
Taking part in the general discussion on the national budget, Nazrul Islam (Jamaat-Satkhira) said the Finance Minister had placed the budget at a time when the country was ravaged by cyclone, flood, drought, accident, price spiral of essentials and deterioration of law and order.

He said the success of the budget depended on proper application of the provisions as envisaged in it. The provisions should be made applicable by the honest people, he said.

Nazrul demanded construction of pucca roads, and improvement of telephone and electricity services in his constituency.

Anwarul Islam
Speaking next, Anwarul Islam (AL-Patuakhali) said the

budget was dependent on foreign aid and termed it as an anti-people budget.

With the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT), he said, the prices of essentials had gone up and the small scale industries had suffered a setback.

Anwarul Islam demanded that measures should be taken up for the succour of the cyclone affected people of his area. He also called upon the government to set up a tourist spot at Kuakata in Patuakhali district.

The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House at 5:13 pm for Asr prayer.

When the House resumed its sitting after Asr prayer, Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, who was presiding, said he was suspending the discussions on the national budget temporarily for the presentation of the Select Committee report on the Constitution Amendment Bills.



Gholam Hafiz
Law and Justice Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz stood up amid thumping of desks by the members belong to both sides and sought the permission of the chair to present the Select Committee Report.

Presenting the unanimously adopted Select Committee Report the Law Minister said the occasion would go down in our political as well as constitutional history as a significant national event. The country's transition of parliamentary system of government after 16 years of presidential form would usher in an era of peace and prosperity for the country, he added.

He said terrorism free society was the pre-condition for the success of parliamentary system, establishment of the Rule of Law and a society based on social justice. He underlined the need for a strong opposition for the fair play of democracy and welfare of the country. In fact democracy could not function well without a strong opposition based on idealism, he stressed.

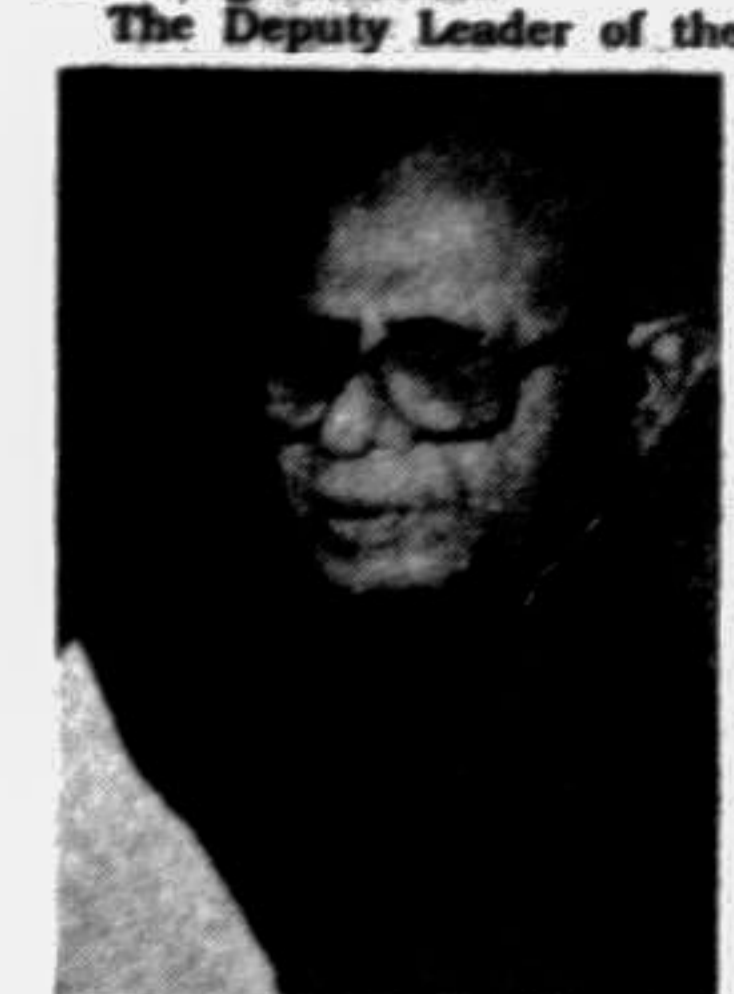
The Law Minister expressed his gratitude and thanks to the members of the Select Committee for their co-operation and contribution in preparing the report unanimously.

Samad Azad
After the Law Minister, the chair gave the floor to Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad.

Mr Azad spoke in detail about the report of the committee and said it was a "historic" occasion since the nation was moving forward to establish an unalloyed parliamentary democracy in the country.

He thanked all the members of the Select Committee as well as others outside the House like the students and

the professionals making significant contribution towards establishing parliamentary form of government.



Opposition said the members would now discuss the report and take the final decision.

Mr Azad expressed the hope that the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition would march ahead in their quest for establishing parliamentary democracy in the country and said the House would extend all cooperation to them in this direction.

Taking the floor, the Deputy Leader of the House Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury said it was a memorable day in the history of the nation. He said such an auspicious day did not dawn for many days and many years.

He said the auspicious journey had heralded the final victory for the forces of democracy.

Prof Chowdhury said "if we look at the history of Bangladesh, we see the existence of another force — the anti-democratic force."

He said the accord on the return to parliamentary democracy has dealt the death-knell to the forces opposing the democracy.

He said on this August occasion, the nation gratefully remembers the students, youths, workers, peasants and professionals who wrote down the history of the emancipation of democracy in letters of blood after braving the barbarity perpetrated by the autocratic ruler.

The Deputy Leader of the House thanked the members of the Select Committee who laboured hard, day and night, to make the recommendations on the Constitutional Amendment Bills.

He said there were difference of opinions among the members of the committee while preparing the committee report. But, he said the differences were gradually narrowed down. He said "there has been a give and take in the process."

Prof Chowdhury said "as we talk about the sovereignty of parliament, we must prove it to the world by our words and deeds in the House. He said "our every move and behaviour in the house must reflect tolerance."

He said on this memorable day we must mention the name of Begum Khaleda Zia the Leader of the House who promised to the people that the form of government would be determined reflecting the aspirations of the people.

He said the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina also deserved praise as she always wholeheartedly wanted the parliamentary democracy to come into being.

Incomplete

Metropolitan

'Third World suffers from internal weakness'

Democratic revolution sought to end western dominance

Developing countries should take recourse to "democratic revolution" in cutting western dominance over the Third World, a visiting Oxford University fellow said in Dhaka on Saturday, reports UNB.

Dr Gowher Rizvi, Fellow in the International Relations of Nuffield College of Oxford University, was delivering a talk on "Revolt against Western Dominance" at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) Saturday afternoon.

CCC distributes wheat among cyclone victims

CHITTAGONG, July 28: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) started distribution of wheat and edible oil among 28,646 distressed women families of its 17 cyclone and tidal surge affected wards, reports BSS.

The CCC has undertaken a relief distribution programme under World Food Programme, according to a press release.

CCC Mayor Mir M Naziruddin inaugurated the programme through distribution of wheat and edible oil among 604 distressed families at a simple ceremony held today.

Chaired by Justice Mustafa Kamal, the discussion was also participated by Brigadier (Retd) MA Hafiz, Director General of the Institute.

Explaining distinctive characteristics of the Third World countries, Dr Rizvi said a massive decolonisation process was evolved after the Second World War.

Since then the Third World posed a threat by challenging supremacy of the West to break the status quo of international order, he said.

But the super powers, opposing the challenge, unleashed a series of indirect control over whom they once ruled.

"They transferred power to the elite so that the interest of the West are well protected," he said adding it created an in-built system of destroying democratic values in the newly emerging developing countries.

Dr Rizvi emphasised on people's participation in policy formulation in developing countries to shun western influence.

Justice Mustafa Kamal attributed western dominance to various intellectual and scientific achievements over five centuries which never occurred in the Third World.

"Third World suffers from internal weakness and hollow-

ness and they must stand on their own to revitalise themselves," he asserted.

"No amount of diplomatic maneuvering will compel the West to change their status. Collective hard work will help in the emergence of some potential countries from the South in due course of time."

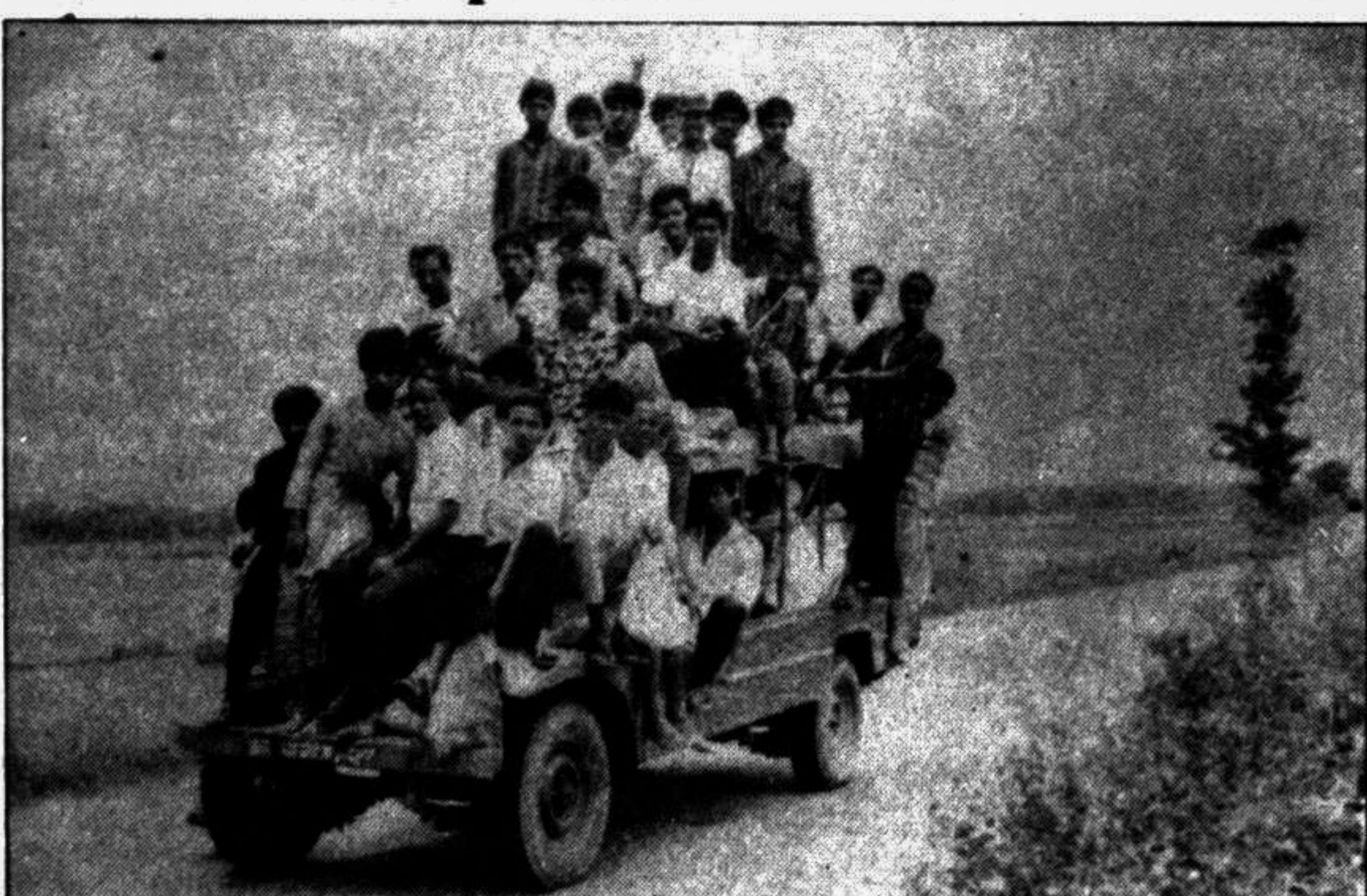
Brigadier Hafiz said the Third World has failed to become an autonomous force and their voices are gradually being diminished in international arena.

UK keen to give aid for road sectors in cyclone-hit areas

The Acting British High Commissioner in Bangladesh, G Finlayson, called on the Communications Minister Oil Ahmad at Bangladesh Secretariat Sunday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest including the British aided bridge projects in the roads and highways sector.

The High Commissioner showed keen interest to provide British commodity assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of road sectors in the cyclone and flood affected areas.



Pavel Rahman of the Associated Press of Dhaka Bureau won the silver medal for his photograph captioned 'Men and Work' in an international photo exhibition held in Brazil in June this year.

Newsmen of 11 Khulna papers on Strike

Journalists and workers of 11 newspapers in Khulna Saturday started work abstention demanding enhanced salaries and bonus, a press release said, reports UNB.

Leaders at a meeting chaired by KUJ president Ayub Hossain at the local press club asked the newspaper owners to implement their demands immediately.

The meeting also condemned attack by daily Khabar

management on journalists and workers and demanded arrest of the culprits involved.

Chittagong Union of Journalists today expressed strong resentment against attack on journalists and other employees of the Dainik Khabar in Dhaka yesterday.

A protest meeting held under the auspices of CUJ at the press club here was presided over by union president Akhtarun-Nabi. General

Secretary Anjan Kumar Sen, Press Club President Ataul Hakim, Nasir Uddin Chowdhury and Mustaq Ahmad also spoke on the occasion.

They demanded exemplary punishment to those who were responsible for attacking journalists and other employees of the Dainik Khabar.

The meeting, in a resolution, decided to hold a week-long programme from August 1,

Call to gear up efforts to realise bank loans

LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Tahukdar Sunday called upon the officers and employees of banks to gear up efforts to realise outstanding loans, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking at a reception organised by Rupali Bank Officers Association in honour of Ziaul

DU officers on strike

By DU Correspondent

Officers of Dhaka University observed the first day of their three-day work-stoppage on Sunday demanding realisation of their 13-point demand which include modification of down graded pay-scale and representation of the officers at Senate, Syndicate and other bodies of the university.

Meanwhile, a number of intending candidates for 15th batch of BCS Examination, who failed to obtain their certificates from the administrative building Sunday brought out a procession on the campus protesting work-stoppage.

It may be mentioned that if the workstoppage continues till July 30 a number of students will be deprived of the opportunity to appear in the BCS examinations for failing to enclose their degree or honours certificates with application form.

Haq, MP, a former General Secretary of the Association.

The reception was also addressed by State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism MA Mannan, State Minister for Information Mohammad Nurul Huda, Chairman of Rupali Bank Management Board Azrul Haq, MP, and Ziaul Haq MP.

Tahukdar said the indiscipline in the banking sector was the result of interference and mismanagement during nine years of autocratic rule. The lapses have to be corrected to make the banks profitable institutions, he added.

The LORD minister, who lauded the role of bank officers and employees in anti-autocracy movement, said our cherished economic development will remain unfulfilled if we fail to generate dynamism and profitability in the banking sector.

Tahukdar urged officers and employees to extend all out cooperation to the democratically elected government to materialise the hopes and aspirations of the people.

AL leader dead

Majleel Haq, President of Tungipara Upazila Awami League, died of cardiac arrest Saturday night at Suhrawardy Hospital. He was 65, reports BSS.

Haq left behind his wife, three daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.