Sajeda says she handed over Hasina's letter backing Sattar govt

The Jatiya Sangsad resumed its sitting at 11-20 am Tuesday with the Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas, in the chair. reports BSS.

After tilawat-e-Quran, Salahuddin Yusuf (AL-Khulna) drew the attention of the chair to the amendment notices to the 11th and 12th Constitution Amendment Bills.

He sought permission of the chair to submit amendment notices afresh to these bills. Rising next, Montrul Huq

Chowdhury (JP-Comilla) alleged that the government was curbing freedom of the press by stopping advertisement in the daily Janata. Such an act. he said, was contrary to the constitutional provision and designed to suppress freedom of the press.

Chowdhury demanded a statement from the State Minister for Information in this regard

JSD (S) leader Shahjahan Straj rose to say that he had submitted new amendment notices on the 11th and 12th Constitution Amendment Bills but his name was not mentioned in the list.

The Speaker told the member that the Business Advisory Committee of the House would sit and decide how the amendments would be discussed.

Asaduzzaman

Asaduzzaman (AL-Magura) proposed suspension of discussion on the Constitutional Amendment Bills till today (Wednesday).

Drawing the attention of the chair to the state of affairs in the newspaper industry. Suranjit Sengupta (Ganatantree Party Sunamganj) said some important newspapers like Ittefaq. Sangbad and Khabar were not being published for quite some time.

He said the proceedings of the House used to be carried by those important papers to the people in different constituencies. He urged the gov ernment to take steps in this regard.



Badruddoza Chowdhury

Replying to the member. the Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said some development had taken place with regard to the prevailing situation in the newspaper industry. He said that State Minister for Information would apprise

the House of the situation. Ziaul Hug (BNP-Lakkhipur) took the floor to urge the government to undertake immediate construction work on the road (Lakkhipur by-pass) as it was causing great inconvenience to the people in the

Fazlul Karim Selim

Awami League member Shetkh Fazlul Karim Selim said although many members had submitted amendment notices the Constitutional Amendment Bills, their names were not incorporated in the

He said the Parliament Secretariat should inform the members whether their notices had been accepted or not.

The chair told the member all amendment notices received by the Secretariat would come before the House. He also assured the members that he would try to ascertain why the names of those who submitted notices did not come in the list.

Abdur Rouf

Taking the floor, Abdur Rouf (AL-Nilphamari) drew the attention of the chair to the flood situation in Nilphamari and said 500 families had already been rendered homeless due to erosion by the river Teesta.

The Speaker told the member that State Minister for Relief would give a reply soon.

Rashed Mosharraf

Rising next, Rashed Mosharraf (Al-Jamalpur) said he had given a notice under Rule 59 of the Rules of Procedure about the menacing effects of flood in Islampur upazila of Jamalpur district. But he did not get any reply from the concerned Minister. Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon said the concerned Minister had not replied to the notices of the members despite the directive given by the chair to do so.

In the context, he said the Communications Minister, the Relief Minister and

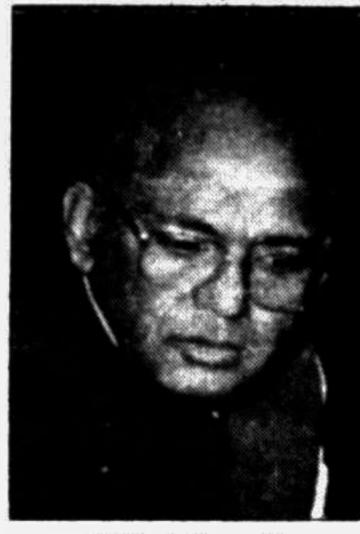
Finance Minister in the past had failed to comply with the request from the chair in this



Abdur Razzak

BAKSAL leader Abdur Razzak supported the contention of Menon. He also referred to the flood situation in Madaripur where, he said, the town itself was threatened due to erosion.

Nurul Islam Moni The Speaker replied in the affirmative when Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna) wanted to know if he could submit amendment Tuesday on the Constitutional Amendment Bill 1991



Tofael Ahmed

Speaking next. Tofael Ahmed (AL-Bhola) said he agreed with Rashed Khan Menon that the ministers were not making any statement although the Speaker was assuring the concerned mem bers that the relevant minister would give statements on issues being raised in the House. But the ministers do not remain present in the House, he pointed out. He urged the chair to see to it that the concerned ministers remained present in the House if and when necessary.

Tofael Ahmed then turned to the problems of his constituency. Bhola, which he said, was threatened with serious erosion. He demanded a statement from the State Minister for Relief in this re-

When Begum Sajeda Chowdhury urged the chair to switch over to the discussion the Constitutional Amendment Bills, the Speaker asked the Awami League member, Prof Abdul Mannan from Meherpur, to initiate discussion on his amendment for sending the Constitutional Amendment (Eleventh Amendment) Bill 1991 for eliciting public opinion.

Prof Abdul Mannan

Prof Mannan said he did not see Justice Shahabuddin as only an Acting President or a judge but as a banyan tree. He said Justice Shahabuddin could if not a super man.

President should not be althe reign of the government at a most critical juncture. He said he should be presented to the nation and the posterity as a legend.

He said the debt the nation owes to Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed can only by repaid by giving him his due honour. But, he said, there was no scope for giving him honour by making him a Minister for Land or sending him back to his post.

Hafizuddin Ahmed

Speaking next, Major (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed (Ind Bhola) said the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed had added a new chapter to the history of this nation. He said the emergence of Justice Shahabuddin at a time when the people had lost confidence in politics was an epoch-making event.

He said it was he who guided the nation towards a new hope and held a free and fair election.

Mentioning some of the honest aspects of his character, Major (Retd) Hafizuddin said the name of Justice Shahabuddin would be written in golden letters in history.

He said neutrality of the Chief Justice would be impaired if he goes back to his original post. He said it would not be proper for him to return to a post subordinate to his present one.

He proposed that the House should request Justice Shahabuddin not to ge back to post. He requested the chair to give a thought on whether he can be appointed as ombudsman with the rank an status of the Prime Minister.

Sajeda Chowdhury

Moving her amendment to the Constitution (Eleventh Amendment) Bill 1991. Begum Sajeda Chowdhury (AL-Fartdpurl said they had come to this House by fighting against autocrecy People had achieved victory through supreme sacrifices of many innocent people, she said adding that this House was also elected under a caretaker and impartial government.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury said the name of the person under whom free and fair elections were held would be written in golden letters in the history of the country. She said Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad had given a notice to accord recognition to the service of the Acting President so that he could return to his original

The General Secretary of the Awami League said corruption had become rampant and moral values were being destroyed gradually.

Referring to the amend ment to the constitution. Begum Chowdhury said the House should reach a consensus as the whole nation was looking at what we are doing in this regard.

She said it was her conviction that no member of this House wanted to see that an autocrat should come to power through back-door. There should be a constitutional provision that none could capture power through killing or coup. she said adding that a long autocratic rule had created political and economic crises.

To overcome this situa tion, she said, all have to work unitedly by rising above party interest for the posterity.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury made a clarion call to the members belonging to both the Treasury and the Opposition Benches to set an example by opening a new chapter for the posterity. She said the rift created between the government and the opposition by the autocratic regime should be removed.

Citing elements of democracy, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury said Parliament was the symbol of hopes and aspirations of the people. She demanded that government repeal all antifundamental rights provisions and black laws. She said, we want rule of law. We want trial of the killers of the Bangabandhu, the legendary Bangalee. She said killer Mostaque through an ordikillers from trial

Begum Chowdhury said we do not support the killing of former President Ziaur Rahman. She said she had herself handed over a letter from her party Chief Sheikh Hasina to former President Justice Sastar extending support to the constitutional government

Begum Chowdhury said Chief Whip of the Opposition. Mohammad Nasim had given a notice for Indemnity Bill providing trial of the killers. She said they wanted repeal of the Fifth Amendment and get rid of the black law.

She said the bill brought by Salahuddin Yusuf for separating the judiciary from the executive should be introduced before the House along with the Indemnity Bill.

Referring to the referendum Begum Chowdhury said all of us here were elected representatives of the people, so there is no need of sending the present bill to referendum. She said it would be a mere wastage of public fund and also tantamount to ignoring the rights of the elected members of this House.

The Awami League leader demanded of the government to incorporate again secularism in the constitution for upholding the spirit of the Liberation War and giving a sense to the people belonging to all religious that they had equal rights in this country.

Serajul Huq

As Begum Sajeda Chowdhury completed her speech. Serajul Hug (BNP-Jamalpur) took the floor on a point of order and said it was not correct that it was proposed in the report that any member remaining absent during the voting would lose membership.

He said Begum Sajeda Chowdhury had mentioned this but the correct position in the report of the Select Committee about the disqualification of the membership was that a member would lose membership when abstaining from voting ignoring the party

At this stage, several opposition members sought to speak something but the chair said no further discussion on this issue was necessary and gave the floor to Abdur Razzak (BAKSAL- Madaripur) for taking part in discussions on the

Razzak paid glowing tributes to those including the students, professionals and people on the street for launching a relentless movement that forced the end of an autocratic regime.

The opposition member nance had exempted the congratulated Prime Minister

and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia for fulfilling her pledge to switch over to parliamentary form of government replacing the present presidential system.

He also congratulated the Leader of the Opposition "Bangabandhu's daughter" Sheikh Hasina for making every effort to revert to the parliamentary system.

Razzak described the two bills before the House as "historie" and said it was a momentous occasion that the House, which is the product of a successful anti-autocracy movement, is dealing with issues of such a great national importance. He praised Acting President

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed for organising a free and impartial election in the country and said he deserved congratulations for accomplishing such a noble tank

The BAKSAL member said the Acting President had expressed his desire to go back to his old job of Chief Justice and this House must extend all support towards this.

Razzak said many persons in the past had promised to go back to the barracks after completing "their task" but they never kept their promise Here, he said, the Acting President wanted to keep his promise and the House must do the needful to facilitate this.

The opposition member praised the Select Committee for the painstaking efforts it took in preparing the report the Constitutional Amendment Bills and said the report needed discussions by the members.

He said putting an end to the polities of coups and killings should be one of the major objectives of this Parliament and urged the House to establish and example by taking a decision that would eliminate such tendencies in the country.

In this context, Razzak made a forceful plea for scrapping the Indemnity Act and wondered why the killers of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman should not be punished.

"What crime nine-year-old Russel and Begum Mujib. committed," he asked and added that killers of the newly-wed brides of Shetkh Kamal and Sheikh Jamal could not go away without purish-

Razzak said illegal setzure of power in the country posed a problem to the nation and this House must take a decision since both the leader of the House and the leader of the opposition wanted an end to unconstitutional occupation of

He spoke against religionbased politics and said even the founder of Pakistan Mohammad Ali Jinnah was against such politics." As a Muslim I have my religious rights, by the same token, a Hindu should have the same

The opposition member stressed the need for independence of the judiciary for establishing a true democratic system. At this stage, the Speaker reminded the member that it was time for Zohar prayer and the member could speak later. The House was adjourned at 1 pm till 4 p m.

The House reassembled at 4-15 pm with the Deputy Speaker, Sheikh Razzak Ali, in the chair.

The chair invited BAKSAL leader Abdur Razzak to complete his incomplete speech.

the 11th Constitutional Amendment Bill, Razzak said politics in the name of religion could never bring welfare to the people. He said it was seen during the Pakistant regime how religion was used for selfish political gain.

Razzak said as a Muslim he would always retaliate if there was any attack on his religion. But at the same time, he added, the Holy Prophet (SM) had taught us not to do excess in the name of religion.

secularism is not negation to religion rather its objective is to half the exploitation of religion to achieve political gain. He said in Bangladesh

had a feeling of being a second class citizen. He said it was the responsibility of all parties to con-

tion of the Constitution. He said we believe in the freedom of the press but in reality it had been observed such

The BAKSAL leader expressed the hope that the party which had come to power through people's ver-

Referring to the situation in the five newspapers, he said the owners, journalists and the government had the responsibility to promote democracy. Therefore, he urged them to take joint initiative to solve the problems in those papers.

forts to give democracy an institutional shape in the country. He said persistent efforts should be made to establish a parliamentary tradition which can not be established in a day.

In this context, he said, it took long 500 years to establish a parliamentary tradition in Britain.

He, however, said the present Parliament in the country was functioning well but he laid emphasis on practising to tolerance for the flourishment of democracy. He expressed concern at

the deteriorating situation in right" he said. the Dhaka University campus and said his son, a student of the University Laboratory School was yet to return home causing worries to his parents. Prolonged fighting was going on between two rival groups in the campus since midday he added. Shamsul Hug

Resuming the discussion on

The BAKSAL leader said

had to be ensured that none

tribute to more democratisa-

freedom did not exist.

dict would look trito it.

Razzak called for united ef-

Taking the floor next,

Maulana Abdus Sobhan (Jamaat-Pabna) congratulated the Select Committee for attaining unanimity on the Constitutional Amendment Bills and presenting them in He also congratulated the

Motiur Rahman Nizami

Moulana Abdus Sobhan

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed for successfully holding a free and fair election. "This House is the contribution of the care-taker government" he added.

The Jamaat leader said, it was the firm conviction of the people that no neutral and peaceful election could be held under a party government. For this reason, he said, on behalf of the Jamaat, Moulana Mattur Rahman Nizami brought an Amendment Bill seeking constitutional guarantees that all national elections in future should be held under such a care-taker and neutral government.

Maulana Sobhan said, it would be convenient if the proposed bill of Maulana Nizami was placed by the Select Committee in this House. The members could discuss the issue along with lith and 12th Amendment Bills, he added.

Referring to the nine-year movement against autocracy Maulana Sobhan said, Jamaate-Islami had also launched a relentless struggle along with people of all walks of life for restoration of democracy in the country.

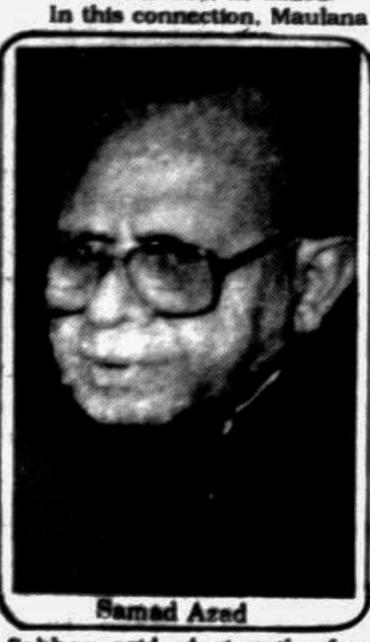
He said, in 1983, the Jamaat was the first political party to raise the demand for holding elections under a neutral and care-taker government and later it attained the stature of a national demand. He said without foundation no building could be constructed and added that the Jamast had laid the foundation of the care taker government which presented the nation a parliament through an impartial election.

Referring to the deliberations of some members who had advocated in favour of secularism, Maulana Sobhan said after the debacle of socialism within 50 years, it was once again proved that there was no alternative to Islam for a state system. He, however, said those

who advocated for secularism were doing so from their own conviction and belief, " the religion of Islam which we are talking about allows the people, belonging to all religions. to perform their respective religious activities," he added.

In this connection Maulana Sobhan said, in the name of secularism over 3,000 communal riots occurred in India where thousands of Muslims and low-caste Hindus were

killed by the Brahmins there. He said, in the present day world only Islamic economy could bring emancipation of the people. Through establishing rule of Allah rule of justice could be ensured, he added.



Sobhan said, during the fag end of the previous regime when autocrat Ershad tried to create communal disharmony Jamaat sent its workers to protect the temples and life and properties of the Hindus

total emancipation of the people lies in Islam neither in so-

Referring to hundreds of amendment proposals brought by the members in connection with the 11th and 12th amendment bills, Moulana Sobhan called upon the members to be alert so that "we may not lose everything in our thrust to gain all at a time." He said, we have to be cautious so that no other armed dictator could come and establish autocratic rule in the country

While Maulana Sobhan concluded, a number of members stood up raising point of

But the Speaker permitted only Begum Sajeda Chowdhury (AL-Faridpur), who contradicted some remarks of Maulana Sobhan. She said, as a Muslim she also revers Islam and religion. "We only oppose using Islam and religion for attaining selfish ends and makther said, there was no link ism as Maulana Sobhan tried to mean.

Abdur Rahim(BAKSAL Dinajpur) started his deliberations on the eleventh constitution amendment bill with thanks to the Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for presenting the members with a

Citing various examples,



Mirza Golam Hafiz

lowed in its best form during the period of Hazrat Mohammad(S). He refuted the contention of Maulana Abdus Sobhan that the secularism

ground the BAKSAL member said the constitution of 1972 was boyoneted by the military junta on December 18, 1978. Through this action power of the Jatiya Sangsad was curtailed. he said, though it was true that Khondakar Moshtaque was the killer and

their distribution throughout the country. He called upon the government to repeal the Indemnity clause by adopting the amendments submitted by the Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim.

Referring to the eleventh amendment, Rahim said, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was made the Acting President under the framework of the three alliances. The Acting President deserves thanks for giving the nation a free and fair election, he said adding that the Acting President should be allowed to return to his original post as agreed by the three

Budget framed under foreign pressure'

The remaining part of

Monday's JS proceedings:

Mohammad Yusuf Then the Deputy Speaker gave the floor to Mohammad Yusuf (CPB-Chittagong) to

speak on the national budget. Yusuf said the proposed budget was just a stereotype. He said the budget placed by the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman failed to provide any direction on the questions of

try and social development. tions had to be cancelled when the Jatiya Sangsad was in ses-

Yusuf said the prices of the essentials had gone beyond the reach of the common man. At the same time unrest had

started in industries, he said. The CPB member was o critical of the government decision of disposing of the na tionalised industries to the private owners at low prices cost. He said these people were retrenching workers violating he agreements of taking

over the milis. Terming the present Jatiya Sangsad as the hopes and aspirations of the people, he said the Finance Minister had disheartened the people through his budgetary measures.

He said the government employees had come down to the street for demanding publication of the pay commission report while workers of mills and factories affected by the price hike of the essentials were waiting to take the streets.

Yusuf said the Finance Minister prepared the budget upholding the interest of the richer section of the society and the industrialists. He alleged that the Finance Minister had drafted the budget at the directive of the World Bank and foreign pres-

He called upon the finance

Minister to go through the

budget and place a fresh bud-

get for consideration by the

House.

Kazi Shamsur Rahman

Participating in the discussion, Kazi Shamsur Rahman (Jamaat-Satkhira) called for adhering to the code of life bestowed by Allah to attain

progress and prosperity. He said no economic development was possible without moral development. The Jamaat member laid emphasis on following he four main principles like Namaz, Zakat, order to perform honest work

The Jamaat member procommittees with the Members of Parliament to undertake development worked in their re-

spective constituencies.

L.K. Siddiqui Speaking next, L.K. Siddiqui (BNP-Chittagong) congratulated the Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum. Khaleda Zia for her courageous and honest step to restore the parliamentary form of govern-

ment to honour the wish of the people. He thanked the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina for her contribution to revert to the parliamentary system of government. The BNP member said national progress could not be achieve by dividing the

Siddiqui also thanked all the members of Parliament for their on contribution to the proposed constitutional amendments.

people.

Referring to the group leaders of the party which secured only one seat he proposed for an amendment under which a political party would be given recognition only when it would secure at least one per cent of the total scats of the Parliament. Turning to the national.

budget for the fiscal 1991-92,

the BNP member said the

Finance Minister had started

from Zero because of the plun-

dering of resources during the last nine years. He said the misrule of the past regime had retarded the nation's progress by 50 years. The main objective of the

budget, he said, was to regain the lost time and growth rate. Siddiqui said Bangladesh

was not a poor country but the problem was "chaos" he quoted the comment of a foreign national who came here and stayed for some time visiting the country sides as saying "Bangladesh is a beautiful country by all standards" but

chaos existed here. The BNP member said it was a propaganda against Bangladesh that it was a poor country. He said Bangladesh had efficient manpower in various fields and it had resources too. What was needed was the united efforts to build the country utilising indige-

Khaleda Rabbani

Begum Khaleda Rabbani (BNP-Women-Moulvibazar-Habigail said the proposed well-thought out budget placed by the Finance Minister would serve as a guiding force for the country's development. She said the budget would also help the country achieve self-

reliance. She said the Finance Minister While preparing the budget had maintained a balance between national income and expenditures. Besides, she said, the budget had given i guarantee of the basic needs food, clothing, housing, education and medicare to the peo-

Turning to the demand for the enhancement of salaries of the government employees she said keeping the prices of essentials within their purchasing power would be more beneficial to the employees than increasing their wages. She said the purpose of the low-income group people would be better served if prices of commodities could be controlled. Pointing to the problems of

Begum Rabbani called for converting the Sylhet Osmani Airport into a full-fledged international airport. She also demanded he opening of

her constituency she said

Sylhet was always neglected

although the district was full of

resources which fetch huge

foreign currency for the coun-

Shamshengar Airport. The BNP woman member

River Barrage.

also urged the authorities concerned to shift the Tea Board head office to Sri Mangal from Chittagong. Siddiqui said it were the Bangladeshi experts who had built the Teesta and Monu

He urged the government to patronise local experts and stop expenditures in the unproductive sectors. He said and amount of Taka 30 crore had been spent for the construction of the Sena

Kalyan Sangstha building. If

this amount was given for the

development of his area, the people could have derived benefit in more practical Siddiqui called for expediting the construction of Dhaka-Chittagong Highway and devel oping Sitakundu in Chittagong

which was a holy place for the

Hindu community. The BNP member narrated a story about the conversations among a medical surgeon, an architect and a politician which the members heard with attention.

He said when the surgeon tried to take credit for making Eve through a surgery in Adam's body, the architect claimed that it was he who had brought order in the world stopping the chaos. The politician, he said immediately wanted to know in a bid to earn credit as to who created

ASM Firoze

After the speech Siddiqui,

the chaos.

Awami League member ASM Firoze said it should be found out who was responsible for intruding into the order of polities. He reminded the promulgation of Martial Law by Major General Iskander Mirza Orst in the then Pakistan which was later taken over by General Ayub Khan. In Bangladesh, it was once

ferred to the contention made by Siddiquis. The Deputy Speaker ad journed the House at 8.55 pm to resume at 11 am in Tuesday.

again, not any politician but

somebody from elsewhere who

brought about the Martial Law

rule, he said and obliquely re-

and fair election in the coun-He said most of the former heads of state could not leave power through the constitutional way. Therefore, he added, the Acting President must be allowed to relinquish his power without any obstacle. Hug, however, said it was not known whether the nation

Speaking next, Shamsul

Hug (AL-Mymensingh) paid

tributes to the Acting

President Justice Shahabuddin

Ahmed for performing a

unique task of holding a free

would again require the ser

vice of Justice Shahabuddin

Ahmed to conduct free and fair

demanded trial of the killers of

Bangabandhu and said

Bangabandhu should be given

his rightful place with full

no Hamlet without the Prince

of Denmark, Bangladesh could

not be thought without

He said, as there could be

The Awami League member

polis again.

honour and dignity.

He categorically said, the cialism nor in secularism.

ing trade in religion. She furbetween secularism and social-

Abdur Rahim

copy of the Holy Quran.

was a new Idea. Referring to the back-

the November 6 incident was termed as the soldiers'-peoples' revolution, he was forced to sign the Indemnity promulgation later". He said, there was no official announcement till august 20 after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15. Rahim said he had got printed 4,000 copies of the Indemnity order and arranged

Alliances.

education, agriculture, indusand prevention of dishonest be described as a "great man" activities. The CPB member ex-Kazi Shamsur Rahman He said the Acting pressed his concern at campus urged the government to take violence and deterioration of steps to stop prostitution in lowed to go back to his original law and order situation the country. post. He said it was he who throughout the country. He had saved the nation taking said even the S SC examina posed constitution of local nous resources and experts.