

'Budget always reflects views of the party in power'

Following is the remaining part of Tuesday's JS proceedings

Mobin Chowdhury
Abu Lais Md Mobin Chowdhury (JP-Habiganj) said the national budget for 1991-92 failed to give any relief to the people of the rural areas.

He said though the price of fuel oil had come down after the Gulf War, the government was yet to reduce its price in our country. He urged the government to fix the price of fuel oil at the rate that prevailed before the Gulf crisis.

Abu Lais criticised the government for not levying duties on foreign brand cigarettes and said imposition of duties on Benson and Hege cigarettes would bring huge amount to the government coffers.

Referring to VAT, he said it was true that this system of taxation was in vogue in many countries. But this tax in our country was irrelevant since production in our industries was very negligible, he added.

He was critical of the government for imposing VAT on raw materials imported from abroad. VAT could be applicable to finished goods, he said and urged the government not to realise VAT and customs duties on the same goods at the same time.

Golam Rabbani
Golam Rabbani (BNP-Joypurhat) began his speech by paying tributes to the late President Ziaur Rahman.

He thanked the Finance Minister for presenting a people-orient budget to the nation.

Rabbani, who concentrated his speech on local problems, said his district was the most neglected, one. He said Joypurhat would have been a very flourishing district if the projects chalked out during the period of shaheed President Zia had been taken up and implemented.

Implementation of Jamalganj coal extraction project, Joypurhat cement factory and textile mills would not only make the district rich but also create employment opportunities for the youth, he said.

In this connection, he pointed out that the country was spending a considerable sum in foreign exchange for the import of coal. Implementation of the Jamalganj coal extraction project would save the country from spending foreign exchange now being spent on the

import of coal, he added.
He called for the development of Bogra-Dinajpur road, Joypurhat-Hilly road, Joypurhat-Akkelpur road, and other network of roads within this district. He also demanded construction of hostel for Joypurhat government college.

Harun-ur-Rashid
Participating in the discussion, Sheikh Harun-ur-Rashid (AL-Khulna) criticised the budget as a "sugar-coated quinine" and "frustrating".

He demanded construction of a road up to the Sundarbans to attract tourists.

He also demanded allocation for construction of the Rupsa Bridge and development of Khulna Medical College and Khulna University.

Shaikat Ali
Speaking next, Mir Shaikat Ali (BNP-Dhaka) supported the VAT and said this was progressive system where it is difficult to evade tax. He said due to its efficacy, this system has been introduced in all the developed countries.

He said introduction of VAT will also help in the development of industries and reduction of the number of traders. He however, suggested to make efforts to explain the system to the people.

Refuting opposition allegations, Mir Shaikat Ali said market prices in Bangladesh do not increase due to budget. The price rise occurs during festivals and also due to some administrative complications.

He said the opposition could point only five items of which prices have increased this time while prices of 43 items had increased after the 1972-73 budget.

Referring to Dhaka city he said it was divided into two parts old city and new city. He said the pura facilities provided in the new part were far better than those in the old part, but the taxation level was the same in the two parts. He termed this as injustice to the poor residents of the old area.

Shaikat Ali, who is also the president of city unit of BNP, proposed formation of Dhaka City Authority to be administered by a public representative. He said all the utility services in the capital should come under this authority.

He said under the City Authority there should be two separate parastatals for proper development of the ever expanding Dhaka city.

Referring to the problems of his constituency in Lalbagh area, Mir Shaikat Ali demanded widening of the roads, construction of an embankment in Kamrangir Char and construction of one or two bridges to connect Kamrangir Char with the city for balanced development of the area.

He suggested to provide office facilities including a typewriter and a clerk to the MPs for proper disposal of their services to the Mohiuddin Ahmed (AL-Mehediganj) the actual allocation to the defence was more than shown in the budget because of the facilities. He also criticised the budget for BDR and police as their services were not satisfactory.

He appealed for the passage of the Indemnity Bill.

Referring to local problems, he demanded development of power system, physical infrastructures, airport and railway link in Barisal. He also demanded to develop Barisal into a division.

The Speaker adjourned the House at 4-42 pm till 3 pm.

Abdul Khaleque Talukdar
As the House resumed at 3-25 pm, Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali asked Abdul Khaleque Talukdar (AL-Bagerhat) to speak on the 1991-92 budget.

Talukdar said the prices of essential commodities had already marked a steep rise a result of the budget. He said the Finance Minister had not given any direction for the economic well-being of the poor. He said the budget was prepared on the prescription of the World Bank.

He called for development of the hitherto neglected Mongla Port.

Fatema Chowdhury Paru
Speaking next Fatema Chowdhury Paru (BNP-Sunamganj-Sylhet) said the people were falling victims to the misgivings created with the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) in the country. She laid emphasis on educating the people about VAT to remove the misunderstanding from their minds.

She called for turning the Osmani Airport at Sylhet into an international airport.

Mokhlesur Rahman
Mohammed Mokhlesur Rahman (AL-Thakurgaon) described the budget as a toll for exploiting the people.

the country's sugar industry and called for taking proper step for saving it from ruination.

Rawshan Ara Hena
Rawshan Ara Hena (BNP-Patukhali-Barguna-Bhola) said there was an attempt to enhance the prices of even those commodities on which VAT had not been imposed. She said this modern tax system was in vogue in about 60 developing countries of the world.

Shahjahan Chowdhury
Shahjahan Chowdhury (Jamaat-Chittagong) stressed the creation of internal market for the locally manufactured goods.

Tajul Islam
Tajul Islam Farook (AL-Rajshahi) said the budget had disappointed the general masses, including farmers and workers.

He said the imposition of VAT had made the lives of the people miserable.

Abdus Salam Pintu
Taking the floor next, Abdus Salam Pintu (BNP-Tangail) said the new members had a feeling that their privileges were breached when their time of speech was restricted.

He resumed his seat without participating in the budget speech.

Kalpa Ranjan Chakma
Kalpa Ranjan Chakma (AL-Hill, Khagrachhari) said they felt like aliens in their own country. He said the hill people were, as if, second class citizens.

Kalpa Ranjan also called for bringing back normalcy in the area after resolving the problems prevailing there.

The Awami League member from the hill district called upon the authorities to return the land to the tribal people which was taken from them. He also said that steps should be taken to bring back the people who had crossed over to India.

Sirajul Huq
Sirajul Huq (BNP-Jamalpur) said the Finance Minister had presented the country with a fine budget just after the removal of the autocratic regime. He said VAT was a modern method of taxation proper application of which would benefit the people.

Azizur Rahman
AZIZUR RAHMAN (AL-Moulvibazar) said the 1991-92 budget had all the symptoms and demerits of being anti-people in character.

Disagreeing with the opposition suggestion, Azizur Rahman said the imposition of the new tax of Taka 250 crore could never give the budget a progressive character.

He said the peasants were the backbone of the nation and that agriculture had registered a growth of 40 percent. He said the withdrawal of subsidy from the agricultural sector was not justified.

The Awami League member said if production of tea was modernised its export could increase by four times. He called for shifting the tea headquarters to Srimangal from Chittagong.

Abdul Karim
Abdul Karim Advocate (BNP-Netrakona) described it as a realistic and pro-people budget. He said if the budget was considered in the light constraints the government had to face after years of autocratic rule which had ruined the economy, there would not have been critical remarks.

Referring to his constituency, the BNP member said Sushan-Durgapur the home of the author of Mymensingh Oitika, had remained neglected in all sectors including education, health and communication. He called upon the government to take effective steps for the restoration of the name and fame of the area.

Enamul Haq
Enamul Haq (Jamaat Cox's Bazar) emphasised eradication of corruption from the society. He said unless corruption was removed, whatever good the budget might have, it would not serve any purpose.

The Jamaat MP called for enforcement of Ombudsman as envisaged in constitution. He said if the administration could be kept off corruption, this malice would disappear.

Enamul Haq demanded inclusion of religious and moral education in the training curriculum of cadre service officials and members of the armed forces. He also urged the members not to take any economic projects on political consideration.

Referring to the damage caused to his constituency in the April cyclone and recent

flash flood, Haq demanded formation of Shrimp Board and Salt Board for the development of the two sectors.

Amjad Hossain Talukder
Amjad Hossain Talukder (AL-Kurigram), described the budget as stereotyped, which would make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

He criticised withdrawal of subsidy from agriculture which contributed enough to the national economy. He demanded that his constituency area be covered under rural electrification programme and Chilmari Bandar be developed.

Anwara Habib
Anwara Habib (BNP) said in view of our limited resources and the prevailing socio-economic condition, it is an ideal and pro-people budget. She also observed that from various view points it is a balanced budget. Mrs Habib demanded nationalisation of a Bhuapur College.

Mansur Ahmed
Mansur Ahmed (AL-Sathkira) said the budget was nothing but an instrument of appeasing the rich and exploiting the poor. He said as a good Chartered Accountant, the Finance Minister very cleverly furnished a document of income and expenditure.

Mansur Ahmed demanded that Kaliganj College be nationalised and his constituency be brought under rural electrification programme. He also demanded effective steps for the protection of Tala thana from erosion.

AKM Fazul Haq
A K M Fazul Haq (BNP-Mymensingh) described the budget as timely. He however said any discrepancies detected therein might be removed by the Finance Minister. Haq demanded that an administrative division be delimited with the districts of greater Mymensingh and turning Ananda Mohan University College into a full-fledged university.

Shahiduzzaman
Shahiduzzaman (AL-Naogaon) alleged that the budget lacked any definite direction. He thanked the Speaker for fixing time-limit for budget discussion and maintained that had it been introduced earlier, majority of the members like him would have been benefited.

Shahiduzzaman called upon the government to complete

Barind Project. He mentioned that only 25 percent of the project had been implemented and that it, had yielded an additional production of 4 lakh tons of foodgrains. On full implementation it would help the country overcome food shortage.

Kh. Amirul Islam
Khandakar Amirul Islam (BNP-Mymensingh) said he had been elected from a constituency where it took three hours to cover distance of 20 kilometres.

It was mainly an agricultural area but the farmers did not get reasonable price of their produce due to communication difficulties, he said.

Drawing the attention of the Communication Minister, Islam called for the development of Tangail-Mymensingh road and construction of a bridge over the river Kalango.

M A Awal Mia
M A Awal Mia (AL-Kushtia) said the Finance Minister had been guided by the "super finance ministry of IMF and the World Bank."

He said last year there was "dhol kolmi" fear and now the Finance Minister had created "VAT fear" in the minds of the people.

Referring to the rampant smuggling from India, Awal said only one per cent of Indian goods come through legal way where as bulk of Indian goods are smuggled into the country through the 17,000-mile border between the countries.

Citing the example of corruption during the Ershad regime, he said, the Taka-100 crore worth Mohini Mills had been sold to a private party for only Taka 10 crore.

Golam Mohammad Sarkar

Golam Mohammad Sarkar (BNP-Bogra) said the autocratic regime of Ershad had ruined the economy of the country and now we have to rebuild it.

He said the Finance Minister had tried to bring about welfare for the people through the budgetary provisions at the directive of the Prime Minister.

Referring to the unemployment problem, Sarkar called for allocating Taka 200 crore for employment-oriented vocational training.

Shah Haduzzaman
Shah Haduzzaman (AL-Jessore) said the budget was

not prepared for the welfare of people.

Abdus Samad Azad
When the Presidential Election Bill, 1991 was about to be introduced as per order of the day, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad drew the attention of the Chair.

Azad said "we did not expect" that this bill will be brought in the House in this manner. He requested Speaker to adjourn the House for seven days after which the bill could be brought. "Well, if you don't need our cooperation you can do whatever you like," he said, apparently painting towards the Treasury Bench members.

Taking the floor Chief Whip Khandakar Dewar Hossain recalled the cordial relations established between the Treasury and the Opposition benches that had helped pass the constitution amendment bill. He said since members are very eager to return to their constituencies the session could not be further prolonged as demanded by Opposition.

Give legal coverage to the constitutional provision the Bill has been brought in. He said, adding the passage of the presidential bill is "indispensable."

Golam Hafiz

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz said this bill had to be introduced for it was complementary to the 12th Constitution Amendment Bill. He said if the bill was not passed, 12th amendment would become infructuous. He said presidential election could not be held unless the present bill was passed.

Delwar Hossain

Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain said it was unfortunate, that despite agreement at committee level meeting that parliament will decide, the issue, the opposition left the House.

The Bill was passed at 2-45 am with two amendments.

The Law Minister then sought permission of the Deputy Speaker to propose the Public Servants (retirement) Amendment Bill 1991 to be passed. The Deputy Speaker asked him to defer the bill till Wednesday and adjourned the House at 2:50 am till 11 am Wednesday.

Metropolitan

Technical edn in all spheres of life stressed

State Minister for Education Principal Md Yunus Khan Tuesday said that we had to expand and diversify scientific and technical education for solving the unemployment problem, reports BSS.

He was addressing a teacher-student rally at the Government Science College in the city.

Principal of the college Samiruddin also spoke on the occasion.

The State Minister said that it would be easier to achieve our cherished goal if we could apply the technical knowledge in all spheres of life.

Stressing the need for a peaceful and congenial academic atmosphere on the campus, Yunus Khan said that a greater national consensus was an imperative for attaining this goal.

Khan underscored the need for technical education at all levels of education. He said that the government would actively consider reintroduction of technical drawing subject in the curriculum of class nine and ten.

He gave assurance for solving various problems of the

college.
Earlier, the State Minister went round different sections of the college and expressed his satisfaction at the mode and method of teaching in the college.

Indonesia donates male contraceptives

The government of Indonesia has donated male contraceptive worth 5 lakh US dollars (equivalent to Taka one crore fifty two lakh) for the family planning programmes of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Socamano Iswadi, handed over the contraceptives to the Health and Family Welfare Secretary, M Mokammel Haque, at his office Wednesday.

The Health Secretary thanked the Indonesian government for the donation.

The Indonesian government under an existing bilateral agreement has arranged study tour programme for Bangladeshi officials in the field of Family Planning Services in Indonesia.

Indemnity Act now inconsistent, says former Chief Justice

CHITTAGONG, Aug 14 : Justice Kemaluddin Hossain said here today the Indemnity Act had become "inconsistent" with the unanimous passing of the 12th Amendment Bill by the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

The people's sovereignty was established by making the Parliament sovereign, he said adding, "In the Constitution of such a Parliament there should not exist such clauses which had legalised the capture of state power by killing or coup."

Justice Hossain hoped that the Indemnity Bill now under consideration of the House would be passed with the same spirit as was demonstrated by all the members of the House while passing the 12th Amendment Bill.

Justice Hossain was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on "Killing of Bangabandhu: Today's Bangladesh" organised by Chittagong District Bar Unit of Bangabandhu Parishad in observance of the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Dr Momtazuddin Patwari of

Chittagong University presented the key-note paper on the subject while Abul Momen of the Dainik Purbokone, Prof Hasanuzzaman Khan of Chittagong University and Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, ex-President of CUJ took part in the discussion.

Held at the Muslim Institute Hall, the seminar was presided over by the Parishad Convener Advocate S M Shamsul Islam while A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Advocate Nurul Huda, Advocate Kazi Golam Sarwar and

A noble venture

Karnaphuli Insurance Journalists Welfare Fund on Sunday identified 16 distressed families of journalists. Karnaphuli Insurance will provide them financial support, says a press release.

It was decided at a meeting of the fund with Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Welfare Fund in the chair. Sanaulah Noori, Editor Dainik Janata, Rezauddin Ahmed President, Federal Union of Journalists, Al-Haj Shamsul Huda, Adviser Editor, Weekly Muktibani, Johirul Haque, President Dhaka Union of Journalists, Safiuddin Ahmed, President Bangladesh Journalist Union, Abdul Gofran, News Editor, Bangladesh Observer and Showkat Imam of Managing Director Karnaphuli Insurance Company Limited attended meeting.

Sixteen families were identified after scrutiny of the applications received from different parts of the country.

Tk 20 lakh contraband seized at ZIA

Customs surveillance team of Dhaka Air Freight Wednesday seized imported goods including cosmetics, readymade garments, air conditioner and colour TV worth Taka 12 lakh at Zia International Airport, reports BSS.

Advocate Ibrahim Hossain Babul spoke.

Justice Kemaluddin Hossain called upon the people to raise a national demand for repealing the infamous Indemnity Act to pave the way for trial of the killers of Bangabandhu.

He said, Bangabandhu was not only a great political leader but also integral part of the nation's history. For upholding the cause of Bengalis Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had become the symbol of the nation's spirit and identity, he added.

Effective environmental information system stressed

A day-long national workshop on environmental information and education organised by Multidisciplinary Action Research Centre (MARC) with International Union of Conservation and Nature (IUCN) was held in the city on Wednesday with a call for a greater role of environmental communicators in awareness creation, reports BSS.

The workshop was inaugurated by Minister of State for Environment and Forest Abdullah-Al-Noman. He urged to formulate a strategy for effective environmental information system.

Vitus Fernando, head of Asia-Pacific programme, IUCN, Dr Monowar Hossain, Managing Director, MARC, Abdus Salam, Secretary, Statistics Division, ANM Eusuf, secretary, Ministry of Education and IUCN, Bangladesh coordinator Nazneen Mansur Azim also spoke on the occasion.

The workshop recommended to strengthen the existing linkage among environmental institutions, creation of baseline for environmental information system and use of mass and traditional communicators for reaching environmental awareness among grassroot people.

The technical and business sessions were participated by 40 environmental scientists,

Talukdar slates Shibir attack on JCD leaders

BNP Secretary General Abus Salam Talukdar Monday night strongly condemned and protested the attack on two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders of Chittagong University by armed miscreants in the garb of Islamic Chhatra Shibir, reports BSS.

Talukdar, in a statement, said Rafiqul Islam Hilali, Secretary of the CU unit of Chhatra Dal and Ghulam Mohiuddin Faruq, Joint Secretary of the unit, have been struggling with death at Medical College Hospital following the attack by the miscreants of Chhatra Shibir. The condition of the Chhatra Dal leaders were stated to be critical, he said.

The BNP Secretary General said, this kind of "naked attack" by the Chhatra Shibir at a time when the government was taking measures to stamp out terrorism from the educational institutions including the universities on the basis of all party consensus was nothing but a conspiracy.

He cautioned that the peaceful atmosphere on the campus could not be marred by resorting to such terrorism. Talukdar called upon the members of the law enforcing agencies to arrest the miscreants immediately and free the Vice-Chancellor of the university from the siege.

Abolition of minimum export price to boost jute goods export

Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) Tuesday welcomed the decision of the government to abolish the minimum export price (MEP) on the export of jute goods with immediate effect, reports BSS.

The BJMA, in a statement, said "this reflects the free market policy of the government to boost up our export of jute products in the international market and earn valuable foreign exchange."

Though the decision of abolition of MEP is to create a healthy atmosphere in the competitiveness of Bangladesh jute goods in the international markets, no one can ignore a possibility of misuse of the facility of selling the jute products at an abnormal undercut price for temporary benefits at the cost of huge national loss, it said.

The BJMA, however said while taking the decision of abolishing MEP, the government has totally ignored the measures taken by Bangladeshi competitors to increase their share in the international market.

The jute industry is already selling its products at a price much lower than the cost of production, only to earn valuable foreign exchange for the

nation and also to maintain the country's share in the international market.

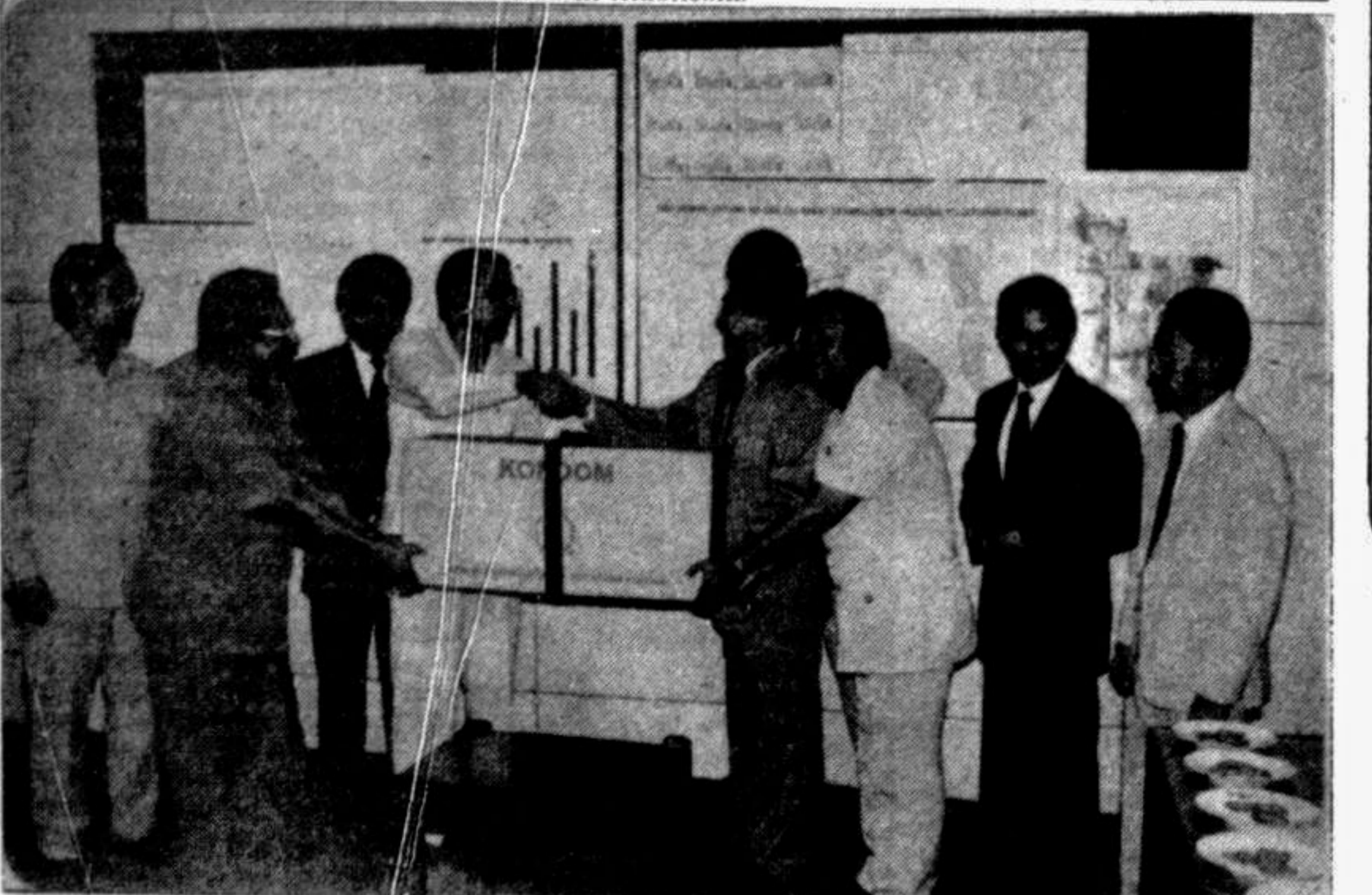
"In the absence of a realistic policy package of incentives as taken by India, we feel the intention of the government to increase our share in the international market will be totally frustrated," the association said.

Youths urged to root out terrorists from society

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Tariqul Islam has urged the youth community to root out the terrorists from the society in order to maintain peace and discipline in every sphere for the national life, reports BSS.

He was speaking at an anti-terrorism rally of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal of Mohammadpur Thana Branch at Rayer Bazar Municipal Market premises Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for Land Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said BNP government believe in the rule of law and the people will stand side by side with the government



The Ambassador of Indonesia Mr Soemakno Iswadi handing over 28.8 million pieces of rubber contraceptive condom worth US\$ 1.1 million to the Secretary of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh Mr. Mokammel Hoque on Wednesday as a grant from the Government of Indonesia to the Government of Bangladesh for its Family Planning sector.



Islamic Chhatra Shibir brought out a procession in the city Wednesday protesting aimed attack on its activists at CU allegedly by BCL (A-A) workers. — Star photo