

'A section of press dishing out untrue stories'

Newspaper reports and their objectivity came up for discussion abruptly in the Jatiya Sangsad Monday evening with members of both the Opposition and Treasury benches alleging 'untrue' reports in a number of dailies, reports BSS.

As the discussion on President's address was progressing after the Maghreb prayer Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed drew the attention of the Chair to a report published in The Telegraph Monday which said that Prof Golam Azam had congratulated him (Tofael Ahmed) for demanding his (Azam) trial as a 'war criminal'.

Describing the report as 'completely untrue', Tofael said that in his life he never had any conversation with Professor Azam neither face to face nor over telephone. The Awami League leader said the 'Telegraph' on the very second day of its publication started with such an 'untrue' report. He said since Maulana Mannan's men were publishing the paper it was difficult for him to understand what it would do in the future.

Jamaat to stick

From Page 1 Col 5 chief. The Home Minister's statement followed a two-day debate over the legitimacy of Azam's staying in the country and becoming the chief of a political party. Golam Azam's citizenship was cancelled by the government in 1972 on charges of his collaborating with the Pakistan occupation forces during Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971.

He entered the country holding a Pakistani passport in 1978 and has been living here since then. Asked about Jamaat's future course of action following the government statement in Parliament, the Secretary General of Jamaat Matiuir Rahman Nizami said that they have no plan to abandon their decision concerning Golam Azam.

President's speech

From Page 1 Col 4 timely and appropriate, he added. Salauddin Yusuf of the AL said that the President's address completely failed to reflect the nation's severe problems. He said that the deterioration of law and order, discrimination in the education system, water-logging, problems of irrigation in agriculture, trade imbalance in terms of exports-imports with foreign countries, smuggling in the country's frontiers etc were the burning problems of the country. But the Presidential address did not effectively deal with these problems, he accused.

had been engaged in 'yellow journalism'. Later, Awami League leader Abdur Razzak differed with the contentions of Farida Rahman and said both 'Dainik Bhor' and 'Ajker Kagoj' published reports 'objectively'. He alleged that the government had stopped giving advertisements to a newspaper in violation of the commitment of the three alliances to uphold freedom of the press.

Replying to the Awami League member, State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman Patal referred to a news item published in the daily 'Banglar Bani' recently stating that 100 people died in a train accident in Rajshahi. He said the news in the 'Banglar Bani' was 100 per cent 'untrue' and it had caused tension among the people.

He, however, said that 'Banglar Bani' had given a clarification on it the next day but he felt that many people might have not read the clarification. The State Minister said he expected 'objectivity' had been a member of this parliament. He said freedom of the press was being misused in the country and nobody knew what would happen in the future if such freedom was not exercised properly.

Replying to the State Minister, Awami League member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said he did not expect that the Minister would mention it as 'Banglar Bani' had already admitted its mistake. He said at times there might be mistakes because of printer's devil as well as computer faults.



FREEDOM FIGHTERS ALL AFIRE: The Muktiyoddha Sangsad (Freedom Fighters Council) brought out a torch procession yesterday in the city to protest the 'rehabilitation' of anti-Liberation elements including Golam Azam.— Star photo

JS Indemnity body likely to seek more time

By Staff Correspondent The Special Parliamentary Committee on Indemnity Ordinance (repeal) Bill could not finalise its report in the 8th meeting Monday evening at the committee room of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Chairman of the committee Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz presided over the meeting. The 70-day time given to the committee to finalise the report expires today. According to sources concerned the committee is likely to seek more time from the House Wednesday for the purpose.

The 15-member committee was formed by the House last August to examine and prepare a report on the bill sponsored by Awami League. The sources said, in Monday's meeting, the committee members discussed the bill in detail and concluded that the committee should come to a decision as soon as possible.

The members who attended Monday's meeting were: Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Abdus Samad Azad, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Sudhangsu Shekhar Halder, Mohammed Nasim and Sheikh Ansar Ali.

ME talks resume

WASHINGTON, Jan 13: The chief Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian negotiators met here today inaugurating a third round of Middle East peace talks.

BCL

From Page 1 Col 7 while in JCD. Awami League leaders did not play any role in the killing of Badal, the source mentioned. AL leaders became aware and said that disciplinary action would be taken against the groups in its student wing. Six activists of the BCL (S-A) were expelled from the organisation Sunday. It was reported that expelled activists, Abu Zaman Rajib, Jahangir Alam and Masud Alam of Zahurul Haque Hall, Biswajit Kumar and Alok Kanti Das of Jagannath Hall and Tarik Al Hasan Leo of Ziaur Rahman Hall, were all supporters of the 'third world' group. Another list of 25 'terrorists' in the BCL who would be expelled soon has been prepared, the source added.

No such factional conflicts were prevailing among the BCL (S-A) central leaders. No announcement for the holding of the Council of the Chhatra League (S-A) scheduled to be held this month has yet been made.

However it was heard that AL leaders and BCL central leaders would take steps against the alarming intra-party conflict in the BCL (S-A) that was destroying the popularity of the Chhatra League as well as that of the Awami League itself, the source added. The factional conflict grew in the BCL over a long period of time when it was first led by the Barisal group and later by the Gopalganj group. Masum, the leader of 'third world' group gained prominence after the last Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and Hall students' union elections in 1990. He was the General Secretary of the Zahurul Haque Hall students' union. Meanwhile, the Dhaka University students are still afraid of yet another violent incident that they think may happen any time.

FFs demand govt action against Golam Azam

By Staff Correspondent A rally of freedom fighters in the city Monday demanded that the government take action against all war criminals including Golam Azam to show its respect to the country's Liberation War. The rally also demanded the expulsion of Golam Azam from the country. Otherwise, it warned, the freedom fighters would launch a fresh war against the forces defeated in 1971. The metropolitan unit of the Juba Command of Muktiyoddha Sangsad (Ahad-Aziz) organised the rally to demand the trial of war criminals and the imposition of a ban on politics by the 'anti-liberation' party Jamaat-e-Islami. Chairman of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command Council Principal Abdul Ahad Choudhury ad-

ressed the rally as chief guest. The Sangsad's Secretary General Abdul Aziz Birprotik, and its Organising Secretary Sadek Ahmed Khan also spoke. Juba Command Joint Convenor Ohidul Islam Swapan was in the chair. Abdul Ahad Choudhury accused the government of rehabilitating the anti-liberation forces at different levels of society. How does a democratically-elected government shelter the enemies of the country's independence, he asked. The Rajakars were misleading the people in the name of Islam. The enemies of independence could never be patriots and become Muslims, he commented. The Sangsad Chairman urged all the freedom fighters to be imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War, resist anti-

liberation elements and protect the country's independence. Ahad also blamed a section of the freedom fighters for collaborating with different regimes and urged them to join the movement against the forces defeated in the war. Abdul Aziz said that the freedom fighters who took up arms for the cause of their motherland would reactivate to eliminate those who opposed the Liberation War. The freedom fighters cannot sit idle at a time when the enemies are out to destroy the spirit of the war, he added. AZIZ called upon the freedom fighters and the people to launch a vigorous movement against the rehabilitation of the Rajakars. The rally was followed by a torch procession.

Myanmar keeps mum

From Page 1 Col 7 Teknaf border points. Rohingya Muslims now sheltered at Marichha refugee camp said that Myanmar troops and police continued their atrocities on the Arakan Muslims and that Buchidong and Maungdu areas were facing famine as people were not allowed to move from one place to another. Food supply, other daily necessities and medicine were scarce and scores of Arakanese were suffering without food and medicine, said the refugees. Rohingyas also said that Myanmar troops had again been stationed along the border with Bangladesh. They said that nearly 15,000 Arakan Muslims were arrested by Myanmar police and taken to unknown destinations during the past few days in Maungdu and Buchidong areas. Some Arakanese coming to Bangladesh with short transit passes said they needed food and medicine. Meanwhile, the refugees at different camps including Marichha were running short of food, medicine and winter clothes, according to reports reaching here. Jamuna Bridge From Page 1 Col 4

ussion in that meeting International tender was supposed to be called in September the same year. However, because of the negligence of the then government it failed to receive positive response from the World Bank as a result of which international tender was not floated at that time. Referring to the infrastructure of the bridge Oli Ahmed said it would be 4.8 km long and 18.5 meter broad. Earlier, in his call attention notice Mohammad Nasim said after the independence of the country the government of Bangabandhu had taken immediate steps for the construction of the Jamuna bridge to materialise the long-felt demand of the people of the northern region. Subsequently with the change of the government the project was dropped and later Ershad government had only constituted Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority and collected levy and surcharge from the people doing nothing. He said various national dailies had brought charges against the Ershad government for misusing the money collected from levy and surcharge. Nasim said the countrymen wanted to know from the BNP government the steps it had taken for the construction of the bridge.

Myanmar has posted forces 'not only along border with Bangladesh'

Myanmar (Burma) has posted forces not only along the border with Bangladesh but also along its frontiers with four other countries, a Burmese diplomat said in Dhaka Monday, reports BSS. "We have security arrangement on all our frontiers as well as inside the country," deputy head of the Myanmar embassy Kyaw Myint said in Dhaka Monday while replying to a query on troops build-up along the 176-mile Burma-Bangladesh border. Myanmar has borders with India in the northwest, Bangladesh in the southwest, China in the north and Laos and Thailand in the east. The Burmese diplomat said — Myanmar has no territorial designs against Bangladesh.

Related story on Page 7

The Midnight File

Muslim rebels waiting to invade Kashmir NEW DELHI, Jan 13: A top Indian General has alleged that almost 4,000 armed Muslim guerrillas are waiting in Pakistan-controlled territory to infiltrate Kashmir, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today. Lt. Gen. DSR Sahni, General Officer Commanding in chief of the Northern Command, said 'alertness' of the army had deterred infiltration from across the Line of Control which divides Indian and Pakistani zones of Kashmir, reports AFP.

Top brasses forced Chadli to resign

ALGIERS, Jan 13: Algeria's main military chiefs forced President Chadli Bedjedid to resign Saturday because they learned that he had made a deal with the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), well-informed sources said today. Chadli had persuaded FIS leader Abdelkader Hachani to let him see out the rest of his mandate, until December 1993, in exchange for a purge of opponents to the FIS within the military, the sources said, reports AFP.

Seen from the Gallery

From Page 1 Col 2 tions. And of all the MPs present in the House yesterday, the Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman was perhaps the most casual in his appearance. Wearing a sports wear (T-shirt) with a scarf around the neck and a pair of keds on, the Foreign Minister attended the session for some time. Maybe, he was either coming from a match or from evening jogging to keep the body fit. Coming to the House he took his seat and turned the chair round to talk to the colleagues sitting behind. With the same casual mood he left the House. The Foreign Minister was casual in appearance but others were no serious, too. As the House took up the agenda to discuss the vote of thanks on the President's speech MPs apparently lost interest. By the time Salahuddin Yusuf of Awami League was finding it difficult to limit his deliberations within the specified time, the MPs, especially Maudud Ahmed of Jatiya Party and Shahjahan Siraj of JSD, had seemingly been warming up. Immediately after Maghreb prayers break, it started with a point of order raised by Maudud Ahmed. Then Shahjahan Siraj, Rashed Khan Menon and Maudud all got involved in pulling each other's leg. The Home Minister also joined the race. Before the Home Minister made his comments Tofael Ahmed of Awami League taking clue from what others were talking diverted the deliberations to other directions. A new English daily came under attack and reportings by three Bangla dailies also came under scrutiny.

Golam Azam

From Page 1 Col 4 more than 100, might seek help from prominent lawyers of the country. Replying to a question why they did not file any case against Golam Azam much earlier, Advocate Panna said "frequent martial law as well as the presidential rule in which the President had enormous power, made us delay." Golam Azam has been staying in the country for the last 13 years. Golam Azam who opposed the country's independence in 1971, was stripped off his citizenship and took asylum in Pakistan. He returned to Bangladesh on July 11, 1978 with a Pakistani passport to see his ailing mother and involved himself with Jamaat politics. He was elected Amir of the party on December 29, 1991. Hamidul Huq's condition critical By Staff Correspondent Hamidul Huq Choudhury, founder-owner of the Bangladesh Observer, was in a critical condition Monday at the intensive care unit of the Combined Military Hospital. Chairman of the Al-Helal Printing and Publishing Limited and publisher of the Bangladesh Observer, he was admitted to the CMH several days ago following old-age complications. A lawyer by profession, Huq was also a cabinet member of the then Bengal provincial government, East Pakistan and Pakistan central governments.

Advertisement for 'ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিমিটেড-এর আবাসিক প্রকল্প' (Eastern Housing Limited's Residential Project). It lists features like 'নিম্নের প্রকল্পগুলিতে জমি বরাদ্দ চলাছে' (Land reserved in the following projects), '১২৫/এ মতকিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০' (125/acre commercial area, Dhaka-1000), and contact information for the company.

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