

Report on bill for JS secretariat placed

Chief Whip Khondoker Delwar Hossain yesterday placed the report of the standing committee on special privilege for formulating a bill relating to establishment of Jatiya Sangsad secretariat, reports BSS.

The committee was reconstituted on November 5 at a Sangsad sitting as per Article 240 of the Rules of Procedure. The nine-member committee with Speaker Sheikh Razzaque Ali as chairman included the Leader of the Opposition, Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House Dr. Badruzzoda Chowdhury, Chief Whip Khondoker Delwar Hossain, State Minister for Law Mohammad Aminur Huq, parliament members—Tofael Ahmed, Shahjahan Straj, Mottur Rahman Nizam and Abu Yousuf Mohammad Kalhur Rahman as members.

As per the draft bill, the Jatiya Sangsad will have a secretariat which will be a self-contained institution having the status of a ministry of the government and would remain outside the administrative purview of any ministry and division.

The secretariat will be entrusted with the responsibilities of all secretariat activities of the Sangsad and other activities vested in it as per the Rules of Procedures of the Sangsad.

The administrative responsibility of the Sangsad secretariat will be vested in the Speaker.

The Sangsad Secretariat will include among others one principal secretary, one additional secretary, one joint secretary and other allied officers and staff.

Economy

From Page 1 Col 7 analysed the current economic situation.

Referring to foreign assistance disbursement, the report said this could be held up if the government is unable to resist pressure from many interest groups.

It also held government's "bureaucratic inertia and of ten cumbersome decision making process" as factors impeding aid disbursement.

Delving deep into the country's economic backwardness in the last 20 years, the report labelled the present tariff system "high by world standard."

The United States Commerce Department projected an approximate budget deficit of 8 per cent for the current fiscal.

It, however, termed the export growth as "an impressive achievement" by taking 1990's strike, Gulf War and April Cyclone factors into account.

While the report predicted 15 to 20 per cent annual growth in exports this year, it forecast a cautious 4 to 5 per cent growth in the industrial sector.

The report, considered authoritative and dependable world-wide, however, foresaw that the new industrial policy would take some time to have the effect of stimulating private sector activity and foreign investment.

Despite some signs of improvement, the investment climate in Bangladesh continues to remain uncertain, it noted, saying foreign investors continue to face bureaucratic impediments and regulatory attitude of the Board of Investment.

The report lauded the government's adherence to the terms of the structural adjustment loans last year and also appreciated the introduction of VAT system which, it said, would improve tax buoyancy.

It listed loan default as a reason of failures of banks to function efficiently and observed the unofficial "hundi operations" offer efficient services than banks.

The report estimates that the country's debt rose about 8 per cent in 1991 compared to the figure of 1990. The debt, as on June 1991, stood at 11.09 billion US dollar.

Of the total debt, the country now owes about 1.23 billion dollar to the United States as an obligation incurred through the PL-480 title I food disbursement.

According to statistics, America now runs a trade deficit with Bangladesh of about 300 million US dollar which was 350 million dollar in 1990.

The report also mentioned the possibility of US investment in telecommunication sector of the country. The current US investment in Bangladesh totals 40 million dollar.

Countdown to Shaheed Day

From Page 1 Col 8 dents of Dhaka University insulted the father of the nation? (by striking on Feb 4), The Dawn asked rhetorically, "This influence, which is truly the influence of the enemies of Pakistan, out to be destroyed, if Pakistan is to survive as an independent state."

The Dawn then issued a warning: "The time has now come to speak bluntly to those who wish to destroy the foundation of our state. Those who directly or indirectly champion the cause of provincialism, ought to be identified as enemies of the state and should not be tolerated in any way."

It was clear that the demands of the Bengalee people, instead of being greeted with sympathy in the West, were meeting unmitigated hostility. Just demands were being branded as works of "enemies" and an outright colonial mentality was revealing itself with all its heinous manifestations.

As elsewhere in the world, the colonialists of West

UP elections

From Page 1 Col 7

Polls were disrupted by rampage of unruly supporters of rival candidates who tried to attack the centres to snatch ballot boxes and to cast fake votes.

A police sub-inspector, Mahfuzur Rahman, was injured as some unruly people clashed with policemen at Bashantapur centre of Udaipur union in Rajbari district.

Polling will be held in the remaining 329 unions of 31 upazilas in 28 districts today, the last day of a staggering 16-day voting which began on January 22, the Election Commission said.

So far, elections have been held in 3,565 unions, and the authorities postponed polls in a total 202 centres of 148 unions.

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Sonali Bank employees staging mass-hunger strike in front of the bank head office in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Tk 642 cr subsidies to hospitals in 3 years

By Staff Correspondent

Subsidies for government hospitals during the past three years till 1990-91 amounted to Taka 642,07,59,000.

Answering a question the State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haque told the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) Wednesday that the government allocation for the hospitals during the current fiscal year 1991-92 had been estimated at Taka 244,43,60,000.

The revenue earning of the government from the hospitals was Taka 2,39,63,000 while the expenditure was Taka 194,86,52,000 in 1988-89, revenue earning increased to Taka 3,39,26,000 and expenditure to Taka 226,68,86,000 in 1989-90 and revenue earning stood at Taka 3,55,29,000 while the expenditure rose to Taka 229,86,39,000 in 1990-91, the State Minister informed the House.

In reply to a supplementary query, Haque said the increased allocation had been aimed at providing better services and increasing the number of beds in the hospitals. However, the number of paying beds was not raised, he added.

The government has no plan to take steps for enhancing the revenue earning from the hospitals due to the people's economic ability, he told the House.

In reply to another question, he said that 141 patients were admitted daily into the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on an average. The number of patients anytime at the hospital varies from 1100 to 1300, he said.

According to the Health

Minister the government has plans to set up medical colleges at Dinajpur, Bogra, Khulna, Faridpur and Comilla.

The government has approved projects to convert health complexes of 49 upazilas into 31-bed hospitals, the minister said. At present, 349 upazilas have a 31-bed hospital each, the minister informed.

In response to a question, the Health Minister told the House that the government gives 0.29 per cent of the total expenditure (Tk 36,96,00,000) of the ICDDR, B in the year 1991. The rest of the budget was provided by the government of Australia, Belgium Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, United States and the UNDP, UNICEF, World Health Organisation and other international donor agencies, Bangladesh has no

Indemnity body

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with Sheikh Hasina in the previous afternoon (Tuesday). Commenting on the outcome of the committee meeting, Suranjit Sen Gupta told The Daily Star "the dynamic forces within BNP who want to consolidate democracy have prevailed in influencing the decision of the meeting."

Sen Gupta further said, "We also told the Awami League that we should try to behave as a constructive opposition rather than take any issue to the street."

Minister Nawaz Sharif's call for a nationwide strike Wednesday in support of the people of Kashmir fighting for secession amounted to interfering in India's affairs, Seth said.

AFP says, thousands of muslim men chanting "freedom, freedom" staged a march in Srinagar today, as a general strike called by Muslim separatists in support of their campaign crippled the Kashmir valley.

An estimated 12,000 muslims marched for about a kilometer (half mile) from Chattabal area to a hospital where armed Indian security personnel dispersed them with baton charges, witnesses said.

The marchers raised slogans supporting Kashmir's independence campaign and hailing Pakistan, which observed a simultaneous shutdown today in a gesture of solidarity with the separatist struggle in the Indian state.

Related story on Page-5

Foreign Secretary JN Dixit summoned Pakistani Ambassador Abdus Sattar to the Foreign Office in Delhi and said India will take "firm measures to uphold the territorial integrity of the nation and inviolability of its borders," said Foreign Ministry Spokesman Aftab Seth.

Dixit said Pakistan Prime

Bank employees

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the banks and revocation of the marking system for promotion.

The officers and employees of the banks observed hunger-strike in front of the head offices in Dhaka and zonal offices all over the country from 9 am to 4:30 pm in support of the demands.

The leaders of the Sramik Karmachari Otkya Parishad (SKOP), Trade Union Centre, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Jatiya Sramik League, Bangladesh Sramik League, Jatiya Sramik Jote, Jatiya Sramik Federation, Trade Union Sangha, Samajtantrik Sramik Front, Samajtantrik Sramik Federation, Gonotantrik Sramik Federation, Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha, and other sramik organisations expressed their solidarity with the officers and employees of the banks.

The leaders of the organisations, addressing the officers and employees at four head offices in Dhaka, separately called upon the government to implement the demands immediately.

After the end of the yesterday's programmes, the leaders of the co-ordination councils of officers and employees of the banks separately decided to demonstrate for an hour each on February 8 and 9 in the morning.

Thai army chief

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form a coalition government. Samakkhitham Party, known to be backing Suchinda as the next prime minister, has already announced a plan to form a loose alliance with the Chat Thai, Social Action and Prachakorn Thai parties.

Samakkhitham has made it clear it will not settle for opposition status in the new parliament.

An assessment shows that the political parties are divided into two camps. One is the Samakkhitham-led alliance which has taken a pro-military stand saying it will not oppose if the next prime minister comes from outside the parliament. The other camp comprising the Democrat, Palang Dharma, New Aspiration and Solidarity parties, is known to favour a prime minister who will be a member of the Lower House of parliament.

The Thai military became involved in politics since 1932 when an uprising by young army officers led to the replacement of absolute monarchy by a constitutional one.

Since then the country witnessed numerous, mostly bloodless, coups and the weak civilian administrations were the victim of frequent army takeover.

After the coup in February last year, a caretaker government with Anand Panyarcachun as prime minister was installed and a military dominated National Legislative Assembly was constituted.

A new constitution drafted last year, empowered the nominated Senate to approve annual budget, select a Prime Minister and provide other rights.

The draft constitution sparked off angry protest by the pro-democracy forces in Bangkok in November last year and over 100,000 people demonstrated compelling the military to curtail proposed power of the Senate to some extent.

The military still maintains its control over politics keeping close links with most of the major parties. Different branches in the armed forces are backing different parties which is now a known fact.

However, the secured fabric of direct or indirect military rule is being threatened by the winds of democracy sweeping the world. And the mood of the Thai people is also undergoing changes, which were visible last November.

The Midnight File

4 gunned down in Belfast

BELFAST, Feb 5: Four people were killed and 10 injured when two suspected Protestant gunmen burst into a Belfast betting shop today and sprayed it with machinegun fire, police said. "This is murder madness," Northern Ireland police chief Sir Hugh Annesley said after visiting the scene of carnage in a Catholic neighbourhood, reports Reuter.

Summit of wives of 6 heads of state

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 5: A summit meeting of the wives of heads of state or government of six developing countries to discuss economic advancement of rural women has been slated for February 25 and 26 in Geneva. Bernama news agency has reported. Dr. Siti Hasmah Ali, wife of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, is among the six who have initiated the move. The other five are from Colombia, Egypt Nigeria, Turkey and Senegal, reports PTI.

Two killed, 14 hurt in road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

At least two persons were killed and another 14 injured in two separate road accidents in Dhaka and Tongi Wednesday.

A 12-year old pedestrian, Shaiful Islam, was crushed under a speedy truck in Khilkhet area in the city at about 10.45 am.

Cantonment police said, the boy was killed when he was crossing the road, but police could not trace the truck as it went away at full throttle.

The body was sent to the morgue of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police said.

Our Gazipur Correspondent reports: At least one person was killed and 14 others were injured when two passenger buses collided on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway near Tongi Bazar Wednesday afternoon.

Of the two busses, one was coming to Gazipur from Dhaka while the other was going to

Dhaka from Tangail.

Bumping into the Gazipur bound bus (Dhaka cha 28), the Dhaka-bound bus rammed the Batep Shoe Store at Tongi Bazar at about 1 pm, witnesses said.

The victim, Matnuddin, was a bus helper and died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The other injured persons were admitted to Tongi Sadar Hospital.

Hasib

From Page 1 Col 4

the public interest he would not disclose all the reasons why Justice Hasib's job was not confirmed. He, however, said that Justice Hasib had been involved in the procurement of the ATP aircraft and a corruption case regarding it had been filed with Motijheel police against former President Ershad and others. The case was under trial, he informed the House.

In this connection, he said that Justice Hasib had been defeated in parliamentary polls in May, 1986 on a Jatiya Party ticket from Sylhet-6 against Mokbul Hossain. He was an active member of the Jatiya Party, he said.

Justice Hasib was appointed legal adviser of Bangladesh Biman March 1, 1987 by replacing the then adviser Barrister Akhter Imam, he said. The Minister said that Justice Hasib served as legal adviser of Biman till January 27, 1990.

He said Hasib had taken, in addition to a monthly retainer fee at the rate of Taka 1,000, a total of Taka four lakh and eleven thousand as fees on different counts. He was legal adviser of Biman during negotiation of Biman's procurement of the ATP aircraft, he said.

The Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister said that Justice Hasib had travelled abroad ten times during his tenure as legal adviser in connection with procurement of DC-10 and ATP aircraft. He was also an active member of the committee for the purchase of ATP aircraft, he said. He had given clear opinion in the procurement of ATP aircraft, he said.

The minister said Biman had spent Taka 1.75 lakh in foreign exchange on Justice Hasib for his trip to London for procurement of the ATP. He said Justice Hasib had also submitted a big bill of Taka 1.27 crore of which Biman had reportedly agreed to pay him Taka two lakh. The decision is pending on it, he said.

The Minister said that former minister Anisul Islam Mahmud had prayed for anticipatory bail with High Court Division of the Supreme Court on April 30, 1991. On enquiry it was gathered that Anisul Islam Mahmud was in the court premises on the day and had been sitting in the chamber of Justice Hasib, he said. He said Anisul Islam Mahmud was given a lift by his flag car to reach him to his house.

The Minister cited several examples of not giving permanent appointment to temporary Judges adding that it was nothing new. He said in 1985 Additional Judges Mohammad Ali and Abdul Motaleb, were not made permanent. In 1986 despite recommendation from the then Chief Justice, Abdul Wahab was not made permanent, he said.

The minister said in 1978 services of two Additional Judges — Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury and Abdul Momin Chowdhury — were not regularised. He said even before this there was another case of Abdul Hye Chowdhury. There was no question raised by any quarter about their cases, the minister said.

On the question of the Chief Justice's recommendation in Hasib's case of job regularisation being disclosed, the Law Minister said, "the Chief Justice, like us, is pledged-bound not to disclose any state secret, adding if it so happened that the Chief Justice had disclosed the case of his recommendations," it was very unfortunate.

PM
From Page 1 Col 7
had given emphasis on indigenous technology in its development efforts for achieving self-reliance in all respects.

"We want to ensure maximum utilisation of our own technology and talents," she said adding development of the country will not be possible without development of science and technology.

The Prime Minister announced that Tk 5 crore would be provided for development of the academy.



Kashmiri women staging rally in Karachi during a general strike to press India to free Kashmir. —AFP photo

Strike in Pakistan to support Kashmir uprising

ISLAMABAD, Feb 5: Fundamentalists staged nationwide demonstrations Wednesday in a show of support for Muslim militants demanding independence for Indian-held Kashmir, reports AP.

Hundreds of Islam fundamentalists burned effigies of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and set fire to the Indian flag at a rally in Rawalpindi, about six miles (10 kilometers) from Islamabad.

Police blocked the entrance to Islamabad to stop demonstrators from marching into the capital, where rallies are banned.

in Karachi, a southern port city, scores of demonstrators marched on the heavily fortified Indian Consulate, which was surrounded by riot police. Police said protesters dispersed quietly after burning effigies and shouting anti-Indian slogans.

In the eastern city of Lahore and the border city of Peshawar, roads were deserted, businesses shuttered and sporadic demonstrations held to denounce India.

India warned Pakistan Wednesday against allowing Muslim militants to march across the border into Jammu-Kashmir next week and said it would take steps to block them.

Foreign Secretary JN Dixit summoned Pakistani Ambassador Abdus Sattar to the Foreign Office in Delhi and said India will take "firm measures to uphold the territorial integrity of the nation and inviolability of its borders," said Foreign Ministry Spokesman Aftab Seth.

Dixit said Pakistan Prime