

Parliament roundup

Three more bills introduced in JS

Three bills were introduced in parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Bill 1992, introduced by Energy Minister Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, seeks to replace to existing Act of 1967.

Explaining the objectives of the Bill, the Minister said encouraging progress has been made in the field of development and exploration of mineral resources in the country. Socio-economic situation demands ensuring proper control and use of mineral resources, check illegal extraction, ensure collection of revenue, use of new technology in exploration and extraction of such resource, he added.

It provides punishment upto three years' jail and fine for violation of rules set by the authorities on exploration licensing and leasing of mines.

The second, the Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill 1992, piloted by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, seeks to raise the paid-up capital of HBFC from Tk 10 crore to 110 crore and its reserves fund as well.

The amendment is essential

Huda denies his involvement in Shahriar's termination

Information Minister Nazmul Huda denied in parliament yesterday that he had part in the termination of Shahriar Kabir, Executive Editor of Weekly Bichitra, reports UNB.

The denial came when MA Awal Mia, in his speech on the budget, accused Huda of ordering termination of Shahriar for his involvement with the Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee campaigning for trial of Jamaat leader Golam Azam.

"The observation is irresponsible and made without verification", the minister said and threw challenge to the Awami League member from Kusthia to substantiate his contention.

Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali, refusing floor to any of half a dozen members from the opposition, asked Awal to provide him documents that the minister had ordered Shahriar's termination, failing which his remarks will be expunged from the proceedings.

The Bichitra management issued on Thursday the termination letter to Shahriar, who had been working for the magazine since Bichitra started as weekly soon after liberation, "on grounds of insolvency of the weekly."

Meanwhile, Kabir was reported to have intimated the journalists' union that his termination came on the heels of his meeting with the Information Minister.

"Choose between Bichitra and Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee, the two cannot go together," Shahriar quoted the minister as telling him with a veiled threat during the June 28 meeting.

Nirmul Committee, composed of members of the intelligentsia, has launched a crusade against the Jamaat chief, Golam Azam, for his role during the War of Liberation in 1971.

57 MPs urge govt Withdraw cases against RU students

By Staff Correspondent

Fiftyseven members of parliament, belonging to Awami League led Opposition, in a statement yesterday urged the government to withdraw the case against 60 student leaders of the Rajshahi University.

The MPs, in their statement, termed the case false and said that immediately after the anti-autocracy movement the three alliances extended support to the demand of the students to withdraw the case.

The signatories include Abdu Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofael Ahmed, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Mohammad Nasim, Rashed Khan Menon, Col (retd) Shaukat Ali and Shamsuddoha.

in view of enlarging the loan programmes of the Corporation, the minister added.

The last one, the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Amendment) Bill 1992 seeks a minor change in the existing Act of 1980.

It provides that Prime Minister will be the Chairman of the Board of Governors of BEPZA in place of the President in pursuance of transfer of the executive powers to the Prime Minister.

The bill was initiated by LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder.

Tofael Ahmed opposed introduction of the bill but his feeble attempt was rejected by the House by voice vote.

The House was adjourned to meet again 10 am (Sunday).

Private sector to take part in city cleaning

The government plans to clean the garbage in the capital partly by the private sector, the State Minister for Local Government and Rural Development said in parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to a supplementary from independent member Major (retd) Hafizuddin, Deputy Minister Abdul Hye said presently the Dhaka City Corporation cleans the garbage. In view of the existing situation, part of the task might be given to the private sector on trial basis.

In reply to Rashed Khan Menon (WP), Hye said the government is also thinking for introducing demountable container instead of existing dustbin for depositing garbages from streets and houses.

The garbages will be dumped at Matuati which will be used for sanitary land filling. At present 55 per cent of garbages of Dhaka city is removed by trucks in the night. Steps are being taken to procure more garbage trucks to remove the rest 45 per cent of the garbages.

Replying to ATM Alamgir (BNP), the State Minister said necessary measures are being taken so that the environment in city can not be polluted from garbages.

3 Rohingyas

From Page 1 Col 7

some of the arrested refugees confessed to police that Mohammad Rafiq, an activist of the militant Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) and his group were responsible for the murders.

They said that Rafiq and his supporters held a meeting in Balukhali camp Thursday urging the inmates to resist any attempt to repatriate them to Myanmar. Rafiq has been absconding since Friday morning.

The victims — Munir Ahmed, his 35-year-old wife Momena Khatun and 22-year-old son Mohammad Selim were asleep when they were abducted from their mud-and-straw hut in Balukhali camp Thursday night, according to confessions by two alleged accomplices of Rafiq.

Inmates said that Selim was married only 17 days ago.

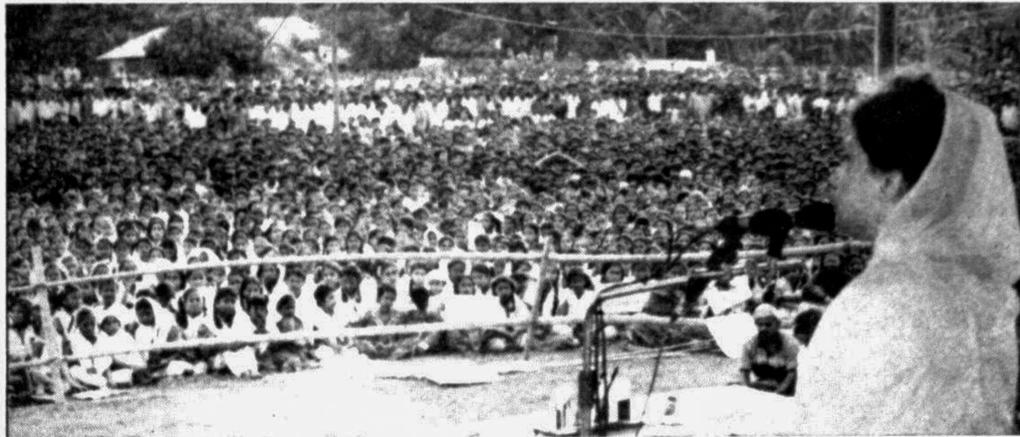
They told visiting government officials that the survivors did not report the abduction to the authorities immediately after it occurred for fear of the militants, many of whom allegedly carry arms openly inside the camp.

The authorities have beefed up security in the camp as the murders have shocked and panicked the refugees, officials said.

Balukhali-2 one of the 16 refugee camps in the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf region, is allegedly a stronghold of the activists of the RSO and the Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front (ARIF), two of the several guerrilla groups fighting for the independence of Arakan, the mountainous western province of Myanmar (Burma) from where more than 2 lakh 64 thousand Rohingyas have fled since March last year.

The camp was the scene of a violent clash between police and militant Rohingyas last month which led to the death of one refugee.

Officials fear that the militants are gradually getting armed to resist their planned repatriation.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting in the Belkuchi College premises at Sirajganj yesterday. —Star photo

Two killed

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towards the Press Club at the Zero Point at around 6-50 pm and dispersed it with tear gas and batons.

A group of people stoned the police and damaged several vehicles in the area between Golapshah Mazar and Zero Point.

The clashes spread in the Bangabandhu Avenue and GPO areas when Shibir supporters were seen hurling bombs from the mosque compound after Magreb prayer.

Police confronted the Committee supporters as the Shibir activists were seen quite safe in the national mosque compound.

The clashes continued until Shibir activists left the northern area of the mosque.

Earlier, police tear gassed both Committee and Jamaat supporters who took up positions in the Zero Point and Purana Paltan areas preparing to attack each other before the start of the Nirmul Committee rally.

Both the rallies, however, later ended peacefully.

Our DMCH Correspondent adds: Four of the injured including two newsmen were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They were identified as Jashimuddin (Reporter Desh Bangla), Abdul Mannan (Reporter Sakaler Khabar), Ali Ahmed and Mofazzal.

A Jamaat press release claimed that two of its activists Moniruzzaman and Shah Alam were under treatment with bullet wounds in a private clinic.

C&F agents in Benapole observe strike

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, July 18: Business activities came to a halt at Benapole Customs Office today due to strike called by C and F Agents' Association to press home their nine-point demands.

Loading and unloading of trucks were held up during hartal hours according to sources, over five hundred trucks on the Indian side, from Petrapol to Bongaon, remained stranded and goods worth crores of takas, including fruits, are rotting as a result. Another three hundred trucks on the Bangladesh side from Benapole to Navarone, have met the same fate.

Recently, the Controller and Collector of Khulna Customs met members of the C and F Agents' Association to resolve the issue but in vain.

The Jessore unit of nine political parties expressed solidarity with the demands of the C and F Association.

Dhaka-Yangon

From Page 1 Col 8

ter of a million Rohingyas who allegedly fled persecution in the western province of Rakhaine in Myanmar.

The officials had also agreed to take measures to motivate the refugees, whose violent protests stalled the process due to have started May 15. The refugees refuse to return home unless human rights conditions improve in Myanmar.

Responding to a request from Bangladesh, Myanmar authorities last month allowed a Bangladesh diplomat to visit from where more than 2 lakh 64 thousand Rohingyas have fled since March last year.

The camp was the scene of a violent clash between police and militant Rohingyas last month which led to the death of one refugee.

PM: People to discard

From Page 1 Col 7

achieve the desired goals of self sufficiency.

Begum Zia said the cooperation from local levels was imperative for implementing the development programmes.

The Prime Minister detailed the development programmes taken up by her government and said "we have attached priority to the agriculture, industrial and education sectors."

She said congenial atmosphere was necessary for creating awareness among the people by imparting their education.

Begum Zia also called upon the guardians, teachers and students to help maintain congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions.

Dwelling on the local problems, the Prime Minister said the government would take steps to check river erosion to save the inhabitants of

Anti-corruption

From Page 1 Col 5

Aviation Authority Air Commodore (Rtd) Moin-ul-Islam, Group Captain (Rtd) Shamim Hossain of CAA, Director of CAA Saleuddin Khan, its Asst Director Maksudur Rahman and Deputy Director SM Yahia, former Additional Secretary of Works Ministry MA Rouf, Air Vice-Marshal (Rtd) Moutaz Hossain, former Managing Director of Shipping Corporation Tereq Anis, Nurul Wahab Khandaker of Shipping Corporation, former Secretary, IWT Ministry, Group Captain (Rtd) Syed Ahmad, Divisional Engineer of T&T Board Abdul Majid, General Manager of T&T Board Shamsul Islam, Anwarul Qader of T&T Board, Secretary of Cox's Bazar Municipality Golam Sultan, former General Manager of Jute Directorate TIM Nurunnabi and former Director of the Jute Directorate TTM Hassan Imam.

The function was also addressed by State Minister for Communication Fazlur Rahman Patal, State Minister for Textile MA Mannan, Kamrudin Yahya Khan Majlis, MP, M Akbar Ali, MP, Ansar Ali Siddiqi, MP, Begum Raushan Elahi, MP, Shahidullah Khan, MP, and local BNP leaders.

The Prime Minister planted a sapling of Mehgani at Belkuchi.

Belkuchi.

She also assured of measures for giving incentives to the weavers.

The Prime Minister declared that the local Pilot High School and Boys College will be nationalised. The re-excavation of Hura Sagar would be considered, she said.

Begum Zia said construction of the Jamuna Bridge would be done to bring momentum in the development activities of the northern part of the country.

Labour Party

From Page 1 Col 8

view of Labour policy, and the creation of a commission on social justice to find ways of persuading better-off voters to support programmes to help the bottom third.

Bryan Gould, 53, a New Zealand-born lawyer and the party's environment spokesman, placed second.

Neil Kinnoek, 50, who had led the Labour Party since 1983, stepped down after the party lost its fourth straight election to the Conservatives in April.

Not only Jamaat, he said, BNP has now also turned out to be "enemy" of the people as it is always siding with the fundamentalists.

Faiz Ahmed said "we don't think that BNP is our adversary, but if it comes out to repress our activists by using police, we will also confront it at any cost."

Referring to the joint declaration of the three alliances during the anti-Ershad movement, Imam said after assuming power BNP backed out from all major political commitments.

The BNP government has also signed an agreement with

resignations of the Home Minister and Information Minister.

Jahanara Imam urged the people to make the earlier announced committee programmes a success. The programmes include upazila gherao (bestige) on July 19, district gherao on August 14, representatives' conference on September 10 and a grand rally in Dhaka on October 14.

The committee will also hold a rally on Monday to protest the Kusthia incident in which the national flag was desecrated.

Presided over by Mohammad Sadeq Ahmed Khan, the gathering was also addressed, among others, by Lt Col (Rtd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, Dr Ahmed Sharif, Maulana Abdul Awal, Prof Hamida Rahman and journalists Faiz Ahmed and Shahriar Kabir.

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Jamaat

From Page 1 Col 5

the people would look for alternatives if their hopes and aspirations remained unfulfilled.

The acting Jamaat chief criticised the government for its 'inaction' regarding Bangladesh's unresolved issues with India. He remarked, "the Golam Azam issue, a non issue, had been raised to divert people's attention from the government's failure."

Jamaat's city unit organised the meeting in the afternoon, demanding the release of party chief Golam Azam.

Addressing the meeting, party Secretary General Matur Rahman Nizami, MP, was very critical of "BNP's breach of commitments" with his party.

"BNP does not have the courage to fulfil its commitments of returning the citizenship of Golam Azam made in '76, '79, '81 and '91," he added.

Defending Jamaat's role in 1971 Nizami said Muslim League, and Krishak Sramik Party had also taken political decisions similar to that of Jamaat and differences of political opinion could never be a punishable act.

Meanwhile, Jamaat launched a two-day programme Saturday night protesting the attack on their activists in which two people were killed.

Namaj-e-Janaza of the two dead will be held on the Baitul Mukarram Mosque premises after noon (Jahar) prayers today (Sunday). Dhaka city unit of Jamaat will also bring out a procession after the janaza.

Protest meetings and demonstrations, will be held throughout the country on Monday.

Referring to the proposed budget for the current fiscal year, the Awami League leader said that the Finance Minister had imposed the burden of tax indirectly. He alleged that expenditure in the non-productive sectors had been enhanced.

Yusuf urged the government to strengthen the rural economy by expanding small-scale industries, providing subsidy to fertilizer and giving agricultural inputs at reduced prices.

Speaking next, Sardar Sakhat Hossain Bakul (BNP-Narsingdi), termed the proposed national budget unique, historic and incomparable.

He said that provision had been made in the budget for maximum utilization of domestic resources.

The Treasury Bench member said that taxes on most of the essential items were reduced to benefit the common people. The people below the poverty line would be benefited the most by the budget, he said.

Taking the floor, MA Matin (BNP-Chandpur) lauded the budget, saying it was formulated in the light of the 19-point programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. Solution to all national problems lay in the 19-point programme, he said.

Matin said mobilisation of internal resources was given due importance in the budget. Measures had been taken in it to make the nation self-reliant.

He said that the highest allocation was made in the education sector to help eradicate the curse of illiteracy from the country.

Participating in the discussion, Jatiya Party (JP) member Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury (Habiganj) described the budget as directionless and said that it had in fact benefited the people by declaring tax cut on the one hand while increasing the tariff value by notification on the other hand. Thus, he said, the people were deprived of the benefit of the tax cut.

Chowdhury referred to contribution of the greater Sylhet district towards national economy and demanded that at least ten per cent be spent out of that contribution to solve the problems of the district.

In his speech, BNP member Dr. Mohammad Sirajul Hoq (Sherpur) observed that the budget for 1992-93 had been designed to give thrust to the development of infrastructures which would ultimately help increase productivity.

BNP member ATM Alamgir (Comilla) welcomed the steps taken to reorganise the taxation system as proposed in the

The Midnight File

22 killed in Amritsar building collapse

NEW DELHI, July 18: At least 22 people were killed and 14 injured when a building under construction collapsed in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar today, Indian national television said. Unofficial reports put the death toll at 35, the report said, adding that 10 bodies had been recovered from the rubble of the two-storey building as of late Saturday. It said at least 22 people had been killed and 14 injured, reports AFP.

De Klerk welcomes UN envoy's visit

JOHANNESBURG, July 18: President FW de Klerk, saying his government had nothing to hide, on Saturday welcomed a proposed visit by a UN envoy to seek solutions to political violence. "We think it is in the best interest of all South Africans if the international community is properly informed about realities here," De Klerk told reporters in Maputo, Mozambique after a one-day visit, reports AP.

Discussion on budget

From Page 1 Col 4

the budget and observed it would not help achieve people's economic emancipation.

Awal said that 60 per cent people of the country lived below the poverty level and alleged that there was no real measure in the budget to remove poverty.

Criticising the budget Paritosh Chakravarty of Jatiya Party demanded subsidy on agricultural inputs to benefit the farmers.

He also demanded that child smugglers be brought to book and given exemplary punishment.

Speaking next, Moulana Habibur Rahman (Jamaat-Chuadanga) criticised the tariff rates and said reduction of duty on air coolers and cars would not benefit the common people.

He alleged that many educational institutions having government recognition were not getting government grants.

M. Abdul Ghani (BNP-Meherpur) supporting the budget said it was a bold step for implementing the 19-point programme of late President Ziaur Rahman.

Awami League member Salahuddin Yusuf took the floor to participate in the general discussion on the budget as the House resumed its sitting in the afternoon.

Yusuf regretted that though the country had been freed from colonial rule long ago, the country's economic emancipation was yet to come. "We have to depend on the graces of the World Bank and the IMF" he said.

Referring to the proposed budget for the current fiscal year, the Awami League leader said that the Finance Minister had imposed the burden of tax indirectly. He alleged that expenditure in the non-productive sectors had been enhanced.

Yusuf urged the government to strengthen the rural economy by expanding small-scale industries, providing subsidy to fertilizer and giving agricultural inputs at reduced prices.

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Jahanara Imam, Convenor, Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee, addressing a public meeting in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Nirmul Committee

From Page 1 Col 5

the main Opposition led by Awami League in Parliament for putting Golam Azam on the dock as per law of the land, but is again trying to slip out, she added.

Dr Ahmed Sharif said the BNP government is an elected government "only in name, but in fact, it's an elected autocrat" as it is using the administration and law enforcing agencies in party interest.

"We shall consider any wrongdoing by police as the wrongdoing by the government because police never do anything without orders from above," Dr Sharif said.

Not only Jamaat, he said, BNP has now also turned out to be "enemy" of the people as it is always siding with the fundamentalists.

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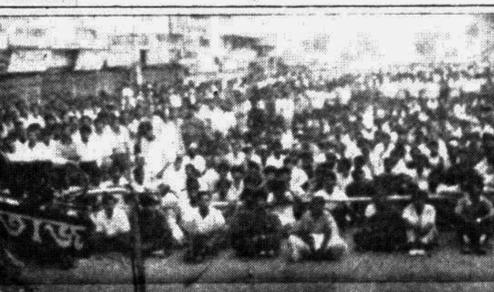
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Matur Rahman Nizami MP, Secretary General of the Jamaat-e-Islami, addressing a public meeting in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Road mishaps

From Page 1 Col 7

cle. Police seized the bus but its driver fled.

In another road accident, nine people were injured when a minibus and truck collided at Azampur, Uttara, in the city.

Tongi police seized the truck and arrested its driver, according to police.



Matur Rahman Nizami MP, Secretary General of the Jamaat-e-Islami, addressing a public meeting in the city yesterday. —Star photo

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