

Document of welfare: Treasury Bench

Budget to aggravate hardship: Opposition

The opposition yesterday turned down Finance Minister Saifur Rahman's new budget saying the measures proposed in it will aggravate the hardship of the poor and the lower middleclass and turn the country into "a market of multi-national companies", reports UNB.

The ruling party members, however, praised the Finance Minister for presenting "a document of welfare" for the people and the economy.

The contrasting views came when as many as 17 MPs from the treasury and the opposition benches took part in the deliberations on the national budget for 1992-93, presented in parliament by Saifur Rahman on July 18.

The participants are: Anwar Ali Siddiqui, Abu Yusuf Mohd. Khalilur Rahman, Advocate Khairul Enam, Rabeya Chowdhury, Shahiduzzaman Beltu, Azizur Rahman, Mosharrif Hossain Mangu and Harunur Rashid Molla of BNP, Begum Matia Chowdhury, Altaf Hossain Golondaz, Rahmat Ali, Mostafizur Rahman and Abul Kalam Azad of Awami League, Mufti Maulana Abdus Sattar and Kazi Shamsur Rahman of Jamaat-e-Islami, Golam Hossain and Syed Moshed Kamal of Jatiya Party.

Former State Minister of the BNP government Anwar Ali Siddiqui welcomed the budget terming it as "a certain docu-

ment of welfare". He said the present reforms in taxation system will help increase the revenue earning substantially. Siddiqui, however, feared that the unguarded free economy will put the local industries into a stiff competition with the foreign goods. Siddiqui observed that the reduction in the prices of diesel, agricultural inputs and irrigation system would have encouraged increased production in the agriculture sector. He also suggested specific measures for the well-being of the poor farmers in the rural areas who constitute the 84 per cent of the entire population of the country.

Razzak described the budget as the Finance Minister's "empty slogan for achieving self-reliance" and said this budget will make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

A number of speakers, including treasury bench member AKM Fazul Huq, demanded that diesel price be lowered to facilitate farmers. "Nowhere in the world oil price is so high... the government is taxing the people irrationally by maintaining a high oil price", said Abul Lais Mobin Chowdhury of JP.

The deterioration of law and order was pointed out by the opposition members as a major threat to development at present.



JSD (Inu) organised a discussion meeting yesterday in observance of Col Taher's death anniversary at Taher Auditorium in the city. —Star photo

Tributes to Col Taher

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh needs another revolution like the one on November 7, 1975 to dismantle the structure of autocracy built over the years, speakers at a discussion on 16th death anniversary of Colonel Taher said this on Tuesday.

Colonel Taher's failed in 1975 as some "opportunists" and counter-revolutionaries grabbed the power following the rebellion before it could go for any structural changes planned by Taher and his followers, they said.

Similarly the mass upsurge in 1990 also failed to bring about its desired results as the power was shifted before overhauling the administrative and social structure, they said adding whoever goes to power in this system, will become an autocrat".

Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, Hassanul Huq Inu, Dr. Hassanuzzaman, Foyez Ahmed, Kazi Aref Ahmed and Sharif Nurul Ambia addressed the meeting at Taher Auditorium on the occasion organised by JSD (Inu).

Taher, a freedom fighter and the architect of the November revolution, was hanged to death in 1976 in trial on various charges including treason.

The speakers unanimously demanded publishing of trial documents and review of the judgement.

PM: Manama

From Page 1 Col 8

The visit will take place at the invitation of Ameer Isa Bin Salma Al-Khalifa of Bahrain.

During the trip, her first ever state visit to a Gulf country, Begum Zia will have wide-ranging talks with the Ameer covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations, regional and international issues of common concern.

Manpower export and expansion of trade will figure prominently during the discussion. They are expected to exchange views attaching special importance to the problems facing the Muslim ummah.

Begum is also scheduled to have talks with the Prime Minister and Crown Prince of the oil-rich tiny Gulf country.

At the end of the visit, a joint communique is expected to be issued.

From Manama Begum Zia will fly to Islamabad on August 9 to being her three-day state visit to Pakistan.

AL should not dictate

From Page 1 Col 4

nal demand. Doesn't her statement weaken the Nirmul Committee's position? Doesn't it strengthen the Jamaat's contention that the Nirmul Committee has no public support?

It has been the ruling party's position that the Nirmul Committee is nothing but a front body of the Awami League, set up to promote the latter's political agenda. What better proof can the BNP get to prove its contention than Sajeda Chowdhury's own advice?

The Indemnity (Repeal) Bill and the trial of Bangabandhu's killers are issues on which the Awami League is free to form its own alliances or "Samannay Committees", as and when it so pleases. But it must be clearly understood that the present Ghatok Nirmul Samannay Committee was not set up for that purpose. The Awami League will be failing in its commitment to push forward the movement for Golam Azam's trial, if it now tries to impose its own agenda on that body.

With all due respects to the memory of Bangabandhu, it must be made clear that the trial of his killers is not the issue of the current movement.

Many Nirmul Committee activists have complained privately — and some not so privately — that the Awami League, as the "big brother" in the alliance, has always tried to impose its will on the whole movement.

Even on the 26th of March this year, the day of Azam's "trial", the AL tried to dominate the show with a heavy presence of its placards and party banners. The letter of party chief Sheikh Hasina to Jahannara Imam and its distribution.

Lakhani

From Page 1 Col 8

matter, the Chairman of Petrobangla was informed through a letter signed by Muslim Lakhani about the government approval of Scimitars extension for carrying out its work.

Lakhani's intimation to Petrobangla quoted a letter from the Prime Minister's office. On enquiry it was, however, found that no such letter was issued by the Prime Minister's office.

Meanwhile, two other letters also became available to the authorities. One was purportedly to have been written to the Energy Secretary by the Cabinet Secretary conveying a "Cabinet decision" granting one-year extension to Scimitar and the other by the Energy Minister to the Principal Secretary of Prime Minister's office.

SAARC summit

From Page 1 Col 8

This will be the second time Bangladesh will host the highest level meeting of the Association which was first conceived and proposed by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in 1980.

The first summit was held in Dhaka in December 1985 when the SAARC was formally launched to promote the socio-economic condition of more than one billion people in the region.

At the forthcoming summit, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be elected the chairperson of the seven-nation forum and she will hold this position till the election of the next chairperson at the eighth summit sometime next year.

The summit will be preceded by a two-day meeting of the Council of Ministers from December 10. The meeting of the Council comprising the Foreign Ministers of all member countries, will also be preceded by a two-day session of the Standing Committee of the Foreign Secretaries. A meeting of the Programme Committee at the senior officials will be held on December 6.

A high level committee headed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has been constituted to issue necessary policy guidelines and instructions in respect of preparation and conduct of the meetings.

Under the apex body, there will be a number of committees responsible for different aspects of the seven-nation gathering.

These committees will be headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Home Affairs, the Information Minister, the Mayor of Dhaka Municipal Corporation and the State Minister for Cultural Affairs.

A preparatory committee for holding the summit has been formed with former Foreign Secretary Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury as its honorary chairman.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the supervision of Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, will be responsible for overall coordination and all substantive aspects of the meetings.

AL should not dictate

From Page 1 Col 4

created a lot of confusion and gave credence to the views of those within the BNP who lobbied to oppose the 'trial' of Golam Azam. According to many, it was Sheikh Hasina's letter that hardened the position of the BNP leadership and made it difficult for those, within the party, who would otherwise have lobbied with their chief in favour of supporting the movement.

It is common knowledge that as the dominant partner of the Nirmul Committee, the Awami League is in a position to exert a lot of influence on its functioning. And many suspect, that it does. But Sajeda Chowdhury's advice crosses all limits. Those who do not support the movement for the trial of Golam Azam, are becoming worried, and restive. They are beginning to feel that they are being used. The AL leadership would do well to take serious note of this feeling in a section of the Nirmul Committee's supporters.

It is a sign of the AL's immaturity, and the bankruptcy of a section of its leadership, that it does not understand it will be suicidal if the Nirmul Committee is forced to serve the AL's agenda. Some may say it is a sign of the weakness of the Awami League that it tries to ride on the back of this popular demand to push forward its party agenda.

Sajeda Chowdhury's statement has caused serious damage to the credibility of the Nirmul Committee's position, and she would do well to retract it. Or she will unwittingly expose the AL's real agenda behind participating in this movement — let the cat out of the bag, so to speak.

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A SAARC Summit cell with Director General (SAARC) QAMA Rahim as its chief coordinator has been set up at the Ministry.

Armed men storm city clinic, beat inmates

By DMCH Correspondent

At least three persons were injured when a group of armedmen attacked a pathological clinic at New Elephant Road in the city Tuesday afternoon.

A group of armedmen numbering around 12 stormed into the Talukder X-ray and Pathology Clinic at New Elephant Road at 4 pm and left the clinic owner, Nasir Ahmed, 33, and two others — Fauzia Sultana, 34, and Sharif Ahmed, 30, wounded.

All the three injured persons were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The clinic owner said, the attack was a sequel to a family feud with his step brother, Zakir, a teacher of Dhaka College.

Late arrival of crew delays Biman flight

Star Report

Late arrival of a Biman crew at the airport delayed an international flight of the national flag carrier by 25 minutes on July 1.

Concerned sources said the flight to London via Dubai, BG 007, was supposed to depart at 9 am. However, it could not do so as the crew arrived 25 minutes after the scheduled time.

Sources said punitive measures were taken against the same crew only six months ago for alleged misconduct.

Civil aviation sources said that if the delay was considered in monetary terms, the amount of loss would be huge for Biman. Singapore Airlines computes 1600 dollars for each minute of delay, they added.

When asked, the Biman authorities said the matter is being probed.

Gold, medicine seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Customs surveillance team seized gold-chains and contraband medicine worth about Taka nine lakh from five passengers of two international flights at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday.

Customs officials seized gold-chains weighing approximately two kilograms worth about Taka 8,06,400 from four passengers of a Bangladesh Biman flight from Singapore to Dhaka at 3:10 am yesterday.

The gold-chains were seized as they were found hiding in the luggage to avoid payment of duty, a customs official said.

In another incident, customs officials seized contraband medicine including Neurobin injections worth about Taka one lakh from a passenger of an Emirat flight — EK 610 at 6 pm yesterday.

VHP plans

From Page 1 Col 5

Singh sought to know the background and the reason behind deployment of the central forces in the state without any request from the state government.

Such deployments could hamper the process of mediation with the VHP leaders and for the implementation of the High Court orders and would lead to tension and provocation, Singh said.

Hundreds of army soldiers moved out of nearby garrison to patrol the riot-hit neighborhoods of Trivandrum, capital of Kerala state today, where four people were killed Monday, news agencies said.

Mobs fought with clubs, sabers and stones and set fire to vehicles during the riots, the reports said. Two more people were killed in another town in western India, Malegaon.

About 120 people were injured in the two places. The National Front and Left party MPs today continued their boycott of the Lok Sabha and staged a dharna at the main gate of Parliament house demanding change of the Rao government for 'inaction' over the issue.

On the second day of the boycott, the NF-LF members raised anti-government slogans. The demonstrators were joined by members of the Muslim League.

The entire question hour in the Rajya Sabha collapsed today amidst noisy and acrimonious scenes over the Ayodhya happenings and communal violence in Kerala and Malegaon in Maharashtra.

The Pandemonium had also led to an adjournment for 15 minutes earlier.

While Congress-I and non-BJP opposition members demanded an immediate statement from the government on the latest in Ayodhya, the BJP members were equally vociferous in calling for a statement on the Malegaon incident.

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The Midnight File

Baker-Assad talks postponed

AMMAN, July 21: Talks between President Hafez Al-Assad and US Secretary of State James Baker have been postponed until Wednesday following the death of the Syrian leader's mother, a US official said. The change was announced by State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler on the plane flying Baker to Amman from Jerusalem, reports AFP.

Warring Afghan factions agree to ceasefire

KABUL, July 21: Warring Afghan factions agreed to a ceasefire today after three days of bitter fighting in the streets of Kabul, a spokesman for the Afghan governing leadership council said here. The ceasefire between the Sh'ite Hezbi-I Wahdat and the Ittihad-I-Islami, a Sunni radical party headed by Rasul Sayaf, has come into effect, Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni said, reports AFP.

Emergency in flood-hit Filipino province

MANILA, July 21: Philippine President Fidel Ramos today declared an emergency in a northern province because of floods, the government said. The Office of Civil Defence (OCD), correcting figures released earlier by officials, said 12 people died in the floods which washed away Home Sin Manila and in Nueva Ecija province north of the capital on Monday, reports Reuter.

PM: Terrorism

From Page 1 Col 7

Amanullah Aman were present.

The Prime Minister said the student had played a glorious role during the anti-autocratic movement and because of their united struggle the autocratic regime collapsed. Now the students have to take up a united and coordinated programme for uprooting terrorism, she said.

Begum Zia called upon the student organisations to find out a process for eliminating terrorism through discussion. She said all cooperation from the government would be extended in this respect.

The Prime Minister said: "We want that academic atmosphere is maintained in each educational institutions and students shall dedicate themselves to studies." She said the government would give all out assistance for the improvement of educational institutions including universities.

The meritorious students would be sent on study tour to SAARC countries, and arrangements would be made to provide scholarships on the basis of merit, she said.

The Prime Minister told the student leaders not to be used as political tools of anyone and called upon them to build up student politics for the welfare of the students. She said "Do not give illegal person shelter in hall and then you will see illegal arms stop coming in and congenial academic atmosphere and peace and discipline maintained."

The Prime Minister informed the student leaders that proper atmosphere was prevailing in different universities especially in the Chittagong University, Mymensingh Agricultural University and Jahangirnagar University.

The leaders of JCD, who attended the meeting, were JCD President Rizvi Ahmed, General Secretary Elias Ali,

DU teachers

From Page 1 Col 5

The police raids on DU residential halls were not fruitful and firing of gunshots had become a regular incident on the university campus.

The university teachers felt that the situation on the campus was deteriorating and can become grave anytime.

The meeting expressed that terrorism on the university campus could be curbed through collective efforts of the government, political parties, the university administration, teachers and the students' organisations.

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AL stages walkout

From Page 1 Col 7

Announcing the decision to stage the walk-out Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abudus Samad Azad said that the spirit of understanding and attack could not go hand in hand. He alleged that as Mirza Azam had submitted a no-confidence notice to the Parliament Secretariat against LGRD Minister under the scope of the rules of procedures, his house came under attack from the government party. Such activities cannot bolster democracy, he said.

Samad Azad said, the no-confidence notice had found its way to the press following leakage from the secretariat. He protested attack on the house of his party member.

He, however, reiterated the pledge to give cooperation to the treasury bench in upholding the parliamentary democracy, but added that the ruling party should reciprocate the attitude of the opposition.

Throwing a challenge Abudus Salam Talukder said he would accept any punishment if anybody could prove his hands behind the reported attack on the opposition member's house. He said, similar punishment should be meted out to those who were trying to undermine his reputation and image.

The LGRD Minister said, protection cannot be exclusively for the opposition.

Referring to the notice, he said, some one from 'Bhorer Kagoj' wanted my opinion on it.

He said, there was also a press briefing prior to the submission of the notice to the

15 hurt in stampede as villagers loot Saudi meat

SIRAJGANJ, July 21: At least 15 people were injured in a stampede today when hundreds of people thronged near the Chowkider bridge in Ullapara thana to get Saudi sacrificial meat, reports UNB.

A truck loaded with 150 carcasses of sheep from Saudi Arabia were looted and snatched by the villagers when the vehicle stopped to be off-loaded at a godown.

Among the injured, two were union parishad members who came to take delivery of the meat.

DCC acquires land

From Page 1 Col 7

will be used in collecting garbage from different corners of the city in a new system. According to this, garbage would be disposed of by the city dwellers in demountable containers instead of dustbins presently used. These containers would be picked up by DCC vehicles and dumped at Matuail. DCC will also replace the old containers.

The operation of the Matuail scheme will be jointly carried out by DCC and the World Bank, the sources said. The World Bank takes 25 per cent responsibility of the scheme and DCC the rest.

Meanwhile, a number of proposals has been given to the DCC authorities to provide garbage to certain organisations interested in producing bio-gas.

DCC runs on 2 per cent of the total tax given by the city dwellers annually.

BIWTC suffers Tk 11.66 cr loss

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) has suffered a loss of Taka 11.66 crore during fiscal 1991-92. Shipping Minister Harunur Rashid informed Parliament Tuesday.

Replying to Principal MM Nazrul Islam of Awami League, the Minister said that the corporation earned Taka 50.12 crore and spent Taka 61.78 crore during the same period.

In response to another query of Begum KJ Hamida Khanam of BNP, Rashid informed that the government was planning to procure two ro-ro ferries, two coastal passenger liners and three vessels for rocket service, to replace the existing vessels.

The ferries would be available by 1993 while the coastal liners by 1994, he said.

7 hurt as Shibir, Nirmul Body activists clash

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 21: A clash between the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir and Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee left at least seven people injured at Chashara Tuesday afternoon.

The clash ensued when the workers of Nirmul Committee allegedly hurled crackers at a procession of Islami Chhatra Shibir passing by the Chashara Square at around 4 pm Tuesday.

During the half-hour chase and counter-chase between the two clashing groups at least a dozen of crackers were exploded.

Of the injured, two were identified as Kamruzzaman and Mamun, two workers of Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

They were given first aid at the Narayanganj Sadar Hospital.



Science Fair '92 began at the Holy Cross School yesterday. —Star photo