

Uproar in House

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Patil wanted to know 'who would benefit from the words of Tofael' and added that 'or was he trying to create another scope for a political cover to the terrorists?'

Tofael then said that he was not referring to any particular political group. In a state of rage he said 'whoever is a terrorist, even if it be me, arrest him tonight.'

Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party alleged that the government was failing to protect the lives of not only the common people but workers and leaders of political parties as well.

He demanded a statement from the government on the role of the Jamaat and the Shibir and added that they would extend cooperation to the government to control the situation at the Dhaka University.

Before Menon could take the floor most of the Opposition members stood up and wanted to speak. Finding it difficult to control them, the presiding Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni asked Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Chief Whip of the House to come to his rescue.

An apparently bewildered Delwar, taking recourse to presence of mind, said that the situation was of concern to everybody. He observed that there was no difference of opinion in the Treasury bench and the Opposition on the issue.

Delwar assured the House that the government was seriously reviewing the situation and urged everyone to identify the terrorists in a joint move.

After Delwar finished his deliberations, the House was adjourned for Asr prayers and after the break the issue came up again.

As everybody wanted to speak, a compromise formula was reached allowing different group leaders to speak for three minutes.

Taking the floor, Shamsuddoha of CPB mentioned different incidents and demanded the dismissal of the Home Minister.

Suranjit Sen Gupta of the Ganatantri Party said that if the Special Parliamentary Committee was not formed and the Home Minister did not resign they would be compelled to move a no-confidence motion against the government.

Throwing a challenge, Suranjit added that if a Committee was formed with Speaker Razaq Ali as the chairman, the situation would be brought under control in one-hour. He also demanded the formation of a national government to tackle the situation.

Shahjahan Straj of the JSD said that the Home Minister was not ashamed about the situation. He advised the government to bring in someone from abroad as Home Minister if competent people were not available.

Ruling out the demand for

the formation of a Parliamentary Committee, Akbar Hossain said that it was not in conformity with the Rules of Procedure or the Constitution.

Mattur Rahman Nizami of the Jamaat-e-Islami said that lives of people including those of the political leaders were not safe. He demanded the neutrality of the government in handling the situation and said that his party was committed to a violence-free society.

Fazle Rabbi of the Jatiya Party said that he was not in favour of the demand asking the government to resign but demanded an immediate solution.

Mohiuddin Ahmed of the AI, narrating certain threats to his son, asked for security of his life. He warned that he would commit suicide if the situation continued further.

Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, in his turn, said that the Home Minister should resign.

Referring to Akbar's observations Samad Azad opined that the formation of a Parliamentary Committee was very much within the purview of the Rules of Procedure.

He urged the Deputy Leader of the House to reassure them, otherwise 'we would walk out'.

Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House then advised the Deputy Speaker to allow the Home Minister to speak.

At the Home Minister rose to speak, the Opposition benches apparently lost their temper and started to shout. They were saying that they were not ready to listen to the Home Minister and at one stage were about to move out.

B Chowdhury then stood up and said that the opposition must listen to the Home Minister. His words, though had a cooling effect, did not stop the noise.

Amidst noise the Home Minister said that the killers of Ratan Sen would be detected soon and they would be given exemplary punishment.

Condemning the brutal killing of Ratan Sen, Prof B Chowdhury said that the whole House was expressing condolence to the bereaved family of Ratan Sen.

Referring to demands of the Opposition for the government to resign Prof Chowdhury said that it could very well ask for that but added that since the independence of the country there had been political killings but nobody resigned nor was there any demand for resignation.

He said that the government was very much capable to control the situation and that the question of a national government did not arise.

Advising the Opposition to discuss the issue in the Standing Committee on Home Ministry, Prof Chowdhury ruled out the suggestion for a special Parliamentary Committee.

He urged everybody to understand the reasons for terrorism and what were the causes.



Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda handing over the Local Government Structure Review Commission report to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. Story on Page 1 — PID photo

Azam absconded abroad

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ing or concealing himself or remaining abroad to avoid appearance for the said enquiry and other proceedings... it also directed attachment of all property standing in his name and his 'benamdar'.

Aminul Huq further pleaded that the temporary citizenship law wiped out all other citizenship laws in spite of the fact that all laws which were in existence or March 25, 1971, including the Pakistan Citizenship Act of 1951 which was later adopted, shall be valid unless found 'inconsistent with our sovereignty'.

He said another proclamation of the exiled Mujibnagar government of April 10, 1971 along with PO-48 of May 22, 1972 says existing laws means any act, ordinance, regulation, rule, order or bylaw which from March 26, 1971 had the force of law in whole or part of the territory now Bangladesh comprises.

With the enforcement of PO-149/72 all other laws relating to citizenship 'is dead', he argued.

The Attorney General further pleaded the PO-149/72 had been amended twice, and again these two amendments were retrospective alike the temporary law (Bangladesh Citizenship Act).

So, the submission by the defence lawyer that Golam Azam has been a citizen of Bangladesh by operation of law 'is erroneous and based on supposition and erroneous assumption,' he observed.

'Legislature knows its limits, legislature never passes any law beyond its competence,' he said, adding the court should presume that the law-making body has passed the law within its legislative

competency and never goes beyond the bounds.

The Attorney, placing a judicial decision, said 'duty of the court is not to strike down the law but to protect the law'.

The first document to be placed before the court, he said, is the proclamation of independence of Bangladesh which categorically stated that the proclamation shall be deemed to have come into effect from March 26, 1971.

Disqualification of Golam Azam as a citizen was not discriminatory, the Attorney further submitted, because the Bangladesh Citizenship Order provides guideline for disqualifying anyone as citizen of Bangladesh.

This view finds support from Article-4 and the power contained in Article-3 of the temporary citizenship order is not absolute, nor it is unguided, unfettered and arbitrary.

Therefore, the power available under Article-3 was not discriminatory, Huq said, adding even a discriminatory law could not be declared unconstitutional.

The AG further said Golam Azam was disqualified to be deemed as a citizen of Bangladesh on and from March 26, 1971 and that he had been continuing as a citizen of Pakistan till today.

This, he said, is very much manifest in light of Article-2 of PO 49/72 of sub clause-1 that Golam Azam did not continue to be a resident of Bangladesh because of his continued allegiance, affirmation and acknowledged loyalty to Pakistan.

'Golam Azam's stay in Pakistan (after liberation of Bangladesh from its occupation) was neither for employment nor for study tour, rather he was there upon a politico-

Six injured as BCL, Shibir clash in CU

CHITTAGONG, Aug 2: Six students of Chittagong University were injured in a clash today between Islami Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra League supporters, breaking a truce, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the trouble erupted when the BCL (M-I) activists allegedly attacked a Shibirite, Shahidul Islam, near the university gate-1 on the Chittagong-Rangamati highway at about 6.30 pm.

Among the injured Shibir men, Shahidul Islam and Shariful Islam of Islamic History Department were admitted to the university medical centre.

Tension mounted in the area breaking a three-month lull.

Political activity on the trouble-prone CU campus remained under a moratorium over the last three months following a general agreement between the student organisations and the university authority.

Police recover abandoned arms from DU

By DU Correspondent

Police recovered a cut-rifle with eight rounds of bullets and a motorbike from the Dhaka University campus yesterday (Sunday).

According to witnesses, police recovered the motorbike and the arms abandoned in front of the Dhaka University Snacks (DUS) near the TSC at about 11.15 am.

Two youngsters were passing through the DUS area riding on the bike without number plate, sources said.

The unidentified youngsters left the bike and arms when police chased them, and sped away from the spot.

Olympics

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foated Italy's Abbagnale brothers who have dominated the men's coxed pairs for a decade and were bidding for an Olympic hat-trick in Barcelona.

The Scaries only switched to the coxed pairs when they lost the British trials for the coxed boat.

Seven golds were decided on the last day of the rowing on Lake Banyles. Apart from the Scaries, Canada and Germany grabbed two apiece, Australia took one and Romanian Elisabeta Lipa, the sports's eternal runner-up, finally struck gold.

'I was getting used to coming in second, so this feels really good,' she said afterwards.

In the 194 km cycling road race through rolling Catalan countryside, top riders ignored unknown Italian Fabio Casarelli when he broke away in the last 16 km. They regretted it.

Italian coach Giosue Zenoni said, 'he was helped very much by the fact that nobody among the other riders knew him.'

Light flyweight boxer Eric Griffin had nothing to cheer. The tournament jury rejected his appeal against a controversial loss to Spain's Rafael Lonzo, who won despite being behind on punches and scorecards.

The decision so enraged fellow American Timothy Austin that he vented all his pent-up rage in the ring, reaching the flyweight quarter finals with a punishing 19-7 victory over Bulgarian soldier Yulian Strogov.

The men's tennis, already without Jim Courier, Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker, lost another star when American Pete Sampras was beaten by Russian Andrei Cherkasov in five sets played on a baking clay court in temperatures above 40C.

Becker said the organisers of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics will have to revise the event. Top stars play too many tournaments, he complained.

The Midnight File

All aboard Thai airbus killed, declares Nepal

KATHMANDU, Aug 2: The Nepalese Home Ministry today declared all 99 passengers and 14 crew of a Thai Airways International (Thai) airbus which crashed near here dead. The wreckage of the Thai airbus A310-300 was located earlier Sunday between Gyangphedi and Suryakund 37 kilometres (23 miles) north of Kathmandu two days after it crashed in bad weather on its way to the capital from Bangkok, reports AFP.

Asia-Pacific meet on rights of children tomorrow

BANGKOK, Aug 2: Representatives of 14 Asia-Pacific nations will begin a three-day meeting Tuesday in Beijing on the rights of children. Hosted by the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), a participants at the meeting will discuss children's legal rights, education and violence at home, reports AFP.

Israel to attend ME peace talks in Washington

JERUSALEM, Aug 2: Israel accepted today an official US invitation to attend the sixth round of Middle East peace talks in Washington from August 24-September 24, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer said. The decision to take part was taken at the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had reviewed the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Ben Eliezer said, reports AFP.

RU classes resume amid tension

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 2: Classes at the Rajshahi University resumed amid an uneasy calm Sunday after being suspended for a day because of violence allegedly carried out by the Islami Chhatra Shibir with the help of some outsiders on Thursday.

The authorities suspended all classes Saturday in a bid to restore peace on the campus. Witnesses said that presence of students on the campus was poor as most of them left the campus immediately after attending classes.

Talking to The Daily Star a number of students expressed fears of fresh trouble if the authorities did not take "adequate" steps to unarm the trouble mongers.

Meanwhile, 16 Shibir activists and their accomplices arrested from four residential halls were sent to jail after the court rejected their bail.

Police declined to give the name of the arrested Shibir-men even after two days of their arrest. No one was taken on remand, sources said.

University authorities said that the police guard was reinforced in the campus and all the residential halls and that all the scheduled examinations would start on time.

UNB adds: The Rajshahi University unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir today (Sunday) demanded proper trial of all cases relating to student killings and withdrawal of ban on political activities on the campus.

At a press conference this afternoon, the Shibir leaders also urged the government to take judicial steps to curb campus terrorism.

They blamed Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) for "unleashing reign of terror on the campus under the patronisation of law enforcing agencies."

3 killed in road accidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Three persons including a college student were killed and three others injured in three separate road accidents in Dhaka and Narayanganj over the last two days.

A student of Lalmitia Girls College, Fatema Khatun Lovly, 18, was killed and another student of the same college and a rickshawpuller were injured when a speeding minibus knocked down their rickshaw from behind near Kazipara at Mirpur yesterday afternoon.

They were on their way to Mirpur.

The victims including the rickshawpuller were rushed to Suhrawardy Hospital where doctors declared Lovly dead.

Lovly's body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Another rickshawpuller was killed and a passenger was injured when a speeding truck ran over them near Purindar Bazar at Araihazar in Narayanganj at around 8 am Sunday.

The rickshawpuller, identified as Bachchu Mia, succumbed to his injuries after being admitted to DMCH.

Shopowners

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mand was announced in the rally by the association's president Mohammad Amanullah.

The demands include immediate arrest and punishment to the killers of Mona and providing security to the business community all over the country.

Addressing the rally, Amanullah gave a one-month deadline to the government to implement the demands. Otherwise, he warned 20 lakh business men of the country would form their own teams at each and every area of the country to resist the toll collectors and the terrorists.

Other speakers strongly condemned that the authorities failed to nab the killers of Mona and to take effective measures to check widespread violence.

They also demanded resignation of the Home Minister, on what they called his failure to deal with the country's law and order situation properly.

The business community leaders also called upon the government not to harbour terrorists and also accused the ruling party of being involved with terrorism.

A procession followed the rally.

Chakmas

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added.

To a question, Barman said that many of the insurgents were yet to surrender to the authorities.

He said there was no 'direct evidence' that Bangladesh provided them protection.

The Chief Minister asserted that the next assembly election in Tripura would be held in February 'as per schedule' and the Congress (I) would have electoral understanding with the TUIS 'with which we have excellent relations.'



Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz addressing a press conference at his ministry's conference room yesterday. — PID photo

Hafiz: Law officers

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services of the two Deputy Attorneys General and 14 Assistant Attorneys General were recently terminated at the whim of the Law Minister.

'The report is completely baseless and untrue, it's not Mirza Golam Hafiz who gave dictation to the Secretary to terminate their services,' he claimed.

Mirza Hafiz, while quoting relevant provisions of the Presidential Ordinance Number Six of 1972, said that the President appoints the government law officers as well as terminates their services at his will without assigning any reason.

However, he added that the termination proposal did originate from the Law Ministry after assessing the manpower requirements following the dissolution of the Circuit Court Benches of the High Court.

State Minister for Law, Aminul Haq, the Law Secretary and other high officials of the Ministry were also present at the press conference.

The Law Minister refuted charges of an impending crisis due to the removals and said that the present strength of law officers to conduct cases was "more than sufficient".

'We will appoint new law officers if needed after reviewing the overall situation and

Russia to buy jute on deferred payment basis

The visiting six-member Russian trade delegation, led by VI Kaligin, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relation of the Russian Federation yesterday called on Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah at his office, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to mutual interest with special reference to export of jute and jute goods to Russian Federation and CIS countries.

They also discussed the mode of payment and agreed on trade on deferred payment basis.

The team also called on the State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan.

The delegation stayed with the minister for some time and discussed matters regarding promotion of trade, business and economic relations between the two countries.

The State Minister briefed the delegation about the various development programmes and activities on textile and garment industry of Bangladesh undertaken by the government. He told the delegation that the government had taken measures in improving the quality and to increase the quantity of Bangladesh's textiles products so that they could attract the foreign buyers.

Hartal in Chhatak

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 2: A complete hartal was observed in Chhatak thana headquarters today in demand of bifurcation of Chhatak Thana from Sunamganj District and immediate attachment of Chhatak with the Sylhet District.

The all party action committee formed to press home the demand called for the 24-hour programme today.

Police arrested a large number of picketers from Sylhet-Sunamganj road near Jauwa. About 100 picketers were also injured in police lathicharge.

All types of vehicles were off the roads during the hartal hours.

Educational institutions, private and government offices and business establishments were closed.

SAARC summit

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ter Begum Khaleda Zia's formal invitations to heads of government and state of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives to attend the summit, officials said Sunday.

Even though different committees are holding meetings to work out details of the preparations, the programmes for the 3-day summit will be finalised following consultations with the officials of other member countries during Mostafiz's forthcoming visits.

On Sunday Home Minister Abdul Mattin Chowdhury presided over a meeting that discussed preliminary security arrangements for the summit and formed several sub-committees. The cultural committee met last week with State Minister for Culture to discuss the cultural programmes.

The sanctioned budget will not let organisers plan lavish ceremonies, but they said the functions would be designed to uphold the spirit of the summit.

'Fanfare will be avoided... without dampening the mood of the summit... we'll take care of the subtleties that add to the spirit of such an event', said an official involved in the preparation.

The Osmany Memorial Hall has been chosen as the venue for the opening and the closing ceremonies, and all other meetings are to be held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel where all the guests including the heads of state and government will be staying. The Osmany Hall is being renovated.

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