

Repatriation of stranded Pakistanis

FM hopes to have timetable set during PM's visit

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman told parliament yesterday that repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis and division of assets and liabilities would be discussed during the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to Pakistan, reports UNB.

"We will not return without discussing the matter," Mostafiz said replying to a call notice, on stranded Pakistanis, that stood in the name of Abdur Razzak (AL) but was moved by Atizur Rahman, the acting Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The Foreign Minister agreed that about 2.38 lakh Pakistani nationals stranded in Bangladesh caused strain on our economy. He estimated that Bangladesh had so far spent Tk 211 crore for them.

Begum Zia, he said, would pay a goodwill visit to Pakistan August 9-11 when the matter of early repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis would come up for discussion with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. "I hope we shall be able to set

a timetable for the repatriation," he added.

BSS adds: The Foreign Minister pointed out that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had already discussed the issue with Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during the Commonwealth summit in Harare, Islamic summit in Dakar and SAARC summit in Colombo. The Prime Minister of Pakistan had given an assurance to Begum Zia of taking immediate steps for the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis.

As a result, the Foreign Minister said, the first meeting of the Rabita Trust Board was held with Nawaz Sharif in November last year for the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis.

At that meeting, Pakistan declared that it would provide an equal amount of fund which would be received as foreign aid for repatriation. As per decision of that meeting, the stranded Pakistanis would be rehabilitated at different places of Punjab province.

On the other hand, 539,669

non-locals opted for Pakistan as per the Delhi Agreement of August, 1973, and the subsequent memorandum of understanding of April, 1974, a total of 126,941 stranded Pakistanis had been repatriated. Discussions continued for the repatriation of the rest of the Pakistanis, but no tangible progress had been made during the nine years of autocratic rule, he added.

The Foreign Minister assured the House that any of them got into the voter list would be knocked out as soon as it is brought to the notice of the authorities.

Abdur Razzak in his notice said that about 3 lakh Pakistani nationals remained stranded in Bangladesh since our independence in 1991. Despite repeated assurance, Pakistan has not taken back its nationals. "They are causing severe strain on our economy."

He further said that the stranded Pakistanis were creeping into the voter list and thus creating political complications.

Olympics

From Page 1 Col 7

Fresh drug disclosures tarnished the image of athletics with confirmation that double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe of Germany had tested positive for a banned drug last month.

Her trainer Thomas Springstein admitted Krabbe and two other German runners had taken the anabolic and stimulant clenbuterol, a drug which converts fat into muscle, but said they had been unaware of any wrong-doing.

"If Katrin really is doped it will throw such a hushadow over athletics that people won't be able to believe us any more," said Silke Renk, women's Olympic javelin champion in Barcelona and, like Krabbe, a former East German.

Krabbe's main sponsor, sportswear giant Nike International, said it would immediately scrap its lucrative contract with her if she was banned for taking performance-boosting drugs.

Belarusian Madina Biktagirova, fourth in last Saturday's women's Marathon, became the second athlete to be expelled from the games for doping.

But international Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch insisted the war against drugs was being won.

Gail Devers, surprise winner of the women's 100 metres, accused Gwen Torrence of slander after her American teammate said three of last Saturday's finalists were doped.

"This kind of slander and defamation of character is the behaviour of losers, not winners," Devers said.

The American, who almost had both feet amputated two years ago because of a rare thyroid complaint, clocked the fastest time in women's 100 metres hurdles semifinals with a fluent run of 12.76.

Devers, who left world champion Lyudmila Narozhilenko of the CIS in second place in 13.06, could become the first woman since Dutchwoman Fanny Blankers-Koen in 1948 to claim an Olympic sprint and hurdles double.

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Hasina: CHT

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She read out the report in which the Commerce Minister said an all-party parliamentary committee had now been established and expressed the hope that the committee would contribute towards the early return of (Chakma) refugees in line with the discussion that took place during the visit of Prime Minister Begum Zia to India.

Sheikh Hasina said no such all-party committee was formed on CHT and the committee that "we see" was a government one.

She said before the election the BNP claimed that it had no "master" abroad but "friends" but wanted a clarification from the Foreign Minister why such "untrue statement" was made abroad to appease the "master".

The Leader of the Opposition recalled her visit to CHT some months ago and said what she saw there gave her the impression that "martial law" was prevailing in the area.

She said all including police, army, tribals and non-tribals were being killed or affected there.

Sheikh Hasina alleged that the BNP government stepped into the shoes of the government that was overthrown through a mass movement.

Saifur

From Page 1 Col 7

Commenting on the large-scale anomalies in the banking and financial institutions, Saifur Rahman said that all the institutions in the country have broken and become stagnant. It would take time to streamline the institutions, he added.

Elaborating on the degree of stagnation, he said that the working of the institutions had become reactive, not active. "We want investment to be reactivated," Rahman said, adding "We were lacking in initiative of the entrepreneurs. Although, he added, the money position was all right, foreign exchange was ample and the fund was adequate. He, however, noted that there were some lapses in the management.

The Minister hailed the Rotarian principles of truthfulness, fairness and understanding and said let those be established in the country as well as in the business sector as he felt there was an acute crisis of those values in the country.

The installation ceremony of the club, presided over by its new President S Afzal Hossain was attended by Rotarian L K Siddiqui as the special guest while it was addressed among others by the outgoing President Mahbulul Islam and Honourary Secretary Tafazzal Hussain.

Plea for formal credit to informal market

By Staff Correspondent

The need to provide formal credit to small scale enterprises in the informal market was stressed by speakers at the inaugural session of a two day workshop on "Informal financing of small enterprises" here on Wednesday.

"Special efforts" should be taken to develop the relationship between the entrepreneurs in the informal market and the credit sources in the formal market, said M Mustafizur Rahman, Vice Chairman of the Board of Investment, in his inaugural address.

Presided over by Christopher Willoughby, Resident Chief of the World Bank (WB), the session was also addressed by Henricus Gajentaan, Ambassador of the Netherlands and Nasimuddin Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

Participants from development agencies will discuss the findings of a study on small enterprise financing in the country conducted by WB with assistance from the Netherlands Finance Co recently.

Referring to the study regarding informal financing of small enterprise, the Dutch Ambassador said it was an important sub-sector of the economy. He noted that a 1991 OECD report "strongly emphasised" the size of the informal sector whose role was underestimated by many developing countries.

He said that the informal

market was more likely to be around 10 per cent of the gross domestic product although it was estimated to be around five per cent.

Saying that the informal sector enterprises are "remarkably resourceful and responsive to market conditions," the Finance Secretary said that wider access to credit facilities should be provided to them.

Commissioned "Minor Research Studies" — to provide a perspective on small enterprise financing in Bangladesh — the WB study surveyed 16 different small enterprises ranging from making bamboo stools, rickshaw assembly to small grocery stores, waste paper collection and different types of firms which sell to traders.

Saying that small scale enterprise is a widespread form of economic organisation, the WB mission chief emphasised the very "attractive feature" of small firms to create employment in Bangladesh.

"Even in highly developed economies such as the US or Japan, most new employment is created by smaller firms, not by large companies or the government," he added.

However, he pointed out that the experience with promoting small enterprises here and elsewhere includes "too few successes and too many failures."

Text of notice

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tortionists and the government's having totally failed to control the anarchy in the economic life of the people;

Whereas, as a result of the government's policy of bringing all trade unions, industrial areas, workers' colonies, etc under the control of the ruling party, tremendous unrest has been created among the general workers and employees;

Whereas the government has failed to ensure the freedom and protection of journalists and newspapers;

Whereas the government has failed to suppress the activities of anti-independence and anti-liberation forces;

Whereas the government has failed to bring about a political solution to the problems of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and fundamental human rights continue to be violated in that area;

Whereas the government has failed to resolve the problems of Rohingya refugees and eliminate the prospects of armed activities and foreign intervention arising out of that situation;

Whereas the government has failed to ensure the security of the foreign embassies and diplomatic missions and as a result of which the international image of Bangladesh has been greatly tarnished. Therefore I, expressing my lack of confidence in the cabinet of the government of Bangladesh, place this no-confidence motion.

Singed . . . (Member of Parliament Translation by The Daily Star — not an official translation).

Bills on CHT

From Page 1 Col 5

Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, CPB, and NDP brought amendments to the bills for eliciting public opinion and for sending those to select committee before passage of the bills.

The members who moved the amendments included Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, Moulana Abdus Shobhan (Jamaat), Abu Lais Mohammad Mobin Chowdhury (JP), Salauddin Yousuf (AL), Shah Mohammad Ruhul Quddus (Jamaat), Nazrul Islam (AL).

Adamjee clash

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backed workers attacked their rivals in the mills area.

The clash then spread over the entire area and continued until 11 am with police firing blank shots, using tear-gas shells and resorting to baton-charges to disperse the warring groups.

Police said they recovered five crackers from one of the arrested persons Anisur Rahman, while they accused another arrested person Quamruddin of hurling bombs at them. Anis and Quamruddin were reportedly BNP workers.

The injured workers were identified as: Abul Hashem, Selim, Zafar Ali, Rafiqul Islam, Farook, Nurul Islam, Rahim and police constable Abdur Razzaq. All of them were injured in bomb blasts.

Both the BNP and the JP claimed the wounded workers their activists.

The situation in the AJM remained tense till 10 pm with police and BDR patrolling the mills area.

The Midnight File

IMF ready to approve \$1b for Russia

WASHINGTON, Aug 5 : Directors of the International Monetary Fund were ready Wednesday to approve 1 billion dollar in credits for Russia's struggling economy. Release of the funds would mark a crucial step in unblocking the bulk of a 24 billion dollar Western aid programme to help Russia transform its centrally planned economy to a free-market system, reports AP.

Delhi will pay \$470 m to Bhopal gas victims

NEW DELHI, Aug 5 : India's federal government Wednesday said it will sanction 470 million dollar hours after the state government accused it of dithering in compensating families of thousands who died in the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster.

Audit objection

From Page 1 Col 7

committee, therefore, directed all concerned quarters to follow in future the principle of financial discipline for adjustment of accounts.

The committee directed the concerned ministries to get the additional expenditure beyond budgetary allocation approved by the Sangsad on an emergency basis.

The committee said discrepancy was noticed in the departmental accounts for lack of coordination between the original allocation, supplementary allocation and revised allocation. It happened because in the adjustment account books, only original and supplementary allocations were shown.

The committee directed the Finance Ministry to evolve an effective coordinations system to remove such discrepancy.

The committee found that the effectiveness of the present audit system was very limited in the backdrop of huge expenditure of the government in the post-independence development activities. It felt the need for switching over to comprehensive audit system in phases keeping in view the existing reality of the situation.

The committee underlined the need for an spot investigation and evaluation of the overall condition of the Railway division to save the railway from continued losses.

In its observation on the audit objections on Food Ministry, the committee noticed with concern that most

of the objections were related to unlimited shortage that occurred in storage and transportation of foodgrains.

It further noticed that shortage in transportation and storage was not properly and timely investigated and in most of the cases the departmental investigations were not based on reality.

The committee felt the immediate need for proper and immediate departmental actions as per the set rules in all cases of shortage of beyond limit in storage and transportation.

It directed the Establishment Ministry to take appropriate steps for printing the audit report at the government press on priority basis to clear the backlog of printing of such reports in the press.

The committee, in the course of deliberation, observed that it was the responsibility of the concerned ministries to implement the recommendations of the standing committee on public accounts within the stipulated time.

The recommendations of the committee would be meaningful only if the implementation process was strengthened, it said.

It expressed the hope that the process of implementing the recommendations would supplement the committee's work if an 'action-taken' committee elected from within the members of the mother committee could work with the secretarial support of the parliament secretariat.

AG sums up submission

Disqualification of Azam and Hamidul Huq not alike

Attorney General Aminul Huq yesterday summed up his submission in the hearing of the writ petition in Golam Azam's citizenship case, refuting relevance of all six judgments placed as reference by the defence lawyer, reports UNB.

No such case came to this court where a person had been disqualified to be a citizen of Bangladesh under Article-3 of the Temporary Citizenship Order, which relates to doubt about conduct, Huq said on the 14th day of hearing by a High Court division bench.

The Attorney General said there was only one case of Hamidul Huq Chowdhury in which earlier notification disqualifying him to be citizen was disposed of by another ordinance in 1977 by the government.

But disqualification of Golam Azam to be a citizen was not alike that. Not only that he was never a citizen of this

country but also disqualified for his conduct and through allegiance to Pakistan, the government pleader argued.

Defence lawyer Barrister AR Yusuf standing to clarify his points said Golam Azam is a citizen of this country by operation of law.

Amendments 2A and 2B to the Temporary Citizenship Order were made after the notification disqualifying Golam Azam had been issued.

"After I had been disqualified, the ordinance was promulgated aiming at few people. So, the amendment 2B relating to conduct is mala fide," he argued.

He further contended that Act 5 of 1973, which gave retrospective effect, cannot cover past and closed transaction, that is after the issuance of the notification.

Amendment 2B was further enlarged on February 13, 1978 where retrospective effect to the law was not given, he said.

if 2B comes, then only the question of conduct is applicable, Yusuf argued. In that case, 'doubt' portion of the Pakistan Citizenship Act 1951 would be applicable, which directed to give one-year citizenship certificate with extendable provision till investigation ends.

Barrister Yusuf said Article-2, 2A and 2B are three different articles of the Citizenship Order, and Article 3, where doubt portion is inscribed, only mentioned about Article 2, not 2A and 2B.

Article 2 said "if I can fulfil three conditions — that is whether my father and grandfather were born citizens, whether I am a permanent resident on March 25, 1971 — continue to be so resident."

In Golam Azam's case, he fulfilled all these three guidelines and hence he is citizen of this country, the Jamaat leader's lawyer pleaded.

Seen from the Gallery

From Page 1 Col 5

"You are not here very often and I don't get to see your handsome face in the House," the Speaker said, gently admonishing the inquisitive MP, before assuring him that a decision on the bill would be taken soon.

Apparently devastated by the Speaker's charm, the bespectacled and mustachioed Islam sat down. Well satisfied, no doubt.

Judging by the looks, poise and mannerisms of the male parliamentarians (296 out of 330), there is no obvious or clear favourite for the Most Handsome title.

If there is to be a race for the gold medal, then one can at least be sure that the line-up would be headed by Textile Minister Maj M A Mannan, Tourism Minister Abdul Mannan and Deputy Leader B Chowdhury from the Treasury benches, and Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Mustafizur Rahman of Sandwip and Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury of Madaripur from the Opposition benches. And of course, Nazrul Islam, as the Speaker himself pointed out.

The 34 lady members are not there, as one of them pointed out recently during the discussion on the budget, just to show-off their charm and beauty. But a contest for the Most Attractive lady parliamentarian is unlikely to be, surprisingly, a closely fought affair.

Selina Shahid of Kushtia seems way ahead of the rest when it comes to poise and sheer good looks (admirers of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition will just have swallow this one, as they can't win every contest).

With the Most Attractive Female MP title in her pocket, Selina Shahid can now go boldly forth to score some points as a parliamentarian. Judgement on that score will have to wait until then.

Dinajpur dailies observe strike

DINAJPUR, Aug 5 : Six local dailies did not appear today (Wednesday) as the newspapers observed strike Tuesday protesting the stabbing of Daily Uttar Bangla news editor Sheikh Abul Hasan and the authorities failure to arrest his attackers, reports UNB.

No-confidence a signal

From Page 1 Col 4

from outlining a plan of action that should restore the confidence of the people in the law-enforcing agencies, the Home Minister has been talking about preparing a list of terrorists and wanted criminals, prompting this paper to ask, in some bewilderment, "What is the list for?"

The debate on the no-confidence motion (or motions), whenever it is held, should primarily focus on the law and order situation. But it should be directly linked to what we see as a drift in the administration, with promises and pledges, more political than administrative in nature, overtaking hard options and concrete actions.

Now, even many ardent admirers of Begum Zia have begun to wonder if the administration has lost its perspective, with the Prime Minister herself keeping all her options to herself, instead of promoting a sense of collective responsibility within the cabinet, which is the key to the success of parliamentary democracy.

How far the forthcoming debate on the no-confidence will go in changing the scenario remains to be seen. However, we are hopeful that it will produce some good results.

Much depends on how the Opposition initiates the debate. It will put the ruling party in the dock. That's a temptation it cannot resist. But it should put the issues concerned at a national level and make constructive suggestions as to how we can reduce the level of lawlessness in the country, tackle campus violence and put the nation on the road to progress and stability. In short, instead of playing to the gallery, it should behave as an alternative government.

If the opposition takes this line — we sincerely hope, it

Govt ordered to return passports of ARS Doha, son

A High Court Bench division of the Supreme Court has ordered the government to return the passports of former Foreign Minister AR Shamsud Doha and his son, reports UNB.

The passports of Doha, now chairman of Dialogue Publications Limited, and his son Shahid Shamsud Doha were taken by the government on May 19 last on the basis of a public interest clause in Section 7 of the Passport Act 1973 after allegations lodged by Al Baraka Bank.

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জনসাধারণের অধিক চাহিদার প্রেক্ষিতে জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর সম্প্রতি ঢাকা শহরে আরো ৩টি সঞ্চয় ব্যুরো এবং ১টি ওয়েজ আর্গার ডেভেলপমেন্ট বণ্ড শাখা খুলেছে।

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় ব্যুরো :

- জাতীয় সঞ্চয় ব্যুরো ; ১৪৩, রোকেয়া সরনী (সেনাপাড়া পর্বতা) মিরপুর, ঢাকা।
- হাবিব ব্যাংক লিঃ ; ৫৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
- ন্যাশনাল ব্যাংক লিঃ ; ৪৮, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা।

এ ছাড়াও ঢাকা শহরে পূর্ব হতে আরো যে ৫টি জাতীয় সঞ্চয় ব্যুরো চালু রয়েছে সেগুলো হচ্ছে :-

- জাতীয় সঞ্চয় ব্যুরো ; ১, বঙ্গবন্ধু এভিনিউ, গুলিস্তান, ঢাকা।
- সোনালী ব্যাংক প্রধান কার্যালয় প্রাঙ্গণ ; মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
- সোনালী ব্যাংক প্রাঙ্গণ ; ২/বি, এলিফান্ট রোড, দোতলা, (উডোজাহাজ মার্কা মসজিদের বিপরীতে) ঢাকা।
- জাতীয় সঞ্চয় ব্যুরো; ২২/৭, ব্রুক-বি, মিরপুর রোড, শ্যামলী, (সোহরাওয়ার্দী হাসপাতালের বিপরীতে) ঢাকা।
- বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক ; সদরবাট শাখা প্রাঙ্গণ, ঢাকা।

ওয়েজ আর্গার ডেভেলপমেন্ট বণ্ড শাখা :

- সোনালী ব্যাংক (ওয়েজ আর্গারস ব্রাঞ্চ); ৬২, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা।

বিদেশে কর্মরত বাংলাদেশী ওয়েজ আর্গার ও দেশে অবস্থিত তাঁদের বেনিফিসিয়ারীগণ ওয়েজ আর্গার ডেভেলপমেন্ট বণ্ড কাউন্টার থেকে বিভিন্ন মূল্যমানের এই বণ্ড কিনতে ও ডাক্ষাতে পারেন। তাছাড়া ওয়েজ আর্গার ডেভেলপমেন্ট বণ্ড সম্পর্কিত বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য উপরোক্ত সঞ্চয় ব্যুরো সমূহে ও জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর, ৩৩৫, সেনগুন বাগিচা, প্রধান কার্যালয়ের সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় পরিদপ্তর
অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

ক্রমিক (স) ১৪৭২২ - ৩/৮/৯২