

9,000 pry schools to be rehabilitated in 3 yrs

Education Minister Jami-uddin Sircar yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that 9,000 primary schools across the country would be rehabilitated in the next three years, reports BSS.

Making a statement on a call attention notice by Mohammad Niamat Ullah (BNP-Dhaka), he said as per the government's policy, primary education had been given the highest priority. He referred to the mass literacy programme of the government and said that compulsory primary education had already been introduced in one thana of every district and the rest of the thanas would be covered in phases.

The Education Minister said that 3,500 more primary school teachers would be recruited by the government by next month to strengthen the base of primary education in the country.

Sircar said the government had settled the over-due promotion cases of the government college teachers and added that 2,500 lecturers would be recruited by the government to fill the vacancy in the colleges.

Making a statement on another call attention notice by Awami League member Mohammad Abdus Shahid (Moulvibazar-4), LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder said that the government had a master plan for providing water supply to the pourashavas. He said that making provision for water supply was an expensive matter and it required support from the donors.

The LGRD Minister said

that after ensuring water supply to pourashavas at the district headquarters, work would be taken up for such supply to thana level important pourashavas which would include Srimgal pourashava considering its importance.

Later making a statement on a call attention notice by BNP member Mashtur Rahman (Jhenaidah-2), Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan said that works for the establishment of an industrial estate at Jhenaidah on 15.70 acres of land would be completed during the current fiscal year. He said that Tk 31 lakh had been allocated for the purpose this year.

Making a statement next on a call attention notice by Awami League member Dhirendra Nath Shahna (Narail-1), Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majidul Huq said two options were being considered for protecting Noagram sluice gate and Noagram cross dam from erosion of Nabaganga river. These were construction of an alternative short length embankment and construction of a separate embankment along with a sluice gate.

The cost of the proposed option would run over Tk 86.60 lakh and would require a detail technical study before going for actual implementation, he said, adding, the government was aware of the situation and had undertaken urgent steps to protect the Noagram cross dam as per the recommendation of the technical committee which was working on the subject.

Open University

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ments, they referred to Article 82 of the Constitution and rule 72(2) and relevant rules in the Rules of Procedure.

Article 82 of the Constitution says that no bill which involves expenditure from public exchequer shall be introduced in parliament without the recommendation of the President.

The opposition members maintained that it would be a bad precedence if a bill was introduced and passed without following the prescribed rules and provisions of the Constitution.

Without the approval of the President, the introduction of the bill would be illegal and infructuous, said Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury.

In his arguments, NDP leader Chowdhury quoted Kaul, author of Practice and Procedure of Parliament, as saying no substantive motion on policy matters is to be brought before the House by the government till the motion of no-confidence has been disposed of.

Chowdhury observed that the Bill on open university is a substantive motion as well as relating to policy matters of the government and hence it cannot be introduced until the no-confidence motion against the government is disposed of.

Suranjit Sengupta alleged that the Education Minister had misinformed the parliament and demanded that he should be prosecuted for his false statement. He should seek unqualified apology and resign, said Sengupta.

Abdus Samad Azad said the Bill was faulty and asked the concerned minister to withdraw it and bring the Bill afresh as per rules of the procedure and the Constitution.

Defending the introduction of the Bill, the Education Minister said he had got recommendation from the President on July 21 and gave notice seeking introduction of the Bill on August 3.

Barrister Sircar refuted the opposition allegations quoting relevant Article of the Constitution and Rules of Procedure. He claimed that the Bill was properly introduced in the House.

Afghan planes bomb rebel strongholds

ISLAMABAD, Aug 11: Government planes today bombed rebel strongholds south of Kabul as militias were rushed from the north to contain a rebel advance, sources here and in the Afghan capital said, reports AFP.

The guerrillas of radical Pashtun leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said they had shot down two jets and were making advances towards Kabul.

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Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal held a rally in front of National Press Club yesterday to protest terrorism. — Star photo

Dhaka-Islamabad joint statement

Following is the text of the joint press statement:

At the invitation of his excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Her Excellency Begum Khaleeda Zia, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, paid an official visit to Pakistan from August 9-11, 1992. She was accompanied by His Excellency ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Minister for Foreign Affairs, several members of parliament and high officials, reports UNB.

During her visit, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh called on His Excellency Ghulam Ishaq Khan, President of Pakistan. She held comprehensive and wide-ranging discussion covering bilateral, regional and international issues with His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan. The talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and utmost cordiality.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh conveyed to the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan the goodwill and friendship of the government and the people of Bangladesh for the government and the people of Pakistan.

The two Prime Ministers briefed each other on the recent developments in their respective countries. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh stated that the people of Bangladesh were at the moment striving hard to consolidate democracy that was earned through a long struggle against autocracy. The Prime Minister of Pakistan apprised the Bangladesh leader of the steps taken by his government to consolidate democracy, national unity and cohesion, stamp out violence, eliminate the cause of social strife, and improve the standard of living of the people of Pakistan.

Reviewing the recent momentous and unprecedented changes in the international situation, the two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the positive developments, namely the end of the cold war, the diffusion of ideological differences and a renewed emphasis on resolution of conflicts through peaceful means. They expressed the hope that these would lead to the establishment of a new world order based on equity, justice and cooperation as well as respect for principles of International Law. The two leaders emphasised that adequate resources should be provided for addressing the development needs of the Third World countries and for the protection of world environment.

They agreed that recent developments have lent renewed relevance to the Non-Aligned Movement and its abiding principles of independent judgement, freedom of action and emphasis on equitable international economic development.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan reiterated Pak-

istan's wholehearted support for the right of self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. He called for an immediate cessation of the human rights violations against the Kashmiri people. He emphasised the need for a just solution of the Kashmir problem as an essential pre-requisite for the establishment of peace and security in South Asia. The Prime Minister of Pakistan reiterated his government's resolve to establish tension-free relations with India, on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect and peaceful, negotiated resolution of all outstanding issues especially the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh underscored deep concern over the continuing violence in Kashmir and the escalating tension between Pakistan and India on this issue. In the interest of peace and stability in the region as a whole, Bangladesh has consistently urged the exercise of maximum restraint by both countries in the SAARC spirit. At the same time, Prime Minister of Bangladesh expressed hope that the process of constructive dialogue initiated between the two countries should continue for a peaceful resolution of the underlying problem on the basis of justice, mutual benefit and respect of the principles of international law.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the excellent relations existing between the two fraternal countries. They reiterated their determination to further strengthen and consolidate these relations. They agreed that the presence of democratically elected governments in both countries provided a significant opportunity for this purpose. The Prime Minister of Pakistan and Bangladesh exchanged views on the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis presently living in various camps in Bangladesh. The Prime Minister of Pakistan apprised the Prime Minister of Bangladesh of the progress achieved by the High Level Committee set up by him and headed by the Finance Minister of Pakistan for the repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis and their rehabilitation in specially constructed housing settlements in various areas in the Punjab province. The Prime Minister of Pakistan informed the Bangladesh leader that construction of these housing settlements had commenced and the campaign to raise funds had been stepped up. He declared that the repatriation of the first batch of some 3000 families of stranded Pakistanis would commence by December 1992, on completion of the first phase of construction of housing facilities for which funds were available. Thereafter, repatriation would take place

in phase, as funds become available and further housing facilities were completed. The Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Bangladesh examined all aspects of division of assets and liabilities, and agreed to take steps through mutual consultations for an expeditious resolution of the problem in the spirit of the existing excellent relations between the two countries. The two Prime Ministers appreciated that there was scope for further expansion and diversification in cooperation between the two countries in the field of trade and economy. They decided to set up special teams headed by the Commerce Ministers and comprising senior officials and representatives of the private sector to meet regularly to evolve measures for increasing and diversifying trade and exploring the possibilities for joint ventures.

The two Prime Ministers agreed to take immediate steps to increase trade between the two countries. They agreed in principle to facilitate the import of larger quantity of tea and jute products from Bangladesh and of fruits from Pakistan.

The two sides also agreed that henceforth the Joint Economic Commission between the two countries should meet at least once in two years to review cooperation in the fields of trade and economy, and to draw up new programmes of cooperation. The two leaders expressed their resolve to intensify and expand cooperation in the fields of culture, education and information and directed the officials concerned in both countries to formulate programmes for increasing cooperation in these fields. The two Prime Ministers agreed to intensify cooperation in the sports sector. The Prime Minister of Pakistan agreed to provide all facilities for the promotion of sports, especially cricket, hockey and squash, to Bangladesh.

During the visit, the following two agreements were signed between Pakistan and Bangladesh: (i) Agreement on cooperation in science and technology; (ii) Agreement on the mutual exchange of plots of land in the diplomatic enclave in each other's capital for construction of respective diplomatic mission complexes.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh expressed her sincere thanks to the Prime Minister and the government and the people of Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to her and members of her entourage during their stay in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of Pakistan to visit Bangladesh. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Montu

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and Abu Taher. They said the hartal aimed at belittling the significance of the day and called upon the people from all walks of life to observe August 15 as mourning day with due solemnity.

They also called for building a movement for establishing the ideology and dream of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Referring to frequent campus violence, the speakers accused their rivals staying in Jagannath and Salmullah halls of letting loose terrorism to destroy peace and normalcy at the university.

The Montu group leaders claimed that they ousted "terrorists, extortionists and outsiders" from Zahurul Huq Hall on May 27 and restored peace together with general students in the dormitory.

Govt hospitals

From Page 1 Col 4

local philanthropic organisation or a local NGO, president of the Pharmaceutical Association, president of the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry, one woman member, one representative from the Bar Association and one representative from the labour organisations.

Director of the hospital would work as the member secretary of the proposed management board.

The district hospital management board would be composed of 17 members while the thana health complex board would be constituted of 14 members. The member of parliament in the local constituency would head both the boards.

Responsibilities of the proposed board are as follows: to review the quality of patient care in the hospital;

- to review the proper utilisation of hospital beds, equipment, services and facilities;
- to review the cleanliness, sanitation and safe water supply in the hospital and its premises;
- to review support services like electricity, communications and ambulance services available;
- to review the administration and financial processes and practices;
- to review the storage of drugs, their estimates and the actual consumption;
- to explore the mobilisation of local voluntary resources for the improvement of hospital facilities;
- to promote health education and community involvement;
- and, the try to resolve problems locally or to refer them to the ministry or the parliamentary committee.

Govt examining authenticity of Shantibahini

truce document
By Staff Correspondent

The government is examining the authenticity of the leaflet said to be circulated by the Shantibahini rebels in which they declared a three-month ceasefire, a Home Ministry source said Tuesday.

The leaflet found in Khagrachhari district Monday said that the Parbatia Chhattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the political organisation which controls the Shantibahini, had announced to cease its hostility in response to the government's move for a political solution to the Chittagong Hill Tracts problems.

The four-page leaflet, with-out signature of either the PCJSS or the Shantibahini, hailed the government decision and announced the unilateral ceasefire from Monday until November 10.

The Midnight File

India rules out early elections in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: The Indian government today ruled out early elections in Kashmir, where Muslim guerrillas are campaigning for independence, saying the situation in the state was not conducive to polling. Home Minister SB Chavan told Parliament there was no alternative to extending the federal rule imposed on the troubled state in July 1990 as the situation remained 'difficult and challenging' for security forces, reports AFP.

Senate pledges funds for US participation in Bosnia

WASHINGTON, Aug 11: Senate today pledged to provide all necessary funds for US participation if UN military force is approved to ensure delivery of humanitarian supplies to Bosnia. The Senate approved the non-binding pledge by a vote of 82-13 despite disagreement over committing US military forces to what some senators said could be a long entanglement in the former Yugoslavia, reports Reuter.

From the gallery

From Page 1 Col 8
July 21, that is 13 days before it was introduced to the House. The opposition was far from impressed.

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury added a further point, quoting from Indian parliamentary procedures by Kaul, that no substantive bill on policy matters could be brought before the House before the no-confidence motion that was moved Sunday, was disposed of.

In his reply Sircar drifted away from the issue in dispute and into the murky world of personnel attacks.

"Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury who had never read law suddenly seems to know everything about laws," Sircar commented, adding in a rhetorical flourish with both hands stretched forward, "Does he know what is substantive? Does he know what is objective? Does he know what is subjective?"

The Education Minister then cited references from some obscure cases which had apparently established what is substantive or not.

This drew applause from Treasury back-benchers who were evidently impressed by Sircar's legal references and thought their man was doing fine.

S Q Chowdhury rose again and said that although he had not read law, he knew English and could comprehend what was meant by Kaul.

"If the Minister says that his bill is not substantive nor on a matter of policy, then I'd withdraw my objections", Chowdhury said, adding that he might not be a bar-at-law or have three-piece suits, but he certainly knew how the parliamentary system was supposed to work.

Chowdhury was backed up by old friend Moudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party who regret-

ted the minister's references to a fellow-legislator not having a law degree.

"We want education from the minister, not things that we should try to unlearn ourselves," Ahmed, who never misses a chance to make snide remarks at individual MPs who might happen to utter the word "autocracy," said.

The situation got even worse when Commerce Minister M K Anwar said that the bill was not a money bill and therefore didn't need permission from the President anyway. That amused Rashed Khan Menon no end.

"The Education Minister himself has admitted it is a money bill by showing the permission from the President, but now Anwar is saying something else. We don't want a split decision from the cabinet," he said.

Just as the Deputy Speaker was giving his ruling postponing the debate on the Bill, State Minister for Law Aminul Huq brought up Kaul again, and said that in the Indian parliament, any such bill could receive presidential consent even while a debate was in progress. But Panni stuck to his ruling.

Odd thing was that, our Rules of Procedure says, unlike the Indian convention, that President's advance permission should be received seven days prior to tabling of a money bill.

In this instance Aminul Huq chose to refer to Kaul in preference to the Sangsad's rules, even though the Treasury bench had claimed on Sunday that no reference could be made to another parliament's conventions if our own rules were clear about some procedural problems.

In other words, refer to Kaul or the Rules of Procedure, as the situation suits you!

Dhaka, Yangon No-confidence

From Page 1 Col 5

drive to the sea resort town through the 17 camps where the refugees are sheltered. But the officials are expected to stay overnight in Cox's Bazar.

At the last official-level talks held at Myanmar's frontier town of Mawngwe on July 23, Yangon told Dhaka that it was prepared to take the refugees back home. But Myanmar rejected a Bangladesh proposal to involve the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in monitoring the repatriation and resettlement of the refugees.

Bangladesh, however, feels that the refugees can return home right now even without UNHCR's involvement as the situation in Arakan is congenial to them.

The refugees arriving from Arakan over the last year speak of murders, rapes, religious discrimination and conscription of young men for forced labour by Myanmar military junta.

But most refugees do not heed Bangladesh's suggestion. They fear fresh persecution by Myanmar soldiers if they return under the bilateral arrangement. Bangladesh has started persuading the refugees to go back, remaining fast to its policy of not sending them home by force.

From Page 1 Col 8

chance to say something more once the Treasury bench wound up the discussion were yet to be solved.

Citing procedures followed by other Parliaments, opposition sources said that they would insist that the mover be the last person to speak before the motion was put to vote. Nevertheless, the decision lay with the Speaker, as there is no precedence of no-confidence motion in our Parliament.

Opposition sources said that while Abdus Samad Azad would open the discussions, senior leaders including Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, would take part in the discussion.

Treasury bench sources said that Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia was expected to wind up the debate. However, both the groups have extensive homework to do to defend their respective positions.

Meanwhile, the Parliament Secretariat was finding it difficult yesterday to cope with hundreds of requests for passes from persons interested to observe the proceedings.

WB happy

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the management of public resources and introduction of the open market economy.

Wood expressed his satisfaction over setting aside fund in the national budget to support the scheme of retrenching overstaff from the public sector. Lauding the Finance Minister's strong sense of direction in his budget speech, the World Bank Vice-President hoped that various moves of the Bangladesh government in the economic sector would take the country to more promising future in industry and trade.

He noted the good progress made in the planning process for the railways with the support from the Asian Development Bank.

Faridpur Medical College begins classes today

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 11: The first year classes of the newly established Faridpur Medical College will start from August 12 with 13 female and 37 male students.

According to sources, the medical college begins its functioning at the defunct Faridpur Medical Assistant Training School where almost all facilities including hostel accommodations are available.

Nine teachers including the Principal-cum-Project Director, Md Enayet Kabir, have already joined the college. The auxiliary staff of the defunct medical school have already been absorbed in the college.

Prison guards

From Page 1 Col 7

ized with serious injuries. Others injured included Alam, 28, a ward boy of the emergency department at the hospital, Deputy Jailor Helal Uddin and jail-guard Alibur Rahman, 27.

Helal Uddin and Alibur were later shifted to the Jail Hospital fearing attack by the rivals.

Witnesses said the attack was launched by the jail-warden when the doctors at the emergency department refused to admit a prisoner-patient named Aminur Rahman at about 11.30 pm on Monday.

RMCH sources said the doctors declined to admit the patient for not having any reference from the jail authorities.

The jail-guards after the refusal geared up their strength and attacked the emergency department an hour later.