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VOL. II NO. 200 REGD. NO. DA 781 SHRABAN 29, 1399 BS, DHAKA THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1992 SAFAR 13, 1413 HIJRI 8 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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Heated arguments mark debate on no-confidence motion

By Staff Correspondent

Parliament yesterday turned into a House of accusations and counter-accusations during discussions on the no-confidence motion against the Cabinet of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The session got off to a smooth start at 9.16 am yesterday with the Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali in the chair. Making a brief statement the Speaker said that he had, on his own, allocated 12 hours for the discussion as the Business Advisory Committee had failed to reach an understanding on the subject.

Pursuant to parliamentary procedures, Abdus Samad Azad, deputy leader of the opposition, being the mover of the no-confidence motion, initiated the discussion.

The House accepted the motion proposed by seven opposition parties, August 9.

Samad Azad in his opening statement said that despite opposition offers to assist curb terrorism the government was refusing to accept them.

Samad Azad said that the government had failed to agree to the passage of the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill.

Reading out the text of the no-confidence motion, Azad said that people had lost confidence in the government and urged everybody to come forward so that democracy could be saved.

Participating in the discussion Rafiqul Islam Miah, Works Minister while explaining the legal aspects of a no-confidence motion said that only when the opposition became a potential government or was in a position to form a government, the motion of no-confidence was moved.

Citing references Miah said that neither in Britain, India, Pakistan nor Japan was a no-confidence motion moved against a government enjoying majority in the House.

Referring to past statements of the Awami League (AL), Rafiqe said that the AL had never any confidence in the BNP.

The AL, he said, had commented that the BNP would get elected to only 10 seats, but the reality was different.

Referring to a comment of Samad Azad, the minister said that the deputy leader of the opposition had appealed for a consensus to run the country. By saying so, Azad had lost the right to move the no-confidence motion.

Expressing surprise, Rafiqe said that he failed to understand why the AL had this alliance with the Jatiya Party (JP) to move this motion against the government.

Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party said that with a majority in parliament, a party could stick to power but not rule the country. To rule, the moral right was necessary, he said adding that the BNP had lost the moral right to rule the country.

Menon said that democracy provides for a party government and not for the politicisation of different organs of the state like police, BDR and bureaucracy.

Menon further said that the no-confidence motion was a message, a warning to the government.

Taking part in the discussion, Akbar Hossain (BNP) said that right from the beginning the opposition had had no confidence in the BNP.

Criticising the AL rule from 72 to 75, Akbar said that today nobody was scared of the government or the party in power.

In an attempt to justify his

Split verdict on Azam's case Writ referred to Chief Justice

By Staff Correspondent

The two-judge High Court Bench Wednesday gave a split verdict on the citizenship case of Golam Azam and the Writ petition was referred to the Chief Justice.

Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury upheld the petition disagreeing with almost every points of his senior Justice Ismailuddin Sarker. Justice Sarker in his judgement Tuesday rejected the Writ upholding the 1973 government order stripping off Azam's citizenship.

Golam Azam submitted application to the Bangladesh Mission in London ... he tried time and again to enter Bangladesh ... he took oath of allegiance in 1981 and became voter in 1983 and 1990 lists and was sure about his citizenship, so the question of laches do not arise," Justice Chowdhury said adding "so the rule is absolute."

He also differed with his senior on points related to the retrospective effect of the 1973 notification, natural justice, doubts and ultra vires. Justice Chowdhury accepted most of the contention of the defence lawyer.

Because of the split judgement, the Court directed the office to send the records before the Chief Justice, who according to constitutional provisions, will constitute a separate bench for disposal of the case.

Justice Chowdhury said that the government order disqualifying Azam as a Bangladeshi citizen had no retrospective effect, so it was not applicable to Golam Azam.

Natural justice was also violated in the case as Azam had not been asked to explain his position before stripping off the citizenship, Justice Chowdhury added.

He also said that there was nothing doubtful about Golam Azam.

Taking the facts into consideration the absence of Golam Azam does not disqualify him from being a citizen of Bangladesh, so the notification has no legal justification, the dissenting judge said.

To substantiate his points, he invoked the citizenship cases of Binoy Bhushan Majumder, Mirza Shahab Isphahini, Abdul Huq, Bishawan Tewary, Mukter Hossain and Hamdul Huq Chowdhury.

Justice Chowdhury said that Hamdul Huq Chowdhury went to Pakistan on professional ground as a lawyer and Golam Azam.

Water talks with Delhi this month

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Irrigation Ministers of Bangladesh and India will resume talks in Dhaka at the end of this month in a renewed bid to find a solution to the long-standing dispute on water sharing, officials said yesterday.

Indian Irrigation Minister Vidyacharan Shukla is expected to arrive on or before August 28, to honour an accord between the Prime Ministers, officials at the Foreign and Irrigation Ministries said. However, an exact date is yet to be set.

A joint communique, issued on May 28 at the end of a three-day official visit by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, stipulated that the ministers would sit within 90 days. The deadline expires August 28.

Officials were exchanging

Call for hartal 2 Jubodal leaders shot dead in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 12: Tension gripped the port city today following the death of two activists of pro-BNP Jubodal at Halishahar on Tuesday night.

The JCD and Jubodal units of Chittagong city, meanwhile, have given a call for half-day hartal tomorrow in the city to protest the killing.

Babul and Nazmul received serious bullet injuries when the supporters of a rival group opened indiscriminate fire on a procession brought out by the supporters of JCD and Jubodal mourning the death of another Jubodal activist Sajjadul Islam Kochi in Halishahar 'I-Block' under Pahartoli P.S. The victims later succumbed to their injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital on Tuesday night.

As the news of their death spread, tension gripped the whole of city area, particularly Halishahar area while the supporters of Jubodal and Chhatradal brought out processions protesting the killings.

They blamed the activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League for the killings and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

The supporters of Jubodal and Chhatradal also put up barricades in Halishahar road, Tiger Pass road and Lalkhan, Bazar point of the city protesting the killing that disrupted the traffic movement from morning to 2 pm today.

Witnesses said the city AL office at Darulfazal market came under the attack of some unruly processionists in the afternoon while sporadic clashes left at least 15 persons injured.



Police lobbed tear-gas shells on the procession of National Mourning Observance Committee yesterday at Elephant Road in the city (top) and the procession (above). — Star photo

Rajshahi doctors continue strike

RAJSHAHI, Aug 12: Doctors here today rejected jail authority's assurance of measures against those involved in the attack on them and decided to continue divisionwide strike until their demands are met, reports UNB.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) took the decision terming "fruitless" their meeting today with the visiting IG (Prison).

Mere verbal assurance for action is not desirable, they said reiterating their demands including removal of DIG (Prison), Jailor and Deputy Jailor of Rajshahi Central Jail and others allegedly responsible for Monday's attack on Rajshahi Medical College Hospital that left 9 injured, including a medical officer.

IG Col Abul Hossain in a meeting with the BMA leaders and the Director of RMCH assured that there would be a proper investigation and necessary action against the people responsible for the doctor-warden clash.

Meanwhile, doctors at the Sadar Hospital in Pabna started an indefinite strike today protesting the assault on one of their colleagues and demanding punishment to the culprits.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of Bangladesh Medical Association district unit this afternoon.

Local mastans, numbering about five, attacked Dr Azzul Kahar, Senior Consultant of Medicine at the Sadar hospital at around 9:30 am.

Relatives of patients alleged that the doctor charged extra payment during duty hours which forced them to agitate.

Meanwhile, three patients died due to non-attendance by doctors at the emergency unit.

They were — Ranjan (2), son of Manju of village Salgoria in Sadar thana and Mijan (14), son of Abdur Rashid of village Atua.

NEWS BRIEFS

JCD, Shibir clash in Chittagong
 CHITTAGONG, Aug 12: Activists of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir exchanged gunfire tonight in the city's Chandanpura area. Witnesses said the gunbattle continued for more than an hour but none was reported hurt. The incident followed a clash last week between the groups that left one JCD worker injured, reports UNB.

JU admission test results Friday
 From JU Correspondent.
 Admission test results of the first year honours classes of Jahangirnagar University will be published tomorrow, according to official sources. The administration failed to publish the results of the 'Kha' and 'Ga' units yesterday (Wednesday) as declared earlier. Results of the 'Ka' and 'Oha' units have already been published.

Boy run over, killed
 DINAJPUR, Aug 12: A boy was runover by a Dinajpur-bound minibus at Kantanagar crossing in Kaharole thana Tuesday morning. The victim identified as the seven-year-old son of Abdul Huq of village Purba Mallikpur, was knocked down by the speeding minibus from Birganj, while crossing the road. He later succumbed to injuries at the Dinajpur General Hospital, reports UNB.

Jamuna swells further
 SIRAJGANJ, Aug 12: The river Jamuna, during the last 24 hours swelled further rendering at least 320 families homeless in five thanas of the district, reports UNB.
 With this, the total figure of erosion hit families in last two months stood at 8,000. Water Development Board sources said here today.
 At least 18 villages were eroded in the affected Kazipur, Shajadpur, Sadar, Belkuchi and Chowhatti thanas.
 The worst affected Bilchatal in Kazipur and Paikpara village in Sadar thana, were completely devoured by the river during the last 24 hours.
 About 12,500 families of 12 villages became homeless since January this year, the sources added.

Delhi's monetary measures hit Dhaka jute products hard

By Inam Ahmed

Bangladesh is facing hurdles in the jute products export market due to stiff price competition with other jute producing countries.

The main competitors of Bangladesh are India, Thailand and China. Among these three countries, India is the leading one.

Concerned sources said due to devaluation and convertibility of Indian currency and other incentives, any Indian jute product priced at 100 US dollar can be sold for 89 dollar. On the other hand, a similar Bangladeshi product also priced at 100 dollars has to be sold for 99.5 dollars.

The price difference occurs as India has massively devalued its currency against the dollar. At present the exchange rate of one US dollar is 28 Indian rupees while it is Taka 39 for Bangladesh.

On the other hand, the incentive given to Indian exporters by allowing conversion of 60 per cent of dollar earnings in market rate is 300 Indian rupees for 100 dollar of export.

The cash incentive received by Indian exporters is 22 per cent while it is 17.5 per cent for Bangladeshi exporters, sources said.

Bangladeshi exporters now feel that the government should also allow convertibility of their export earning to compete with the Indian exporters.

Meanwhile, the local jute goods producers said that the rate of interest on working capital for jute industries has been raised since July despite a reduction in bank rate.

At present, the rate is 14.5 per cent while it was only

Mourning Day marchers come under attack from DU halls

By Staff Correspondent

Armed youths from atop two residential halls of Dhaka University fired shots and hurled bricks at a peaceful procession while it was parading Elephant Road in the capital yesterday afternoon.

Police charged the processionists mourning Sheikh Mujib's death as some of them retaliated.

Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina while addressing a hurriedly-arranged

I'm not a middleman, says Rab

The Secretary General of Jatiya Samajtantric Dal (Rab) A S M Abdur Rab, yesterday called upon the people irrespective of opinion to wage a movement for establishing a national consensus in evolving a participatory structure for running the affairs of the state, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday morning, Rab put forward a six-point programme as the basis of forging national consensus for what he said to salvage the nation.

His six-point programme included formation of a 500-

UN Council vote on use of force in Bosnia today

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 12: The Security Council will vote on Thursday afternoon on a resolution authorising the use of force to ensure the delivery of humanitarian supplies to besieged areas of Bosnia, Council President Li Daoyu of China told reporters late on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The Council would also vote then on another draft demanding that the Red Cross and other international bodies be granted immediate access to prison camps throughout the former Yugoslavia.

AFP adds: The United States at a United Nations sub-commission in Geneva Tuesday suggested trying abusers of human rights in Yugoslavia before an international tribunal.

US ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Morris Abram, told the 44th session of the Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, those who have violated fundamental human rights, whether in Yugoslavia, Iraq or elsewhere, should be named and held responsible for their acts.

The next UN General Assembly is to discuss the creation of such a body, which would preside over international cases of breach of the peace and crimes against humanity.

AP adds: As the crack of sniper fire could be heard echoing in the distance, 340 mothers and children gathered Wednesday to be evacuated from Sarajevo under an agreement with besieging Serb forces.

The human rights group Helsinki Watch, meanwhile, criticized the international community Wednesday for indecisiveness in dealing with the war and called on the UN to form a war crimes tribunal.

The mothers and children scrambled onto four buses and were kept waiting more over two hours in sweltering heat as officials worked out details for their departure. A fifth bus failed to arrive.

Scores of families attempted to barge onto a bus that was already full and many had to be turned away.

The buses were to take the mothers and children to the Croatian Adriatic coast. From there, more than half were to travel on to Austria and the rest were to stay in Croatia. UN forces were to escort the convoy.

Serbs agreed Wednesday to allow all children under 18 and their mothers to leave the city.

রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ
 রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা-১০০০

জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে সেনাপাড়া পর্বতা জোনাল গ্র্যানের অন্তর্ভুক্ত কাফরুল মৌজায় সিএস দাগ নং-৪২৭ এ মোট প্রায় ৮ একর জমির উপর মেসার্স জনতা হাউজিং লিঃ-এর অনুকূলে আরক নং রাজউক/শঃপঃ/৬-১৪/৬৪১ স্থাঃ তারিখ ১৯-০৮-৮৭ইং রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত লে-আউট গ্র্যানের অন্তর্ভুক্ত জমির সম্পূর্ণ মালিকানা না থাকায় এবং প্রকল্প এলাকার জমির উপর মালিকানা বিষয়ে বিরোধের পরিশ্রেক্ষিতে আরকে বর্ণিত অনুমোদিত লে-আউট গ্র্যানটি বাতিল করা হইল।

এমতাবস্থায় উক্ত লে-আউট গ্র্যানের অন্তর্ভুক্ত কোন জমি/প্রট ক্রয় বা বিক্রয় বা কোন প্রকার আর্থিক লেনদেন নিজ দায়িত্বে করার জন্য সর্বসাধারণকে অবহিত করা হইল।

চেয়ারম্যান
 রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ,
 ঢাকা।

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