

From the Gallery

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 the attention of the Home Minister under Article 71 of the Rules of Procedure. Chowdhury of JP said he had "no objection" to the Bangladesh edition of the book, but he strongly felt that the Calcutta edition, published by Anand Publishers, contained bits which, in the advocate-MP's words, "are an aspersion to our independence and sovereignty, a threat to religious harmony and insulting to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition."

The JP MP then quoted a paragraph, without once stating the context or identifying the character who was being quoted. The paragraph sought to depict repression on Hindus, demolition of temples etc.

He then quoted comments from the book which claimed that Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina had usurped the leadership of their parties as successors to their late husband and father respectively. The book also suggested, Chowdhury said, that the two leaders were being "controlled by men" and were not doing anything for women.

Minister are not obliged to give replies straight-away to call notices under Article 71, but Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury was on his feet quickly and gave an on-the-spot reply.

"If such books have come into Bangladesh, then I shall certainly seize all copies", the Minister said.

One could feel the sense of unease and disquiet that suddenly fell on the House, and the Speaker did not hesitate a moment to throw the book at the Minister.

"First you shall have to examine the book to see if it contains anything seriously objectionable, and only then decide on action," the Speaker said.

Minister Chowdhury, suitably chastened, amended his initial statement and said he would first examine the book before taking any decision on seizure etc.

Treasury backbencher Sardar Sakhwat Hossain Bakul

of Narsingdi, the man often seen in top-class double-breasted navy blue blazers, had some answering to do yesterday, instead of the questioning that he usually does.

Awami League's Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim of Gopalganj attracted the Speaker's attention to the MP's Oath of Office, and said that if a report in one of yesterday's papers was true, then Bakul was in contravention of that Oath.

Selim quoted from a report in a Bengali-language paper which accused the Narsingdi MP of using his position of director of Sonali Bank to get big loans for two companies, by showing "false collateral" in favour of relatives.

If the accusations were proven, Selim wanted to know, would the Member's seat in the house be cancelled?

Even before the Speaker could reply, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, wearing one of his outrageously gorgeous print silk shirts, said he had already ordered an enquiry into the allegations.

"Our Finance Minister moves at a great speed indeed", Razaque Ali, thoroughly impressed, said.

Bakul, however, was far from impressed. He, currently the chairman of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), said he was not involved in any of the companies mentioned in the report and that he was planning to file a case against the paper.

The matter didn't end there, as another Treasury Backbencher, Mashur Rahman of Jhenaidah, had something to say to Selim.

Rahman, a full-time Heckler, wanted to know why Selim had demanded Bakul's "resignation", when he had never asked for the same from Mustafizur Rahman of AL who has cases of embezzlement pending against him.

This left the AL man in total mystery. "I don't know how he invented this resignation bit," Selim said, "I merely wanted to know if Bakul's membership would be cancelled if he was found guilty that is all."



Members of the Sher-e-Bangla Smriti Sangsad placing wreaths at his Mazar yesterday. — Star photo

House rejects move

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 All in the chair. Terming the ordinance as "illogical and devoid of morality", the AL member severely criticised the ruling party for promulgating the ordinance bypassing the House which, he said, was against the parliamentary democratic practice.

At this stage, Nurul Islam Moni, who took the floor for the first time after joining the Treasury Bench, drew the attention of the Speaker to the fact that under Rule 144 once a resolution was moved voting on it was mandatory. If the resolution is accepted than all other resolutions on the issues become automatically lapsed.

The Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz also agreed with this interpretation and urged the Speaker to conduct the mandatory voting on the first resolution.

However, after a prolonged debate which lasted for over 30 minutes, the Speaker, following consultations with leading members of the House, under Rules 315 and 316 allowed all the opposition members to move their resolutions before going for a vote in order to save time.

The Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim said that the ruling party had violated the Joint Declaration of the three political alliances through promulgating the blacked ordinance like the anti-terrorism one.

The Joint Declaration promised to repeal all the black laws of the state made by different ruling parties in the past.

Terming the ordinance worse than the Special Powers Act, Nasim said the Awami League had to pay dearly for making the Special Powers Act and the ruling BNP would embrace the same fate for its attempt to get the anti-terrorism ordinance passed.

He also said, "Not necessarily the incumbent Prime Minister or the Home Minister himself will abuse the proposed law, but the corrupt law enforcing agencies of the country would take advantage of this anti-people law by using it against common people."

Nasim urged the Leader of the House and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to withdraw the ordinance.

Suranjit Sengupta of the

Gonotantri Party predicted that passage of the proposed anti-terrorism bill would definitely invite anarchy in the judicial system in the country.

The proposed law has clearly ignored the civil courts, snatched people's constitutional right to defend them against any charge and interfered with the Supreme Court's jurisdiction to grant bail to the accused, Suranjit observed.

Such a law would definitely create a judiciary parallel to the existing one and thus virtually push the nation into a total chaos, Suranjit argued.

The Gonotantri Party leader urged the Prime Minister present in the House to withdraw the ordinance for the sake of the greater interest of the nation.

Ebadur Rahman of Jatiya Party (JP) termed the ordinance as the blackest of black laws and remarks that people of the country did not expect such a law coming from a democratically elected government. Another JP leader Munirul Hoque Chowdhury commented that it was "a martial law of an elected government" and appealed the Treasury bench to withdraw the bill without any hesitation.

Shah Mohammad Ruhul Kuddus of the Jamaat-e-Islami said "Sheikh Hasina because victim of the Special Powers Act made by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Khaleda Zia was arrested under the same law as Ziaur Rahman failed to repeal it and Ershad faced the consequence of his own failure in repealing the black law by being arrested under its provision."

The Jamaat MP went on to say that it would not be surprising if the ruling party, so eager to get the bill passed, fell victim to the law even in the remaining days of the party's tenure to govern the country.

The Jamaat leader hoped that good sense would prevail and the Treasury bench would withdraw the ordinance.

Jamaat-e-Islami Parliamentary Party leader Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami said that promulgation of the ordinance had created a "bad precedent".

He added that promulgation of the ordinance was prompted by "internal party conflicts within the ruling party" and it was done in a

similar manner the Special Powers Act was promulgated.

Saying that the ordinance had "already created complications", Nizami warned "practically, it may become a trap for everybody".

A total of 27 opposition members from Awami League, Jamaat, Jatiya Party and the Gonotantri party moved identical resolutions seeking the disapproval of the anti-terrorism ordinance.

Opposition members who moved the resolutions included Shudhansu Shekhar Haldar, Md Abdus Sobhan, Md Assaduzzaman, Tobbur Rahman Sardar and Mirza Azam.

After all the resolutions were moved the Speaker put it into a voice vote but later at the insistence of the Opposition Chief Whip again put it to division vote.

Earlier, two other resolutions seeking the disapproval of the Supreme Court Judges (remuneration and privileges) (second amendment) Ordinance, 1992 and the Supreme Court Judges (travelling allowances) (amendment) Ordinance, 1992, moved by Jamaat Leader Matur Rahman Nizami were withdrawn.

The House was adjourned till 4:30 today (Tuesday).

During today's half-day hartal strong picketing was marked in some places of the city including Chandanpura, Anderkilla, Chawkbazar and New Market crossing where barricades were placed with blazing tyres.

Most of the vehicles stayed off the road while a good number of rickshaws were seen plying defying the hartal call. Shopping arcades and markets outside the heart of the city were mostly open. Most of the offices both private and public functioned with thin attendance.

Delivery of cargo to and from Chittagong Port was largely hampered though the loading and unloading works inside the port were carried out normally. Truck-loads of police patrolled important places of the city. However, no incident of violence was reported.

The group was marching to show support for an uprising against Indian rule in the two-thirds of Kashmir which New Delhi controls.

Protesters staged a sit-in, shouting "we demand freedom, freedom," after soldiers refused to let them advance to within sight of Indian border troops.

They (the police) encircled the crowd and started arresting people. Later they fired tear gas to disperse the remaining people, one marcher said by telephone. "They arrested over 100 people."

He said the marchers had tried throughout the night to storm the barricade.

More than 140 people, including most leaders, have been arrested in three weekend attempts to cross the border.

One student was killed when police opened fire on Sunday to end a march near Naill, 15 km (10 miles) from the UN monitored ceasefire line.

About 25 people were injured, most of them when police used gas and threw stones to disperse the marchers.

Kashmiri activist leaders called off the march from the state capital of Muzaffarabad to the ceasefire line after the fatal shooting.

Khawaja Farooq Haider, Secretary General of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League, accused paramilitary police of opening fire on the marchers from the rear.

Pakistan and Azad Kashmir authorities used force twice this year to block attempts by the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front to cross the line. Ten people were killed in February.

Sher-e-Bangla

From Page 1 Col 8
 on the Dhaka University campus.

Speakers at the discussion paid rich tributes to Sher-e-Bangla, recalling his contribution to the movement for ameliorating the lot of the down-trodden.

Former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain was the chief guest at the function, also addressed by M A Haque, A K Fajul Haque, Prof Odudur Rahman, Dr Ashraf Siddiqui, poet Muhammad Abdul Khaleq, Prof Khaleda Salahuddin, GA Momin, Sheikh Mohammad Obaid-ullah-bin Jalalabadi and Syed Azzul Haque.

Justice Hossain said Sher-e-Bangla was always with the silent majority and fought for social justice.

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Dacoit beaten to death at Gazipur

From Our Correspondent
 GAZIPUR, Oct 26: Villagers beat a dacoit to death at 2 am today at village Daria near Tongi municipal area.

The unidentified dacoit was caught by the villagers when he was escaping along with a gang of seven or eight from the house of one Jagadish Chandra after a successful break-in the same night.

The dacoit aged about 25 years was carrying a 'ramdao' and a trunk full of looted goods when villagers caught him. Jagadish said that the dacoits broke in his house and beat him and looted gold and goods worth Taka 20,000.

Hasina
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 demand for execution of the Gano-Adalat verdict on the Jamaat leader through a special tribunal.

In a statement, Hasina accused the government of disregarding people's demand for executing the verdict of the March 26 public trial of Golam Azam through a special tribunal.

The government was also not paying heed towards implementing the 4-point accord signed with the opposition parties in parliament, including trial of Golam Azam and withdrawal of cases against 24 distinguished personalities, she said.

"The killers of 1971 and 1975 are conspiring against the sovereignty and independence of the country from the same platform under the patronisation of the government," she alleged.

She demanded trial of the killers of 1971 and 1975 and ban on Jamaat-Shibir, Freedom Party and Jubo Command.

The Awami League leader called upon the people to continue their relentless struggle until the objectives of the Liberation War are achieved.

Pak NA

From Page 1 Col 4
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Nirmul committee

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 brought out a torch procession in the city Monday evening in support of today's march. Committee convenor Jahanara Imam led the procession.

The Sangsad March programme was announced at the grand rally on October 14 which will be followed by a hartal on November 8.

The Committee's other demands include imposition of ban on Jamaat-Shibir, Jubo Command and Freedom Party and withdrawal of cases against 24 persons.

The committee sources said that a number of Opposition MPs will come to the Bangla Motor Square and join the marchers to submit the memorandum to the parliament.

The opposition parties will raise the issue in the parliament and press for the implementation of the four-point agreement signed between the opposition and the ruling party earlier.

Bangladeshis in Dushanbe safe

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 alone in Dushanbe. At least 15 bodies lay in and around the parliament Monday, one day after rebels withdrew, witnesses said. About 150 rebels surrendered their arms and left the parliament, according to ITAR-Tass and officials at the Tajik Embassy in Moscow, according to AP.

US Ambassador Stanley Escudero and his staff were evacuated Sunday by a US military C-141 plane. The State Department said the US diplomats — who took American, British and Swedish civilians with them — left because of heavy gunfire near the hotel that houses the embassy.

The mountain-ringed capital was calmer Monday, but Tajik radio warned that small groups of rebels still roamed the city. It appeared deserted, with no public transport and no gasoline available.

Violence in Tajikistan, a poor Central Asian country of 5.1 million people, has claimed hundreds of lives in recent months in tribal and land disputes that re-emerged after the collapse of the Soviet Union last year.

The rebels who seized the government buildings Saturday are from the southern Kulyab region, Nabyev's power base. They have demanded that parliament be convened to discuss whether his ouster in September was legal.

Russian army units stationed in Tajikistan on Sunday

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From Page 1 Col 7
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Dhaka City needs 127cr litre water a day

The annual demand of water in the Dhaka city is nearly 46,355 crore litre (on an average nearly 127 crore litre daily). LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Awami League member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, the Minister said Dhaka WASA had been supplying 54 per cent of the total demand i.e. 24,873 crore litre of water to its subscribers annually.

He said the WASA had undertaken short and long term programmes to meet the deficit in the water supply which stood at 21,462 crore litre annually.

The programmes, the Minister told the members, include third Dhaka WASA project and Dhaka metropolis infrastructure project. The implementation of these projects would generate production of an additional 16.50 crore gallons (66 crore litre) of water, he said.

Besides, modernisation, rehabilitation and expansion of Chandnight water works under the long term programme would enhance the production power from the existing 2.72 crore litre to 4.50 crore litre daily.

Dhaka Board Dip-in-Commerce exam results

The results of Diploma-in-Commerce examination under the Dhaka Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board were announced yesterday, reports UNB.

The percentage of pass is 65.28.

Myanmar team leaves for home

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Oct 26: The 11-member Myanmar team which arrived in Chittagong port city October 24 for talks on Rohingya refugees, left for home this morning after signing the agreed minutes of the meeting.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner's office sources here said the next round of talks the 11th, in Mongdaw would be held of Myanmar to speed up the repatriation of quarter of a million of Rohingya refugees who took shelter in Bangladesh's south-eastern frontier towns after fleeing the atrocities of Myanmar troops.

The minutes of the talks were reviewed and finalised Sunday night at BJMC Rest House where the Myanmar delegation stayed during the 3-day tour here, the sources said.

The Myanmar team left Chittagong airport at 9-45 a.m for Teknaf by a helicopter, Control Room sources said. The Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Omar Faruk accompanied the team members upto Teknaf point to see them off.

Travel agents' strike enters ninth day

The indefinite strike of the travel agents passed eighth day Monday with no efforts from the authorities to resolve the crisis.

The scheduled meeting between the Finance Ministry and the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) could not be held Monday. It is likely to be held today (Tuesday), ATAB source said.

Some 550 ATAB members went on a strike demanding withdrawal of Value Added Tax (VAT) imposed on their commission on ticket sale.

The ATAB members held a meeting at its office and decided to reinforce the strike following reports that some agents were indulged in backdated booking with the help of some Biman employees.

Biman sources said that the three international and two regional flights operated Monday with almost normal load.

However, the positions of other 16 on-line airlines were not available.

Ex-Uz Chairmen spent Tk 8.98cr as fuel cost

Former Upazila Chairmen of the now-defunct upazila parishads had spent Taka 8,98,20,000 as fuel cost of the vehicles they used during their stay in power, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

The Midnight File

Mass suicide bid at Hyderabad jail

KARACHI (Pakistan), Oct 26: A group of 10 convicts from the former Soviet Union who hijacked a plane to Pakistan in 1990 attempted a mass suicide at a Hyderabad Jail, officials said today. The 10 are now under treatment after they tried to commit suicide by cutting veins on Saturday night at Hyderabad Jail," said the official, reports Reuter.

Azeri plane bombs Stepanakert

MOSCOW, Oct 26: An Azerbaijani warplane bombed the Nagorno-Karabakh capital, Stepanakert, today, killing one person and injuring several others, according to officials in the troubled Azerbaijan region, quoted by the agency Interfax. Several houses were destroyed in the air raid, the officials said. Interfax also said Azerbaijani forces bombed the Armenian village of Tog in the Gadrut region, southern Nagorno-Karabakh, reports AFP.

Project aid Mostafiz

From Page 1 Col 6
 Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives to attend forthcoming SAARC summit due in Dhaka December 12-14.

The Foreign Minister, who was scheduled to leave for Lahore on Thursday to begin a 10-day mission to 4 South Asian countries, postponed the trip on account of domestic compulsions.

Mostafiz is due to return home on November 10 after visiting the two SAARC countries.

In the second phase, he is expected to go to Islamabad on November 14 on a 4-day visit to Pakistan, India and Nepal to deliver formal letters of invitation to heads of state or government of those countries.

Perot gaining

From Page 1 Col 5
 Carolina in a form of campaigning they have frequently used. The pair plan to visit traditional Republican bastions that Democrats this year see as a clear target of opportunity.

Bush was headed to three states where he's behind Clinton in the polls — Colorado, New Mexico and Iowa.

Clinton and Bush took swings at Perot, putting aside the gentle treatment they have accorded him in the past. Perot has climbed in the polls to near 20 per cent.

While no one had any expectations that Perot could rise far enough in the polls to be a true contender, then he was once again poised to be a factor in a number of key states — potentially affecting the outcome in those states.

The additional voter support Perot picked up after the presidential debates came at Clinton's expense more than Bush's, by a 3-2 ratio, according to a new national poll.

The Times Mirror Center for the People and The Press said its poll, which was released Sunday, found many voters have reconsidered Perot.

Cabinet

From Page 1 Col 8
 lion US dollar compared to 4,874 million US dollar in the previous year.

The foreign exchange reserve at the end of June 1993 has been estimated at 1,895 million US dollar while it was 1,608 million US dollar at the end of the previous financial year. The cabinet also approved, in principle, the proposal of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources relating to the amendment of the Electricity Act of 1910. According to the proposed amendment the punishment for offences under the act will be more deterrent.

The proposal of the Ministry of Environment and Forest relating to accession of Bangladesh to 'Basel convention' on the control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal was also approved by the cabinet.

Ministers, state ministers-in-charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting.

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It is hereby notified for information of all concerned, specially, the valued intending consumers of Mymensingh town, that it has been alleged that some undesirable persons are illegally collecting money from the public in the name of providing gas connection to Mymensingh town area.

The programme of providing gas connection at consumer level in Mymensingh town by Titas Gas Company has not yet started. The programme will start soon at the newly constructed office building of the company at Digharkandi of Mymensingh town.

Intending consumers are to contact the said zonal distribution office of the company at Mymensingh town and collect the prescribed form from the company office by paying the prescribed price through the bank nominated by the company and apply for gas connection by filling in the form and appoint a contractor from the approved contractors' list kept at the company office. It may be noted that all officers and employees of the company as well as the company approved contractors and their representatives carry appropriate identity cards and are bound to produce the identity card on demand by intending consumer.

All monetary transactions of Titas Gas Company are made directly through bank. So all concerned are requested not to pay any one any money and to contact our office directly for any consultation regarding gas including estimate given by the contractor.

We solicit cooperation of all in this regard.

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