

## Badruddoza for making best use of JS time

Deputy Leader of the House Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury last night pleaded for formulation of a very distinct system for raising point of order to make the best use of the precious time of session, reports BSS.

Prof Chowdhury referred to the very frequent overloading of points of order in the House and suggested formulation of a very clear-cut method of raising point of order so that no one could waste the valuable time of session.

The Deputy Leader of the House took the floor when the proceedings of the House were blocked by the flood of points of order mostly raised by the opposition members on the very first day of the autumn session. Professor Chowdhury also suggested that the chair must formulate such a system for smooth functioning of the House.

Professor Chowdhury drew the attention of the Chair to the relevant rule for raising point of order as per rules of procedure saying a point of order shall relate to the interpretation or enforcement of these rules or such articles of the Constitution to regulate the business of the House and may be raised in relation to the business before the House at the moment.

But he regretted that the rules were not followed rather some members were found making long statements without formulating the point. Such a practice was misleading the members on the application of the point of order.

The Acting Leader of the

Opposition Abdus Samad Azad supported the contention of Chowdhury. However, Azad wanted to know the fate of the committee which was formed two years ago to deal with terrorism on the campus.

Earlier Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman said that frequent and irrelevant points of order, being raised by certain members, were interrupting the scheduled agenda of the House. Moreover, he said it was unbearable that certain members would make hour long statements in the name of points of order forcing the members to listen to them. "The Jatiya Sangsad is run at the cost of public money. We must make the best use of the Sangsad as well as the public fund.

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian referred to the application and practice of points of order in different parliaments and said the House must adopt a specific rule to deal with points of order.

Awami League member Tofael Ahmed in reply to the Works Minister defended that points of order were being practised by different parliaments all over the world.

Ahmed, raising on a point of order, supported the contention of fellow AL member K M Jahangir and wanted to know the fate of the committee to remove terrorism from the campus. He said the government had constituted the committee with the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz as the chairman.

The Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz addressing the Jatiya Sangsad session yesterday. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and some of her cabinet colleagues are also seen.

## SAARC Council of Ministers' meet in Dec

The SAARC Council of Ministers, in a meeting here in December, will review progress in the forum's activities and finalise the date of its 8th summit, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, current Chairman of the SAARC Council of Ministers, is expected to preside over the meeting.

India will host the next summit of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), according to the decision of the 7th summit held April 10-11 in Dhaka.

Reaz said the SAARC was planning to participate in the UN conference on population and the UN conference on women, to be held in 1994.

Responding to a question, he said the SAARC had been exchanging information with the ASEAN and EEC with a hope to establish links with them.

About repatriation of the Chakma refugees, the Foreign Secretary told a questioner that the two governments had been cooperating with each other to settle the problem.

An advance refugee team from Tripura in India will visit the Hill Tracts shortly to observe the arrangements made for repatriation of the tribals, he said.

The Foreign Secretary told another questioner that Dhaka and New Delhi were working on a date for holding the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting.

## 4 ordinances placed

Four ordinances were laid before the House yesterday, reports BSS.

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Tofael Ahmed of the Awami League clearly expressed their lack of confidence in the Law Minister and sought intervention of the Speaker and the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia was present in the House during the debate but abstained from making any comment on the issue.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali allowed a fresh deadline of one month for the parliamentary committee on the bill for separation of the judiciary.

The House was adjourned at 8:35 last night to resume again at 4:30 this afternoon.

## Hawkers submit memo to Speaker

By Staff Correspondent

Street hawkers of the city yesterday sent a memorandum to the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad demanding their rehabilitation.

Following a sit-in-demonstration and rally in front of the Shishu Park last evening, the leaders of the hawkers evicted by police recently, handed over the petition to Rashed Khan Menon, MP, who assured them that the hawkers' issue would be raised in the current session of Parliament.

As per the act, the commission would be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General, whose report is to be placed before Parliament. The SEC is also required to submit a report on its activities, within 60 days after closing of the financial year, to the government which is to be subsequently placed before Parliament.

The SEC has also been accorded immunity for actions taken in good faith while the act lays down that no court other than the Court of Sessions shall

## The Midnight File

### Tudjman orders ceasefire

ZAREB, Sept 12: Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has ordered his armed forces to ceasefire unilaterally for 24 hours in order to reach a truce with Serb independentists, the official agency Hina reported today. Tudjman made the announcement while addressing the national defence and security council meeting in Zagreb to examine the military and political situation in the light of "increased aggression on Croatian towns," reports AFP.

### Blast near Israeli 'security zone' in South Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (Lebanon), Sept 12: A roadside bomb exploded Sunday close to an Israeli army unit patrolling on foot in Israel's self-styled "Security zone" in south Lebanon, security sources in south Lebanon said. The sources said there were believed to be casualties, but had no details. A spokesman for the Israeli army, however, denied there had been any incident Sunday in Lebanon, reports AP.

### EC may lift ban on South Africa in Oct

ALDEN BIESSEN (Belgium), Sept 12: The European Community may be only weeks away from lifting its remaining sanctions against South Africa, officials said Sunday. They said the 12-nation EC could remove a ban on investments and other remaining sanctions at a meeting of foreign ministers October 5-6 in Luxembourg, reports AP.

## SEC to protect

From Page 1 Col 4

private sector," Khan says. There should be no adversarial relationship between the SEC and the private sector."

The commission's relationship with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), he adds, should be one of cooperation and the SEC's role should be "highly supportive" to the smooth functioning of its activities.

The commission is preparing a two-year action plan to streamline its activities and an advisory committee would also be set up soon with representatives from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, the DSE, Board of Investment, Privatisation Board and different chamber bodies.

The commission would also involve itself in stock market surveillance and promotional activities, including forming investors' forum, holding seminars and other confidence building measures, to increase public awareness about the securities market, notes the SEC Chairman.

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The SEC Act was modelled after that of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), observers note, and the Indian act specifies that the government will provide directives only on policy issues.

Some capital market experts also observe that the SEC would need to be more stern with the reform-resistant DSE in order to streamline its activities and revitalise the stock market.

In a report based on a study last year, two South Korean consultants described the DSE as a 'closed club,' where a vast majority of its 195 members remain inactive.

### NBR : SRO

From page 1 Col 7

the bank guarantees and pointed out that any bank guarantee is a cumbersome and time-consuming process. Besides, such guarantees have to be renewed quarterly, they pointed out.

They also added that production is often delayed because of various fiscal or policy complications of the government which may often result in the forfeiture of the total money guarantee, including the 2.5 per cent in cash.

The businessmen, instead, offered to provide personal guarantees from the various chambers in lieu of bank or cash guarantees and suggested that the full duty rebate could be enacted by prioritising the different sectors.

But the BNR officials said personal guarantees are legally hard to enforce and added such guarantees had, in the past, resulted in huge accumulation of long unpaid taxes.

The NBR also pointed out that if new export-oriented industries are exempted, of the duty, similar industries set up in the previous years would also demand the facility. The NBR viewed that this would lead to further complication of the issue. Besides, there are chances of machinery being smuggled to neighbouring countries, they pointed out.

### NDP supporter shot dead in Rauzan

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 12: One person was shot dead and seven others were injured in a gunbattle between the supporters of the National Democratic Party (NDP) and the Chittagong League this morning at Haladip union under Rauzan thana, 30 miles of the city.

The victim, Jamal Pasha, an activist of the NDP, was killed on the spot during an hour-long gunfight beginning at 7 am when a group of 40 pro-Awami League Chittagong League workers allegedly confronted some NDP activists at Yasin Nagar village of Haladip union.

The injured, also NDP workers, were admitted to the local health complex.

Both the groups reportedly used firearms freely creating panic among the villagers.

Police rushed to the spot but the warring groups disappeared. They recovered the body of Jamal Pasha and sent it for postmortem.

None was arrested till the time of filling this report.



Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz addressing the Jatiya Sangsad session yesterday. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and some of her cabinet colleagues are also seen.

— PID photo

## JS : Opposition slates delay

From Page 1 Col 7

took the floor to seek a fresh deadline of thirty days to decide on the bill seeking separation of the judiciary from the administration. Halder, sought time on behalf of AL legislator Salauddin Yousuf who moved the bill in the House in 1991.

Yousuf was not present in the House yesterday.

The Law Minister, while giving his consent to the appeal for a fresh deadline, told the chair that he actually wanted to resolve the problem within the next 15 days. "Although the Opposition members frequently blame me for the delay, the committee members representing the Opposition usually do not attend the meetings," Hafiz said.

Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party, who is also a member of the concerned committee, took the floor at this point to protest the Law Minister's version.

Sengupta told the House that it was not true that the absence of a quorum had delayed preparation of a report; rather it was the lack of political will of the government, especially that of the Law Minister, which had virtually rendered the committee ineffective.

In a bid to substantiate his accusations, Sengupta said there was no legal or technical difficulty in placing the bill in the House, without any committee decision, for consideration. "There should be no more delay. Let the House decide the fate of the unresolved bills," they told the chair.

The latest hostages were taken Saturday from a bus at Buglun Pass some 625 miles (1,000 kilometres) east of Ankara, an official said in Diyarbakir, regional capital of the southeast.

The Kurdish group kidnapped two Germans, two Italians, two Swiss and a New Zealander on Mount Ararat last month.

Asked on CNN Sunday if he would, Rabin said, "I will if it is needed." But he added it wouldn't be easy.

Rabin's wife Leah told Israel radio that it would be difficult for her husband, but she thought he would shake the hand of Israel's longtime enemy.

"I think so, yes, because a handshake is a symbol of cultivation between people... there are things that are part of a ceremony... and one must swallow hard and go on," Mrs Rabin said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the radio he too planned to shake hands. "Peace cannot be made between people without making peace with the leaders," he said.

The historic peace table

HOUSTON, Sept 12: The table to be used on Monday for the signing of a peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation is the one used in 1979 at the Camp David accords, reports Reuters.

At that event, President Jimmy Carter led a ceremony at the presidential retreat of Camp David in the Maryland mountains outside Washington for the signing of the peace accord between Israel and Egypt.

Carter is to attend Monday's ceremony.

A White House official said the table used at Camp David is being brought out of storage for the ceremony on the White House south lawn which is expected to be attended by at least 2,500 invited guests.

The official said the table is believed to have been used for official signings dating back to the Spanish-American war.

They decided to hold further talks with other opposition parties, including the Jamaat

Bill in the House. It was a question of political decision, whether the ruling BNP wanted the bill to be passed or not. And the BNP is yet to take a decision on the issue, he said.

The Ganatantri Party MP, referring to the Parliament secretariat bill, also said that the Privilege Committee, comprising members of both benches, had unanimously approved the proposed law but the Law Minister was yet to release the bill for consideration by the House.

Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party and Shajahan Siraj, MP, also criticised Mirza Hafiz and felt that the bills should now be placed in the House, without any committee decision, for consideration. "There should be no more delay. Let the House decide the fate of the unresolved bills," they told the chair.

Sheikh Ansar Ali of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh also supported the views of the WP and GP MPs and further accused the Law Minister of reluctance to release the Jamaat-sponsored bill relating to national-level elections under a caretaker government.

The minister, while replying to the Opposition charges, said, he was yet to introduce the Parliament secretariat bill due to the objection of Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah. Explaining the

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## BSC incurs Tk 154.24 cr loss in 20 years

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) has incurred a loss of Tk 154.24 crore from 1971-72 till June 30 last year. State Minister for Shipping Harun Al-Rashid informed Parliament yesterday.

Replies to a question from Abdul Awal Miah of the Awami League, the minister said inconsistency in loan and equity, increased expenditure, a wrong decision in purchasing four ships during the past government, and abnormal fluctuation in foreign exchange rates are the major causes for the loss.

In reply to another question, the minister said the state-owned BSC had become a losing concern since 1985-86 and had failed to provide decenture to its shareholders.

Abdul Awal Miah said that some 25 lakh shareholders who have invested more than nine crore taka in the BSC are being deprived of benefits because of the huge losses.

The minister said the present government has taken stern action against some of the corrupt officials and employees and the situation has improved with the rise of the share price from Tk 30 to Tk 60 for every 100 taka share in the last two years.

AL woos support for scrapping anti-terrorism law

By DU Correspondent

The Awami League yesterday opened dialogue with other opposition parties for a combined move inside the Jatiya Sangsad to demand scrapping of the Anti-terrorism Act.

Some top leaders of the AL met with Jatiya Party, Workers' Party and Ganatantri Party, members of Parliament at the office of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The meeting was attended by Abdus Samad Azad, Mohammad Nasim, Tofael Ahmed of the AL, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Munirul Haque Chowdhury of the JP, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party and Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party.

Discussions centred around common strategies of the parliamentary Opposition to back up the Anti-Terrorism Act (Repeal) Bill, submitted to the Parliament secretariat by K M Jahangir of the AL recently.

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