

## 34,000 Rohingyas have returned, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

More than 34,000 Rohingyas have returned to their homes since the start of the repatriation process and thousands others are awaiting transportation in different transit camps, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

In reply to a question from Mirza Azam of the Awami League, the Foreign Minister said that between June 1, 1993 to September 4 some 9212 Rohingyas were repatriated.

Replying to a supplementary question, he said the Myanmar government had issued clearance to one lakh 30 thousand Rohingyas.

The Foreign Minister said the Myanmar authorities have permitted presence of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials and a technical committee was now visiting Yangon in this connection.

He said the presence of the UNHCR officials in Myanmar will expedite the process. The minister also said the total number of refugees in different camps in Cox's Bazar was 2,50,877.

In reply to another supplementary question, from Matia Chowdhury of the Awami League, the Foreign Minister said there is an AIDS scare in the various camps and camp officials have been trying to isolate the suspected AIDS patients.

In reply to another question Mostafizur Rahman said the local forest resources had been ravaged by the influx of the Rohingyas. A project will be undertaken after the complete repatriation of the refugees to rehabilitate the forests, he said. He also added that the UNHCR had agreed to finance such a project.

## JS body on Foreign Ministry ends meeting in chaos

Members of the parliamentary committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here yesterday exchanged hot words on the appointment and promotion of 'unacceptable people' in Bangladesh missions abroad.

Opposition members of the committee, at a meeting, accused the government of 'dumping' retired army officers and 'chosen men' into the Foreign Ministry and expressed their anger on the appointment and promotion of 'self-confessed' killers of Bangabandhu in different embassies.

A source told UNB that the meeting, which began at the Sangsad Bhavan at 9 in the morning, could not proceed due to the heated debate between the members of the Opposition and Treasury bench.

Chaired by Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, the meeting was attended by Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Major (Retd) Hafizuddin and Redwan Ahmed of the BNP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad and Tofael Ahmed of the Awami League and Rashed Khan.

## JS body on corruption meets today

The Special Parliamentary Committee, formed to probe charges of corruption, will meet today at the cabinet room in the Sangsad Bhavan to discuss the committee's terms of reference, reports UNB.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, who is the chairman of the 15-member committee, will preside over the meeting to be held at 10 am.

The committee was set up to inquire into allegations of corruption raised by Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed MP against Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Majid-ul Haq.

## Businessmen-NBR

From Page 1 Col 5  
value, he should get the benefit of the lower cost in terms of duty levy.

The reality in this regard, "the MCC president alleged, "is contrary to the Finance Minister's announcement, because import duties are being charged on the basis of tariff value or the value certified by the approved inspection agency, whichever is higher."

He suggested that tariff value should be discontinued in respect of all items for which the import duties were 30 per cent and below since at such rates of duty there would be very little incentive for under-invoicing.

Replying to some questions of the businessmen, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Chairman of the NBR, said the Board has a plan to send its probationary officers to private organisations to get themselves accustomed to the needs of the private sector and for quick actions regarding any problems.

"As a citizen, I admit that there are inefficiency and corruption in our administration," Dr Khan said. "This causes losses to both the public and the private sector."

On the issues of tariff anomalies, Dr Khan said the tariff commission is providing decisions on disputes but agreed that the time taken for such decisions should be shortened.

On the issue of import value fixation by inspection agencies, the NBR Chairman said the law regarding tariff value and inspection should be amended.

Taking part in the discussion,

Manzur Elahi of the Apex Taney charged that the NBR rejects applications for tax holiday on flimsy grounds.

Salman F Rahman of BEXIMCO and Aminul Huq, another entrepreneur, questioned the rationale of taking advance income tax from those enjoying tax holiday. They said this causes a lot of harassment to businessmen and demanded withdrawal of the system.

The NBR Chairman, after hearing the arguments, assured that he would look into the matter.

Harunur Rashid of United Insurance, Mohsin Ali, a jute mills owner, and several other entrepreneurs pointed out that although the manufacturers are supposed to get back their tax paid on raw materials, this does not happen in case of the export-oriented industries.

Rokeya Rahman, a lady entrepreneur, urged the NBR to reintroduce tax rebate on donations for charity organisations.

Aminul Huq castigated the NBR for harassing the advance income tax payers on the ground that the companies which deduct advance income tax from suppliers do not in turn pay the money to the treasury.

"The government has issued registration to these organisations to deduct advance tax and provide the payer certificates as proof. But now the NBR does not recognise those certificate. Huq wondered why."

Dr Akbar Ali Khan, however, assured that he would also look into the problem and try to solve it.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia watches as President Abdur Rahman Biswas administers oath of office to new ministers Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shaukat Ali (far left), Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain and state minister Dr A. Moyeen Khan (inset) at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

## Reshuffle

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Begum Zia following her party's victory in the February 27 polls that year, was formed under a presidential system headed by interim President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. That cabinet resigned after the Twelfth Amendment and a new one was sworn in. Several ministers of that March cabinet were changed.

State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda resigned from his post on June 12 last and Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan resigned on health grounds day before yesterday.

All the three new ministers are members of Parliament.

Lt Gen (retd) Mir Shaukat Ali was elected from the Dhaka-8 constituency, Col (retd) Akbar Hossain, a former minister under Ziaur Rahman, was elected from Comilla-8 and Dr Moyeen Khan was elected from the Narsingdi-2 constituency.

All actions and functions of the cabinet during the period from the resignation of Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan on Sunday till the appointment of new ministers yesterday were illegal, said some constitutional experts, reports UNB.

With the resignation of Shamsul Islam Khan the number of technocrat minister in the cabinet stood at 4 — more than one-tenth — in violation of Article 56 (2) of the Constitution, said Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder, a senior parliamentarian.

Article 56 (2) says: The appointments of the Prime Minister and other Ministers and of the Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers, shall be made by the President; provided that not less than nine-tenths of their number shall be appointed from among members of Parliament and not more than one-tenth of their number may be chosen from among persons qualified for election as members of Parliament.

Halder told UNB by telephone last night that as soon as Shamsul Islam Khan resigned, the strength of the council of ministers came to 39, including 4 technocrats.

No, Halder pointed out that the Constitution has been violated and all work done by the government during this period was 'illegal and without lawful authority and all actions taken during the time should be suspended immediately.'

Consequently, he said, all files should be recalled by the Prime Minister so that constitutional provision is not violated by giving effect to those actions by the respective ministers, including the Prime Minister.

Halder recalled a similar incident in Parliament in 1979 when President Ziaur Rahman dismissed all the five non-elected technocrat ministers to meet the constitutional obligation.

In the present cabinet, the non-elected technocrat ministers are: Saifur Rahman, Zahiduddin Khan, Tariqul Islam and State Minister Goyeshwar Roy.

The cabinet yesterday met at its regular weekly meeting at Bangabhaban without the required number of ministers, as per relevant provision of the Constitution.

In similar observation, Suranjit Sengupta, PM said the government failed to meet the constitutional requirement as per Article 56 (2). The continuation of the ministers in the cabinet during the time from the resignation of Shamsul Islam Khan and appointment of new ministers was without lawful authority, he said.

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## BNP, AL blame each other

From Page 1 Col 5

He said, the opposition was now trying to fish in troubled waters. The Information Minister Nazmul Huda of patronising the terrorists who were involved in assaulting teachers in the Jahangirnagar University campus incident.

Tofael Ahmed of the AL, quoting a press statement of the JU teacher's association, accused the local JCD activists of physically attacking the teachers.

Tofael also alleged that the Information Minister compelled the JU authorities to withdraw and expulsion order against a JCD activist and prevailed upon the terrorists to withdraw their hunger strike demanding no disciplinary measures against them.

The Home Minister protested Tofael's statement relating to Huda and claimed that the government had set an unprecedented example by arresting the ruling party activists for the sake of democracy and rule

of law. He said, the opposition was now trying to fish in troubled waters. The Information Minister Nazmul Huda of patronising the terrorists who were involved in assaulting teachers in the Jahangirnagar University campus incident.

Abdus Samad Azad, acting Leader of the Opposition, also blamed Minister Huda for his alleged involvement in the JU incident.

Barrister Huda entered the House during the disposing of the notices for adjournment motions immediately after the question-answer hour. He sought the floor to reply to the Opposition allegations made against him earlier.

Meanwhile, the AL members untidily stood to protest against the refusal to allow the adjournment motion on the JU incident. The Chair also continued to refuse the floor to any member during disposing of the notices until Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury pleaded in favour of the Opposition members.

Taking the floor, Abdus Sa-

mad Azad, Mohammad Nasim, Rashed Khan Menon, Suranjit Sengupta and Matur Rahman Nizami accused the government of patronising campus terrorism and demanded a general discussion on the issue.

Minister Nazmul Huda finally took the floor to support the Opposition view relating to the need for a general discussion on the campus violence.

The minister, however, denied his involvement in the Jahangirnagar University incident.

Advocating for a thorough discussion on terrorism, especially campus violence, the minister said: "It was necessary to let the people know what actually happened there on the JU campus."

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panati put an end to the unscheduled debate announcing that since both the benches were willing to discuss the issue, he would announce the schedule today after consultation with Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali.

## 2 more bills introduced

The government yesterday introduced the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (Repeal) Bill, 1993, with a view to winding up the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) which was created in 1985 through an ordinance by incorporating various jute organisations, reports BSS.

Earlier, Law, Justice and Parliament Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz introduced the Supreme Court Judges (Leave, Pension and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 1993.

## Varsity teachers

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the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Associations (FBUTA), an eleven-member teachers' delegation submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office demanding arrest and trial of the persons involved in the Jahangirnagar University violence on July 29 and at the Islamic University July 5 last. The token hunger strike began at 10 in the morning.

The federation also demanded immediate withdrawal of 'false' cases against 10 teachers of the Jahangirnagar University.

The teachers' delegation to the PM's Office was led by the FBUTA president Professor Khandker Mustahidur Rahman. Describing the present situation in the universities, the FBUTA memorandum said: "Our main demand is to create a congenial academic atmosphere in the educational institutions."

More than 100 teachers from the six universities of the country participated in the token strike. A black banner was hung at the venue which bore the slogan: "Save the Educational Institutions by Uprooting Terrorism!"

Meanwhile, a number of political and student leaders went to see the fasting teachers and expressed solidarity with the FBUTA's programme.

The politicians who expressed solidarity with the university teachers included Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Abdus Samad Azad MP, Amir Hossain Amu, Gano Forum leaders Nurjahan Murshid, Saifuddin Manik, Pankaj Bhattacharya, A M A Muhi, Five-Party leaders Rashed Khan Menon MP, Nirmal Sen, Hasanul Huq Inu and CPB (radical) leader Majahidul Islam Selim.

The DU Vice Chancellor Professor Emajuddin Ahmed also went to see the fasting teachers. The leaders and VC Prof Ahmed addressed the striking teachers supporting their anti-terrorism agitation.

Meanwhile, normal classes were held at the Dhaka University and a large number of students were present on the campus.

All the departments, the administrative offices and the library remained open.

## Industrial Relations (Amend) Bill passed

A bill providing for quick disposal of cases in labour courts and restricting trade union in the state-owned Security Printing Press Corporation was passed in parliament last night, reports UNB.

Earlier, more than a score opposition members took part in the discussion on the Industrial Relations (Amendment) Bill, 1993.

Winding up the discussion, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said it would benefit the workers.

Explaining, he said the bill has three aspects—trade union of transport sector workers, speed up disposal of labour disputes and restriction of trade union in the Security Printing Press.

Refuting opposition criticism, the Minister said resolution of labour disputes was being hindered in the absence of representative of employees or employers on the court. The chairman of the court is now empowered to dispose a case in the absence of any or both the representatives.

He said the measures for separate trade unions for workers of bus, truck etc were

provided in accordance with the demand of the transport workers.

Defending the provision of restriction on trade union in the Security Printing Press, the Labour Minister said it was essential for printing of currency, notes and stamps without any hindrance. He said trade union activities could be restricted in certain areas under the ILO convention.

## 25 injured in Adamjee clash

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 13: At least 25 persons were injured in a clash between the workers of the BNP and the AL at the Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) here this afternoon.

The one and-a-half-hour armed clash took place over establishment of dominance by rival workers at the New Colony inside the mills premises, witnesses said, adding that both sides used lethal weapons and explosives.

Seriously injured Kajal, Selim, Yasin and Anwar were admitted to the local health complex while others were given first aid at different clinics.

## Arabs celebrate accord

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Israeli police and soldiers kept to the sidelines as thousands of youths put up the green, black, white and red national flags, symbol of their uprising or "Intifada." "People raise the flag without fear of being shot," said student Raed al-Hayek, 24.

He was among thousands of jubilant Palestinians blocking the centre of Jericho, the West Bank town which with the Gaza Strip is to gain self-rule under the accord.

"Now the Israelis do not stop us, we are free," Hayek said.

Soldiers stayed behind a high fence surrounding the police station, the only building in the centre of this normally sleepy oasis town not decked with flags or posters of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

AP adds from Gaza City in Occupied Gaza Strip: For many Palestinians, Monday was a day for jubilant celebration. For others it was a day of mourning.

Thousands of Palestinians paraded through the city for hours on foot and in cars, waving Palestinian flags and chanting support for the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO.

Several hundred opponents of the pact chased the procession, and some stoned it. Though supporters far outnumbered opponents, the bitterness of Palestinians who oppose peace with Israel was inescapable.

On one street, a big Palestinian flag fluttered bearing the message: "There is no selling Palestine."

## 12 injured in city clashes

By Staff Correspondent

At least a dozen people were injured in two separate clashes at the Dhanmondi Hawkers' Market and Farmgate areas in the city yesterday.

Shopkeepers of Dhanmondi Hawkers' Market clashed with police when customs officials, along with police, raided the market in the morning to seize contraband Indian saris.

Police said customs officials raided two shops and seized 57 pieces of smuggled saris.

Later police brought the situation under control by resorting to baton charge on the mob.

In another incident, students of the Tejgaon Degree College clashed with some outsiders who reportedly entered the college and assaulted two students in the afternoon. Five people suffered minor injuries during the incident.

## The Midnight File

### Pak drug suspect Butt held

ISLAMABAD, Sept 13: Narcotics officers say they have arrested one of Pakistan's most notorious drug suspects, wanted both at home and in Britain, Germany and the United States. Tariq Butt was arrested Sunday evening while on a business trip to the capital of Islamabad, according to the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board. Officers stormed the house and surprised Butt, 47, and his armed guards. Butt is among 17 drug suspects the Americans want extradited to face US charges. The British and the Germans also are seeking his extradition, reports AP.

### UN troops battle Somali gunmen

MOGADISHU, Sept 13: UN troops battled Somali gunmen on the streets of Mogadishu for nearly three hours Monday, and a UN spokesman said three US soldiers were wounded. UN spokesman David Stockwell said there was no truth to a report of 12 American deaths — a report made by a spokesman for fugitive warlord Mohamed Farrah Aided, reports AP.

### Nigeria's oil board dissolved

LAGOS, Sept 13: Nigeria's new government on Monday dissolved the huge governing board that controls the oil industry, the nation's prime source of revenue and corruption. The move strips away the top layer of bureaucracy of an industry that despite supplying 80 per cent of government revenue, has been accused of mismanagement and graft, reports AP.

## Momentous step

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Clinton said, it was a "brave gamble that the future can be better than the past."

He said the accord's promise was that "The security of the Israeli people will be reconciled with the hopes of the Palestinian people."

Looking to the future, he said, "I pledge the active support of the United States of America to the difficult work that lies ahead."

Secretary of State US Warren Christopher, underlined US commitment to making the accord work, saying "this Israeli-Palestinian agreement cannot be permitted to fail."

The Israeli-PLO accord provides for mutual recognition, PLO control over the Gaza and the West Bank regions that Israeli forces seized during a six-day war in 1967.

Clinton praised the Mideast peacemaking roles of former President Carter and Bush, who were looking on at the ceremony, and the Norwegian government which facilitated secret Israeli-Palestinian talks which led to the pact.

Before the ceremony Monday, Rabin said the accords would rise or fall on Arafat's ability to "prevent the use of terror" in areas that will move under PLO control with the signing of the accords.

Already there was reason for some optimism about further steps toward Mideast peace. Israeli and Jordanian officials met at the State Department on Sunday working over final details of a document that could serve as the framework for a peace treaty between them.

## Palestine to seek confederation with Jordan

LOS ANGELES, Sept 13: The new Palestinian territory will seek a confederation with Jordan after it officially becomes a state, Yasser Arafat said in Monday's Los Angeles Times, reports AP.

The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation said the establishment of a Palestinian state will take place after negotiations on the final status of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank are concluded, the Times reported.

Those negotiations are scheduled to begin within two years.

The final status resolution will lead to a complete, independent Palestinian state which will confederate with Jordan according to the free choice of the two peoples," Arafat said. "It is coming."

## Carter's 'pleasant memories'

WASHINGTON, Sept 13: Fifteen years ago at Camp David, President Jimmy Carter brokered a deal that brought peace between Israel and Egypt, the first time an Arab state had recognised the Jewish state, reports AP.

Monday, the former president was back in Washington, this time to witness a second act of peacemaking, an agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation that Carter hoped would fulfill the promise of that earlier agreement.

"To see the Palestinians and the Israelis shaking hands will send thrills of excitement down my spine and maybe bring a tear to my eyes," Carter said in an interview with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Carter said Monday's signing brought back "very pleasant memories" of that earlier peace.

## Mubarak's tribute to Sadat

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak paid tribute to his assassinated predecessor Sunday, saying that in signing the Camp David peace treaty with Israel, Anwar Sadat was 20 years ahead of his time.

Peres said an announcement was possible on Tuesday.

The Palestinian flag, green, white and black with a red triangle, flew outside Arafat's downtown Washington hotel.

The PLO-Israeli accords call for Palestinian self-government first in Jericho on the West Bank and in Gaza, and later in the rest of the West Bank that Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war. The PLO, regarded for years by Israel and the United States as a terrorist organization, has renounced its commitment to the destruction of Israel.

The guest list for the PLO-Israeli signing ran to 2,500 or 3,000 and included not only Carter and Bush, Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev of Russia, diplomats from a dozen or so countries, the Cabinet, leaders of Congress, the Supreme Court and more.

Palestinians, with claims on the very land that makes up Israel, have fought the Jewish state since its creation in 1948. Israel has occupied the West Bank and Gaza in the quarter-century since it captured the territory during a war against Arab neighbours — a war in which Rabin served as Army Chief of Staff.

Arafat became Chairman of the PLO four years after it was founded in 1964 on a charter that included the destruction of Israel. A succession of Israeli governments regarded him as little more than a terrorist responsible for the deaths of innocent men and women. In 1990, he sided with Saddam Hussein and Iraq in the Gulf War against a US-led international coalition that included many Arab countries.

## Cabinet discusses proposals relating to import policy

The cabinet at a meeting yesterday discussed the proposals of the Commerce Ministry relating to Import Policy 1993-95 and Financial Programme for Import 1993-94, reports UNB.

The regular weekly meeting of the cabinet was held at the Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia in the chair.

It also discussed the report of the Ministry of Religious Affairs on the Management of Waqf-Dargah and Mazars and decided, in principle, to allow Dargahs and Mazars to be managed as per the practices followed prior to the enactment of the scheduled Dargah (Operation) Ordinance 1989.

## Timetable

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for Palestinian control of the two areas.

— Israelis immediately begin withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

— Five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule officially begins.

April 13, 1994: — Latest date for Israelis to complete withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

July 13, 1994: — Latest date for elections for Palestinian council. An interim agreement reached by then will specify the council's structure and powers, including its executive and legislative authority, arrangements for transfer of authority to the council, and details of independent judicial organs.

Palestinians from East Jerusalem will be able to vote and perhaps run in the elections.

— Israeli military forces, already withdrawn from Gaza and Jericho, will redeploy outside populated areas in the rest of the West Bank by eve of the elections at the latest.

— Israeli military government withdrawn and civil administration dissolved.

December 13, 1995: — Latest date for talks to start on permanent settlement.

December 13, 1996: — Permanent settlement takes effect.

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