



BJC stands wound up

The Jatiya Sangsad last night adopted a bill providing for the winding up of the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) for the huge losses sustained by the corporation due to its inefficiency, corruption and utter mismanagement since its birth eight years ago, reports BSS.

With the passage of the bill, the Bangladesh Jute Corporation Ordinance of 1985 creating the BJC has thus been repealed and the BJC stands abolished with effect from August 29, 1993, the day the repeal ordinance was promulgated. The bill was piloted by the Jute Minister Brig (Retd) A S M Hannan Shah. The statement of object and reasons said the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) was created merging the JMC, JTC, BJEC and APC (Ralle) to do business in raw jute on the strength of the Bangladesh Jute Corporation Ordinance, 1985.

Since its birth the organisation has been posting unusual losses every year in its raw jute business. Till the end of June last year (1992) the BJC's accumulated outstanding loan including interest amounted to Taka 1,123 crore and its total loss till the end of 1990 stood at Taka 912.71 crore, the statement said.

The statement said it was not possible to avert the losses because of the inefficiency, corruption and utter mismanagement of the corporation. The

decision to close down the BJC was taken in view of the government's denationalisation policy and implementation of the government's reform programme in the jute sector.

According to the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (Repeal) Bill, 1993 passed by the House, all the resources, movable and immovable property, cash and money deposited with banks and others will be vested with the government.

All the credits and liabilities of the BJC before its abolition will devolve on the government.

Excepting those officials and employees who are on deputation, all others will be out of service following abolition of the BJC. But the government has been empowered to offer financial benefit to them as decided by the government and it could retain a specific number of officials and employees under certain terms and conditions to perform certain work.

Earlier, the House rejected all the amendment motions to send the bill either to elicit public opinion or to the select committee or to the standing committee for examining it.

Before the bill was taken up for consideration, the House also rejected the motion for disapproval of the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (Repeal) Ordinance, 1993.

A total of 29 opposition members spoke in support of their disapproval motions.

Seen from the gallery

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agreed to the procedure and the House took up another matter.

It dealt with the status of the five Members belonging to the now split Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), namely, M A Yusuf, Shamsuddoha, Muzahar Hossain, Dabirul Islam and Nazir Hossain.

The contention of Mr Sengupta was that the party that now bears the name CPB, has publicly stated that it has no Members in the Parliament. Yet these MPs continue to use the CPB name in the Sangsads documents. He felt that unless the identity of all MPs were clear, the House cannot be in order.

Following on, the Chief Whip of the Opposition Md Nasim added the issue of Hafizul Rahman from the NAP, who is supposed to have joined the BNP, but still sits in the Opposition bench. Nasim appeared to have a strong case when he said that all these six MPs, as a part of the Eight-Party alliance, had used the AL symbol 'Boat' and, having pledged loyalty to the election manifesto of the alliance, had won their seats. Now for any of them to join any other party amounted to betrayal of their electorate. Legal aspects aside, it was a moral issue, he said.

Speaker Shafiq Razzak Ali, replacing the Deputy Speaker, once again showed his mastery of running the House, when he defused the issued by pointing to Article 86 of the Constitution, under which a specific 'dispute' about membership will have to be raised. Till so done, the matter cannot be ruled upon. All

16,000 medicine shops without licence

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday stressed the need for strengthening the drug administration and amending the drug laws, reports UNB.

Responding to a call notice moved by Mohiuddin Ahmed (AL) on the detection of an unauthorised pharmaceutical factory and recovery of spurious drugs, the minister informed Parliament that there were some 16,000 medicine shops in the country without any licence.

He said shortage of manpower in the drug administration and legal limitations stood in the way of recovery and seizure of spurious drugs.

43796 go abroad with job

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday told Parliament that 43,796 people went abroad with jobs from July 1 till September 15 of the present fiscal year, reports UNB.

He was replying to a question from Sheikh Harunur Rashid (AL) during the question hour.

Giving a break-up, the Food Minister said government import of foodgrain was about Tk 46,14 crore during January-June, 1991. Tk 14.89 crore in 1991-92 fiscal and Tk 131.95 crore in 1992-93.

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Published by the Editor or behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangsab Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices : House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX : 500092-4. Advertisement : 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM : DAILY STAR DHAKA.



King Birendra (R) of Nepal, escorted by Chinese President Jiang Zemin (L), reviews the guard of honour at the welcoming ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People in front of the Tiananmen Square in Beijing yesterday. The King is on a week-long visit to China.

— AFP photo

Indefinite strike called

JCD leader stabbed at CU

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 21: A student leader was stabbed today at the Chittagong University during a violence that erupted as a sequel to the campus killings in Khulna and Rajshahi, police and campus sources said.

Finally Barrister Nazmul Huda performed like a lawyer. In a rebuttal to an accusation by Tofael Ahmed of the AL, he spoke calmly, precisely and, in my view, carried the point. Tofael's contention was that to break the previous day's unity between the views of the BNP, AL and other Opposition MPs regarding the Jamaat, Nazmul Huda launched an attack on the AL yesterday, calling it an 'anti-Liberation force' (vintage Huda). Then Tofael added that Nazmul Huda was the same person 'whose house people burnt down during the Liberation Movement in 1969.'

When Huda rose to refute, I thought, here to go again. But I was quickly proven wrong. He first took Tofael to task on the date, saying the Liberation War was in 1971, and not in 1969. He then explained that he was in London, while a portion of his village home was burnt down. So how can he be linked to it, when he was not even in the country? The incident resulted from a dispute over the location of the village hospital, he explained. But the icing on the cake of his argument came when he said that 'I was the government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in 1972, that found those miscreants guilty and awarded them 4-year imprisonment.' Thus Tofael's attempt to depict Huda as an anti-people element in those days fell on his face. This round went to Huda; not on points, but by a knockout.

Immediately after the incident a large contingent of police was sent to the campus from the town while situation became tense. The authorities also deployed the BDR on the campus from this evening fearing further outbreak of violence.

Meanwhile, the Chhatra Dal blamed the activists of the Shibir for the attack on Huda and gave a call for a students' strike at the University for an indefinite period.

The Jamaat working committee believed that Sunday's incident on the RU campus was a

Students, transport workers clash in Manikganj:

50 hurt

MANIKGANJ, Sept 21: Students and transport workers fought a pitched battle at the bus-stand here today, injuring at least 50 people, six critically, reports UNB.

About two dozen vehicles were damaged during the fighting over bus fare that brought traffic on the busy Dhaka-Aricha highway to a more than three-hour-long halt since 9 am.

Police and witnesses said the clash ensued following a dispute over bus fare at the Manikganj bus-stand. A group of students of the Government Debendra College offered half fare on the mini-bus in which they were travelling. The bus staff declined to accept it and exchanged hot words with the students. The students informed their colleagues that the bus staff had misbehaved with them. A huge number of the students then came out from the college and went on a rampage at the bus stand, damaging seven vehicles.

Then the workers and students engaged in a clash when more than 22 vehicles were damaged. Both sides chased and pelted each other with stones and brickbats.

Police rushed to the spot and resorted to lathicharge. At least 50 people, including a Sub-Inspector of Police, were injured in the melee.

Police picked up 37 students from the scene and brought the situation under control.

Students were admitted to the Manikganj Sadar Hospital in critical condition. They were identified as Anwar Hossain, Tutul, Kawser, Mukul, Pradip and Mashru Rahman.

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We look towards this Centre today with vision and hope. Students from the Muslim World assemble here to undertake scientific and technological courses of international standard. They belong to various age groups and nationalities. They come from richly variegated social, cultural, economic and political back-

Jamaat accuses BNP of unleashing terror

By Staff Correspondent

The Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh yesterday accused the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of unleashing a reign of terror in the educational institutions across the country with the help of 'imperialist' forces.

In a resolution after an emergency meeting of the central working committee with party chief Golam Azam in the chair, it said 'There is a tinge of mystery and conspiracy that the Awami League and the BNP jointly criticised the Jamaat in Parliament.'

It said that continued violence would impede the democratic process.

GF leaders meet Speaker, submit memo

Fifteen central leaders of the Gano Forum led by Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday met Speaker Shafiq Razzak Ali and submitted to him a memorandum of their 5-point proposal outlining structure and functions of local government bodies, reports UNB.

During the meeting at Sangsab Bhaban, they emphasised the need for consolidating the democratic system and giving it an institutional shape.

Aman, Khokon slate Jamaat—Shibir

Amanullah Aman, MP and Khairul Kabir Khokon, VP and GS of the DUCSU respectively yesterday strongly condemned and expressed their anguish at the heinous acts of the Janata-Shibir coterie and anti-Liberation forces at the Rajshahi University on September 19, reports BSS.

In a joint statement they said the Jamaat is provocative which will encourage their front-organisations to violent activities,' the press release said quoting the party resolution.

The BNP's present stand in the House unveiled their 'opportunist' character. It has also become clear to the nation that anti-Islamic forces are hidden inside the ruling party, it added.

The Jamaat will observe a protest and prayer day on Friday across the country.

The press release said the ruling party is responsible for the violence at the Rajshahi University, Rajshahi Medical College, Khulna AL Madrasah, The Agricultural University, Dhaka University, Sirajganj, Sathkhira, Lakshimpur and Brahmanbaria.

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This will be possible through vigorous efforts and spread of science and technology and its adoption and assimilation in our day-to-day life with commitment, sincerity and dedication.

Police rushed to the spot and resorted to lathicharge. At least 50 people, including a Sub-Inspector of Police, were injured in the melee.

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The OIC Secretary General, who arrived here Monday evening to attend the congregation, asked the students to utilise their skills in the greater service of Islam.

The Prime Minister thanked the OIC Secretary General for his keen interest in and commitment to the overall development of the ICTVTR.

She also congratulated the centre for holding the OIC-UN Sectoral Meeting on Science and Technology with special emphasis on Environment in Dhaka in December 1992, where different organisations of the OIC and the UN participated on the occasion.

Begum Zia expressed happiness over the resolution of the Dhaka meeting that formed the basis for further cooperation between the OIC and the UN on environmental issues.

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'I will advise you to always bear in mind all the politico-social-economic problems facing the world in general and the Islamic Ummah in particular,' Gaid said.

ICTVTR Director General Dr AM Patwari lauded the role of the Prime Minister in introducing compulsory primary education which was supposed to be introduced in 1890 as per the Dhaka Gazette of 1885.

'After about one hundred years, you are the first Prime Minister and the head of a government to translate this into reality,' he said and also appreciated the government's 'Food for Education' and other programmes aimed at improving the condition of the poor, particularly the condition of the women and children.

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Chief aide to Aideed captured

MOGADISHU, Sept 21: US airborne Army Rangers on Tuesday seized the chief aide to fugitive warlord Mohamed Farrah Aideed, whose militia has been blamed for killing 50 UN peacekeepers, reports AP.

About 50 Rangers arrested Osman Atto and three other Aideed supporters after arriving in six helicopters and raiding an area near Digier Hospital, said UN military spokesman Maj. David Stockwell.

Militiamen fired on the Ranger troops with small arms and at least a dozen rocket-propelled grenades but no US forces were wounded in the 20-minute operation, Stockwell said.

He described Atto, a wealthy Somali businessman, as the principal adviser and chief financier to Aideed. Somalis consider Atto to be Aideed's No. 2 man.

AFP adds: Two Pakistani soldiers were killed and seven wounded when Somali militiamen attacked and destroyed their armoured personnel carrier with a rocket-propelled grenade today, UN military sources said.

Jerusalem, Sept 21: Saying there has been 'enough tears and enough bloodshed' between Jews and Arabs, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appealed to a divided Parliament Tuesday for a vote of confidence on the Israel-PLO accord, reports AP.

The debate may be the longest and most bitter in parliament's history. Some commentators said it would resemble the stormy 1978 debate over the US-brokered Camp David accords, which led to the peace treaty with Egypt.

Rabin was assured of only a slim majority, and Labour party leaders were negotiating behind the scenes in attempts to persuade undecided religious lawmakers to support the plan.

About 2,000 riot police deployed outside the Knesset, or parliament, to handle rallies by opponents and backers of the PLO-Israel accord.

An SB officer said on a tip-off, a special squad led by ASP Khalilur Rahman raided Hotel Kushiara in the city's Nawabpur Road and recovered a packet of heroin weighing one kilo hidden inside a pillow in room No 16 and arrested the five people.

Police said, the accused came to Dhaka from Habiganj Monday and were staying at the hotel. 'On preliminary interrogation all the arrested persons admitted to possessing the heroin,' police said. The accused were sent to the Kotwali thana.

Police estimated the haul to be worth Tk one crore. The heroin would be sent to a laboratory for chemical test.

Violence at N'ganj Girls' College

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 21: A group of students demanding admission, ransacked the office room of the Vice-Principal and allegedly assaulted a teacher of the local Government Girls' College.

The girls were demanding an increase in the number of seats in the first year classes and extension of the admission date, witnesses said.