



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With the passage of the bill, the Bangladesh Jute Corporation Ordinance of 1985 creating the BJC has thus been repealed and the BJC stands abolished with effect from August 29, 1993, the day the repeal ordinance was promulgated.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 (Rallie) 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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very significant point.

It dealt with the status of the five Members belonging to the now split Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), namely, M A Yusuf, Shamsuddin, 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 Sangsad 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 Hafizur 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 Shaikh Razzak Ali, replacing the Deputy Speaker, once again showed his mastery of running the House, when he defused the issue by pointing to Article 66 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 of the Awami League.

Replying to another question, from Monsur Ahmed (AL), the minister said 2,57,924 people went abroad through the recruiting agencies from January 1, 1990 to August 31, 1993.

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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.

Rafiqul Islam Helali, president of pro-BNP Chhatra Dal, CU unit, was attacked by a group of students at 1 pm today near the university railway station and was stabbed on his thigh, police said. He was immediately rushed to a private clinic in the city.

Helali, who was travelling by a rickshaw on the university approach road, came under the attack while two groups of supporters of the Shibir and the Chhatra League were locked in a clash over the holding of protest rallies near the rail station there, police added.

Campus sources and police also said that some unruly students damaged during the melee a vehicle which was carrying the wife of the CU Vice Chancellor. The vehicle, returning from the town to the campus, was intercepted by the rampagers near the rail station but the VC's wife remained unhurt, police said.

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 Helali and gave a call for a students' strike at the University for an indefinite period.

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 bricks.

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

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

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

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."

The statement, signed by Jamaat's Publicity Secretary Abdul Kader Mollah, said the demand raised by the Deputy Leader of the House, some BNP members and the AL and Left-party members was totally unconstitutional and undemocratic.

"Their role in Parliament 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 'opportunistic' 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 BL College, Khulna Alia Madrasah, The Agricultural University, Dhaka University, Sirajganj, Satkhira, Lakshimpur and Brahmanbaria.

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

pre-planned one and such incidents could not have happened if the probe body report on the February 6 incident had been implemented.

The death of the BL College students union general secretary Munshi Abdul Halim was the outcome of the violence generated by the ruling party across the country.

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 Shaikh 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 Sangsad Bhavan, 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 Jamaat-Shibir coterie and anti-liberation forces at the Rajshahi University on September 19, reports BSS.

In a joint statement they said the Jamaat-Shibir coterie was making repeated armed attacks, in different educational institutions in a planned manner at a moment when the democratic government had restored peace and discipline

grounds. Yet one cementing bond ties them together — the noble and eternal faith 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.

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.

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.

"I will advise you to always bear in mind all the politico-economic problems facing the world in general and the Islamic Ummah in particular," Gaidid 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 of the women and children.

Chief aide to Aided captured

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

About 50 Rangers arrested Osman Atto and three other Aided supporters after arriving in six helicopters and raiding an area near Digfer 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 Aided. Somalis consider Atto to be Aided'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.

Heroin worth Tk one crore seized, five held in city

By Staff Correspondent

The Special Branch police swooped on a city hotel and arrested five persons for possessing one kilogram of heroin worth Tk one crore yesterday.

Murtuza Mia, Abdul Haque, Mohammad Kafil, Mohammad Chinnu and Mohammad Rafiq were arrested for their alleged involvement in a heroin-racket, police said.

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.

Tension grips DU

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Tareq of the Statistic Department, was allegedly beaten up by JCD activists after he along with some of his colleagues had earlier assaulted a JCD member on the campus.

Two Shibir activists — Mohammad Sadeq of 3rd year Philosophy and Mobinul Islam of 2nd year International Relations — were seriously beaten up by angry students at Salimullah Hall at about 1:30 pm.

Police on duty at the hall gate rushed inside and rescued the two who were first admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) but later shifted to the Ibne Sina Clinic.

Police also rescued two Shibir men from the hands of angry students around noon while they were coming out after examinations in the Arts Faculty.

During the drive against the pro-Jamaat Shibir, panicked students ran helter-skelter for safety. A large police contingent was posted in and around the campus.

In the early hours yesterday, police raided the Salimullah Hall thrice to prevent any untoward incident. They searched different rooms to rescue Shibir workers.

Meanwhile, different student groups held rallies on the campus demanding a ban on the politics of the Jamaat and Shibir.

The Awami League-backed Chhatra League (M-I) organised a rally at the feet of the Aparajeyo Bangla statues which was addressed by KHM Liza, Akhter Hossain and Ishaq Ali Khan Panna.

The Chhatra Union held a separate rally in front of the DUCSU Bhavan while the Chhatra Moitry, the Chhatra League (B-K) and other students' organisation rallied in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The Midnight File

PLO leader assassinated in Gaza Strip

GAZA, Sept 21: A senior PLO leader in the occupied Gaza Strip was assassinated by other Palestinians today in a dispute within the mainstream Fatah faction over last week's peace accord with Israel, Palestinian sources said. The victim, Mohammed Mashem Abu Shaadan, was head of a political committee organising support for the accord, reports Reuter.

18 passengers shot dead in Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 21: Eighteen taxi passengers were shot dead Tuesday night in an attack south of Johannesburg, the South African Press Association said. SAPA, quoting Eugene Opperman, a South African Police spokesman, said another 14 people were injured. No other details were immediately available. More than 10,000 blacks have died in political violence in the past three years, and the violence has increased as power-sharing negotiations progress between black and white leaders, reports AP.

Rabin seeks confidence vote on peace accord

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.

Inside the hall, tempers ran so high that hecklers drowned

EC to decide

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As per Article 70 of the Constitution they had lost their membership, Sengupta argued. Article 70 bars MPs from crossing the floor and changing parties.

Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, AL leader Sheikh Selim and Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon also voiced similar demands after the Maghrib prayers when Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni was in the chair.

Panni failed to give any decision and adjourned the House for five minutes. After resuming, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali delivered the ruling that the matter was to be sent to the Election Commission as per Article 66 of the Constitution. He asked the Opposition members to submit papers to his office.

Jamaat

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ruling party-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and led the attack that left two Shibir activists killed.

Referring to Monday's JS discussion on the killing of a Rajshahi University student, Nizami told newsmen that the speeches of both the BNP and the Awami League members were untrue, fabricated and baseless.

"The incident was an outcome of a political decision of the BNP to eliminate the Chhatra Shibir from the Rajshahi University campus," Nizami claimed.

He also denied allegations that Shibir activists cut the tendons of anyone who opposed them.

While commenting on the consensus among the BNP and AL MPs against his party, Nizami said "the AL and a faction of the BNP, who do not have faith in Islam, were hatching a conspiracy to frustrate the resurrection of Islam in the country."

The Jamaat leader, despite repeated queries, refused to identify the leaders of the BNP faction allegedly involved in the conspiracy.

Asked to comment on the legislators' demand for imposing a ban on the Jamaat, Nizami said banning of any political party was an undemocratic act and was tantamount to fascism.

Replying to a question, the Jamaat leader also said his party had supported the BNP in forming the government to overcome a constitutional crisis in 1991.

"That support does not necessarily mean that the Jamaat would continue to support the BNP if the latter indulged in undemocratic political practices," Nizami warned.

He observed that the BNP had failed to fulfil the aspirations of the common people.

Maulana Abdus Sobhan of the Jamaat felt that Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury had failed to maintain law and order while Nizami was particularly critical of Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury for his suggestion to not only arrest but also to weed out those responsible for the Rajshahi University incident.

out large portions of nationally broadcast speeches by Rabin and Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

Guards escorted a spectator out of the visitor's gallery after a Palestinian flag was unfurled, touching off protests by lawmakers.

Chakma refugees' delegation extends stay

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 21: The 24-member refugee delegation from the Indian state of Tripura which arrived in Khagrachhari on September 19 on a three-day visit to the CHIT, will stay for two more days, an official source said.

The visit of the delegation is aimed at ascertaining if the conditions in CHIT districts were favourable for the repatriation of over 50,000 Chakma refugees, living in camps in Tripura.

The delegations members body visited some parts of Panchhari thana in Khagrachhari district.

Tomorrow they are expected to visit some areas in Rangamati and the team is expected to return on Thursday after visiting some places under Mohalchari thana of Khagrachhari district.

Khulna

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alleged that the BL College administration did not allow the holding of a ghaibana namaz-e-janaza for the deceased at the college premises.

Qamrul Islam, a central leader of the Shibir, also alleged that police played a mischievous role, favouring the ruling party's student front. He further alleged that police arrested more than 30 Shibir activists from the janaza venue at Fultala where the body of Abdul Halim was buried today.

Meanwhile, police resorted to baton-charge at two places in the city and at Daulatpur when the Shibir and the rival Students Alliance tried to bring out processions in the evening.

When contacted, one of the DCs of the Metropolitan Police told The Daily Star that they did not permit any processions or rallies for the sake of law and order.

He, however, refuted claims that the police had favoured the ruling party students.

The Principal of the Alia Madrasah here, in a press release issued today, said the students who attacked the madrasah yesterday chanted slogans in favour of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal. He also claimed that Amanullah, who was killed in the attack Monday, did not belong to any party.

He demanded punishment of the persons involved in the killing.

BDR and additional police have been deployed in the city. Section 144 is likely to be clamped in the city tomorrow, it was learnt.

Meanwhile, both the Shibir and the Students' Alliance have filed cases with the police in which either side has accused a total of eighty persons on involvement in Monday's clashes at the BL College and the Alia Madrasah.

Forex rates

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David Hancock, Manager, Treasury Control, UK treasury of the Standard Chartered Bank, London, expressed his views on treasury internal control.

He cited examples of frauds in the forex market and gave his opinion how these could be avoided.

Besides the general trading principles, he spoke on trading limits, counter-party limits, back office processing and control and code of dealing ethics.

The seminar was also addressed by Stephen M McCarthy, chief executive Bangladesh, Standard Chartered Bank.

The seminar and workshop was attended by representatives from all the commercial banks, DFIS, the Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Bank and corporate customers.