



AL stages brief walkout

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition Awami League yesterday staged a brief walkout in Parliament in protest against the rejection of a bill to repeal the recently promulgated Anti-Terrorism Act.

AL MP A K M Jahangir Hossain tabled the bill on the private members' day alleging that the ruling party had been using the law to persecute opposition activists.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, however, said the law had already been proved to be effective and helpful in curbing violence and terrorism. Giving examples of its effectiveness, the Home Minister said the government will review the law after two years, as it was promulgated for a period of two years.

The AL staged their five-minute walkout just before Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali put the bill to vote. The private bill was rejected by a voice vote in the absence of the AL members.

The Jamaat-e-Islami, the Jatiya Party and the NDP MPs voted 'yes' favouring the bill.

Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon and Ganatantri Party leaders Suranjit Sengupta were not in the House at the time.

Three other bills, one by AL MP Professor Rafiqul Islam and two others by JP member Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, were also placed yesterday but were rejected by voice vote.

Placing the Anti-Terrorism Act (Repeal) Bill, K M Jahangir said the law is being abused and the opposition political activists are being harassed under the law.

The AL MP said since September 15, 1992 when the law was enacted, some 2119

No plan to sell gas field, JS told

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain informed Parliament yesterday that the government has no plan to sell any gas field to private entrepreneurs, reports UNB.

Replying to a supplementary question during question hour, the Minister, however, said the government will encourage private companies to join the exploration of gas fields in the country alongside government initiatives.

At present, there are 17 gas fields in the country. Six of them are now in production.

Victoria College extends closure

COMILLA, Sept 23: The authorities of the Comilla Victoria College have extended the closure of the college up to September 30 apprehending further violence on the campus, reports UNB.

College sources said the decision was taken as the tension was mounting on the campus following the recent bloody clashes in different educational institutions of the country, including Rajshahi University.

Earlier, the college was declared closed till September 19 following clashes between the rival student groups on September 9.

Urgent power suspension

As power will be suspended from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Maniknagar Grid Substation Bangabhaban Circuit-1 due to urgent maintenance work to be carried out by Grid Maintenance Divn., Dhaka South, PDB, power will be suspended at Purana Paltan, Motijheel Colony, Arambagh, Motijheel C.A. (partly), Fakirapool, Naya-Paltan, Abhoy Das Lane, R.K. Mission Road, Gopibagh, South Kamalapur through alternate arrangement. Power may remain suspended at the abovementioned areas if any fault occurs in the alternate power distribution system at the abovementioned time. The valued consumers are informed through this notification.

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Rutskoi forces plan attack

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all other property passes under the management of the Presidential administration', said the decree.

Yeltsin later announced today that presidential elections would be held next June 12, exactly three years after he was elected to the post.

In a decree, a copy of which was received by AFP, Yeltsin proposed that the federal assembly to emerge from the snap general election he called for December 11 and 12 adopt a law on presidential elections before February.

Yeltsin, who became Russia's first democratically-

MOSCOW, Sept 23: Russian deputies opened an emergency session of the Congress of People's Deputies here today aimed at impeaching Yeltsin. The session began at 10:10 pm (1810 GMT), reports AFP.

Yeltsin was elected President in 1991, accepted to cut short his tenure by two years.

He also indicated that he would stand for a third term.

Meanwhile, parliament Vice-Speaker Nikolai Ryabov resigned today to protest what he called 'the strategy of confrontation of the parliamentary leadership.'

The only (viable) issue is a new legislative body through elections and holding presidential elections," Ryabov told the parliament.

Earlier the head of the parliamentary committee on defence and security, General Sergei Stepashin, said today he was resigning citing serious disagreements among the leaders of the dissolved legislature.

It's agony," Itar-Tass news agency quoted Stepashin as saying, describing a full meeting today of the parliament's governing Presidium, chaired by Speaker Russian Khasbulatov.

Stepashin was the first senior official in the camp of the parliament, dissolved Tuesday by Yeltsin, to disclose splits among the parliament's leader-



Two Pro-Communist supporters Wednesday tying a Soviet flag onto a statue that stands next to the Russian Parliament in Moscow. Pro-Communist supporters camped the night and most of the day outside the building after Boris Yeltsin dissolved Parliament.

Khasbulatov today publicly raised for the first time the possibility of the legislature's defeat in its political struggle with Yeltsin.

"Let us assume that the Supreme Soviet and the constitutional court are defeated and the ex-president (Yeltsin) triumphs," a sombre Khasbulatov told parliament. "Nothing will change. It is already impossible to reverse what has been done by the ex-president."

"The country is covered in

Memo on racial strife in London handed to British envoy

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Sylhet Division Movement called upon British Prime Minister John Major to take steps for saving the life and property of the Bangladeshi community living in East London.

A three-member delegation of the body Thursday submitted a memorandum to the British High Commission in Dhaka expressing their concerns over the recent racial violence in England.

When some 100 people belonging to the Sylhet Division Movement tried to proceed towards the British High Commission at the Baridhara diplomatic enclave in Dhaka in a convoy of several vehicles at about 12:30 pm. The procession was halted by police at Badda.

Later, a three-member delegation led by Advocate Abed Raja was allowed to go to the mission where they handed over the memorandum to the First Secretary of the British High Commission.

The memorandum, addressed to the British Prime Minister, resented racial attacks on the Bangladeshi community living in East London and called for prompt action for ensuring their security.

Earlier, the Sylhet Division Movement activists also demonstrated in front of the Jatiya Press Club and in front of the Foreign Office, protesting against 'the government's silence' regarding the attacks in recent weeks on Bangladeshis living in Britain.

The Sylhet Division Movement is a platform of the people hailing from greater Sylhet. It has been campaigning for a separate administrative division in the country's north-eastern region.

Leaders of the body said they would again demonstrate in front of the Jatiya Press Club on September 28 and would hold a rally.

FBUTA

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ure to stop terrorism on the campus which resulted in the deaths of three students.

The rally also slated Information Minister Nazmul Huda and Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar for making 'fabricated and indecent' accusations against some Jahangirnagar University teachers.

The FBUTA also decided to observe a three-day strike from October 10.

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone Prof Rahman said, "So far we only have assurances, but no sign of any positive steps."

Prof Rahman warned that all the universities would go on an indefinite strike if the demands were not met by October 12.

UNB adds: University teachers will stage a sit-in demonstration in front of the Prime Minister's office on October 5 to press for arrest and trial of those responsible for violence at the Jahangirnagar, Islamic and Rajshahi universities.

Section 144

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yesterday due to imposition of the Section 144.

The Jatiya Party claimed it had first convened a meeting at the venue, at 4 pm yesterday but the pro-BNP students also announced a meeting at the same venue and at the same time.

Police also dispersed a JP procession heading towards the venue in which 10 JP activists were injured.

Petro Bangla : Saipem

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and damage' arising out of such blacklisting.

The legal advisers also warned that further complications may arise in case of future international competitive bids for awards in respect of projects financed by the international agencies, especially the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

They said Saipem, as an international bidder, may raise in such case the objection contending that its exclusion from participation is 'unjustified.'

The Italian firm's strong point could be that since the grounds on which the blacklisting has been affected are matters of a pending arbitration and have not yet been finally decided against it.

The 47.63 million US dollars North-South Pipeline Project contract was signed between the Petro Bangla and Saipem on February 2, 1990. It was supposed to be completed in one dry season, but the work staggered and Saipem demanded an additional 21 million dollars for completion of the work.

However, a committee of Petro Bangla, after negotiations, brought down the cost of extending the time for completion of work to 14 million dollars. Of this sum, 10 million dollars had already been paid to Saipem.

But Saipem went for arbitration since the government suspended payment of the rest four million dollars.

The Midnight File

2 killed as truck rams car in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 23: A truck ramed a private car on the Chittagong-Dhaka highway near Tariel Bazar in Sitakunda thana today, killing two people and critically injuring three others. Witnesses said the Dhaka-bound truck crashed on the Chittagong-bound private car at about 11 am, leaving two dead on the spot, reports UNB.

Strike paralyses Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Sept 23: Kashmir was paralysed today by a strike called to protest the destruction of a 250-year-old mosque in a fire, as Indian security forces killed 10 Muslim militants in the state, police said. Life came to a halt in the Kashmir valley, including its summer capital Srinagar, in response to the shutdown sponsored by the caretakers of the shrine, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. The mosque built by Afghans in Srinagar had "a unique architecture," the news agency said. The blaze broke out on Tuesday night and gutted the mosque, PTI said, reports AFP.

India supports Yeltsin

NEW DELHI, Sept 23: India today extended full support to Russian President Boris Yeltsin in his standoff with the conservative parliament. The Press Trust of India quoted a government spokesman as saying though Russia's problems were 'essentially internal, they do tend to impinge on international relations and positive orientation towards pluralist democracies in the world,' reports Reuters.

Gross irregularities

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At the wood workshop, welder Aminul Haq told the minister that a wood cutter machine was purchased at a price of Tk 45,000 in 1989-90 instead of the market price of less than Tk 10,000.

Although the machine was made in Bangladesh, the concerned officials had shown it as an Italian one, he said. Similarly, he said a magnetic starter had been procured at an exorbitant rate of Tk 80,000 in place of Tk 8,000.

Barrister Rafiq instructed seizure of the official documents and constituted an enquiry committee headed by the Additional Chief Engineer to submit a report within three days.

The Works Minister also directed Works Secretary Dr Abdur Rashid to suspend Sub-Assistant Engineer Shamsul Alam for his misconduct. He said he had constituted a six-member enquiry committee to identify instances of irregularities in the PWD headed by the Additional Chief Engineer on July 30, 1992 and the committee in its report observed that more than Taka 100 crore had been misappropriated out of a purchase of Tk 151 crore at various stores and workshops of the department during 1989-90.

Jamuna Bridge

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The decision on the only unresolved issue — the resettlement plan for the people affected by the project — would be taken by the government by October 15, the officials said, adding that two consultants have already been appointed to help the Jamuna Bridge Authority prepare the resettlement plan. The World Bank opposed the resettlement plan since it felt the compensation would not be adequate for rehabilitation of the affected people.

The wrap-up meeting agreed with the construction schedule of the project as well as the schedule for appointing consultants, concerned sources said and added that the shares of credit of each co-financiers for the 690 million US dollar project was also fixed at 191 million dollars.

The Jamuna Bridge, which will connect the eastern and western parts of the country, would be 4.8 kilometres long and 8.5 metres wide. Initially it would have four road lanes with foundation to carry a metre gauge railway in future. It would also have provisions for setting up electrical interconnector, gas pipeline and telecommunication equipment.

Chokoria College closed sine die

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 23: Chokoria Degree College was closed today for an indefinite period following a clash between the Islami Chhatra Shibir and the All-Party Student Unity, reports UNB.

Govt may update copyright ordn

The government is actively considering to update the existing copyright ordinance by necessary amendment, reports UNB.

Tripura team leaves CHT

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 23: The 24-member refugee delegation which arrived in the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) on September 19 from Tripura state of India, has returned today, official sources said.

DESA'S URGENT NOTIFICATION

Have you paid all arrear Electricity Bills?

If not, please pay all the bills tomorrow along with the current one.

Please pay your bills within specified period to avoid interest.

Please refrain from any kind of illegal use of Electricity.

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority

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