

PM tells Nepalese MPs

## Tripartite talks to help solve water issue

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said the three countries — India, Bangladesh and Nepal — should discuss an amicable solution to the water issue, reports UNB.

She called for further deepening relations among the seven SAARC nations by resolving all irritants touching them.

"We should overcome the issues that are creating distance among us," she said while talking to the visiting Speaker of Nepal, Damanath Dhungana, when he called on her at Prime Minister's office yesterday.

Damanath Dhungana is leading an 11-member parliamentary delegation which arrived here Sunday.

"Under the changed world circumstances, we all have to work together in much closer cooperation for solving socio-economic problems in the region," said Begum Zia, current Chairperson of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

"As chairperson I will try my best to make the relations among the SAARC countries more cordial," the Prime Minister told the Nepalese lawmakers.

The Prime Minister detailed the on-going development pro-

grammes of her government. She said, the government was functioning with total accountability to the people and the parliament.

The Nepalese Speaker expressed his happiness to see that both the ruling party and opposition in Bangladesh are unanimous in the parliament to work for alleviating poverty from the society.

Mrs Bhuvan Daman Dhungana and other members of the delegation including numbers of parliament belonging to four different political parties of Nepal were present.

Later the Nepalese parliamentary delegation had a meeting with leading members of Bangladesh parliament at the Sangsab Bhaban.

Bangladesh side was led by Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali while the Nepalese delegation was headed by Speaker Damanath Dhungana.

During the meeting, they exchanged views about the functioning of parliaments in the two countries. The two sides also discussed procedural matters regarding placing of budget, government bills, private members' bills and functioning of various committees.

## JS prorogued

From page 1 col 7

saw malice and hatred in some Opposition members' behaviour and said, after the AL legislators had walked out, that despite difference on ways and means of making parliamentary democracy effective, there was no room in a democracy for malice and hatred against anyone.

The Deputy Leader requested the chair to expunge the 'unparliamentary' remarks of Samad Azad.

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah said the ruling on judgement of the Speaker cannot be questioned in the House. He regretted the way some Awami League leaders attacked the chair.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda observed that the walkout staged by the AL, Jamaat and the JP was consistent with their previous unholy alliance and was aimed at frustrating democracy.

All began when the Deputy Speaker ignored AL MP Matia Chowdhury's appeal for the floor to protest State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman's advice to exclude her from the concerned parliamentary standing committee.

Matia Chowdhury had earlier told the House that the standing committee on the Finance Ministry had been made ineffective by the ruling party members and demanded that the committees be made more active and that all bills should come through the respective committees.

The State Minister, while replying to the criticism, commented that the efficacy of the parliamentary committees depended not just on the ruling party members' goodwill. He

## Financial Insttn Bill adopted

A bill providing for strict laws to make the Bangladesh Bank's controlling authority effective over the non-banking financial institutions and ensuring financial discipline there was adopted by the Jatiya Sangsab last night, reports BSS.

With the passage of the Financial Institutions Bill, 1993, the 'Chapter Five' of the 1972 Bangladesh Bank order has been repealed.

Piloted by the State Minister for Finance, Mojibur Rahman, the bill will come into force with retrospective effect on August 16, 1993 (when an ordinance was promulgated in this regard).

The implementation of the legislation will help bring about qualitative and economic development in the national economy and moreover the people will be encouraged and the people's confidence enhanced in the investment with the non-banking financial institutions, the statement of object and reasons of the bill said.

The House rejected all the amendments moved by the Opposition after about two hours of discussions on the bill.

Opposition members criticised the bill saying it proposed to raise the power and authority of the Bangladesh Bank without providing safe-guards against the abuse of power and authority. It would also breed corruption in the banking sector, they said.

## Project to convert garbage into bio-gas soon, JS told

The government will soon take up a pilot project to produce bio-gas from garbage collected from different parts of the country, reports UNB.

Responding to a call attention from Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru of the Awami League, Deputy Minister for LORD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye informed Parliament yesterday that the authorities concerned have also acquired 72 acres of land at Matuail in Demra thana for garbage disposal in a scientific manner.

The deputy minister admitted that dumping of garbage at Jatrabari had posed a serious health hazard to the people in the area, because of the poisonous gases emitted including methane, and 'unbearable stench.'

Editor : S. M. Ali

Executive Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd, 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices : House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmoni R/A, Dhaka-1206. PABX : 50092-4. House No. 50091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM : DAILY STAR DHAKA.



Police in riot-gear step up vigil around Sir Salimullah Medical College as tension prevailed on the campus yesterday.

— Star photo

## JUTA condemns govt failure

By JU Correspondent

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) yesterday criticised the government for the recently submitted police final report regarding the cases against some of their colleagues.

Reiterating their demand for unconditional withdrawal of the cases filed against ten teachers by a student, the executive body of the JUTA said the government had kept some of the cases alive on purpose.

The JUTA sought proper application of the judicial process against the real 'criminals', as promised by the standing committee of Parliament on September 22.

In a press release, the JUTA said the Home Minister was not conducting the House in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. He contended that the privilege of Matia Chowdhury, who wanted the floor under Rule 274, was curtailed by refusing her to speak.

Then came Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party. Taking the floor, he said the privilege of his party members was also curtailed by the chair not allowing them the floor at times. "We are also staging a walkout in protest", the JP said.

Sources said, the Savar police reportedly exempted the teachers from only four of the six charges leveled against them by some students saying that necessary investigation was not possible since the institution had remained closed.

Meanwhile, the planned sit-in demonstration of the university teachers, scheduled on October 5, before the Prime Minister's office may be deferred because the PM is likely to be out of the country at that time, one teacher said.

Prof Chowdhury strongly protested the Jatiya MP's observation and termed the comment as motivated.

However, later the leaders of the AL, JP and the IOJ, in a press briefing, accused a certain section of the BNP allegedly opposed to the consensus among the Opposition and Treasury benches regarding ways for uprooting campus terrorism, for the incident. They also blamed the Deputy Speaker for violating the rules of procedure and denying Matia the right to speak.

However, the 16-day long eleventh session of the JS adopted seven bills and took up eight private members' bills for consideration in the coming sessions.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni read out the prorogation order of President Abdul Rahman Biswas at 10:40 last night.

## Project to convert garbage into bio-gas soon, JS told

The government will soon take up a pilot project to produce bio-gas from garbage collected from different parts of the country, reports UNB.

Responding to a call attention from Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru of the Awami League, Deputy Minister for LORD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye informed Parliament yesterday that the authorities concerned have also acquired 72 acres of land at Matuail in Demra thana for garbage disposal in a scientific manner.

The deputy minister admitted that dumping of garbage at Jatrabari had posed a serious health hazard to the people in the area, because of the poisonous gases emitted including methane, and 'unbearable stench.'

Without a free-float convertibility is a myth, Venkataraman said, adding 'Float is the answer to the problem if you are import-dependent'.

S H Kabir, Managing Director of Renata Pharmaceuticals, asked if there is cause for concern over the inflow and outflow of currency due to interest rate differences.

There would be some movement of currency due to interest rate differences.

## Tension at SSMC as ICS men stage come back

By SSMCH Correspondent

Tension continued to prevail on the Sir Salimullah Medical College campus as the ousted Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activists yesterday returned to the campus to join the Academic Council's meeting.

The Council met yesterday morning with the college Principal Prof Mujibar Rahman in the chair to review the situation in the institution.

Some students at a meeting alleged the Principal was bowing to the pressures of the Home Minister.

"Closing down of the institution may jeopardise the British General Medical Council recognition," the students claimed. The college, in the older section of the city, is one of the four medical colleges recognised by the GMC.

Meanwhile, the APSU leaders said that suspicious movement of outsiders had increased around the Mitford Hospital.

APSU leaders were also apprehending attacks from the pro-Jamaat students' wing.

A large contingent of police was deployed in the three men's hostels of the college.

## Zahir explains reasons for monetary reforms

Converting the Taka will create confidence in the strength of the Bangladesh currency and her economic management which will attract foreign investment. Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan said yesterday, reports UNB.

The present policy commitment to follow a free market mechanism with an export-led strategy for economic growth further stimulated the process of the convertibility concept, he told the inaugural session of a discussion on deregulation of foreign exchange at the Metropolitan Chamber.

The convertibility approach is being supported because we have the lowest inflation in South Asia, the Tax-GDP ratio at 8 per cent is rising.

He said the present stage of convertibility would ensure a managed floating or fixation by the central bank against some intervening currency, allowing that rate to fluctuate by certain percentage above or below the prescribed rate.

Further explaining the reasons for the monetary reforms, Khan said full convertibility would mean free floating of the Taka with least intervention of the central bank, making foreign exchange freely available for transactions.

He said the present stage of convertibility would ensure a managed floating or fixation by the central bank against some intervening currency, allowing that rate to fluctuate by certain percentage above or below the prescribed rate.

He said the present stage of convertibility would ensure a managed floating or fixation by the central bank against some intervening currency, allowing that rate to fluctuate by certain percentage above or below the prescribed rate.

He also expressed his serious apprehension about the banking system's ability to handle free-float of the currency.

The executive director of the Bangladesh Bank Abdur Raquib said: "I don't see any apprehensions of free-float as we already have convertibility on current account, so what we will perhaps announce on October 1 is the achievements we have already made and that we are ready for capital account convertibility."

The Managing Director of Janata Bank Md Taheruddin, however, pointed out that internal structural deficiency would not immediately allow for a full free-float.

Venkataraman agreed and said convertibility without a free-float might not achieve the purpose of deregulation and added that forward cover

is very critical to the success of the convertibility process.

Manager of Bangladesh Bank, noted that the role of speculators also have to be taken into account as they sometimes manage to take the foreign exchange rate away from the market and added that convertibility has to be linked to macro-economic objectives.

Major General (retd) Amjad Khan Choudhury, Managing Director of Property Development, wanted to know the modalities of fixing a market rate for foreign exchange.

Venkataraman said the rates are fixed as the demands appear on a video monitor. "The basket currency method of determining the rate was not articulate," he said. "It was a basket-case."

S B Choudhury observed that partial convertibility with a managed float would be very disappointing. He said covering exchange risks is very important and asked if the commercial banks should be allowed to place some money in foreign banks for that purpose.

Venkataraman agreed and said convertibility without a free-float might not achieve the purpose of deregulation and added that forward cover

## Sec 144 prevents ICS, APSU meets in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 27: Section 144 has been imposed on some areas here today as the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and the Islami Chhatra Oikya (APSU) called simultaneous rallies at the same place today afternoon.

According to police, a few days back the ICS called a rally for today at Khalishpur and the All-Party Students' Unity (APSU) yesterday called another rally at the same time.

Section 144 was imposed to prevent clashes between the two opposing students' fronts, a Deputy Commissioner of Police said.

Meanwhile, the Chhatra Oikya and Islami Chhatra Shibir could not hold their scheduled rallies at Kashipur in the city today as authorities imposed Section 144 in the area to avoid untoward incidents.

Shibir leaders at a press conference in the evening, however, alleged that police had lost their neutrality by siding with the Chhatra Oikya.

They also brought out a procession in the city chanting slogans against the administration and demanding immediate arrest of those responsible for the September 20 incidents in which two students were killed at the BL college and Alia Madrasah.

Hartal observed partially in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Sept 27: Half day hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami, Rajshahi unit, was partially observed here today, reports UNB.

The hartal was called to press home the demand for the release of Ataur Rahman, Amir, Rajshahi unit of Jamaat-e-Islami and Shibir activists arrested during the last few days.

Many shops in the city were closed during hartal period. Production in mills and factories was, however, normal.

The hartal was peaceful and no untoward incident was reported.

## Four killed in mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons were killed in road mishaps and another two reportedly committed suicide in and outside of the city yesterday.

A minor boy was crushed under the wheels of a minibus at Khilkhet in the capital yesterday morning. The victim George Mia, 4, died on the spot, police said.

At Kamalapur, near Pirang Mazar, an auto-rickshaw driver was killed when his vehicle collided head-on with another three-wheeler.

The victim Gafur Mia, 30, was brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he was declared dead by the doctors on duty.

Meanwhile, Tawhidul Islam, 20, reportedly strangled himself to death with a rope at Mirpur, Sunday evening. Police recovered the body yesterday and sent it to the DMCH morgue.

Another youngman Sujan, 28, allegedly took poison to commit suicide at Dhamrai, some 30 km from his capital.

All the bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

## Dacoity in Khulna

By KM Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 27: Armed dacoits stormed into a sales centre of Huq Battery in the city and looted cash and goods worth about Tk 68,000 today, reports UNB.

Police said a gang of five robbers, came by a micro bus, swooped on the shop at south centre road at about 10 am and decamped with cash and valuables, including gold, at gun point.

The separatists' victory could turn Georgians toward Shevardnadze's nationalist opponents and encourage other ethnic minorities across the Soviet Union to fight for independence.

Shevardnadze said much of the blame for the fall of Sukhumi fell on Russia, which has officially maintained neutrality, but is believed to have supplied some arms and other aid to Abkhazia.

"Georgia lost an unequal battle," he was quoted Monday by his office as saying. "We could have saved Sukhumi yesterday, but only Russia could do this and we sent an appeal to Moscow for such help."

He said that although Georgia begged for Russian assistance, none was forthcoming. "One of the reasons for Sukhumi's fall is that foreign forces played the cards of neutrality," he said.

Gulipsh, where the Georgian leader is reported to be, is on the Black Sea and has been one of the staging areas for the evacuation of refugees abroad Russian naval vessels.

Russian warships rescued about 3,500 refugees from Sukhumi and safely delivered them to the Russian port of Sochi and the Georgian port of