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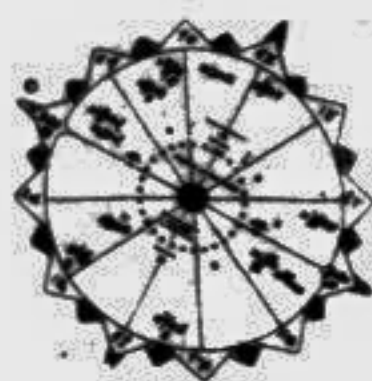
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Speaker allows motion against Leader of the Opposition Hasina threatens to resign

By Staff Correspondent

A deadlock was created in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yesterday with Sheikh Hasina threatening to resign from Parliament unless the Speaker rescinds his decision allowing a privilege motion against her.

The threat of resignation came when Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali admitted a treasury bench notice against alleged breach of privilege of the ministers and MPs by the Opposition chief.

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah submitted the notice on Monday. It claimed that the leader of the Opposition had breached his

special privilege — both as a minister and an MP — by saying that the ministers always tell lies on the floor of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The Speaker allowed a two-hour discussion on the issue on November 30.

Immediately after the Speaker's decision, Sheikh Hasina took the floor to protest the ruling. Demanding withdrawal of the decision, the Opposition leader said that the Prime Minister, on November 7, had accused the Parliament members of telling lies.

"Her (Prime Minister's) speech affected the integrity of

all the 329 members of the Jatiya Sangsad," Hasina said. "I only made my observations following repeated requests from the journalists to give my reactions on the Prime Minister's comments regarding Parliament members," she explained.

Opposing the Speaker's acceptance of the treasury bench-sponsored privilege motion, Sheikh Hasina said that the Works Minister had raised the issue as a move to counter the Opposition's motion against the Leader of the House.

She added that she had already clarified her statement in

the House and after the clarification the question of accepting the motion did not arise.

"If my clarification is not accepted, I am sorry to say that I will resign from Parliament," Hasina said to the Speaker, demanding the withdrawal of his ruling.

The Speaker, however, strongly refused to entertain Hasina's demand for reconsideration of the ruling, saying, "I cannot change my decision and you cannot challenge the Speaker's ruling under the JS rules of procedure."

Earlier, on November 22, the

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Nepal ready to join tripartite water talks: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Nepal has agreed to be a party for tripartite negotiations on water issues involving India and Bangladesh, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said yesterday.

Briefing newsmen on her return from a three-day official visit to Nepal, Begum Zia said that Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala will discuss the matter with his Indian counterpart during his next visit to Delhi.

"It was a successful and

fruitful visit," a smiling Prime Minister told newsmen at the VVIP lounge of the Zia International Airport.

At the end of the visit, the two countries issued a joint communique upholding friendly bilateral relations and mutual interests.

Biman DC-10 carrying the PM and her entourage touched down at around 7:30 pm. Cabinet members, chiefs of the three services and high officials

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Tk 80cr okayed for second TV channel

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ENEC) yesterday approved a Tk 80 crore project for setting up the country's second national television channel in Dhaka, reports UNB.

The project involving Tk 40 crore in foreign exchange is expected to be completed by December, 1994.

The new TV channel will telecast 18 hours programmes, mainly education-oriented. The BBC and CNN programmes will also be shifted from the present channel to the new one.

An official handout said country's 90 per cent area will be brought under the coverage of the second channel. The present channel also covers 90 per cent area of the country.

3 ex-Presidents receive govt allowances

A former President of the country receives government allowances amounting to Tk 69,000 annually, Parliament was told yesterday, reports UNB.

LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, who is in charge of the President's Office in Parliament, said the former Presidents are also being provided with fixed amount for telephone bill and medical allowance equivalent to that of a minister and rent-free circuit house or government rest house.

Replying to a question from Hafiza Asma Khatun (Jamaat), the minister said three former Presidents are now receiving the government allowances. They are: Mohammad Ullah, Justice ASM Sayem and Justice Ahsan Uddin Chowdhury.



The Shantibahini delegation is seen alighting from a BAF helicopter to attend the sixth round of CHT peace talks at the Khagrachhari Circuit House yesterday. — Star photo

CHT truce extended: Next talks in Jan

From Staff Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Nov 24: Shantibahini leaders, in the sixth round of peace talks held today with the parliamentary committee, agreed to further extend the current ceasefire — due to expire on November 30 — until January 31, 1994.

The announcement was made at the press briefing after the talks by the Communications Minister Oli Ahmed who headed the parliamentary committee.

The five-member Shantibahini team which attended today's talks, held at Khagrachhari Circuit House for about four hours from 11 am, was led by J B Larma alias Shanto Larma, president of the Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the parent organisation of the tribal insurgents.

The Shantibahini team also agreed today to a seventh round of dialogue with the parliamentary committee by the last week of next January to find out a

peaceful political solution, the Communications Minister said.

Besides, the tribal negotiators agreed to refrain from any acts of provocation and violence in order to maintain peace in the Hill Tracts to help continue the talks, the minister added.

The minister also claimed that the prevailing normalcy in the CHT was achieved because of the current dialogue.

"Our talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and the gap of understanding has also narrowed down," the minister added.

Meanwhile, the Shantibahini leader Shanto Larma, prior to boarding the Bangladesh Air Force helicopter for flying back, spoke briefly to pressmen outside the Circuit House. He said, "I would not feel satisfied with the talks until a peaceful settlement of the CHT issue is achieved."

"Bangladesh is an independent country and everybody has

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India, Pakistan resume dialogue on Kashmir January 1

NEW DELHI, Nov 24: India and Pakistan agreed on Wednesday to resume talks on Kashmir, the northern Himalayan region that South Asia's archenemies have fought two wars over, reports AP.

Indian Foreign Secretary JN Dixit will visit Islamabad on January 1 to resume talks that were cancelled last year after New Delhi said one of its diplomats was beaten up in Pakistan.

Dixit will meet with his Pakistani counterpart, Shahrar Khan, and "all aspects of Kashmir will be discussed," said a joint statement released by the Indian and Pakistan foreign ministries.

The resumption of talks could help defuse tensions between Pakistan and India and

reduce the saber rattling over Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim region divided between India and Pakistan by a cease-fire line drawn up after their 1965 war.

India and international human rights organisations often accuse Pakistan of fueling a separatist insurgency in Kashmir by training and arming Muslim militants. Pakistan denies the charge.

In Islamabad, the Foreign Ministry statement accused India of "disinformation campaign to... vilify Pakistan."

"We would like to once again urge Indian authorities to abandon the proclivity to blame Pakistan for their own failures and inadequacies," the statement said.

At least 7,500 people have been killed in the fighting, and many people in the area support the guerilla groups, some fighting for independence and some for union with Pakistan.

Pakistan says India broke a promise to hold a plebiscite to find out if the state wants to remain a part of Hindu-dominated India, join Islamic Pakistan, or become independent.

The dispute started in 1947, when the Indian subcontinent was divided along religious lines into India and Pakistan by its former colonial ruler, Britain. Kashmir, then an independent state ruled by a Hindu King, opted to join India soon after troops of the newly formed Pakistan invaded his land.

RAJUK's eviction move foiled

By Staff Correspondent
Angry people injured some RAJUK men and foiled and eviction drive at Mirpur yesterday.

Police resorted to baton charge and teargassing to quell the agitated people. No arrests were reported.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (RAJUK), along with police, went to Section-7, Road No-5, at Mirpur in the morning to evict some unauthorised occupants.

Witnesses said that some local people attacked the RAJUK men with lethal weapons when they refused to extend the deadline for the eviction.

Shibir-JCD clash leaves 15 hurt in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Nov 24: At least 15 persons were reportedly injured in a gunfight this evening between two rival groups at Chandanpura in the city.

Among them, one Mohiuddin, 22, was admitted to the Chittagong Medical Hospital with bullet wounds.

According to witnesses, the hour-long shooting between the supporters of the Chhatra Shibir and the Jatiyatabad Chhatra Dal rocked the Chandanpura area, causing panic among the residents.

Industrial workers stage 48-hr sit-in Dec 21-22

Country's four industrial workers' unions yesterday jointly announced a 48-hour 'peaceful' sit-in in front of the Secretariat on December 21-22 to press for their various demands, reports UNB.

The demands include resumption of all closed mills and industries, introduction of democratic labour laws, implementation of wage commission's report, release of all arrested workers and withdrawal of cases filed against labour leaders and workers.

Their other programmes are: march towards Jatiya Sangsad

to submit a memorandum on November 29 after holding of a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 2 pm and workers' meetings, processions and gate meetings in the four industrial sectors from December 1 to 15.

Jute Mills Workers' Employees Action Council, Spinning-Textile Mills Workers' Employees Federation, Sugar Mills Workers Federation and Steel and Engineering Corporation Workers and Employees Federation have jointly announced the joint action programme at a press conference yesterday afternoon at their Tophkana Road office here.

S. M. Ali's Chehlum

The chehlum of the founder-editor of The Daily Star, S. M. Ali, will be held on Friday, 26 November 1993, after Asr prayers (4 PM) at the paper's office, House 11, Road 3, Dhanmandi R.A.

Friends, relatives and admirers are invited to join us for the milad, and pray for the salvation of the soul of the departed.

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