

Minister warns in JS Stern action if docs cross limit during strike

By Staff Correspondent

Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Haque said yesterday in Parliament that stern action would be taken against the doctors if they 'cross' the limit during any strike.

He was replying to a number of questions from the Opposition and the Treasury benches.

In reply to a supplementary question from Major (ret'd) Hafizuddin of the BNP, the minister said, "to strike work is a democratic right, but the strikers should not cross the limit."

He said he had no knowledge about any death in the hospitals due to lack of treatment. Emergency squads were on duty during last month's strike called by the Bangladesh Medical Association, the Deputy Minister added.

To another question from Maj Hafiz, the minister said the government has no plan to sack any of the doctors who were on strike.

Mirza Azam of the Awami League raised the first question of the current 13th session, of parliament which began on Saturday, seeking to know the causes of last month's doctors' strike.

Sirajul Haque answered all the questions in the absence of Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf.

The Deputy Minister said a committee would shortly be formed to discuss and resolve the demands of the doctors.

In reply to another question from Rafiqul Islam of the AL, Sirajul Haque said that 957 posts of doctors remained vacant in different thana health complexes across the country and the government had taken steps to fill those up.

Replying to another question from ATM Alamgir of the BNP, Haque said the government would not pass any law to ban private practice by the in-service doctors.

Responding to another question from Kazi Keramat Ali of the AL, the Minister said as of January 1, 1991 some 599 posts of doctors were vacant in the government hospitals of which 195 were filled by December 31, 1993 during which some 237 senior doctors had gone on retirement. In replying to another query

As to how many doctors were now on deputation in Dhaka from other districts, the minister suggested a proper notice be submitted to elicit an answer.

Some 135 thana health complexes of the country currently have the X-ray machines and the health complexes received Tk 3,25,500 for procurement medicine, the minister informed the House.

Answering another question, the Minister said some 7,13,014 people fell sick with diarrhoea and of them 3,899 had died.

The Minister said all but 30 of the 397 rural thanas have health complexes.

Family Planning

Since 1982 till December 1993 some Tk 2,241.13 crore has been spent in the family planning sector.

Action against pharmaceuticals

The minister said that authorities took punitive measures against 45 pharmaceutical companies for manufacturing and

marketing sub-standard medicines during 1992 and 1993.

Following is the list of companies prosecuted.

- 1) Albert David (Bangladesh) Ltd
- 2) The Acme Laboratories Ltd, Dhaka
- 3) Albion Ltd, Ctg
- 4) Averast Chemical Industries Ltd, Ctg
- 5) Aman Laboratories, Dhaka
- 6) United Chemist, Dhaka
- 7) Eastern Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Dhaka
- 8) A P C Pharmaceuticals, Khulna
- 9) Essential Drug Co. Ltd, Dhaka
- 10) Owenbers Pharmaceuticals, Dhaka
- 11) Islami Pharmaceuticals, Khulna
- 12) Adflame Pharmaceuticals, Dhaka
- 13) B C I Bangladesh Ltd, Dhaka
- 14) B C Laboratories Ltd
- 15) Bengal Techno Chemical Works (Pvt) Ltd
- 16) Pharmaco International Ltd, Dhaka
- 17) Pubali Pharma Industries Ltd, Dhaka
- 18) Peoples Pharma Ltd, Dhaka
- 19) Medicart Laboratories Ltd
- 20) Darshana Pharmaceuticals, Syedpur
- 21) Purbadesh Chemist Ltd, Comilla
- 22) Polichem Lab. Ltd, Dhaka
- 23) Niramoy Pharmaceutical Ltd, Dhaka
- 24) Dolphin Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Dhaka
- 25) Care Pharma Ltd, Dhaka
- 26) Ziaca Pharma Ltd, Dhaka
- 27) Desh Pharma (Pvt) Ltd, Dhaka
- 28) Globe Chemical Industries, Dhaka
- 29) Tropical Pharmaceuticals, Dhaka
- 30) Tasmir Lab. Ltd, Dhaka
- 31) Green Laboratories, Chandpur
- 32) Chemist Laboratories Ltd, Barisal
- 33) Mrs Manaraj Pharmaceuticals, Narayanganj
- 34) Sheba Chemical Inds, Dhaka
- 35) Mig Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Bogra
- 36) Seema Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Dhaka
- 37) Millat Pharmaceutical Ltd, Dhaka
- 38) Sky Lab, Comilla
- 39) Rebak Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Dhaka
- 40) Scientific Drug Industries Ltd, Dhaka
- 41) City Chemical Pharma, Dhaka
- 42) Hope Pharma, Bhalrab
- 43) Reza Chemical Inds Ltd, Dhaka
- 44) Rexa Pharma, Dhaka
- 45) Refco Lab Ltd, Barisal

There are 291 government licensed private clinics in the country. Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

In a written reply to a question from Dr A K M Asjad (Jamaat, Rajbari), the Health Minister said there were 37 private clinics beyond the government's approval. Steps have been taken against these clinics under the Private Clinics and Laboratories Act, 1982.

UN to help

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country were benefited from it. UNDP Administrator Speth described the objectives of his organisation's programmes in Bangladesh in human resources development, protection of environment and natural resource base.

He appreciated the emergence of democratic practices in the country saying, "We'll do everything to support the process."

Replying to a question, he said his organisation might help Bangladesh to face the adverse impact of the Parakka Barrage, provided the government sought help from the UNDP.

However, he noted that access to water share was an inalienable right not only of Bangladesh but all lower riparian countries.

Dr Sadik of the UNFPA congratulated Bangladesh for its success in the family planning programmes but added that the country's achievement in mother and infant mortality was not that satisfactory.

"These two challenges should be addressed on priority basis", she suggested.

IFAD President Fawzi H Al-Sultan said his organisation supported the administrative structure reforms programme initiated by the government.

He underlined the need for increased production and growth at the grassroots level.



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina talking to the former Indian Minister of External Affairs I K Gujral when the latter called on her at her Minto Road residence yesterday.

Non-govt pry teachers meet Hasina

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for eradicating illiteracy from the country to save the nation from exploitation, reports UNB.

Hasina also president of the Awami League, made the call during a meeting with leaders of non-governmental Primary Teachers' Association at 29 Minto Road.

Association president Major (Rtd) Assaduzzaman and secretary general Mansur Ali apprised Hasina of their 4-point demands and sought her help in realising the demands. Hasina assured that she would do her best to assuage their grievances.

Govt college teachers' strike from May 2

Government college teachers will go for an indefinite strike from May 2 to press home their various demands, reports UNB. They will even boycott all the examinations of 1994, including the HSC examination, as part of their action programme.

Tension in JU

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Oikya (GCO) and the Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) have called a strike on the campus today in protest of the incident.

Two separate dialogues initiated by the university Vice-Chancellor Professor Abul Hossain and local MP Niamatullah Sabu to ease tensions between the two JCD factions ended in futility.

The Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) has blamed the vice-chancellor for the situation, saying that the reluctance of the VC and the government caused the incidents.

However, the JUTA leaders yesterday withdrew their programme of boycotting the VC and decided in favour of attending the emergency Syndicate meeting.

Clinton okays UN proposal for Bosnia air strikes

WASHINGTON, Feb 8: President Clinton, responding to the deadliest attack against civilians in Bosnia's civil war, Monday backed a UN request for NATO to prepare retaliatory air strikes around Sarajevo if needed and warned anew against the alliance making "empty threats," reports Reuter.

But the endorsement came against the backdrop of numerous previous threats that were never acted upon and amid continued signs of US military reluctance to be drawn into a situation where the value of air power was limited.

Defence Secretary William Perry said the administration this week will propose concrete actions on Bosnia, possible including air strikes, that could go beyond the UN request.

But he conceded to Pentagon reporters that US and allied air power has limitations in ending the bloody war in former Yugoslavia and will be proposed only if it can advance the lagging peace process among Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

"By Wednesday, we will be telling the world what we believe in this area," Perry said. "We will have a concrete set of proposals about how to deal with the problem."

Hosokawa linked with graft!

TOKYO, Feb 8: A scandal-linked trucking magnate made repairs worth 1 billion yen (dhs 9.2 million) to a mansion owned by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's family, an influential magazine says in its latest issue, reports AP.

Hosokawa has won high public approval ratings largely because of his clean image and support for political reforms after the 38-year rule of the corruption-plagued Liberal Democrats.

But the respected monthly Bungei Shunju in its March issue, to go on sale Thursday, accuses Hosokawa of receiving the same kind of favours from wealthy businessmen that his predecessors were criticised for.

Pakistan imposes taxes on landlords

ISLAMABAD, Feb 8: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government has passed a law that imposes taxes for the first time on the country's rich landowners, reports AP.

Though the tax is small, the International Monetary Fund and other financial institutions saw the measure as a key test of whether Bhutto's government was serious about economic reform.

The IMF wanted to see the new tax in place before deciding later this month whether to approve dhs 1.3 billion in fresh loans to Pakistan.

"The IMF should be satisfied," said Parliamentary Secretary Shah Mahmood Qureshi after the measure passed in Parliament on Monday night by a vote of 72-42.

It was the first bill passed by Bhutto's coalition government since. It came to power almost four months ago.

Justice Khan

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Nationalist Party and the Forum and he was condemned as a forum member," said Justice Khan, while talking to newsmen at his Supreme Court chamber. "But no statement was made against the Bar Association resolution."

However, Justice Khan, himself a former President of the SC Bar and Law minister, questioned under what authority and capacity had Golam Mahub called yesterday's meeting of the Bar. "As Bar president, if he is harassed by some shopkeepers in Patuati can he just call a meeting to condemn it," he posed.

Wadud Khandaker also concurred and pointed out that the Forum meeting strongly condemned the personal role of Golam Mahub, who was elected as a forum nominee, after becoming the Bar president.

"I have not done anything for which they (the association) can expel me. There is no cogent reason because I have not said anything about the activities of the SC Bar Association," he said.

Asked if Golam Mahub, as the joint convener of the Forum, could create a split in the forum, he said "He is no factor to create a rift in the Forum as it is based on solid foundations."

On their comments about the Attorney General, Justice Khan said:

"Personally I am absolutely unconcerned about the issue, although I don't deny that I signed the resolution."

Asked if he felt that the Attorney General should be removed, Wadud Khandaker said "It is not my headache whether the Attorney General is retained or removed."

However, he added that the Attorney General, as the government's chief law officer, cannot go on issuing statements which embarrass the government.

About his role during the anti-autocracy movement, Justice Khan, also a former member of Parliament, put the record straight by pointing out that he was jailed by the Ershad regime in 1986, along with Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder and Dr. Mosharraf Hossain — on the eve of the controversial parliamentary elections — for defying a ban and campaigning countrywide against those elections, which were boycotted by the BNP.

The Midnight File

Bosnia urges US to launch air strikes against Serbs

WASHINGTON, Feb 8: Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic today appealed to the United States to launch air attacks against Serbian gun positions in the hills surrounding besieged Sarajevo. "Militarily you can do a lot. You can lift the siege of Sarajevo in a few hours," Ganic said on NBC Television's Today Show. Speaking from Sarajevo, Ganic said that unless the United States launches air raids the siege will not be lifted, reports Reuter.

Havel receives Indira Gandhi Prize

NEW DELHI, Feb 8: Czech President Vaclav Havel today received the 1993 Indira Gandhi Prize for peace, disarmament and development, calling it a tribute to the movement that ousted his country's Marxist regime in 1989. "I am moved and deeply honoured to be receiving the Indira Gandhi Prize today," Havel said in a speech here after accepting the award instituted in the memory of the late Indian premier, slain in 1984, reports AFP.

JS debate on judges

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allegation amounting to contempt against either the President of the country or a judge of the Supreme Court.

After Akhtaruzzaman had finished his speech, Tofael Ahmed of the Awami League (AL) took the floor to express the Opposition's concern over the government's appointment of judges without consultation with the Chief Justice.

Demanding discussion on an adjournment motion on the issue, already submitted by the Opposition members, Tofael Ahmed alleged that the government was taking a partisan approach in appointing the judges.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, who was presiding over the session, adjourned the House at 5:50 pm to resume again at 4:30 this afternoon.

Before adjourning the House, the Deputy Speaker said all notices regarding the issue would be disposed of on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Barrister Maudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party (JP), at a hurriedly called news conference at his Parliament chamber, alleged that the inefficiency of the government and infighting among the BNP leaders were the causes of the 'Constitutional crisis' arising out of the recent appointment of judges.

"Unless the government is ready to resolve the issue the way the Bar Council leaders have been demanding, it would deepen the constitutional crisis," Maudud observed.

Char dwellers fear fresh violence in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Feb 8: Hundreds of people of Char Zahiruddin under Tazumuddin Thana of Bhola and Chhargazaria under Ramgati Thana of Laxmipur district are passing nights fearing fresh attacks by armed forces.

During renewed clashes and looting in the last two days more than 100 people and at least seven police personnel were injured. About 500 people were rendered homeless and more than 100 houses ransacked and set on fire.

Meantime, following yesterday's gunbattle at Shajahanpur Bazar of Char Zahiruddin the DC, SP, TNO, and Magistrates of Bhola and Laxmipur districts met near Selimpur Bazar this afternoon and decided to set up a combined police camp at the border area withdrawing the previous two camps there.

China to provide Tk 21cr credit

China will provide 21 crore Taka, equivalent to 30 million yuan, as interest-free credit to Bangladesh under a protocol signed here yesterday, reports UNB.

The credit fund will be used for establishing medium or small size industries in Bangladesh under joint venture programmes.

About nine industrial units will be set up with the credit, said an official handout.

The protocol was signed by joint chief of Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Finance Ministry A F M Alamgir and Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Zhang Xu Jiang on behalf of their respective governments.

ALPP meet

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an Awami League leader told The Daily Star.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas addressed the Jatiya Sangsad on the opening day of its 13th session last Saturday. MPs from both Treasury and Opposition benches are scheduled to speak for 20 hours on the motion for a vote of thanks to the President for his speech.

Beginning at 3:30 pm yesterday, the meeting of the AL parliamentary party lasted an hour.

It also termed the comments published in a daily newspaper on Tuesday about the Chief Justice as "untrue, motivated" and condemned the comments as the meeting felt that it was made at the behest of vested interest groups.

In another resolution, the association demanded the resignation of the Information Minister while condemning his reported comments about the Chief Justice in Parliament recently.

3 to die for killing Ghulam Haider Wyne

MULTAN, Pakistan, Feb 8: A Pakistani special court here today sentenced to death three men on the charge of killing a former provincial Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wyne, court officials said, reports AFP.

Wyne, a leader of opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML), which is led by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was shot dead in September during the run-up to the general election held in October.

Judge Mohammad Sharif found the three — Iqbal Malooka, Umar Hayat Malooka and Zaman Malooka — guilty of murdering Wyne in his home constituency of Mian Channu in South Punjab.

SAARC

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tors would have no impact on economic cooperation, he observed.

He also said the final goal of the SAARC Chamber is to set up a SAARC Common Market and all efforts would now be directed towards achieving this objective. Inam also expressed optimism that the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) would prove to be a milestone in the joint march of the member-countries towards progress and prosperity.

The SAPTA would also provide the framework and environment necessary for increased trade within the region. The SAARC Chamber will work to realise the potentials created by the SAPTA. SM Inam said the Chamber would organise seminars in each member-country to identify the problems that might crop up in implementing the SAPTA. After national seminars, a regional seminar would be held in Kathmandu to sum up the recommendations with regard to SAPTA, he pointed out.

Shippers

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sociation and to rename it as the SAARC federation of shippers.

The chairman of the Pakistan Shippers Council, Abdul Rashid Jannohammad, speaking on the occasion, called for closer and stronger cooperation among the shippers of the region to meet the demands of the markets economically and efficiently.

In a message, M Rahmatullah, chief, Transport, Communication and Tourism Division, ESCAP, Bangkok said, there is need for human resource development in the transport sector.