

JS debate on new judges

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relating to such appointments had been violated and said the controversy has almost come to an end following the Prime Minister's timely intervention.

Professor Chowdhury observed that the Speaker could suspend the discussion until Thursday (today).

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abul Kalam Azad then stood to express his disagreement with the views of the Deputy Leader of the House and demanded an immediate discussion.

Azad, referring to the Information Minister's statement in the House, made on Saturday, said the minister had attacked the Chief Justice's role and his colleagues in the Opposition had submitted notices for discussion on the said remarks.

Later, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah stood to inform the House that a fresh list of nine persons has already been prepared, in consultation with the Chief Justice, for appointing them as additional judges and the Chief Justice is supposed to administer the oaths to them Thursday morning.

The works minister also reminded the House that it was a BNP government, headed by late President Ziaur Rahman, which had introduced the provision for consultation between the Chief Justice and the President in the latter's exercise of control over the persons employed in the judicial service, especially in the cases of their posting, promotion and discipline. On the other hand, it was the AL which had deleted the constitutional provision for making appointments of the judges after prior consultation with the Chief Justice.

Turning to the Jatiya Party (JP), the works minister said during the Ershad regime the Chief Justice was never consulted. "Rather, one Chief Justice had come to know about his own dismissal while he was in the court room," Rafiq pointed out.

JP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed took the floor to protest the Works Minister's remarks, saying Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain had lost his job during the Martial Law regime of General Ershad. "The JP had nothing to do with his dismissal because the

party was yet to be born at the time," Moudud retorted.

Mohammad Nasim, Opposition Chief Whip, echoing Moudud's views, told the House that his party was now ready to restore the original Constitution (1972) of the country for ensuring an independent judiciary.

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"What is important in this regard is whether the persons fulfil the qualifications, laid down in the Constitution, to be judges," the ministers argued.

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A terminal building is being constructed at the city's old Tejgaon Airport for the STOL service on domestic routes. The picture was taken yesterday.

STOL service

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to bring STOL aircraft to Dhaka.

But the companies have declined to bring any aircraft without completion of all the formalities for stating the operation.

"We can bring the aircraft at seven days' notice but the authorities must ensure all the facilities needed for the service," an executive of a licensed company told The Daily Star.

He said the company executives had checked all the proposed airstrips and noticed lack of necessary facilities.

"We are not planning to open a Dhaka-Chittagong bus service. It is a highly sophisticated sector of transport which needs special precautions," the executive said requesting anonymity.

The authorities initially opened Lamonirhat, Barisal, Sameer Nagar in Sylhet, Ishurdi, Comilla and Thakurgaon for STOL service.

The company executive said "We need all the facilities that Biman Bangladesh Airlines has been getting from the CAAB for its domestic operation."

The runway, the radio equipment, security of the aircraft, surveillance system for the passengers, rescue back-up for possible accidents, fire fighting facilities, cleaning of runways are the primary needs for an air service operation.

"We can not take any risk without adequate back-up facilities," he said.

The CAAB has, in the meantime, solved the fuel (jet A-1) problems and conveyed it to the companies.

The companies also questioned why the authorities had selected Tejgaon Airport for STOL services while Biman has been operating from the Kurmitola Airport where all the facilities exist.

"If a transit passenger wants to avail the STOL service he has to go to another airport," one official of another company said.

He said that the minister should intervene to resolve all the problems. He declined to give any tentative date of launching of the operations by saying "We will start soon after the CAAB ensures all the facilities."

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Hanif consolidates lead

From Page 1 Col 4

following a Writ filed with the High Court by the BNP commissioner candidate of Ward No. 59 Abul Ahsan (Nonul) Talukder challenging the cancellation of results of the DU centres by the Election Commission.

As per the Dhaka City Corporation Ordinance, the Election Commission will announce the official results of the DCC polls after completion of re-polling in those three centres at the DU.

Riot police and the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles guarded the 130 polling booths as voters turned up enthusiastically to exercise their right of franchise.

At some centres, the law-enforcing personnel outnumbered the voters while maintaining peace and discipline. Magistrates were deputed at all the centres to ensure free and fair polling.

Police manned barbed-wire barricades on several roads to divert vehicular traffic in the Siddiq Bazar area to allow only the voters into the centres.

At the Meradia Primary School centre, police were seen using loudspeakers to warn against any attempt to rig the polls.

All shops in the area were closed. Seventeen people were arrested from several polling stations under Lalbagh, Kotwali and Mohammadpur thanas for violating election rules. They were given punishments after summary trials. Besides, Mohammadpur Police also detained three people after recovering three live crackers from their possession. They were arrested from near the Shia Mosque of Mohammadpur.

Repolling was held at the following centres: Centre 216 at Haji Ainunnessa Hafizia Islamia Madrassah, Meradia and centres 217 and 218 at the Meradia Government Primary School, in Ward 26, under Sabujbagh Thana; centre 387 and 388 of Ward-46, under Mohammadpur Thana; centre 399 at the Gajmahal Government Primary School of Ward 48 under Dhanmondi Thana; centres 509 and 510 at the Lalbagh Community Centre; centres 513 and 514 at the Alhaj Anwar Hossain Government Primary School; centre 515 and 516 at the Lalbagh Government Primary School, Jagannath Saha Road of Ward-60; centres 524 and 525 at the Azimpur Girls' High School, centres 528 at Little Angels, Azimpur of Ward-62; centres 546 and 547 at the Haji Ibrahim Ali Government Primary School, Islambagh of Ward-65; centres 584 and 585 at the Siddiq Bazar Community Centre, Kazi Alauddin Road, centre 586 at Siddiq Bazar Primary School of Ward-70 under Kotwali Thana; centre 641 at the Rakanpur Girls' Primary School of Ward-78 under Sutrapur Thana; and centres 729, 730, 736 and 737 at the Hajera High School, Jurain of Ward-90 under Demra Thana.

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Interview with Saifur

From Page 1 Col 4

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The economic issue was not a factor in the 4,500 union council polls, 72 municipal elections, the dozen or so parliamentary bye-elections and in the city corporations polls in Khulna, Rajshahi and Chittagong held since the BNP government took over, he contended.

The Finance Minister then went on to ask: "Now, what had gone wrong here (in Dhaka) during the city corporation elections?"

He identified the primary reasons as lack of a coordinated effort on the part of the people who were entrusted with the election campaign to support the mayoral candidate.

He also agreed with the assessment made by the BNP's mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas himself at the parliamentary party meeting on Tuesday, that the debacle was due to organisational weaknesses; people who worked for the commissioner candidates did not work for the mayoral candidate; the voting hours being 7 to 3 pm instead of 8 to 4 pm; a poor turnout at the Sher-e-Bangla nagar meeting before the election and because of the lack of cooperation from people who were involved in the campaigning.

None of the assessments made at Tuesday's meeting, he noted, mentioned anything about the reform programmes being a contributing factor. "But now the reforms are being made a scapegoat to put back the programme."

There are some people, he said, who have all along opposed the reform process because the rent-seeking elements are no longer there in the economy as a result of the reforms. Rahman added that a "concerted action by certain people who oppose the reforms" is on to slow down the process.

Responding to criticisms that the retrenchment initia-

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Army Service Core to be modernised, says Khaleda

KHULNA, Feb 9 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today all efforts would be made to modernise the Army Service Core (ASC) and asked the members of the core to dedicate themselves to the service of the nation, reports BSS.

Addressing the commanders and senior officers of the ASC at the Jahanabad Cantonment here, she said each member of the army is pledged-bound to the nation and urged them to discharge their duties perfectly to build a beautiful country.

Earlier, the Prime Minister addressed the "darbar" of the Army Service Core and said the main responsibility of the army is to safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty.

But the members of the army, she said, are also working shoulder to shoulder with the commonman and standing by their side in time of crisis and disasters.

Oaths to judges

From Page 1 Col 8

with the Chief Justice regarding the appointments and concerning the background of two of the nominees announced originally.

Two of the new promotees to the Bench in the fresh list are Hamidul Huq (District Judge, Barisal) and Ruhul Amin (District Judge, Jessore).

The seven other judges are: Mohammad Asaduzzaman, Bar-at-Law, Mohammad Nurul Islam, Solicitor (Joint Secretary), Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Kazi AT Monowaruddin, Bar-at-Law, Mohammad Fazul Haque, Bar-at-Law, M Bazlur Rahman Talukdar, Advocate, Supreme Court, Syed Amirul Islam, Bar-at-Law, and Mohammad Tofazzal Islam, Bar-at-Law.

According to informed sources, the revised list of judges which was announced yesterday was earlier settled on Sunday last during a meeting between the Chief Justice and a cabinet minister and government emissary Justice T H Khan. On the basis of that settlement the meeting between the President and the Chief Justice took place on Monday. And this was followed by a Supreme Court Bar Association delegation calling on the President and the Prime Minister separately, paving the way for a resolution of the crisis.

CHITTAGONG, Feb 9: Jatiya Party this afternoon could not hold its scheduled meeting on the Hathazari College campus as the district administration imposed Section 144 there fearing outbreak of violence.

Earlier both the JP and the BNP called party meetings at the same venue at 3:00 pm today.

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The Finance Minister then went on to ask: "Now, what had gone wrong here (in Dhaka) during the city corporation elections?"

He identified the primary reasons as lack of a coordinated effort on the part of the people who were entrusted with the election campaign to support the mayoral candidate.

He also agreed with the assessment made by the BNP's mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas himself at the parliamentary party meeting on Tuesday, that the debacle was due to organisational weaknesses; people who worked for the commissioner candidates did not work for the mayoral candidate; the voting hours being 7 to 3 pm instead of 8 to 4 pm; a poor turnout at the Sher-e-Bangla nagar meeting before the election and because of the lack of cooperation from people who were involved in the campaigning.

None of the assessments made at Tuesday's meeting, he noted, mentioned anything about the reform programmes being a contributing factor. "But now the reforms are being made a scapegoat to put back the programme."

There are some people, he said, who have all along opposed the reform process because the rent-seeking elements are no longer there in the economy as a result of the reforms. Rahman added that a "concerted action by certain people who oppose the reforms" is on to slow down the process.

Responding to criticisms that the retrenchment initia-

party was yet to be born at the time," Moudud retorted.

Mohammad Nasim, Opposition Chief Whip, echoing Moudud's views, told the House that his party was now ready to restore the original Constitution (1972) of the country for ensuring an independent judiciary.

Salauddin Kader Chowdhury of the NDP, referring to newspaper reports that the lawyers had asked the Chief Justice not to administer oaths to the newly-appointed judges, said the nation wanted "rule of law, not the rule of lawyers."

Earlier, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, while replying to the Opposition criticism that the BNP had appointed their own men as judges, said it was not important who had been appointed.

"What is important in this regard is whether the persons fulfil the qualifications, laid down in the Constitution, to be judges," the ministers argued.

Others who took part in the deliberations included Rashed Khan Menon, Suranjit Gengupta, Shahjahan Siraj, Sheikh Anser Ali, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Shudhangshu Shekhar Halder.

After the long discussion was over, the Speaker told the House that he needed the opinion of the JS Business Advisory Committee to decide whether a discussion on the matter was necessary.

The advisory committee meeting is scheduled for Friday.

However, the Chair adjourned the sitting, before taking up yesterday's order of the day, at 9 pm to resume again at 4:30 this afternoon.

The Midnight File

Italy for diplomatic drive to end war in Somalia

ROME, Feb 9: Italy said on Tuesday the United Nations mission in Somalia faced collapse and called for a diplomatic drive before Western troops pull out at the end of March to prevent all-out clan war. Defence Minister Fabio Fabbri also said Italy was sending a naval task force to Somalia and putting warplanes on standby to cover the withdrawal of its own troops, reports Reuter.

Poll says Americans support air strikes against Serbs

WASHINGTON, Feb 9: A poll said Wednesday that most Americans would support allied air strikes against Serb forces attacking Sarajevo and nearly half would support sending ground troops to try to stop the fighting in former Yugoslavia. The ABC News poll was released before a UN commander in the embattled Bosnian capital said Serbs agreed to withdraw their heavy weapons from around the city and put them under UN monitoring, reports AP.

Anti-Terrorism Law

723 held in 6 months, Minister tells JS

By Staff Correspondent

1, 1993 to the first week of February 1994.

BDR vs BSF

The Home Minister said that during the year 1993, Bangladesh Rifles, BDR, and the Indian border security forces, BSF, had clashed twelve times in different sectors of the frontier.

He did not elaborate as there was no supplementary questions relating to this matter.

Police Recruitment

In reply to a question, the minister said that since January 1, 1991, some 598 Sub-Inspectors and 6,999 constables have been recruited in the Police Department.

Thirty-eight Assistant Police Supers were also recruited during the period.

Wine traders

Abdul Matin Chowdhury said in reply to another question that there are 330 licensed wine shops in the country.

Minister tells JS

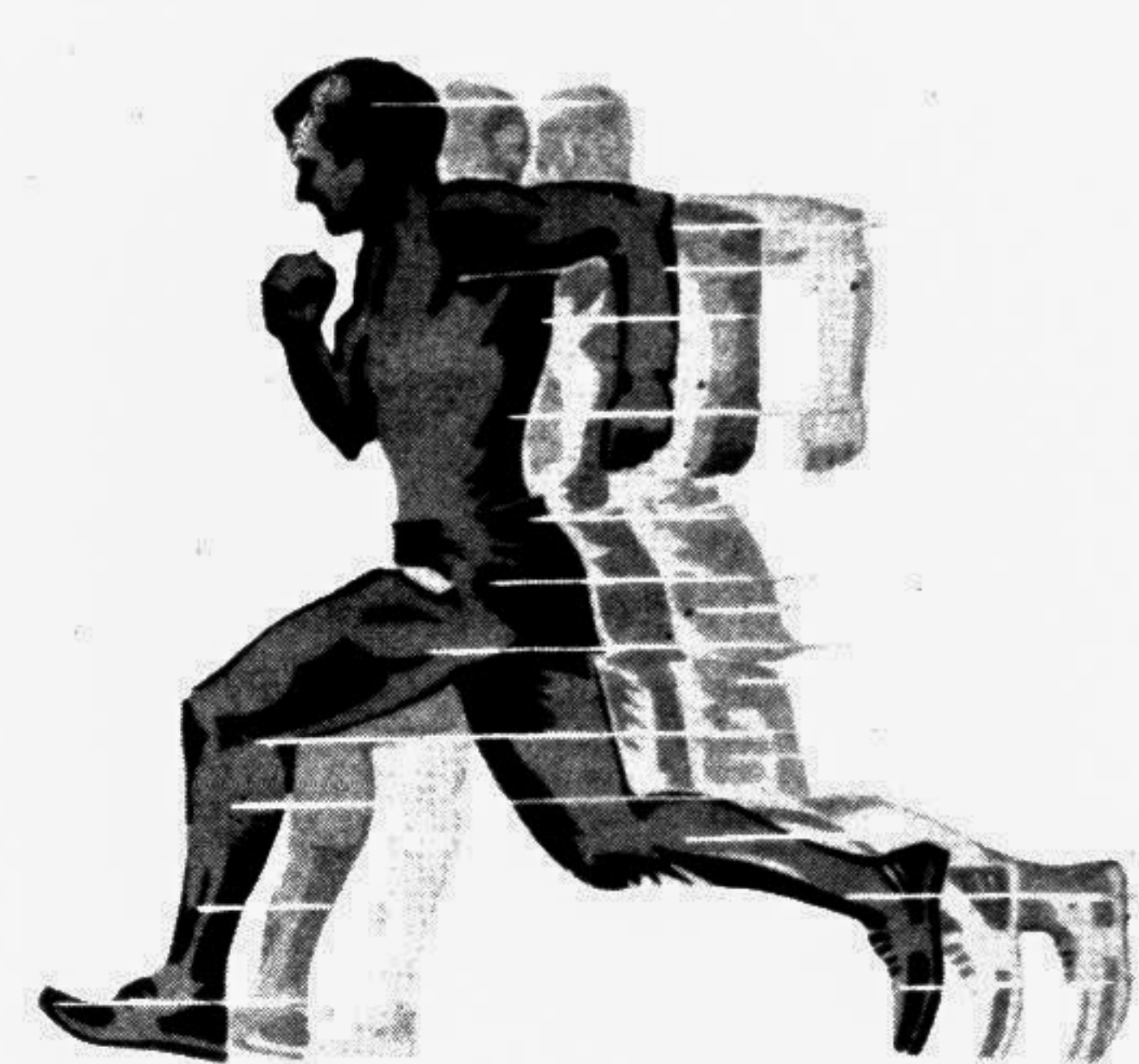
2938 prostitutes held in '93

By Staff Correspondent

Some 2,938 floating prostitutes were arrested from in and around the Dhaka city during 1993, of which 2,913 were put on trial and punished, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury informed Parliament yesterday.

Accident

Replying to a question from Niamatullah (Dhaka-12), Matin Chowdhury said, 177 accidents had occurred on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway from January



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4 more branches will be opened soon at Islampur (Dhaka), Pahartali (Chittagong), Bhola and Jhalokathi.

National Bank Ltd.
A Bank for performance with potential

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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