



## Bill in JS on private cos' service terms

A bill seeking to bring the private companies under the purview of law in matters of employment and payment was introduced in Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

The Private Companies (Officers and Employees) Service Terms and Conditions Bill, 1994, introduced by Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury of the NDP, was referred to the Standing Committee for scrutiny.

Explaining the objectives of the bill, Salahuddin said owners of private companies frequently dismiss officers and workers at their whims in the absence of service terms and conditions for them. Many companies do not even issue appointment letters to employees and workers.

Under the situation, thousands of workers and employees of private companies were being deprived of their legitimate dues. The bill was intended to protect the interest of such employees and workers, he added.

Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam, however, raised objection to the introduction of the bill. He argued that the bill was inadequate. The government will soon come up with a comprehensive bill recasting the old Companies Act which will take care of the interest of employees and workers of private companies.

He requested Salahuddin to withdraw the bill in view of his assurance. But the Speaker intervened and referred the bill to the Standing Committee for scrutiny.

Consideration of two more private members' bills was deferred till next Thursday as the Minister in charge of Law Ministry in Parliament Rafiqul Islam Mia pleaded that he was not equipped with adequate briefing on the subject. Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz was absent because of his illness.

Both the bills came to the House after scrutiny by the Standing Committee.

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1993 was introduced by Prof Rafiqul Islam of the Awami League. He proposed higher penalty for neglecting verdict of the civil court in upholding the image and prestige of such court.

The second bill, the Muslim Family Laws (Amendment) Bill 1993, was introduced by treasury bench member Begum Farida Rahman.

In her bill, Begum Rahman proposed higher punishment to men for harassment of women.

Earlier, the bill seeking to set up a separate secretariat for Parliament was placed in the House with minor amendments by Chairman of the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions Abdur Rah Chowdhury (BNP).

In his report, Chowdhury said the bill was introduced in the House after examination and scrutiny.

The Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat Bill brought last year by Awami League member Prof Rafiqul Islam was sent to the Standing Committee on December 2.

The House is expected to take up the bill for consideration on the next private members' day on Thursday.

parliamentary norms and practices in making any remarks.

"However, such remarks from Suranjit are not unusual. Because Suranjit is not getting any facilities from the present government as he got from the past regimes," he said.

An enraged Suranjit quipped, "I never hankered after any facilities from any government."

Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim and Azizur Rahman of the AL also demanded a ruling from the chair forming a probe body.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah refuted the charges and said the Opposition was trying to reap political benefits from the issue.

Tara honestly wanted to help the team. If he had any bad intentions he would not have involved the Superintendent Engineer, he added.

He said that if the Opposition parties do not behave responsibly the country would not get a clean and accountable government.

The Deputy Speaker started the order of the day after nearly an hour of the unscheduled debate.

11 killed  
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ties of these two victims were not known.

A motor cyclist was killed at around 11:30 am when a speeding minibus ran over him at Demra. The victim was identified as Harun ar-Rashid.

At Pallabi in the city, a minor boy Rubel, 5, died when a truck knocked him down.

A milkman was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Pagla. The body of the victim Sohel, 14, was sent to the Narayanganj Sadar Hospital.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent reports: two persons died in two road mishaps in the district yesterday.

Two persons were killed when a passenger bus fell into a ditch while overtaking another bus. The accident near the Alkhabo bridge at Rupganj also left 20 passengers injured.

In Tangail, at least two persons were killed and some 25 others injured when a passenger bus collided with a truck near the Pongli bridge on the Tangail Mymensingh highway.

One of the deceased was identified as Kalam, 15. Most of the injured were sent to the Tangail Sadar Hospital while two others to the DMCH.

Khaleda  
From Page 1 Col 8

nessmen and investors interested in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh seeks to further develop bilateral relations with Japan as a partner in progress.

Recently, a significant interest has been noticed among Japanese investors in the area of joint investment in Bangladesh.



Women bank employees demonstrating yesterday in Bombay as part of a one-day strike observed all over India protesting the government's move to shut down loss-making branches of state-owned banks. — AFP photo

## 4 training centres for college teachers next yr

The government will set up four training institutes for college teachers in the next fiscal year, reports UNB.

A high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Dhaka yesterday afternoon also decided to set up five English language centres in the divisional headquarters, official said.

The institutes and centres will be aimed at improving the teaching standard in higher education and English language education in the country, they said.

Besides, a college, four high schools, a girls' school and a madrasah in each thana of the country will be improved under different development projects during the current fiscal.

The meeting reviewed different projects under the current Annual Development Programme (ADP). Taka 358.88 crore has been allocated for 56 projects in the fiscal year and Taka 144.31 crore has already been spent in the first seven months (July-January).

Solarz may become envoy  
NEW YORK, Feb 17: Former Congressman Stephen Solarz has confirmed that he has been offered the ambassadorial post to India, reports PTI.

The former Jewish Congressman from Brooklyn, New York, has confirmed the offer in a telephonic interview from Singapore to the India Times, putting an end to the confusion over the appointment to the post in New Delhi.

The White House will forward the name to the US Congress members involved with interviewing candidates next week, the newspaper quoted Solarz as having said.

Solarz, considered an expert on South Asia affairs.

Saifur  
From page 1 Col 5

past three years, foreign aid still constitutes 67 per cent of the total outlay.

Referring to the changed global situation, he said it is becoming increasingly difficult to get huge foreign aid in the coming years. Under the situation, the country must gear up promotion of internal savings, reduce inefficiency and wastage to preserve resources for investment and job opportunities.

The Finance Minister referred to the conditionalities of the donors for various development projects with regard to environment protection and rehabilitation and said in the Bangladesh context such conditionalities only delay implementation of the projects.

Views expressed in the meeting by other ministers were, however, not disclosed in the official handout.

IMF representative John Hicklin, who was present at the meeting, lauded achievements of the government in the macro-economic stabilisation process through low inflation, strong balance of payments, impressive progress in food production and new export industries.

Now the government needs to achieve impressive progress in the micro-economic sectors and for this the role of the line ministries is the prime factor, Hicklin was quoted to have told the meeting.

He said though the seven South Asian (SAARC) countries are being run by different types of governments, their tremendous achievements in economic growth were due to the realistic, proper and liberalised economic policies pursued by the respective governments.

If the countries like Thailand and Indonesia can achieve spectacular successes in economic growth, there is no reason why Bangladesh could not do so, the IMF representative observed.

150 houses gutted in Ctg  
From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 17: At least 150 thatched houses including an office of the Red Crescent were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out near Jhaulata Bazar this morning.

The loss of property in the fire which originated from an electric short-circuit was estimated at about Tk ten lakh, fire service sources said.

Fire service personnel fought the blaze for about two hours from 6:30 am and brought it under control.

UNB adds: Several other fire incidents also occurred today at different parts in the city including the Export Promotion Zone, Cantonment Area, Hathazari Link Road and Pahartali Railway Workshop Godown. Fire Service sources said.

Half-day hartal observed in Daulatpur  
From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 17: Students of the Daulatpur Day-Night College enforced a half-day hartal at Daulatpur today.

The agitated students were demanding publication of the BA examination results.

Rajshahi University is withholding the results of nineteen centres, including that of the college, for unknown reasons, according to the students.

During the hartal period, all long-route coach services remained suspended. However, no untoward incident was reported.

Meanwhile, the students handed over a memorandum to the DC today. They also brought out a procession in the city and held a press conference at the Khulna Press Club in the evening demanding the publication of the results immediately.

Special police force has been deployed on the college campus.

Telegraph  
From Page 1 Col 7

country's entire newspaper world by total surprise.

In an announcement, which was printed in both Bangla and English — on the front and back pages of the daily respectively, The Telegraph authorities said the newspaper would cease to be published from Thursday because of 'insurmountable and unbearable financial crisis'. The notice also promised to settle all accounts of the employees under existing rules.

First published on January 12, 1992, the newspaper was a sister publication of the Inqilab Enterprise and Publications Limited.

This is for the first time that a newspaper was closed down in this country in such abrupt and precipitate manner.

These industries were now using gas for nearly 24 hours a day instead of the usual eight hours.

Also, some of the gas-dependent installations at the Ghorasal and Ashuganj power stations, which were earlier shut for maintenance, were now in operation, the officials said.

Besides, pilferage of gas in the capital has also increased recently taking away a 'good' portion of the supply, said a senior official of the Titas Gas Company. He declined to be named.

As the gas supply was disrupted, in many areas of the city, people could not prepare their iftar and Sehri meals. Many had to buy their meals from the city restaurants.

Explaining the situation, Titas Gas officials pointed out that the 100 million CFT capacity Demra CGS has apparently failed to meet the increased demand during the month of Ramadan.

However, they could not say when the gas supply position was going to improve.

This man, claiming himself to be a freedom fighter, was seen begging alms in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Indian bank employees observe strike

NEW DELHI, Feb 17: Tens of thousands of bank employees went on strike across India today to protest privatisation in the industry, virtually crippling the banking sector, union spokesmen said, reports AFP.

Employees affiliated to powerful Communist unions walked out of scores of state-owned banks and staged noisy demonstrations in the capital. M K Pandey of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) said.

"The strike is in effect all over the country," he said "several thousands are on strike".

A spokesman for the All India Bank Employees' Association, the largest union in the banking sector, said an estimated 600,000 employees were expected to join the one-day strike, paralysing the industry throughout the country.

## Tk 21.89 cr Shilpa Bank loan for 7 projects

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank has sanctioned a loan of Taka 21.89 crore for seven industrial projects including five new ones, according to a bank press release here last night, reports BSS.

The sanction was given at a meeting of the board of directors of the bank held here Wednesday with its Chairman A T M Alamgir, MP in the chair.

The five new industrial projects would create job opportunity for 810 people and they would contribute to the local products (GDP) worth Taka 13 crore annually. Of them, three projects during their life time are expected to earn foreign exchange equivalent to Taka 108 crore.

Chinese FM due in city Feb 24  
Qian Qichen, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister of China, will pay a four-day visit to Bangladesh beginning February 24, reports UNB.

Foreign Secretary Mufleh Rahman Osmany told newsmen here yesterday that the visit would provide an opportunity for the two countries to discuss fresh avenues towards further consolidating the friendly ties between Dhaka and Beijing.

EC accepts 5 nominations for Magura seat  
Nomination papers of five candidates for the vacant seat of Magura-2 constituency have been accepted by the Election Commission after scrutiny yesterday, reports BSS.

The candidates, whose nomination papers have been accepted, are Kazi Salimul Haq of BNP, M Shafiquzzaman of Awami League, Advocate Nitai Roy Chowdhury of Jatiya Party, Golam Akbar Hossain of Jamaat-e-Islami and Moulavi Mahbubur Rahman of Islami Oikya Jote.

The last date for withdrawal of candidature is February 26.

Hearing of writ  
From Page 1 Col 3

Later, another commissioner candidate of the Ward, Khwaja Habibullah, appealed to the court to withdraw the stay order.

The DCC mayor-elect Mohammad Hanif said 89 elected commissioners cannot take their oaths until the Election Commission declares them elected after consolidating the results of all the polling centres. The court yesterday included Mohammad Hanif as a party against the writ since he was also affected by the court's stay order.

The hearing began at 10:30 in the morning in a packed courtroom and continued till 3:15 in the afternoon with a break of two and a half hours from 11:30.

Hundreds of lawyers and visitors greeted Mohammad Hanif who was present in the court during the second session of the hearing.

Kazi Golam Mahub, while arguing for petitioner Abul Ahsan Talukder, said polling at the three DU centres was held peacefully. The presiding officers of the centres prepared the results and sent those to the Returning Officer as per rule, he said claiming the Election Commission did not have any powers to cancel the results and hold fresh polling.

Advocate Mahub prayed for an extension of time for the hearing.

However, K S Nabi, Bar-at-Law, arguing in favour of Mohammad Hanif and Khwaja Habibullah, said no extension of time could be granted because the mayor and commissioners elect were not being able to take their oaths of office due to the court's stay order.

Advocate Ahmed Hossain appeared for the Election Commission.

## The Midnight File

### Serbs start major withdrawal of heavy guns

SARAJEVO, Feb 17: The United Nations said today that Bosnian Serbs have started a major withdrawal of heavy guns around Sarajevo in compliance with a NATO ultimatum. "We have news of a very significant withdrawal of Bosnian Serb forces off the hills around Sarajevo. We are talking about convoys of equipment moving off the hills," said Bill Aikman, spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo, reports Reuters.

### Ballistics experts in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Feb 17: A team of 14 UN ballistics experts arrived here today to inspect a dozen industrial sites as part of the UN long-term monitoring of Baghdad's weapons programmes. "We will be doing a preliminary survey for the installation of different kinds of sensors," the head of the team, Frenchman Patrice Palanque, told reporters upon arrival. He did not explain what kind of sensors would be used, reports AFP.

### Yadav, Silvera join Rao cabinet

NEW DELHI, Feb 17: Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, who joined Congress (I) in the nick of time during the last no-confidence motion against the Rao government, and Dr C Silvera were today sworn-in as union ministers in a minor expansion of the council of ministers, reports PTI.

Yadav has been given the cabinet rank with Chemicals and Fertilisers portfolio and Dr Silvera has been made Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare. Dr Silvera is the first union minister from the north-eastern state of Mizoram.

Yadav and Dr Silvera were sworn-in by the President Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma at a simple ceremony in Rashtrapathi Bhavan.

### Agga Khan to address MIT commencement

The Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, will be the commencement speaker at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on May 27.

The announcement was recently made by MIT President Charles M Vest, according to a press release last night.

Vest said, "The Aga Khan stands as a unique figure on the international scene today. Through private philanthropy, he has enabled the very poor in Asia and Africa to enhance their lives. These efforts are taking place in the areas of primary health care, education, housing, and social and economic development. In this role, he upholds Islamic culture and values while building bridges between the western and Muslim societies — exemplified by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT and Harvard."

"His commitment to using modern resources for the betterment of his people, and his deep concern for their welfare, make him a fitting role model for those whose own careers will have similar potential."

### BSS regrets

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follow the proceedings properly as pandemonium was prevailing in the House at that time on February 14, the agency added.

Meanwhile BSS adds: Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim yesterday informed Parliament that the BSS had "distorted with malafide intention" the proceedings of the House of February 14 over a letter written by Hasina to various institutions.

Drawing the attention of the Chair, he referred to the BSS report of that day which said, "The Jatiya Sangsad witnessed a brief pandemonium over reported letters of the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina to the foreign aid missions."

Nasim described the BSS report as "unfortunate, and figment of imagination". He said the BSS mentioned in its report the subject which was not discussed in the House.

Replying to the Opposition Chief Whip, the Deputy Leader of the House, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury said the matter would be brought to the notice of the Information Minister so that necessary action could be taken in this regard.

### Speaker

From Page 1 Col 7

"I give you a good news. Committee on the bill for separation of Judiciary will submit its report in a few days" Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali informed the House yesterday.

The bill, brought by Awami League member Salahuddin Yusuf about two-and-a-half-year ago, was referred to the committee headed by the Law Minister.

A good number of motions on Judiciary submitted in the wake of recent crises over appointments of 9 judges and the Attorney General were awaiting consideration of the Speaker.

"All the members who had submitted motions will be given scope for discussion on the principle of the judiciary bill," said the Speaker.

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড  
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি সাবসিডিয়ারী কোম্পানী)  
ফোন: ৯০২৩০০, ২০২১১২, ২৪৪৪৬২, ৮১১৩০৬-৪২১

### গ্যাসের স্বল্প চাপ সংক্রান্ত জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্প্রতি ঢাকা শহরের কোন কোন এলাকায় আমাদের সম্মানিত আবাসিক গ্রাহকগণ সার্বক্ষণিকভাবে পূর্বের মত গ্যাস পাইতেছেন না। পবিত্র রমজান মাসে স্বাভাবিক অবস্থার তুলনায় গ্যাসের চাহিদা অনেক বৃদ্ধি পাওয়ায় এবং কোন কোন শিল্প কারখানায় নির্ধারিত সময়ের অতিরিক্ত গ্যাস ব্যবহারের প্রেক্ষিতে ডেমরা স্ট্রিট গেইট স্টেশনে স্বাভাবিক প্রবাহের অনেক বেশী গ্যাস প্রয়োজন হইতেছে।

এই অতিরিক্ত গ্যাস প্রবাহের জন্য তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানী গ্যাস উৎপাদনকারী কোম্পানী তথা বাংলাদেশ গ্যাস ফিল্ডস কোম্পানী এবং সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ড কোম্পানী হইতে বিকল্প ব্যবস্থায় তিতাস সিস্টেমে গ্যাস প্রবাহ বৃদ্ধির সর্বাত্মক প্রচেষ্টা চালাইতেছে।

আমরা আশা করি অতি শীঘ্রই গ্যাসের এই স্বল্প চাপ জনিত সমস্যা দূরীভূত হইবে। সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য আমরা অন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

কর্তৃপক্ষ

"গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান — প্রধানমন্ত্রী"

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