



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 Abduh Rah Chowdhury (BNP).

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

The Jatiya Sangsads' 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.

Stormy debate in JS

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ment functionaries were being used in the name of development of sports which, he said, would encourage the officials to be corrupt, he added.

He suggested a censure motion be brought in the House.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni tried frantically to close the chapter but failed when a number of Opposition members stood up and sought the floor.

Suranjan Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party said the ruling party whip had violated his solemn oath and demanded the setting up of a committee like that on the irrigation ministry to probe the matter.

He termed the BNP and its government "corrupt", a statement which was instantly protested by Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury.

"It is not fair to bring such sweeping allegations against a party and its government on such an unfounded ground," Prof Chowdhury said. Badruddoza Chowdhury protested Suranjan's sweeping comments against the government and BNP and advised him to follow

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 Alkhabro 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
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nemmen 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.

Sergeant suspended for negligence
By Staff Correspondent
A traffic Sub-Inspector of Police M Siraj was suspended yesterday for negligence of duty, according to a police source.

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

The police spokesman said, the charge brought against Siraj was that his negligence allowed the muggers to escape.

An on-duty traffic sergeant Sanwar sent a message to Sub-Inspector Siraj over the walkie-talkie while chasing the muggers who were speeding away on an auto-rickshaw. Siraj failed to halt the vehicle while it passed by the TSC, the source said.

PM takes iftar
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Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Gano Forum leader Dr Kamal Hossain, Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman and its leaders Tofael Ahmed MP, Abdur Razzaque MP, and Sajeda Chowdhury MP, five party alliance leaders Haider Akbar Khan Ramo and Hasanul Haq Inu, Jamaat leader Moulana Sheikh Ansar Ali, MP, Janata Dal leader K M Obaidur Rahman and Gano Forum leader Saifuddin Ahmed Manik attended the iftar party.

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YESTERDAY IN THE SANGSAD



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, 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.

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
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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 Jhautala Bazar this morning.

The loss of property in the fire which originated from an electric short-circuit was estimated at about Tk 10 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, Hazaribagh 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.

UNB adds: On the outstanding issue of repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis, Osmany said, "There is an agreement between the two countries that they will be repatriated, but it's a question of time."

The question of division of assets and liabilities will be raised as soon as the two countries hold a political level meeting, he told a questioner.

When his attention was drawn to the US State Department's latest report on violation of human rights, the Foreign Secretary declined to comment because he claimed he had not seen the text of the report. He, however, said the report was better than those of the last few years.

Violations of human rights are being committed in many societies, many places in the world, but it depends on "how it is determined and looked at," he added.

Asked about the planned visit of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to Bangladesh, the Foreign Secretary could not give any specific date.

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