

Special Powers (Amendment) Bill '94 rejected

A bill brought by NDP leader Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury seeking to amend the Special Powers Act, 1974 was not al lowed by the government side to be introduced in Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Members of the treasury bench rejected the Special Powers (Amendment) Bill 1994 through voice vote when Chowdhury sought permission of the chair to introduce it.

"This amendment will frustrate the whole process of law. If a lower court judge or officer-in-charge of a police station is to compensate for ordering detention and framing charge, then the judiciary will collapse," said Works Minister Rafiqui Islam Mia opposing the private bill.

Defending his bill, Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury quoted the US State Department report on human rights in Bangladesh to have said 97 per cent of 365 cases under the Special Powers Act were

declared illegal by the High Court. "Those cases were filed by respective police officer either for his incompetence or motivated prosecution." he

ddin proposed that gov ernment should pay Tk 10 lakh in compensation to the person whose order of detention would be declared illegal by the High. Court or the Supreme Court.

Tk 1 lakh for the district magistrate or the additional district magistrate if his order is found illegal and Tk 50,000 for the officer in charge of the police station who recommend for detention.

Earlier, Chowdhury had withdrawn another bill titled the Anti-terrorism Act 1992 as Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party opposed it and demanded total withdrawal of the Anti-terrorism Act.

Report on judiciary bill

The select committee, constituted in 1991 as per the proposal of the mover of the bill, held 13 meetings and the Articles 95,98,109,115 and 116 of the Constitution.

Salauddin Yusuf (AL), and other members of the select committee Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder, Mohammad Assa duzzaman (AL), Suranjit Sengupta (GP) and Sheikh Ansar Ali (Jamaat) gave note of dissent to the report.

While giving note of dissent, they observed that such amendments would strike at the very root of the whole question of the independence of the subordinate judiciary and the magistrates exercising judicial functions.

agree with the amendment proposed in Article 95, and 98, because not only the innovations are contrary to the provisions as originally enacted in the Constitution of 1972, but these would allow greater executive inroads in the independence of supreme judiciary through the modalities of making appointment of the judge," they noted.

Amendment) Act, 1975.

Ansar Ali expressed his agreement with Sections 1,2, and 3 of the report but dissented with Section 4 relating to Article 116 of the Constitution.

with the report, did not subcommittee.

Chief Whip Khondkar Delwar Hossain, who is also a member of the committee. could not sign the report since he is away from the country.

from the Chairman of the select committee and Law, Jus-

As Rafigul Islam Miah placed the report along with an amended bill. Salauddin Yusuf objected to it, saying how it could be placed in the House in his name. He demanded that the report be withdrawn by the minister, concerned because the amended bill would neither bring independence to the judiciary nor sep-

Rafigul Islam Miah said that Yusuf had rightly pointed out his case but added that it was a normal practice. Since Salauddin Yusuf had introduced the bill and proposed to send it to the select committee, the select committee after due consideration suggested some amendments to the bill and as such the amended bill has been placed before the House under his name. He, however, assured the House that the original bill as submitted by Salauddin Yusuf would also be circulated at the time of its

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina said following the amendments by the select committee to the original bill, the basic objective of the bill has been foiled as it would not

In his amendment. Salahu

He also proposed a fine of

From Page 1 Col 4

recommended amendment to

"We have not been able to

Suranjit Sengupta, in his note of dissent, said that the proposed amendments to the draft bill did not provide any sense of direction for the separation of the judiciary from the executives. He suggested that such an objective could be revived only through repealing the Constitution (Fourth

The Jamaat member Sheikh

Another member of the committee, Advocate Fazle Rabbi (JP), though dissented mit any separate report to the

Any separate note received tice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Hafiz would be submitted separately, the report said.

arate it from the executive. consideration.

ensure independence to the judiciary. She requested the Works Minister to withdraw

the bill and place it afresh. Otherwise, it would be a mere eyewash for the people and the question of establishing freedom of the judiciary would remain a far cry

Deputy Leader of the House, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury refuted the contention of the Leader of the Opposition and said there was no scope for misleading the people. He pointed out that as per rules, the select committee was responsible for the bill.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad said that three years had already passed since the bill was introduced in the House, and wanted to know as how long the treasury bench would take in disposing of it. "We want freedom of judiciary.

Rafigul Islam said that the government wanted the disposal of the bill as early as possible, and pleaded for fixing up a date for immediate discussion on it.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali said that he would give a decision on the matter on Monday or Tuesday next after consulting relevant rules.

Poor attendance delays JS session

By Staff Correspondent Poor attendance of the MPs delayed the sitting of the Jatiya Sangsad by nearly half an hour yesterday.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni took the chair at 10:30 am, already half an hour behind schedule. Only 32 members were present in the House at that time. During recitation of the Holy Quran, another seven members entered the House but according to parliamentary rules at least 60 members should be present to meet the quorum.

In the 29-seat front row only Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman was present along with 21 other treasury bench members. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan and State Minister for Planning Abdul Moyeen Khan were also present among the ruling party

Some 14 Awami League and three Jatiya Party MPs were

also present at that time. The Deputy Speaker ordered to ring the bell and waited until 10-53 am when 61 members turned up to complete the quorum.

Care-taker govt

From Page 1 Col 4 meeting decided to place the documentary proofs regarding corruptions before the House to enable the people to know

about the alleged corruption. The leaders of the major parties attending the meeting alleged that the opposition workers and supporters were being harassed by the govern-

The meeting continued for about one and a half hours.

Later, Abdus Samad Azad and Mohammad Nasim held a press briefing outlining the outcome of the meeting.

During the five-minute briefing, they refused to answer questions from the re-

cases against

guests at an iftar party at her Minto Road residence yesterday evening.

Ershad adjourned Proceedings in three separate corruption cases against former President General H M Ershad were adjourned yesterday at the Special Judge's court. It was in deference to the directives of the superior

court, reports BSS. The order of the High Court forbids such proceedings in these cases against General Ershad without ensuring the accused free consultation with his lawyer.

The proceedings were adjourned by the Additional Sessions Judge and President of the Special Court Ansaruddin Sikder.

March 10 was fixed for hearing of all the three cases.

Doctors on strike From Page 1 Col 5

jured Dr Sajal Banerjee was admitted to the Sadar Hospital. As part of the ongoing strike, students of the medical college also abstained from classes from today. Physicians have also stopped private practices in the town.

IMF warns

From Page 1 Col 8 or an IMF Contract Number. The IMF also has no connection with a Nations Projects Funding Programme."

It further said the IMF is an inter-governmental organisation whose financial transactions and operations are carried out directly with its member countries and only through a fiscal agency designated by each member for this purpose, such as the member's central bank or its Ministry of Finance.

The IMF does not operate through other agents and it does not endorse the activities of any banks, financial institutions, or other public or private agency, it added.

Magura-2 polls: Candidates urged to abide by rules

MAGURA, Feb 24: Chief **Election Commissioner Justice** Mohammad Abdur Rauf today called upon all concerned to maintain congenial atmosphere in the polling centres to make the upcoming Magura-2 by-election a success, reports UNB.

He addressed two separate joint meeting of government and police officials, candidates. political leaders and party workers at the auditoriums of Shalikha and Mohammadpur

Thana Parishad today. Justice Rauf urged the candidates of abide by the election rules during the campaign and election. "Otherwise, stern action will be taken against the election rule breakers," he

warned. The Chief Election Commissioner directed police officers to ensure peaceful atmosphere at the polling booths as the voters can cast their

India for regional military

votes without fear and favour.

cooperation

SINGAPORE, Feb 24: India today offered South East Asian countries extensive military cooperation to ensure peace and stability in the region, reports PTI

India's Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt General Surinder Nath told the second Asia Pacific Defence Conference, now being held here attended by ministers and senior defence officials and experts from 20 countries, that his country was not a competitor for power and influence in the region but if as presence could help the cause of stability it will respond.

There is considerable scope for building up institutional framework for military cooperation between India and countries in the region, Gen Surinder Nath said adding that India could offer manufacture and export of military equipment, training facilities, defence expertise and joint research and development.

Proceedings in 3 | China won't seek hegemony

From Page 1 Col 7 erated closely in international affairs.

"To develop friendly relations and cooperation with Bangladesh is a firm policy of the Chinese government.

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina seen among

Referring to the global changes. Qian Qichen said the economic revitalisation has become a common aspiration of people of all countries and at taching priority to economic development tends to be the dominant factor in international relations.

"The developing countries should strengthen coordina tion and cooperation to preserve peace and stability and promote common economic growth. This way they can contribute positively to the establishment of a new international political and economic order, he said.

The Chinese leader referred to the SAARC and lauded the efforts of Bangladesh in promoting good neighbourly and friendly rela-

He expressed the hope that the SAARC countries will on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence and in the spirit of mutual respect and consultation on an equal footing find appropriate solutions to the outstanding problems between them.

Turning to his country, Qian Qichen said China today enjoys economic growth, political stability, national unity and social progress. 'Yet with a large population and uneven development among regions, China will inevitably encounter more problems and difficulties on the road ahead."

Earlier on arrival on a four day visit vesterday he said it was the 'set policy' of the Chinese government to strengthen the existing friendly ties with Bangladesh.

"I am looking forward to exchanging views with the leaders of Bangladesh on bilateral relations and international issues of common concern so as to increase mutual understanding," he told newsmen at

Zia International Airport.

Qian, who is accompanied by his wife, was met at the airport by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and his

Bangladesh Ambassador to China Mustafizur Rahman and Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Zhang Zu Jiang were also present.

The Chinese Foreign Minister is currently on a tour of several countries in the region. He flew in here from Pakistan

"Bangladesh is a very friendly country — we have traditional ties with the mutually beneficial cooperation on the increase." Qian spoke of the Dhaka-Beijing relationship.

The Chinese Foreign Minister said he had been to Dhaka once before and this time he gladly accepted an invitation from his Bangladesh counterpart for a visit again because this would provide him an opportunity to see the progress made here in the mean time.

During his stay here, he is expected to call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

He is also expected to meet leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Sheikh Hasina.

Qian will have official talks with the foreign minister at state guest house Meghna today (Friday) covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations, particularly matters of trade and economic coopera-During Qian's current visit,

the two countries are expected

to sign an agreement for 8.5 million US dollars Chinese credit for Bangladesh. Qian's itinerary includes a visit to Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge over the

Museum and the Jatiya Sangsad. The Chinese leader will hold a press conference at state guest house Padma on Sunday at 10 am prior to his departure for Bangkok enroute

to Colombo and Male.

river Buriganga, the National

Dhaka to work for peace

From Page 1 Col 5 would continue to work together with the friendly people of China towards a fair, just and peaceful world.

Mostafiz said Bangladesh is confident that China would also play an important role in global trade and economic relations.

"A close friend of China, Bangladesh is looking forward to both participating in and contributing to the strident process of China's confident march towards economic

prosperity," he added. "Our partnership in development will bring happiness and prosperity to both our peoples," the Foreign Minister

He said Bangladesh is committed to developing a free and market-oriented economy and this is why it opened to the market forces.

"Our market has been opened at the rate faster than that of many of our trading partners. We expect reciprocal market access. It would be

still better if we can have special and differential market access opportunities as envisaged in the recently concluded Uruguay Round Agreements."

Referring to Bangladesh government's efforts to alleviate poverty, the Foreign Minister said the government was attaching the highest priority to poverty alleviation.

"We are specially focusing on primary education, rural employment generation and primary health care," he added.

In the field of rural devel opment. Bangladesh has achieved major success. BRAC and Grameen Bank are among the most successful NGOs making major contributions in supplementing the determined efforts of the government, he told his Chinese counterpart.

Mostafiz hoped the visit of Qian would be an important landmark in the development of bilateral relations between the two Asian countries.

Pakistan may close embassy in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD. Feb 24: Pakistan said Thursday it may temporarily close its embassy in Afghanistan following an attack by a rowdy mob that caused extensive damage, reports AP. Pakistan officials also de-

manded that the Afghan Ambassador Sardar Roshan provide complete details of the "deplorable incident" and said his country should ensure there is adequate security to protect the embassy.

Minister Iqbal Haider told Parliament that the government may temporarily shut the embassy and may also seek compensation from Afghanis-Pakistan is one of the few

countries that still has diplo-

In Islamabad, Pakistan's Law

mats in the war-ravaged Afghan capital. Most diplomats were evacuated last month when heavy fighting resumed between the warring Islamic factions.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been under strain recently, and the attack on the embassy has heightened tensions. Meanwhile, Reuter reports:

About 1,000 Afghans held a noisy anti-Pakistan demonstration in Kabul today just hours after a mob ransacked the Pakistan embassy and beat up two security guards. The demonstrators were

protesting against the killing in Pakistan on Monday of three Afghan gunmen who had hijacked a bus full of schoolboys. witnesses said.

The origins of the fire and

extent of damage was not ascertained immediately. But

When contacted, port officials told BSS that a three member enquiry committee has been formed to investigate the incident.

One killed in Sylhet road mishap

From Our Correspondent SYLHET. Feb 24: A motor cycle rider was run over by a speeding truck at Islampur on Sylhet-Tamabil road this morning.

The accident occurred at

The victim, aged about 25, could not be identified imme-

The truck driver fled the

4 die in 72 hrs in Sylhet jail

SYLHET, Feb 24: Another under-trial prisoner died in the Sylhet District Jail vester-

Anwar Ali, 26, of village Shashyaura under Sylhet sadar thana died of heart attack yesterday morning. Ali, an accused of murdering his wife,

The Midnight File

Yeltsin warns Russian regions against leaving federation

MOSCOW, Feb 24: President Boris Yeltsin warned Russian regions today against leaving the Russian federation and inflicting economic damage on each other. "Russia is too dear to us to allow its break-up." he said in a state of the nation address that focused on strengthening the federation on the basis of a new constitution adopted in December, reports

Kachins sign truce with Yangon

Thursday signed a ceasefire agreement with the government, formally ending 32 years of armed rebellion. Details of the agreement, negotiated last year, were not immediately available, but Kachin officials previously stated that it is limited to a military ceasefire, reports AP.

OIC urges NATO to extend threat of air strike on Serbs

Bosnian territory and in the

sub-region," the statement

Secretary General Boutros

Boutros-Ghali, quoted by UN

sources, said the UN was more

interested in the financial con-

tribution of Islamic states with

regard to Bosnia-Herzegovina

quarters with representatives

from Djibouti, Egypt, Iran;

Malaysia. Nigeria, Oman.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal

and Turkey on Wednesday.

Boutros-Ghali said the Muslim

countries should be thinking

more about the reconstruction

of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and

should therefore create a spe-

representatives reaffirmed

their governments willingness

to send troops to take part in

the UNPROFOR effort in

Bosnia but were told that it

would not be possible for his-

torical and regional reasons,

the sources said.

The Iranian and Turkish

cial fund for that purpose.

At a meeting at UN head-

than in their troops.

In New York, however, UN

Alliance of the "urgent necesroute for the supply of humani-

sieged areas of Bosnia.

cern at the deployment of Russian peacekeepers in Sarajevo, the statement said.

also willing to send troops to serve with the UN protection force in former Yugoslavia.

It noted that the 51 member nations of the OIC were

Energy Minister visits fire-hit Satanandi

COMILLA, Feb 24: Police have so far arrested 18 people in connection with the February 19 fire incident at a village in Daudkandi thana that left 19 families homeless, re-

> ports UNB. Energy Minister Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain today visited the fire-affected area. which falls within his parliamentary constituency, and instructed the district administration to nab the culprits without fail and award them

> A group of miscreants set fire to the houses of 15 families at Gayenbari in Satanandi

pieces of sarees and a cash amount of Tk 7,500 among the affected families.

fil their ill-motives. propaganda against the BNP government to cover up their misdeeds and black chapter

FAP authorities

by the government following control floods in the country

permanently. The FAP is financially and technically supported by the international donors including

Netherlands and Japan. mentation of the FAP is estimated at between 10 and 15

billion US dollars At the study level, the FAP is divided into 26 components. Critics of the FAP fear that physical construction of embankments under the programme would cause irrevocable environmental hazards. displace an unspecified number of people and, above all, re-mould the lives of millions of people living on the flood

However, the FAP authorities refute the allegations saying these are all just "hunch".

been evolved in the FAP to involve and ensure the people's participation. When implemented fully,

the FAP will not only bring about a long term solution to the flood problems in the country but also help turn the economic wheel through more scientific use of land and water and other resources, they said.

- Star photo

about 11:30 am when the truck hit the motorcycle from behind, witnesses said. The motorcycle rider died on the

diately.

From Our Correspondent

With this, the number of deaths in the jail during the last 72 hours stood at four, of whom 3 were reportedly mentally retarded.

had been mentally sick for months.

quired by the Rules of Procedure. Mohammad Nasim submit ted the newspaper clippings but not the supporting docu-

ments. The Speaker, replying to the opposition Chief Whip, said he was considering rejecting the motions because the opposition had failed to submit the required primary proofs of the alleged corruptions. The chair, however, referring to a specific clause of the JS Rules of Procedure, told the opposition members that they were free to move any motion any

documentary proof. A disappointed Nasim reacted against the Speaker's observation saying the opposition had at its disposal enough documentary evidence to support the allegations of corruptions and would produce the

documents in the House. At this point, Nasim, making an oblique reference to the Works Minister, said when a minister replaced his threekatha residential plot with a nine-katha piece of land, it was definitely an instance of cor-

ruption. Works Minister Rafigul Islam Miah at once rose to protest Nasim's remarks but he was not given the floor by the chair. An extremely excited Rafiq though not given the microphone started accusing the opposition members of their involvement in similar corruptions. He said, Tofael Ahmed and Shawkat Ali of the Awami League (AL) and Dr Wajed Ali Miah, husband of the leader of the opposition, Sheikh Hasina, had got bigger

plots in violation of rules. Rafiq, however, did not find anything wrong with the allotments of the plots because 'all of them are distinguished personalities in their respective professions.

State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman took the floor to accept the opposition challenge of a discussion on the alleged corruptions in the government. He said, the opposition was also involved in corruptions and the treasury bench was willing to discuss the corruption issue in gen eral. Fazlur Rahman, amidst cheerful thumping of the opposition benches, urged the Speaker to fix a date for a discussion.

Moudud Ahmed, Tofael Ahmed Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury of the opposition thanked Fazlur Rahman and requested the Speaker to fix a date at once, as the demand for the debate was unanimous. Tofael Ahmed, while thank

Rashed Khan Menon,

ing Fazlur Rahman said it would be interesting discuss the sources of the wealth of the Prime Minister's son and brother when the late presi

Reuter

YANGON, Feb 24: Rebels of the Kachin ethnic minority on

BRUSSELS. Feb 24: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) called on NATO today to extend its threat of air strikes to other regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to secure a ceasefire there, reports AFP.

OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid warned officials of the North Atlantic Treaty sity of reopening the airport at Tuzla which province a vital tarian aid to the stricken populations," the organisation said in a statement issued

to apply the Sarajevo ultimatum - in which besieging Serbs were ordered to withdraw their heavy weapons or face air strikes — to other be-The OIC expressed its con-

Algabid "urged NATO to maintain its pressure on the Serbs until they ceased their aggression and a fair peace is

man leaving a few torn T-

JS ruling on Sunday dent Ziaur Rahman died a poor From Page 1 Col 3

> When asked by the Speaker to give opinions on the issue, Deputy Leader of the House Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury said the treasury bench had no objection to a discussion on the corruptions in general but requested the Speaker to give the government sufficient time to prepare a report on the corruptions committed by the Awami League during the period from 1972 to 1975.

But the Speaker asserted that he could not allow such a discussion unless the parties time if they could produce any fulfil the legal preconditions for an adjournment motion on the issue. At this point, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury of the

National Democratic Party, quoting from Kaul's book on parliamentary practices said it was not necessary for the opposition members to submit the documentary proof of alleged corruptions before a debate. "What the mover of the motion needed is to be ready with all the facts before he the motion.

Chowdhury read out from

Kaul's book and demanded a

discussion immediately. The Works Minister took the floor to say that Chowdhury's observation was a 'half truth.' Quoting from the same book, Rafique told the House that 'there is no objection per se to the notice of an adjournment motion simply because it happens to be based on a newspaper report. But the Speaker, before accepting the motion, must be in possession of further facts. However, the Speaker told the House that he would give his ruling on the issue next Sunday.

The Speaker adjourned the House at 2:00 pm to resume again at 10 am Sunday.

CIA team may visit Moscow to discuss Ames issue

level. CIA delegation is expected in Russia soon to discuss the case of Aldrich Ames and his wife, charged with spying for Moscow for nearly a decade. Itar-Tass news agency said today, reports Reuter. The official Russian agency. quoting "reliable sources" said

the team from the US Central

Intelligence Agency (CIA)

would meet their counterparts

MOSCOW. Feb 24: A high

from the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. It said the visit would take place "in the coming days," but did not give an exact date. The case triggered a wave of indignation in the United States. But Moscow and Wa shington clearly signalled by Thursday their desire not to

let the affair revive cold war

hostility.

bundles of CI sheets, 150

litical parties were trying to politicalise the incident to ful-"These identified political quarters are engaged in a

ronmental order in the country, he added.

the severe floods of 1987 and The programme aims at charting an integrated national

The FAP is a massive flood

control programme initiated

the US, the UK, France, the The initial cost of imple-

They say a mechanism has

Fire breaks out at Ctg port

CHITTAGONG, Feb 24: A fire which broke out in Flotila shade of Chittagong port this evening gutted huge quantities of various valuable goods, port and fire brigade sources said. reports BSS

Sources said nine fire units had battled to extinguish the fire that continued for over half an hour in and around the godown of the shade

unofficial sources said the damage was huge.

NATO has indicated that it would be "premature" to seek

established over the whole of

immediate punishment.

village on February 19 night. Forty persons were accused of being involved in the incident. The minister distributed 15

Mosharraf told a public gathering that some vested po-

when they were in power," he

From Page 1 Col 4 FAP implementation, he said. It was also one of the fundamental tenets of the democratic governance and inspiration to promote equitable envi-

water management policy to.

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