

Debating can help build better society: Sircar

By Staff Correspondent

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday stressed the need for practising debating to establish a just society and called on the students to make academic debating part of their lives.

Speaking as chief guest at the country's first national debate festival — 1994 at the Dhaka University TSC auditorium, he said healthy debates help build the image of a society.

Chaired by the president of the Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) Hasan Ahmad Chowdhury Kiran, the function was addressed by Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, moderator of the DUDS Dr Si Khan and president of the Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) Birupakkha Pal.

Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said, debate is a strong medium of communication and it is a part of the learning process for human beings.

He suggested that debates should be included in the syllabi and curricula at the school and college levels and called for a national consensus in this regard.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed called for patronising the debaters. He said steps should be taken soon to remove session jams and violence from the Dhaka University.

About 1100 debaters from one hundred debating soci-

eties and clubs are participating in the three-day festival jointly organised by the DUDS and BDF.

After the morning's inaugural session, hundreds of students from different educational institutions of the country enjoyed a lively mock parliamentary debate on 'The need for introducing punitive laws for control of population,' participated by members of DUDS and BDF.

Two debating groups, divided into Treasury and Opposition benches argued about the pros and cons of such a bill, quite in the manner of seasoned parliamentarians.

The debate was chaired, as the 'speaker', by the Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam while DUDS member Syed Ansar Mohammad Tofael defended the motion as the 'prime minister.'

The role of the leader of the opposition was played by BDC member Mahbuba Khanam Mukta.

Anwar Sadat, Syeda Firoza and Tanvir Hasan spoke in favour of the motion. Those who opposed it were Aminur Rahman, Ahsan Habib and Diddi Lal Dey.

In the evening a seminar on 'The necessity to organise a debate' was held at the same venue. It was participated by students of the universities of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar, Sylhet, Rajshahi and different colleges.



Pakistan Army Chief of Staff General Abdul Waheed paying homage to the Armed Forces personnel martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971 after placing wreath at the Shikha Anirban (Eternal Flame) at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. — ISPR photo

Pak army chief in city

The chief of Army Staff of Pakistan General Abdul Waheed arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a four-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He is accompanied by his wife and a four-member delegation.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, Begum Sophia Khan and other senior army officers received the distinguished guests at the Zia International Airport.

Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Kemal and other High Commission officials were also present at the airport.

Later, General Waheed visited the Army Headquarters and called on General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan there. He stayed with the army chief for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Earlier, on his arrival at the Dhaka Cantonment, General Waheed placed a wreath at the Shikha Anirban — the eternal flame — and paid homage to the members of the armed forces martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Delhi to withdraw troops from Hazratbal

SRINAGAR, Aug 2: The Indian government today pledged to withdraw troops surrounding Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine, a rare gesture conceding a demand by separatist rebels, reports AP.

The announcement was made in Srinagar by human rights activists who had negotiated with Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao for the release of Yasin Malik, leader of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front.

Malik, a heart patient, began a fast on Thursday and refused to take lifesaving drugs until troops were withdrawn from the Hazratbal mosque in Srinagar. He was arrested and flown to New Delhi as his condition deteriorated, but still refused medicine.

On Tuesday, Malik was released and flown to Srinagar in a government aircraft. He later addressed a news conference along with Kuldip Nayar and Rajinder Sachchar, eminent human rights activists.

The prime minister

JCD sweeps SSMC polls

By SSMCH Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student front of the ruling BNP, swept the Sir Salmullah Medical College students' union polls held yesterday.

JCD candidates won all 21 posts of the working committee.

Hasan Zafar Rifat and Saifullah Munshi were elected vice president and general secretary respectively. While Rifat bagged 535 votes Munshi polled 559. There were 1141 registered voters.

Prof Emdadul Haque, who conducted the polls as election commissioner, said about 85 per cent of the votes were cast.

Col Malek

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ween November 9, 1987 and September 30, 1989 at a price of Taka 7,800/- each, causing an expenditure of Taka 4.68 crore. In this way, it was alleged, Col. Malek had abused his official powers and indulged in corruption.

After Col. Malek went out of office, 3000 lights were procured by his successor at the DCC in January 1990 through competitive tenders at a rate of Taka 5,825/- per light.

It was alleged that Col. Malek, through the deal, had obtained pecuniary advantage for himself to the tune of Taka 1,18,50,000.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, on receipt of the charge sheet against Col. Malek, had sent the case records to the court of the Senior Special Judge, Dhaka, and the Sessions Judge duly framed charges on November 12, 1991 against Col. Malek. Deposition by the prosecution witness began in February 23, 1992.

A quashment petition was filed by Col. Malek and the High Court issued a rule on May 3, 1992. The matter was taken up for hearing on July 31, 1994 and the High Court discharged the rule yesterday.

Senior Advocate Abdul Malek and Advocate Azizul Huq appeared for the petitioner.

Ajker Kagoj

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Ershad in the arms case in which he was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in jail by a special tribunal in 1992.

The Ajker Kagoj report, quoting the Attorney General, said the government will seek a transfer of Ershad's case to another court in apprehension that it would not get justice in the present court.

The Attorney General was further quoted as having said that the government wanted hearing of both the bail petition and review of the judgement on the same day and accordingly the date of hearing was set for November 24. But suddenly it was changed and the bail petition was taken up first. This has caused apprehension in the government.

Before taking up the bail petition for hearing, Justice Naim Uddin read out the newspaper report and enquired from the Attorney General if he had said so.

"Every word of the report is correct... I'm not a coward that I shall deny what I have said," Aminul Haq submitted before the court.

Earlier, the Attorney General submitted a petition to the bench praying for transfer of the hearing of Ershad's bail petition to another court.

The learned judges adjourned the court for two weeks and kept a decision on the submission of the Attorney General pending.

40 doctors

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among these professors are: Dr Dewan Aklamur Reza Choudhury, professor of surgery of Rangpur Medical College, and Dr Asia Akhter Khatun, professor of gynecology of Rajshahi Medical College.

The suspended officers of the Tongi hospital include the superintendent of the hospital, Dr Md Serajul Islam, consultant of surgery Dr Dewan Ahsan, gynae consultant Dr Shabnam Ferdousi, paediatrics consultant Dr Md Rafiqul Islam, Ophthalmology consultant Biplob Chandra and resident medical officer Dr Khandaker Abu Azam.

Disciplinary proceedings are being started against these officers suspended on the basis of the report of the vigilance team, the ministry sources said.

Besides, the vigilance team, formed earlier last month, also paid surprise visits to several thana health complexes and found a number of doctors absent without any authorization. These doctors have also been suspended and departmental proceedings are being drawn against them, the sources added.

However, further details about the suspensions were not available.

The Midnight File

Gambia's ex-ministers freed

BANJUL, Aug 2: Gambia's new military rulers today freed all the former government ministers who were detained after the July 22 coup, witnesses said. Earlier, Finance Minister Bakary Darbo, who fled with ousted President Sir Dawda Jawara after the coup bloodless coup in the former British colony, resumed work. The ex-ministers went straight to their offices to formally hand over files to their successors named by the new head of state Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh. Local journalists were invited to observe the brief ceremonies, reports Reuter.

Haitian leader shot

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Aug 2: The leader of a small political party in Haiti who supports the return of exiled leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide was shot and wounded Monday, his wife told a radio station here today. Reynold Georges, leader of the Alliance for the Liberation of Haiti, was shot in the eastern district of Delmas, apparently from a police car, the wife said. But she said would was not life-threatening, reports AFP.

Chechnya president overthrown?

MOSCOW, Aug 2: Opposition forces declared Tuesday they had overthrown the president of Chechnya, a breakaway region in southern Russia, news agencies reported, says AP.

It was not immediately possible to confirm the report, based on a statement ITAR-Tass and Interfax received from Chechnya's opposition Provisional Council.

Spokeswomen for Chechnya's parliament and information ministry, reached by telephone in the Chechen capital, Grozny, denied the report and said President Dzhokar Dudayev remained firmly in power.

The whereabouts of Dudayev were not immediately known, however. The former Soviet bomber pilot has led the tiny mountainous republic in its independence drive from Moscow since being elected in 1991.

For weeks there have been reports of fighting between Dudayev's forces and his opponents. The Russian government issued a statement last Friday vowing to protect the lives of Russian citizens living on Chechen territory.

Chechnya has severed most economic ties with Russia, and the resulting economic hardship and lawlessness have helped swell the ranks of the opposition in recent months.

Jackson weds

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Jackson took place in a private ceremony outside the United States 11 weeks ago.

"It was not formally announced until now for several reasons, foremost being that we are both very private people living in the glare of the public media, we both wanted a private marriage ceremony without the distraction of a media circus."

"I am very much in love with Michael. I dedicate my life to being his wife. I understand and support him, we both look forward to raising a family and living happy, healthy life together."

"We hope our friends and fans will understand and respect our privacy."

Jones said Lisa Marie issues her statement from New York.

Lisa Marie's assets from her father's will are estimated to be 150 million dollar while her new husband is believed to be worth in excess of 250 million dollars.

Jackson's publicist, Lee Solters, who had earlier, adamantly denied that the couple were married, declined to comment Monday.

The couple had their first date February 2 when they went to Las Vegas together to watch a show by the 60's groups The Temptations and the Fifth Dimension, according to news reports.

At the time, Lisa Marie was estranged from her husband, musician Danny Keough, with whom she has two children.

BNP, Jamaat both capitalising on religion: Zillur

CHITTAGONG, Aug 2: The ruling BNP and the Jamaat-Islami have entered into an entente to destroy the hard-earned democracy in the country, Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman alleged here today, reports UNB.

"There is no difference between the BNP and Jamaat as both are creating anarchy by capitalising on religion," Zillur said while speaking at a reception at the Reaz Uddin Bazar to the newcomers in the Samik League.

Some 400 leaders and workers of different labour organisations have recently joined the Samik League, expressing solidarity with the political ideology of the Awami League.

The AL leader also blamed the BNP for laying off a good number of mills and factories and retrenching thousands of workers.

He also reiterated his party's commitment to the demand for a caretaker government and urged all to come forward and struggle under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina to realise it.

A spokesman for Russian's Federal Counterintelligence Service could neither confirm nor deny the ITAR-Tass report.

The opposition statement said the Provisional Council had announced the overthrow of the 'anti-democratic, criminal, militaristic dictatorship of Dudayev.' It also said elections had been called for next May or June.

The statement said Umar Avturkhanov, a regional boss in Chechnya, had been declared leader of the Provisional Council.

Dudayev, a former air force general, has frequently clashed with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Although Moscow still considers Chechnya among its 89 republics and regions, Dudayev has cut all links with federal authorities and repelled forces sent by Moscow in late 1991 after the republic declared independence.

Located in the Caucasus Mountains in southern Russia, Chechnya has about 1.2 million people.

One arrested at ZIA

The security guards of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) yesterday apprehended a Dubai-bound passenger, Mofazzal Hossain who was trying to smuggle out Taka 2.98 lakh in cash, reports BSS.

A CAAB press release said that Mofazzal Hossain, a passenger of the Emirates Airlines bound for Dubai, was found carrying Bangladesh currency notes worth Taka 2.98 lakh by hiding those inside his hand bag. The currency notes were traced in the process of scanning at the departure gate number three of the Zia International Airport.

Benazir

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during the four-year old revolt, which has cost over 16,000 lives.

New Delhi regards the whole of Kashmir as an integral part of India. Islamabad says the mainly Muslim Kashmiris must decide in a UN-mandated plebiscite whether to join Pakistan or India.

Bhutto spoke out against some militant groups advocating a third option of reuniting Kashmir as an independent state.

"I declare as Prime Minister that no first, second or third option is acceptable to Pakistan. The only solution is the right of free vote given by the United Nations Resolutions," she said.

"While man is getting freedom everywhere, people cannot be enslaved for long by the force of bayonets," Bhutto said.

"The more oppression increases, it shows that the final stage of Kashmir's freedom has come," she said. "But the final stage is always most difficult."

ISAC-2

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empted from the controlled list this year. Even so, about 100 items are still on the list, said a source in the Ministry of Commerce adding, "It will take time to slash the list further, since a number of ministries are involved in the matter."

Several inter-ministerial meetings on this issue have already been held where the possibilities and probable impact of curtailing the controlled list of import items were discussed. Sources said the relevant authorities in the government are planning to withdraw more items from the controlled list in phases.

All items except only those which may have negative impact on the religious, social and cultural life of the people, will be allowed to be imported freely," said a source.

He, however, mentioned that the policy-makers are also aware about the interest of small and cottage industries like the poultry farms, which need some government protection, especially in these early days of their establishment.

Japanese boat purchase case Ershad ignored govt recommendation: PW-2

The Special Judge's Court Dhaka was told yesterday that deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad disregarded the recommendations of a government committee formed to examine the specifications of the relief boats procured from Japan, reports BSS.

The former president, after turning down the recommendations of the committee set up by himself, had asked for the acceptance of a separate recommendation regarding specifications of the boats. It has been found that the specifications recommended by Ershad were actually those of the Marubeni Corporation which supplied the boats, the court was told.

The Special Judge's Court trying Ershad in the Special Case 19 of 1993 was recording the deposition of prosecution witness (PW) No. 2 GKSM Shahjahan Amin, a retired Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation (Relief and Administration). Amin started making his depositions yesterday.

The court was adjourned till August 22.

K Inoyama, an employee of the Marubeni Corporation who has remained absconding, is the other accused in this case, better known as the Japanese Boat Case.

Senior Special Judge Abdus Salam presided over the court. A letter from the Marubeni Corporation in late 1988 set the ball rolling in the boat procurement deal under a Japanese grant.

Making his deposition, PW-2 said although the letter was addressed to the Relief minister, it was actually sent to the accused—the then president Ershad who marked it to the Secretary of the ERD.

During the incomplete deposition, conducted by Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razzak Khan, the PW-2 said the 2.5 billion yen grant extended to procure the boats were 'untied' meaning that the boats could have been purchased from any OECD (Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development) and developing countries except Bangladesh. But because of Ershad's directive, tenders were sought only from the Japanese manufacturers.

He further said that though the Relief Ministry had recommended steel body craft, the accused favoured fibreglass body.

Yusuf Hossain Humayun, defence counsel for Ershad, raised objections during recording of the depositions. He mostly objected to the recording of details of some of the exhibits.

Khan was assisted by Special Public Prosecutor Asrafuldin Ahmed.

Paracetamol syrup 'Panamol' banned

Government has banned production and marketing of a Paracetamol syrup brand named 'Panamol', manufactured by the Panasia Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, with immediate effect, reports BSS.

The government has also suspended the products already in the market for containing poisonous diethylene glycol and directed the company to withdraw all its Paracetamol syrup from the market through publication of advertisements in the national dailies, according to a press release of the Directorate of Drug Administration.

Besides, other lawful actions against the company are being taken for using an unapproved raw material which is harmful to public health.

The Drug Administration also requested the physicians to refrain from prescribing the drugists from trading and the people from using this banned Paracetamol syrup.

It has also requested the people having this particular drug in their possession to deposit it to the nearest office of the Drug Administration or to the police station.

Chhatra Samaj declares Bari unwanted on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

The Sampradayikota Brodhi Chhatra Samaj yesterday staged a demonstration in front of the office of Dr Ershadul Bari on the Dhaka University campus.

Dr Bari reportedly had supported the idea of not playing the national anthem at the first Senate meeting of the National University on July 19.

The Chhatra Samaj leaders also declared Dr Bari, Dean of the Faculty of Law, DU, an 'unwanted' person on the campus and demanded his resignation.

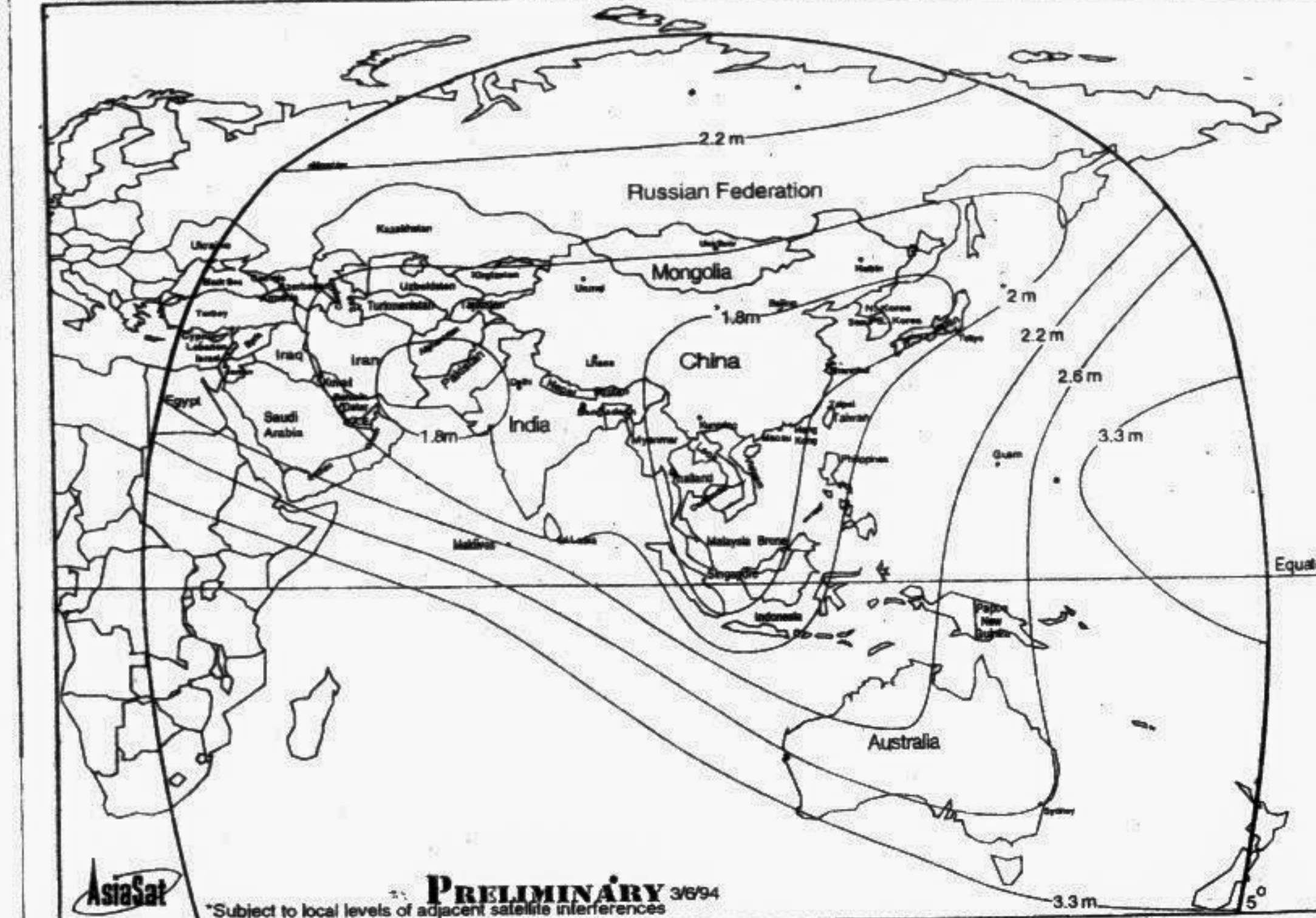
According to witnesses, the demonstrators kicked at the door of the office of Dr Bari who was not there at the time.

Witnesses added that students and police chased each other at about 1:15 pm when the police on duty tried to disperse the demonstrators.

Later, a procession of the Chhatra League (M-I) from the Arts Faculty area joined the demonstration organised by the Chhatra Samaj.

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ASIAT-2 C-BAND ANALOG TVRO ANTENNA DIAMETER



PRELIMINARY 3/94
Subject to local levels of adjacent satellite interference

IndiaSat-2

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poration and Hutchinson Whampoa Ltd of Hong Kong jointly own the satellite.

When contacted, a BTV source said the organisation would be able to meet the expenses from its own income and resources.

During 1993-94 fiscal year, BTV earned Tk 16.29 crore which has been deposited with the government exchequer, he said, adding that the advertising rates of the second channel would be comparatively cheaper but BTV would earn more in foreign currency.

Dry Sravan

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This rise in rainfall is unlikely to usher in accessorial hazards like flash floods, chances of which are very low.

Despite the optimism of the weathermen, the chart provides an instant and disconcerting revelation. Dhaka, where the average rainfall for the month of August is 300mm, is likely to experience far less this time with the forecasts fixing the figure between 220mm to 270mm.

Chittagong Division generally experiences 521mm rainfall in August. Met Office forecasts say it would be between 420mm to 470mm there.

Rajshahi Division may have 260mm to 310mm rain a far cry from the normal 389 mm.

Khulna would experience 230mm to 280mm instead of the normal 284mm fall.

Barisal, which normally records 453mm may experience 350mm to 400 mm rainfall.

The leader of the opposition, AB Vajpayee, said the government was not ready to accept even the proposal given by Indrajit Gupta for resolution

Indian opposition

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action, he added.

The Speaker said he would continue his efforts for reconciliation.

Maintaining that there was no question of the government denigrating parliament or its committees, Shukla said there would be 'corrective action' taken to see that the decorum and dignity of parliament be enhanced.

Denying there was any 'window dressing' Shukla said if there were any deficiencies they were prepared to take correction and additional action in this regard.

He said after consultations with the leaders of opposition and since a need was felt to 'augment' the ATR the government was ready to bring forward a supplementary report. The present ATR would remain with the House as an interim report. Whatever action was considered necessary by the House could be taken at the appropriate stage, he added.

Till then the House could continue with other business, Shukla said.

The entire opposition shouted 'no, no' to Shukla's proposal and Somnath Chatterjee said the government seemed to be adamant in not withdrawing the report. "It is very difficult for us to participate in the proceedings till the end of the session," he said.

The leader of the opposition, AB Vajpayee, said the government was not ready to accept even the proposal given by Indrajit Gupta for resolution

Sylhet transport owners continue strike

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 2: Thousands of people continue to suffer because the movement of transport on the Sylhet-Sunamganj, Sylhet-Dera and Sunamganj-Sylhet-Jagannathpur roads has been stopped in response to a strike called for an indefinite period.

The strike call was given by a transport owners' group to press home their 9-point demand. The district officials however said most of the demands had already been met.

The striking group at a press conference on Monday night threatened to begin an indefinite strike in all their routes in Sylhet district from August 4, if the demands were not accepted immediately.

The demands include taking security measures, and providing facilities at the newly started bus terminal at Sunamganj town.