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One third of laws okayed by JS were ordinances

By Nurul Kabir

More than one third of the laws enacted so far by the present parliament were originally ordinances promulgated by the President.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali told The Daily Star last night that in a parliamentary democracy, the government should not resort to promulgation of ordinances unless it was really unavoidable.

Summaries of the House proceedings, published by the Parliament Secretariat, show that a total of 149 laws have been passed by the fifth Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) at its 15 sessions so far. Of them, 59 were ordinances which eventually got approval of the House.

Eighteen out of 23 legislations passed in the first session, one out of nine in the second, two out of four in the third, 10 out of 18 in the fourth, four out of 18 in the sixth, four out 11 in the seventh, four out 11 in the eighth, four out of eight in the ninth, four out of six in the 11th, four out seven in the 12th, two out of five in the 13th, one out of six in the 14th and one out of seven laws passed in the 15th session were ordinances.

The fifth session neither passed any bill nor approved any ordinance while the 10th enacted nine legislations but approved no ordinance.

When requested to give his views in this regard, Shaikh Razzak Ali said that the Constitution provides the President the power to promulgate ordinances. But the Constitution, at the same time, has also qualified the timing and circumstances of promulgation of an ordinance by the president, the Speaker added.

Quoting from Article 93 of the Constitution, Razzak Ali said the President can 'make and promulgate' ordinances 'at any time when Parliament stands dissolved or is not in session, if the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render immediate action necessary'.

'I have always been discouraging the treasury bench, during Parliament sessions, to go for ordinances in case they were not absolutely necessary', the Speaker said. The official figure shows that the tendency of promulgating ordinances has, meanwhile, declined, he noted.

Corruption case against Ershad, 2 ex-ministers withdrawn

A corruption case against deposed President H M Ershad, former Deputy Prime Minister Prof M A Matin and former Energy Minister Anwar Hossain Manju at the Special Tribunal was withdrawn by the government, reports UNB.

The withdrawal came following a petition submitted by...

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30 feared dead in Sirajganj bus mishap

SIRAJGANJ, Aug. 14: Thirty people were feared dead and 35 others injured when a bus fell into a roadside ditch near Srikhola in Ullapara thana on Bogra-Nagarbari highway today (Sunday).

Deputy Commissioner of Sirajganj told UNB over telephone tonight (Sunday night) that police recovered 10 bodies and sent 17 of the injured to Purnimagati Health Complex and Sirajganj General Hospital in critical condition.

Of the dead, one was identified as Lucky, an MA final year student of Dhaka University. She hailed from Hajiganj, Comilla.

Police said the Dhaka bound bus from Dinajpur plunged into the ditch filled with water as an iron laden truck hit it from behind at about 10 pm.

Police were posted on the spot.

Driver and helper of the bus fled the scene.

Royalty on minerals reduced
 Star Report

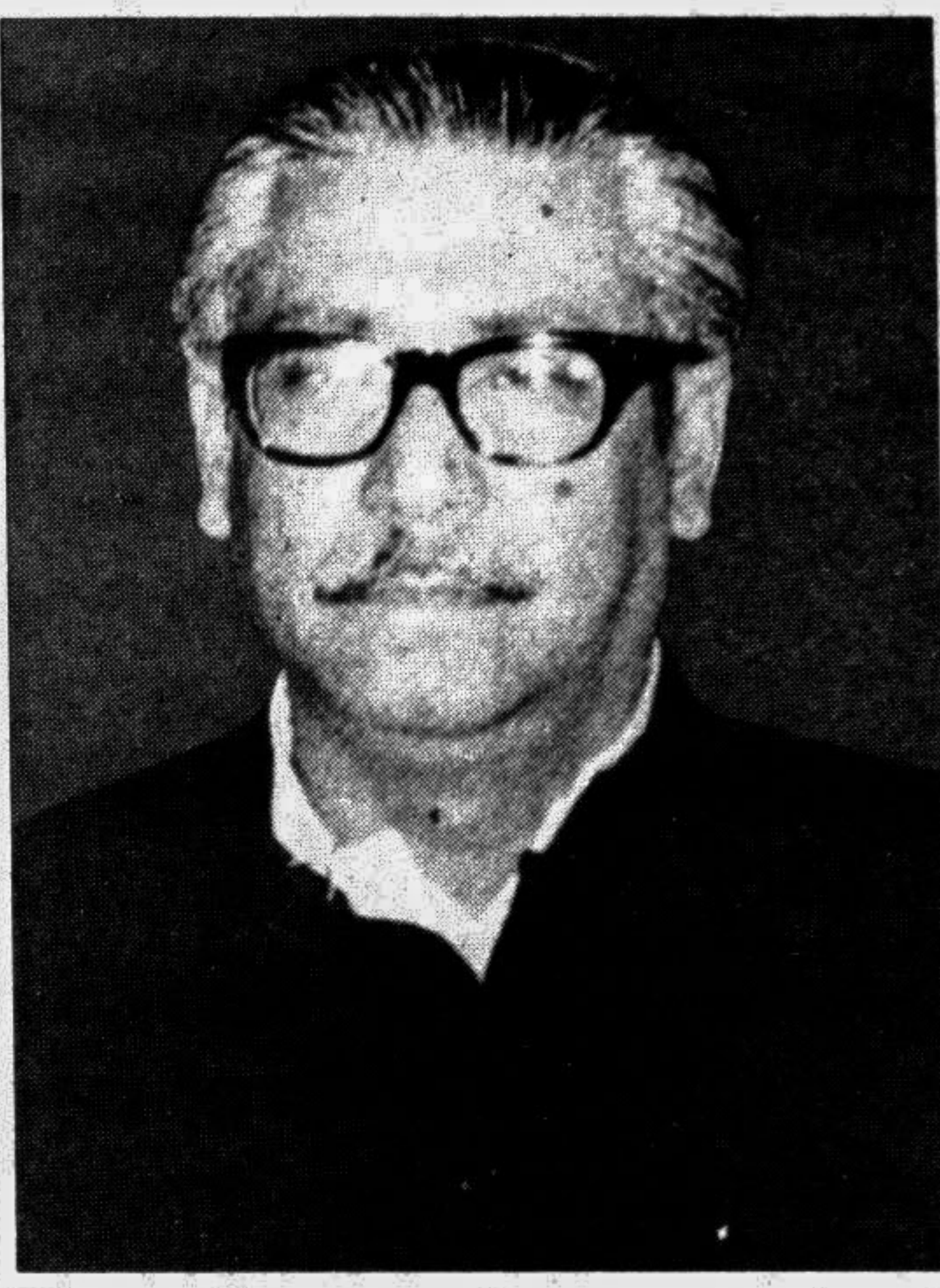
The rates of royalty for extracted minerals has been reduced and refixed in accordance with rates in other countries.

The decision to refix the rate was taken by an inter-ministerial committee at a meeting held recently.

So long, the Bureau of Mineral Development (BMD), an agency under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, used to realise such royalties at a rate of 20 per cent of the minerals' value at pit's mouth. Now, the new rate will be between 5 and 10 per cent. The minerals, being extracted from open pit mines or quarries in the country include limestone, china clay ordinary stones, peat coal and silica sand.

The government has recently taken up projects to extract coal and hardrock through shaft mining at...

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6-hour hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League has called a countrywide six-hour hartal from 6 am today to press home its demand for repeal of the indemnity Ordinance. The ordinance prevented trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The AL observes hartal on August 15 since 1992.

In support of the half-day hartal, different units of the AL and its front organisations brought out processions at different places in the capital yesterday.

The Jati Bangla Sangskritik Jote and the Bangabandhu Shilpee Gosthi in separate statements supported today's half-day hartal and 'national mourning day' programmes of the AL.

The Sangskritik Jote will hold a rally at the Bangabandhu Bhaban at 12.30 pm today.

Meanwhile, 529 cultural activists, in a joint statement last night, called upon the people to observe August 15 as a 'national mourning day' in a befitting manner. Signatories to the statement included Prof Panna Kaiser, Dr Rajib Humayun, Salahuddin Badal, Altaf Mahmud, Aslam Sani, Sheikh Abdul Hakim and Andul Awal Mia.

The AL observes hartal on August 15 since 1992.

Death anniversary of Bangabandhu today

By Staff Correspondent

The 19th anniversary of the death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be observed throughout the country today.

The Awami League and its front organisations have urged the people to observe August 15 as a 'national mourning day'.

On this day in 1975, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of the country's independence movement and the first head of government of independent Bangladesh, was killed in a bloody military putsch.

Mujib's family members including his wife Begum Fazilatunnessa, three sons—Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal

Scrap Indemnity Ord: Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday criticised the government for delaying scrapping of the indemnity Ordinance to clear the way for the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

'It is a national demand that the Indemnity Ordinance be scrapped. But the role of the ruling party in this matter is unfortunate', she said in a statement on the eve of the 19th anniversary of the death of Bangabandhu.

Hasina, the eldest of Mujib's two daughters, said the killers who openly boasted of the killing were not put on trial. On the contrary, they were rewarded by being inducted into the foreign service.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a special meeting on the drought situation in several northern districts of the country at her office yesterday. — PID photo

PM reviews drought, food stock situations

A high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday planned necessary steps to face any possible crises as signs of an untimely drought loomed large over the country's northern region, reports UNB.

Held at the International Conference Centre in the afternoon, the meeting reviewed the overall drought like situation due to a virtually showerless monsoon and took account of the present food stock in the country.

Irrigation Minister M Majid-ul-Huq, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, Principal Secretary to the PM ANM Yusuf and other senior officials were present at the meeting.

Begum Zia directed all concerned to take immediate steps so that small and marginal farmers do not face serious problems. She asked them to take strict measures so that the price of rice does not go up due to manipulation of the market by unscrupulous businessmen.

The meeting was apprised that steps already taken would help meet a 20-lakh-ton target shortfall of Aman crop. The national target for Aman harvest this season, set at 117 lakh metric tons from 60 lakh hectares of land, is likely to fall short because of the freakish drought.

Rajshahi Division experienced 88 per cent less than average rainfall this monsoon, heavily affecting seedbeds.

It was noted that the present reserve of rice was about six lakh tons and another five...

See Page 12 Col 7

Dark justice

By Staff Correspondent

A young woman was banished from her village and her elderly father harassed publicly by a rural shalish (arbitration) at a village in Rajshahi district.

Her crime? Alleged 'chatting' with a man, which the arbitration considered an act of 'shamelessness'.

The incident was reported Sunday by the Coordinating Council of Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) after an enquiry by one of its investigators.

A CCHRB statement said that 18-year-old Anjali... See Page 12 Col 4

DUTA threatens agitation if demands not met

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) said yesterday it would go for a greater agitation unless the authorities accept its demands including a judicial probe into the August 4 violence on the DU campus.

The other demands include removal of Dr Ershadul Bari from the posts of Dean of the Faculty of Law, Provost of Zia Hall and member of the Senate and the Syndicate of the DU.

senate member of the DU.

Police were yet to trace the alleged killer of Fariduddin Ahmed Azam, younger brother of filmstar Alamgir, who was shot dead in the city in the early hours of Saturday.

Police sources said a special team, on a tip off, had gone out of the capital in search of Mamun, a friend of the deceased.

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Bangabandhu's residence now a museum

By Staff Correspondent

The residence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi in the city has been converted into a museum. Daughter of Mujib and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the museum yesterday evening.

Presided over by historian Salahuddin Ahmed, Convener of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, the inaugural function was also addressed by poet Sofia Kamal, Bangabandhu's second daughter Sheikh Rehana, Advocate Gazilul Huq, Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP, architect Rafiqul Hussain and Muntasir Mamun, a teacher of History Department of the Dhaka University.

A large number of guests including diplomats from the US Embassy, British High Commission, Indian High Commission, Japanese Embassy and Australian High Commission were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Hasina said, 'We stepped into this house on October 1, 1961.'

'My father was repeatedly arrested from this house. He'

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আন্তর্জাতিক সাক্ষরতা দিবস '৯৪ উদযাপন উপলক্ষে ফটোগ্রাফী প্রদর্শনী ও প্রতিযোগিতা

আন্তর্জাতিক সাক্ষরতা দিবস '৯৪ উদযাপন উপলক্ষে ফটোগ্রাফী প্রদর্শনী ও প্রতিযোগিতাতে ফটো সংবাদিক/ফটোগ্রাফারদের অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

স্থান: জাতীয় প্রেস ক্লাব মিলনায়তন
 তারিখ: ৭-৮ সেপ্টেম্বর '৯৪
 বিষয়: জীবন ও সাক্ষরতা
 ছবির মাধ্যমে মনোমাহা ও স্বপ্ন
 সাইজ: ১০" X ১২" থেকে ১২" X ১৬"
 পুরস্কার: গ্রান্ড পুরস্কার ১০,০০০/- দশ হাজার টাকা।
 ১ম .. ৭,০০০/- সাত হাজার টাকা।
 ২য় .. ৫,০০০/- পাঁচ হাজার টাকা।
 ৩য় .. ৩,০০০/- তিন হাজার টাকা।
 বিশেষ .. ২,০০০/- দুই হাজার টাকা (তিনিটি)।

১ জন প্রতিযোগী সর্বোচ্চ তিনটি ছবি প্রেরণ করতে পারবেন। তিনটি ছবি স্বল্পত ফটোগ্রাফিক প্রবন্ধ যদি বিচারকমণ্ডলী কর্তৃক নির্বাচিত হয় তবে তাকে গ্রান্ড পুরস্কার-এ পুরস্কৃত করা হবে। বিচারকমণ্ডলী কর্তৃক প্রাথমিক ভাবে নির্বাচনের পর ছবি প্রদর্শনীতে স্থান পাবে। বিচারকমণ্ডলীর কেউই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন না তবে প্রদর্শনীতে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন। যাঁদের ছবি প্রাথমিক ভাবে বিচারকমণ্ডলী কর্তৃক নির্বাচিত হবে না এক পুরস্কৃত হবে না তাঁদের ছবি কেবল সেয়া হবে। পুরস্কারপ্রাপ্ত ছবির কপি এবং নেপাটিচ ইনকেপের কাজে ব্যবহার করা হবে।

ছবি নিয়ম টিকনয় আগামী ১ সেপ্টেম্বর '৯৪ এর মধ্যে পৌঁছাতে হবে।

ছবি পাঠানোর ঠিকানা:

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 প্রাথমিক ও পর্ণিকা বিভাগ
 বাড়ী নং-৩২০, রোড নং-১৫(পুরাতন) ৮/এনএন
 পশ্চিম ধানমণ্ডী, ঢাকা।

টিফকপি ১১১০-১১৮
 ফি-১২০

AAFLI sees flaws in draft labour law

The Asian-American Free Labour Institute (AAFLI) has praised the codification of labour laws by Bangladesh authorities but found serious flaws in it that contravene the ILO conventions on trade unions, reports UNB.

The final draft of a labour code has been submitted by the National Labour Law Commission (NLLC) to the Prime Minister for endorsement by the government.

The draft law does not, unfortunately, meet international standards in all respects. There is a serious problem with respect to the provisions relating to the formation of trade union and overall protection of the right to associate,' observed the AAFLI, an international watchdog on workers' rights, after analysing the code.

It viewed the draft would not satisfy the ILO conventions 87 and 89 and would leave Bangladesh susceptible to international sanctions such as a petition under Generalised System of Preference Act (GSPA) under which Bangladesh enjoys preferential treatment in its trade with America.

The AAFLI, an affiliate of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), one of the three constituents of the international Labour Organisation (ILO), identified a number of problems of industrial relations in Bangladesh. There is a large number of national trade union federations, 23 at present. There might be 5 to 6 different unions in a single enterprise. It pointed out.

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Eastern Housing Limited
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Time Extension for Share Subscription

Due to some unavoidable circumstances, the **closing date** of subscription for company's share has been extended upto **16th August, 1994.**