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The World On Time



A flood-hit village in Dhalarchar union in Bera thana of Pabna. - Star photo by Ranesh Moitra

## BNP, Jamaat walkout

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journalism motions submitted to him.

As the home minister began to speak, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury drew the Speaker's attention that he was obliged to dispose of certain adjournment motions submitted by the Opposition members on the subject before allowing any minister to make any statement. But with the Speaker paying no heed to Prof Chowdhury's contention, the BNP legislators came forward to back their leader by thumping the tables with files and shouting at the top of their voice.

At this stage, the House witnessed a pandemonium as

... - the minister to continue his statement and the Opposition members to shout. Former minister in Khaleda Zia administration Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain was seen tearing some papers including that on the order of the day. Prof Chowdhury was drawing the attention of the Leader of the House on certain rules of the JS Rules of Procedure.

When the home minister finished his statement, the Speaker, however, allowed Prof Chowdhury to make his point. Referring to Rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure, he told the Chair that the Rule could never permit him to allow the minister to make a statement on an issue before disposing of certain adjournment motions submitted on the same issue.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition read out the Rule concerned which says: "Leave to make a motion for adjournment shall be asked for immediately after questions and before the orders of the day are entered upon."

Then he accused the Speaker of violating the Rule and ignoring the rights of the Opposition MPs.

At this point, Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia took the floor to announce the walkout protesting "the

Speaker's behaviour". "We are now compelled to stage a walkout as you have violated a particular rule of the JS Rules of Procedure and failed to uphold the neutrality of a Speaker," Khaleda told the Chair, adding, "Your behaviour proves that you do not want the JS to function properly."

She then led the walkout by her party MPs.

Jamaat MPs immediately followed them. "We staged the walkout in protest against the Speaker's refusal to allow us to speak on the issue," a Jamaat member told the House after their return later.

Defending the Speaker, Sheikh Hasina told the House that the Speaker had made no mistake by allowing the minister to make the statement. She also accused the Opposition members of violating certain rules by disturbing the minister when he was making the statement.

In this connection, the Prime Minister referred to Rule 300 that reads: "A statement may be made by a minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made."

She also called upon the Opposition to return to the House for effective functioning of parliament. The BNP legislators, however, did not return.

The Speaker, however, refused to accept the BNP allegations of both violating the Rule and compromising neutrality. He said: "None of the MPs had sought floor before I gave so to the minister. Besides, the question of violation of the Rule does not arise as I was yet to enter into the order of the day."

Yesterday's sitting, however, witnessed disposal of two resolutions, one moved by a Treasury bench member and the other by a Jamaat lawmaker. Three resolutions by the BNP legislators were not introduced in the House due to their absence.

The Speaker adjourned the session at 9:15 pm for resumption at 4:00 pm on Sunday.

## Our right denied

From Page 1  
ing the rules and denying the Opposition members' their rights.

Earlier, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury told a press briefing the "the Speaker had violated rules 64 and 300 of the Rules of Procedure and had lost his neutrality."

Terming the jail incident a very important issue to be discussed in parliament, he said his party had submitted adjournment motions seeking discussion on the jail incident and other law and order-related issues. But, he regretted, the Speaker permitted the Home Minister to make a statement on the matter.

By doing so, Prof Chowdhury alleged, the Speaker had violated Rule 64 as he allowed the minister to make the statement before disposing of our motions and Rule 300 by directly allowing the minister to speak without the latter's seeking permission for the purpose.

He also blamed the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for what he said ignoring the Opposition MPs and giving attention only to the Treasury Bench members. "We're ready to believe that the Speaker had prior understanding with the government to behave this way," he said, adding "The Speaker is the guardian of the House and not of the governing party members only."

**Editor : Mahfuz Anam**

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### 10 hurt in bus plunge

By Staff Correspondent

At least 10 persons were injured when a bus fell into a road side ditch at Rayerbagh, Shanir Akhra under Demra thana in the city yesterday.

The injured were taken to different hospitals.

Demra police said the accident occurred when the driver of the bus bound for Monohardi lost control of the vehicle.

A rescue team of the fire service and civil defense rushed to the spot and helped in the rescue operation.

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