



BNP violated JS norms, 4pt accord: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the BNP legislators to return to the Jatiya Sangsad and perform the responsibilities the people had entrusted to them.

"I request you (BNP legislators) to return to House and perform the responsibilities of the Opposition for which the people have voted you to Parliament," the Prime Minister said after the BNP lawmakers had gone out of the House for the second time yesterday.

The BNP MPs staged the first walkout protesting against an observation of Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury that it was the constitutional obligation for all to accept Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the Father of the Nation.

Speaker vows to prove it

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and a ruling party MP Abdul Kader Siddiki promised in the House yesterday they would resign if they failed to prove that the Constitution of Bangladesh still recognises Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the Father of the Nation.

Taking part in a debate whether the Constitution still recognises Sheikh Mujib as the Father of the Nation, Kader

Ruling over status of Bangabandhu BNP walks out of JS, stages demonstration

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition BNP lawmakers staged two walkouts from the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday protesting a ruling of the Speaker that said that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was still the constitutionally recognised Father of the Nation.

The second walkout, a stormy one, was also followed by a procession, brought out from the Opposition lobby. The processionists chanted slogans denouncing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Father of the Nation as well as the Prime Minister and the Speaker.

During the debate, the Treasury Bench MPs supported the view put forward by the Chair and criticised the BNP MPs for

their refusal to accept a ruling of the Chair. They argued that in a parliamentary democracy it was mandatory for all concerned to abide by the ruling of the Speaker.

Referring to the history of the country's struggle for democracy and independence, the Treasury Bench MPs also said that without Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country would not have been liberated.

On the other hand, the opposition BNP legislators argued that the fourth amendment to the Constitution recognised Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Father of the Nation. But with the repeal of the fourth amendment of the Constitution in 1979, it could not be claimed that the Constitution still up-

held Sheikh Mujib as the Father of the Nation. Referring to some of Mujib's political and legal actions during his governance, some of the BNP MPs refused to accept him as Father of the Nation.

The two-and-a-half-hours debate, marked with pandemonium, began soon after ruling party MP Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed rose on a point of order to protest the reported removal of Bangabandhu's portrait from a wall of the Bogra Circuit House in presence of Leader of the House and BNP Chief Begum Khaleda Zia on Monday.

He strongly condemned the incident and said it shocked the whole nation.

See Page 12 Col 3

Ekushey book fair opens Cultural complex to be set up: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced that her government would set up a "cultural circle" (Sanskritik Britta) soon to enable the next generation know the country's cultural heritage.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating the month-long Ekushey Grantha Mela (book fair) 1997, organised by the Bangla Academy in its premises.

JCD protests with black flags

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the BNP yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus carrying black flags protesting Prime Minister

See Page 12 Col 3

The proposed circle will have a national theatre complex along with stages for dance and other cultural activities. These will be set up beside the Independence Monument in Ramna and Suhrawardy parks between the Bangla Academy and Shilpakala Academy, she said.

The two parks will be connected by hanging bridges for enabling the people to go round

Editorial on page 4

the proposed cultural complex, she added.

The PM further announced that a twenty-one storied building would be constructed in the Bangla Academy premises to commemorate the Amar Ekushey.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her speech urged all

See Page 12 Col 3



Hosts take on Pakistan A in opening tie today

Sports Reporter

The cricket carnival in the capital begins today with hosts Bangladesh taking on fancied Pakistan A in the inaugural match of the third SAARC cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium at 9:15 am.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed will declare the tour na-

See Page 12 Col 4

Spl facilities for RMG exporters

By Staff Correspondent

The authorities have decided to give the readymade garments manufacturers a number of facilities including rapid clearance of goods by customs to help the sector maintain its competitive edge in the world market.

The facilities will include covering of import of raw materials under a single bond declaration instead of separate

bonds for each consignment, introduction of 'green channel' system to clear the imports, automatic renewal of special bond licence for readymade wares on payment of renewal fee.

"We have agreed in principle on the solution of most of the issues. We will implement those very quickly," Shah Abdul

Hannan, the new chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) told The Daily Star yesterday.

On the 'green channel', he said this is a new concept. "We will examine it and give a quick decision to make it effective soon," the NBR chairman, who is also the secretary, internal

See Page 12 Col 7



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina consoling a child (inset) during her visit to the Bhasantek slum in the city yesterday.

—Star photo

PM apologises to Bhasantek slum dwellers, assures rehabilitation

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina rushed to the evicted slum at Bhasantek in the city yesterday morning and assured the victims of proper compensation, rehabilitation and other possible help, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister, who sacked State Minister for Housing and Public Works Afsaruddin Ahmed Khan for evicting the hapless people without giving adequate time, apologised to the slum dwellers and said, "Even yesterday, I didn't know this slum would be evicted suddenly."

She requested the victims of Bhasantek Basti to stay in that area until the government rehabilitates them elsewhere. "None will evict you until proper rehabilitation is arranged," she said.

The slum dwellers claimed that some 20,000 people were evicted from the Basti on Monday. Several thousand houses of the poor and rootless people

See Page 12 Col 8

Slum dwellers not evicted: Afsar Bhasantek land was allotted for Benarasi Palli

Star Report

State Minister for Works Afsaruddin Ahmed Khan was asked to resign and the resignation was accepted by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. BTV said yesterday evening, adding a 'byzantine twist of events' concerning the exit of Mr Khan from the council of minister over 40 acres of public land in Bhasantek, Mirpur.

At 1-15 a.m., Monday, a terse announcement by the official BSS news agency, quoting sources in the PM's office, said the state minister had been 'sacked' for 'evicting the inhabitants of the Bhasantek slum without giving them enough time.'

But Tuesday's events saw the cabinet secretary handing over

a letter from PM asking him to resign which he complied, and the state-owned media reporting it.

Similarly, the Secretary, Ministry of Works had been made an Officer-on-Special Duty, the order of which did not reach him until late in the afternoon. He attended office for sometime and got the information from his PS, he told The Daily Star.

But what had gone wrong in Bhasantek, a sprawling 40 acre area of prime land, stretching from Mirpur Section One to Section 17, occupied mostly by squatters? The land, FWD sources said, belongs to the Housing and Settlement Directorate.

See Page 12 Col 1

AL candidate elected from Thakurgaon-1

Ramesh Chandra Sen of Bangladesh Awami League was declared unofficially elected in the by-election held in the Thakurgaon-1 parliamentary constituency yesterday, reports BSS.

Ramesh received 78,208 votes while his nearest rival Md Z H Islam of Jatiya Party got 39,843 votes, the Election Commission said in a press release last night.

Krishak Mohammad Sadek of Bangladesh Krishak Samik Mukti Andolan got only 1070 votes.

The percentage of vote cast was 50.98, the press release said.

Out of a total of 2,35,758 votes in the constituency covering a pourashava and 19 unions, 1,20,184 votes were cast and 1063 votes found invalid.

Earlier, official sources said polling was held in a peaceful atmosphere and no untoward incident occurred anywhere.

The main opposition BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami did not contest the by-election.

IDB VACANCY



Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wakf of international standard has been established with financing from Islamic Development Bank to—

- provide assistance towards the education of Bangladeshi Muslim Students;
- support in full or in part Islamic Educational Institution in Bangladesh and
- support, develop and maintain orphanages in Bangladesh.

The Wakf is managed and administered by a high powered "Mutawalli Committee" is looking for highly qualified & reasonably experienced Bangladeshi Nationals for the following posts for maintenance and operation of its newly constructed prestigious high-rise commercial complex located at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka. Lucrative international level salary and remuneration will be given to the competent candidates.

Manager-1

MBA or Masters in Management/Marketing/Economics with minimum 10 years' experience in property management and contract administration of high-rise commercial complex. Age: Maximum 40 years.

Maintenance Engineer-1

Graduate in Electrical/Mechanical Engineering having minimum 5 years' experience in the maintenance and repairs to electro-mechanical systems (HVAC system, Elevators, Escalators, DTW & Pumps, Fire protection system, Sub-station, Telephone Exchange, CATV, PA system, etc.) in high-rise commercial buildings. Age: Maximum 35 years.

Building Technician (M & E)-1

Diploma in Mechanical/Electrical Engineering with minimum 5 years' experience in the maintenance of mechanical & electrical equipment of air-conditioned high-rise commercial buildings. Preference will be given to person with experience in stores management. Age: Maximum 35 years.

Building Technician (Civil)-1

Diploma in Civil Engineering with minimum 5 years' experience in the maintenance of civil works of air-conditioned high-rise commercial buildings. Preference will be given to person with experience in stores management. Age: Maximum 35 years.

Accountant-1

Bachelors of Commerce with Accountancy having minimum 5 years' experience in any reputed organization in the relevant field. Age: Maximum 35 years.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their applications with CV supported by necessary documents alongwith 2 (Two) copies of recent passport size photographs to the following address by March 02, 1997 at the latest during office hours. The applicants are also required to mention their salary history and expected salary for the post prayed for.

Member Secretary

Mutawalli Committee IDB-BISEW & Joint Secretary (ME & Admn), Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka (Room-14, Block-16).

D-212

JS body to probe Shima's death

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday set up an 11-member parliamentary committee to probe into the death of Shima Chowdhury in the 'safe custody' in Chittagong jail, reports BSS.

Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah proposed the committee as per the assurance given by the Prime Minister in the House on Monday.

The committee headed by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will comprise the following members: Col (retd) Shawkat Ali (AL), Khondoker Delwar Hossain (BNP), Engineer Mosharraf Hossain (AL), Barrister Nazmul Huda (BNP), Advocate Fazeel Rabbi (JLP), Kazi Shamsur Rahman (Jamaat), Sultan Mohammad Mansur (AL), Salauddin Quader Chowdhury (BNP), Akteruzzaman (AL) and Prof Khaleda Khanam (AL).

The committee will frame its terms of reference in the light of the judicial probe committee set up earlier.

Probe body starts functioning

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 18: The one man enquiry commission has started preliminary work of the investigation in to the death of Shima Chowdhury while in 'safe custody' in Chittagong jail.

According to sources, the Chittagong district administration has deputed one magistrate to assist the enquiry commission comprising the retired judge of the High Court Division, Dalil Uddin Ahmed.

The enquiry commission will shortly issue a notice requesting the members of the public to appear before the commission.

The district administration today received the fax copy of the order under which action has been taken against the jail super and the doctor.

Meanwhile, a member of the high-powered medical team who preferred not to be named, told UNB today that they have already finalised the probe report and may submit it to the government tomorrow.

19th February, 1997.

Jatiya Stadium - I, Dhaka.

22 yards of pitch. 120 million voices cheering.

It is time to show them what you can do. Go on, do your country proud.

City Cell wishes the Bangladeshi Cricket Team the very best.



I'll be there.