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The World on Time

# BNP walks out of Sangsad

From Page well as the Leader of the House.

however, called on the BNP lawmakers to return to the House and take part in the proceedings.

The Prime Minister also assured the BNP that the government was even ready to have discussion in the House on the issue of the price hike of petroleum products.

Earlier, the Premier was very critical of BNP and alleged that it was trying to "foil our attempts to economically strengthen the country and hatching conspiracy against the government"

The BNP did not return to the House last night and put forward a 14-point charter of demand to be implemented by the Treasury Bench. A party spokesman later told newsman that they would return to the House only after the governing party "takes effective steps towards implementation of the demands.

The trouble began at 7:35 pm when Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury of BNP, began to criticise the government for raising prices of petroleum products without having prior discussion in Parliament, its failure to improve law and order and alleged repression on the political opponents.

Chowdhury was interrupted by the Speaker four minutes after he was given the floor

"Following thorough discussion by the leaders of both the Treasury and the Opposition benches, the JS Business Advisorv Committee decided on August 28 the issues to be discussed

## US Open

From Page 1 illustrious opponent who finally romped home 4-6, 6-2, 6-

Americans had something more to celebrate. Seventeenyear-old Venus Williams swept out number eight seed Anke Huber of Germany. The 6 feet 2 inches "all elbows and knees" brought off her biggest win so far with serves reaching 110 miles an hour. "I think she let the pressure get to her. I didn't bear down in the first set for a couple of games. I was making mistakes. There has to come a time when those foolish things have to stop. I think this is definitely the beginning for me." She sounded a little upbeat about herself.

Mark Woodforde, known for to and from Srimangal. his ability as a doubles player suddenly bloomed into a versatile singles 'champ' as he downed the 3rd seed and 1996 French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov in straight sets 6-3, 6-4, 7-6. But he had shocking realisation later in the day when their top seeded team in the doubles was thoroughly beaten by Tom Kempers and Menno Oosting 6-4, 3-6, 6-

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in the House. You did not raise the issue of price hike of the petroleum products in that meeting. Now why should you address the subject out of context now," The Speaker asked the Prof Chowdhury and switched off his microphone for the first time.

In the face of hue and cry by the BNP legislators, the Speaker gave him the moor within half a minute.

"I am reflecting the sentiments of the opposition MPs. The opposition MPs represent the toiling masses. I request you to allow me to complete my statement, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition told the Chair.

Meanwhile, Deputy Leader of the House and LGRD minister Zillur Rahman stood for floor and the microphone of the Badruddoza got automatically switched off. Zillur Rahman spoke something that could not be heard as MPs of both the benches were making noise. At this stage, the microphone of the BNP leader was switched on again, but it went off after a few seconds. For the last few seconds, the Speaker, Zillur Rahman and Prof. Chowdhury were making statements simultaneously, but none could hear any-

At 7:41 pm, the BNP lawmakers, led by Badruddoza Chowdhury, walked out of the

Chowdhury, in a hurriedly called press conference after the

### Bus service for train passengers in Sylhet still suspended

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Aug 30: The shuttle bus service between Sylhet and Srimangal railway stations remained suspended for the

fourth day today, causing great sufferings for the passengers of inter-city trains to and from Srimangal. The service was suspended following a dispute between the owners associations of Sylhet

and Moulvibazar districts since August 26. Due to the shut down, the revenue earning at the Sylhet railway station has declined to Tk 30,000 from Tk 80,000 a day, sources said.

The shuttle bus service was introduced from July 25 for the passengers of inter-city trains

#### JPPP meets

A meeting of the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party (JPPP) was held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with party chairman Hussain Mohammad Ershad in the chair, reports

Party Whip Advocate Fazle Rabbi said the meeting decided to play its role as opposition in the House.

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required papers duly filled in and supported by necessary documents for each enterprise.

walkout, said that his party staged the walkout in protest against the Speaker's refusal to allow him to make a statement on the failures of the government and interruption of the ruling party MPs while he was making the statement.

Jatiya Party legislator Advocate Fazle Rabbi also termed the BNP walkout unfortunate. Rabbi, who attended the meeting of the JS advisory body on Thursday, however, informed the House that he demanded a discussion on the price hike of the petroleum products, but neither the Awami League nor the BNP representatives took it seriously that day.

Jamaat-e-Islami legislator Gazi Shamshur Rahman said staging walkout is a right of the opposition. "But the Jamaat does not believe in staging meaningless walkout."

BSS adds: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad vesterday urged the Leader of the Opposition to clarify her position in favour or against the "killers" of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rah-

He said the present government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. has initiated the process of trial of the killing of former presi dent with the sole aim to stop once and for all the politics of killing and conspiracy in the country. But he asked the former prime minister to let the people know the mind of her party and herself whether they support the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and wish to protect them or to restore rule of law in the country

Terming the BNP's walkout as part of a "conspiracy," Abdus Samad Azad said it was a preplanned move by the opposition party. He said BNP, Awami League and Jatiya Party had jointly decided to discuss foreign policy and terrorism in the house but without discussing anything they (the BNP) suddenly changed their mind to create disorder in the House.

Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman who took the microphone following BNP's walkout, said it was a "preplanned move" by the BNP to destabilise the Jatiya Sangsad, otherwise they would not have behaved so irrationally when every thing was decided as to how the House would run, only two days ago. Zillur Rahman also alleged a conspiracy behind such move of the main op-

position. The Speaker postponed the scheduled general discussion on the ways of making a terrorism free society. He, however, did not announce a fresh schedule for the discussion.

The first-day sitting of the sixth session of the Jatiya Sangsad was adjourned at 9:20 last night to meet again at 4 pm

Date: 28/08/97

Brief Information

Established in 1968 and still running. Land area is 23.57

acres. This plant produces diesel engines. Installed Capacity of

Established in 1978 and still running. Land area is 116.20

acres. This industry produces transformers of different

capacity and other electrical goods. Installed capacity of

Established in 1984 and still runding. Land area is 2.19 highes.

The factory produces Stainless Razor Blade, Installed

This husking mill is established in 1950. The mill is closed.

Established in 1967 and closed down since 1994. Land area is

4.058 acres. The mill produces Textile Machinery and

## BNP: Accept demands

From Page 1

ment practice of deciding on matters of public interest bypassing parliament, containing terrorism by the ruling party. and individuals, implementation of the pay scale for government servants, immediate steps to stop repression of all kinds on women, allowing the electronic media to project the true picture of the society and to cover the Opposition activities properly, effective measures to boost the economy and the capital market and forming the JS bodies with the Opposition's

proportionate representation. Explaining the reason for walkout from the House, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said. "As public representatives, we wanted to speak on all the issues of public interest and thus help the government adopt pragmatic steps .... but we had to come out as the Speaker didn't allow and the Treasury bench obstructed.

Criticising the government for increasing the prices of petroleum products, he accused the ministers concerned of telling lies on the fuel prices in the global market. "Facts available show the prices have gone down in the last one year and prices are still going down-

According to him, the authorities had raised fuel prices to earn more revenue as they had been deprived of huge amounts of revenue due to unabated smuggling.

When his attention was drawn to the Speaker's ruling that the issue he (Prof Chowdhury) raised in the House yesterday was not decided in the JS **Business Advisory Committee** meeting his party attended, the BNP leader commented, "It can't happen that we'll be barred from discussing anything not

#### Yasmin murder From Page 1

The story in brief is that Yasmin, 14, was allegedly raped and subsequently murdered by the members of police patrol team at a place about ten miles from Dinajpur town on August 24, 1995.

The incident sparked violent agitations taking a toll of seven lives in clashes between people and police.

Due to violence, law and order broke down. People had set fire to four police outposts, offices of four local dailies and the press club in the town.

Under strong public demand, the body of Yasmin was exhumed under supervision of a 1st class magistrate and autopsy done for the second time by the doctors of Rangpur Medical College Hospital on August

Under public demand, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) took over the investigation of the case. Afzal Hossain, a senior ASP

and Mahfuzur Rahman ASP CID separately inquired into the incident and later chargesheeted the accused.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who was Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad at that time, had visited Dinajpur on August 29 defying a hartal and addressed a public meeting asking people to remain calm and not to take law in their hands.

Begum Khaleda Zia who was Prime Minister at that time, visited Dinajpur on Sept 12, 1996 but people showed her with black flags.

#### Healthcare

From Page 1

ment of the administration". Health Secretary Muhammad Ali said. "An essential package for public healthcare service had been prepared in the Health and Population Sector Strategy.

The speakers said that the local government system may play a vital role in improving the healthcare services.

The discussants included Md Abu Hena MP, Manzoor Ul Karim, adviser, health and nutrition, Unicef; Dr Rashed-E-Mahbub, Professor of Surgery. DMCH: Dr Syedur Rahman. former BMA president; Dr M A Majid, former BMA president; ABM Musa, a senior journalist and Dr Maleka Banu of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

The day-long roundtable was moderated by Motiur Rahman, Editor of The Bhorer Kagaj.

## Mongla port

From Page 1 function.

Goods to be imported by Nepal will be transported from the Mongla Port to the Banglabandh point. Later, those will

be routed through Indian territory to Kakarvita in Nepal. India recently agreed to al-low transit for Nepalese goods to be imported through Bangladesh which will help give effect to the transit treaty between Bangladesh and the

land-locked Nepal. Usually, Nepal imports commodities through the Calcutta Port. But it was learnt that Kathmandu is willing to use Mongla Port as it would cut import costs.

#### Gunfight

From Page 1 lege Hospital with bullet

wounds. Another injured, Rakhal Chandra of Baniapara in Lohagara thana, was now in police custody as his injury was mi-

The injury policemen — constable Miron Miah and Sharful Abedin - were given first aid in police hospital. A case was filed with Loha-

gara thana.

Secretary

## decided by the committee ... any

The Baily Star

matter of public interest can come up for discussion." Speaking on the Opposition's role in the House, he said "Representing the majority of the people, we're supposed to ventilate people's sentiment in the House ... We're concerned and afraid of the deteriorating law and order and a grim eco-

nomic situation."

Badruddoza Chowdhury was also critical of the government's 'failure' in each and every

Earlier, the BNP Parliamentary Party had a three-hour meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban and the 14-point demand was formulated on the basis of deliberations at the meet.

Emerging from the meet, Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain told waiting journalists they discussed all issues relating to the prevailing political, economic and law and order situation and functioning of the parliament.

#### Border talks

From Page 1

on border demarcation would start from September 10 from Godagari to Charghat in Bangladesh.

Replying to a question, District Magistrate of Murshidabad S K Das said "India will take strong measures against drug and small arms smuggling for the benefit of both the coun-

Kazi Farid Ahmed said that 67 small arms had so far been recovered by police in Rajshahi district during the last three months.

Both the team leaders said that demarcation work of missing pillars would start during

dry season. The next border conference between Bangladesh and India will be held in Murshidabad by

the middle of September, they said. The Indian delegation left here this afternoon for Maldah,

india.

Our Correspondent adds: A total of 102 Bangladeshis were in Murshidabad jail and 100 lndians in Rajshahi jail, it was said at the press briefing

The press briefing was also attended by Police super of Murshidabad M K Sing and Police Super of Rajshahi Abul Hashem.

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#### Resignation of DU Detailed report on visit Provost not accepted

By Staff Correspondent The Dhaka University au-

thorities yesterday asked the Proctor, who submitted his resignation letter Friday, to continue his duty.

There was no major issue behind Proctor Dr A K M Noor Un-Nabi's resignation, a top university official said. Further details were not available.

#### Hasina From Page 1

Ainjibi Samity.

The Prime Minister said that the present government wants to make the parliament meaningful and find solution of all issues inside it through discussion. She reiterated that her government believes in accountability and transparency.

Hasina said she attended all the meetings of Parliamentary Standing Committee, but the Leader of the Opposition didn't. If she (opposition leader) attends the meetings, she can make suggestion and give guidelines to raise the issues for discussion, the Prime Minister

### JRC meet

From Page 1

The first session of the talks from 10:25 am to 1:45 pm progressed "very satisfactorily" and it was held in a cordial atmosphere, Aftab Alam Ansari, chief engineer of the Teesta Barrage project, told reporters in the afternoon.

The second session of talks began at 3:45 pm and the discussion continued till filing of this report at 10:30 pm.

During the talks, the water experts once again analysed data of the river's water flow of last 50 years, the officials said. They will hold a joint press

conference on the water talks

tomorrow enorning.

#### From Page 1 Khaleda Zia and that she her-

self was accorded a state reception beyond normal protocol. The envoy reiterated, "We have categorically assured your government that none of them (the self-confessed killers), as

reported, were in Pakistan or

will be allowed to visit Pak-

Ctg.: 716353, 723578, Khutna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

istan. Asked if there was any possibility that they were able to obtain the passports under assumed names or fraudulently, the Pakistan envoy said, "It your government can provide the details, we can cancel the

passports. He said his country's Foreign Office spokesman has already issued a statement last Thursday in Islamabad that if need be Pakistan would co-operate on this or any other matter. "Let there be no doubt about it," he

Asked about the reported secret meeting of the self-confessed killers with Begum Khaleda Zia, Karam Elahi said, "We have said that they were not present in Pakistan. So the scope for meeting does not arise."

Responding to a question if Begum Zia was accorded state reception or special protocol. beyond her status as Leader of the Opposition, the envoy said, I have heard that before. But she has been accorded the honour she deserves as a former Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition of a friendly country. We treat dignitaries from Bangladesh with courtesy because of our warm relations. It is a reflection of our friend-

He said there are only two women MPs in the ruling Pakistan Muslim League and one of them, Tehmina Durrani, was deputed to receive Begum Khaleda Zia.

Asked if it was true that Begum Zia had visited Muree, the

envoy said, "She had visited Muree where she spent a full day. Muree is a famous resort which is close to Islamabad. After Begum Zia left Karachi, she went to Muree as there was no programme in Islamabad on that day. The following day she came to Islamabad.

"Begum Zia was hosted a private lunch by the Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif at the latter's residence. Even Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan was present at the lunch."

The envoy asked: "How can that be state-type reception or high protocol? That would have meant airport ceremonies gun salutes, banquets, and formal speeches.

It is a question of extending courtesies and hospitality to an important dignitary of a friendly country. We did not break any rules.

#### ALPP meet From Page 1

minister

Feroz's opinion was corroborated by almost all the MPs who attended the ALPP meeting yesterday afternoon. Tofael Ahmed explained the

background of GSP (Generalised System of Preference) problem facing the garments industry and said the issue was created by the past BNP government. He informed the meeting of

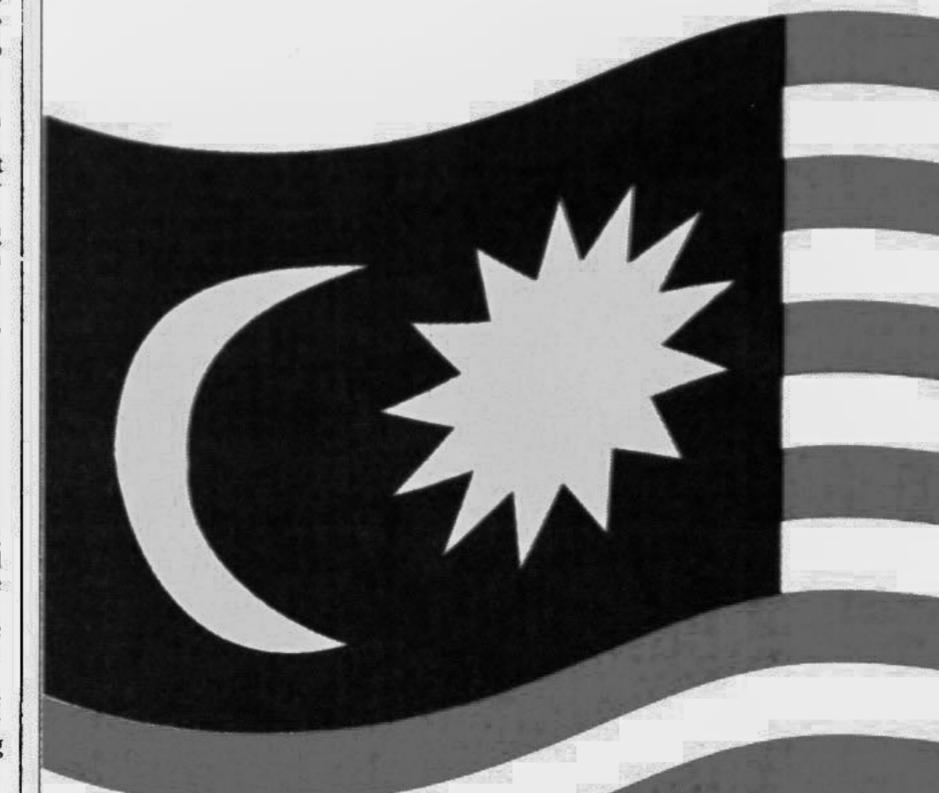
the steps so far taken to resolve the GSP issue with the European Union. Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah requested the ministers to collect specific documents to substantiate allegations of cor-

The documents, if necessary, will be produced in the House to expose to the people the 'corrup-tion committed by the BNP regime, he told the meeting.

ruption against the BNP minis-

ters during their rule.

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TEL/FAX: 988-6222 INTECOM SHOPPE TEL/FAX: 810352

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TM International (Bangladesh) LTD. 9th Floor, BRAC center, 75 Mohakhali C/A Dhaka 1212

Editor: Mahfuz Anam