Fundamental Rights of Defence Personnel

by Major General (Retd) S M Ibrahim BP, awc, psc

HE supreme law of the country is the L Constitution. The Constitution of Bangladesh is widely respected all over the world as one of the well written Constitutions. Nonetheless, to match with the requirements of time, it has been amended a number of times. It is read by people who are interested and concerned. In recent days, a necessity has arisen to study one or two salient aspects of the Constitution in depth. This discussion is an attempt to generate interest in the subject and inaugurate the process of study which may take time and involve many more people in due course. The focus is on the fol-

lowing questions: Are the fundamental rights described in Part III of the Constitution not applicable for the disciplinary forces? What about the fundamental right called 'Right to Protection of Law' for the members of the disciplinary forces? What are the remedies available to enforce the very disciplinary law in the event of any violation?

Before we proceed on the discussion an introduction on the Constitution itself and the disciplinary laws may be considered relevant here.

Constitution of Bangladesh

All discussions are on the printed Constitution available in the market with amendments upto 30th April 1996. There are eleven parts and four schedules in the Constitution. Part III of the Constitution deals with the Fundamental Rights. There are total twentythree articles, seventeen articles deal with seventeen different rights; six articles deal with exceptions and indemnities.

Article 31 is RIGHT TO PRO-TECTION OF LAW. For the members of a disciplined force, the protection of law means PROTECTION OF THE ARMY ACT, even if no other law.

Article 44 is ENFORCEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS. If a reader, while reading the Constitution stops at this point, then, no problem. All readers of the Constitution will feel happy to learn that he can go to the High Court for the enforcement of the fundamental rights. But once the reader proceeds further and reads Article 45, there is a big SHOCK for the members of the disciplined forces. In the Constitution, heading in the margin in respect of Article 45 is, modification of rights in respect of a disciplinary law. In reality it is not interpreted as modification but as total bar. Article 45 is quoted below in full:

"Nothing in this part shall apply to any provision of a disciplinary law relating to members of a disciplined force, being a provision limited to the purpose of ensuring the proper discharge of their duties or the maintenance of discipline in that force.

Therefore, in the light of Article 45, Article 26 to Article 44 (nineteen Articles) and Article 46 to Article 47 A (three articles) are not applicable to any provision of a disciplinary law. NOT A LEGAL EXPLANATION BUT A LAYMAN'S EXPLANA-TION OF THIS CONTRADIC-TION IS AS FOLLOWS:

The Army Act has many provisions. The Rules, Regulations and Instructions which have been made under the authority of Army Act also have many provisions. Whichever or whatever provisions of the Army Act are declared to have been made or applied for the

purpose of maintaining discipline or for the purpose of ensuring the proper discharge of duties, can not be challenged even if they are contradictory to any of the fundamental rights contained in Part III of the Constitution. Question that arises from this layman's explanation is, what will happen if the provision of a disciplinary law is not contradictory to the provision of fundamental right, but instead is complementary.

Bangladesh Army Act

Bangladesh Army is a disciplined force (Article 152 of the Constitution). The name of the law which regulates Bangladesh Army is the Bangladesh Army Act. This Act is actually the successor to Pakistan Army Act 1952, which in itself was a successor to the Indian Army Act,

Under Sec. 176 of Bangladesh Army Act (that is, BAA Sec - 176) the Government is empowered to make Rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provision of this Army Act. In reality, the Government of Pakistan had made Rules and after inheritance Bangladesh, these are called Bangladesh Army Act Rules

(BAA Rules). Under Sec 176-A of the Army Act, the Government may make Regulations "for the governance, discipline, recruitment, terms and conditions of services, rank precedence and administration" of the Bangladesh Army and generally FOR ALL OR ANY OF THE PURPOSES OF THE ARMY ACT OTHER THAN THOSE IN RE-SPECT OF WHICH RULES HAVE BEEN MADE UNDER SEC. 176. In reality, Pakistan Government had made Regulations which have been inherited by Bangladesh Government. This is called the Army Regulations. The Army Regulation has two parts or volumes. Part I or Vol. I of the Army Regulations (Rules) or in short AR (R) and is made by the Ministry of Defence. Part I or Vol. II of the Army Regula-

It will be noted or observed that the BAA (Rules) have effect as if enacted in the very Bangladesh Army Act. The Regulations do not have such an effect. However, as per explanation of the word "law" given in Article 152 of the Constitutions, the BAA (Rules), Army Regulations or other Legal Instruments having the force of law will be included or understood as law.

Discussion about Defence

tions is called Army Regula-

tions (Instructions) or in short

AR (I) and is made under the au-

thority of Chief of Army Staff.

Services have taken place at Chapter IV under Part IV of the Constitution. Part IV of the Constitution deals with THE EXECUTIVE. Under the Executive. Chapter I discusses The PRESIDENT, Chapter II discusses THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE CABINET, Chapter III discusses Local Government and Chapter IV discusses DE-FENCE SERVICES. It is difficult to understand as to why the matter was not included under Part IX of the Constitution: "THE SERVICES BANGLADESH", but, often Article 134 of this Part is quoted as relevant in terminating the services of the members of the Defence Services. Articles 62 and 133 both sponsor the idea that the services shall be regulated by law, but Authorities in the Defence Services and Government seem to take advantage of the 'doctrine of pleasure'

of the President (In days bygone the pleasure used to be prerogative of the Crown; however, although the Crown has gone away in favour of democracy, the pleasure seems to make an unhappy co-existence with democracy, consultative pro-

cess and accountability).

Going back to Article 62 of the Constitution, Parliament is supposed to make the law for regulating various aspects of the defence services. In Bangladesh, there are three separate laws for the three services namely Army Act, Navy Act and Airforce Act. For easy reference and understanding, only one law will be referred to here, namely, the Bangladesh Army Act. All officers, junior commissioned officers, warrant officers of Bangladesh Army and persons enrolled under the Army Act are subject to the Army Act. Although in the text of the Army Act or in the Notes, there is nowhere mentioned that:

a) The law cannot be reviewed, or

b) One cannot approach the Judiciary for proper interpretation and clarification in respect of any provision, or c) That an aggrieved person cannot take help of the Judi-

ciary for enforcing the provision of the Act: Yet however, in reality these

do not take place often.

casions) amplification to this. One occasion is, case of Khondker Ehteshamuddin Ahmad @ forced by the High Court. Iqbal vs State reported in 33

DLR (AD) 154. (This particular DLR — I have neither seen nor gone into; I have taken the reference from 34 DLR (AD) (1982), last line of page 183. The other occasion is, case of Col. Md where). We need to discuss. Hashmat Ali (Retd) of Bangladesh Army Medical Corps Vs Government of

Army Act Rules.

paragraph 16 and 17 at page 5 are the most important. So, what I want to submit is that the Army Act is neither beyond discussion or evaluation; and more importantly it is necessary to establish how to avoid miscarriage of Justice because of non-application of the Army Act or Rules made there under. At this stage, it is relevant to ask a question as to why this

Bangladesh and Another as re-

ported in 47 DLR (AD) (1995);

lif not more, at least on two oc-

Members of disciplinary forces have been making attempts to redress their grievances by going to the High Court Division on various occasions.

particular matter or question

has come up?

a) First known case is that of Major (retd) AFM Hafizur Rahman Vs Government of Bangladesh as reported in 29 DLR (1977) page 34. Judgement by Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed

b) Subject to Article 45 of the Constitution, they can be en-

c) A Fundamental Right could be violated because of application of a disciplinary law (No Remedy) — but if violation is because of non-application of disciplinary law, then what? (Answer not given clearly any-

It is time to go for examples so as to clarify or elaborate what exactly is being sought for.

An Example Let us see Rule 157 of the

What is a Court of Inquiry. why is it ordered, when are these ordered — and such like questions have been answered in the very Rule (Rule 157) A reading of BAA Rule 157 and BAA Rule 158 indicates that, Courts of Inquiry are classified into three categories (based on subject of Inquiry) namely, a Court of Inquiry as to Illegal Absence under BAA Section 78. a Court of Inquiry in the case of a Prisoner of War who is still absent, and all other matters that could be reasonably conceived. Kind attention is drawn to sub rule (6) of rule 157 and clarification provided under notes at note-3, note to subrule (6). The words character and military reputation have wide ranging meaning in the mili-

The questions that need pondering are:

a) What happens when the Court of Inquiry, or to be more specific, the President of the Court of Inquiry violates the provision of sub rule (6) of BAA Rule 157 (as happened in the enquiry following incidents of May 1996)? To whom do you lodge complaint or 'redress of grievance'? Where does the chain end? You complain to the Chief of Army Staff & nothing happens, you complain to the Head of the Government & nothing happens — then what do you or we do? Army Act Section 168, at page 262 (photocopy available in the booklet) lays down the method of submitting

redress of grievances. b) With respect to the questions in sub paragraph (a) above, the implications are likely to be different - in case of a serving person and in case of a retired person.

c) With respect to the question put forward in sub-paragraph (a) what do you do if you were, reportedly, found guilty of an offence (or offences) under the Army Act by this said Court of Inquiry and the Authorities decide to terminate your service based on the findings, opinion and recommendations of this Court of Inquiry which VIO-LATED sub rule (6) of BAA Rule 157, that is to say, where you could not defend yourself as re-

A Violation of sub-Rule (6) of

Rule 157 amounts to a violation

of a provision of a disciplinary

law. This particular provision

protects a fundamental or basic

right of a citizen or a soldier-

citizen. Is the provision of sub-

Rule (6) contradictory to Article

31 of the Constitution or any

other fundamental right as

given out in Part III of the Con-

stitution? If the protection is

not provided as per sub rule (6).

does it amount to "denial of the

Right of Protection of Law" — to

some degree, less or more? What

do vou do? Can you suspect

malafide in the action of the

President of the Court of In-

quiry who did not ensure this?

Is the President liable to answer

his failure; if yes, then to

here the seniority or hierarchy

Let me recollect or recount

a) Bangladesh Army Act

b) Bangladesh Army Act

ii) Volume II: Instructions

Attention is drawn to In-

struction 330 or AR(I)330. What

do you do when Authorities who

order a Court of Inquiry violate

the provision at 330(a) and ap-

point somebody who was him-

self involved in an incident as a

member inquiring into the in-

cident? To whom do you com-

plain? If one loses his job as a

result of the said inquiry then

the person who has lost his job,

of course, will be aggrieved, but

how does he obtain redress?

c) The Army Regulations

il Volume I: Rules (AR(R))

whom? If not why?

of the Laws and Rules:

Rules (BAA Rules)

(BAA)

{AR(I)}

quired by law?

BAA Sec 16 & 17 ii) By sentence of Court Martial: BAA Sec 60 (d)

b) Retirement, Release and Discharge: BAA Sec 18, BAA Rule 12 As an academic case, we will

discuss Retirement. RETIRE-MENT is allowed under Section 18 of the Act; but it has to be in conformity with such Rules as may be prescribed in this behalf. Which are the Rules then? It is the Army Act Rules. Please see Chapter III of the BAA Rules Please see Rule 9D where further reference is given to Regulations. Which are the Regulations then? It is the Army Regulations (Rules). BAA Rule 12 talks about Authorities empowered to authorize retirement, release or discharge. In note I (ii) the procedure to be observed in case of compulsory retirement is given; attention, drawn to Regulations. Which are the Regulations?

Chapter III of the Army Act

is headed TERMINATION OF SERVICE. Chapter III of the Army Act Rules is also headed TERMINATION OF SERVICE. In the case of Army Regulations (Rules), Chapter IX is headed TERMINATION OF SERVICE. Section I under Chapter IX talks specifically about officers. On top of the paragraph (or Rule 262) as well as paragraph (or Rule 269 A) was (up to 1988) headed the words "Procedure" in bold type. AR (Rule) 262 was changed or amended once in 1988 and again in 1996. Before amendment or upto 1988, the spirit of the said AR (Rule) 262 was the limits of age and service upto which one could serve. In 1988, a new paragraph or sub Rule 4 was added, in addition to changing the age and service limits. In 1996 the new (as of 1988) sub Rule 4 was retained but age and service limits were changed again. Since 1988 heavy reliance is being placed on the provision of sub rule 4 under Army Regulations (Rule) 262. The phrase or clause "without assigning any reason whatsoever" is being interpreted as without following any procedure. Our interpretation

(a) the government does reserve the right to retire an officer but the retirement has to be in conformity with rules prescribed by the government for the purpose of effecting retirements.

(b) The government may terminate the service (eg retire) or an officer at any time BAA Rule 12 (1) (a), but it has to follow the procedure (Note 1 (ii) to BAA Rule 12). The procedure is given in Regulations.

(c) In 1988 when AR (Rule) 262 was changed or amended, the heading "procedure" was amended to read as "Age, Service Limits for Retirement of Commissioned Officers of Army"

In the Amended Rule 262, a paragraph or sub-rule 4 was added. It was headed "Right of Government to retire any Officer" (as if the right did not exist earlier). It reads as follows: Not withstanding any other provision of these regulations, the government may retire any officer at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever. There are two inferences to be drawn. First inference is that since new AR (Rule) 262 is about Age/Service Limits for Retirement, therefore, the phrase 'at any time' means irrespective of the age or service limit. Second inference is that Without Assigning any Reason' means without disclosing to any one or publicly confessing, but definitely not absence of any reason

nor without following any procedure. Kind attention is Drawn to AR (Instruction) 168 or AR(I) 168. Whenever authorities at Army Headquarters want to process the case of compulsory retirement, it is required to mention the cause to the government. Absence of any cause can not possibly be acceptable. but its non-disclosure may be. (d) AR (Rule) 269 A, 269 B and

269 C remain unamended. It is headed "procedure" and this procedure is referred to in the Army Act Rules 9 D and 12, and these Rules are referred to in the Army Act itself, and the Army Act is referred to in the Constitution (Article 62).

The question at this stage is. who is going to monitor whether the authorities in Army Headquarters or in the Government has/have followed the procedure or not? Say, luck favours you and you discover that the procedure was not followed; then what do you do? Can you go to Court? What if Article 45 is put up as the restriction? Or what, if article 134 is put up, that you serve at the pleasure of the President.

That will bring us to the discussion of the "Pleasure Doctrine" or "Pleasure Theory" Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed discussed about the matter to some length in 29 DLR 1977 at page 34 to 44. There, he also discussed about the famous judgement by Justice Hamoodur Rahman of Pakistan which changed partially by disagreeing with the view held to be right for eighty years, about the concept of "Pleasure of the Pres-

One more aspect remain to be discussed, in brief, before I conclude, why have I referred to of 34 DLR (AD) (1982); case of Bangladesh vs AKM Zahangir Hossain. The second aspect is whether Natural Justice is a matter that could apply to members of a Disciplinary Force — to some or full degree? Civil Appeal Numbers 134 of

1978, 39, 140 and 126 of 1979 gave rise to the judgement delivered on 21st October 1981 (34 DLR). The four appellants were police officers (ASI). They were subjected to major punishment under Police Officers (Special Powers) Ordinance 1976. The victims had first gone to the High Court Division. In two cases, the High Court Division summarily rejected the petitions; in two cases the High Court Division admitted the petitions. An occasion arose calling for a substantial interpretation of the Constitution specifically because the members of the police force (the four appellants) were also members of a Disciplinary Force; and the Police Officers (Special Powers) Ordinance 1976 was a Disciplinary Law. Mr SR Pal and Mr Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed (two Learned Counsels) had appeared as AMICUS CURIAE.

Para 64 and Para 77 to 78 are very relevant. The order of the Court is contained at paragraph 77 and 78. Paragraph 77 is applicable for all the four disciplined forces, whereas paragraph 78 is applicable only for the Police force.

The case of Col Hashmat Vs Bangladesh as reported in 47 DLR is another milestone. In this particular judgement, the views of Lord Diplock (quoted at para 9 of 47 DLR (AD), and the views of the Honorable Supreme Court as at para 16 at page 5 of 47 DLR are milestones in as much as they clarify the positions for or in favour of a member of disciplined forces.

It is hoped the matter will be gone into and discussed further.

Whichever or whatever provisions of the Army Act are declared to have been made or applied for the purpose of maintaining discipline or for the purpose of ensuring the proper discharge of duties, cannot be challenged even if they are contradictory to any of the fundamental rights contained in Part III of the Constitution.

The Army Act has aims and objects. In the Manual of Bangladesh Military Law 1982 edition, at page 133, it is printed as follows:

"For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Gazette of 1951, Part V dated the 23rd November 1951, page 71 and for Report of the Select Committee, see Gazette Extraordinary, 1952, PP 347— 400.

This reference cannot be checked easily but, using my common sense as a former member of the Army, I can visualize the basic objects to have been something like the follow-

a) Ensure the maintenance of discipline in the army. b) Facilitate the discharge of duties by various member of the army — also being in the Service of the Republic.

c) Optimize the operational and other functional efficiency of the army of creating an environment of trust, confidence and high moral.

Therefore, the Army Act is a tough law which provides for speedy decision-making and disposal of cases. However, it is not a "draconian law." An effort has been made to minimise obstacles towards the implementation of the law by way of appeals, stay orders, injunctions

Section 131, 132 and 133 of the Bangladesh Army Act describes the Procedure of Remedy against findings and sentence of Court Martial, Annulment of Proceedings of Court Martial and Bar of Appeals. The summary is that, no appeal shall lie against any decision of a Court Martial save as provided in this act and no appeal or application shall lie in respect of any proceeding or decision of a Court Martial to any court exercising any jurisdiction whatsoever. Nonetheless, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh has given

was delivered on 21st January 1977. This was the first of its kind, i.e. a member of a disciplined force going to the High Court under Article 102 of the Constitution. The maintainability of the petition was the most important issue having bearing on posterity. Paragraph 21 at page 44 (29 DLR) is very

b) Next case is that of Rear Admiral AA Mustafa Vs Bangladesh as reported in 46 DLR (AD) (1994) page 43.

relevant.

c) The third case is that of Col Md. Hashmat Ali (Retired) Vs Government of Bangladesh as reported in 47 DLR (AD) (1995), paragraph 16 page 5 (47 DLR) is very relevant. It is important enough to be quoted

"a) A member of the disciplined force can be an aggrieved b) A member of the disci-

plined force can also move (like other citizens) the High Court division, subject to article 45 of the Constitution, for enforcement of a fundamental right.

e) A member of any disciplined force of Bangladesh will not be entitled to any remedy under article 102 of the Constitution if he is aggrieved. (i) By any decision of a court

or tribunal established under a law relating to the defence services unless that decision is coram non-judice or malafide. (ii) By an order affecting his terms and conditions of service. passed by or by order of the President.

(iii) By any violation of fundamental right resulting from application of a disciplinary law for the purpose of ensuring the proper discharge of duties or the maintenance of discipline in the disciplined force.

Referring to sub-paragraph (c) that I have quoted, questions that emerge are:

a) Members of a disciplined force also have Fundamental tary context. Sub Rule (6) and Note-3 to the Rule are quoted in full:

"157. Courts of inquiry. other than a court of inquiry held under section 78. (6) Save in the case of a prisoner of war who is still absent, whenever an inquiry affects the character or military reputation of a person subject to the Act, full opportunity shall be afforded to such person of being present throughout the inquiry and of making any statement, and of giving any evidence he may wish to make or give and of cross-examining any witness whose evidence, in his opinion, affects his character or military reputation, and of producing any witness in defence of his character or military reputation. The president of the court shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that any such person so affected, and not previously notified, receives notice of and fully understands his rights under this

rules en entre de entre

NOTE: 3. Sub-rule (6). Whenever it appears possible that the character or military reputation of an officer or other person subject to the Act may be affected as the result of the court of inquiry, the authority who assembles the court will take all necessary steps to secure that the provisions of this rule are observed. The ultimate responsibility of ensuring that they are observed in every case will, however, rest upon the president of the court, and should it transpire during the sitting of the court that the character or military reputation of any such person is affected by the evidence put forward, the president will immediately arrange for such person to be afforded the full facilities of the rules, adjourning the court if necessary for the purpose of securing his atten-

ANOTHER ACADEMIC EX-AMPLE: TERMINATION OF SERVICE OF OFFICERS OF ARMY The relevant provisions of

Law and Rules are as under: a) Dismissal and Removal: i) By administrative action:

Khan.

Ziaul Huq Zia. Labour and Manpower: Chairman - Abdul Latif Mirza. Members - M Abdul Mannan, Mohammad Ahsanullah, Shajahan Khan, Afsaruddin Ahmed Khan, Jahanara Khan, Nur Mohammad Mondol, Wahidul Islam, Shah Kharul Anam and Alamgir Haider

Forest & Environment: Chairman — Md Tabibur Rahman Sardar. Members — Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Kader Siddiqui, Habibur Rahman Mollah, Anjumanara Jamil, Golam Sarwar Hiru, Mohibur Rahman, K M Obaidur Rahman. Shamsul Islam Khan and Mujibur Rahman.

Land: Chairman — Mujibur Rahman Talukder. Members — Rashed Mosharraf, Enamul Huq, Suranjit Sengupta, Mohammad Latif Siddiqui, Mohammad Ali, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaikh Razzak Ali, Kabir Hossain and Salauddin

Ahmed. Fisheries & Livestock: Chairman - Adv Mosharraf Hossain. Members — Satish Chandra, Syed Rafigul Huq, A K Fazlul Huq. Dilara Harun. Qamrun Nahar Putul, Mozammel Hossain. Dr Mohammad Ali, Fazlul Huq and Shamsuddoha Khan.

Textile: Chairman — Shamsur Rahman Sharif. Members — K M Jahangir, Altaf Hossain Golondaj, Munnujan Sufiyan, Ali Reza Raju, Masud Reza, A F M Nazmul Huda. Fazlul Azim. Mozammel Huq and Ehsanul Hug Milon.

Cultural Affairs: Chairman - A S M Feroz. Members -Obaidul Kader, Prof Jinnatunessa Talukdar, Abdul Latif Biswas, Adv Abdul Latif, Prof Panna Kaiser, Taslima Hossain, Shamsuddin Ahmed, Shamsul Islam Pramanik and

Science and Technology:

Members - Dr Mizanul Huq. Khan Tipu Sultan, Ramesh Chandra, Nargis Ara Huq. Tohura Ali. Dr Mohammad Asadur Rahman, Abdul Alim, Momtaz Begum and Johurul Is-Social Welfare: Chairman -

Chairman - Dr H B M Iqbal.

Dabirul Islam. Members — Dr Mozammel Hossain, Dhirendra Debnath Shambu, Mohammad Shajahan, Jahanara Khan, Syeda Jahanara Huq. Nasiruddin Chowdhury, Fazlur Rahman Patal, Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan and Alamgir Mohammad Mahfuzullah Faird.

Home: Chairman - Adv Rahmat Ali. Members -Rafigul Islam, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Vice-Principal Abdus Shahid, Mostafa Rashidi Suja, Mohammad Tajul Islam, Zinat Hossain, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Sadeq Hossain Khoka and Hafizuddin Ahmed. Commerce: Chairman -

Raziuddin Ahmed Raju. Members - Tofael Ahmed, Mir Shakhawat Hossain Daru, Mohibur Rahman Manik, Master Mujibur Rahman, Biren Sikhder, Akhter Hamid Siddiqui. Mosharraf Hossain, Sarwar Jamal Nizam and Prof Shahidul Islam.

Establishment: Chairman -Khandaker Asaduzzaman. Members - Sheikh Hasina (or any other appointed by the PM), Abdul Mannan, S M Akram, Dipankar Talukder, M S Akbar, Ahsan Ahmed, Abu Hena, Shah Mohammad Abul Hossain and Engr Manjurul Ahsan Munshi.

Telecommunications: Chairman — Kamal Ahmed Majumder. Members - Mohammad Nasim, Mizanur Rahman Manu, Md Shahabuddin, Begum Shegupta Yasmin, Sharif Khasruzzaman, Adv Fazle Rabbi, Lutfur Rahman Khan Azad, Adv Nadim Mostafa and Barkatullah Bulu.

Weather

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Noakhali and Comilla during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Dry weather forecast

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Slight rise in day temperature is expected during the period, according to the Met office.

The Country's highest temperature 37.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Chuadanga and the lowest 21.7 degree Celsius at Srimongal. The sun sets today at 6:33 pm and rises on Thursday at 5:17 am.

Sraddha of Santana Banarjee held

Sraddha (obsequies) of Santana Banarjee, mother of artists Pijush and Manosh Bandhapadhay was held at the deceased's Faridpur residence yesterday. Santana died at the age of 70 on May 3 at Faridpur General Hospital.

Obituary

Wali Ahmed, 70, Director Garbco Ltd Banani died of cardiac failure on Monday at CMH at 9:30 am, says a press release. His namaz-e-janaja was held at Gulshan Central Mosque and he was laid to rest in his village home at Kanishail, Sylhet.



Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad inaugurated first Abdur Rob and Director Prof Nasrin Rab.



founding anniversary function of Ayesha Memorial Specialised Hospital on Friday. From left to right, minister Lt Gen (Retd) Nooruddin Khan, Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Muztafizur Rahman, MD of the Hospital Maj Gen (retd)

——— Metropolitan 14 JS standing committees recast, 21 others formed

Parliament yesterday reconstituted 14 parliamentary standing committees and constituted 21 others, reports UNB. The House approved the 35 committees, proposed by Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah.

were not present. The 14 reconstituted standing committees are: Food Ministry: Chairman-Md Sayedul Huq. Members-Motia Chowdhury, Abdul Kader Siddiqui, Mirza Azam, Md Joynul Abedin Bhuiyan, Bharati Nandi Sarkar, Joynul Abedin Sarkar, Abdul Hye,

However, the BNP lawmakers

Shamsuddin Ahmed. Finance Ministry: Chairman-Prof Ali Ashraf. Members-Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain. S M Akram, Chitra Bhattacharya, Mahfuz Reza, A N M Mostafa Kamal, Karimuddin Bharasha, M Saifur Rahman, M K Anwar and Amir Khasru

Shajahan Mia and Alhaj

Mahmud Chowdhury. Information Ministry: Chairman-Abul Kalam Azad. Members-Prof Abu Sayeed, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Sultan Mohammad Monsur Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Shahin Monwara Huq. N K Alam Chowdhury, Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, Afzal H Khan and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan.

Health: Chairman-Dr Kazi Abu Yusuf. Members-Salah Uddin Yusuf, Prof Dr M Amanullah, Dr HBM Iqbal, Begum Aleya Afroz, Tajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Dr Dewan Mohammad Salahuddin, Syed Mehdi Ahmed Rumi and Dr Ziaul Haq Mollah.

Youth and Sports: Chairman-Joynal Abedin Hazari. Members-Obaidul Quader. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Harunur Rashid, Bir Bahadur, Shamim Osman, Abdur Rashid Sarker, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Mosharraf Hossain Mongu and Abdul Khaleque Jhontu.

Water Resources: Chairman-Abdul Momen, Members-Abdur Razzak, Anwarul Islam, Gazi Sekander Ali, M A Bari, Shamsuddin Ahmed, Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed, Adv Harun al-Rashid, Dr Habibur Rahman and Golam Siraj. Law, Justice & Parliamen-

tary Affairs: Chairman-Suranjit Sengupta. Members-Abdul Matin Khasru, Adv Rahmat Ali, Mohammad Shahjahan Mia, Sheikh Mohammad Nurul Haq. Salahuddin Advocate, Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan, Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Barrister Aminul Haq and Khaleguzza-

Shipping: Chairman-Col (Rtd) Showkat Ali. Members-A S M Abdur Rab, Dhirendia Debnath Shambhu, A B M Abul Kasem, Mir Sakhawat Hossain Daru, Mahmuda Saogat, Golam Faruq Ovi, Giasuddin Qader

Chowdhury, Mohammad Rafiqui Islam Bakul and Jafrul Islam Chowdhury. Religious Affairs: Chair-

man-Shah Mohammad Hadiuzzaman. Members-Moulana Nurul Islam, Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, A K M Shamsul Huq. Mohammad Hafez Ruhul Amin Madani, Panchanan Biswas, Lutfur Rahman Chowdhury. Prof Mohammad Abdullah. Abdul Wahab Khan and Abdul Majid Sarker. Agriculture: Chairman-Dr T

M Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury Members-Begum Motia Chowdhury, Mizanur Rahman Manu, Dewan Farid Gazi, Ahmed Tofizuddin, Mohammad Emdadul Haq, Abdul Hakim, Abul Kalam Azad, Ahmed Ali and Alhaj Mohammad Abdul Wa-Jute: Chairman-Mohammad

Shamsul Haq. Members-A K Faezul Haq, Advocate Mosharraf Hossain, Sharif Khasruzzaman, Emdadul Haq Bhutyan, Jalaluddin Talukder, Mohammad Mujibur Rahman, Salek Chowdhury, Alhaj Prof Golam Morshed and Goutam Chakra-

LGRD & Cooperatives: Chairman-Abdul Mannan. Members-Zillur Rahman, Adv Rahmat Ali, Prof Rafigul Islam, Abdul Khaleque, Mujibul Haq. Dr Rustam Ali Farazi, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Mohammad Shahjahan and Helaluzzaman Talukder Lalu.

Communications: Chairman-Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim. Members-Anwar Hossain, S M Mostafa Rashidi Suja. Mostafizur Rahman, Khan Tipu Sultan, Alhaj Moqbal Hossain, Mohammad Mogbul Hossain, Nazimuddin Alam, M Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu and Shahidul Islam.

fairs: Chairman-Dr S M Akbar. Members-Dr Mozammel Hossain, Khaleda Khanam, Kazi Keramat Ali, Begum Meher Afroz, Ethin Rakhaine, Prof Sabita Begum, Khurshid Jahan Huq. A K M Hafizur Rahman and Mozahar Hossain. The 21 newly constituted

Women and Children Af-

standing committees: Defence: Chairman-Maj Gen (Rtd) K M Shafiullah. Members-Sheikh Hasina, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Col (Rtd) Showkat Ali, Muhammad Farooq Khan, Sheikh Helaluddin, Golam Mohammad Quader, Lt Col (Rtd) Akbar Hossain, Maj (Rtd) Akhtaruzzaman and Rezaul Karim.

Dr Mohammad Selim. Members-Abdus Samad Azad, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, H M Ershad, Nurul Islam Nahid, Syed Ashraful Islam, Marium Begum, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, M Morshed Khan and M Shamsul Islam. Planning: Chairman-H N

Foreign Affairs: Chairman-

Ashiqur Rahman. Members-Lt Gen (Rtd) M Noor Uddin Khan, Syed Abul Hossain, Prof Ali Ashraf, Maj Gen (Rtd) Abdus Salam, Prof Jannatul Ferdous, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Nurul Amin Talukder, Mohammad Fazlul Huq and Abu Lais Mo-

hammad Mobin Chowdhury. Relief & Disaster Management: Chairman-Syed Kamal Bakht Saki. Members-Talukder Abdul Khaleq, Waziuddin Khan, Kazi Keramat Ali, Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Farida Rouf Asha, Mostafizur Rahman, Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman,

Shahiduzzaman Beltu. Education: Chairman - Nurul Islam Nahid. Members ---ASHK Sadique, Vice-Principal Abdus Shahid, Prof Mohammad Abdul Quddus, Kazi Serajul Islam, Razia Matin Chowdhury. Begum Rowshan Ershad Amanullah Aman, Alamgir Kabir and Mohammad Mashiur Rahman.

Joynul Abedin Faruq and

Industry: Chairman — Dewan Farid Gazi. Members -Tofael Ahmed, AKM Rahmatullah, Hafiz Ahmed Majumder, Rafigul Anwar, Shahana Sardar, Md Golam Hossain, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Harunur Rashid Khan and AKM Mosharraf Hossain. Energy and Mineral Re-

sources: Chairman - Abul Has-

nat Abdullah. Members - Prof

Rafigul Islam, Imran Ahmed, Tajul Islam, Shamim Osman, Jillul Hakim, Abdul Mukit Khan, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Salauddin Kader Chowdhury and Mahabubur Rahman. Civl Aviation and Tourism: Chairman - Bir Bahadur. Members — Engr Mosharraf

man Atiq, Hosne Ara Wahed, Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad, Abdul Mannan, Syed Manjur Hossain and Mizanur Rahman Sinha. Chairman — Akhteruzzaman. Members - Mohammad Nasim, Nur Alam Chowdhury, Haji Mohammad Selim,

Hossain, Shah Azizur Rahman, Abdus Sattar. Md Atiur Rah-Housing and Public Works:

Mustafizur Rahman, Rehana Akhter Hira, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Ahnanul Huq Mollah, Md Harunur Rashid.

Abdul Mannan Talukder and