



Rail & road links with Ctg restored

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 30: Port city's communication with rest of the country was restored at 10 pm tonight after the agitating jute mills workers withdrew the rail road barricade programme at Barabukunda under Sitakunda thana, police and railway sources said.

The union leaders of three privately owned industries — Kashem Jute Mill, Anwara Jute Mill and Mokbulur Rahman Jute Mill — agreed to withdraw the barricade programme after an agreement signed with the authorities concern at a marathon meeting from 1 pm to 9.30 pm.

The authorities gave an assurance of payment of workers dues within seven days.

Thousands of agitating workers put up barricades on rail, road and Dhaka-Chittagong highway at 6 pm yesterday for an indefinite period to realise their outstanding dues.

The barricade programme forced suspension of train service to and from Chittagong. City's transport service with rest of the country was also disrupted.

Delivery of goods from Chittagong Port to other parts of the country was hampered due to suspension of transport service.

Opposition to protest 'anti-people' budget today

BNP-led opposition alliance will stage demonstration today to protest the passage of the 'anti-people' budget for fiscal 1999-2000, reports UNB.

The liaison committee of the alliance comprising BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami of Bangladesh and Islamic Oikya Jote in a press release said the budget was passed disregarding the opposition demand for withdrawal of taxes.

Sources said the four parties may call for a nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal on July 8 to protest the budget. The parties will hold meetings today.

BNP will stage its demonstration at Muktangan, Jamaat at Purana Paltan and IOJ at the North Gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the afternoon, JP will also demonstrate in the city.

The four parties will also bring out protest processions.

Our Staff Correspondent adds, the BNP will organise the programme to protest personal attack on its Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia and members of her family, and 'false, fabricated, baseless and naked' statement against Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AGM Badruddoza Chowdhury.

Landslide kills 3 in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, June 30: Three people including a woman were killed in a landslide at Galenga union of Ruma thana here last night, police said today, reports BSS.

The landslide was caused by incessant rains at Galenga, 50 km from the thana headquarters.

The victims were identified as Umi Mong, 40, an employee of Social Services Department, Hla Maung, 25 and Ukhya Maung, 20.

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JS session adjourned amid uproar PM forces Chair to disallow personal explanation

By Staff Correspondent

Clamour gripped the Jatiya Sangsad for about seven minutes yesterday as Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina apparently forced the Chair to disallow Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AGM Badruddoza Chowdhury to give a personal explanation.

The House leader jumped on his feet thrice to challenge Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury when he gave the floor to the deputy opposition leader to speak on a personal explanation. She opposed the Chair's decision saying there was no precedence of allowing a member to give personal explanation.

Enraged by abrupt adjourn-

ment on the day of passage of the national budget.

The Speaker made several attempts in vain to justify his decision and then acted in accordance with the House leader's advice — adjourned the session. He promised B Chowdhury that he would be allowed to speak on the issue today (Thursday).

Chowdhury could hardly say a few words, blaming the Treasury Bench for making untrue statements about him. The ruling party MPs raised a noisy protest. Hasina then took the floor, spurning uproar in the Opposition Bench.

The premier's role sparked off sharp reaction from the BNP lawmakers, who jumped up, shouted at her and threw papers in the air before leaving the House. Treasury Bench members retorted, shouting at their opposition colleagues.

Enraged by abrupt adjourn-

ment of the session, the opposition legislators also shouted — burn down the PM's chair — while marching through the parliament corridor.

It all started when the Speaker allowed B Chowdhury to give a personal explanation soon after the House approved the national budget for 1999-2000 at 4:23 pm.

Chowdhury could hardly say a few words, blaming the Treasury Bench for making untrue statements about him. The ruling party MPs raised a noisy protest. Hasina then took the floor, spurning uproar in the Opposition Bench.

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Parliament passes budget

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad passed the national budget for fiscal 1999-2000, yesterday afternoon, by voice vote.

Earlier in the morning, the House witnessed a brief BNP walkout during the consideration of demand for a grant to the prime minister's office. The BNP lawmakers protested the Chair's allocation of 'unlimited time' to ministers replying to opposition contentions.

However, Finance Minister S A M S Kibria placed the Appropriation Bill, 1999 seeking parliament's endorsement of Tk 44,556 crore 85 lakh 75 thousand from the state's Consolidated Fund to meet the demands of and expenditures for various ministries and public offices during the financial year beginning today.

The opposition members were allowed to discuss certain

votable expenditure of Tk 9095 crore 70 lakh and 63 thousand.

According to the appropriation bill passed by parliament, Tk 28,735 crore 85 lakh and 75 thousand has been estimated as non-development expenditure and Tk 15,821 crore as development expenditure.

Earlier, on Tuesday the finance minister got the Finance Bill, 1999 passed by the House that authorised the government to collect more than Tk 24,000 crore as revenue.

After discussions on four demands of grant — out of 94 — at 1:45 pm, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid applied guillotine on the cut motions of the opposition members seeking reduction in the amount of the demand for grants by various ministers.

However, the opposition members objected to the demand for a grant of Tk 44 crore.

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demands for grant made by the prime minister's office, home ministry, defence ministry and the law, justice and parliamentary affairs' ministry. The remaining demands for grant were put to vote without any discussion in the House.

The ministries which came up for virulent opposition were education, industries, home, CHT affairs', information and agriculture.

The opposition refrained from opposing the passage of certain demands for grant for the ministries of youth and sports, fisheries and livestock and communications.

Prime Minister's Office

However, the opposition members objected to the demand for a grant of Tk 44 crore.

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