

JS tidbits

NAZMUL ASHRAF

Valiant freedom fighter and founder of the Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) Abdul Quader Siddiqui launched a scathing attack on the Awami League in the parliament yesterday for "calling the October 1 general election one of conspiracy."

Siddiqui, expelled from the Awami League more than two years ago, rose on a point of order and immediately launched himself into the AL leadership for what he said insulting the president and the chief advisor. "After this, I doubt whether anyone will agree to be president or chief advisor."

The KSJL chief came down on the opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, without uttering her name, for taking oath after rejecting the election results.

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JS will discuss Hasina's allegation of 'blueprint'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar has agreed to allow a general discussion in the Jatiya Sangsad on the allegation of Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina that the October 1 general election was held under a blueprint.

AL is abstaining from the Sangsad session.

The Speaker allowed a point raised by Bangabir Abdul Quader Siddiqui in the House yesterday saying that the October 1 general election was held in a free, fair and congenial atmosphere and was widely accepted at home and abroad.

"None has the right to undermine the achievements," the Speaker observed when Siddiqui, chief of Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League (BKSJL), proposed a two-hour general discussion in the House on AL's allegation.

Siddiqui, who left AL in 1999 and was elected to the House this time on his own party ticket, blasted AL saying, "The opposition party (AL) is claiming that the

election was held under a blueprint. They are charging the President, the Chief Advisor (of the immediate past caretaker govt) and the Chief Election Commissioner with involvement in it."

He mentioned that the AL had showed high esteem for Shahabuddin Ahmad while making him President. But now it terms him a 'betrayal'. "Will any one agree to be the president or the chief advisor in the days to come?" he questioned.

Criticising AL's stance regarding the election results and its actions afterwards, the BKSJL chief said they (AL) have rejected the polls results but they have taken oath as MPs and now say they will not attend parliament session. He went on, "If any blueprint was made, it was made the day Shahabuddin Ahmad was made President. Perhaps, they wanted to have their conspiracy materialised by the President, but he refused."

The Chair intervened several times while Siddiqui was speaking against the party he earlier belonged to. The Speaker then said, "I have understood your point

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Japanese envoy calls on Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday hoped that Japan would continue to contribute to the economic development of Bangladesh as a potential development partner.

She made the remarks when Japanese Ambassador Jiro Kobayashi called on her at her Dhanmondi house.

Hasina recalled Japan's active participation in the country's infrastructure development, including construction of Bangabandhu Bridge and other major bridges, signing of protocol on the proposed Padma Bridge and technical assistance for modernising Bangladesh Television, during her tenure.

The former prime minister and Awami League chief hoped that the Japanese government would allow duty-and-quota-free access of

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Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Jiro Kobayashi called on Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

Speaker orders steps allowing Obaid to join JS on parole

UNB, Dhaka

Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday directed the home minister to take necessary steps allowing detained BNP lawmaker K M Obaidur Rahman to join parliament on parole to represent his electorate.

Responding to a plea made by Shamsul Alam Pramanik of the Treasury Bench, the Speaker said Obaid had the right to come to parliament and cited precedence in this regard.

He mentioned that former president H M Ershad had attended the parliament session on parole and requested the home ministry to do the needful for Obaid to represent the people of his constituency in the parliament.

"Even if there had not been any precedence, the MP would have to be allowed to join the parliament

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Sangsad Sadasya, not Sangsod

UNB, Dhaka

Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar in his first ruling in the new parliament proscribed the use of the Bengali word 'Sangsod' as synonym of MP as a lawmaker decided it as an alien term.

"From now on the Members of Parliament will have to be called Sangsad Sadasya, not Sangsod," the speaker said giving the ruling.

The speaker's edict came as BNP lawmaker Prof Shahidul Islam on point of order drew attention of the House that the Constitution and the Rules of Procedures don't permit addressing the MPs as 'Sangsod'.

"The word Sangsod has been imported from India," he said and requested the chair to drop it.

He also regretted that even Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk earlier in the day in question-answer session used the word.

In giving his edict the speaker said that he would expunge the word 'Sangsod' from the parliament proceedings no matter who uttered it in the sessions under his chairmanship.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 5		5-17 pm
Nov 6	6-08 am	

Prayer Timings

Nov 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-26	5-30
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Ten days after PM's directive

Roads still littered with waste

RAZIUR RAHMAN

City roads are still littered with solid waste even ten days after the prime minister's directive to clean up the roads and corners within seven days.

The directive on the clean-up drive and installation of makeshift garbage containers at proper points came after a meeting held at the prime minister's office on October 25.

But no makeshift container has so far been set up at any point.

Chief Conservancy Officer of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Shah Alam told The Daily Star that the DCC was making every effort to improve the situation.

"We are now trying to identify the points that need makeshift garbage containers," he said adding that the work of setting up containers is in the process. The DCC official, however, failed to say how long it would take to install the containers.

The DCC fails to remove about

400 tons of solid waste left on the roads everyday, which not only expose the city dwellers to serious health hazards, but create an obstacle to vehicular movement.

According to experts, around 3,500 tons of solid waste is generated in the city everyday, but the officials of DCC conservancy department put the amount at nearly 3,000.

Pedestrians are exposed to unbearable stench emitting from the solid waste that pours down on the city roads almost round the clock.

The Kathalbagan crossing on the Green Road, Mazar Road in Mirpur, Hatirpool, Karwan Bazar, Kalabagan Bus Stand, Fakirapool and Shantinagar are among the worst-affected areas in the city.

The DCC officials say that at most places their trucks remove the solid waste once a day and mostly at night, which another official termed regrettably inadequate.

The DCC conservancy department is equipped with 190 trucks and around 6,500 workers. Nearly 55 to 60 of the trucks remain off the road everyday due to maintenance and repairing, though.

According to a DCC estimate, residential areas generate 49 per cent of the solid waste, commercial areas 21 per cent, industrial areas 24 per cent and hospitals and clinics the rest.

The waste is carried away to two DCC dumps in Demra and Mirpur areas. To make things worse, most of the commissioners of 90 DCC wards do not use their manpower properly taking advantage of lack of supervision.



Piled-up garbage on a road at Kaptan Bazar in the city, posing serious health hazard to local people and pedestrians.

Govt plans 'massive' drive to increase manpower export

REZAUL KARIM

The government is 'worried' about the decline in manpower export and will launch a 'massive drive' shortly to persuade different countries to recruit skilled and unskilled manpower from Bangladesh, official sources said.

Export of manpower is gradually decreasing since 1998 and it came down to almost half this year. Bangladesh exported a total of 1,43,244 workers to the KSA, UAE, Qatar, Libya, Bahrain, Oman, Korea, Singapore, Brunei and some other countries from January to September this year.

Export of manpower to different countries, particularly middle-east countries, increase gradually from 1991 and the number stood at 3,81,077 in 1997. But it is decreasing since 1998, the sources mentioned.

"We have taken a number of steps to check the slide and also to increase export of manpower," a

top official of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower told reporters yesterday.

He said the ministry last week sent letters to Bangladesh missions abroad seeking to know prospect of manpower export to those countries. The mission chiefs have been asked to send back reports within a fortnight. "We will initiate a massive drive to increase export of manpower immediately after getting the reports from the missions," he added.

Manpower export to Kuwait and Malaysia remains suspended since last year due to some unpleasant incidents. Malaysia had legalised some 15,0000 Bangladeshi workers in 1997 while a total of 63,303 workers returned from Kuwait and Iraq during the Gulf War in the 90s, he pointed out.

The government has now initiated a move to resolve the problems regarding manpower export to Kuwait and Malaysia.

As part of the move, Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdullah Al Noman had talks with the Kuwaiti ambassador in Dhaka when he called on him at his Secretariat office yesterday.

The envoy referred to an unpleasant incident and the minister assured him that the government would take 'appropriate measures' to resolve the issue immediately. Noman requested the envoy to take positive steps to recruit manpower from Bangladesh.

The Charge d' Affaires of Iraq also called on the minister yesterday at his office. Noman made a similar request to him regarding recruitment of manpower.

Export of Bangladeshi workers to Iraq remains suspended since 1991, to Laos since 1999, to Spain since 1998 and to Lebanon since last year.

Talking to reporters, Noman

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Current JS session to continue till Nov 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The inaugural session of the eighth Jatiya Sangsad will continue till November 15, the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) decided at a meeting yesterday.

The BAC at its first meeting with Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar in the chair also decided that the remaining sittings of the current session, except today's one (from 4:00 pm), will begin at 4:30 pm and continue up to 10:00 pm everyday.

The House will have a general discussion on a thank-giving motion on the presidential address.

Although the BAC meeting was scheduled for 2:00 pm yesterday, it took place immediately after the House sitting was adjourned at about 12:45 pm. The House yesterday formed the 15-member Business Advisory Committee comprising 11 members from the Treasury Bench and four from the Opposition Bench, three of them belonging to Awami League.

The meeting also decided that the House will have a 20-hour discussion on the thank-giving motion on the presidential address.

It was attended by Leader of the House Khaleda Zia and BAC members Local Government and Rural Development Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Salauddin Quader

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Hasina begins organisational tour today

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina begins a five-day organisational tour of southern region today to have an idea about the post-election situation and consolidate her party at the grassroots level.

She will start her journey this morning by placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar from where she will go to Tungipara to place wreaths at the mazar of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman later in the day.

She will address a public meeting at Gopalganj town in the afternoon and stay overnight at her ancestral home.

Tomorrow, she will set out for Ramshil under Kotalipara upazila and attend political programmes to be organised by local units of the party.

In the afternoon, she will attend a

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CU BCL enforces indefinite siege programme

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) enforced an indefinite siege programme at Chittagong University yesterday protesting the attack on its activists by Chhatra Shibir on Saturday.

At least 10 BCL men, including president and general secretary of the university unit, were injured in the attack.

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Arms recovered, 10 arrested in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Army personnel arrested ten persons in illegal possession of huge arms and ammunition Saturday night at Nunchhari under Mahalchhari upazila in the district.

The army men on patrol, being tipped off, raided a Mahalchhari-bound microbus (CHT Metro-Cha-2001) on the Khagrachhari

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Ad-hoc Managing Board of BDRCS formed

UNB, Dhaka

A 15-member Ad-hoc Managing Board of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society BDRCS was formed yesterday with Major General Z A Khan (ret) as its chairman.

Dr Gazi Abdul Haque was appointed vice-chairman and Dr Fazlul Kabir, treasurer of the board. President Shahabuddin Ahmad, who is also the president of the BRCS, gave the appointment replac

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