

JS tidbits

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many lawmakers in the new House were not aware of the rules.

Prof. Islam also asked the Chair to go by the practice in the last parliament where the speaker used to ask an MP to refer to the rule under which he or she had wanted to raise the point. And the speaker appreciated the suggestion.

An angry Ilias Ali sprang up and said he felt insulted at the remark made by Prof. Islam. "As an MP I find his (Prof. Islam's) comments disgraceful. He cannot pass such a sweeping remark that he is inexperienced," Ali said amid cheers by a section of treasury bench members. He demanded that the remark be expunged, which the speaker ignored.

Health Minister Dr. Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain ridiculed Jatiya Party legislator Tajul Islam Chowdhury for the way the latter had put forward his demand for an ambulance for a hospital in his Kurigram constituency. A visibly frustrated Chowdhury told the House that the supply of an ambulance was in the pipeline during the last government but it did not reach the hospital.

"We know that gas or oil is supplied through pipeline, but we never heard about ambulance being supplied through pipeline," the minister quipped.

BNP lawmaker from Bogra-7 constituency Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lal appeared extremely happy as he was given the floor to ask a supplementary question. "Honourable Speaker, the people of my area, the birth place of Ziaur Rahman, have started praying for you the moment you mentioned my name in the House. Please, continue citing my name."

Getting the floor after much effort, Golam Mohammad Siraj of BNP complemented the speaker for the way the latter was running the House. "I have got the floor after at least 10 attempts despite the fact that we hail from the same region. This proves your neutrality," Siraj said. "I am sure the main opposition party will soon attend the session had you continued playing the same role."

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda reiterated his point yesterday that the disposal of call attention notices was not included in Sunday's agenda although the speaker, a minister and the parliamentary affairs advisor to the prime minister clearly explained on that day that the issue need not come to the order of the day.

"I am yet to get my answer ... a supplementary agenda is yet to come (on the disposal of call attention notices)," he said, which had

no relevance to what he was speaking about yesterday.

Given the floor to reply to a call attention notice, Huda claimed that he had to fight against money and eventually won the October 1 election in an extremely adverse situation.

BNP deputy Fazlul Haq Milon requested Speaker Sircar to be kind to young and new MPs like him in his discretion to allow the lawmakers to speak. "We know you practice music and you are an ever-green character no matter how old you are."

Sardar Shakhawat Hossain Bakul, a BNP MP from Narsingdi, demanded that all notorious criminals during the past regime be brought to book immediately. "Notorious terrorist like Shamim Osman is yet to be punished," he noted.

BNP MP from Jhenaidah Shahidul Islam thanked President Shahabuddin Ahmad for concluding his address to the new parliament by uttering the slogan "Bangladesh Zindabad". "The Awami League government did not allow the president to speak in the past five years when he looked at us in muted anticipation."

While the House was listening to the treasury bench members highly praising the president for his address to the House, JP lawmaker GM Quader interrupted. "It was not a speech of the president but one drafted and approved by the BNP-led coalition government. The president merely read out the speech."

One shot dead by extortionists in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man was shot dead and another sustained bullet injuries when miscreants fired at a garage at Adabar in the city's Mohammadpur area last night.

The deceased was identified as Rakib, 35, a peon of Mala Garage at Adabar.

Fazlul Pavel, 28, a college student, was injured.

A gang of miscreants went to Mala Garage at 9:15 pm and demanded toll. The miscreants fired on them as they refused to pay toll. Rakib was hit in his chest and Pavel in the head and leg.

The injured was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Sexagenarian prisoner dies in Laxmipur jail

UNB, Laxmipur

An imprisoned sexagenarian died at the district jail Sunday night.

Jail sources said Shahjahan Chowdhury of Jahanabad village in Sadar upazila died of heart attack.

His body was buried at his village home yesterday after autopsy at the Sadar hospital.

Modabbir Chy

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have been placed under the Establishment Ministry.

Modabbir is the last army person serving in the police force. The newly-appointed IGP joined Bangladesh Police as Assistant Police Super in April in 1973 from the Bangladesh Army.

During his carrier Modabbir served as Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Battalion Commanding Officer at Khulna Armed Police, Superintendent of Police at Tangail, Comilla and Mymensingh and Additional DIG of Dhaka and Sylhet range.

He also discharged his duty as commissioner of Rajshahi and Chittagong Metropolitan Police. He was also the principal of Sardah Police Academy.

Modabbir Hossain was born at Shibpasha village of Hobiganj district in 1947. He is further of three children.

He passed B.Com from Gurdudyal College of Kishoreganj and got PSC from Defence Services Command and Staff College. He received his commission from Pakistan army in September 1970.

BSS adds, Nurul Huda was appointed secretary to the government, a notification of the Home Ministry said last night.

Huda's job has been transferred to the Establishment Ministry from the Home Ministry, it added.

Saifur

FROM PAGE 1
ing corruption charges against some 50 AL leaders, bureaucrats and businessmen.

The government meanwhile imposed a ban on going abroad in case of 17 AL leaders and ministers including Tofael Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim.

15 new OCS

FROM PAGE 1
Alam from Dhaka, Shadat Hossain from Narail, Iftekar Hossain from Narayanganj, Samsuddin Saleh Ahmad from Rajbari, S M Naimul Rahman from Netrokona, Nessar Uddin and Abdur Noor from Tangail Noor Ahmed from Natore and Syed Akhter Hossain from Saripatpur and Syed Akhter Hossain from Sirajganj.

Some of the inspectors have already reported to the DMP Headquarters yesterday, the sources said.

Earlier, the caretaker government had reshuffled officers-in-charge of all police stations across the country within a week after its takeover on July 15.

Hasina

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women were raped by the BNP terrorists in past few weeks.

"This barbarous regime will drown under the burden of sin it has been committing and the curse of the victims," she told reporters after the ceremony at the mausoleum.

Hasina said Awami League workers and supporters are restraining themselves to expose the "BNP-Jamaat atrocities" to the people.

But everything has got a limit, she said adding that Awami League is mobilising public opinion against the atrocities through cross-country mass contact programmes that would continue till November 11.

Boat capsized

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The recovered bodies were identified as: Melu, 38, Uchuun, 22, Ubbume, 20, Mahkhin, 12, Chenme, 12, Nabuma, 10, Ayeing Ayeing, 13, Selu Mong, 40, Torepuru, 14, Ayanemong, 32, Melun, 42, and Hakhin, 12.

All the victims are the residents of Rakhain Para of Khurushool Union under Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila.

Zimbabweans

FROM PAGE 1
After arriving at the Zia International Airport from Dubai, the visitors went straight to the Sonargaon Hotel. They are likely to have their first nets at the big bowl this morning.

SQUAD
Brian Murphy (captain), Gary Brent, Douglas Marillier, Grant Flower, Andrew Flower, Stuart Carlisle, Craig Wishart, Dion Ebrahim, Heath Streak, Sean Ervine, Travis Friend, Trevor Gripper, Mluleki Nkala, Henry Olonga and Raymond Price.

Multinationals

FROM PAGE 1
Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Farid Ahmed Chowdhury told this correspondent, "Decentralisation of government power from Dhaka is a must to check the business migration from Chittagong and to make the port city commercial capital of the country in the true sense."

Many other businesses including shipping 'already migrated' to Dhaka from here, sources mentioned.



Workers' Party of Bangladesh staged a demonstration in the city yesterday to protest the move to export gas and the US-led military campaign in Afghanistan.

Bombing during Ramadan

FROM PAGE 1
A Taliban source said five civilians were killed near Kandahar and three in Kabul.

The latest attacks appeared aimed at preparing a ground offensive by the opposition Northern Alliance, backed by a coalition of US-led forces.

But with the harsh Afghan winter just weeks away, diplomats and US officials warned the Taliban were increasingly likely to retreat into the cities and become impossible to dislodge without potentially ruinous house-to-house combat.

Mohamed Hassan Rahmani, the governor of Kandahar, yesterday claimed the capture of several US 'spies' and soldiers, Iran's official IRNA news agency said, but the report could not be independently verified.

In New Delhi yesterday on the final leg of a five-nation tour, Rumsfeld brushed aside fears about Pakistan's nuclear arsenal getting in the wrong hands after talks in India to shore up support for the US-led campaign.

"The countries that have nuclear weapons have a healthy respect of the power and lethality of these weapons and they take steps to manage their safe handling," Rumsfeld said at a news conference

with Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes.

Rumsfeld said he and Fernandes "talked about terrorism in the broader sense, which has affected both our countries."

Afghanistan only "happens to be the first problem. The President (George W Bush) has been unambiguous that we will tackle terrorism wherever it is," he added.

Rumsfeld's remarks come amid Indian calls for tougher action against anti-Indian Muslim militants based in Pakistani territory, who New Delhi says wage terrorism in the disputed state of Kashmir.

A mini-summit of European leaders Sunday night in London produced 'absolute solidarity' on the strategy of the US-led coalition and the need to revive the Middle East peace process, British Prime Minister Tony Blair's office said.

Blair, who gathered the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain, as well as EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, briefed them on the anti-terror campaign and his mission last week to the Middle East, Downing Street said.

French President Jacques Chirac, speaking to reporters after the meeting, stressed the impor-

tance of finding a lasting political solution and easing the 'enormously critical' humanitarian situation.

"We reaffirmed our solidarity with the Americans while taking into account that the essential military action is not the only way to fight international terrorism," Chirac said.

Tony Blair will meet Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf on Thursday evening in London, the British premier's official spokesman said yesterday.

Musharraf is stopping over in London en route to the United States where he will meet Saturday with US President Bush on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, branded a 'criminal' on Saturday by bin Laden, said in an interview published yesterday in the Paris daily Le Figaro that the world body is 'in the front line' of the war against terrorism.

He refused to respond to bin Laden's charges, but warned that 'the new problem' the Saudi-born extremist represents should not deflect attention from long-standing problems at the roots of terrorism.

SAARC must be revamped

FROM PAGE 1
Co-ordinator M Humayun Kabir.

The SAARC appears to offer a hope for enhancement of military CBMs, the participants observed.

In another important observation, the participants concluded that asymmetric relations between India vis-à-vis the rest of South Asian countries were not the problem, rather the problem was largely due to the "arrogant attitude" of the Indian bureaucracy.

Such an "arrogant attitude", however, was not only directed at the smaller neighbouring countries of India, but aimed at the common people of India - a phenomenon that was a by-product of colonial legacy.

The participants suggested that in order to create credibility between Bangladesh and India, New Delhi go beyond the legal framework, promote confidence and mobilise public opinion to resolve existing disputes.

In the light of the Helsinki process, the participants examined the relevance of European experience of CBMs to South Asia. Some participants argued that the experience of the European CBMs had relevance to the region.

The participants discussed the US policy for South Asian CBMs critically and held that America did not play any active or useful role in fostering mutual trust and confidence between India and Pakistan. The US cashed in on the Indo-Pak hostile relations and failed to follow a consistent policy vis-à-vis India and

Pakistan, they believe. Earlier, a working session on "Institutionalising CBMs and Security Cooperation in South Asia" was held.

Prof. Dhruva Kumar Srestha of the Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies in his paper "The Highest Stake and Hard Choice" remarked, "Perhaps, the highest stake of India in securing the future of political and strategic stability in South Asia is concerned with building ICBMs rather than fostering CBMs."

"Although Kashmir was always a top priority issue for India and Pakistan, other events in the past, as now, relegated the issue to a secondary consideration, as was the case during the 1972 Simla negotiations."

Dr Amena Mohsin of the Department of International Relations, Dhaka University, in her paper, "CBMs and Security Cooperation in South Asia: The Role of the Civil Society" said the states of South Asia came to 'accept' some conceptions of security at the policy level.

"But it needs to be emphasised that this acceptance is more of a consequence of donor pressure than an actual appreciation and realisation of the concept by the South Asian leadership," she said.

Shaheen Akhtar, senior research analyst at the Institute of Regional Studies of Islamabad, in her paper on "Institutionalising CBMs and Security Cooperation in South Asia: Non-military Aspects" said, "The non-official dialogues could be geared up to develop an alternative

framework for security cooperation in the region. The institutionalisation of non-official dialogue process and their greater interaction with governments and people is likely to broaden their space in the policy-making and implementation of issues encompassing security as well as economic and cultural cooperation."

German Charge d'affaires Herman Nicolai said the conference came at a most convenient time. He explained that the conference sponsored by Germany is "not a vaccine, but a medicine" applied to the stability of different parts of the society.

Is there an agenda for the German Embassy to sponsor the international conference on regional cooperation for the second consecutive year?

There is one, "but it is not a hidden agenda."

"Germany", he said, "has been a beneficiary of confidence building measures in Europe. Therefore, South Asia, being a nuclearised region is a matter of concern. It would help defuse tension. We will support any moves for cooperation."

Dr. Abdur Rab, the BISS research director, suggested that South Asia opt for more confidence building measures. Besides, it should try to insulate itself from being drawn into a vortex of newer conflicts.

Earlier on the opening day, the international conference was opened by Foreign Minister Badruddoza Chowdhury and German Ambassador Dietrich Andreas.

DU VC under pressure

FROM PAGE 12
their colleagues.

Prof. Azad, meanwhile, told The Daily Star on Sunday that he wanted to complete his tenure 'with honour and dignity', but now he cannot expect things to go that way. Sources said the VC may step down to avert untoward incidents further.

A top DU official told the Star yesterday that a government minister recently called the VC over telephone and asked him to step aside. "The minister told the VC that there was already a decision in the government level to change the VC," the official added.

Campus sources said the VC sought some time from the minister to step down from the post.

Regarding the incident at his residence, Prof. Azad said he felt ashamed when some of his colleagues created pressure on him to resign. "I am now facing pressure from all quarters."

"I have served the university for more than five years since members of the Senate, the highest policy-making body of the university, elected me and the Chancellor nominated me for the post... All my endeavours were aimed at academic development and rooting out campus terrorism. I have succeeded. But is this the reward for what I have done?" asked Prof. Azad

4 killed in road accident

UNB, Jessore
Four people were killed and another was critically injured in a road accident yesterday on Jessore-Magura road in front of Panchbaria Girls' High School, six kilometres off the district town.

The deceased were identified as Tareque Billal, 9, Rizia Khatun, 27, and teachers of Panchbaria Girls' High School Abu Taleb, 40, and Tofazzel Hossain, 45.

Police said the accident took place when a Magura-bound bus ran them over when three of the victims rushed there to help Rizia, who was knocked down earlier by a Dhaka-bound coach at about 11:00 am.

Tareque Billal, Rizia Khatun and Tofazzel Hossain died on the spot while Abu Taleb in the hospital.

The injured, Zohurul Islam, 50, was admitted to a local hospital in a critical condition.

Police seized the bus but the driver and his helper fled the scene.

Hartal: Gas export

FROM PAGE 1
Gananatrik Majdur Party. Central leaders of the six parties attended the meeting.

This is the first hartal since the new government took office.

Workers Party announced the programme at a rally in the city yesterday, which they observed as 'anti-imperialist day' denouncing widespread US interference in internal affairs of sovereign countries and killing of innocent people to materialise its dominance in world politics in post-cold war era.

Leaders of the party vowed to resist the government move to export gas to India by any means. They threatened to launch more big-scale agitation programmes should the government not put aside the issue until each home of the country gets gas supply and a reserve of 50 years is confirmed.

While only 18 per cent of the country's population has access to gas and people in the southwestern region are yet to get access to this natural resource, how could the government contemplate gas export, they questioned.

They demanded cancellation of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed with Unocal, Shell and other foreign companies, which are persuading the government to export gas.

They demanded compensation of the Magurchhara blowout and blamed the then government of being lenient to Occidental for dubious reasons.

Citing the example of past, they alleged that the opposition party used to oppose exports of gas but surprisingly it nodded to it after it came to power.

They castigated the US ambassador for setting an agenda, which suggested export of gas to India before the election.

They alleged only US government and some bureaucrats and high-ups of the BNP would benefit from gas export.

Rashed Khan Menon, Muzammel Hossain Tara addressed the rally held at the Paltan Maidan. The rally was followed by a procession that paraded some city roads before ending at the Jatiya Press Club.

3 standing committees

FROM PAGE 1
Hossain, Health Minister Dr. Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Deputy Leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami Parliamentary Party Delwar Hossain Sayeedi and Mizanur Rahman Minu of Rajshahi.

The committee on the private members' bills and resolutions will deal with every bill, including the Constitutional amendment, forwarded by private members. It will also deal with allocation of time for discussion on such bills and will recommend time limit for discussion of private members' resolution and other ancillary matters.

Abdul Mannan of Dhaka-2 heads the private members' bills and resolutions committee and its other members are, Tajul Islam Chowdhury of Kurigram-2 (Jatiya Party), Abu Yusuf Khalilur Rahman of Joypurhat-2, Mohammad Shahjahan of Noakhali-4, Shawkat Ali of Shariatpur-2, AKM Jahangir Hossain of Patuakhali-3, Sarder Sakhawat Hossain Bakul of Narsingdi-4, Mohammad Abu Hena of Rajshahi-3, Nasir Hossain of Sunamganj-1 and Abdus Sobhan of Pabna-5.

The 12-member Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure will consider matters of procedure and conduct of business in the House and recommend any

amendments to the rules of procedure by way of addition, alteration, substitution or repeal.

Headed by Speaker Jamruddin Sircar, the committee comprises Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, Industries Minister MK Anwar, Masitir Rahman of Jhenaidah-2, Nurul Islam Moni of Barguna-2, Prof Shahidul Islam of Kustia-2, Advocate Rahmat Ali of Gazipur-1, Vice Principal Abdus Shahid of Moulvibazar-4, Mohammad Ruhul Qudus of Natore-2 and Golam Mohammad Qader of Rangpur.

As the chief whip was not informed about the other name of the rules of procedure committee was not named. The name would be included in the list of committee members when the opposition provides it.

Tk 150 cr scheme

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half yearly to the central bank within five years with a grace period of six months.

If any bank avails of the refinancing facility furnishing wrong information, it will have to repay the amount with bank rate-plus-5 per cent interest at a time, said the circular.

Hasina: Polls debacle

FROM PAGE 1
She told the Gopalganj rally that the ruling alliance had grabbed 120 parliamentary seats where the AL had otherwise an easy sail.

The opposition leader expressed deep concern at the deterioration of the law and order situation in the country following the takeover by the BNP-led alliance. She alleged that some 500 women were raped while looting and terrorism activities continued unabated across the country since the installation of new government.

The AL president noted that a regime could not continue in office by resorting to repressive measures. "These vote thieves would not last long." She urged the people at the rally to respond bravely if further attacks were launched on the AL leaders and workers.

She was critical of the big size of the council of ministers and alleged that the ruling alliance breaking the back of the people to bear the huge expenditure of such violence against the religious minority in some southern districts in recent weeks.

Hasina also blasted the government of Prime Minister Khaleda

Zia for making baseless statements and remarks against the immediate-past AL government.

She regretted that the BNP has resorted to gobbling up public property like public toilets, bus terminals and market places after coming to power.

She lamented that although her government had given a big boost to the country's image abroad, the October 1 polls and the subsequent incidents of terrorism had tainted the image.

AL leaders Zillur Rahman, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Matia Chowdhury and party lawmakers Fazlul Karim Selim, KM Jahangir and Asaduzzaman Noor also spoke at the rally chaired by Gopalganj district AL President Md Ali Khan AbuMiah.

Hasina is scheduled to visit Ramshil in the district today. It was reported in the press that several hundred members of the Hindu community had taken refuge in Ramshil following escalation of a large agitation against the religious minority in some southern districts in recent weeks.

AL unlikely

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AL is also desperately trying to ascertain the role played by party men and polling agents in every constituency.

After winning only 62 of 298 constituencies, AL President Sheikh Hasina announced that her party would bring out a white paper containing documentary evidences of "rigging" in the election.

At the party's news conferences on October 9 and 21, Hasina talked of the AL plan to publish the white paper.

She also announced on October 21 that her party would also bring out a second white paper on the corruption of the BNP government during its 1991-1996 tenure.

Announcement for the second white paper came after Khaleda Zia had said, in her first address to the nation as the prime minister on October 19, that the government would prepare a white paper on corruption committed in the five-year rule of the AL.

A central AL leader, however, told The Daily Star yesterday that before everything else the party required to be overhauled thoroughly, "if we want to play our due role in national politics as a people's political party. The government would commit many mistakes and we'll find issues to build up movements. But, first of all, we'll reorganise ourselves, that's the target."

The AL has already formed separate committees to find out problems within the party and also

to see how AL leaders and workers had been subjected to attacks since the take-over of the new government.

Sources said, Hasina has already shown the way by injecting fresh blood into the party in different forms. They referred to recent appointments of immediate-past Speaker Abdul Hamid as the deputy leader of the opposition in parliament and young and dynamic leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury as her political secretary.

Gazipur BIT

FROM PAGE 1
clashed with the outsiders that left 50 people injured.

During the clash, four to five shops were ransacked and one was burnt out. The outsiders also ransacked the BIT and residence of its director, Dr Nasim Ahmed.

Four students, Mostafa, Salam, Rezaul and Sumon, were injured critically in attacks by outsiders. They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared Mostafa dead. The other injured were given first aid treatment at local clinics.

The BIT students claimed that Mostafa was shot dead by local people. But the local people said he was stabbed to death.

As tension heightened on the campus and in its adjacent area, additional police were deployed to avert further trouble. Senior police officials visited the spot.