Rowdy debate in JS

Speaker's action enraged the opposition MPs, who shouted at him and beat their desks with files. With no breakthrough in sight, they

stormed out of the House.

The discussion started at 10:35 last night and ran through 2:25 this morning. However, the House had a delayed start of discussion on the law and order as the Speaker allowed a freewheeling questionanswer session and freestyle deliberations on unscheduled agenda by Treasury Bench members.

Speaker Sircar had promised Sunday night that the scheduled discussion on the law and order would immediately follow the question-answer session

The debate on the law and order was rather queer, though. The AL lawmakers focussed on the law and order at present, while the BNP legislators went back to the days of the past AL regime to prove their failure on the crucial front.

It could not be known immediately if the AL would return to the House today when the brief autumn session is due to be proroqued.

As many as 15 MPs of both sides

UNB adds: The opposition police and the paramilitary BDR.

order of the government".

to account for."

"The country is made into a

Debate kept for night

When Sircar finally announced the end of the question-answer session. it was well over 8:00pm. As the AL lawmakers waited for the discussion on law and order, endorsed by the **Business Advisory Committee** (BAC) upon receipt of a notice filed by Shahjahan Khan, MP, the Speaker allowed as many as 10 ruling party lawmakers to speak on

articles of the rules of procedure, the lawmakers spoke one after another, all demanding Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina to withdraw a comment that she had passed in the Sangsad on Sunday.

Starting at 8:12pm, the ruling party MPs, including several ministers, criticised Hasina for her reported comment on the new

The unscheduled deliberations ended at the intervention of Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman at 9:20pm. Still, the Speaker did not allow the discussion on law and order. Rather, he let lawmakers to speak on their rejected notices on different issues.

Hasina, meanwhile, tried to remind the Chair about the assurance he had made on Sunday about the discussion. It did not work.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed stood to argue that as the order of

lawmaker, Suranjit Sengupta, said that when parliament was discussing law and order, the Dhaka University, the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and the Central Shaheed Minar remained besieged

allegation that the BUET and the DU were closed as a result of an opposi tion conspiracy, he said the BUET was closed following the killing of its student Sony in crossfire between two groups of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). And the Dhaka University shut down after police attacks on female students "at the

He alleged police were protecting the "BNP criminals and rapists" instead of common people and obstructing the Awami League neetings and processions.

"Is it the duty of police?" he asked. "Police have been made into a private force of the BNP which rime Minister Khaleda Zia will have

day had already been circulated among the MPs. the Chair should finish these agendas first and then

take up the agenda deferred the day Earlier, BNP lawmaker Moazzem Hossain Alal first took up the issue of Hasina's derogatory remark about the new president. He quoted Hasina as saying, "You (the government) picked up a person one issue on a point of order. rom somewhere to make him Without even referring to the

Alal wanted Hasina to retract her tatement and say sorry.

Later, ministers Moudud Ahmed Nazmul Huda, Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, and Fazlur Rahman Patal, ruling party lawmak ers Rustam Ali Farazi, Nazimuddir Alam, Joinal Abedin Faruq, Gazi Md Shahiahan and Mujibur Rahman Sarwar dwelt on the same issue one after another.

At one stage when Saifur Rahman drew the Chair's notice to end the discussion on the issue, the Speaker moved to other agenda.

Meantime, Hasina took the floor for a couple of minutes to remind the Chair about his previous day's assurance.

Hasina expressed deep shock that as a tactic to avoid discussion on fast deteriorating law and order situation in the country, the government was killing precious time of the Jatiya Sangsad on insignificant

Donors worried front, in line with the government's commitments made at the BDF meet in Paris. "But the progress so

added.

law and order situation. has taken steps to improve the law

about it," Saifur Rahman said.

without naming who is creating a

and order, which include the appointment of a new home secretary and new recruitment in the Pointing to the recent killings.

the finance minister said these are basically isolated incidents and had nothing to do with governance. "I can't understand why these killings are taking place and it is not possible for the law enforcers to stop these killings.

"One thing I can say is that the state is not sponsoring any sorts of criminal activities, which the past regime had been doing," Saifur said pointing at a few crime lords in Feni, Laxmipur and Narayanganj, who were patronised allegedly by the then ruling Awami League.

Country Director of the World Bank Frederick T Temple told the newsmen, "We hope the govern-ment will emphasise more on improving the law and order situation as it hits development in many

"I aw and order is a problem Bangladesh has been facing since 1990s. And the insecurity of the

people is increasing," he added. He also said there are 'lots of

progresses' made in some of the areas, especially on the economic

far made is very uneven," Temple

"The budget deficit is on the decline and the foreign exchange reserve has increased. But the economy has not been stabilised as vet." he said.

Earlier, at the start of the meeting, the finance minister briefed the donors' representatives on the government's actions in last six months since the Paris meet.

Regarding appointment of an ombudsman, Saifur said the government could not do it, as there is no instance of such an office in the sub-continent, according to meet-

Saifur also told the donors that the government was planning to take up the issue of setting up an independent anti-corruption commission in the upcoming winter session of the parliament.

Regarding an independent human rights commission, he said despite incompatible views and debate on the issue, the govern ment has taken steps to institute it.

The donors pointed out delays in implementation of development rojects. They asked the government to improve procurement, simplify complex procedures, and strengthen project monitoring and implementation for significant improvement in aid utilisation.

VC's appointment

who returned home recently after a

long stay abroad Appointment of Prof. SMA Fayez as DU VC was almost finalised last week. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia summoned him at her office on September 5 and offered him the post. Directives were also issued to the education ministry in this regard.

Prof. SMA Fayez was chairman of Public Service Commission (PSC) from 1993 to 1998.

The process halted as the section of the 'White Panel' teachers started lobbying with the govern-ment for appointment of Prof. Shahiduddin Chowdhury, another BNP-leaning teacher, as the next

Prof. Chowdhury had served the university as pro-VC and acting VC. He left the country immediately after Awami League assumed power in 1996. Soon after the resignation of Prof. Anwarullah Chowdhury from the post of VC, he returned home with a hope to become the VC, the sources said.

Though in the race, Prof. Chowdhury does not enjoy support of top-ranking BNP leaders for his alleged links with Awami League, some sources claimed.

They also claimed that despite opposition, Prof. Fayez would be named VC within the next couple of days. The President, who is chancellor of DU, may sign his appointment letter today or tomorrow, they claimed. Most of the BNP-leaning teach

ers of DU are in favor of Prof. Fayez as they believe would be able to run the university smoothly, the sources

Ukil released FROM PAGE 1

On August 28, Barrister Amir-ul-Islam moved a writ, pleading the arrest and detention of Ukil be eclared illegal.

On September 9, the two-member division, upon being formed that the detainee was not being allowed to meet his family, relatives and even the defence lawyers, ordered that Ukil be produced before the court on entember 16.

Order for release from the court compound is rare. Earlier, during the utocratic regime of Ershad, the High Court delivered such orders in two or three cases

He said, "Torture on the minority communities only reminds one of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina." Sengupta cautioned that the prime minister would be tried for what he said crimes against

The prime minister's advisor on parliamentary affairs Salauddin Quader Chowdhury recalled how the BNP leaders Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Shajhan Siraj were beaten by police during the Awami League's rule.

"The people gave their verdict on tortures during the five-year AL rule in the last election," he said. Chowdhury, however, said that they were not happy with the present state of law and order, but claimed that the present situation is certainly an improvement if law and order during the Awami League's rule is considered a "standard"

The Krishak Sramik Janata League leader, Abdul Qader Siddiqui, was critical of the Speaker for the late start of discussion on law and order "violating" his own ruling.

"It will remain as a bad precedent in parliamentary history," he said. Referring to "inhuman torture and rape" of women, he has asked why women are being raped when the prime minister and the leader of the opposition are women.

'We need to make a joint effort so that women no longer face such torture and disgrace," he told the

Taking part in the discussion, Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed said law and order is a problem for every government in every country.
"In New York, three people are

killed every minute. In India, one woman is raped every 54 minutes. But those don't become headlines in newspapers, MPs also don't bring the issues to parliament as it's a problem of all," he told the House. But opposition lawmakers here

brought the issue and they should remember that the present government inherited the worst law-andorder situation from the Awami "Obviously, the problem has to

be removed. And we needed some time to overcome the problem as the previous government had politicised the police forces," he said. Awami League leader Abdur Razzak said that although Khaleda

from violence and corruption, the reign of terror spread following her 11-month rule. Some 23,744 people were killed, 8,323 raped, 410 acid victims and 410 journalists were tortured in the past 11 months of the BNP-Jamaat

made a promise to free Bangladesh

rule, he told the House. He quoted from the UNDP report that said 90 per cent of the arrests under Section 54 are illegal. Razzak mentioned how President of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Liagat Sikdar and BCL General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu, former minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Bahauddin Nasim were

being "tortured in jail". The Awami League leader also pointed out that donors cautioned the government that there would not be any aid if the law and order situation did not improve.

Cops killed

FROM PAGE 1

is prevailing. The sudden attack also panicked the villagers.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police of Raishahi division and the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police of Siraigani visited the spot immediately after the incident.

Shazneen case FROM PAGE 1

(Latifur) house on the night of the incident. "Shahid was present at my house on the night of the incident" the witness told the court.

"On the night of the incident, I did not hand over to the investigation officer (IO) the list of invitees to the party at my house. Later, it was given to him (IO) during investigation." Rahman said in response to a auestion.

"There was no special security at my house before or after the incident" he added.

The witness further told the court that he had filed the Shazneen murder case giving correct information in the FIR about the incident. Shazneen Tasnim Rahman,

15,who was physically assaulted and murdered, was the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, the chairman of Transcom. All the six accused in the case --

Shahid, Hasan, Shamiram, Badal, Minu and Parvin -- were present in the court during the hearing yester-Special public prosecutors (PP) -

- Arfan Uddin Khan, Mahbub Ahmed and Saima Khanam and Assistant PP Anisur Rahman appeared for the state. The main accused was represented by Advocate MA Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam.

Manpower FROM PAGE 1

consider the Parliamentary Committee report, 2000 before taking a decision to export female workers to Saudi Arabia.

Dr Abdur Rahman, president of the Samity, however said there are good job prospects for female doctors, nurses, para-medics and other trained female workers.



A traffic policeman guards the unlicensed rickshaws and rickshaw-vans seized on the Topkhana Road in the city vesterday as part of the ongoing clampdown.

Becoming voter from more than one place is offence: EC

The Election Commission yesterday cautioned against submission of false statement and enlisting name is more than one place to become voter in the coming Union Parishad elections.

The Election Commission has already decided to hold elections to the Union Parishads from the second week of January to the first week of February next year, said a press release.

A meeting of the Election Commission held here yesterday with Chief Election Commissioner M A Syed in the chair has decided to update voter list

Election Commissioners M M Munsef Ali and A K Mohammad Ali and Secretary to the Election Commission Secretariat S M Zakaria and concerned officials were present in the meeting.

Any Bangladeshi national attain-

Kalai poura polls Sept 17

BSS, Dhaka

Election to the Kalai Pourashava of Jaipurhat district will be held on September 17

A general holiday has been declared in all offices of government, semi-government, autonomous bodies and private organisations in the polling area on the day to enable the voters to exercise right of franchise, an official handout said here yesterday.

Meter-reader

FROM PAGE 1 He was carrying a fake passport for

under the Passport Act

He was however released within 12 hours of the arrest following an

nstruction by the minister. On September 10, Airport Police pressed charges against him with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka for forgery of passport

The energy ministry ordered Mahbub's suspension after The Daily Star carried the news of submission of the charge sheet on September 15.

ing the age of 18 on first of January 2003 and not declared insane is eligible to become a voter, if he/she is a resident of a particular constitu-

The concerned District Election Officer (Voter Registration Officer) or Upazila Election Officer (Assistant Election Officer), must be contacted for becoming voters.

An eligible person can become voter from one place only and that becoming voter from more than one place is a punishable offence. There are provisions for imprisonment and fine for such offence, the release

Punitive measures will be taken against any one found to have registered name as voter in more than one place or submitted false

Hasina slates raid on AL leader's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has strongly condemned and protested police raid on the residence of . Mukul Bose, relief and social welfare secretary of the Awami League.

She termed the search 'barbaric' id 'heinous', savs an AL press Expressing concern, the opposition leader alleged that after filing false cases against the AL leaders

and activists, the government is arresting them and embarking on torture in the name of remand and harassing them in the name of searching their residences. And as its continuation, the

members of Mukul Bose's family were harassed. Hasina said. Hasina demanded the with-

drawal of false cases filed against all opposition leaders and activists release of all political prisoners and an end to the harassment of opposition leaders and activists. She also demanded exemplary

punishment to the persons involved in the killing of the AL leaders and activists and raping women, adolescent airls



Traffic jam has become an everyday nuisance of the urban life, more so for

the people living in the capital, as summed up by yesterday's on the road in front of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

4 Bangladeshis held in Delhi PTI, New Delhi

Delhi police on Sunday claimed to have arrested four Bangladeshi nationals and busted a gang involved in a number of cases of murder, dacoity and burglary. On receiving information that a

gang of dacoits had assembled in the Ghazipur Jungle area late Saturday night and were planning to loot a local petrol pump, a special team of the East district police cordoned off the area and asked them to surrender, police said.

Mohamamd Harun Faraji, Mohammad Muneer Khan. Mohammad Nazrul and Alauddin, all residents of Khulna, Bangladesh were overpowered and arrested when they tried to flee, police said adding a country-made pistol and some iron meat choppers were seized from them, the sources said.

Regal, after all FROM PAGE 12

formed a one-member inquiry committee The 3.5 metres long tiger named

"Veem" eased out of the cage at around 9.00am when Hanif and Farug went inside to clean it up, with the door open Fortunately, Hanif managed to

corner the tiger, helping the fright-

ened visitors leave the compound -some through the main gate and some jumping the low fence. Informed of the incident, police rushed to the zoo and stood on guard with firearms. Officials of the district administration and the live-

stock department and teachers of

the nearby veterinary college joined them in the bid to capture the tiger. Meantime, the caretaker ventured forward to the tiger to draw his attention and started running towards the nearby toilet. When the tiger was chasing down the way, the caretaker dodged behind to let the animal charge forward only to get trapped in the toilet.

Associate Professor of the veterinary college Dr. AKM Saifuddin Chowdhury, an anaesthesia specialist, Dr. Bibek Chandra Sutradhar, a geologist, and Dr. Sultan Ahmed, a microbiologist, of the same college, came forward to help They anaesthetised the tiger at

around 12.30pm. The tiger was put

back into its cage in the zoo at

Moni murder

around 1.30pm.

FROM PAGE 12 accused including the three convicts were produced before the court, while five others were absconding.

Talking to The Daily Star at her residence, victim's mother Shahida Begum, a teacher of Magura Govt. Girl's High School, broke into tears. "I have great respect for the judiciary, but faulty police investiga-

fair judgement," she said. In the verdict, the judge mentioned several times about the faulty investigation by police Commenting on the verdict, public prosecutor (PP) Sakhawat Hossain hailed the verdict as according to

tion of the case has deprived me of

the law. However, former PP Shafigul Islam Mohon said, "Due to absence of proper and fair investigation into the case, most of the accused were able to get away with impunity," adding that some of the accused would have received the death penalty had there been a proper

Saudis

tory as a launchpad for a strike on

Iraq as Washington mulls a move of the US Central Command's headquarters to the tiny Gulf state. "Of course we would like to end

this (US-Iraq standoff) without any military action, but we always consider (requests) from our friends. When we get a request, we (will) announce our (final) position,' Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabr al-Thani said.

Teachers urge govt to meet 11-pt demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh College-University Teachers' Association (BCUTA) vesterday urged the government to ulfil its electoral pledge of providing hundred per cent of the basic salary of non-government college teachers from the public exchequer.

Addressing a press conference, BCTUA leaders urged the government to meet their 11-point demand which also includes two festival bonuses a year, 30 percent dearness allowance and other measures for improvement of standard of education

BCUTA General Secretary Principal Abdur Rashid read out a written statement at the press conference, held at the auditorium of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU). Principal Mohammad Shahjahan and Prof Shafigul Mowla, president and vice-president of BCUTA also spoke while other leaders were

present They said the government is yet to take any initiative to fulfil its election pledge as regards teachers'

demands The government now provides

90 per cent of the basic salary of

non-government college teachers. They said the teachers deserve 30 per cent dearness allowance and Sanjib Kumar, 18, of two festival bonuses a year in view of the increasing prices of essen-

The current procedures for recruitment of teachers in nongovernment colleges leave scope for corruption. Moreover, rules are often violated, depriving competent candidates, they alleged and demanded setting up of a 'college service commission' to root out corruption in recruitment and other administrative matters.

The BCUTA leaders also demanded immediate introduction of pension scheme for nongovernment colleges teachers like the government colleges to ensure

their financial security after retire-

Power co

bring any improvement in distribution because it was never a company. Rather it was like other stateowned enterprises," observed a top PDB official.

The new company will be more

like the PGCB. Formed in 1996 to take over the entire transmission system, the PGCB is a company under the PDB. "We will soon advertise for the

post of managing director of the new company. We will start handing distribution-related assets of the PDB to the company as soon as the company is commissioned," the PDB official said. The PDB has already handed

over around sixty per cent of its

transmission lines to the PGCB.

Another thirty per cent is likely to be

handed over by the end of this year. Hajj pilgrims

FROM PAGE 12 hajji would be more than Tk one lakh

The rate for non-ballotee pilgrims is usually fixed by private agents who arrange their journey and accommodation.

Bangladesh Biman and Saudia will carry all the hajjis from Bangladesh this year.

A cabinet committee has already approved this in principle, but a guideline to implement it is yet to be formulated. They urged the government to formulate a guideline in this regard.

They demanded cancellation of the provision which allows a local member of parliament to nominate a person to represent him as chairman of a college managing commit-

Among others, Prof Serajul Haque Alo, Prof. Monir Hossain, Prof. Samarendra Nath Roy, Prof. Ashraful Alam, Prof. Ashok Taru, Principal Shafigul Alam, Prof. Abul Kalam Azad and Prof. Abdus Salam were present at the press confer-

Boy beaten to death in **Jhenidah**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A schoolboy was beaten to death on Sunday night allegedly by his neighbours following an altercation on land dispute.

Badhurgacha village under the Kaligani thana was beaten severely as his neighbours allegedly swooped on him at one stage of the brawl. Critically injured Sanjib was

rushed to a clinic in the town where A case was lodged with the Kaliganj thana in this connection and

Tofail's arrest

police arrested five persons.

for the stay order and bail of the

advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Syed Rezaur Rahman, S M Altaf Hossain, Abdullah Abu, Nizamul Hag Mollah, Abdur Rahman Howlader, SM Anwar Hossain. Tofail and the other accused were present in the court.

Their lawyers stated that the

High Court on Sunday granted them

accused. The lawyers included

ad-interim anticipatory bail against the warrant order for a period of three months. They also made submissions on fresh bail and recall

The prosecution side opposed the bail petition as the accused did not furnish bail bond.

of the warrant order.

After hearing both the sides, the special court passed the order. In the case, filed with Motijheel thana, it is alleged that on October 17, 1996, the then industries minister Tofail Ahmed, during a visit to China, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a Chinese company for setting up a DAP fertiliser factory. In this connection, the then ERD secretary made an accord with the company - China Complaint- for DAP project-1,

tee process without following rules and regulations. The Bureau of Anticorruption

changing the government's guaran-

Police returned fire and the

In another attack, rebels fired a

At last another five minor explo-

rocket at a polling booth in Khaniyal

area of Rajouri, damaging the

sions occurred yesterday morning

building but causing no casualties.

(BAC) filed the case against Tofail and Moshiur on June 24 this year. Meanwhile, the special court fixed September 29 for hearing bail petitions in seven other graft cases

Kashmir polls

FROM PAGE 12 Previous polls in the restive Himalayan state have been marred by allegations of vote-rigging and coercion by soldiers, and bloody

militant violence.

democracy, and while it has refused to allow foreign observers, some 28 foreign diplomats are watching the voting unofficially. Other districts of Indian Kashmir will go to the polls on three future

India this time round has been

careful to try to present a credible

vote to prove it can deliver real

dates, with results expected on October 11. Meanwhile, two people were njured when they triggered a landmine planted outside a polling station in disputed Kashmir Monday, while a policeman was killed when militants overnight raked another voting centre with

The landmine blast occurred at Batapora village in Indian Kashmir's northwestern Kupwara district, one of five where legislative polls were being conducted in the first phase of a four-stage poll in the restive Himalayan region, a police spokes-The explosion just outside a

automatic gunfire, police said.

polling booth came as voters were queuing to vote, the spokesman said. He could not immediately say if those injured were voters. Their conditions were serious. The policeman was killed when Islamic rebels opened indiscrimi-

nate fire on a school serving as a

voting station in Gursayeh area of

southern Poonch district, the

at or near polling booths in various parts of the state, police said. Schoolboy

spokesman said.

rebels fled, he added.

FROM PAGE 1
they would find his son before daybreak if he gave them some money. Siraj later came to learn that these people might have had links with Shaheb's disappearance. Later, Siraj filed a case with the Sutrapur police accusing Taib Ali Khan Raiu Mukter and Jamal of suspected abduction. Acting on a tip-off, a team of

terminal and rescued the schoolboy at 7:30am. The boy was then taken to the police station and was gues-Shaheb was wearing the same white shorts and it was not dirty. He was looking very normal. Shaheb

was not allowed to talk with journal-

Sutrapur police went to the bus

Police said they are investigating the matter to find out why and how the boy was abducted. Earlier, local sources sav Raiu. Shaheb's cousin, may have kid-

napped the schoolboy as a sequel to long-standing family feud over a piece of land. Raju who is on a two-day police

remand was quizzed yesterday.