

MPs trade stinkers in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers kept on using defamatory, indecent and unparliamentary words to attack each other in parliament yesterday, ignoring the rules of procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS).

Offensive expressions by a number of lawmakers of both ruling BNP and main opposition Awami League (AL) forced the speaker to remind the House repeatedly that all unparliamentary words will be expunged from the House proceedings.

According to the rules of JS procedure, "a member shall not make a personal charge against a member, minister or the holder of a public office except in so far as it may be strictly necessary in regard to the subject matter before the House." A member cannot also use any offensive, abusive or vulgar expressions.

But a number of lawmakers

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Nat'l Professor Shamsul Huq passes away

Bss, Dhaka

Eminent educationist and National Professor Shamsul Huq died in the city yesterday.

He was 94.

Prof Huq, also a former foreign minister of the country and central education minister of the erstwhile Pakistan, died at his Eskaton Garden residence due to old age complications.

Former vice-chancellor of the Rajshahi and Dhaka universities, Huq was well-known at national and international levels as a scholar.

Educated in Kolkata, Dhaka and London, Huq was associated with many institutions at home and abroad. He is survived by two sons, Khaled Shams and Tarique Shams.

The namaz-e-janaza of Prof Shamsul Huq will be held today at Eskaton Garden Mosque after Jum'a prayers. He will be buried at the family graveyard at Savar.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and President Iajuddin Ahmed have expressed deep shock at the death of former foreign minister and eminent educationist Prof Shamsul Huq.

In a message, the prime minister recalled the great contribution

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Nizami sees no fertiliser crisis

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Minister for Industries Matiur Rahman Nizami claimed the country has no fertiliser crisis as there is enough supply of urea fertiliser.

He said this while giving a statement under rule 300 in the parliament yesterday.

He said misleading news of fertiliser crisis was published in newspapers as well as in the electronic media. But there is sufficient supply of urea fertiliser in the country.

He said the agriculture ministry estimated the total demand of urea fertiliser in the current fiscal to be 27 lakh tons. A programme to collect 30.62 lakh tons fertiliser was

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

44 die in Moscow market collapse

AFP, Moscow

The snow-laden roof of a Moscow food market collapsed before dawn yesterday as traders started their day, killing at least 44 people, injuring 29 and trapping others in the wreckage.

The roof of the Baumansky market fell in at about 5:00 am (0200 GMT) on a national holiday -- Defenders of the Fatherland Day -- and before the market was open to the public, likely preventing

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Prayer Timing

February 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

130 shot dead in Iraq sectarian bloodshed

AFP, Baghdad

Gunmen have shot dead 130 people in two days of sectarian violence in Iraq after the bombing of a revered Shia shrine, prompting renewed political paralysis and warnings of civil war.

The spiralling violence threatens to derail negotiations on setting up a government of national unity, with the main Sunni political party declaring a boycott of talks with the Shia-led government over the reprisal attacks.

The main Sunni alliance, the National Concord Front, also boycotted an emergency meeting of national leaders held by President Jalal Talabani in a bid to restore calm.

"I've only been able to carry out autopsies on 25 of them," he said, adding that all had been shot.

Eighty bullet-riddled corpses were brought to the Baghdad morgue between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, the deputy director of the morgue, Doctor Kais Mohammed, told AFP.

"I've only been able to carry out autopsies on 25 of them," he said, adding that all had been shot.

Many of the bodies, which were dumped in Baghdad and its suburbs, could not immediately be identified, but they were widely

believed to be those of Sunnis.

Another 47 bodies of men shot to death were discovered along with 10 burned out cars alongside a road near Nahrawan, southeast of Baghdad, police said.

The corpses were found near a brick factory and it was not immediately known if the victims were workers from the factory.

One Sunni was also killed Thursday and two wounded in a drive by shooting outside a Sunni mosque in Baquba, northeast of the capital, and a Sunni sheikh was shot dead in Hillah, south of Baghdad, police said.

Iraq has placed its security forces on high alert and cancelled all leave. The night curfew in Baghdad was brought forward

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Hasina for clear govt stance on electoral reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the prime minister to come up with a clear stand if her government would accept the opposition's proposed reforms in the caretaker government system and the Election Commission (EC).

"If the prime minister does not accept our reform proposals, the people know how to get those implemented," said Hasina, also president of the main opposition Awami League.

She was speaking while welcoming some new entrants to her party at her Dhanmondi office in the capital. Former additional secretary Shamsul Islam, Barrister Maksudul Islam, former deputy secretary Aminur Rahman and industrialist Tanvir Chowdhury Sagar joined the AL yesterday.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



From left: British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury, Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, BNP lawmaker Nurul Kabir Shaheen and AL lawmaker Faruk chatting at New DOHS Cricket Ground during a friendly cricket match between legislators and foreign envoys yesterday.

PHOTO STAR



PHOTO: STAR

India clamps down on bird flu-hit town

94 out of 95 samples tested negative

REUTERS, Mumbai/New Delhi

Authorities virtually cut off traffic through a western town yesterday as 11 out of 12 people quarantined following a bird flu outbreak in chickens tested negative for the virus, officials said.

They said the last sample had to undergo further tests to conclusively decide its status.

A dozen people have been kept in an isolation ward in a state-run hospital in remote Navapur town since the country's first outbreak of

the H5N1 strain of bird flu was confirmed among chickens on Saturday. Another 83 people have been tested for avian influenza but were cleared.

"Ninety-four out of 95 human samples are negative," India's Health Secretary P.K. Hota told Reuters, adding that there was still some uncertainty about the last sample.

N.K. Ganguly, the head of Indian Council of Medical Research, said none of the 12 quarantined people showed any "clinical symptoms" for flu.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

While movement of poultry around Navapur in Maharashtra has already been banned, authorities said they have now placed restrictions on trains and road traffic passing through the town.

"We want to minimise contact between the local people and outsiders. We are telling road travellers to use masks and get on with their journeys without stopping," Maharashtra's health director, T.P. Doke, told Reuters from Navapur.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Mirza Abbas gets bail in cop murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, his brother Mirza Khokan and three others in connection with the constable Abu Naser murder case.

Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court issued the bail as Abbas and four others appeared before the court praying for bail.

The three other accused are Shahab Uddin Laltu, former president of Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal, student wing of ruling BNP, Yusuf Bin Jalil and Abu Iqbal. Another accused Sumon is still at large and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

White movement of poultry around Navapur in Maharashtra has already been banned, authorities said they have now placed restrictions on trains and road traffic passing through the town.

"We want to minimise contact between the local people and outsiders. We are telling road travellers to use masks and get on with their journeys without stopping," Maharashtra's health director, T.P. Doke, told Reuters from Navapur.

N.K. Ganguly, the head of Indian Council of Medical Research, said none of the 12 quarantined people showed any "clinical symptoms" for flu.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

PM asks armed forces to fight all kinds of terrorism

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the armed forces to move ahead upholding the state principles to protect world peace and to fight all kinds of terrorism.

"Bangladesh believes in peaceful solution to various bilateral, regional and international problems in every corner of the world. The basic principles of our foreign policy is friendship with all on the basis of equality and malice to none," she said.

The prime minister, who is also in charge of the defence ministry, was addressing a staff course graduation ceremony of the armed forces.

A total of 140 officers of army, navy and air force graduated from the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCC) at Mirpur Cantonment.

Of them, 26 officers from China, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Turkey graduated.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Boucher replaces Rocca

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Former spokesman for the US Department of State Richard A. Boucher has taken over the responsibility of Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer prepares molasses on a large frying pan while his helper feeds the burner near Sona Masjid in Chapainawabganj.

Teenage home help tortured, left in coma at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An adolescent domestic help has been fighting for her life at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after her employer allegedly tortured her.

The 11-year-old Shilpi was admitted to the DMCH on Monday night in an unconscious state. She did not regain consciousness till 7:00pm yesterday.

Police arrested the employer Nazrul Islam on Wednesday night, who identified Shilpi as his daughter during admission and informed the doctors that she suffered head injury when she fell on the stairs while playing.

On duty physicians said Shilpi

was in a critical condition, adding that she had suffered severe head injury. She was being fed through feeding tube.

Her whole body bore marks of numerous bruises and old burns and her hands were a bit swollen.

One of Nazrul's next-door neighbours sought anonymity said apart from beating Shilpi mercilessly, Nazrul used to burn her with heated utensils and hot water if she made any mistake in her work.

The neighbour also said that they protested the torture on many occasions, but Nazrul did not pay heed.

Noor Banu, mother-in-law of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

