

MPs duck JS in huge numbers

Scheduled discussion postponed; Speaker flies off the handle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The House yesterday saw large scale absence of ministers and senior lawmakers, which forced postponement of the scheduled discussion on a draft of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). Even the finance and planning minister was absent when Speaker Abdul Hamid announced beginning of the discussion postponing the scheduled question-answer session at the start of House proceedings.

Only Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal lawmaker Hasanul Haque Inu were present in the front row that has 23 seats, out of 29, allocated for the ruling alliance's lawmakers and ministers.

Expressing his disappointment at the wholesale absence of lawmakers, the speaker said, "I do not see the ministers concerned. The chief whip is also absent. Even the lawmakers who earlier showed interest in talking on the issue are absent."

"I cannot accept this... Things cannot run this way," he said. Speaker Abdul Hamid also expressed

annoyance at some lawmakers' making noise by engaging in conversation during the disposal of call attention notices around two hours into yesterday's sitting.

"It feels like a fish market—the way you are talking with each other, making noise. It should not be like this," he told the lawmakers.

The code of conduct in the rules of procedure for lawmakers stipulates that they remain silent while the House transacts business and speak on taking floor.

When the speaker expressed his

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President's military secy transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Md Ehtesham Ul Haque has been transferred to 66 Infantry Division in Rangpur as its GOC (General Officer)

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All Razakars to face trial

List on cards, minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holding trial of all Razakars (local collaborators of Pakistan occupation forces during the Liberation War) is

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Anti-graft probes stumble on banks

Laws restrict ACC asking for financial statements; fate of 90pc corruption cases to become uncertain

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Inaccessibility of bank documents has rendered uncertain the fates of most cases of the Anti-Corruption Commission currently being enquired or investigated, dealing a serious blow to the commission's overall anti-corruption drive.

In a legal interpretation based on sections 5 and 6(1) of the Bankers Books Evidence Act 1891 and section 94(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the ACC recently notified its officials that they cannot ask for one's bank statement without a court order.

The ACC act itself does not allow its investigators to seek private documents like bank statements of an accused.

The commission has not face such crisis earlier. Since its formation the anti-graft body had remained ineffective until 2007 and then it started functioning under the state of emergency during the last caretaker government's rule when it had full access to bank documents of an individual.

Since ACC cases are mostly related to amassing of wealth through illegal means, bank documents are the most vital source of information and evidence for enquiry and investigation.

ACC sources said 90 percent of around 1,550 cases, which are currently under enquiry or investigation, would remain incomplete with no significant findings because of this complexity.

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Students go berserk on Mirpur Road

Vandalise 15 vehicles, upset city life over new grading in SSC, HSC

DU CORRESPONDENT

As many as 20 people including police were yesterday in a pitched battle when hundreds of students staged a protest halting traffic movement on city's Mirpur Road for over two hours.

Students of different educational institutions in the capital are demanding cancellation of the gazette notification issued by the education ministry that determines GPA's equivalence in terms of class/division of public examination results.

Students who completed their SSC in 2001 and HSC in 2003 took position in front of Dhaka College under the banner of Civil Students' Rights Movement at around 11:00am. As police asked them to disperse, a scuffle broke out, Officer-in-charge Kamrul Islam told The Daily Star.

Police lobbed over 40 tear gas shells and at one point

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Kids on their way home from school become the unintended victims of tear gas police used during a clash with students near Dhaka College on Mirpur Road yesterday.

Myanmar brings in everything

Troops, tanks, warships, frigate to spread tension further; Dhaka terms it routine exercise

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and AHMEDE HUSSAIN

The Myanmar military brought in heavy tanks, artillery guns, 12 warships and a frigate along its border with Bangladesh in the last 24 hours ended yesterday evening as part of its preparation for a large-scale conflict with Bangladesh, sources at the Bangladesh Armed Forces said.

Bangladesh also has strengthened its military build-up in a bid to repulse a Myanmar incursion by preparing 30 warships in Chittagong and Khulna, a Navy official stationed at Chittagong told The Daily Star.

However, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at a press conference yesterday rejected reports about the heavy military build-up by Myanmar along Bangladesh border, saying it is a routine movement of the security personnel.

"I had talks with our ambassador, an army officer, in Myanmar and he told me that it is a routine practice," she said, adding, "Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes also called the Myanmar ambassador in Dhaka and the envoy conveyed him the same message."

Ground reality did not support the foreign minister's claim as various sources in the military, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and intelligence agencies said that the situation on the border remained tense.

"The situation at Bangladesh-Myanmar border has remained tense," Major General Mainul Islam, director general (DG) of BDR, said last night.

The BDR DG met State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul

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Conspiracy started at Moshtaq's village home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The conspiracy to kill Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family began sometime around March 1975 at Khondker Moshtaq Ahmed's village home in Daudkandi.

Moshtaq was sworn in as president of the republic a few hours after the gruesome killings of Bangabandhu, the then president, and most of his family on August 15 that year.

Moshtaq, Mahub Alam Chashi, Risaldar Syed Sarwar Hossain and Captain Mohammad Mostafa—all were accused in the murder case but died before the case went to trial.

They had joined the convicts in scheming to kill Bangabandhu out of personal grievances and ambition.



These are cited in the High Court judgment in the Bangabandhu murder case.

Abdullah-al Mamun, counsel for convicts Bazlul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin, yesterday read from the verdict during fifth day's hearing on the five convicts' appeals against their death sentences.

To the five-member Appellate Division bench, Mamun also read Major General (ret'd) Shafiqullah's statement in the judgment.

In his statement, Shafiqullah, the then army chief, described the situation in the lead-up to the August 15 bloodbath.

A prosecution witness in the case, he said there had been a breakdown of law and order after the Liberation War.

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