

11 JUL 1986

Shamsul Huda elected Speaker, Korban Ali Deputy Speaker

Acting Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury was elected Speaker of parliament yesterday.

Leader of the House and Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury proposed Mr. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury's name to be Speaker and it was seconded by Deputy Prime Minister Maudud Ahmed.

Mr. Korban Ali, former manpower and labour minister, was elected Deputy Speaker when his name was proposed by Deputy Prime Minister Dr. M. A. Matin and seconded by the other Deputy Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

The Speaker announced a five-member panel of chairman.

Contd. on page 8 col. 1



The third Parliament in its first session yesterday.

JS session begins without major opposition groups

President seeks cooperation for early end of martial law

Special Correspondent

The first session of the newly elected Jatiya Sangsad began yesterday without the main opposition groups in the house.

The inaugural session lasting about three and a half hours was addressed by President Lt. General H.M. Ershad outlining his government's policy.

The President expressed the hope that the elected representatives of the people would extend cooperation in bringing an end to martial law within the shortest possible time by not creating legal and constitutional problem or vacuum.

"With the opening Jatiya Sangsad session we have reached the last stage of ending martial law," the President told the House. He did not specify the date for withdrawal of Martial Law which was at the centre of opposition demands.



President H.M. Ershad delivering his inaugural speech at the Parliament yesterday. —New Nation photo

CHT tribals urged to return to normal life

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad yesterday said that a comprehensive plan for the all round and speedy development of the Chittagong Hill Tracts area was under execution, reports BSS.

He expressed his firm belief that the tribal people would fully identify themselves with the rest of the countrymen in the mainstream of the nation.

Contd. on page 8 col. 1

'Spectacular success in foreign policy'

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad yesterday said the country's foreign policy achieved spectacular success in the last four years in promoting relations with the neighbouring countries particularly India, Pakistan and Burma, reports BSS.

He said the formation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Contd. on page 8 col. 1

As the house began its proceedings with election of Shamsul Huda Chowdhury and Korban Ali as Speaker and Deputy Speaker respectively, Awami League dominated 8-Party Alliance which has a strength of 100 in the 330-member house convened a parallel session at the south entrance of the magnificent parliament house.

Over 60 of the alliance MPs led by Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina came in a procession chanting slogans of 'Joy Bangla'. They were closely followed by a host of intelligence men who were relaying their movements to the highest quarter over walkie-talkie.

They elected Abdul Malek Ukil as 'speaker' and Sheikh Hasina as 'leader of the house' Contd. on page 8 col. 6

Pre

Contd. from page 1

who opined that martial law and parliament could not go together. About half a dozen of the MPs addressed before Malek Ukil adjourned the meeting for an indefinite period at about noon.

The inaugural session was also boycotted by Jamaat-e-Islami, Muslim League and independents who had a total strength of 16.

The faction of JSD headed by A.S.M. Abdur Rab with a strength of four and retired Major Iqbal Chowdhury (independent) attended the inaugural session.

Inside the House, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury pointing to the empty benches said it was really unfortunate that the opposition parties choose to keep away from the House on the inaugural day. It had become convention of the opposition to boycott the opening session or the Presidential address.

The Prime Minister confessed that he himself boycotted the first day session of the last parliament when he was in the opposition.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

President Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad yesterday called upon the members of newly-elected parliament to consolidate democracy and develop a complete constitutional system through a permanent structure.

Inaugurating the first session of the third parliament, he said the torch of our aspirations had been vested in the hands of a new leadership which had emerged in the era of victory of democracy.

In an emotion-choked voice the President said this parliament was a reflection of the collective aspiration of the entire nation and victory in the march towards democracy. The dream of the people had taken concrete shape today, he added.

He said that relentless struggle and hard endeavours of the people in their steps ahead had brought this parliament in existence which would go down as a memorable victory in the political history of the country.

He declared emphatically that with the beginning of the parliament session we had set foot on the last stair of ending martial law. He sought cooperation of the MPs in completely ending martial law within the shortest possible time, by not creating any legal and constitutional problem or vacuum.

He said that he was sure about the holding of presidential election within the shortest possible time as the next step of reviving the constitutional system in its entirety.

President Ershad said that this parliament would be focal point of all national activities.

He said that this parliament would be symbol of our independence and sovereignty, existence and march towards democracy for complete emancipation of the people.

BSS adds: recalled the sacrifices of those undaunted song who had embraced martyrdom to wrest country's independence. He also recalled with respect the memory of Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Huq, Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and General Ziaur Rahman who he said, in their thoughts and deeds had aroused the consciousness of the 10 crore people for independence.

He also paid his respect to General Ataul Ghani Osmany and said he was the symbol of unity of 'our people and armed forces' General Osmany was the uncompromising flag carriers of 'our democratic aspiration', he observed.

The President expressed his belief that those elected to parliament want the welfare of the country and the people. "We may have differences of opinion, but the objective of all of us is same, i.e., independence, democracy and economic emancipation of the people," he said.

President Ershad referred to the basic objectives of national independence a democratic state order and economic emancipation on which a broad-based unity was evolved among the people in waging the war of independence. and said a democratic state system can only preserve independence and sovereignty and inspire the creative capacity of the people for opening up process of productivity in nation's economy.

He mentioned about his pledge to the nation while accepting the responsibility of running the government that his administration will transfer power to the elected representatives in phases.

With that end in view, he said he made repeated efforts to hold general elections during the last two years after completion of the union parishad and pourashava polls. But to accommodate the viewpoints of some opposition political parties, the elections were postponed several times before its final holding on May 7 this year.

President Ershad expressed his happiness that ultimately the parliamentary elections held on May 7 which he observed 'is a historical change in establishing democracy'. It is an auspicious thing to build a democratic state order and society.

He said he had always advocated for a strong and well organised opposition in parliament and his dream was materialised by the grace of the Almighty in the recently held elections.

This he said, is the victory of the hopes and aspirations of the 10 crore people.

The President pointed out that the people of the country are in favour of multi-party de-

building a tolerant society, setting up examples of tolerance and upholding parliamentary procedure and behaviour.

President Ershad said the administration had no intention to prolong martial law even for a day unless it was required. 'I have repeatedly announced that it is not desirable to prolong martial law for any reason' he said, adding: 'we have put our feet on the last steps for ending martial law.'

He said he expected cooperation from parliament members for the complete lifting of martial law at the shortest possible time without creating any legal and constitutional void and problems.

The President said the teeming millions have reposed enormous responsibility on the shoulder of their elected representatives for improving their (people) lots. It is a fact that empty stomach can not be satisfied with policies only, he said adding they (people) aspire a welfare oriented economic system side by side building a democratic state order.

Incomplete

Shamsul Huda

Contd. from page 1

for the current session who would preside in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. Members of the panel are Syed Azizul Huq, Mr. Abdul Malek Ukil, Mr. Jahangir Mohammad Adel, Mr. Mohammad Mobin and Syeda Sakina Islam.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr. M. A. Matin placed before the House the annual report of the Public Service Commission for 1985.

The House will meet again at 11 a.m. Monday.