



Agriculture award

Bill passed dropping Bangabandhu's name

Parliament, on Wednesday passed a Bill dropping the name of "Bangabandhu" from the title of Bangabandhu Award for agriculture amidst boycott of Awami League from the House, reports UNB.

Agriculture Minister Maulana Maitur Rahman Nizami piloted the Bangabandhu Award Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2002 passed by a voice vote without much discussion.

Awami League, abstained from the House on Wednesday, had strongly opposed the bill at the time of its introduction.

Jatiya Party members GM Qader and Hafiz Uddin demanded that the bill be circulated to elicit public opinion. They strongly argued that the government should show respect to a leader who led the nation to its independence.

"It is true that the entire nation had followed his directives. He was a leader of high stature, spent most of his time in jail. We should not drop his name and thus disgrace his memory," Qader said in an emotion-choked voice.

The JP member said people do

not like to see the politics of changing names. There are so many problems of the people and the government should concentrate on those.

Another JP member Hafiz Uddin demanded withdrawal of the bill saying that the nation should move forward taking inspiration from its true history. There is no credit of the government in changing the name of an Act, which would not solve the people's problem.

Agriculture Minister Nizami agreed with JP members and said there is no way to deny the contribution of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the country's independence.

"Sheikh Mujib would have been all acceptable personality, but it is Awami League that eroded the universality of late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for their shabby politics," said Nizami.

He, however, rejected the opposition suggestions saying that the amendment to the Bill would bury all controversies with the change of government in future.

The amendment renamed the award as National Agriculture Award.