

Move to privatise Tabani Beverage Co protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kendriya Samonnoy Parishad yesterday protested the government's move to privatise the Tabani (Coca-Cola) Beverage Company Limited.

At a press conference, the parishad leaders alleged that a section of company officials in collaboration with government high ups had been conspiring to privatise the company though it had been earning profit over the years.

They also alleged that the officials had taken a number of unnecessary steps which incurred financial loss to the company run by Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust under the liberation war affairs ministry.

The leaders said to mobilise support in favour of privatisation, the management had shown a loss of around Tk 2 crore by the company during the period between December 2002 and April 2003.

On the other hand, the company earned a profit of Tk 83.05 lakh in May and around Tk 1 crore in June this year following some dynamic steps taken by the former general

manager who happens to be a retired army personnel, they claimed.

He was transferred and made OSD with a conspiracy to gear up the privatisation process, they added.

Presenting various malpractice of the management, the parishad leaders also alleged that the gang of corrupt officials were trying to transfer paid up capital of the company and incur around Tk 34 crore loss in the last few months.

The press conference was addressed by Convenor of the parishad Ishtiaq Aziz Ulfat and Syed Ekramul Haque Khandaker, former general manger of the company.

JPC membership Hearing on petition adjourned till Nov 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The hearing of the petition for interim injunction against new membership of the Jatiya Press Club has been adjourned till November 15.

The Fourth Assistant Judge's Court, Dhaka, fixed the date yesterday after the counsel for the plaintiff sought time to submit explanations against the appeal for dismissal of the petition.

On October 11, the court asked the club president and general secretary to show cause why the decision of the club's managing committee to accept new members should not be declared unlawful after two members of the club -- Mahmud Hasan and Rezwanaul Huq -- filed a suit challenging the legality of the decision.

The court also asked them to explain why interim injunction should not be enforced on the decision taken on October 7 at a meeting of the managing committee.

Advocate Md. Khalilur Rahman, counsel for the defendants, yesterday appealed for dismissal of the petition for interim injunction.

Hearing both the sides, the court fixed November 15 for submission and hearing of written objections against both the petitions.

Advocate Md Abdus Salam, Khandaker Kamrul Hasan Ripon, Zannatul Ferdoushi, TM Shakil Hasan and Saidunnabi Pial assisted Advocate Khalilur Rahman during the hearing.

Prices of essentials up in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

The prices of essentials continued to show an upward trend in the district for the last few days, causing sufferings to the low-income group.

According to market sources, the price of onion has marked a rise by Tk 4 per kg while that of ginger and garlic by Tk 4 to 5.

The price of pumpkin and brinjal has gone up by Tk 5 to 6 while that of beef by Tk 10 per kg.

Prices of other essential commodities have also gone up ahead of the month of Ramadan, the sources said.