

Injunction on Taxes Bar Assoc polls

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the election commissioner of the Dhaka Taxes Bar Association (DTBA), its president and secretary not to conduct the annual general election of 2006-2007 to be held today.

Judge Mohammad Majibur Rahman of the Fourth Assistant Judge's Court issued the order imposing an ad-interim injunction upon the election following a civil suit filed by three senior members of the Association.

In their plaints, they – Ismail Hossain, Elahi Box and Rafiqul Islam – mentioned that the association has its own constitution. But the present committee and the election commissioner are going to conduct an election violating the rules and the provisions of the constitution.

The plaintiffs said the association has to form an audit committee before annual election every year but the present committee did not follow the rules and the provisions of the constitution.

Moreover, there were allegations against several former members of the executive committee, but the present committee did not publish any audit report about them, the plaintiffs mentioned.

Besides, the committee did not prepare a new voter list for conducting election properly and made a list illegally after expiry of the date fixed for including members as voters, they added.

Advocates Ashraf Ul Alam, Rajib Chatterjee and MA Naim Bhuiyan moved the suit on behalf of the plaintiffs.

CHHATAK GAS FIELD

Energy Div okays Niko plan

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Energy Division has recommended the approval of Niko-plan for developing the Chhatak gas field and sought decision from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Officials concerned said Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman yesterday sent a letter with replies to some

27 bridges set up during tenure of govt: Huda

BSS, Dhaka

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that 27 bridges were constructed at a cost of Tk 3505.79 crore during the tenure of present government.

Replaying to a question from Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Mian M Golam Parwar, he said works of another 34 bridges under annual development plan (ADP) are going on.

He said the government has taken a plan to construct the 5.58kms long Padma Bridge at a cost of Tk 8,587 crore with a view to establishing a smooth and coordinated communication network between south-western region and the capital city.

Huda said Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has already submitted the final feasibility study report of the bridge in May last year.

queries made by the PMO.

The PMO had sent a similar recommendation of the Energy Division for queries.

"The Energy Division asked Petrobrangla to give its views on the queries and sent them to the PMO," said an official.

He said the Energy Division in its latest letter explained Petrobrangla's views as to why the development plan is needed to be approved.

A source at the Energy Division said there is no legal barrier in giving approval to the development plan despite a case filed against its activities by Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (Bela). The case is pending in a court.

Niko submitted the development plan for Chhatak gas field, known as Tengratila, late last year after the fire at the gas field that experienced twin blowouts was extinguished.

Executives of Niko said a rig, hired by the Canadian company, has been sitting idle in Bangladesh for drilling a couple of wells at Chhatak as per the development plan.

They said Niko recently sought permission of Bangladesh Bank to re-export the rig as the company cannot bear the cost of the rig anymore.

Brian Adolph, country manager of Niko Bangladesh, said Niko spent \$50,000 per day as rent for the rig in October-November, 2005. "We are counting \$15,000 per day since December last year," he added.

Canadian High Commissioners in Bangladesh Barbara Richardson in a letter to the Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman requested to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

SCBA ELECTION

TH Khan-led panel BJAF announced

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Advocate TH Khan and Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Haque led faction of Bangladesh Jatiyabadi Ainjibi Forum (BJAF) yesterday nominated Advocate ABM Nurul Islam and Barrister Abdullah-al Mamun to contest for the posts of president and secretary in the election to the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

The panel was announced at a meeting of the BJAF at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) with its president Advocate TH Khan in the chair.

BJAF leaders Advocate Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP, Advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan MP, Advocate Saidur Rahman and Advocate Fazlur Rahman were present at the meeting.

Other candidates are vice presidents: Advocate Golam Arshed and Advocate Abu Bakar Siddique, treasurer: Advocate Afzal Hossain, assistant secretary: Advocate ABM Ilias Kochi and executive member: Advocate Shahanara Begum Shanu.

Nomination for the posts of an assistant secretary and six executive members is under consideration of the BJAF.

The rival faction of BJAF led by Communications Minister Nazmul Huda did not support the panel.

Its Secretary General Advocate Zainul Abedin told the newsmen that they would announce their panel soon on consensus of the nationalist lawyers for contesting the SCBA election.

Election to the 14-member executive committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) will be held on March 29 and 30.

SCBA sources said about 1,600 lawyers have been enrolled in the voter list.

DU dean polls Today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The elections of deans in the seven faculties of Dhaka University (DU), seven months after their term expired in June last year, will be held today.

The polls will begin at 10:00am and will continue till 2:00pm at the Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) with DU Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad as the election commissioner.

BNP-Jamaat-backed 'White Panel' and pro-opposition 'Blue Panel' merging with the left-leaning 'Pink Panel' are contesting the poll.

Prof Khandaker Ashraf Hossain and incumbent Dean Prof Sadrul Amin are contesting from the Blue and White panels for Arts Faculty, while current Dean Prof Harun-or-Rashid of Blue Panel and Prof Shahed Hasan of White Panel are contesting for Social Science Faculty.

Prof RIM Aminur Rashid of Blue Panel and Prof Tazmeri SA Islam of White Panel are contesting for Science Faculty, Prof Mohammd Anwar Hossain of Blue Panel and Prof Sayed Salehin Kadri of White Panel for Biology Faculty, Prof ABM Faruq of Blue Panel and Prof Mohammd Abdur Rashid of White Panel for Pharmacy Faculty, and Prof Mizanur Rahman of Blue Panel and present Dean Prof Mohammad Sirajul Islam of White Panel are contesting for Business Studies Faculty.

Dr Borhan Uddin Khan of White Panel is the lone candidate for the Law Faculty, as the Blue Panel did not nominate any candidate.



Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh holds a mock crash exercise at Zia International Airport in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Mock crash exercise at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mock crash exercise was held at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday where the rescue team rushed to help survivors of a plane crash.

After giving them first aid, the team sent the injured to hospitals in ambulance.

A chopper of Bangladesh Air Force was standing by to airlift the critically injured to the hospital.

The rescue team conducted the whole operation dividing their work in three zones- collecting area, command area and triage area to carryout their rescue work quickly as well as smoothly.

The mock crash scenario was

created under the Airport Emergency Exercise-2006 to test and improve the capacity of local emergency teams at the airport, said the officials involved in the exercise.

Another purpose of the exercise was to test the adequacy of all emergency equipments and communication facilities, they added.

Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh (Caab) organised the exercise with the participation of Army, Navy, Air Force, Fire Service and Civil Defence, BIWTA, Bangladesh Biman, Airlines Operating Committee (AOC), DMCH, Airport Health Department, Meteorology Department, Police,

Immigration, Customs and Civil Aviation High School students.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir witnessed the exercise as chief guest.

Caab Chairman Air Commodore AKM Harun Chowdhury, Acting Managing Director of Bangladesh Biman Mahmoodur Rahman and high officials of different agencies participating in the exercise were present.

According to Airport Manual Part-7 of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and Section-21 of Zia Emergency Plan, a full-scale emergency exercise is required to be held in every two years.

Girl's body recovered from canal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of a six-year-old girl from a canal at Rampura in the capital.

The deceased, Sharmin Akhtar, daughter of hawker Ulfat Miah, a resident of Meradia in Khilgaon, went missing on Saturday afternoon after she went out to play, Ulfat told reporters.

Some morning walkers yesterday morning saw the body floating on water in a canal under a Rampura Banasree project, said police, who recovered the body on information.

Some stones were tied to the body that had injury marks on the cheeks, ears and left arm.

Locals suspect criminals might have killed her after rape.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the main opposition Awami League, takes out a procession with candles and lanterns from Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday evening demanding electricity.