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Rule issue on govt

From Page 1 Col 4
without examining any material or document related to the so-called offence stated by an informant, forwarded the matter to the Session Judge for trial which caused failure of justice on more than one count. Firstly Dr Hossain argued that there was no scope for assessing whether any prima facie case existed the accused to go for trial. Secondly, this has prejudiced the petitioner's rights for they are not aware of the nature of the case they were to face, Dr Hossain said.

Amirul Islam taking the floor on behalf of the accused persons said the charge of sedition against them is an antiquated colonial concept. He said jurisprudence has been enriched since the end of colonies both in the subcontinent and elsewhere in the world.

Islam argued that LAW of sedition states that unless the allegation contain ingredients of criminal violence it cannot be an offence of the nature of sedition under Section 121 and 124 A of the penal code.

Amirul Islam submitted that the process of court has been abused by inflicting sedition charges against the accused and also involving the petitioner's in criminal proceedings. The citizens have a fundamental right to mobilise public opinion and in this they mobilised it for the trial of Golam Azam, he stated.

The defence attorney said Ganoadalat is a popular parlance and a non-violent form of movement to mobilise conscience of the nation. He said the petitioner in effect have been helping the state to establish rule of law as they asked the government to implement a popular sentiment ventilated through Ganoadalat.

In response to enquiry from the chair as to the nature and character of Ganoadalat, Islam

referred to the International War Tribunal formed under the chairmanship of Bertrand Russell in the 60's to try the crimes committed by American soldiers in Vietnam. He also referred to a public trial now going on the United States against President Bush for his alleged crimes in the Gulf War by a committee headed by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

Ganoadalat is not a court of law and none in the country has perceived it as such, Islam pleaded and said members constituting the adalat did not give any impression that it was acting or claiming as a court of law.

Advocate Abdul Wadud Khandakar defending the state said the activities of the Nirmul Committee and Ganoadalat have the tendency to cause disruption to public order and therefore, would constitute an offence like sedition in nature. Referring to Amirul Islam's contention about formation of international tribunal, Khandakar said such tribunals are set up to deal with issues not affecting domestic matters. He said Ganoadalat has the tendency to affect peace and tranquillity and, therefore, has the potentiality to disturb law and order and hence the sponsors of Ganoadalat have committed a serious crime.

Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed who stood briefly for the accused persons drew the attention of court by mentioning the latest decision of the appellate division of the Supreme Court. In that decision it was held that even an appellate administrative tribunal formed under Section 117 of the constitution is not a court, Ahmed said and added that "in that view of the matter it will be beyond anyone's imagination even to argue or suggest that Ganoadalat is a court.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia visiting the injured journalists undergoing treatment in different city hospitals on Monday. Story on page 1 —PID photo

Journalists protest police raid

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Association A K M Mohsin and the DUJ unit chiefs of several newspapers.

Speakers at the meeting condemned the attack on the journalists and on the Press Club and demanded immediate punishment to those responsible for the incidents.

During the meeting, DUJ's Dainik Millat unit chief Kamal Pasha Doja was manhandled by some outsiders in the club premises. Doja came under attack when he told the DUJ protest rally that Sunday's attack reminded us of the crackdown on newspapers on June 16 in 1975.

An extended meeting of BFUJ and DUJ was held Tuesday evening at the DUJ office. The meeting decided to go for a three-hour work stop-

page at all the newspapers and news agencies in the country to protest attack on Doja, and to condemn bomb attacks on Daily Inqilab, Ittefaq, Banglar Bani, Sangram and Akjer Kagaj. The three-hour work stoppage by the journalists will begin today at 11 am.

The meeting also decided to boycott all news of the Home Minister and the Police if Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mirza Riqibul Huda was not dismissed by June 28.

Meanwhile, Ekattorer Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee Tuesday held a rally and procession in the capital protesting the police attack on the journalists at the Jatiya Press Club.

A meeting of the central committee of the Five-Party Alliance Tuesday observed that

the statement of the Home Minister on the attack on the Jatiya Press Club was an effort to shirk responsibility.

A presidium meeting of the Communist Party of Bangladesh resented Sunday's police action on the journalists saying that the incident was "unprecedented."

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Muttur Rahman Nizami condemned police brutality on the journalists and demanded exemplary punishment after a judicial probe into the incident.

Bangladesh Ganatantri Party General Secretary Mohammad Afzal in a statement Tuesday demanded resignation of the Home Minister and removal of the police IG and the Commissioner.

Our DU Correspondent

3 bills introduced in parliament

Three bills, including the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Bill, 1992, were introduced in parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Education Minister Barrister Zamruddin Sircar moved all the three bills.

Two other bills are: The National Science and Technology Museum Bill, 1992, and the Public Examinations (Offences) (Amendment) Bill, 1992.

The Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Bill seeks to make provisions for the health and environment free from effect of the use of nuclear matter and X-Ray equipment.

The National Science and Technology Museum Bill seeks to make the National Science and Technology Museum a fully autonomous institution and run it properly.

The Midnight File

30 m refugees in world

TOKYO, June 23: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said today that the post-cold war world was faced with more than 30 million refugees or displaced people. "About 17 million ... are refugees, of whom almost 90 per cent are to be found in the poorest parts of the globe," Sadako Ogata told the foreign correspondents club of Japan, reports Reuter.

Baker wants additional sanctions on Serbia

WASHINGTON, June 23: US Secretary of State James Baker said today he will recommend additional sanctions against Serbia because of its "barbaric" and "inhuman" military assault in Bosnia. Baker made his announcement at the start of a hearing by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on arms control agreements with the former Soviet Union, reports Reuter.

Writ on Tinbigha

From Page 1 Col 5
Foreign Ministry officials said the formal transfer would be handled by the local district administrations of the two countries.

Deputy Commissioner of Lalmonirhat and the District Magistrate of Coochbehar discussed the preparations Saturday and are scheduled to sit again tomorrow.

Lalmonirhat DC Khalilur Rahman, reached by telephone, said yesterday there was no problem 'till date' and he was optimistic about a smooth transfer.

Asked on the law and order situation, the district official said, "We're in touch with the BDR and the BSF."

Indian's main opposition party, the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said some West Bengal based groups, has been campaigning against the transfer, causing a fear of trouble on the day of transfer, forcing thousands of locals to flee for safety.

Reports from India suggest that the governments of India and West Bengal have taken necessary 'political initiative' to offset the opposition to the transfer.

Coochbehar district administration made renewed efforts to instil confidence among local people.

The district's chief issued an appeal Saturday (June 20) urging the villagers from Kuchibari Bagdogra and Fuldakadri areas to return to their households and assured

Opposition

From Page 1 Col 8
tion they had decided earlier.

Mohammad Nasim MP, the Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament, while briefing newsmen after the joint meeting in the evening said that there was no progress in breaking the stalemate created between the Treasury bench and the Opposition following the Prime Minister's 'no to the four-point opposition demands Thursday last.

The four-point demands include the trial of Jamaat chief Golam Azam under the International Crimes Act, 1973, withdrawal of cases against the 24 persons associated with the 'people's court' which tried Golam Azam in March, ensuring of due honour to the Chief of the Opposition in Parliament and assurance of democratic behaviour to the opposition parties.

Mohammad Nasim alleged that while the opposition parties were supporting the Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Sammanaye Committee hartal to press their four-point demands, the ruling party was providing active support to the Jamaat-Shibir-backed hartal.

The ruling party's ignoring of the opposition demands virtually made it more difficult for the opposition to join the budget session in Parliament, Nasim added.

The police attack on the Press Club and the working journalists last Sunday further aggravated the situation, Nasim said adding that the attack was really a threat against the hard-earned democracy.

Nasim, on behalf of the opposition parties also said that the proposed budget would not earn legitimacy if it was passed with the opposition bench empty.

The joint meeting of the opposition was attended by Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak and Salauddin Yousuf of the Awami League, Barrister Maudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party, Shamsuddoha of the CPB, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party, Prof Abdul Haq of the NAP, Suranjit Bis Gupta of the Gonatantri Party, Shajahan Siraj of the JSD and Nurul Islam Moni (Independent).

their safety. PTI adds: Delivering her judgement in the Tinbigha land acquisition case, Mrs. Justice Ruma Pal observed that the writ application was liable to be dismissed on the ground of delay while the land had already been vested in the state more than six months ago.

Quoting the supreme court judgement, Mrs Justice Pal said, "the agreement should have been implemented fully and we hope that will be done for the restoration of the friendly relations between India and Bangladesh."

The writ petition was filed by Mannohar Roy, president of the Kuchibari Sangram Committee, challenging Tinbigha land acquisition in Coochbehar district.

The judge observed that the petitioner had no locus standi to question the Supreme Court's statement wherein it upheld the validity of the 1974 and 1982 India-Bangladesh agreements which, inter alia, provided for India leasing to Bangladesh areas near Tinbigha to connect Dahagram with Panbari Mouza of Bangladesh.

The Supreme Court also considered the memorandum of understanding which provided for the continued right of free and unfettered movement of Indian citizens and Indian goods in and across the leased area and for such purpose the user of the existing road running across the passage by Indian citizens," she observed.

Further observing that neither the owner nor the occupier of the lands, which had been acquired, had challenged the acquisition at all, the judge was of the view that the petitioner himself could not be said to be aggrieved by the acquisition.

Further quoting the Supreme Court order, Mrs. Justice Pal observed that the Supreme Court also provided for India building a road above and/or below the surface of the leased area for her exclusive use, however, she viewed that the Supreme Court had observed that it was 'unnecessary to effect land acquisition and not that it would be illegal.

College girls

From Page 1 Col 6
The college was also declared closed for the coming HSC examinations.

A senior teacher of the college connected with conducting the elections told The Daily Star that the situation was peaceful until the activists of BCL came to know about their defeat at around 7 pm Monday.

The activists of BCL alleged rigging in the elections and went on the rampage inside the college as soon as the results were declared.

Some students ransacked the class rooms, office rooms and damaged furniture. They also broke many of the windows of the college pelting bricks.

The clash started when the activists of BCL drove the JCD activists out of the college Monday night and took control of the whole college compound.

Clashes resumed Tuesday morning when the JCD activists forced into the college.

During the clashes on both the days outsiders from both groups backed the clashing groups, college and police sources said.

Several blasts were heard from the college compound during the chases and counter-chases. Students were also found loitering in the college compound with iron rods and hockey sticks.

Both the college authorities and the police officers on duty confirmed that no one was hurt during the incident and that no arrest was made.

Transport strike

From Page 1 Col 7
Eight people were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Most of the buses, trucks, minibuses, tempos and baby-taxis stayed off the road causing immense suffering to the people on Tuesday.

The rickshaws were the only means of transportation and the pullers realised exorbitant fares from the passengers.

Rickshaws plied between Dhaka and Narayanganj charging Taka 50 per passenger, one passenger said.

The Executive President of the Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation, Manjurul Ahsan Khan, urged the workers to resume the transport services while its General Secretary Abdur Rashid was in favour of continuing strike.

The Federation called the strike to press home its 11 points demands including withdrawal of government decision to put the transport workers under non-bailable detention following an accident, amendment to the Industrial Relations Ordinance, reduction in fuel prices and ferry fare, construction of terminal for the town service buses and cancellation of trade unions except those at the district level.

A source in the dissident group, led by Manjurul Ahsan Khan, said that the strike was called because the cattle market was not leased out to a section of federation leaders who had been dominating the bazar traditionally.

Moreover, the government helped in ousting some hoodlums from the Gabtali and Mohakhali Bus Terminal.

The source on condition of anonymity said that Khan and a number of leaders were against the strike called for the 'coterie interest.'

The source claimed that majority of the transport workers were with Khan and had started operating vehicles in different routes in Dhaka and many southern and northern districts.

He said that at least 30 vehicles were damaged by the strike supporters near Mahakhali, Shanir Akra, Bangladesh Bank, Tongi, Kamalapur, Farmgate and Gulistan in a bid to prevent commuting.

He hoped that more vehicles would operate from today Wednesday, "if the terrorism by the small number of strikers is checked."

On the other hand, a spokesman of the another group of the Federation accused Khan of "betraying" with the Federation and "joining hands" with the government.

The source said that only one of the 200 unions under the Federation, of which Khan is an adviser, called off the strike.

He said that the strike would continue until the demands were realised.

On Tuesday, there was no initiative either from the government side or from the Federation to resume the talks ended inconclusively on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association urged the striking workers to end the strike for the greater interests of the people.

AL council

From Page 1 Col 8
nounced by the National coordination body of the Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee.

Competent sources told UNB that Awami League strategists are planning a new agitation across the country soon to mobilise public opinion on issues such as trial of Golam Azam, Indemnity Ordinance, independence of judiciary, effective parliament and the "government-sponsored" terrorism.

The Awami League is likely to declare its fresh action programme after the June 30 "march", the sources said.

A meeting of the League Central Committee will be held on June 25 (Thursday) at 3 pm at the party central office, says a press release.

Voters' list

From Page 1 Col 8
achieve the goal is undoubtedly compilation of a voters' list identifying the people eligible for exercising the rights of franchise.

Justice Rouf said the success and utility of the elections hinge on this list and as such the need for a correct voters' list could not be over emphasised.

He said the Election Commission has already announced elaborate programme for compilation of the new voters' list in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi Corporations and in 103 Poursabha areas.

Information gathering for the eligible voters would begin today when the enumerators in phases would move from house to house to enlist the voters, he said.

The supervisors will look after the work of the enumerators from the June 27 from house to house and vouch for the veracity of the information gathered by the enumerators.

The Chief Election Commissioner said draft voters' list would be published on July 12 and July 28 has been fixed as the last date for inclusion of names and objections in the draft list.

He said, final voters' list would be published on September 26.

Justice Rouf described the task for flawless compilation of voters' list within a specified time a Herculean one and said 17,105 people had been deployed in different cadres for discharging the responsibility.

They include 86 registration officers, 528 assistant registration officers, 3,332 supervisors and 13,159 enumerators.

The Chief Election Commissioner said for the first time an assistant registration officer has been deployed in each and every ward.

Repression on press

From Page 1 Col 7
ing Mirza Riqibul Huda as the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner who, she alleged, ordered the firing on her procession at Lalighi in Chittagong on January 24, 1988, killing dozens of people.

Mirza Riqibul Huda was accused by the enquiry commission of masterminding the Chittagong "mass killing" during the Ershad regime but "has now become a favourite of the BNP government", she said.

Referring to the opposition boycott of the budget session, Hasina said the present parliament was constituted with the sublime mission to resolve people's problems through discussion and ensure democracy and economic self-reliance.

"With this mission, we had cooperated with the government but our cooperation and liberal attitude are unfortunately considered by the ruling party as our weakness."

Criticising the one and a half-year rule of the government, she said BNP had forgotten its commitment during the anti-autocracy movement. "Instead it has undertaken a programme of politicising everything — administration, police and educational institutions — to rule the people in autocratic style."

"They have no concern for the wellbeing of the people... every decision of this government is dictated by a foreign country", Hasina alleged. "They are now involved in destructing the spirit of the liberation war and jeopardising the sovereignty."

During her visit to the Press Club, the Awami League chief was accompanied by Begum Sajeda Chowdhury and Amir

Hossain Amu, Leaders of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) appraised Hasina of Sunday's incident and unions' course of action.

Budget: PM

From Page 1 Col 3
by the autocratic regime and it became a den of corruption". She said her government had been working hard to bring the national economy on to the right track.

Begum Zia stressed the need for setting up small and cottage industries and said the government would provide all out help in this regard.

Stressing the importance of the womenfolk in the nation development, she said on development could succeed without their participation.

JCD accuses AL JP of attacking journalists

The Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday held a rally here to protest what it said the joint attack of the terrorist groups of Awami League and Jatiya Party on the journalists in the capital Monday, reports BSS.

In his speech Rizvi Ahmed said "hooligans" of Awami-Chhatra League and Jatiya Party launched a naked attack on the unit chief of Dainik Millat Kamal Pasha Doja at the press club premises Monday. He demanded exemplary punishment of those responsible for the attack. He also called for taking steps against those police personnel involved in the assault on the journalists on June 21.

adda: The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) in a statement yesterday (Tuesday) condemned the police assault on journalists Sunday.

The DUTA statement was signed by its president Prof S M A Faiz and General Secretary Saad-ur-Rahman.

Meanwhile, 53 teachers of the Dhaka University in a joint statement yesterday condemned the police attack on the journalists.

The teachers, said that the government should force the Home Minister to resign and suspend the police commissioner to prove that it was not autocratic.

Earlier, protesting the assault on journalists the Awami League-backed the Chhatra League (M-I) brought out a procession and held a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal also held a rally at the Aparajito Bangla of the Dhaka University to condemn the incident.

Our Court Correspondent reports: A meeting of the Dhaka District Bar Association Monday strongly condemned the dastardly police assault on the journalists at the Jatiya Press Club.

BSS adds: The managing committee of Jatiya Press Club at a meeting held here yesterday condemned the police attack on the journalists at the press club and its adjoining arcas on June 21.

The meeting demanded exemplary punishment of the police personnel involved in the attack.

The meeting also condemned the attack on the unit chief of Millat by the outsiders at a protest meeting of BFUJ and DUJ on June 22.

Meanwhile, four leaders of Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad and Bangladesh Council of Editors also condemned the attack on journalists without any provocation inside the Jatiya Press Club on June 21.

A protest rally held under the auspices of Chittagong Union of Journalists in Chittagong on Monday condemned the police action on journalists.

Editorial on page 4

Gallery

From Page 1 Col 4
made the press gallery empty when the House resumed after a three-day recess Monday.

In the absence of their adversaries, some of the Jamaat members found it convenient to justify their cause and term the Nirmul Committee the way they wanted. Their voices, since the issue of Golam Azam was raised in Parliament, were heard clearly with the Treasury benchers raising no objection. In the process the opposition missed the chance to protest.