

Janata Tower Case

'JPL incorporated with RJSC before purchasing land'

The Special Judge's Court trying former President H M Ershad, his wife Begum Raushan Ershad and 18 others in the 'Janata Tower Case' yesterday recorded the deposition of four prosecution witnesses raising the number of PWs cross examined so far to 14, report BSS.

The depositions and cross examinations of two of them were recorded by Additional Sessions Judge and Special Judge Md Anwaruddin Sikder. Yesterday's witnesses — all employees of the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Company (RJSC) were not earlier named in the chargesheet of this Special Case 11 of 1992.

It was revealed in the court yesterday that Raushan Ara Begum alias Begum Raushan Ershad, Chairman of Janata Publishers Limited (JPL) had the company JPL incorporated with RJSC having shown 49 Kawran Bazar Commercial Area (KCA) as its registered office before the company actually purchased the land.

Syed Md Mohsin, inspector of RJSC and PW-12 during deposition yesterday informed the court that his office received an application from JPL on 19.10.1989 showing 49 KCA as its registered office. He further said Mrs Raushan Ara Begum as Chairman of JPL later submitted all relevant papers required within the framework of company law. Her prayer was granted and JPL was incorporated as a private company on 25.10.1989, Mohsin said.

According to documentary evidence made available to the court earlier, Shahnoor Islam

and two others, the allottees of RAJUK/DIT (as affected persons) plot No 49 KCA made and application on 24.10.1989 seeking permission to transfer their land (plot 49 KCA). The transfer prayer was approved on the same day. The plot measuring 12 katha on which multi-storied Janata Tower was built later was sold to JPL on 2.11.1989, PW-10 Abdur Rahman Bhutyan, Director, estate RAJUK/DIT testified earlier.

The allottees after paying transfer fee of Taka 3,30,000, sold the plot to JPL at Taka 33,00,000 on 2.11.1989, the court heard earlier.

The court further heard that only two days after the transaction of land to JPL, a prayer was submitted on behalf of Janata Publisher Limited to execute mutation of the plot in favour of company Chairman Raushan Ershad. The permission for mutation was granted the following day (5.11.1989), deposition made earlier said.

The witness (Mohsin) while reading out the particulars of the directors said the address of Raushan Ara Begum was shown as 82 Gangadas Guha Road, Dhaka in the memorandum of association. However, during cross examination, Sharfuddin Ahmed Mukul, defence counsel of Begum Raushan Ershad submitted the court that it was a mistake and added that in all other correspondences, the address was shown to be in Mymensingh.

The court yesterday witnessed nearly an hour of intense debate on a point of law that arose when the Attorney General Aminul Haq posed a question to Mohsin. After pro-

longed deliberation, the Attorney General who earlier insisted to record the question, withdrew thereby bringing an end to a legal tussle.

Besides the Attorneys of Ershad, the defence counsels of former Jute Minister M A Sattar and former RAJUK Chairman M Rahmatullah joined in the debate.

Attorney General at one stage of the deposition, asked the witness whether 'he came to know who was the owner of the company.'

All the defence counsels both separately and jointly demanded hearing on the legality of asking such question which, they opined, was contrary to Evidence Act. Before settling the issue, there should not be any deposition or cross examination.

After the Attorney General withdrew his question and expressed sorrow for harming court's time, the Judge discarded defence counsels demands.

Sharfuddin Ahmed Mukul, defence counsel for Begum Raushan Ershad pointed out some lapses of RJSC. He showed through cross examination that JPL which received NOC for floating the company had its address at 7 Mymensingh Road, Dhaka, but when it was incorporated there was no address at all.

As for address of Begum Raushan Ershad showing it to be in Dhaka, Mukul said it was inadvertently done and added correction was made later.

At the outset of the proceedings, two petitions were filed on behalf of two accused who failed to appear.



A vendor selling caged pets on a city street. —Star photo

3 proposed laws

Parliament to have their personal secretaries and assistant personal secretaries to help them discharge their responsibilities smoothly.

The authority to appoint the class one officials of the secretariat would be vested in the Speaker while the Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat would appoint other officials under the provisions made by the Speaker.

Head of the secretariat, the Speaker would be accountable to Parliament.

According to official sources, many donor agencies, including the Asia Foundation, have already expressed their intentions to extend financial assistance to help implement the project.

The leading MPs belonging to both the Treasury Bench and the opposition had in the meantime repeatedly demanded that the bill be moved in the House in previous sessions of parliament. They said that the setting up of the parliament secretariat would definitely contribute to the effective functioning of parliamentary democracy.

But despite the Law Minister's repeated assurances in the House earlier, the Law Ministry was yet to release the bill.

Shahjahan Siraj MP of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), who is also a member of the Privilege Committee, told the House last week that indecision of the government in moving the bill tantamounted to its 'insincerity'.

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4 arrested under Anti-terrorism Act in city

Police have arrested four persons under the Anti-terrorism Act for various criminal activities in the city, reports BSS.

Motijheel police on Friday arrested one Bitiya, Ronon and Qamrul Hassan from near Shantibagh Jame Masjid. A police press release said that these youths armed with deadly weapons went to the house of one Kazi Fazul Karim and demanded Tk 50,000. Being failed to extort the money these youths beat the son, Karim and snatched the son's wristwatch and a gold chain.

On information, police rushed to the spot and arrested the three youths. They also recovered one bullet from one of them.

Police later filed cases against the youths under the Arms Act and the Anti-terrorism Act, press release said.

Dhanmandi thana police on Friday arrested one Mohammad Jallil (25) for alleged terrorism in the New Super Market. Police said Jallil, along with few others, had snatched away Tk 1000 from the market.

80 more Rohingyas back home

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 27: Some eighty Rohingya refugees today voluntarily went back to their homes in Myanmar through three transit camps at Teknaf here today, official sources said, reports BSS.

This was the 30th batch of Rohingyas to be repatriated.

The total number of repatriated persons now stands at 21,725. The UNHCR representatives and Bangladesh officials saw the refugees off at Noyapara-2, Jummupara and kongkhalhi transit camps at the time of their repatriation.

About 13,000 refugees are now awaiting repatriation at the three transit camps, the sources said.

Diarrhoea

From Page 1 Col 8 sick in those districts since the disease broke out in January, according to the official records but the unofficial figures of death and sick people were much higher than that of the official count.

Meanwhile, the situation in Dhaka and Narayanganj remained unchanged with more patients admitted to the ICDDR,B and other hospitals.

So far 4,884 people fell sick in Dhaka and 744 in Narayanganj town since middle of the month.

The health officials attributed sudden change in temperature and drinking of contaminated water for the latest spurt of the disease.

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The Midnight File

Three Somali militiamen killed in clash with UN troops

MOGADISHU, Feb 27: Three Somali militiamen were killed and two US soldiers slightly wounded in separate attacks on the UN multi-national force here, military spokesmen said today, reports AFP.

Coffee shop blast kills 4 in Cairo

CAIRO, Feb 27: A crude bomb packed with steel nails to maim and kill exploded in a crowded Cairo coffee shop and killed a Swede, a Turk and two Egyptians, authorities said Saturday. At least 18 people, among them six foreigners, were injured in the Friday night explosion. Security sources said Muslim extremists were suspected of the bombing, though an Interior Ministry statement did not place blame, reports AP.

Armedmen attack Ittefaq employee

Our DMCH Correspondent An advertisement assistant of The Daily Ittefaq was seriously injured Saturday morning when some unidentified youngmen assaulted him with a 'chappal' (sharp knife) on the second floor of the daily.

He was admitted to DMCH. None was however, arrested in this connection.

Another reports adds: A body of an unidentified male, 45, was recovered Saturday from under the Gabtali Bridge in the city.

The body was wrapped in a mat and bore several stab marks.

It was sent to DMCH for autopsy.

According to another report, three muggers were severely beaten up Saturday when they tried to rob an autorickshaw passengers at Mirpur, Section 13 at 2 pm.

The muggers were identified as Faruq, Sohail and Rumel. They have been admitted to the DMCH.

Alleged killer of Shamsuzzoha arrested

Police nabbed one of the fugitives accused of killing Chhatra League (M-I) leader Shamsuzzoha of Bogra from Neelkhet in the city Friday night, reports UNB.

The pro-Awami League BCL leader was killed allegedly by the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir in a clash with the All-Party Student Unity (APSU) supporters in Nandigram thana of Bogra district last Tuesday.

A special squad of plain-cloth police arrested Mohammad Moshraf Hossain (23) from Neelkhet. Legal action is being taken against the accused, said a DMP press release.

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BSFIC: Poor response

From Page 1 Col 7 textile mills employees and to the railway workers.

The retirement option offered the normal gratuity, provident fund and leave preparatory to retirement (LPR) benefits to those employees who have completed 25 years of service.

In addition, the option provides between 10 to 22 per cent of the gratuity amount as extra payment as an incentive to those who have completed between 10 and 24 years of service.

The move to reduce the excess manpower comes in the backdrop of continuing losses in the sugar sector. The accumulated losses in the 16 sugar mills stood at taka 218 crore in 1991-92.

Last year, a consultant engaged by the Asian Development Bank noted in a report that there were 18 per cent excess workers and 50 per cent excess employees and staff in the 16 sugar mills.

Presently there are 1430 officers, 14,926 employees and 9,119 workers employed in the sugar mills.

Observers pointed out that the measures may not be enough to salvage the sugar

industry. Locally produced sugar is facing stiff competition from cheaper smuggled and imported sugar in the local market.

The Ministry of Industries is also contemplating separating some 9,500 employees attached to cane production, procurement and transportation.

Reduction of the 2238 employees involved in the cane development programme may result in an abrupt fall in the annual cane yield, experts pointed out.

According to the Management Information System (MIS) data of the Corporation the annual expenditure of the cane development programme is taka 16 crore.

Considering that an average of the two lakh tons of sugar is produced annually, the cost of cane development activities per kilogram of sugar produced stood at Taka 0.84 only out of a production cost of Taka 28 per kilogram.

Thus, the experts pointed out, reduction of this workforce would not help much to reduce the production cost of the mills, rather the annual cane yield was likely to suffer as a consequence.

Consultative body to solve teachers' problems likely

The government will consider formation of a consultative committee to solve the problems of the teachers of government and non-government schools and colleges, reports UNB.

The assurance came from Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar when leaders of the National Federation of Teachers' Associations (NFTA) and Teachers Association Oikya Front met him at his ministry yesterday.

Leaders of the associations apprised the minister of various problems facing government and non-government school and college teachers. The Education Minister gave promise to the problems.

He urged the teachers to put in their efforts for bringing about a qualitative change in the education system.

On the government side Members of Parliament Rahima Khondaker, Shamsunahar Ahmed and Prof Lutfunnessa Hossain and Additional Secretary of the Ministry Khudeza Azam were present.

Among the teachers who represented the associations in the meeting were Secretary-General of NFTA, Secretary-General of Bangladesh Teachers Association, President of Bangladesh Government College Teachers Association, Secretary-General and President of Bangladesh Shikshak Samity, President of Bangladesh Government Primary Teachers Association and its General Secretary.

One killed, 30 hurt as fishermen clash in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Feb 27: A fisherman was killed and 30 people were injured in a clash between fishermen and their rivals near Imambari Bazar in Nabiganj thana today (Saturday), reports UNB.

Witnesses said Setu Mia (25) of village Chargaon died on the spot as residents of Trimodpur, Lohobodhpur and Sandalpur villages clashed with the fishermen to prevent them from entering the market this afternoon.

Some 15 houses of fishermen in Chargaon area were set ablaze during the clash that continued for about an hour.

The clash reportedly took place as a sequel to an altercation between one Abdul Mattin and fisherman Abdul Jalil over repayment of loan money on Wednesday.

Mitford Hospital Director assaulted

A group of class four employees of Mitford Hospital yesterday assaulted the Director of the Hospital over appointment of some employees, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said, a group of employees led by Siddique Ahmed attacked Dr Fazlur Rahman, Director of the Hospital at the hospital premises.

They alleged that the authority recently appointed eight employees illegally taking bribe.

Kohl in Tokyo

From Page 1 Col 4 Bonn was ready 'to work together to bring about a solution' of the Kurils row.

In a speech at Sophia University in Tokyo, where he was given an honorary doctorate, Kohl said Japan, given its economic clout, should 'take part in western efforts aimed at contributing to the success of reforms' not only in the former Soviet Union, but also central, eastern and southeast Europe.

During his press conference, Kohl cited the need to reinforce the role of the United Nations in the post-Cold War era, but he stopped short of pressing for a permanent Security Council seat for Japan and Germany.

'We adopted a restrained approach because we have a number of other problems,' he said.

Kohl said one of the concrete results of his meeting with Miyazawa was a proposal — apparently accepted by the Prime minister — to create a 'council of cooperation' on high technology and research.

The council would include private enterprise from Germany and Japan, and join a 'dialogue forum' bringing together 49 Japanese and German business and political leaders.

The forum was officially launched today and will hold its first meeting in Berlin on March 11-12.

7 killed

From Page 1 Col 7 DMCH.

The accident occurred in front of the Naval Headquarters when the driver of the wooden bodied bus (Rangamati Ba 2151) lost his control on steering and hit the private car (Dhaka Ga 1947).

Police seized the vehicles, but the driver of the bus managed to escape.

UNB adds: Two people were killed and four injured, three critically, when a fertilizer-loaded truck crashed into a roadside ditch from a bridge on the Khulna-Jhenidah highway yesterday.

The dead were identified as Abdus Sattar (35), a fish trader of a Farashpur village in Kaliganj thana, and Nazrul Islam (40), the helper of the truck who hailed from Kanchannagar area of the district town.

Police and hospital sources said the accident occurred when the driver of the Jhenidah-bound truck from the Khulna lost control. The truck hit and smashed the railing of the bridge near village Bujidanga Munda and tumbled down at about 3:30 pm.

Police said the truck was totally smashed.

Critically injured Obaidur Rahman and Ruhul were admitted to the Sadar Hospital and Khokon at Kaliganj Thana Health Complex. Another injured, Narayan, was released after first aid.

The bodies were sent to the sadar hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with Kaliganj police.

CPB hardliners

From Page 1 Col 5 the Central Committee meeting on Sunday.

Meanwhile, 24 central members took part in the deliberation on the second day of the meeting which, insiders said, heading for a majority resolution in favour of the party's transformation.

Sixteen of the 24 spoke in favour of reform including formation of a new party, while nine opposed the transformation.

The resolution suggesting reform means split of the party as the hardliners took a firm stand to uphold communism and asked the reformists to quit the party.

Insiders said that the hardliners Saturday accused the reformists of betrayal with the party ideals and reiterated that the Central Committee had no right to dissolve the party.

On the other hand, the transformists categorically said that socialism failed in Bangladesh and they had to find out new ways to reach the goal of peoples welfare.

Sixty-five members of the 75-member committee were present at the second day's meeting.

In a related development the 15-member presidium of the party held a separate meeting Saturday in a bid to avoid the split and opt for peaceful co-existence.

The Presidium will also meet today (Sunday) but chances are bleak for any positive outcome, observers noted.

The draft of the parliament secretariat bill was finalised by the nine-member Parliamentary Standing Committee on Privileges of Parliament Members headed by the Speaker January 30, 1992.

Parliament was in favour of the law following a lengthy discussion on the issue in the House October 13, 1991.

According to the schedule of the proposed law, the secretariat comprising a total of 76 posts would be accommodating more than 100 staff members including one chief secretary, one additional secretary, one joint secretary and one deputy secretary.

If passed the law would make provisions for the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Whip of Parliament and the Whips of

**পবিত্র রমজান মাসের জন্য ঢাকা ওয়াসার বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের পানি সরবরাহ ও পয়ঃনিষ্কাশন সম্পর্কিত যে কোন অভিযোগ গ্রহণের জন্য কাকরাইলস্থ ঢাকা ওয়াসার সিস্টেম অপারেশন এন্ড কন্ট্রোল বিভাগ রমজান মাসে দিবা-রাত্রি ২৪ ঘণ্টা খোলা থাকবে। জরুরী প্রয়োজনে উক্ত বিভাগের ৪১৩৭০৪ নং অথবা ৪০৯৪০৯ নং টেলিফোনে যোগাযোগ করুন।

এছাড়া রমজান মাসে গ্রাহকবৃন্দের বিভিন্ন অভিযোগ গ্রহণ ও তড়িৎ ব্যবস্থা নেয়ার জন্য ওয়াসার বিভিন্ন মডস আঞ্চলিক অফিসের অভিযোগ কেন্দ্রসমূহ সকাল ৬টা হতে রাত্রি ১০টা পর্যন্ত চালু থাকবে।

আপনার জরুরী প্রয়োজনে নিম্নলিখিত টেলিফোনে যোগাযোগ করুন।

**অভিযোগ কেন্দ্রসমূহঃ**

জোন-১- ফকিরাপুল ওয়াসা অফিস	- ৪০৮৬৪৬
জোন-২- চাঁদনীঘাট (লালবাগ) ওয়াসা অফিস	- ২৫৯৬৭৩
জোন-৩- লালমাটিয়া ওয়াসা অফিস	- ৩১৮০০২
জোন-৪- মিরপুর ওয়াসা অফিস (বাংলা কলেজের নিকটে)	- ৩৮৩৮৪২
জোন-৫- মহাখালী ওয়াসা অফিস (টিবি গেইট)	- ৬০৬৬৯২
জোন-৬- ফকিরাপুল ওয়াসা অফিস	- ৪০৯৬৩২
হাটখোলা ওয়াসা অফিস	- ২৪৮৭০৫
উত্তরা মডেল টাউন ওয়াসা অফিস	- ৮৯১৯০২

ঘন ঘন লোড-শেডিং বা বিদ্যুৎ বিস্টাট অথবা যান্ত্রিক গোলযোগের কারণে যেসব এলাকায় পানি সরবরাহ বিঘ্নিত হবে সেসব এলাকায় পানির গাড়ীর সাহায্যে জরুরী পানি সরবরাহের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে।

সরবরাহজনিত স্বল্পতা ও যানবাহনের সীমাবদ্ধতার কথা সহানুভূতির সাথে বিবেচনা করে পানি ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হওয়ার জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

সার্বিক জনস্বার্থে সর্বতোভাবে বিশেষ করে পবিত্র রমজান মাসে পানির অপচয় রোধ করার জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের প্রতি বিনীত অনুরোধ রইল।

আপনাদের সেবায় নিয়োজিত

**ওয়াসা "ঢাকা ওয়াসা"**

ওয়াসা-জরুরীঃ ৮৬/৯৩  
D-155