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Plan to solve problems relating to land

State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain said in Parliament yesterday that the government would take necessary steps to solve the country's age-old problems relating to land, reports UNB.

Winding up a debate on cut-motions on budgetary allocation of Tk 108,64,23,000 under the head 'Land revenue for fiscal 1993-94', he termed the land issues a crucial national problem.

He said all issues concerning this problem would be brought up in the parliamentary committee before taking any decision.

The State Minister, however, added that the bad laws were to be dealt with first, otherwise no problem would be solved.

Earlier, participating in the debate on the cut-motions, opposition members demanded repeal of the Vested Property Act and curbing corruption in different directorates and offices under the Land Ministry.

The opposition members said land reforms were a must for accelerating economic activities in the country.

Awami League member Begum Matia Chowdhury demanded distribution of government khas land among the landless people.

She said that killings and terrorism had become an everyday affair in the rural areas over forcible occupation of khas land.

Rashed Khan Menon (Workers Party) suggested change in the land settlement

system. He called for consultations with peasants' organisations to bring a suitable change in the age-old laws and to distribute khas land among the landless.

Salahuddin Yusuf (AL) said people were being harassed in the name of land survey and under the Vested Property Act. He alleged that village touts, in collusion with tahsil offices, were grabbing khas land. Yusuf also suggested identifying lands for shrimp culture. Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder (AL) demanded repeal of the Vested Property Act. "Muslims are also affected by this Act," he said.

Mosharrar Hossain (AL) said: "We have been hearing about land reforms since long but it is yet to be implemented. No guidelines were announced before taking up the work of land survey and therefore people were being harassed."

Hossain also criticised introduction of land development tax.

Opposition demands concrete policy on NGOs

Opposition members yesterday made a strong plea for formulating a concrete policy on NGOs and monitoring their functions as the lawmakers apprehended some non-government organisations were involved in anti-national activities under the cover of various projects, reports UNB.



Somalis living in Baghdad demonstrating yesterday in front of the United Nations office to protest against the US missile attack on Iraq and the US policy on Somalia. — AFP photo

Dr. Kamal

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country to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the countrymen.

"Now we have had the opportunity for the country's development because a representative Parliament has been established and the democratic process has started in the country," the dissident Awami League leader said, adding "our expectations from the Parliament are very high."

He congratulated Parliament for setting up a committee to probe a corruption charge and called upon the parliamentarians to take measures for stamping out corruption from society.

Dr Kamal lashed out at the tangles of bureaucracy, saying both the government and the elected people's representatives are captives in the bureaucratic structure.

Elaborating on the programme of the Forum, he said it wanted to involve people with the politics of development and called upon all pro-liberation forces to unite to reach the fruits of independence to the people.

Presided over by former local Awami League leader Khorsheed Alam, the meeting was addressed by Shahjahan Siraj, MP, Barrister Amirul Islam, Sheikh Abdul Aziz, Advocate Zahurul Islam, Shaheed Ali, Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Engineer Mortuza Khan, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, A U Ahmed, Advocate Abul Khasem, Sagir Anwar and local leaders.

Shahjahan Siraj said industries in the country were now facing closure due to the government's economic policy.

He also criticised the opposition parties in Parliament for failing to sit together to discuss the proposed national budget for the next fiscal year.

Pakistani politics

From Page 1 Col 5

provincial assembly in less than a month as unconstitutional. "We have no other option but to enforce the writ of the federal government," Ghafoor said in an interview. "If we don't do this we will be falling in our duty."

The provincial governor vowed to defy the order.

"I hold my office during the pleasure of the President," he said by telephone from the provincial capital of Lahore. "No resolution of the National Assembly can divest me of my powers or my office."

The resolution orders the central government to take over most of the powers of the Governor and the provincial government and to restore the dissolved assembly.

Armed men demolish 50 houses in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 29: Hundreds of armed men demolished 50 houses and injured some 50 persons in Kashaipatti area of Nalpara village early yesterday.

Villagers told a group of visiting journalists today that the mob from village Solna, one km away, attacked the locality at about 8.30 am Monday.

The mob destroyed property worth Tk 50 lakh and looted gold and valuable. It also took away altogether 200 cattleheads and goats.

The villagers said that the attack was a sequel to a dispute between a rickshawpuller of the area and a Jatiya Party leader Moteleb Mia at Boalmari Station bazar Sunday.

Bosnia's collective presidency to draw up constitutional documents

SARAJEVO, June 29: Bosnia's collective presidency agreed today to work together on a new proposal for the future of the divided republic, reports Reuters.

A statement issued after a two-hour meeting of the multi-ethnic presidency said three of its nine members — a Muslim, a Serb and a Croat — would draw up a new document on constitutional arrangements for the republic.

It has been decided that the presidency is going to work on a collective basis and with all members present, the statement added.

The three members appointed to draw up the constitutional document were Muslim Vice-President Ejub Ganic, Croat Miro Lasic and Miro Lazovic, the Serb President of the Bosnian Assembly.

The meeting brought the nine members of the presidency together for the first time since President Alija Izetbegovic and Ganic refused to attend talks in Geneva on a Serbian-Croatian proposal for a confederated Bosnia of three ethnic ministries.

The seven other members attended the Geneva talks chaired by international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, prompting speculation of a possible split in the Bosnian presidency.

Khilgaon clash: 7 held, arms recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested seven persons and recovered illegal arms and ammunition from their possession in a raid at Khilgaon in the city Tuesday.

Acting on a tip, police nabbed the persons for their reported involvement in the armed clash in Khilgaon in which a student received bullet injury Monday.

Police hauled a sawed-off rifle, a revolver, an automatic pistol and some 30 rounds of ammunition.

HSC examinee missing

By Staff Correspondent

A Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinee has been missing since his appearance at the Physics examination on Thursday last (June 24).

Jalilur Rahman, an examinee from the Kabi Nazrul Islam College, was last seen at the examination hall at Dhaka College.

Noman leaves for Japan to attend ECO Asia '93

Minister for Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Abdulh al Noman left Dhaka yesterday for Japan to attend the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO Asia '93) to be held at Chiba on June 30 and July one, reports BSS.

ECO Asia '93 aims at carrying forward the momentum of the Earth Summit held last year in Brazil and contributing to the promotion of regional cooperation as a follow up of the debate at Rio.

while court buildings of the remaining districts will be completed next year.

The Law Minister assured that the government would appoint more judges for the High Court as soon as it takes possession of the old High Court building to dispose of the pending cases and ensure justice to the people speedily.

Giving a break-up of the salaries of the judges, the Law Minister said the salary of the Chief Justice was increased to Tk 12,800 from Tk 8,500 and that of the judges of the Appellate Division to Tk 12,000 from Tk 8,000. Besides, they are given stipendiary allowances of Tk 2,200, house rent of Tk 15,000, tree car or petrol of Tk 5,000 and furniture worth Tk 40,000.

Earlier, moving a cut motion, Ganatantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta questioned the government's sincerity in institutionalising democracy by ensuring separation and independence of the judiciary, establishment of a separate parliament secretariat and cancelling the Indemnity Ordinance.

Sengupta alleged that corruption had plagued the magistracy three times more than under the previous regime and said magistrates are now taking bribes "openly".

He suggested appointment of an Ombudsman in consultation with the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition and called for taking necessary steps to make the rule of law and sovereignty of parliament absolute.

No corrupt minister

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ensured unquestionable freedom of the press.

The minister reminded the opposition that rule of law did not allow for anybody to be condemned without being given a hearing.

Aminul Haque was replying to the opposition legislators who refused to approve the budgetary allocations to meet the expenditure of the Secretariat for the fiscal 1993-94 on the ground that largescale corruption and irregularities have engulfed the administration.

Sajeda Chowdhury of the Awami League (AL) accused the government of largescale corruption. The AL MP observed that irregularities by a recently removed State Minister with regard to promotions and transfers had caused dissatisfaction among government officials.

AL MP Harun-ur-Rashid accused the Industries Minister of selling out a public sector hardboard mills at a throw away price to a favourite. He also alleged that the government was engaged in various other malpractices.

Abdur Razzak of the AL alleged that the Secretariat had turned into a den of corruption.

Wrong treatment Lady doc in Ctg refused bail

CHITTAGONG, June 29: The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate has rejected the bail prayer of a distinguished doctor and sent her to jail in connection with a sensational case of alleged wrong treatment, reports UNB.

The court passed the order when gynaecologist Salima Siraj appeared before it on Monday.

According to the prosecution case, Dr Salima allegedly aborted a two-month pregnancy of Gulshan Ara, wife of Dr S I Ahmed of Dampara, against her will when she went to the doctor's clinic for medical checkup.

The doctor even allegedly removed the uterus of Gulshan Ara to hide her offence, disabling Gulshan from conceiving ever again.

3 killed, 15 hurt in Iswardi bus accident

PABNA, June 29: Three people, including a minor boy, were killed and 15 others injured when a bus tumbled into a roadside ditch at Dhanatdah in Iswardi thana on Pabna-Rajshahi highway today (Tuesday), reports UNB.

tion. He also accused the government of politicising the administration.

All these opposition MPs expressed reluctance to approve the grants for the Secretariat.

Replying to the opposition charges, Barrister Aminul Haque said former State Minister for Establishment Mohammad Nurul Huda had resigned at the request of the Prime Minister as per constitutional provisions and not for corruption as alleged by Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party.

Barrister Haque pointed out that only one state minister had resigned in two and a half years of the present government compared to instances of dozens of resignations in a month in the past.

"Had those ministers all resigned because of corruption?" he asked the opposition members.

The proposed grants for the Secretariat, however, were passed by the House by voice vote.

Apart from this grant the House yesterday approved, by voice vote, 13 more demands granting over more than Tk 350 crore from the consolidated fund of the state.

Jai Jai Din editor sued

A damage suit of Taka seven crore has been filed against Shafigue Rehman, Editor of the weekly 'Jai Jai Din' reports UNB.

Executive Director and Editor of the daily Inqilab A M M Bahauddin filed the suit in the 3rd court of Sub-Judge, Dhaka claiming Taka seven crore as damage and compensation from Shafigue Rehman and Munstari Mahmud.

Hasina

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Rights in Vienna she had regularly monitored the flood situation in the greater Sylhet area.

"On my way to Bangladesh, I stopped in London and talked to the member of the house of Lords of the British Parliament Lord Annals to raise the flood issue in the House of Commons," the AL chief said. "They (the British) are concerned about the flood situation but can't take any measure as Bangladesh government has not sought any help."

Sheikh Hasina also visited the areas of Kaminibazar, Sagarnal, Kalabari Bazar, Tlagaon Bazar, Brahmin Bazar, Radhagaon, Boalbari, Sujana, Purbajuri, Pashchimjuri, Dakkhinbar, Kathaltoli, Talimpur, Panchgaon, Mangalpur, Munshibazar, Shamsnagar and many other flood-hit areas.

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The Midnight File

Make progress on your own, US to ME peace negotiators

WASHINGTON, June 29: The United States told negotiators in Middle East peace talks here today that it was urgent for them to make progress and warned that Washington could not make progress for them. Edward Djerejian, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, said the United States remains fully involved in the tenth round of bilateral talks. The current round of negotiations, which end Thursday, have not so far rendered any results. "We think it is very important to make progress now," he said, especially for the Israelis and Palestinians to reach an agreement on interim arrangements for self-government in the Israeli-occupied territories, reports AFP.

OIC meet on peacekeeping in Bosnia July 12

CAIRO, June 29: Foreign ministers from 12 Islamic nations are to meet in Islamabad next month to discuss the participation of Islamic troops in UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Hamid Algabid, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), said today that the ministers will meet on July 12 and 13, reports AFP.

Rushdie visits Paris amid tight security

PARIS, June 29: British author Salman Rushdie, condemned to death by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, made a surprise visit to Paris today under tight security, culture officials said. Rushdie, author of 'The Satanic Verses,' attended a meeting of the World Academy of Culture, chaired by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel at the central Louvre Museum, reports AFP.

22 troops killed as Naga rebels ambush convoy

IMPHAL, June 29: Altogether 29 persons, including 22 army jawans were killed and several others injured when suspected National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) militants ambushed an army convoy at Khudei Lamkhai area on the Imphal-Moreh road in Manipur's Chandel district this morning, official sources said, reports ITI.

Among the dead were three underground members and three civilians.

The sources said, more underground members were believed to have been killed during the hour-long encounter.

SKOP plans

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meeting until this morning when the fresh agitation programme would be finalised.

Sources in both the labour bodies hinted the 48-hour strike and blockade programme might be announced for late July.

Four representatives from each side will sit together this morning to approve the programme before its formal announcement.

Earlier, the labour bodies observed a 48-hour strike in March and again a 72-hour shutdown in May for implementation of agreements signed by the government regarding the workers' demands. The demands include announcement of the National Wages and Productivity Commission Report and the fixation of national minimum wages for the workers.

Jatiya Party

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contending leadership bids within the party, sources added.

Raushan sentenced to seven years' simple imprisonment on a charge of power-abuse in connection with the multi-storied Janata Tower at Kawran Bazar, is expected to be released on bail today after the Supreme Court upheld her bail order Sunday.

The source said that some of the leaders in the JP arc, however, strongly opposing the change in leadership, especially Kazi Zafar's bid for the secretary's post because they fear this might split the party.

When contacted over telephone, party vice-chairman Moudud Ahmed declined to comment on the matter.

"I don't like to say anything about it," the former vice-president said.

The source said the group working for Kazi Zafar also reportedly informed Ershad that the present leadership had failed to invigorate the 'release-Ershad movement' despite spending crores of Taka. Activities of the present leaders were also restrained by a court order, they told Ershad.

The source disclosed the name of only Nital Roy Chowdhury as one of the aides to Zafar who liaised with Ershad since he was one of the lawyers defending Ershad.

Roy too, was unavailable for comment.

Jatiya Party spokesman Abdus Salam, however, termed the possible induction of Raushan as a baseless rumour.

Baghdad

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Iraq fired anti-aircraft guns over Baghdad today but their target turned out to be an Iraqi plane, according to a local radio station.

Meanwhile the US aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt sailed through the Suez Canal today on its way to the Red Sea to take part in enforcing a ban on Iraqi flights in southern Iraq, witnesses said.

The Red Sea has been a major theatre for US and Allied warships taking part in operations against Iraq since the United States assembled a Western-Arab coalition to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war.

A Geneva report adds: UN and Iraqi officials will resume discussions in New York on July 7 on allowing Baghdad to sell limited quantities of oil to finance humanitarian needs and a compensation fund for victims of the 1991 Gulf war, UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced today.

In a statement written in French, the Secretary General said he was "confident that the attempt to assassinate former President George Bush and the coercive action of the United States against Iraq... will not be an obstacle to holding the upcoming negotiations."

DCC budget

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poration's own earnings but the World Bank, the ADB, and Saudi Arabia also provide assistance in some development projects.

Mirza Abbas said that about Tk 100 crore was spent for the development of roads, pavements and drains during the outgoing year.

In the coming fiscal year, besides other ongoing development projects, the DCC will contribute considerable funds to the city's flood protection project.

The corporation also plans to import some modern garbage carriers and other equipment to keep the city clean.

The Mayor said that Tk 46.58 crore remained outstanding and overdue, of which Tk 17.18 crore is with different government, semi-government and autonomous organisations. This huge backlog has affected the proper functioning of the corporation, he said.

Pointing out the recently inaugurated bio gas project at Syedabad, Mirza Abbas said that some more similar projects would be taken up in the next financial year. These would help clean some 3,000 tons of garbage daily in a hygienic process.

The Mayor said that some 1,240 different projects were undertaken in the outgoing year at a cost of Tk 78.88 crore of which 683 projects have been completed.

Replying to a question about the mosquito menace, the Mayor said that Tk one crore had been sanctioned for mosquito control but he sought city dwellers' cooperation in this regard. The Mayor said that unless the city dwellers keep their own premises clean, all anti-mosquito drive would be futile.

State Minister for Textile Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan and Mohammad Mohsin, M were present at the press conference.