



DCC decision on rent not yet final

The government has not yet approved the Dhaka City Corporation's decision to realise rent for holding public meetings at certain places in the capital, reports UNB.

The decision of the City Corporation under consideration of the government, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar told Parliament yesterday.

Replying to a question from Mirza Azam of the Awami League, the minister said that Dhaka City Corporation had decided to impose rent on parties for holding public meetings at Manik Mia Avenue, Shapla Chattar and Pantha Path "on trial basis" to discourage disorderly gatherings which obstruct movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

The City Corporation sought permission from the Local Government Ministry to implement its decision and the min-

istry is examining the proposal, he said.

Replying to a supplementary from Azizur Rahman (AL), he said the City Corporation Act empowers the mayor to impose any levy or taxes but government approval is needed.

The decision about rents for meetings not final, the minister said, adding "The corporation's decision will sit in a dustbin if there is no approval from the government."

The LGRD Minister assured the House that the government is trying to select suitable venues for public meetings so that they do not inconvenience the people by causing traffic jams. But the problem is that many parties do not like to hold meetings in Mirpur, Kamalapur or Syedabad.

He, however, said the government would soon come out with a decision on the matter.

Lawmakers firm to curb violence

From page 1 Col 7

University. The Treasury bench, on the other hand argued the suggestion that the government was involved in the campus violence was "absurd". The BNP MPs said terrorism contributes to destabilisation of the society, not only disturbing the government's implementation of its programme but also tarnishes the image of the party in power.

Refuting Opposition allegations, the Treasury benchers argued that police had already arrested six Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists in connection with the July 29 incident and charge-sheeted 15 other JCD members.

The government had also ordered a one-man judicial probe into the incident. All these steps proved the government's commitment to the rule of law and sincerity to curb campus violence, they argued.

The Opposition, on the other hand, questioned the government's sincerity by asking why the activities of the all-party committee to uproot campus

Bill introduced to raise compensation for acquisition

A bill seeking to give adequate compensation to those affected by acquisition and requisition of immovable property was introduced in Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Introducing the Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill 1993, State Minister for Land Mohammad Kabir Hossain said it is intended to ensure fair price to owners of land taken over for important projects like the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

The amendment proposed by the State Minister said the words "twenty per centum" in Section 8(2) of the relevant ordinance of 1982 be replaced by "fifty per centum."

Decision on import policy

From Page 1 Col 8

was in favour of withdrawing restrictions on import of all commodities. Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, on many occasions, made it clear that local commodities will have to survive by competing with the foreign goods.

Manufacturers of the country, including chamber leaders, raised objections to this contention. Such objections were supported by the Ministries of Commerce and Industries.

These two ministries were in favour of proceeding "cautiously" to protect the interest of the local industries as a market economy in its truest sense does not exist anywhere in the world. The Finance Ministry differed with them.

In the last fiscal year (1992-93), the source said, the Finance Ministry "won the battle" and as many as 93 items, including sugar and egg, were made free for import.

Last year's import policy directly hit the country's sugar and poultry industry. The sugar industries were on the verge of shutdown while poultry farm owners took to the streets in protest.

In the face of the protests, the government banned import of sugar and egg. Incidentally, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman was then out of the country.

The imposition of the restriction reportedly deteriorated the relationship between former Commerce Minister M K Anwar and the Finance Minister. It was learnt that the recent change in the portfolio of Anwar had a link with it.

Another source said that after the declaration of the last

1549 to contest Pak elections

Jatoi, three sons barred for defaulting on loans

ISLAMABAD, Sept 15: Pakistan finalised today a list of 1,549 candidates for October 6 elections to choose a 217 member National Assembly, reportedly disqualifying a former premier for defaulting on loans, reports AFP.

Chulam Mustafa Jatoi, who was caretaker prime minister at the time of last elections in October 1990, was barred for failure to repay bank debts, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said.

His three sons, including former communications minister Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi, were also barred from the race under a recent law which made repayment of bank loans a condition for participation in the electoral process.

Elder Jatoi, a powerful Sindhi landlord, was to contest for the lower house, while his

sons were vying for seats in the provincial assembly in Sindh.

Reports said in all 18 candidates for national and provincial seats were hit by the loan law, among them a former Baluchistan province Chief Minister, Taj Mohammad Jamil.

More than 800 candidates pulled out voluntarily from the National Assembly elections and a list for October 9 polls for four provincial legislatures is to be made public by Thursday.

The country's Election Commission announced the final list of parliamentary candidates as a deadline for clearing loans set by caretaker Prime Minister Moen Qureshi expired Tuesday.

Punjab, the most populous and politically strategic province, leads with 681 candidates followed by Sindh from

where 498 are in the race. The rest are from North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan.

In addition, there are 62 candidates for 10 seats reserved for non-Muslim minorities in the lower house.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by former premier Benazir Bhutto got two nominees elected unopposed from Sindh as all rivals withdrew in their constituencies.

Bhutto's arch foe, former premier Nawaz Sharif, is contesting from his hometown of Lahore as well as from a constituency in the North West Frontier.

The PPP leader, who served as Pakistan's first woman premier from 1988 to 1990, is seeking re-election from her Larkana home constituency in Sindh.



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (L) and his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (2nd L) are greeted by King Hassan II of Morocco upon their arrival in Rabat Tuesday. — AFP photo

Villagers help arrest Sarbahara man in Barisal

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 15: Police arrested an alleged Sarbahara activist this evening from Batna village under Charbaria Union in connection with the murder of one of Mizan's eyes while beating him.

The federation chief might have a notion that I had opposed his nomination, the Minister said, adding "And therefore I became politically undesirable to him."

Abdus Samad Azad, acting leader of the Opposition, accused the government of using the Anti-Terrorism Act against its political opponents.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party, Matur Rahman Nizami of the Jamaat, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party, Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party, Maulana Obaidul Huq of the Islami Oikya Jote and Shahjahan Straj also urged the ruling party to unite and chalk out strategies for eliminating terrorism.

Abul Kalam Azad of the Awami League, who had sought the discussion on the JU incident, initiated the debate while Education Minister wound up the discussion.

The sitting was adjourned at 11:10 last night to resume at 4:30 this afternoon.

Police from nearby Lakotia police camp rushed to the spot and rescued the Sarbahara activist from the angry villagers.

Mizan was taken to the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical Hospital under police escort.

2 die in city road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons were killed in separate road accidents in the city's Lalbagh and Mirpur yesterday. A 50-year-old man, Abdur Rahim, died after being run over by a car at Sipahibagh Lalbagh in the morning.

Abdur Rahim, 35, a pedestrian, died on the spot when he was run over by a minibus at Mirpur, Section-10, under the newly-opened Pallabi Police Station in the morning.

Pallabi police seized the minibus (Dhaka-Ja-3381), but its driver escaped.

Police sources said, the villagers of Batna this afternoon identified Mizan Sharif, 36, an accused of the Shahed murder case in Bihangal, who was hiding at the residence of one Hossain Ali Hawlader and started beating him.

A group of armed Sarbahara activists attacked Muslim devotees in a mosque of Bihangal on August 29 and killed Shahed. Police till yesterday had arrested 6 other Sarbahara man in this connection.

Police sources said, the villagers of Batna had gouged out one of Mizan's eyes while beating him.

Police from nearby Lakotia police camp rushed to the spot and rescued the Sarbahara activist from the angry villagers.

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In the morning, an 18-year-old

boy was killed in a road accident in the city's Lalbagh and Mirpur yesterday. A 50-year-old man, Abdur Rahim, died after being run over by a car at Sipahibagh Lalbagh in the morning.

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