

Golam Azam's citizenship case Natural justice not violated, argues AG

Attorney General Aminul Huq yesterday told the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court that there was no violation of natural justice with regard to the cancellation of the citizenship of Golam Azam, reports BSS.

Arguing before the court for the fourth day yesterday challenging a verdict of the High Court Division restoring citizenship of Golam Azam, Huq said service of notice to Azam regarding cancellation of his citizenship was not possible because he was not available in this country.

The Attorney General submitted that although Golam Azam was physically present in Bangladesh territory for a period between March 26 and December 16, 1971 yet his allegiance was to Pakistan and he lived within the political community of Pakistan.

Attorney General Huq said the notification cancelling the citizenship of Golam Azam was issued after the independence of Bangladesh when he was abroad and his whereabouts were not required to be known by the government.

Mandela invited to Bangladesh

President Nelson Mandela has been invited to visit Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has extended the invitation to the first black President of the Republic of South Africa through a letter.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, now in Pretoria in connection with the oath taking ceremony of the new President of South Africa, called on Mandela on Tuesday and handed over the PM's letter to him.

Use of SPA disturbs

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the autocratic regime should be used to harass businessmen.

Expressing their serious concern, the business leaders reiterated their firm view that no citizen of the country should be tried under the Special Powers Act when normal laws exist to take care of instances of infraction of laid down procedures, as has been alleged against Sea Resources Ltd.

According to a UNB report, last Saturday night police arrested company director Amanullah Chowdhury, Resident Director Shahabuddin Chowdhury, Engineer (Operations) Sujit Chowdhury and storekeeper Kalachand Pal for keeping unauthorised high frequency wireless sets and installing powerful wireless base stations.

When contacted, the Sea Resources Ltd. office in Dhaka informed this correspondent that Sea Resources Ltd., along with its two sister concerns, have 14 trawlers, all of which have licensed high frequency wireless transmitters, as is mandated by law. It is required by Bangladesh Navy, according to company sources, that every sea-going fishing vessel install UHF wireless system to keep in touch with each other and with the land base during fishing in the high seas.

In addition, the company has two officially licensed base stations, equipped with necessary wireless sets, which guide the operations of the sea fishing trawlers, and a large store of spare parts for repair and maintenance of the fleet. The godown has also been closed

Answering another query from the court, Attorney General Huq said in the Collaborators Act there was a legal requirement to serve notice and accordingly a notice was served on Golam Azam. But so far as the citizenship is concerned, law did not require so, he said.

In the citizenship law of Bangladesh, Huq said, there was a provision for the government to take decision in this regard.

Thai envoy

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take their own course, 'the working atmosphere for joint ventures should be safeguarded judiciously by the government machinery to create a congenial atmosphere for the Thai investors for smooth functioning.'

During the meeting, the Thai envoy also assured that his embassy would help issue multiple-visa visas for the members of the DCCI on the recommendation of the DCCI president.

Vidhyameth said that he would act as a "match-maker" between the entrepreneurs and industrialists of Thailand and Bangladesh for small and medium range industry development, specially in the field of agricultural and fisheries products.

The ambassador appreciated the proposal of the DCCI president for holding a Thai technological fair in the DCCI auditorium and agreed to take up the matter with his government. The envoy also assured of efforts to facilitate the visit of a DCCI trade delegation to Thailand.

Vice President Sajjatz Juma and other senior leaders of the chamber were present.

Hasina urges Hata

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delegates from different countries attending the two-day council session of the Socialist International that ended in Tokyo yesterday. Hasina attended the council from Bangladesh.

Hasina, the Awami League president and leader of the Opposition in Parliament, thanked the Prime Minister of Japan for providing economic assistance and support to Bangladesh as the largest bilateral donor, including the soft loan for the Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Project.

She requested him for increased Japanese investment and recruitment of more Bangladeshi workers which, she said, would prove to be beneficial to both the countries.

The Opposition leader referred to the close and special relations between Bangladesh and Japan, the foundation of which was laid during Sheikh Mujib's time.

Hasina recalled that late Japanese parliamentarian Hawakawa was a personal friend and admirer of Bangabandhu and it was through him that Mujib sought Japanese assistance for the construction of the Jamuna bridge.

The Awami League president also had separate meet-

ings with the representatives of the Mitsubishi Corporation, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd and Mitsui and Co. Ltd as well as some Japanese businessmen on Tuesday.

During the meetings, the Japanese business corporations showed keen interest in investing in Bangladesh in the chemical plants, refinery and power projects.

They maintained that Bangladesh must rapidly develop its power sector in order to effect industrialisation. They said Japanese assistance for the development of Bangladesh power sector will be available in increasing quantum if the problem of system loss could be tackled effectively.

Woman with arms held in city

By Staff Correspondent

A woman was arrested with arms and ammunition from the city's Sabujbagh area Tuesday evening. Sabujbagh police raided a sium in North Goran and recovered two revolvers, several knives, daggers and ammunition, hidden in a steel trunk, from the house of one Manu Mia. Police arrested Manu Mia's wife Chan Bhanu allegedly for keeping the arms and ammunition. She was detained in the Sabujbagh police station.

Abducted girl rescued: 3 held

By Staff Correspondent

Police rescued an abducted girl after three and a half months from the city's Aga Sadek Road area yesterday afternoon.

They also arrested three people — Mohammad Jaheed Mirza, 22, Mohammad Kamal Mirza, 25, and Shirin Rahman, 22 — for their alleged involvement in kidnapping Af-roza Akhter Runa, 13.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia offering munajat after inaugurating the Shaheed Mahbub Cantonment at Parbatipur in Dinajpur yesterday. Chief of Army Staff Lt. General M Noor Uddin Khan is also seen. — PID photo

PM opens cantt

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country. Begum Zia said, the members of the armed forces are also contributing to the nation's development activities and infrastructure building.

The role of the armed forces, she said, in the national disasters and in the rehabilitation activities had earned acclamation of all.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the newly-built Shaheed Mahbub Cantonment would become a fortress in safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty.

Earlier, on her arrival at the newly built cantonment Begum Zia was received by the army chief Lt General Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan and 66 infantry division general officer commanding Major General Ezzaz Ahmed Chowdhury.

Pisciculture

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Project (NPEP).

"In the context of our socio-economic condition, the significance of fisheries is enormous. The sector has also been playing a vital role in generating rural employment and poverty alleviation," Begum Zia said.

She said the entire northern part of the country, including Parbatipur, can attain prosperity by fish farming.

Launch workers on strike

By Staff Correspondent

Launch workers went on a wildcat strike all over the country from midnight Tuesday.

Thousands of passengers were left stranded in Dhaka's BIWTA Terminal at Sadarghat yesterday due to the surprise strike.

The workers resorted to the strike as part of their ongoing movement for realising the 23-point demand including a raise in wages.

A top leader of the Bangladesh Launch Owners Association, Abul Kalam Khan, told The Daily Star last night that the workers had stopped over 3000 cargoes and passenger-launches all over the country without prior notice.

During the last few days, the workers and the launch owners met several times, often in presence of government officials including the Labour Director, but all talks failed, according to the association leader.

Teachers

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programmes were held on the day in all the district headquarters.

Addressing the teachers at the Central Shaheed Minar, the liaison committee leaders protested the Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar's statement in the Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday and accused the minister of creating confusions regarding their demands. They blamed the minister for citing "contradictory figures" of the money required to meet the demands and termed all the figures incorrect.

During the sit-in, the Bangladesh Medical Association president, Dr. M A Majed, Sammitto Sangskritik Jote chief Fayed Ahmed and the leaders of the Samrak Karmachari Oikya Parishad and the Jatiya Chhatra League took part in the sit-in.

He did not provide any copy of these papers to the press, however, but only showed a fat file.

The AL leader also alleged that the minister had influenced promotion of one of his relatives in holding the posts of principal of two colleges simultaneously, and another relative became a Class One contractor in Magura overnight and was awarded a development contract without inviting tender. Again, Tofael did not provide any document in support of the above claims.

Winnipeg, Buthelezi in cabinet

By Staff Correspondent

PRETORIA, May 11: Nelson Mandela on Wednesday included his chief black rival in the Cabinet of South Africa's first post-apartheid government and gave his estranged wife a deputy minister post, reports AP.

Zulu nationalist leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi became Home Affairs Minister, while Winnie Mandela was named Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.

Help make country self-reliant: PM

BIRAMPUR (Dinajpur), May 11: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged all to cooperate with her government and make sincere efforts to make the country self-reliant through increased production, employment generation and poverty alleviation, reports UNB.

"Let's all think about the country and its development. We have fought the War of Liberation, shed enough of blood for the independence of our motherland. That country cannot remain stricken with poverty. We have to attain self-reliance in every sector," she said.

Begum Zia said her government's programmes and policies are aimed at changing the lot of the downtrodden, ensuring people's welfare, and increasing production and service to the nation.

The Prime Minister was addressing a mammoth public meeting at the Birampur Degree College ground in the afternoon. She said that the autocratic regime had destroyed all institutions and introduced the economy of imports to get kickback. The policy made the country aid-dependent.

Referring to her government's education policy, Begum Zia said the government had introduced free primary education, food for

firm.

Tofael shows documents

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Techno Consult International Limited ranked first with 6610.38 points but the consultancy was awarded to the Engineering and Planning Consultants, which scored 6381.73 points, and secured second position in the bidding.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) disagreed with the decision and even threatened to suspend the funding of the project if the matter was not resolved by January this year, Tofael added.

Finally, the authorities had to bow to the ADB pressure and change its decision. The Daily Star last night that the awarding the consultancy work to the number 1 firm in March last, he said.

The AL MP who raised the corruption charges against Irrigation Minister M Majid-ul-Huq in Parliament last year, provided the newsmen with copies of two letters of the ADB written to the project director, in which the bank expressed its discontent about the appointment of the consulting firm.

Tofael showed some other papers and claimed that he had ample evidence of corruption regarding the Teesta Barrage project, procurement of excavators and crane for the Water Development Board from Italy and some other projects in Magura and Bhola.

He pointed out that a similar committee was formed by the Indian parliament to probe the Harshad Mehta case. The committee even summoned the Indian Prime Minister who was implicated in the stock exchange scam, Tofael said.

In reply to a question on why he did not submit the documents to the House with a notice, according to the JS rules of procedure, Tofael said there is no scope of submitting the notice after the formation of a powerful parliamentary committee.

Tofael said he would disclose similar evidence in future.

The Irrigation Minister was not available for comment till midnight. When contacted, BNP Secretary, General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder declined to comment on the subject.

Strike at DU today

By Staff Correspondent

The students of Dhaka University have called a strike today protesting the rape of one female student by a group of miscreants at the Zahurul Huq Hall on May 2.

The student organisations brought out separate processions on the campus demanding exemplary punishment to the persons involved in the incident.

The Chhatra League (M-I) blamed the activists of Montu backed Chhatra League for the incident and alleged the armed hoodlums of the student organisation have let loose a reign of terror in the hall.

The four-member probe body, formed to inquire into the rape case, submitted its report to the Vice Chancellor last night. Details of the report could not, however, be known immediately.

PM leaves for S Arabia May 16

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to leave Dhaka for Saudi Arabia on May 16 by Bangladesh Biman to perform the holy Hajj.

The Prime Minister's 25 member entourage will include Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and three MPs.

Begum Khaleda Zia will be the Royal guest of the Saudi government. She is expected to meet King Fahd at the Saudi Royal Palace before her return home on June 25.

A four-member press team left Dhaka on Tuesday for performing Hajj at the invitation of the Saudi government.

Trade accord

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of the two countries would be conducted in accordance with the foreign exchange regulations in force. Payments would be effected through the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank and the Sonali Bank of Bangladesh.

Trading circles feel that the agreement would be beneficial to both the countries.

Local exporters could make a major inroad into Myanmar's consumer market that has demand for cosmetics, toiletries, newsprint, fertiliser and pharmaceutical products. There may also be demand for ceramic, leather products and tobacco.

The major thrust sector shall be textiles and textile products.

Items that would have demand in Bangladesh market include timber, forest product, chilly, spices, betel nuts, shrimp and livestock.

A Commerce Ministry official said "While many items were previously smuggled, the border trade agreement would allow unhindered flow of goods which would be cost efficient and cheaper for the consumers."

One hundred fifty one educational institutions including schools, madrasas and colleges were damaged in Cox's Bazar. The total damage was estimated at Tk 4.45.15.000.

Besides, 544 mosques, temples and pagodas were destroyed in the cyclone. In terms of money, the damage was estimated at Tk 1.22 crore.

The district control room officials said that extensive damage was caused to the livestock in seven thanas of Cox's Bazar. The estimate was put at Tk four crore.

Rescued fishermen handed over to Thai task group

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 11: The 163 Thai fishermen, who were rescued from the Teknaf coast after the May 2 cyclonic storm, were handed over to a Thai task group at a simple ceremony at the Chittagong Port jetty No. 1 this afternoon.

They will go back home tomorrow morning on board two Thai navy ships which arrived here yesterday to take the stranded fishermen.

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The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed talking to The Daily Star last night said he had received the probe report, but did not yet go through it.

Power policy

From Page 1 Col 5

strategies based on Indian experience, he said, "the countries of the sub-continent must work out an integrated strategy to develop the power sector since there exists enormous potential which has not been optimally exploited."

Mohammad Ali Shaikh, describing Pakistan's in the field, experience suggested, taking up small power projects as big projects result in delay and other complications. The procedural issues in privatising become complicated due to induction of many experts, he added.

He said since the power context of Bangladesh is similar to that of Pakistan, Bangladesh can follow India or Pakistan's institutional framework with some modifications for privatising. He also stressed the use of domestic resources like natural gas saying "if you encourage using imported resources like oil, it is likely that your country will face difficulties in the balance of payment ultimately."

Latifur Rahman suggested that to promote privatisation, the existing 'one window cell under the Board of Investment (BOI) should be activated by a legal framework such as government gazette notification.'

He also stressed the need for a transparent policy on private sector power generation to gear up the privatisation process.

Amanullah Kabir suggested that India, Bangladesh and Nepal might sign tripartite agreement on hydro power project purely on commercial basis for the sake of regional development.

Glas Kamal Chowdhury said private sector power generation is a "fundamental issue".

He said strong political commitment can make the changes happen in this sector.

Change of Telephone Numbers

We are pleased to announce change in PABX telephone numbers of our Head Office at 52 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, as noted below:

OLD NUMBERS

256086
256087
253228
235913
255918

NEW NUMBERS

868064
868065
868066
868067
868068

Transcom Limited
Transcom Distribution Co. Ltd.
Tea Holdings Limited
Eskayef Bangladesh Limited
W. Rahman Jute Mills Limited

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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The Midnight File

PPP faces setback in NWFP

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, May 11: Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party faced a major political setback in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) when an allied group within the ruling coalition rebelled today. The revolt was led by Mir Afzal Khan, Provincial President of the Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo (PML-J), who told a news conference his group had decided "in principle" to join the opposition ranks, reports AFP.

Iran launches radio station for Bosnia

TEHRAN, May 11: Iran has launched a radio station for Bosnia in a gesture of support for Muslims there and in a bid to have their "voice heard" throughout Europe, an official from the state radio announced. The new station went on the air Tuesday evening with the national anthems of both countries and highlights of speeches from Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Bosnia, he said, reports AFP.

JS Sectt Bill okayed

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ferring discussion on the issue three times," the Works Minister said and added "the people had voted us to Parliament to enact laws for their interest."

The minister also hoped that the Opposition MPs would also respect the people's mandate by participating in the discussions on different national issues on the floor of JS.

The House also adopted two bills including the Highway (amendment) Bill, 1994, and the Police Officers (special provisions) (amendment) Bill, 1994.

The Highway Amendment Bill sought a higher rate of penalty for 'obstruction or encroachment' on the roads.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed arguing in favour of passing the bill said, the law would help reduce road mishaps.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, while arguing in favour of the bill relating to the special provisions for police officers, said, the legislation would help restructure the powers of top police officers for disposing of the growing number of departmental cases.

Earlier, the Home Minister informed the House that the government had sharply reacted to the violation of Bangladesh's airspace by Indian fighter planes. The minister

Cyclone damage

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Quoting reports from the Water Development Board, the control room officials said 48 kilometers of embankment was destroyed by the cyclone. In monetary figure, the damage was estimated at Tk 4.03 crore.

One hundred fifty one educational institutions including schools, madrasas and colleges were damaged in Cox's Bazar. The total damage was estimated at Tk 4.45.15.000.

Besides, 544 mosques, temples and pagodas were destroyed in the cyclone. In terms of money, the damage was estimated at Tk 1.22 crore.

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