

National flag replaced in a planned way: Speaker

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali yesterday described the mysterious replacement of the national flag from Parliament premises as 'unfortunate' and it had been done in a planned way, reports BSS.

After the House passed obituary references immediately as it opened in the afternoon, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain rising on a point of order referred to a report published in yesterday's newspapers narrating the incident which said that an unidentified person had pulled down the national flag from the South Plaza of the Sangsab Bhaban and hoisted a banner resembling the flag.

The Chief Whip said the entire nation was shocked to read the report, he said the members of Parliament were equally shocked and felt insulted at the incident. He said, 'We condemn such an act and demand exemplary punishment for the culprit.'

The Speaker said, 15 policemen remain posted around the Sangsab Bhaban for security reason when the Sangsab is not in session. He said, no policemen remain on duty on the South Plaza.

He said the Sangsab Secre-

tary had already issued a Press Note describing the incident and a case has been registered with the Tejgaon police station.

Shaikh Razzak Ali requested the Home Minister to deploy more police personnel so that such incidents did not recur in future.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury condemned the incident. He said, police do not remain near the national flag after it is hoisted at day break.

Oli holds talks with Prokrichi leaders

By Staff Correspondent
Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed had a meeting with leaders of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council at his Secretariat office yesterday.

Highly placed sources said that the 40-minute informal meeting discussed the government's administrative reform programmes as well as the on-going campaign by the country's 70 thousand professionals, organised by the Prokrichi.

JMB tender for MC

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evaluation of the tender documents.

The identical charges mainly deal with 'undue influence' exerted in favour of a single bidder and lack of transparency.

The US Commercial Attaché, in a letter to the Executive Director of JMB dated May 17 this year, put it categorically that 'We and the companies are not satisfied that the evaluation was done fairly.'

'We remain convinced that undue influence was exerted in favour of the top ranked consortium. We believe some of the evaluators' detailed scores, which they were not required to submit, will show a large discrepancy between the ranking given to this consortium and the next bids, skewing the overall result,' the letter stated.

When contacted, a US Embassy spokesman said yesterday 'We are continuing to study the situation.' But he declined to make any further comments.

Following these complaints, the government had proposed a separate review committee for the bids, but till now this committee has not been authorised to operate. 'One committee has already evaluated the bids. So, unless that process ends, there is no point in appointing a new one,' a high JMB official said.

Meanwhile, the evaluation committee of the JMB has reviewed the complaints of the missions and has made a report refuting the charges. This has been sent to the World Bank. The report had insisted that there had been no discrepancy in weightage of the terms of reference and those used by the evaluators, which one mission alleged.

Executive Director of the JMB Mohammad Ali, when contacted, told The Daily Star 'The final criteria for evaluation was adopted before the bids were received and not

posed to retain them.'

Aid to Bangladesh

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Bangladesh), which were are home to two-thirds of the world's poor.

As a result of these distortions, the report pointed out, the richest 40 per cent of the developing countries receives twice as much aid per capita as the poorest 40 per cent. Egypt receives 280 dollars in aid per poor person, while Bangladesh gets 19 dollars and India only seven dollars. Bilateral donors direct only seven per cent of their aid to such human development priority areas as basic education, primary health care, rural water supplies, nutrition programmes and family planning services. Multilateral donors also average only around 16 per cent to these areas.

Both donors and recipients encourage these distortions, the report said. 'The donors want their assistance to coincide with their commercial interests, so they prefer to use it as a vehicle to deliver their own equipment and consultants.'

The report opined that if aid is genuinely to benefit the poor, it will have to become much more participatory and people-oriented.

'When there is an open public debate on aid, allowing people to decide whether their country needs aid and who should benefit, aid is likely to be more effective — and to help overcome disparities rather than reinforce them,' the report observes.

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BNP Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over the BNP parliamentary party meeting at the Jatiya Sangsab Bhaban yesterday.

—PID photo

Quiz-5 prizes

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Mohammadpur, won the first prizes, one 21-inch Philips Powervision colour TV each.

Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan, who attended the lucky draw as chief guest, distributed prizes among the winners of the Quiz-4 lucky draw held on May 17.

In yesterday's draw, Sufi A Islam of 8, Gulfishan, Baily Road and Rabul Islam, a student of Chittagong, won the second prizes.

Jatindra Nath Ghosh, a business man of MR Road, Magura, won the third prize.

Besides, eight fourth prizes went to Md. Zahidur Rahman of Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Ashek bin Rahman of Azimpur, Khaled Al-Fesani of Fakirpool, Mojahid of Agargaon, Commander M.S. Helal of Banani, Dhaka, Md Selim of Syed Aulad Hossain Lane, Farzin Islam of Mohammadpur and Nasiruddin of Dhanmondi.

Speaking on the occasion, the Industries Minister congratulated The Daily Star for its continued efforts to promote sports in the country.

Sports, being an integral part of the human development programme, is high on the agenda of the present government, he said.

Zahiruddin Khan said The Daily Star has set yet another trend by introducing the quiz competition to popularise sports in the country.

He also lauded the role of the Transcom Electronics and the Media World, the owning company of The Daily Star, for helping the development of sports.

Meanwhile, the World Bank headquarters has asked JMB to send detailed scoring sheets of the evaluation. But the JMB replied that the members of the evaluation committee are not expected to provide their individual scores in the report, nor are they expected to retain any details of the calculations once they have submitted their reports containing the total marks and ranking awarded to the competing bidders, in keeping with the World Bank's own guidelines.

Mohammad Ali repeated: 'We do not have breakdowns of the scoring, nor are we supposed to retain them.'

The allegation is not true,' Mohammad Ali said. 'One member was posted outside, against whom we coopted another person. The other member was not replaced because the ministry thought it was not necessary.'

He also lauded the role of the Transcom Electronics and the Media World, the owning company of The Daily Star, for helping the development of sports.

Chairman of the Transcom Electronics AS Mahmud spoke of his company's social responsibilities and said it would continue the efforts for greater national interest.

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