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Fertiliser distribution

Withdrawal of quota system suggested

By Govinda Shil

The Bangladesh Fertiliser Association (BFA) has suggested that there should not be any interference from the district administration and the agriculture extension and the anti-corruption departments in the process of fertiliser distribution to ensure its steady supply and fair price at farmers' level.

The association has also suggested withdrawal of the district quota and the command area systems in the distribution process.

The fertiliser dealers should be accountable only to the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) for any mistake or wrong-doing, said Abdul Baten, executive secretary of the BFA, an association of dealers.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Baten claimed that interference by the officials other than those of the BCIC were responsible for fertiliser crisis and price rise of the items in the past.

In support of his claim he alleged that some district officials in Rangpur had threatened of police action against some dealers as they refused to act as per their directives. In Pabna, anti-corruption officials had asked 21 dealers to appear before them for reasons unknown, he claimed.

Baten said BFA representatives will put forward the suggestions at an inter-ministerial meeting on fertiliser scheduled to be held here today.

The meeting will review the present distribution system, a senior official of the BCIC said when contacted.

Baten also urged the BCIC to deliver the consignments against the pending orders because the Aman season has already begun. Delivery orders (DOs) for about 90,000 metric tons of fertiliser are now lying with the BCIC, he claimed.

Talking to this correspondent, a fertiliser dealer of

Ashuganj who is now in the city claimed that he had deposited 37.50 lakh taka with the BCIC against Delivery Orders but did not get a bag of fertiliser in last 9 months. Another dealer of Brahmanbaria also made a similar allegation.

Another BFA member alleged discrimination in allotment. "Some dealers receive 100 tonnes per month while some others get as little as 10 tonnes although in both cases Taka 2 lakh is deposited," said Syed Mokarram.

According to the International Fertiliser Development Centre (IFDC), BCIC had pending DOs worth more than 35 crore taka.

BFA leaders said DOs were being piled up due to the failure of the BCIC authorities in timely delivery of fertiliser. Besides the amount against the DOs, Taka 46 crore is lying with the BCIC on security money deposited by the 2300 appointed dealers, according to the BFA.

When contacted, an official of the BCIC said, "If the government directs us, we will clear all the DOs." He, however, added "the government might not want to clear all the DOs for the sake of keeping a ready stock of fertiliser for the coming year."

In its latest (June 25) bulletin, the IFDC, Dhaka, said: "Inappropriate policies that delays the decision making process of the government agencies create agony among private traders, because such delay cause substantial increase in their cost of conducting business."

According to the IFDC bulletin, the country requires 578 MT urea fertiliser, 106 MT Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and 23 MT Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) in the Aman season. Country's six urea factories have a production target of 475 MT of urea fertiliser during July-September period.



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Sarah Ferguson, the newly-divorced Duchess of York, as she appears on the front cover of the latest edition of Hello! magazine. The photograph showing her modelling a flowing, front buttoned dress in stiletto sandals is part of a selection shot for a French magazine by Graeme Shearer. Ferguson made her debut in the world of fashion with the mission showing women they can be alluring without being young and skinny.
— AFP/UNB photo

Over 300 villages in Assam flooded

NEW DELHI, July 2: Indian troops today carried out rescue efforts in the far-eastern state of Assam, where thousands were flooded out of their homes by rivers swollen by heavy rains, newspapers reported, says AFP.

More than 300 villages were inundated in Assam, bordering Bangladesh, after the Brahmaputra river overflowed all over the state, the Indian Express and other dailies said.

Nearly 300,000 people were affected by the floods and authorities set up 32 camps sheltering an estimated 52,000 refugees, officials said. Nearly 500 people have died in the past month during heavy floods that have left a trail of destruction across India.

Domestic news agencies said the situation in flood-prone Assam was grim and soldiers in boats were ferrying marooned people to safer places.

The torrential rains began in South India last month following a depression in the Bay of Bengal, and slowly spread to the west coast, the north and the northeast.

The rains have flattened thousands of homes and other buildings, submerged rail tracks and highways, destroyed crops and animals and damaged communication systems. Several villages in the northern states of Haryana and Rajasthan are still under water. Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda surveyed some of the affected areas in Rajasthan over the weekend.

The teachers are: Akramuzaman and Azharul Islam of Physics department, Abdullahi Bakke of Zoology, Kaosar Hossain of English, Elias Molah of Chemistry and Makbul Hossain of Mathematics.

The APSU leaders were addressing a rally at the Dairy Farm Gate of the university following a big procession on the campus and on the Dhaka Aricha Road.

The victory procession, under the banner of the APSU, joined by over 2500 students, started at around 10.30 from the Social Science Faculty. Hundreds of cars and buses remained stranded during the procession.

The APSU leaders will hold a press conference and submit a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University today demanding action against the terrorists on the campus.

The Deputy Commissioner of Rangamati said, more than 1000 houses have gone under water there and more than 30 thousand people have taken shelter at different buildings of the thana.

In Jamalpur, the overall flood situation further deteriorated as 50 more villages in Sadar, Kazipur, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Shahjadpur thanas went under water.

Five villages near the Sirajganj town went under water as water was pouring in the evening through a breach on the old embankment of Water Development Board at Ramgati village.

Due to heavy pressure of water about 150 feet of Dhitpur flood embankment in Shahjadpur thana have been washed away Monday night inundating the villages in Porajana, Gala, Kajuri, Sonatali and Ruppaij unions.

According to district ad-

Second round of Russian presidential polls today

MOSCOW, July 2: Over 100 million Russian voters will choose between President Boris Yeltsin and Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov in the second round of presidential elections tomorrow, reports Reuters.

A total of 93,000 polling stations in Russia's 11 time zones will open at 8 am local time on July 3 and close at 10 pm.

Voting starts in the far eastern Chukotka region at 1900 GMT on July 2. It ends at 1900 GMT the following day in the western enclave of Kaliningrad, sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania.

The government has declared tomorrow, July 3 a national holiday to let the polls, which cannot legally be held on a working day, go ahead.

Campaigning is banned today, the day before the vote. Each voter will receive a single ballot paper listing the two candidates in alphabetical order. A third option allows an individual to vote 'against both candidates'.

Voters must tick against the name of the candidate they choose or against the line on the paper which says they are 'against both candidates'. Blank ballots or ballots with more than one mark are declared invalid.

To win the runoff a candidate should get more votes than his opponent and more than the amount of votes cast 'against both candidates'.

The election will be ruled invalid if more voters select the 'against all candidates' box

JU incident APSU declares 6 teachers persona non gratae

The leaders of All Party Students' Unity (APSU) of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) at a rally yesterday declared six teachers of the university persona non gratae on the campus for their 'link with the Jamaat Shibir and helping them doing terrorist activities on the campus'.

The APSU leaders called upon the students to boycott the teachers.

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The Midnight File

Huge toxic lead wastes being dumped in India

NEW DELHI, July 2: Large quantities of highly toxic lead wastes from developed countries are being dumped in India in a form of used car batteries, the Times of India reported today, says Xinhua.

Labagh, Ramna Jubo Dal bodies dissolved

City Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal yesterday dissolved its Labagh and Ramna thana committees and decided to form fresh convening bodies immediately in its bid to reorganise the youth front of BNP, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the city Jubo Dal here yesterday with Abu Sayeed Khan in the chair, said a party release.

It also decided to hold the biennial conference of the city committee next September.

JCD calls strike at DU tomorrow

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday gave a call for a students strike on the Dhaka University campus tomorrow to protest the policy of 'violence, killings and police oppression, as perpetrated by the Awami League government', reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, JCD central leaders demanded the release of arrested party leaders and withdrawal of 'false cases' against JCD activists. They alleged that a large number of JCD activists have been arrested since the formation of the government.

Tofael

The government has given priority to ensure supply of fertilizer to the farmers at fair prices.

They also discussed the 'BASIC women enterprise development programme supported by USAID. The minister appreciated the US authorities for its assistance in this regard.'

They also laid emphasis on attracting investors from the USA in different sectors, including industrial one. The US Ambassador assured the minister of his intention to encourage US investors to invest in Bangladesh.

AL nominates

been Monwara (seat no. 7-Naogaon and Natore), Anjumara Ara Jamil (seat no. 8-Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga), Rehana Akhter Hira (seat no. 9-Magura, Narail and Jhenidah), Aleya Afroz (seat no. 10-Jessore and Sakthira), Begum Monnuzan Sufian (seat no. 11-Khulna and Bagherhat), Nargis Ara Haq Paru (seat no. 12-Patuakhali, Barguna and Bhola), Prof. Mahmuda Shagat (seat no. 13-Barisal, Jhalukati and Pirojpur), Chitra Bhattacharyya (seat no. 14-Tangail), Tohra Ali (seat no. 15-Jamalpur and Sherpur), Jahanara Khan (seat no. 16-Mymensingh), Mariyam Begum (seat no. 18-Manikganj and Dhaka partially), Meher Afroz Chumki (seat no. 20-Gazipur and Narshingdi), Sagufta Yasmin Emili (seat no. 21-Narayanganj and Munshiganj), Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury (seat no. 22-Rajbari and Faridpur), Prof. Khaleda Khanam (seat no. 23-Gopalganj-Madaripur and Shariatpur), Syeda Jebunnesa Haq (seat no. 24-Sunamganj and Sylhet), Husna Ara Wahid (seat no. 25-Moulvibazar and Habiganj), Dilara Hurn (seat no. 26-Brahmanbaria and some thanas under Comilla), Prof. Panna Kaiser (seat no. 27-Comilla and Chandpur), Razia Matin Chowdhury (seat no. 28-Feni, Noakhali and Lakshmipur) and Prof. A Thin Rakhan (seat no. 30-Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban).

Indian Secy

League government through the June 12 election.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hassan Chowdhury termed the visit as 'significant' as it will offer opportunities for the two neighbouring countries to have talks on all bilateral issues, including sharing of water of the Ganges and other common rivers, at the Secretary level.

"It's a continuity of the talks between the two foreign secretaries who have met several times during the last one year," the State Minister told the agency.

Besides the Farakka dispute, bilateral issues include demarcation of land boundary, disputes over enclaves, delimitation of maritime boundary, trade imbalance and repatriation of the Chakma refugees.

An agreement was reached between the two countries for revival of the Joint River Commission (JRC) during the meeting of the two Foreign Secretaries in Dhaka in June last year.

During his stay here, Salman Haider will call on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Indian Foreign Secretary is also expected to call on other government leaders.

extension of service from June 27, '96.

The services of Capt (ret) Zamilur Rahman Khan (Joint Secretary) now an Officer on Special Duty in the Establishment Ministry, have been placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Textiles for appointment on deputation as member, Bangladesh Handloom Board.

Deputy Secretary in the Food Ministry Mohammad Hossain Seraniab has been appointed Deputy Secretary, Local Government Department.

Mohammad Khalequzzaman, Deputy Secretary, Department of Local Government, has been appointed Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Dr Mohammad Mujibur Rahman, Deputy Secretary of the Agriculture Ministry has been transferred to the Ministry of Food in the same capacity.

5000 HSC examinees

From Page 1
A group of HSC examinees swooped on Magistrate Rafiq Reza while he was searching body of some examinees who were allegedly carrying some copies in the Dera! college centre at about 10:30 am.

The examinees also brought out a procession on the college campus and damaged some doors and windows of the college building.

The also damaged two official vehicles. The examination was postponed in the centre. The agitated students then went to the Dera! Girls High School centre and beat up another magistrate, Nuruzzaman.

AL conspiring

From Page 1
Chittagong are being mobilised for the purpose, he said, adding that Sunday's armed attack at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) was part of conspiracy under the blueprint.

The BNP leader protested the case filed with Panchlaha thana accusing him and 21 others of making the attack at the CMCH, and said he was in the capital on that day.

He urged the AL government to 'shun politics of repressing opponents and forcibly occupying localities' in the interest of healthy politics and sound growth of democracy in the country.

Otherwise, he warned, 'we would be compelled to launch a movement along with the people of Chittagong.' In this regard, he said he had contacted the Home Minister, the IGP and the police commissioner of Chittagong in the last two days.

BNP Organising Secretary Haris Choudhury alleged the ruling party was listing the leaders and workers of his party in a planned move to oppress them. 'Moves are also underway to belittle the central leaders of our party before the members of the public', he added.

A leader of BNP's student wing JCD, Shahiduddin Chowdhury, said at the press briefing that some 6,000 workers of the organisation were arrested across the country since the schedule for the last general elections was announced.

It was alleged at the briefing that false cases were being filed against pro-BNP activists and they were being harassed by police.

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