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CEC seeks help to hold by-elections

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday called upon all political parties and candidates to help the Election Commission (EC) hold the coming by-elections in a free, fair and transparent manner, reports BSS.

The CEC was discussing different aspects of the by-elections slated for September 5 with a three-member delegation from the BNP headed by the party's central leader and Member of Parliament M K Anwar, at the EC office.

During the discussion the CEC said the EC was taking preparations to hold the by-elections and was quickly completing the task of finalising the voters' list, setting up polling centres and appointing presiding officers, Assistant presiding officers and polling officers.

Underlining the need for ensuring peace and security at

Sandwichmaker

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Enquiry report on govt ad allocation soon

An enquiry report will be placed before Parliament shortly to show how some newspapers were spoon-fed with undue financial support with political motive by the past BNP regime, reports UNB.

Responding to a volley of queries during the question hour in the House yesterday, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed said government advertisements were handed out to some dailies through corruption violating all advertisement rules and policies.

In reply to a question from Mirza Azam of Awami League, the State Minister produced a list showing government ads received by different national dailies during Begum Zia's administration.

It shows that Dainik Dinkal, a pro-BNP Bengali daily, got Tk 38.57 lakh and Sakaler Khabor owned by former Food Minister Lt Gen Mir Shawkat Ali received Tk 21.32 lakh in the first nine months of 1995-96 fiscal while popular dailies like Janakantha, Janata and Ajker Kagoj got nothing during the period.

The list also shows that the government-controlled Bengali daily, Dainik Bangla, was fortunate to get the highest government ads worth Tk 1.47 crore 88 thousand and another government-run daily The Bangladesh Times, bagged Tk 82.86 lakh upto March last fiscal year.

"It's very unfortunate," Sayeed told the House.

Former DUCSU VP Sultan

AL leaders go to Tungipara today

All members of the executive committee of the Awami League, ministers and parliament members from the party will lay wreaths and offer fatiha today at the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara on the occasion of the National Mourning Day, said a press release, reports BSS.

A malid mahfil, munajat and a discussion will also be held there.

General Secretary of Awami League Zillur Rahman, has requested all leaders to participate in the programme at Tungipara on time.

Govt may preserve memory of Jahanara Imam

The government is considering measures to preserve the memory of 'Shaheed Janani' Jahanara Imam in the capital, the Jatiya Sangsad was told yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a call-attention notice by Nurul Islam Nahid (AL), State Minister for Works and Urban Development Afzaruddin Ahmed Khan said that there is no lack of goodwill on the part of the government to respect late Imam.

Nahid, in his notice, referred to the role of the 'Shaheed Janani' in the struggle to restore the spirit of the Liberation War and punishment to those killers and collaborators with Pakistan army in the massacre of the people of this country in 1971.

He said that the movement led by late Imam rekindled the essence of the Liberation War and resulted in a tremendous eagerness in the new generation to know about the independence of Bangladesh.

Nahid said the then government unleashed repression on her and registered a false case of 'treason' against the 'Shaheed Janani' and she died with this false case on her head although the case was withdrawn after the fall of the BNP government.

He called for government measures to protect the memory of this great lady.

Unscheduled debate

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hended that passage of the bill seeking upgrade of the controller of insurance would pave the way for appointing AL member to that post in future.

In a rebuttal, Tofael Ahmed said that it was the BNP government which politicised the administration. Giving some examples, the minister remarked that the Khaleda administration would always be remembered in history for its 'contribution to politicisation of the administration.'

After the passage of the second bill, Shaikh Razzak Ali took the floor to say that the members of both the benches should be allowed more time to speak. 'Moreover, the opposition members, who are the heart of a parliament, should be allowed more time than the treasury bench members. If you check the proceedings of the fifth parliament, you would see that the opposition members had been given 60 to 70 per cent of time in the House,' he said.

The former speaker however, hastened to add: 'But the time should be utilised by the MPs for speaking about the future plans for the advancement of the nation.'

He also told the Chair that it was not true that every minute's deliberation in the House costs Tk 15 thousand, because the budget for the parliament was only Tk 16 crore in the last fiscal year, which included the salaries of the JS staff members.

'A municipality in a backward area of the country has even a bigger budget,' Razzak Ali said.

The Speaker told his predecessor that he had put forward the suggestion on an entirely different ground. 'I do not intend to engage in a debate with my honourable predecessor,' he said, adding 'I only wanted to avoid irrelevant discussions.'

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury then came forward to defend the Chair, saying, 'The former speaker had uttered the same words as you have done now in the House when we were in the opposition. I myself had fallen victim to such observations made by the former Speaker. The situation has rather improved these days.'

Deputy Leader of the Opposition the House Prof Badrudzoza Chowdhury took the floor at this point to submit an estimate: 'If every minute costs Tk 16 thousand, the budgetary allocation for the Jatiya Sangsad is supposed to be exhausted within 8 days.'

The Speaker then informed the House that he would have estimate very soon and turned to the general discussion on the proposed budget for 1996-97.

The session was adjourned at 10:30 pm for resumption at 3:00 pm on August 18.

3 killed, 70 hurt in road accident

SAVAR, Aug 12: A head-on collision between a minibus and a coach on Dhaka-Aricha highway near Dhamrai thana today left three people dead and 70 others injured, reports UNB.

Police identified one of the dead as Selim, 17.

They said the mishap occurred at about 12 noon when a Sauria bound minibus from Dhaka collided with a Dhaka bound coach.

The injured, including the bus drivers, were rushed to Dhamrai Gano Swasthya Kendra and different hospitals in Dhaka.

Police admn

From page 1

eral of Narcotics and Chairman of Rajshahi Development Authority respectively, the sources said.

The DIG (Chittagong Range) has been posted as Director of the T&T Board.

Besides, Additional IG MA Khaleque of Special Branch has been posted at the police headquarters as Additional IG, while DIG Ali Mohammad Iqbal of the headquarters has been transferred to Chittagong Range as DIG, they said.

DIG of Khulna Range Mohammad Ashraf Huda has been made Principal of Sarda Police Academy and DIG of Dhaka Range AYBI Siddiqui has been transferred as acting Additional IG of Special Branch.

Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Mohammad Salam has been promoted to the rank of Additional IG, but he would continue in his present post. Additional Commissioner of DMP M Nurul Alam has been transferred as DIG of Dhaka Range. The post of additional commissioner was, however, not filled immediately.

DIG M A Salam of the police headquarters has been transferred as DIG of Rajshahi Range while the Additional DIG of Khulna Range would be acting DIG of Range, the sources said.

Power supply to BTV centre disrupted

Power supply to Bangladesh Television (BTV) centre at Rampura was disrupted for about eight hours since 8:30 am yesterday due to technical fault at its transformer, reports UNB.

BTV sources said the authorities, however, continued broadcasting of the day's scheduled programmes using its emergency system, but postponed recording of different programmes, including popular magazine 'Shubehcha'.

The power supply was restored at about 5 pm, but the technical fault of the transformer, said to be the first in seven years, could not be ascertained.

Woman killed in train mishap

NARSHINGDI, Aug 12: A young woman was crushed under the wheels of a running train at Narshingdi Railway Station today, reports UNB.

Husband commits suicide after killing wife

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 12: An angry husband committed suicide after killing his young wife at Maronghia village in Chakaria thana early today, reports UNB.

Police said Ruhul Amin, 30, slaughtered his wife Mokhlesa Begum, 22, mother of two children, at about 2:30 am following a family feud.

Frustrated Amin then took his own life by hanging himself from the ceiling fan of his residence.

Police sent the bodies to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Sangsad tidbits

From page 1

uddin Ahmed MP to speak on a bill, another MP of the party told the Chair, 'Uni naai' (he does not exist).

In a lighter mood, the Speaker advised the BNP lawmaker, 'Don't say naai'. Rather say, he is absent.' 'Let Khoda (God) not make him non-existent.'

Taking cue from his humorous statement, made in the House the day before, the Speaker told yesterday's session, 'I should pronounce the word "Obsorprapta" (retired). Because, prospects for consensus in the House lie in uttering the word.'

While giving floor to Maj. (ret'd) Akhtaruzaman, the Speaker wanted to know from the BNP lawmaker if he would mention 'Obsorprapta' before or after his (Akhtar's) name.

Akhtar then replied, 'After (my name).'

On Sunday, the Speaker announced that he would like to pronounce 'Obsorprapta' (retired) instead of its brief form 'Ob' (ret'd) as what he said, 'Obsorprapta' was a magical word a mention of which resulted in the unanimous passage of several proposals in the House on that day.

AL lawmaker Saidul Haq utilised all the seven minutes, sanctioned to him to discuss on the proposed budget, by speaking on the country's independence history. His microphone stopped before he could mention a single word on the budget.

Jail escapee held after 11 yrs

JHENIDAH, Aug 12: A convict who escaped from the district sub-jail 11 years ago was caught from WAPDA area in the town on Sunday night, police said, reports UNB.

Liakat, convicted in two cases, escaped from the jail by breaking bar-letter in 1985. He is also under trial in seven other cases.

Police in separate drive, also on Sunday night, rounded up five people from different parts of the town on charges of murder, dacoity and terrorism.

They are Saidul alias Bachchu, Obaidur Rahman, Mohammad, Tota Mia and Farook.

JCD activist held with arms in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 12: A leader of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal was arrested with a cut rifle and 8 rounds of bullets during a raid near Nasirabad Polytechnic institute today, police said.

Panchlath police said a mobile police team came under gun attack as they were passing campus area at noon.

The police later nabbed JCD leader of Nasirabad Commercial College Mohammed Sobel from the area alongwith a cut rifle loaded with eight rounds of bullets.

Dhaka College student drowns in BPATC lake

SAVAR, Aug 12: A student of Dhaka College drowned in the lake of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) yesterday, reports UNB.

According to a PID handout, Md Syed Salahuddin, 18, son of Salahuddin Ahmed of Kailas Ghose lane, drowned in the lake while taking bath with his friends. He was a 2nd year student of Dhaka College.

It said a group of nine students entered the BPATC campus for sight seeing at 12:55 pm and the mishap occurred at about 1:30 pm.

Additional IGP Golam Murshed reinstated

A top police officer who was forced to retire during the BNP rule has been reinstated in service by the present Awami League government, reports UNB.

A notification issued by the Home Ministry said former Additional IGP Golam Murshed, who was sent to retirement in 1992, was reinstated yesterday.

His services have been placed at the disposal of Establishment Division as Officer on Special Duty.

The notification said he would not get salary of allowances for the period from his retirement to reinstatement. 'This period will be treated as "unusual leave".'

Murshed filed a case against his retirement order in the Administrative Tribunal /Administrative Appellate Tribunal.

The appellate tribunal in its judgement on June 27, 1996 declared the retirement order 'arbitrary, illegal and inoperative.'

Pvt power policy

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The power will be purchased from the IPP at a specified voltage at the outgoing terminal of the sub-station of the power plant. The cost of the terminals of the IPP will be borne by the private power producers.

The private parties may raise local and foreign finance in accordance with regulations applicable to industrial projects as defined by the Board of Investment.

Other incentives for foreign investors include tax exemption on interest on foreign loans, capital gains from transfer of shares by the investing company, royalties, technical knowhow and technical assistance fees and facilities for their repatriation.

Income tax will be exempted upto three years for the expatriate personnel employed under the approved industry. The draft policy also allows remittance of up to 50 per cent of salary of the foreigners employed in Bangladesh and facilities for repatriation of their savings and retirement benefits at the time of their return.

According to the draft policy, the Power Cell shall articulate and promote the private power policy and shall solicit and evaluate proposals, negotiate and process award of contracts and finalise various agreements related to these projects.

So far, some 11 foreign companies have signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Power Cell, with an investment outlay of over 2.5 billion US dollars.

New industrial policy to be placed in JS soon

The government will try to reopen the industries that remained closed for various reasons and, if not possible, disinvest those through the privatisation board, reports UNB.

A new industrial policy will be placed as soon as possible before Parliament articulating the avenues for offloading the loss-making state enterprises.

This was announced by Industries and Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed responding to a series of questions and supplementaries in Parliament yesterday.

The minister said some 5,000 mills and factories were closed or fell sick - mostly during the rule of BNP government and some during the Ershad regime - due to wrong policies.

He said three industrial units under Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, four under the Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation and eight jute mills remained closed.

As a result, a total of 1,637 workers in the units under the Industries Ministry, 4,465 workers in the government owned jute mills and 10,922 workers in private-sector jute mills lost jobs.

Many other mills and factories in different sectors were also compelled to close or become sick because of the failed government policy, forcing thousands of labourers to be unemployed, Tofael told the House.

He said the government would try to reopen all the mills and factories, but many of them would never be operational as they have already lost economic viability due to absence of proper assessment before their establishment.

In this connection, the minister alleged that crores of taka had been sanctioned to the people close to the BNP government from the banks against different projects without studying their feasibility.

Radio-TV autonomy Commission soon to recommend policy matters

State Minister for Information Professor Abu Sayeed yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that it was now under process of formation of a commission to recommend policy matters for providing Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television autonomy side by side infusing creativity, dynamism, accountability and discipline in these two organisations, reports BSS.

The state minister said in response to a written question from BNP MP Professor Shahidul Islam as to whether and when Betar and Television be given autonomy.

In reply to another question from BNP MP Zafrul Islam Chowdhury, the state minister said a project proposal regarding the introduction of television's second channel countrywide was now under active consideration of the present government.

Answering another question from BNP MP Md Masihur Rahman regarding the change brought in the name of Radio Bangladesh, Prof Sayeed said the present government had removed the irregularity only.

He said Bangladesh Betar was named as the successor of Swadhin Bangla Betar after the War of Liberation.

Responding to another written question from BNP MP Gautam Chakrabarty, the state minister said the government had no plan to give permission for opening private television channel.

Hearing begins

From page 1

means any service, post or office whether in a civil or military capacity in respect of the Government of Bangladesh and any other service declared by law to be a service of the Republic.

He submitted that as Justice Shahabuddin was a Judge of the Supreme Court he cannot, according to Article 99(1), hold any post of profit of the Republic.

Attorney General KS Nabi mainly argued on the question of maintainability of the writ petition.

He submitted that the petitioner is not a person aggrieved as he is neither a Member of the Parliament (the voter who will elect the President) nor a candidate for President.

He argued that as the petitioner is not an aggrieved person he has no locus standi to file the writ petition.

KS Nabi also submitted that the writ petition in the form of quo-warranto is pre-mature, as Justice Shahabuddin is yet to enter into the office of the President.

The same division-bench of the HC on August 5 issued a rule nisi calling upon the newly elected President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Chief Election Commissioner and the government represented by the Secretary, Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to show cause under what authority of law Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was declared President-elect of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The court nominated three eminent constitutional lawyers - Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Raheque-Ul-Haq and Barrister Moimul Hossain as amicus curiae, friend of the court, to assist the same in arriving at a conclusion on the issues raised in the petition.

Dr Kamal Hossain is now abroad, but he submitted written arguments before the court before his departure.

Senior Advocate Maksudur Rahman will represent the CEC in the case.

13 drown

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witnesses, boat carrying 18 passengers on board was crossing the Bura Gauranga river from Charkalmi to Natunchar under Charkal Fashion thana of Bhola district on Saturday afternoon when it capsized in the midstream.

Only four passengers including the majhee of the boat could swim ashore. The remaining 14 passengers including women and children remained missing till recovery of their dead bodies today.

The recovered dead bodies were identified as Sahimoor, 40, Baset, 6, Baby, 2, Saha Alam, 8, Khalil, 7, Sippi, 10, Shanur, 17, Aklima, 40, Shanu, 25, Azifa, 60, Zahura, 40, Aklima Begum, 35 and Kohinoor, 22.

The recovered bodies were handed over to their relatives. A 5-year old girl, Maina, still remained untraced.

Memo okayed

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The World Bank, according to reports, will recommend to the Aid Group for committing 2 billion US dollars in fresh aid to Bangladesh for the current fiscal (1996-97).

The World Bank memorandum, titled 'Bangladesh Economic Update, Recent Economic Development and Medium Term Reform Agenda,' prepared for the Paris consortium, has projected for this year a disbursement of US dollar 1.7 billion - 160 million as food aid, 260 million as commodity aid and 1.3 billion as project aid.

Last year, aid disbursement totalled US dollar 1,585 million against fresh commitment of 1.7 billion dollars.

2 Bills passed

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Bill 1996, bringing a change in the management of the Department of Insurance.

The amendments vested all executive powers of the Controller of Insurance to the Chief Controller of Insurance, the post created recently, for smooth functioning of the department.

The minister said upgrade of the post of controller was proposed because discharging all the functions is not possible for only one controller as the insurance business has expanded and flourished tremendously in recent years.

The House passed both the Bills by voice vote.

Earlier, a special committee, formed to scrutinise all Bills until the formation of a select committee, examined the two Bills and suggested their disposal as these were placed in the House on Saturday.

According to the objectives of the Bill the new post was also created to maintain financial discipline of the insurance establishments considering the importance of control and supervision.

Some opposition members proposed eliciting public opinion on the Bills and sending them to select committees, but those were rejected by voice vote. Proposals for further amendments were also rejected.

Asked about those involved in heinous criminal activities, he said the legal aspects of that are also being considered by the government.

Law Commission Bill placed in JS

An important bill was introduced in Parliament yesterday for establishing a permanent Law Commission to update the outmoded laws suiting the present socio-economic condition of the country, reports UNB.

The Law Commission Bill 1996 was moved by State Minister for Law Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru for consideration by the House.

The proposed Law Commission will examine and amend the existing laws and, if necessary, recommend new legislations to ensure the rule of law, independence of the judiciary and promote trade and industry in the new era of free economy.

According to provisions of the Bill, the 3-member commission will be headed by a chairman. The strength of the commission may be increased if necessary.

The government will appoint the chairman and members of the commission and determine its terms of reference.

The chairman will enjoy the status, remuneration and privileges of a judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division while the members enjoy those of a judge of the High Court Division.

The commission will identify the causes of delay in disposing of civil and criminal cases and recommend reforms of new laws to expedite the process of trial.

It will make recommendations to modernise the judiciary and stop abuse of laws.

The commission will make

SAARC secy-gen in city

SAARC Secretary-General Naemul Hasan arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the secretary-general said that he had come here to meet the Prime Minister of the new government, Sheikh Hasina, and other ministers.

He said the purpose of his visit was to renew his contacts and said, 'I am eagerly looking forward to meeting the new foreign minister of Bangladesh and other leaders and brief them on the SAARC activities.'

Hasan was received at the airport by Director-General of the SAARC Desk in the Foreign Ministry Humayun Kamal, Acting Pakistan High Commissioner Rifat Iqbal was also present.

Replying to a question, the secretary-general said the meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers would be held in New Delhi in early December.

He will have a meeting with Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan today.

2 young men

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sent him to the DMCH.

However, a brother of the victim said that Babu often visited his sister's residence at Nakhapara where a local gang of extortionists threatened him. The gang Sunday night attacked Babu when he was sitting in an open space close to his sister's residence, he said.

In another incident, an auto-rickshaw driver, Abdur Rashid, 24, who was reportedly beaten up by the manager of the auto-rickshaw garage at Kutubkhala, Demra, late Sunday died at the DMCH at about 3:15 am yesterday; hospital sources said.

The manager, identified as Kartik, allegedly hit Rashid, son of Abdur Rahim of Kutubkhala area, in his head with an iron rod following an altercation, police said adding that Rashid drove his auto-rickshaw to the garage for parking. Rashid was immediately taken to the DMCH while Kartik fled away, police added.

Meanwhile, police recovered the dead body of one Koinoor Mollah, 30, from near his residence at Koltasuti, Savar, at about 12:15 pm yesterday.

Police said that a deep cut injury found in the neck of Koinoor, son of Azimuddin Mollah. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Discussion

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vicing its foreign debts.

Shahidul Haque of the Treasury bench took the floor next and mainly dwelt on the history of the Awami League, its leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and its history since 1952.

Mohammad Khalequzzaman of the BNP cited different sections of the budget speech of the finance minister and said that dependence on borrowing would result in budget deficit.

He also called for consensus on different issues between the Treasury and Opposition benches in real sense for the development of the country.

Rezaul Karim Hira of the Awami League also took part in the discussion.

BNP alleges

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documents for conducting cases.

"It is very difficult to gather documents and prove allegations regarding election results in the polling is not stopped instantly in the disputed centres during the elections," he said.

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