

Bid underway to create 'artificial crisis' over Public Safety Act

Suranjit Sengupta tells BSS

Parliamentary Adviser to the prime minister Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said that an attempt is underway to create an 'artificial' crisis in the country centering the recently passed Public Safety Bill in Parliament, now awaiting presidential assent.

An attempt is being made by the opposition to create crisis in the name of opposing this bill to cover up their failures to stick to the constitutional obligation of attending Parliament and participating in its deliberations," Sengupta told BSS in an exclusive interview at his Parliament chamber.

Sengupta said that the question whether it is a "money bill" or not has been decided once and for all with the signing of "a certificate by the speaker." He said that "it is a money bill and that such a certificate should be conclusive for all purposes and shall not be questioned by any court."

Sengupta, a constitutional expert, said, "Therefore any reference on this point under Article 106 of the constitution for deciding whether it is money bill or not will definitely violate sub-clause 3 of Article 81 of the constitution which is neither permissible nor viable."

The parliamentary adviser said that news that the President of the Republic has been

counseled for sending the bill to the Supreme Court under Article 106 of the constitution has drawn his attention.

He said President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has his own judgement on the constitution and need not be counseled from outside nor there is any provision for institutions like the Supreme Court to appoint amicus curiae for interpretation of the constitution.

He further said that the authorities which have taken oath to protect and preserve the constitution should not be counseled to violate the constitution. Rather, they (counselors) should cooperate and contribute to the constitutional and democratic rules by adhering to the constitutional principles.

Sengupta expressed hope that the legal experts who submitted a memorandum to the president yesterday, would show equal enthusiasm to persuade the opposition to follow the constitutional behaviour and restrain them from harsh, terrorism and similar acts.

The adviser concluded his remark, saying that he was fully confident that the prime minister was determined to implement this law in a manner so that the real culprits were punished and peace and progress restored and that no innocent person was victimised.

Over Tk one lakh worth of goods looted in Ctg

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Feb 11: Valuables including gold ornaments and cash money worth over Tk 1 lakh was looted from a house at Pashim Gojara under Rauzan Thana last night.

Police source said that some armed robbers entered the house of Abdul Khalique at the said village at around half past midnight and looted the goods at gun point.



Art Theatre staged their production 'Mahajan' at the Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday. Sammilito Sangskritik Jote organised the Street Drama Festival as part of its programmes to observe Ekushey February.

—Star photo

President has shown respect to martyrs by refusing audience to Golam Azam

Poet Shamsur Rahman has said that President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has shown respect to 30 lakh martyrs by refusing "war criminal" Golam Azam an appointment, reports UNB.

"In other words, the position of the President is a recognition of the movement launched by Jahanara Imam," he told a meeting of central committee of Ekattur Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee in the city yesterday.

Obituary

FENI, Feb 11: Begum Noorjanah, mother of Abdul Kashem Chowdhury, Feni district correspondent of BSS, died in the early hours of yesterday at her South Satara Chowdhury Bari residence under Chhagalnaiya thana of the district. She was 65, reports BSS.

She left behind her husband, four sons and four daughters.

She was buried this morning at her family graveyard at South Satara village.

Feni Reporters Club, in a press release, expressed deep shock at the death of Noorjanah Begum and prayed for the peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

AL leader Rashid laid to rest

M A Rashid, former central leader of Bangladesh Awami League, was laid to rest at Banići Graveyard in the city yesterday evening, reports BSS.

Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was held at the Banići Chaṭṭanbari field. It was largely attended by his long time political associates from Noakhali and Laxmipur and friends and relatives.

The qulhwani of Rashid will be held at his Banići residence (House-36, Road-1, Block-1) today after Asr prayers.

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No 01/99-2000

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2. A complete set of tender documents may be purchased by interested eligible tenderers on payment of non-refundable fee mentioned in the tender from National Shooting Federation, Bangladesh, Gulshan, Dhaka only up to 29 February, 2000 during office hours.
3. Tenders must be accompanied by earnest money of 2.5% (two point five per cent) of the total tender price quoted by the tenderer in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of "National Shooting Federation, Bangladesh" and to be submitted on or before 3 PM of 1st March, 2000.
4. The tender will be opened on the same day in presence of tenderers who will be present at that time.
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Erosion by Padma Measures urged to halt damage

"The Padma Erosion Resistance Parishad" in the Nawabganj district has called for effective measures to halt the colossal damages being caused by erosion of the river which has already affected 65 per cent of the people and 50 per cent land in the district, reported BSS.

A statement by the Parishad said that many people are unaware of the extent of the damages by the erosion and added that the overall losses including the sufferings of the people would stand at Taka 25,000 crore.

Golam Arif Tipu, Zillur

Seventeen chairmen of the affected Union Parishads cutting across their political lines were present.

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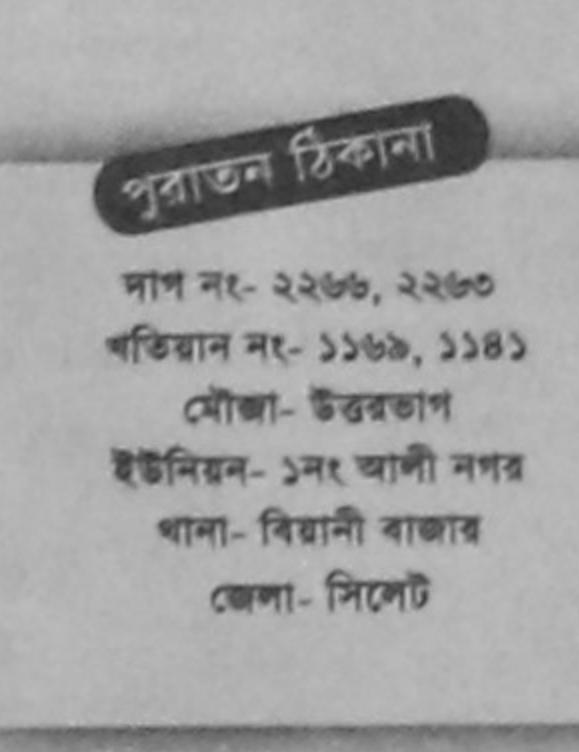
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