

'Repeal Vested (Enemy) Property Act'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called upon the government to repeal the Vested (Enemy) Property Act to help return the landed property to their owners.

Terming the act a black law, they said it is a discrimination against the religious minority in a democratic society.

The press conference was organised by the National Committee of Vested (Enemy) Property Act Resistance Movement at Dhaka Reporters

Unity auditorium in the city.

The speakers said the first initiative to repeal the act was taken by the last Awami League government which passed a bill in 2001 to scrap the Enemy Property (Continuance of Emergency Provision) 1974 and put a bar on further leasing out of the vested property.

But the present government is reviving the act by empowering the deputy commissioner to lease out the vested property, they added.

In this context, the speakers mentioned the leasing out of

Shingha Bari in Sylhet and property of former Jukta Front minister Advocate Gour Chandra Bala in Faridpur.

Now the Hindus are feeling insecure about their property, they said.

According to Districts Gazetteer 1989, around 12,56,000 acres of land was taken under the act.

Committee convenor Kamal Lohani, Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, Advocate Sultana Kamal and Advocate Abul Maksud spoke at the press conference.



PHOTO: STAR

Samajik Protirodh Committee organises a national convention on direct election to reserved seats for women in parliament. From left are Justice K M Sobhan, economist Rehman Sobhan, Hena Das, Hasanul Haq Inu and Asaduzzaman Nur MP.

Death anniversary



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Sabera Rahman, wife of renowned politician Mashiur Rah-man (Jadu Mia), says a press release.

She was involved in different social activities.

Qurankhwani will be held at her son's home in Gulshan and food will be distributed among orphans.

A milad mahfil and doa will also be held at the court mosque at Dimla upazila after Asr prayers.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Amina Delwar, wife of Delwar Hossain, a businessman, will be held at 'Park Splendour', House # 13/1, Road # 1,

Dhanmondi, after Asr prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

Amina, who hailed from Sheikhpara, Khulna, died on Thursday at the age of 62.

She is survived by her husband, two daughters and two sons.

Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Direct election to women's seats in JS demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women rights leaders and activists at a convention in Dhaka yesterday demanded immediate annulment of the 14th amendment to the constitution and making provisions for direct election to women's reserved seats in parliament.

The amendment is 'undemocratic and humiliating' for women, said the convention organised by Samajik Protirodh Committee, a platform of 30 women and human rights groups.

Held at the Jatiya Press Club, the convention called upon women not to accept any offer to be nominated for reserved seats.

The committee will launch a movement to raise mass awareness and reflect women's voice in the next general election, said Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam.

Speaking at the convention, economist Prof Rehman Sobhan said, "Meaningful women empowerment and representation in policy-making have to be ensured through direct election to women seats."

President of a faction of Jatya Samajtantrik Dal Hasanul Haq Inu said women empowerment will be ignored as long as there is 'a legacy

of inherited, communal and military leadership in politics'.

Journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury called upon women to fight for their rights until the government accepts their demand.

Presiding over the convention, Hena Das said passage of the 14th constitutional amendment ignoring the 'commitment' for direct election to the reserved seats is very disgraceful for women.

She regretted the law minister's statement that women rights groups did not give any suggestions when the amendment bill was being prepared and said, "We submitted an alternative draft of the bill."

Anjumanara hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted vocalist Anjumanara Begum has been suffering from pneumonitis. She is now undergoing treatment at a city hospital.

Family members of the artiste sought doa from relatives, friends, well-wishers and fans for her early recovery.

Imported goods missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A watch importer has alleged a huge quantity of its imported goods went missing from the delivery storehouse of Biman at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on Thursday.

Managing Director of Madina Watch Company Limited Abdul Mannan filed a case with the Airport Police Station regarding the heist on Thursday.

In the first information report (FIR), he stated Madina imported two packages of watch products by Singapore Airlines plane SQ-436 on May 20. Bangladesh Biman, responsible for ground handling, stored the goods in its warehouse.

Customs authorities inspected the goods on May 23 and returned those to the Biman storehouse the next day. Later on May 26 it was found that 900 watch case-sets, 220 pieces of metal band watch chains, 2450 pieces watch belts from one package and a total of 4300 pieces of items from the other package were missing from the storehouse.

Police are yet to recover any of the stolen goods.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Urbashi Sinha, mother of Indian Deputy High Commissioner Dilip Sinha, died of oldage complications at Shikder Hospital in Gulshan yesterday at the age of 70.

She is survived by a son, three daughters and grandchildren.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Madanipur and the lowest of 21.8 degrees at Syedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:41pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.0	23.6	75	58
Chittagong	33.6	26.4	72	71
Rajshahi	35.5	22.8	71	63
Khulna	35.5	25.5	69	78
Barisal	34.5	27.0	76	76
Sylhet	33.8	23.4	75	63
Cox's Bazar	33.8	26.0	74	78

DHAKA TODAY

Drama

Prachyanat, a theatre group, will present a drama titled 'Kainiya', written by Murad Khan and directed by Azad Abul Kalam. Venue: Experimental theatre hall, Shilpakala Academy. Time: 7.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Six Days Seven Nights' (1998). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Seminar

An international seminar on 'People's initiative for transboundary river basins management', organised by the Centre for Water, Environment and Energy, will be held with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan-1. Time: 9.30am.

Discussion

On the occasion of the 28th death anniversary of Shilpachariya Zainul Abedin, Bangla Academy organises a discussion on his role in the development of art in this sub-continent. Venue: Seminar room of the academy. Time: 11.00am.

Lottery draw

The lottery draw of Bangladesh Organisation for Disabled Advancement will be held, with Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 3.30pm.

Candlelight vigil

The Manobik, an anti-drug organisation, will hold a candlelight vigil in memory of those who died from tobacco-related illnesses to mark the World No-tobacco Day. Venue: Mukhtangan. Time: 7.00pm.

Reception to freshers

Bangladesh Chhatra League, Dhaka University unit, organises a reception ceremony for the freshers, with Prof Abul Barkat, general secretary of Bangladesh Economic Samity, as chief guest. Venue: TSC auditorium. Time: 11.00am.

Samajbadi Chhatra Jote council

The sixth council of Samajbadi Chhatra Jote, Dhaka city unit, and a discussion will be held. Venue: TSC road island, Dhaka University. Time: Council inauguration at 11.30am and discussion at 3.00pm.

Training on child rights

A three-day training course on child rights for journalists, organised by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), will begin. Venue: BSAF conference room. Time: 10.00am.

Citycard

The launching ceremony of Citycard by The City Bank Limited will be held with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 7.00pm.

Rotary Dhaka North West

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Members are requested to attend the meeting on time. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Rotarians are invited to the meeting for fellowship and make-up. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1.30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Dev Centre lecture

Professor Dr Keith E Eitel of South-eastern Baptist Theological College, USA, will deliver a lecture on 'Religion and the present world' under the auspices of the Dev Centre for Philosophical Studies. Venue: Room No. 2028, Arts Building, Dhaka University.

Inauguration

The inauguration of graduate programme of University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS) and the launch of international MBA programme will be held, with Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruque as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 4.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'My Cousin Vinny' (1992). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.