



An elderly teacher breaks down in tears after police intercepted a procession of non-government primary teachers who were marching toward the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday to submit a memorandum to the Speaker demanding nationalisation of their service.

Registration (Amend) Bill placed in JS

BSS, Dhaka

A bill was placed in the House yesterday seeking to make registration of all kinds of instruments of transfer of property mandatory with the authorities.

Introducing the Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2004, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed told the House that the passing of the bill would make the land management system adequate and effective.

The bill proposed to amend Section 17 and introduce five new sections through amending the Registration Act, 1908.

Section 17A, a new section, says, "Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, a contract for sale of any immovable

property shall be in writing and registered."

The bill proposed that contract for sale shall be registered within 30 days from the date of execution failing which the contract shall stand void.

The bill said every instrument of transfer required to be compulsorily registered under this Act should be written clearly and briefly with particulars necessary to convey the intention of the parties along with the description of the property and nature of the transaction.

The bill's new section 22A says, the photographs of both the execution and the recipient shall be pasted on every instrument and parties shall sign and put their left thumb impression across their photographs in the instrument. The government may, by notification in the official Gazette, prescribe a format for the purposes of this section.

The bill has proposed that registration fee payable for registration of a contract for sale of immovable property shall be Tk 500 where valuation of the property is not more than Tk5 lakh.

It proposed Tk 1,000 as registration fee where valuation of the property is above Tk5 lakh and not more than Tk 50 lakh and Tk 2,000 where valuation of the property is above Tk 50 lakh.

The rate of registration would be one per cent of the valuation of the property, but not less than Tk 500, where the transferee has taken possession of the property or any part thereof, or being already in possession continues to be in possession of the property or any part thereof in part performance of the contract.

Registration fee payable for registration of an instrument of heba of any immovable property under the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) shall be Tk100 irrespective of the value of the property.

Moudud also placed two other bills -- the Transfer of Property (Amendment) Bill, 2004 and the Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2004 seeking to bring about momentum in the existing land management system.

The three bills were referred to the standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry for scrutiny.

APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS

CU selection boards formed

CU CORRESPONDENT

The syndicate of Chittagong University yesterday formed four-member selection boards for each department and institute of the university to appoint teachers.

The selection committees were formed for 29 departments and two institutes at a meeting that lasted for eight hours.

The vice-chancellor will be the chairman of all committees. One member will be drawn from department heads holding the post of associate professor and above. The other two will be designated as external and internal members.

Pro-VC Prof. M Shamsuddin declined to make any comment on the selection boards formed by the syndicate whose tenure has already expired.

Meanwhile, the Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) began a two-day work abstention programme yesterday to protest the syndicate's action.

It demanded immediate election to the syndicate.

However, pro-Jamaat teachers who rejected the work abstention attended few classes in some departments of science and commerce faculties.

Stipends for underprivileged schoolchildren

BSS, Mirzapur

JOY, an NGO, has distributed stipends and kits among underprivileged schoolchildren at a function at Sohagpur High School auditorium here on Sunday.

Gulam Mehraj, Chairman of JOY and president of America-Bangladesh Friendship Society distributed the stipends and the kits among 243 poor students. Each student was given Tk 200 and some school kits.

Presided over by treasurer of the organisation Nasirul Islam, the function was also addressed by General Secretary Shamsul Alam, executive director Bikalpa Manab Sampad Unnayan Kendra, Abdus Salam Suman and managing committee member of the school Sohrab Hossain Badsha Sikdar.

Relocate sunset industries to Bangladesh

Hasina urges Japanese entrepreneurs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Japan to help develop technological skills of Bangladesh's manpower and strengthen its economy.

Hasina, also the Awami League president, made the request during a meeting with a delegation of Japanese businessmen at her Dhanmondi residence.

The former prime minister also called on the Japanese entrepreneurs

to relocate their sunset industries to Bangladesh for mutual benefit of both the peoples.

She also urged them to invest more in light electronics and agro-based industries.

Koji Nojima, chairman of Japan-Bangladesh Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Co-operation, said Bangladesh should develop its infrastructure for increased foreign investment.

He also assured that his organisation would help develop business ties between the two countries.

Japanese Ambassador Matsushi Horiguchi and the committee officials Kunio Sumiyoshi, Fujio Toda, Takami Kobayashi and Sanae Kawamura were present at the hour-long meeting.

AL leaders Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Syed Abul Hossain and Col. (ret'd) Faruk Khan were also present.

Number of landless on the rise

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of landless people has increased alarmingly in absence of a proper land policy, the speaker said at a seminar yesterday.

Insightful leadership and proactive participation of people are needed to solve issues such as land reforms, they said.

The National Committee to Observe Land Rights Day organised the seminar at the LGED auditorium in the city.

According to a research study, the share of landless households has increased to 56 percent in 1996 from 19 percent in 1960, said Shamsul Huda, executive director of ADSC, in his keynote speech.

In rural areas, the assets, especially land, have been concentrated to a few communities over the years due to lack of proper supervision and land policy, he said.

Only 20 lakh people, out of 11 crore rural population, enjoying the entire land ownership, he said, adding that the land is more inaccessible to the Hindu and ethnic minority people.

Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of parliamentary committee on land, said the government is aware about the land issue and the

parliamentary committee would continue to work on land reform.

The committee has recommended making a list of khas lands, he said, adding that stern action will be taken against the land grabbers, he said.

Dr Ahmed Kamal of Dhaka University, Dr Atiur Rahman, senior search fellow of BIDS and journalist Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul also spoke.

Career building programme begins June 14

A three-day Career Building Programme begins at the British School of Law in the city on June 14, says a press release.

The programme is aimed at raising awareness among students, teachers and parents about quality education. It will help the students make the right choice.

Edexcel International, University of Cambridge, London Metropolitan University, Victoria BETS University, the British Council and the British School of Law will take part in the event.

Ace launches environmental website

Ace Workshop & Service Centre launched an environmental website and inaugurated CNG conversion service, says a press release.

The initiatives were taken to reduce air and other pollution of Dhaka City and offer improved service.

The website (www.acebd.net) contains information on how to prevent air pollution from automobiles and the harmful effects of noise pollution on children and adults. It also features online order system for service appointments, environment-friendly business policy, information on CFC-free product use, current and future initiatives of Ace for a greener Dhaka.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Chairman Syed Margub Morshed inaugurated the website as chief guest. Special guest Feroz Rahim, Group CEO of Rahimafrooz (BD) Ltd, signed an agreement with Ace to launch CNG conversion service. Clients of Ace will get a plant free of cost on the occasion of the World Environment Day.

Ace will introduce state of the art lubrication equipment sponsored by Castro this month in occasion of its 9th anniversary. The equipment will help reduce Dhaka's air pollution.

HSBC World Environment Day photo exhibition begins

The Second World Environment Day Photography Exhibition of HSBC began on June 7 on its Gulshan Branch premises to mark World Environment Day, says a press release.

The theme of the exhibition is 'Wanted! Seas and Oceans-Dead or Alive' which asks us to make a choice as to how we want to treat the Earth's seas and oceans.

Photographers, both professional and amateur, from all over the country participated in the exhibition sending in over 200 photographs.

The exhibition will remain open for visitors from 9.00am to 5.30pm at the HSBC Gulshan branch in House No SWG-2 (corner of road no 5), Gulshan Avenue in the city. It will continue till June 17. The sale proceeds will be donated to the local charities.

A panel of judges will select three winners from among the photographs displayed in the exhibition. HSBC will award three best photographers with a prize money of Tk 50,000.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visited the building that collapsed at Shankhari Bazar in Old Dhaka in the early hours of yesterday.

GRAFT CASE AGAINST HEALTH MINISTER

Hearing on charge-framing June 24

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday fixed June 24 for hearing on charge-framing in a graft case against Health Minister Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and former Petrobangla chairman SKM Abdullah.

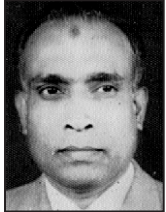
Judge Rezaul Karim Khan of the Special Court for Dhaka Division fixed the date when they appeared before the court.

In the case filed with Ramna Police Station, it has been alleged that Mosharraf, while he was in the charge of Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, awarded Tk 674.44 crore work to a foreign company for exploration of Barapukuria Coal Mine in Dinajpur without floating any tender for personal financial gains. It caused a loss of Tk 16 crore to the state.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) filed the case accusing Dr. Mosharraf on September 1 in 1998 during the Awami League rule. But the investigation officer included the name of Abdullah in the charge sheet as his involvement revealed during the investigation.

Meanwhile, the defence lawyers for the accused Mosharraf filed a petition with the High Court (HC) for quashing the case on January 28 in 2001. After hearing, the HC issued a rule upon the government to explain why the charges against the accused should not be quashed. The court also stayed all the proceedings till disposal of the rule. After three years and four months, the HC rejected the petition for quashing the case and discharged the rule on April 11. The court directed the lower court to dispose of the case.

Obituary



Major (Retd) Mohammad Shafiqullah died at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the city yesterday at the age of 79, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and two grand children to mourn his death.

His qulhwani will be held at his Green Road residence after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Qulhwani

BSS, Dhaka

Qulhwani of Del Manwara Begum, Chairperson of Oposonin Group of Companies, will be held after Asr prayers at Oposonin Bhaban at 30 Eskaton in the city tomorrow.

She was laid to rest at Banani graveyard yesterday.

Earlier, her namaz-e-janaza was held on the premises of Oposonin Bhaban at Eskaton.

She died of old age complications on Tuesday at Central Hospital.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulhwani.



Visitors at the Second World Environment Day Photography Exhibition organised by the HSBC to mark the World Environment Day on its Gulshan Branch premises.



Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission Chairman Syed Margub Morshed inaugurates the Ace Workshop & Service Centre environmental website as chief guest recently.

DHAKA TODAY

<p>Dress exhibition</p> <p>Summer exhibition of Angeleena collection featuring fusion salwar kameez and sarees will be held. Venue: Fu-Wang Club, Gulshan. Time: 10.00am to 11.00pm.</p>	<p>Cultural programme</p> <p>Russian Cultural Centre organises a cultural programme to mark the National Day of the Russian Federation. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House-510, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.30pm.</p>
<p>German film show</p> <p>The Goethe Institut and the Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two films by German filmmaker Herbert Achternbusch. The films are 'Heal Hitler' (1986) and 'I know the Way to the Hofbrauhaus' (1992). Venue: German Cultural Centre, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.</p>	<p>Russian crystal glass exhibition</p> <p>Russian Cultural Centre has extended the 'Russian Crystal Glass Exhibition' till June 13 to mark the National Day of the Russian Federation. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 11.00am to 7.30pm.</p>
<p>Academy film show</p> <p>Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Nayak' (2001) and two American films titled 'Nurse Betty' (2000) and 'Warm Texas Rain' (1998). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.30pm.</p>	<p>Prize giving ceremony</p> <p>Department of Public Library organises a prize giving ceremony for the winners of national level competition on creative writing, extempore speech and book reading with Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk as chief guest. Venue: Seminar room of the Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 11.00am.</p>

Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

The first death anniversary of Delwar Hossain, the former News Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Samstha (BSS) and the 14th death anniversary of his father Aiub Ali will be observed tomorrow.

To mark the day, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be arranged at the National Press Club and at his village home. Journalist colleagues have been requested to attend the milad after Asr prayers at the Press Club.

Food will be distributed among destitute and orphans at Islampur, Munshiganj.

The family members have requested relatives, friends and admirers to pray to the Almighty Allah for eternal peace of the departed souls.