



PHOTO: STAR

Police put up a barricade at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday as Awami League leaders and workers try to march in a procession in support of today's hartal.

REGISTRATION (AMEND) ACT COMES INTO EFFECT JULY 1 'New act to simplify land transfer process'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Registration (Amendment) Act-2004, which comes into effect on July 1, will greatly reduce complications in transferring land ownership and land-related disputes, said Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday.

"The new act will bring discipline to land management and simplify the process of transfer of land ownership," he said at a press conference at the Secretariat in the city.

Under the new act, registration has been made mandatory for transfer of all kinds of immovable property irrespective of its value, declaration of heba (bequeath), mortgage deed, distribution deed of the inherited property and the contract for sale (Bayna).

A salient feature of the law is that it provides for a simply formatted form for writing deeds, replacing the age-old and extremely complicated practice, said the minister. The form will have all essential information as to transfer and ownership of land in simple language.

The deed from will be a precise one and the deadline for registration of any contract or declaration will be of three months under the new law in place of existing four months, the minister said.

The new law also requires a sub-registrar to follow a set of guidelines ensuring fulfillment of a number of preconditions before registration of transfer or mortgage of a land.

The registration fee for a heba deed has been fixed at Tk 100, which

is very nominal, to uphold the spirit of the practice according to the Muslim personal law, the minister said.

He said that once mortgage deed is registered, no unscrupulous section or person will be able to mortgage one piece of land to several financial institutions and it will put a check on bank defaulter culture.

Clarity, simplicity and mandatory guidelines under the new law will significantly bring down the incidents of land-related disputes, leaving an impact on the perennial backlog of one million civil and criminal litigation at present.

Land related disputes constitute 60 to 70 percent of the total litigation in the country, the law minister said.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia places wreath at the coffin of former industries minister Zahiruddin Khan at his Gulshan residence yesterday to pay her last respect to the leader.

Woman robbed of Tk 2 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was severely injured when muggers hurled a bomb and looted Tk two lakh from a woman and her son in city's Mohammadpur area at around 2:00pm yesterday.

The incident took place when Mazeda Azad and her son Wasir Ahmed, an HSC student, were returning to their Mohammadia Housing Society residence after drawing Tk two lakh from Sonali Bank, town hall branch.

When the victims reached close to their residence by rickshaw, one CNG three-wheeler obstructed the rickshaw and one of the muggers tried to snatch the purse from Mazeda.

As her son tried to protest, another mugger hurled a bomb on Wasir leaving him critically injured. The muggers fled from the spot with the money without any obstruction.

Wasir was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with severe injury in his chest and later transferred to the Chest Diseases Hospital.

Counterfeit cosmetics, products worth Tk 5 cr seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized huge quantity of counterfeit cosmetics and other products, including those of Unilever brands, worth Tk 5 crore in a raid in old Dhaka on Monday.

Acting on a tip off, a Rab-2 team led by Capt Anis, raided two holdings -- 10, Gaura Sundar Roy Lane and 43, Nanda Kumar Dutta Lane -- and recovered the counterfeit products that include "Fair & Lovely" & "Pond's" skin cream & labels of Unilever brands.

Rab arrested Nur Hossain Babu in connection with such illegal activity. The arrestee admitted that he had been involved in such illegal business for a long time.

Police also sealed off Babu's illegal press and seized his computer, CDs and scanner that he would use to prepare fake labels.

A case was lodged with Lalbagh Police Station under Special Powers Act 1973 in this connection.