

SCBA turns to president, PM over Faizee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday sought intervention of the president and the prime minister for resolving the raging controversy over the LLB certificate and age of Additional High Court Judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee.

The SCBA yesterday sent a letter to the president, the prime minister, the chief justice and the law minister where it urged them to take immediate steps to put an end to the controversy and thrash out problems arising out of it.

The letter did not, however, did not refer to the resolution of the issue by the Supreme Judicial Council, the lone authority to investigate allegations against a sitting judge.

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ADP revised on politics of vote

Rural infrastructure gets priority over social development projects

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

This year's revised Annual Development Programme (ADP) shows a drastic increase in the spending on projects that have election appeals and trimming down of the projects which are vital for social development.

The government has cut spending on education, health and agricul-

ture sectors but attached priority on rural development and infrastructure projects. The policy-makers are arranging more funds for these projects from internal resources.

The infrastructure projects are getting priority as the policymakers and members of parliament believe these are essential for earning more

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POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT SPENDING

Difference between original and revised allocations of 2004-05 ADP for selected sectors (taka in crore)

Sector	Difference
Agriculture	(-) 228
Education	(-) 1031
Health	(-) 688

STAR GRAPHICS

Traffic chokes city roads on PM shuttling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

City dwellers suffered aggravating traffic congestion yesterday, as various roads were closed for several hours while Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia and her cabinet members visited various programmes to observe the 24th death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman.

Police sources said the PM visited 49 points since 10:00am yesterday, starting from the graveyard of Zia and ending at Kanchukhet.

Passengers and passersby were forced to wait longer than usual at

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DU explodes in protest over cop-JCD atrocities

Thousands announce boycott of classes, exams until VC resigns

DU CORRESPONDENT

Fierce protests rocked the Dhaka University campus yesterday, condemning the police excesses and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) atrocities on the students who agitated following the death of one of their classmates in a road accident.

Thousands of general students

demonstrated on the campus yesterday demanding the immediate resignation of the DU vice-chancellor and proctor for 'failure to ensure security for the students'.

Gathered under the banner of 'Students against Torture', they announced a boycott of classes and examinations with effect from today. They said they will keep on boycotting until their demands are met. The

university is going into a month long summer vacation from tomorrow. During the vacation, classes will remain suspended as usual, but examinations will be held according to schedule.

The agitating students yesterday also set up barricades in front of VC Office. They demanded arrest of the JCD activists responsible for attacking

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DU ATROCITIES Probe body chief terms initiative eyewash

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Students and teachers of the Dhaka University (DU) appear to have little confidence in the committee formed to probe the Sunday's violence on DU campus, as probe bodies on numerous occasions failed to suggest specific actions.

The DU authorities on Sunday formed a high-powered committee headed by Treasurer Prof Rashidul Hasan to probe the recent campus violence. But teachers, students and officials are doubtful about the performance of the committee.

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PHOTO: STAR

Students against Torture in Dhaka University yesterday blindfold the eyes of Raju sculpture statues at TSC to mourn their fellow student Shamme Akhter Happy, who was killed in a road accident in Dhaka on Saturday.

Comilla editor slaughtered

BDNEWS, Comilla

The editor and publisher of local daily 'Comilla Mukta Khabar' Muhammad Golam Mahfuz, 38, was slaughtered at his Bagichagaon office-cum-residence in the town.

Police detained office peon Aiyub Ali, housemaid Rowshan Ara and Mosharrar Hossain, a relative of Mahfuz for interrogation.

Rowshan Ara first found the body in a pool of blood inside Mahfuz's bedroom at 1:00pm when she went to wake him up at the advice of his mother, family members and police said.

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WOMEN RESERVED SEATS IN JS HC clears way for election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld the 14th amendment to the constitution providing for 45 reserved seats for women in parliament and the law for their indirect election.

Discharging three writ petitions that challenged validity of the provision, a High Court division bench termed the amendment "not unconstitutional," clearing the way for holding the election to the reserved seats in time.

The petitioners said they would

move the Appellate Division against the verdict. "We will continue our legal battle," said Farida Akhter, one of the petitioners.

Parliament passed the 14th amendment in May last year, enacted the law for holding indirect election on November 29 and gazetted it on December 8.

But the election could not be held within the stipulated period (90 days from enactment of the law) because of a High Court stay order following three public interest litigation writ petitions filed by 13 women rights

groups and individuals.

The High Court yesterday said the period of time lost due to the stay would not be counted and the election would be held by the stipulated time.

The bench comprising justices MA Matin and AFM Abdur Rahman turned down petitioners' argument that the 14th amendment and the subsequent law providing for women representation proportionate to the strengthen of the parties in parliament through indirect elec

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BOMB CASE Two-year boy goes to court today for bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two-year-old Rasul, charge sheeted with 13 others in a case recorded with the Khulna Police Station more than a year ago under Explosive Substances Act, will be produced with bail prayer today before the Special Tribunal, Khulna.

On March 8 last year, Sub-Inspector (SI) Shafiqul Alam of Khulna Police Station filed a first information report (FIR) implicating the two-year-old boy and 13 others including the boy's elder brothers Babu, Jony and Raja Chowdhury in the March 7, 2004 bomb attack on police in Khulna.

The bombs were exploded during an encounter between law enforcers and operatives of M-L

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'Guests' squat in MP hostel rooms

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Personal staffs and relatives of lawmakers are occupying 64 rooms at the two MP hostels using all the VIP facilities as what the parliament secretariat terms guests of the MPs.

The rooms have been allocated to 64 lawmakers. But they do not stay there. Instead they have allowed their personal assistants, drivers, housemaids and relatives to live in the rooms, sources said.

The deputies include a number of ministers, whips and chairmen of parliamentary standing committees, the sources said, quoting a parliament secretariat report submitted to

the House Committee on April 25.

Other lawmakers who do stay at MP hostels have repeatedly asked the parliament secretariat to evict the squatters. But, "what can we do, as they are allowed by the MPs themselves?" a secretariat official exclaimed in frustration.

The officials dare not ask the unauthorised occupants to leave the hostels. They are too scared even to talk on the issue.

The accused lawmakers however claimed they use the rooms for official purposes. There they meet the people coming from their

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PAY SCALE, BLOATED ADP BB governor plays down inflation fear

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's expansionary measures including the implementation of the new pay scale of govt employees and increased Annual Development Programme (ADP) are unlikely to hike the inflation rate, the central bank governor said.

"As the excess financing will be done with foreign funds, it should not increase inflation and government borrowings," Bangladesh Bank Governor Salehuddin Ahmed said at a meeting with the Economic

Reporters Forum (ERF) at his office yesterday.

The rate of inflation in the year through March rose by 6.18 per cent against 5.66 percent in March 2004, according to central bank statistics.

The rate was 6.12 percent in February this year.

"I believe the rate of inflation is in a marginal state and tolerable condition," said the central bank chief, who took office last month.

Government borrowings rose by 14.82 percent during the year

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Commentary

How is the BNP paying tribute to its founder?

MAHFUZ ANAM

Many city streets, both in Dhaka and the rest of the country, were partially taken over yesterday (to hell with the traffic and public inconvenience) by makeshift bamboo tents to feed the poor. (Did the BNP pay for it? We would be happy if it did. Or was the money 'voluntarily given' by the locals

fearful of being suspected to be not suitably respectful of the BNP founder's memory?) There was also the Quran recital and of course, the usual vocal-chord-tearing and ear-drums-bursting speeches. Speaker after speaker proclaimed him to be the greatest thing that ever happened to Bangladesh and that he is to be credited for anything and every-

thing good coming our way. Proving once again, if there were ever any need for it, that our leaders are destroyed more by their followers than by their opponents.

What is the late president Ziaur Rahman most remembered for? And how do its present leaders and the party compare with the legacy left behind by the founder?

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