

HC rule on govt over cancellation of relief for Biharis

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to why cancellation of allotment of relief to the Stranded Pakistanis, known as Biharis, in Bangladesh should not be declared illegal.

After hearing a writ petition filed by three Stranded Pakistanis-Sadakat Khan, Mustaque Ahmed and Shahed Ali Bablu - challenging the validity of a government order, on January 27, 2004, cancelling relief allotment for the Stranded Pakistanis, the High Court passed the order.

The rule made by a High Court bench comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice Mamnoon Rahman is returnable within two weeks.

In the petition, they submitted that the International Red Cross Society provided relief to the Stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh from 1972 to 1976. The then Bangladesh government took the responsibility of supplying relief to

the Stranded Pakistanis living in 70 camps in 13 districts, including Dhaka and Narayanganj. The government cancelled the relief allotment on January 27, 2004.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah assisted by advocate Hafijur Rahman Khan moved for the petitioners while Deputy Attorney General Adilur Rahman Khan for the government.

Mosharraf's remarks protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officers and employees of the Petrobangla yesterday protested the remarks of former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain that all officers and staffs of Petrobangla, except a few, are corrupt.

The Petrobangla Officers' Association and the Petrobangla Employees' Union, in separate statements, demanded that Mosharraf retract his words as the remarks have brought disgrace on honest officers and employees.

Mosharraf resigned on Saturday as the state minister for energy over the Lexus car scam.

Cabinet okays draft of Electricity (Amend) Act

UNB, Dhaka

The Cabinet yesterday approved a draft law to prevent illegal use and pilferage of electricity as well as ensure proper use of power.

The council of ministers at its regular weekly meeting endorsed the draft of the Electricity (Amendment) Act 2005 that contains a strict provision for preventing the theft of power, which contributes to staggering system loss in power distribution.

The cabinet also approved the

draft of the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act 2005 that provides for settlement of assets and liabilities.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presided over the meeting at the Prime Minister's Office.

Cabinet members and state ministers in charge of different ministries attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the PM and secretaries of different ministries were present.

JU URP students demand removal of chairman

Submit memo to VC

JU CORRESPONDENT

The students of urban and regional planning (URP) department of Jahangirnagar University (JU) submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor on Sunday urging him to implement their two-point demand.

The demands included publishing of all results under amended grading system, and immediate removal of the chairman of the department.

The amended grading system was introduced in 2001 bringing some changes to the old grading system.

A student having 75 out of 100 could be awarded 'A' grade, according to amended grading system, while it required 90 under the old grading system, said the students while explaining the reason for their demand.

The other demand included the removal of Shazed Ashraf Karim who did not take any action against a junior teacher who assaulted a senior teacher of the department before the students and the chairman over some trivial issues.

The students also urged the university authorities to take immediate initiatives to help reduce session jam that has already crippled all academic activities.

1,757 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,757 people, including four listed criminals on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours as of 6:00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered 14 firearms, three other weapons, 17 bullets, and two explosives.