

Govt plans to set up 6 special tribunals

1.67 lakh cases on vested and abandoned property still pending

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The government is planning to set up six special tribunals in six divisions to settle the pending cases related to abandoned and vested property.

An inter-ministerial meeting last week discussed the matter and decided to remove the bottlenecks for quick disposal of the cases, sources said.

Ownership of around two lakh acres of vested and abandoned property is yet to be settled and the lands could not be returned to the real owners due to legal loopholes and lack of a district-wise list of the properties.

A total of 167,355 cases regarding vested and abandoned property are now pending, of which 166,294 cases are under the Ministry of Land.

The government is also plan-

ning to resume the process of selling unsold and abandoned business establishments now under government possession, officials told the meeting held at the law ministry conference room.

High officials of the ministries of land, commerce and housing attended the meeting chaired by law secretary.

Sources said the government has so far sold out 721 abandoned commercial ventures but failed to sell 341 units due to cases pending in courts.

Besides, the ownership of 1,153 vested residential houses could not be settled due to logjam of cases in the settlement courts, the sources said.

The cabinet had taken a decision back in 1992 to introduce a new law for quick disposal of the cases, but the decision is yet to be implemented.

An inter-ministerial meeting held in February this year decided to identify the obstacles faced by the ministries to settling the disputes.

President assents to Flag Vessels Bill

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday assented to the Bangladesh Flag Vessels (Protection) (Amendment) Bill 2005.

The bill was passed in the just-concluded budget session of the 8th parliament, a press release of the Bangladesh National Parliament Secretariat said yesterday.

Confce on Next Generation Wireless System in city from Jan 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

North South University (NSU) in collaboration with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), USA will jointly organise an international conference on 'Next Generation Wireless System' in Dhaka from January 2 to 4, 2006.

Speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday NSU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr SAM Khairul Bashar said the conference, first of its kind in Bangladesh, will bring leading researchers and practitioners in wireless telecommunication sectors across the world to exchange their views and knowledge.

The major objectives of the conference would be providing a networking opportunity between the local wireless community and the world class wireless researchers and entrepreneurs, exposing the market potential in Bangladesh to international wireless service providers and wireless system manufacturing companies for possible investment and to identify innovative wireless communication system applications for the general mass in Bangladesh to improve their life quality, he added.

Mujibul H Khan, vice-president of Engineering Samsung Telecommunications America, said IEEE has chosen Dhaka for the conference because they think Bangladesh, a country of 14 crore population, has tremendous potentiality in wireless communication sector.

He said Bangladesh with very low penetration of telecommunication services and high growth in mobile subscribers would be enormously benefited from the conference.

Companies like Intel, Texas Motorola, Cisco, LPN Wireless, BP Solar, Samsung, Nokia, and On Air Solutions Inc will take part in the conference.

Dr Miftahur Rahman, Dr Abdul Awal, Dr Khaled Mahmud of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) of NSU also spoke.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) meeting at her Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday. On her left are party general secretary Abdul Jalil and presidium members Zillur Rahman, Amir Hossain Amu and Suranjit Sengupta.

Six-year project to develop rural road network

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken up a six-year project to develop rural road network and marketing facilities for agricultural produces in 23 districts under three divisions -- Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi.

The project titled 'Second Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project' (RIIP 2) involving about 280 million US dollars will be implemented from July 2006 to June 2012.

The ADB, KfW, GTZ and DFID will jointly fund the project, apart from the government's contribution.

The project will also help generate employment for the rural

people, said speakers at the inaugural ceremony of a workshop on 'Rural Road Master Plan and Local Government' yesterday, organised by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

"The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper emphasises good governance at the national and commu-

nity levels and development of rural infrastructure," said LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan while inaugurating the workshop at the LGED Bhaban in the city.

He called on the officials concerned to implement the project properly so that it can play an important role in socio-economic development, poverty reduction and good

governance at the local level.

Chaired by LGED Chief Engineer Shahidul Hassan, the inaugural session was also addressed by State Minister for LGRD Ziaul Haque Zia, Secretary AHM Abul Qasem, German Ambassador Dietrich Andreas and ADB official Hua Du.



Gonomukti O Jatiya Sampad Rakkha Sammilita Andolon stages a demonstration at Muktangan yesterday protesting the price hike of essentials and demanding compensation for the victims of Magurchhara and Tengratila gas field blowouts.

AKTEL official held on charge of misappropriation of money

BDNEWS, Dhaka

An official of the AKTEL, a private mobile phone operator, was arrested on charge of misappropriation of crores of taka from the company, police sources said.

Avijit Kumar Saha, executive of credit control division of the AKTEL, was arrested by Gulshan police following a case filed on Sunday by the TM International (Bangladesh) Ltd., the operator of AKTEL, with a metropolitan judge's court in Dhaka.

The TM International accused Avijit of misappropriating Tk 3,15,63,000 from the company.

Masuk Rahman, manager, corporate affairs of AKTEL alleged that Avijit took away the money paid by the subscribers as phone bills from October 31, 2003 to April 4, 2005 without depositing the amount with the company account.

Abdullah L Baki, judge of the metropolitan court, rejected a bail prayer by Avijit and sent him to jail.

FNB protests attack on NGO worker at Goalanda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) yesterday strongly protested and condemned the attack on an NGO worker at Goalanda.

A gang of criminals attacked Nurunnabi, area manager of Samata, on July 9, leaving him critically injured.

The incident took place after the Samata arranged a lease on 125 acres of khas land for the landless people and fishermen at Debagram and Baddhakol villages under Goalanda upazila, the FNB said in a statement.

It said Samata has been working to ensure the rights of the landless and poorest people to khas lands and their welfare, but some vested quarters are trying to disrupt the process of providing khas lands to the landless people.

The Federation also demanded immediate action against the attackers and effective steps to stop such criminal attacks.

Moudud calls on India to win confidence of neighbours

UNB, Dhaka

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday called on India to win the confidence of its neighbours by resolving problems with them through bilateral talks.

"In order to take South Asia to a strong position, India has to win the confidence of the smaller countries", he told the visiting eight-member parliamentary delegation from India.

The team, led by Bijoy Krishna Handique, State Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Defence and Deputy Chief Whip of India, called on Moudud at his secretariat office.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Veena Sikri was present.

The law minister said a coordinated water management strategy had to be formulated between India and Bangladesh for the optimum use of water of common rivers.