



ACC chief Sultan, Miah resign

Other commissioner Maniruddin decides to continue for a few more days

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan and Commissioner Prof Maniruzzaman Miah yesterday submitted their resignations to the president, while the other Commissioner Maniruddin Ahmed said he would take some time to submit his own.

President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed accepted the resignation of Justice Sultan and Prof Miah, reports UNB.

Earlier on Tuesday, President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed requested the ACC chairman and two commissioners to resign as part of the caretaker government's initiative to recast the anti-graft body.

The ACC chairman attended his office yesterday and submitted his two-line resignation letter that just mentioned his willingness to resign.

Prof Maniruzzaman Miah

submitted a seven-page letter requesting the president to accept his resignation and find out who were responsible for the present condition of the ACC.

Prof Miah described his version of how the ACC was made dysfunctional and said he was not at all responsible for the situation,



Justice Sultan Hossain Khan

sources said.

Maniruddin Ahmed attended his office at Segunbagicha where he told the press in the evening, "There is no compulsion to resign today. I want to continue for some more days and then resign."

Maniruddin, who is the

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Prof Maniruzzaman Miah

BNP 'readies' some leaders for surrender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To save Tarique Rahman from any possible action of law enforcers, BNP policymakers sent signals to its discredited leaders as well as Tarique's associates to be prepared to surrender if the joint forces ask them, sources said.

According to a party source, following the party direction Mosaddak Ali Talu and Ali Asgar Lobi surrendered and a few other leaders as well as close associates of Tarique are also taking preparations for surrender.

Meanwhile, a group of leaders is trying to convince foreign diplomats to keep pressure on the government not to take any tough action against Tarique, senior joint secretary general of BNP and the elder son of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Sources said Tarique Rahman and his close aides have been staying away from Hawa Bhawan for a week.

After the arrest of controversial businessman Giasuddin AL Mamun, a close friend of Tarique, Hawa Bhawan officials who had helped Tarique in the last five years, also went into hiding since there are many allegations of corruption

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PHOTO: STAR

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) knocks down illegal structures at Purana Paltan in the capital yesterday.

Prof Yunus 'mentally ready' to join politics if people want

UNB, Dhaka

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said he is mentally ready to join politics if the people and civil society want.

Termining the present situation new one, he said this is the high time to start politics from a new angle.

The Nobel laureate was talking with journalists at Zia International Airport on return



Prof Muhammad Yunus

from a ten-day visit to India and Bahrain.

Replying to a question, the founder of Grameen Bank said people will decide the right time of his joining politics and formation of a political party.

He observed that the people have breathed a sigh of relief following declaration of the state of emergency in the country.

Corruption should be eradicated from everywhere and there should be some changes in electoral laws disqualifying the corrupt people from contesting the election, Prof Yunus said.

He applauded the government's drive against the corrupt people and urged it to make the electoral process transparent.

During his visit to India, he delivered a keynote speech in New Delhi to commemorate the centenary of Satyagraha Movement. He also formally inaugurated Grameen Trust India in Mumbai.

In Bahrain, Prof Yunus signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on behalf of Grameen Trust with Bahrain government for setting up and implementing a micro-credit programme for the poor families.

Ex-IOJ MP Shahidul held Salahuddin, Lobi given 30-day detention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security personnel arrested Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish leader and former lawmaker Mufti Shahidul Islam in Dhaka yesterday in addition to the 19 high-profile politicians already netted in the ongoing anti-corruption crackdown.

Shahidul, an Afghan war veteran facing allegations of having militant connection, surrendered to battalion-2 of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) as per party decision.

Meantime, arrested former state minister for communications Salahuddin Ahmed and former



Mufti Shahidul Islam

BNP lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi were sent on detentions for 30 days yesterday.

The law enforcers also arrested the presidents of Barisal district unit Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jessore district Juba Dal, and Shalakupha municipality chairman.

Members of the armed forces arrested 117 people, including 28 criminals, and seized three firearms from different places across the country in 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday, according to a home ministry press release.

The police and Rab personnel arrested 1,556 people, seized 14

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Former state minister and BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, left, and former BNP lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi being taken to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Why detention of Huda, Alamgir, Lotus not illegal HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) served separate show-cause notices on the government yesterday, asking it to explain within ten days why the detention orders of former communications minister Nazmul Huda, former state minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Lotus Kamal should not be

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DETENTION US for prosecution according to law, int'l standards

UNB, Dhaka

The United States yesterday said they would like to see the charging and prosecution of the detainees in a manner consistent with Bangladesh's laws and international standards of due process.

A spokesman for the US

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Notice

We will publish tomorrow details of The Daily Star roundtable on 'Challenges before the Caretaker Government', held at its office on January 27.

Cabinet gives nod to CrPC amendment

Judiciary separation now awaits a presidential promulgation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The council of advisers at a meeting last night approved the ordinance on amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), necessary for separation of the judiciary from the executive, which will be promulgated by the president in a couple of days.

With this promulgation, the long-awaited separation of the judiciary will come into effect.

A Press Information Department (PID) handout said the council of advisers took the decision yesterday at a meeting at the chief adviser's (CA) office in Tejgaon with CA Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair.

The meeting hoped that people of the country will benefit from the separation of judiciary from the executive.

Besides upholding the constitutional pledge, it will reflect the long-standing hope of the people in general seeking justice. It will also fulfil the demand and expectation of the lawyers' community along with the civil society and people, the participants said.

The cabinet secretary, press secretary to the chief adviser, and

secretaries of the ministries concerned were present at the meeting.

In 1995, some district judges filed a petition with the High Court seeking separation of the judiciary. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on December 2, 1999 passed its historic judgment issuing 12-point directives for separating the judiciary from the executive.

Both the Awami League and BNP governments later sought time on a number of occasions for implementing the directives, but did not complete the task in their regimes.

After the separation is done, the magistrates, who are currently under the control of the executive, will then come under the authority of the higher court and be known as judicial magistrates.

The CrPC amendment is generally passed through a bill placed before parliament. But since there is no parliament now, the president has had to amend the CrPC through an ordinance. According to the constitution, an ordinance will have to be laid before parliament at its first meeting following

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Sand, brick dust mixed with spices

Mobile court seals off factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday found that sand and powdered brick and seeds of sour plum (boroi) are being mixed with spices like turmeric and red chili powder.

The shocking discovery was made during a raid to a spice grind factory at Jinjira in Keraniganj, where the mobile court led by Magistrate Khodeza Naznin also sealed off two bakeries due to dirty environment and gross mismanagement.

The court detained and filed a case against the owner of the factory Ramzan Ali under section 25 (C) of Special Powers Act-1974 and

fined him Tk 2 lakh under Pure Food Ordinance Act.

While raiding New Kusum Bakery and Mamun Bakery of the area, the court found that no dates of production and expiry were mentioned on the packets of their products, sources said. Besides, the environment of the factories was dirty and unhygienic. The court fined the bakeries Tk 1 lakh and Tk 1.5 lakh respectively and issued warrant against the owners Sobhan Khan and Haji Md Toukir Mia. Delowar, a worker, was held by the court.

The same court also raided three fake corrugated tin factories

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ADP progress lowest in six years

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The Annual Development Programme (ADP) implementation in the first half of the current fiscal year (FY) was only 25 percent, which is the lowest in last six fiscal years.

Planning ministry sources said the pace of ADP implementation during July-December 2006 was two percentage points slower than in the corresponding period of FY 2005-06.

A review meeting chaired by Finance and Planning Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday found the ADP implementation rate frustrating and put the blame on political unrest for the last few months.

The sources pointed out that the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition was in power in the first four months of this fiscal, and it was reluctant about proper ADP implementation, except some specific projects. "The first caretaker government of the year was in power in the rest two months of the six-month period and it released money slowly that caused slow implementation of the ADP," an official explained.

"We have directed the ministries to identify the bottlenecks and if necessary, they will sit with the

ERD (Economic Relations Division) or the planning ministry to find out solutions," Azizul told reporters after the review meeting at the National Economic Council auditorium.

Of the Tk 26,000 crore ADP for FY07, only Tk 6,439 crore was spent during July-December. Planning ministry data show that Tk 3,870 crore or 22 percent of the ADP's local component was spent while the spending was Tk 2,570 crore or 29 percent of its foreign component that comes in the form of project aid.

Sources said that at yesterday's meeting the finance adviser asked the ministries to identify the priority projects, which can be implemented quickly.

"This instruction has been given as the government is going to downsize the ADP shortly," said an official who attended the meeting.

Azizul said, "We will definitely cut the ADP and the decision will be taken at the resource committee meeting soon."

Of the 43 ministries and divisions, ADP implementation by four ministries was in between 45-66 percent, 30-40 percent by eight ministries, 20-29 percent by 11 ministries and below 20 percent by 20 ministries and divisions.

The Rural Development and

Cooperatives Division had the highest 62 percent ADP implementation in the first six months of this fiscal year as against 31 percent during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. The home ministry's ADP implementation during this period was 47 percent, which was 16 percent last fiscal year.

Sources said the agriculture ministry utilised 38 percent of its ADP allocation till December as against 20 percent last fiscal year and the Local Government Division 33 percent compared to last FY's 40 percent.

The communication ministry spent 35 percent of its ADP allocation in six months this fiscal year compared to 24 percent during the corresponding period last fiscal year.

Primary and mass education ministry's ADP implementation this fiscal year slowed down to 34 percent from 52 percent last year.

Power Division spent 34 percent of its allocation this fiscal year compared to last year's 30 percent.

The education ministry utilised 22 percent of its ADP allocation this time as against 33 percent in the previous FY.

The health ministry's ADP implementation was the same -- 22

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এতদ্বারা ভোগ্যপণ্য আমদানীকারক ও ব্যবসায়ীদের অবহিত করা যাচ্ছে যে, মনুষ্য উপযোগী খাদ্যদ্রব্য বাজারজাতকরণে কোন ধরনের বাধা নেই। তদুপরি এক্ষেত্রে তাদের শংকিত বা ভুল বোঝাবুঝির কোন অবকাশও নেই। বরং আইনশৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাকারী বাহিনী খাদ্যশস্যসহ নিত্যপ্রয়োজনীয় ভোগ্যপণ্যের নিরবচ্ছিন্ন সরবরাহ নিশ্চিত করার জন্য ব্যবসায়ীদের উৎসাহিত করছেন। যৌথ বাহিনীর অভিযান শুধু অসামান্য ব্যক্তিদের উদ্দেশ্যেই পরিচালিত হচ্ছে। যে সমস্ত গুদামে খাদ্যশস্যের পাশাপাশি সার, রাসায়নিক পদার্থ রয়েছে তা অতিসত্বর আলাদাভাবে সংরক্ষণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। ইতোপূর্বে আইনশৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাকারী বাহিনী কর্তৃক সিল করা গুদামের পণ্যসমূহের ব্যাপারে বিন্যাসন পরিস্থিতিতে বাস্তব অবস্থা বিবেচনা করে প্রক্রিয়াকরণপূর্বক ভালো পণ্যসমূহ ছাড় দেয়ার ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হবে।

ভোগ্যপণ্যের সহজ বাজারজাতকরণ ও নিরবচ্ছিন্ন সরবরাহ নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে আমদানীকারক, তফসিলী ব্যাংকসমূহসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সবাইকে আমদানীতব্য ভোগ্যপণ্যসমূহের ঋণপত্র খোলা ও জাহাজীকরণের লক্ষ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

এই প্রসঙ্গে উল্লেখ্য যে, উপরোক্ত ব্যাপারগুলো চিটাগাং চেম্বার সার্বক্ষণিকভাবে মনিটরিং করছে। এ লক্ষ্যে যে কোন ধরনের সাহায্য-সহযোগিতার ব্যাপারে অত্র চেম্বারের সাথে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্টদের অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।



চিটাগাং চেম্বার অব কমার্স এন্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি