

Law Commission made ineffective 'wilfully'

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Law Commission recommended about 200 new laws and amendments since its inception in 1996, but only three or four of them were adopted during the regime of Awami League government while the immediate past government of BNP-led four-party alliance completely disregarded the recommendations throughout its tenure.

Although the commission was formed to help modernise the laws and the judicial system, the BNP-led government never accepted a single recommendation, nor did it

seek the commission's expert advice while passing 185 laws during its tenure.

The Law Commission Amendment Act of 2001 made it mandatory for the parliament to place a report on implementation of the Law Commission's recommendations in its first session of every year. Even that was not followed, said a commission high official. Such an utter disregard for the law sprang from a lack of political will, the official said.

Most of the recent laws were framed primarily to serve the ruling parties' political purpose,

commission officials said. "But whether those served the interest of the country is something we should look into," said an official.

For instance, the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) Act was framed under public pressure. After the ACC was formed in 2004, it could not be made effective till February this year because the act had been grossly flawed. To make the ACC effective, the current caretaker government had to amend the act.

Similarly, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Berc) SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

COUNTER-TERRORISM UN team due tomorrow

ASHEAQ WARES KHAN

A high-powered UN delegation on counter-terrorism, due to arrive tomorrow, will advise the government on strengthening counter-terrorism legislation and its enforcement, preventing cross-border terrorism, and preventing madrasas from becoming a breeding ground for militants.

The 11-member high-profile delegation from the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), headed by Executive Director Javier Ruperez, will be split into two separate teams to look into policy and international cooperation, as also to evaluate Bangladesh's border control facilities.

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Gas gushing out of the water of Turag river near Ashulia Bazar on the outskirts of the capital following burst of a major gas pipeline yesterday.

Gas pipeline bursts at Ashulia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An old high-pressure gas pipeline of Titas Gas Company near Ashulia yesterday developed a crack and started leaking huge gas.

Experts and officials of Titas Gas Transmission Company Ltd (TGCL) rushed to the spot and started repairing the pipeline. The work was in progress as of 8.30 pm.

The 12-inch pipeline was "dubiously" installed above the ground in the 80s, though the standard practice is to install all gas pipelines under the ground for safety reasons.

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Editor of Jessore weekly stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Mostafa Kamal, editor and publisher of Jessore based "Weekly Haq Protibad" was stabbed to death by unidentified miscreants at Chanchtra on Jessore-Rajganj Road under Kotwali Police Station yesterday morning.

Witnesses said a gang of two riding a motorbike intercepted Mostafa while he was going to his fish farm, Haq Fisheries, at Narayanpur village, ten kilometres from Jessore town, at around 5.30am.

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Deported Mohiuddin may arrive Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, the condemned killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is likely to arrive in Dhaka on Monday, said foreign ministry officials.

"He (Mohiuddin Ahmed) is expected to board a Dhaka bound plane Sunday morning (Bangladesh time) and will arrive in Dhaka by Monday noon," Acting Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossein told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The US court concerned has SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



I am not that well: Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who is virtually isolated from the rest of the leaders of the party, is not well.

"I am so-so," she said in reply to reporters' query about her well-being during her visit to a hospital in the capital to see former minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, a key partner of BNP in the four-party alliance.

"I am not that well, as you can see," she told the journalists as they kept on asking her questions about her health.

Emran Saleh Prince, assistant SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Hasina faces growing pressure from within, outside party

So far unlikely to call it a day

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina seems determined to see off the present adversities while pressure on her to retire from politics builds up both within and outside the party.

The latest crackdown on the AL leaders known to be loyal to the former prime minister has dealt her a severe blow. It has left her pretty much on her own, said sources close to the AL chief.

Meanwhile, different sources said some more AL leaders might be detained shortly.

Besides, the military-backed administration has been working to revive two years-old graft cases against her regarding the purchase of MiG-29 fighters and a frigate. The High Court on Tuesday set August 1 and 7 for hearing on her petitions for quashing the cases filed during the rule of four-party alliance.

The previous day, a Dhaka court

asked for a supplementary investigation report to be placed on July 1 on the October 28 Paltan killing case filed against Hasina and 45 others. The Tk 3 crore extortion case against her too is under investigation.

In addition, the government has been gathering information about her bank accounts to find out if there's been any unusual transaction.

She might as well be implicated SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Another case filed against Nazmul Huda

UNB, Munshiganj

Another case was filed against BNP leader and former communications minister Nazmul Huda with a police station here yesterday.

Arifur Rahman, superintending engineer of the Roads and Highways (R&H) Department, filed the case with Sadar Police Station.

In the case statement, Arifur alleged that Huda misappropriated Tk 4.55 crore from different government projects when he was the executive engineer of R&H's local office from 2002 to 2005.

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