



Lawyers for Awami League President Sheikh Hasina coming out of a courtroom yesterday after the High Court granted bail to her.

Directive to recover water bodies from encroachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land, Information and Law Adviser Barrister Mainul Hosein yesterday said the authorities concerned have been directed to take proper steps to recover water bodies from illegal encroachers.

He also said the government has been working to bring back discipline and honesty to the land management system.

The government is recovering khas lands from illegal occupation and trying to allocate them among the landless people, Mainul told reporters after a monthly coordination meeting of the land ministry with divisional commissioners held in the conference room of the ministry. He presided over the meeting.

The adviser said all types of markets on roadsides would be relocated to suitable places in a bid to facilitate movement of the vehicles.

Such markets have been creating obstacles to traffic on highways, leading to accidents and other problems, he said, adding that the government will provide financial support to the persons affected by relocation of the markets.

Mainul also said that proper execution of the decisions would bring dynamism to the land management system.

He called on the government officials to work without fear and to be more active to bring dynamism to the government activities.

The adviser also said a draft law regarding the protection of hills will soon be placed at the law ministry.

The meeting decided to demolish all illegal establishments on canals, rivers and khas lands.

It also decided to reconstitute

the committee on recovering khas lands from illegal occupation.

Replying to a question, Mainul said the government is working to find out ways to reduce the time for land registration.

Six divisional commissioners, heads of land revenue administration, chairman of Land Reform Board, chairman of Land Appeal Board and high officials of the ministry were present at the meeting.



The road on Mirpur embankment in the city has remained dilapidated for long, causing suffering to road users.

Dhaka to host first Saarc Youth Camp in Nov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first ever Saarc Youth Camp will be held in Bangladesh in November to promote mutual cooperation among the youths of Saarc countries.

Women and Children Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana said the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) Youth Camp will be held every year from this year to

create a platform of communication among the youths of the region as they will lead their nations in future.

She was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the Second Meeting of Saarc Technical Committee on Women, Youth and Children organised by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and supported by the United Nations Development Fund for

Women (Unifem) at a city hotel yesterday.

Inaugurating the meeting, the secretary said the process of developing Saarc Gender Database is underway. It will provide all information about women in the region to enable advocacy and formulate policies and programmes to address the vulnerabilities of women.

She laid emphasis on the implementation of the strategies about mainstreaming women and child welfare adopted in the first meeting that also took place in Bangladesh in 2004.

Mushfika Iktfat, joint secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, moderated the inaugural ceremony while Karuna Nandi of Unifem and Dr Chandra Kala Vhadrav of Unicef also spoke.

A total of 25 representatives from Saarc countries, Unifem and Unicef are taking part in the meeting that ends today.

City road renamed after Mohiuddin

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is going to rename a city road at Dhanmondi after Mohiuddin Ahmed, an eminent politician and language movement veteran, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the country, says a press release.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka will unveil the plaque of the road named as 'Mohiuddin Ahmed Sarak' at the southern end of Road No 33 at 12:00 noon today.

CU student commits suicide

CU CORRESPONDENT

A fourth year student of Chittagong University (CU) allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a GI wire used for drying clothes at his room at F Rahman Hall yesterday.

Saiful Islam, a student of public administration department and resident of room no 131, hailed from Char Bhanga Baria village under Pabna sadar upazila.

Sources said Saiful's roommate Nazmul found the room locked from inside when he returned after his classes at around 1:30pm.

Nazmul informed the hall authorities of the incident when he didn't get any response from inside the room even after frequent knocking, they said.

Later, the hall authorities entered the room by breaking the door open and found the body of Saiful hanging from the wire with a nylon rope tied around the neck.

Police from Hathazari station rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

Police also recovered from his diary a letter where Saiful wrote to his wife, "It is true that I love you. But I have no money to maintain you, as I am a student. If I want to earn money I have to leave my study and I have decided to leave my study. It is not possible for me to take dowry from your family."

But there was nothing related to suicide in the letter, said the sources.

"Saiful got married one and a half months ago with the consent of his family and came to the campus a week ago. But after returning to the campus he seemed to be frustrated," said his friends.

Nurul Islam, investigation officer (IO), said they are suspecting it a case of suicide.

The body was sent to Chittagong Medical College Morgue for autopsy.



President of Bangla Academy Prof Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid, left, hands over Kabir Chowdhury Child Literature Award 2006 to Anwara Syed Haq at Bangla Academy seminar room in the city yesterday. Prof Kabir Chowdhury was present on the occasion.

Introduce rules for pay channels

Demand cable operators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cable operators yesterday urged the government to introduce specific rules and regulations for channel distributors to fix their rate so that they (operators) can provide sufficient channels to subscribers within limited fees.

They said the government on July 11 fixed monthly fees for the cable TV subscribers on the basis of area and number of channels, but the distributors are increasing the pay channel rate without any limit, as the government has not fixed the rate of distribution.

"Pay-channel business has become a business of hoodlums due to lack of specific rules and regulations. Distributors increase

the pay channel rate at their whims. If anybody speaks against the price hike, the distributors will stop providing the channels to the operators," said Syed Mosharraf Ali, a cable operator and chairman of Nation Tech Ltd, while addressing a press conference.

The cable operators organised the press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) where their representatives from different divisions and districts were present.

Cable operators said they have to spend a total of Tk 537.61 for each subscriber, but receive only Tk 300 from each of them.

"Among the Tk 537.61, a cable operator has to pay Tk 370.30 as pay channel rate and Tk 167.31 as VAT (Value Added Tax) and other cost.

If the government does not control the pay channel rate," asked Firoj Islam, a cable operator from Rajshahi, while addressing the press conference.

Maksud Hossain, managing director of United Communication Services Ltd (UCS), urged the government to remove the package system in fixing the channel rate.

Abu Taher Mantu, cable operator of Gulshan Multi-cable Network, said the government should fix the pay channel rate considering the capacity of cable operators and viewers.

Cable operators Mosharraf Bari from Barisal, M Sabu from Sylhet and Syed Habib Ali from Mirpur also addressed the press conference.

As per the fixed fees, the subscribers of Dhaka and Chittagong cities will pay Tk 300 to the operators who are transmitting 60 channels with at least 30 pay ones.

The subscribers of Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Barisal, Faridpur, Mymensingh, Patuakhali, Comilla, Noakhali, Jessor, Kushtia, Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rangamati and Tangail district towns will pay Tk 250 for at least 50 channels with minimum 25 pay ones.

The subscribers of other district towns will pay Tk 200 for 40 channels with minimum 15 pay ones, while the subscribers at upazila-level will pay Tk 150 for 30 channels, including 10 pay channels.



Syed Mosharraf Ali speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Shamsur Rahman Shimul and on his left is Md Sirajul Islam.