

Amend Vested Properties Return Act 2001

Minority Sangram Parishad urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Minority Sangram Parishad yesterday demanded of the government to amend the Vested Properties Return Act 2001 to ensure the rights of the religious minority group.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium, the Parishad leaders said the Act should be amended with the provision of returning the properties to the successors.

They also demanded the cancellation of the Enemy Property Act.

In a keynote paper, Parishad Senior Vice-president Dr Sholendranath Chanda said the Enemy Property Act was the result of India-Pakistan war in 1965.

After the independence, it was renamed as Vested Property Act that allowed the government to confiscate property from individuals it deemed as an enemy of the state, he added.

Dr Sholendranath said the Awami League government enacted the Vested Properties Return Act in 2001 in an effort to give back the confiscated properties to their owners.

However little progress was made in returning or compensating the lost property during the period of the immediate past government, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Minority Sangram Parishad General Secretary Advocate Ashok Ghosh addresses a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday. On his left is Mintu Goshwami and on his right is Dr Sholendranath Chanda.

Speakers at the press conference also placed an all-point demand to the government for the recovery of endowed (debtor) properties encroached by land grabbers and the government. The demands included cancellation of the committee headed by the deputy commissioners to select enemy properties, trial of all incidents of murder, rape and extortion against the minority people, 75 reserved seats in parliament for the minorities, 20 percent quota for the minorities in all public services, and the return of the land of Ramna Kalimandir and Ma

Anandamoyee Asram.

The speakers also demanded implementation of Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Treaty, formulation of Debtor Board for the Hindus and similar boards for the Christians and the Buddhists, and declaration of Hindu, Christian and Buddhism along with Islam as state religion.

Parishad General Secretary Advocate Ashok Ghosh, Joint Secretary Mintu Goshwami, Organising Secretary SK Badal, International Affairs Secretary Himangshu Singha and Treasurer Harendra Roy were present at the press conference.

Pakistan wants broad-based ties with Bangladesh

HC inaugurates Ctg Press Club Institute of Technology

BSS, Chittagong

Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alamgir Babar yesterday said his country wants a broad-based relationship with Bangladesh for the welfare of people between the two countries.

"We believe in partnership in different prospective fields for the welfare of people of both sides", he said while speaking as the chief guest at a function of handing over computers and other logistics support for Chittagong Press Club (CPC) Institute of Technology yesterday.

Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka donated 10 computers, adequate number of printers and furniture to the CPC to establish the institute.

With CPC President Ali Abbas in the chair, the function was addressed, among others, by CPC General Secretary Ejaz Yousuf, senior journalist M Nasirul Haq, general secretary of Chittagong Union of Journalists, Nazimuddin Shayamol, CPC Joint Secretary Khorshed Alam and chairman of Fairway Automobiles Jharka Banu.

Speaking on the occasion, Babar said Pakistan has sincere intention to work together for the peace, stability, progress and prosperity of every nation in this region under a broad-based relationship.

He said the computers sets would help journalists as well as their family members to acquire knowledge on information technology, which would ultimately contribute to achieve socio-economic progress of the country.

He assured of donating more five computers and fax machines to the CPC within a short time to enrich the capacity of the CPC Institute of Technology.

Meanwhile, the authorities of Fairway Automobiles Ltd have donated Pakistan made New Asia brand 4-stroke CNG auto-rickshaw for CPC Welfare Fund.

The chairman of the Fairway Automobiles Ltd Jharka Banu told the function that her company would donate 10 such auto-rickshaws among distressed families of freedom fighters on next victory day.

Later, the Pak High Commissioner formally inaugurated the CPC Institute of Technology and went round the facilities there.

Village doctor found murdered in Natore

UNB, Natore

A village doctor was found murdered in his house at Laxmipur village in Boraigram upazila yesterday.

Police said the village doctor, Golam Panjatan, 57, went to bed for taking a nap after lunch. But, after some time he was found lying on his bed in a pool of blood.

"Panjatan was stabbed to death," police said.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

LDP stages hunger strike for Redwan's release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) yesterday staged a dawn-to-dusk hunger strike at its central office in the city demanding release of Redwan Ahmed, a presidium member of the party.

LDP leaders at the hunger strike vowed to launch movement in every district and upazila if Redwan is not released within one month.

Later, LDP Secretary General Jahanara Begum broke the fast of the leaders and activists of the party with water.

NGO men flee with deposits in Nilphamari

BSS, Nilphamari

The officials and employees of 'Manab Kallyan Samity', a local NGO, fled away with a large amount of money collected from people of the district.

The NGO reportedly collected Tk 7 lakhs from people through its field level workers in the name of providing jobs and savings schemes.

The affected people, who deposited money with the NGO, found on Thursday that all the officials and employees have left the Dada Bhai Road office, leaving it under lock and key.

Shahnaz Pervin, a victim, filed a case against five persons including Anwarul Alam Chenu, a former chairman of Shimulbari union, as main accused for the cheating.



PHOTO: STAR

A Chittagong City Corporation cleaner unloads a waste van at a place on Commerce College Road at Agrabad, though there is a dustbin nearby. The photo taken yesterday shows garbage has littered almost half of the road.

Five-yr plan underway to develop skilled workforce

BSS, Dhaka

The Ministry of Education has undertaken a plan to boost professional skills of technical workers through new policies, in the wake of growing competitiveness for skilled labour at home and abroad.

As part of the plan, a five-year technical education reform project styled 'Bangladesh Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Reform' was launched yesterday.

Launched at Hotel Sonargaon, the project mainly focuses on rejuvenating country's technical and vocational education, and their relevant training schemes.

Director General of the Directorate of the Technical Education Prof Mohammad Abul Bashat chaired it.

Education Secretary Mohammad Momtajul Islam attended the function as the chief guest, while Labour and Employment Secretary Dr Mahfuzul Haque and Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Abdul Matin Chowdhury were present as special guests.

Director of Skills and Employment Department of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva, Christine Evans Klock and Charge d'Affairs of the Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh Brian Forey were also present.

Momtajul Islam said the proposed reforms in the technical and vocational education systems would not only help creating skilled workforce attuned to world requirements but also supplement poverty alleviation process through job creation at home and abroad.

Dr Mahfuzul Haque said the project was to contribute largely to the improvement of productivity in industrial units worldwide.

Dr Mahfuz said the five-year project, which would come to an end in 2012 at a cost of Tk 136 crore, has a special focus on strengthening the mechanism to meet the labour market demand.

"The project has some major components including upgrading the TVET policies at all segments, improvement of training curriculum, exploration of labour market information and improving access of underprivileged groups to such opportunities," Matin Chowdhury said.

Prof Bashat said Bangladesh could be benefited immensely from its promising pharmaceutical and RMG sector through improving the skills of their managers, staffs and workers. The skills of concerned trainers and teachers should also be raised, he added.

Christine said business environment across the globe witnessed a stiff competition due to impact of the globalisation and rapid technological changes.

To compete with the competition, Evans said, many developing countries including Bangladesh should act proactively to increase labour productivity through skill development programmes.

Terming the project as comprehensive to boost work skills, Brian said the development of skilled workforce could play a significant role to produce quality products, bring higher return from exports and generate employment opportunities at home and abroad.

Upon completion of the project, he hoped, Bangladesh would have an energetic and dynamic workforce, who would project the country with a changed image before the world.

Forum launched to fight anti-liberation war elements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Muktesena Uttorsuri Forum, an organisation of the retired members of the armed forces, was launched yesterday with a vow to resist the anti-liberation war elements.

"We will resist them (war criminals) by any means so that they are not elected in the upcoming election," vowed M Zakir Hossain, a retired flight sergeant and convener of the forum, at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

"One of our aim is to make arrangement for the trial of the war criminals and we are expressing our solidarity with the Sector Commanders Forum and their activities," he added.

"We also want to resist the anti-liberation war forces including Rajakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams socially and politically," he added.

The press conference was organised to mark the launching of the organisation.

Announcing the objectives of the organisation, the forum leaders said they will work to restore the spirit of the War of Independence.

"We will also identify the war criminals, publish their names and make public the illegal wealth made by the anti-liberation war elements," they added.

The Forum will have four organisational tiers functioning at upazila, district, division and central level.

Phensidyl seized

UNB, Dinajpur

Police recovered 500 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from a private car in Khetabmore area of Ghoraghat upazila on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, police took position on Dinajpur-Gobindaganj road at about 10:00am. Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the drug peddlers managed to flee, leaving behind the car on the road.

Later, police recovered the phensidyl and seized the vehicle. A case was filed.

RCC mayor aspirants vow to work neutrally for dev

RU CORRESPONDENT

The mayoral aspirants of the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) yesterday pledged to work neutrally for the development of the city if elected in the August 4 polls.

They made the commitments at a pre-election dialogue on 'City government, citizens' thinking and RCC election-2008' organised by Barind Unnayan Procheta at a local restaurant in Rajshahi city.

Four mayoral contestants, including Lubo Dal President, Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, former district BNP general secretary advocate Enamul Haque, Progressive Democratic Party Rajshahi Convener Rahanur Rahman and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal

Coordinator Ruhul Kuddus Tunu, took part in the dialogue and vowed to take up massive programmes for the development and beautification of the city.

They promised that they would take initiatives to ensure the supply of pure drinking water as well as gas supply through the pipeline, set up agro-based factories, resume production at sericulture industry, dredge the Padma, ensure transparency in the corporation's activities, enhance civic facilities and accountability of the elected representatives as well as the corporation officials and employees, create vacancy and ensure equal opportunity of underprivileged community.

Chief Reporter of the Sonali Sangbad Hassan Millat moderated the dialogue where RU teacher Shah Azam Santonu, Editor of the daily Liakat Ali, Bangladesh Institute of Panos representative Aktar Mahmud and BUP representative Rashid Ripon were also present.

Free medical camp at Keraniganj

METRO DESK

ZH Shikder Women's Medical College and Hospital yesterday offered free medical services and distributed medicines among the poor and destitute through its medical camp at Joynagar at Keraniganj.

Every year the hospital conducts free medical camps at different places of the locality during the monsoon until the floodwater recedes when tropical diseases cause a huge suffering to the poor people, says a press release.

The hospital is committed to provide its services for the nation during any national crisis as part of its corporate social responsibility as mentioned by its Vice Chairman Parveen Haque Shikder and Chief Operating Officer Kamal H Bhuiyan.



Doctors of Shikder Medical College and Hospital distribute free medicines among the poor and destitute at the Free Medical Camp-2008 at Joynagar at Keraniganj yesterday.

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