Govt plans to reintroduce food rationing system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering reintroducing food rationing system to help the poor people, Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzak said yesterday.

"The prime minister has entrusted some experienced persons with the task of assessing various relevant factors such as when the system can be reintroduced and which areas it will cover," the minister told reporters.

keen on the rationing system considering its benefit for the poorer section of soci-

"She will take the decision on the basis of suggestions from the experienced persons," the minister said, adding that the persons would finalise who and how many people would be brought under the safety net programme.

The food minister also said that there would be no scope to allocate food grains for the rural areas through lawmakers. Instead, he said, chairmen of upazila

after the matter.

"This time the food ministry would not provide any allocation for the MPs with regard to development projects," he

In line with the existing rules, allocations will be made for districts and the upazila and union parishad chairmen will receive them from the districts for the development projects, the minister added.

He, however, said the lawmakers may request the chairmen to implement various projects such as construction of roads in their areas.

Engineer FM Rashiduzzaman, elder brother of Asad, who was killed in the anti-Ayub movement in 1969, places wreaths at Shaheed Asad Memorial in front of Dhaka Medical College yesterday on the occasion of Shaheed Asad Day.

Says Delwar

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar

Hossain yesterday said his party would not allow

foreign troops in the country in the name of

South Asian Task Force, an election pledge of

Awami League (AL)-led grand alliance govern-

Delwar also alleged that a 'puppet govern-

ment' and a 'rubber stamp parliament' have

been formed through the farcical polls held on

discussion meeting at the Business Studies

meeting to mark the 73rd birth anniversary of

election pledges for forming a South Asian Task

Force in a bid to combat terrorism, Delwar ques-

tioned, had our law enforcement agencies and

CHAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Conference Hall at Dhaka University (DU).

The BNP secretary general was speaking at a

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) organised the

Blasting the grand alliance government's

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ment to combat terrorism.

late president Ziaur Rahman.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land Minister Rezaul Kabir Hira

yesterday asked the officials to

earmark Khas land in different

districts in order to distribute

14,800 acres of Khas land

among 9,500 landless families

under the third phase of Char

Development and Settlement

began in 2005 will end in June.

The tenure of the project that

So far, 33 percent of the total

project money -- Tk 9 crore and

35 lakh -- has been spent on the

project, the officials told the

minister at a meeting to review

the projects of the ministry

Project (CDSP).

December 29.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urging Awami League (AL) to give up 'narrow interest of the party', BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday demanded that the ruling party elect deputy speaker from the opposition on the first working day of the ninth parliament as per the existing provision of the constitution.

"It's nothing but a trick to create another post of deputy speaker through amending the constitution instead of taking steps to elect deputy speaker from the opposition as per its [AL] poll pledges," Delwar Hossain said in a statement.

He said this following a statement of LGRD minister and AL's spokesman Syed Ashraful Islam on Monday that the government is planning to create two posts of deputy speaker and of them one would be taken from the opposition.

Criticising the idea of amending the constitution to create several posts of deputy speaker, Delwar said, "There is a provision of a speaker and a deputy speaker in the constitution and according to section 74 of the constitution they would be elected on the first day of the first session."

He said according to the AL's election pledges, appointment of deputy speaker should be made on the first working day of the parliament but they [AL] are yet to give any proposal

It would not be acceptable to the people and it would be a violation of poll pledges if they [AL] take different initiative regarding electing the deputy speaker by amending the constitution, the BNP leader said.

'GONOHATYA O BADDHYABHUMI 71 AL MP Anwar sends legal notice to writer, publisher

A CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Awami League lawmaker from Pirojpur-3 (Mathbaria) Dr Anwar Hossain has sent a legal notice to the writer and publisher of a book titled 'Gonohatya O Baddhyabhumi 71' for mentioning him as a war

His lawyer Gobinda Kumar Roy Chowdhury sent the legal notice to writer Sayed Bahadur and publisher Aminul Islam of Muktachinta Prakashana in Dhaka on January 19.

In the legal notice, the lawyer asked the publisher to publish a notice in newspapers within 10 days acknowledging that the name of the lawmaker was printed mistakenly and to remove his name from the

The book was published in February 2007.

Minister tells officials

Take steps to provide Khas

land for 9,500 families

BNP won't allow foreign

troops to fight terrorism

army failed to combat terrorism?

ism," he added.

of Baksal.

educational institutions.

pendence except in Bangladesh.

under Annual development ter told reporters that a digital

"Independence and sovereignty of our coun-

Delwar urged the government to stop 'killing,

Criticising the AL government during the

try will be put in danger if foreign troops are

stationed here in the name of combating terror-

extortion and terrorist activities' of Bangladesh

Chhatra League (BCL) across the country's

post-independence period, Delwar said there is

no country in the world where a partisan govern-

ment was formed immediately after their inde-

He also came down heavily on the formation

Presided over by JCD President Azizul Barr

Helal, the meeting was also addressed by DU

Professor Aminur Rahman Majumdar, Obaidul

Islam, journalist Amanullah Kabir and Rezwan

He said AL was never a democratic party.

land survey would also be Programme (ADP). carried out throughout the The minister also instructed the officials to start using information technology in land management.

At present, the ministry is implementing two projects --'Computerisation of Land Management System (CLMS) of Dhaka District' and 'Preservation of International Boundary Strip Maps and Mouja Maps By Scanning / Digitisation'.

A total of 4091 maps of 191 moujas would be scanned for digitisation of the land records by June, which would be posted on website gradually.

After the meeting, the minis-

One life

Shaheed Asad Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political, student and cultural organisations observed the 39th death anniversary of Shaheed Asad Day with befitting manner yester-

Bangladesh Jubo Moitree, Democratic Revolutionary Party, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, National Awami Party, Bangladesh Chhatra League and Gono Sanskritik Front placed wreaths at Asad memorial on the Dhaka Medical College premises.

National Awami Party (NAP-Bhasani) organised a discussion and prayer session at its central office to observe the day. Party Chairman Sheikh Anwarul Haque chaired the session. Senior Vice President Altaf Hossain Munna, acting secretary general Abdus Salam Master and vice president Tajul Islam Master took part in the discussion.

Democratic Revolutionary Party organised a discussion meeting at its office at Topkhana Road. Speakers at the meeting said main objective of Asad's sacrifice was to establish a democratic state and a government of labourers and farmers.

Leaders of other organisations recalled the contribution of Asad. Gonotantrik Chhatra Front

began a five-day programme yesterday in observance of the

Customs man held for cheating passenger at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

A member of customs intelligence was arrested while another managed to escape at Zia International Airport last night for taking bribe from a passenger in the airport. The detainee was identified as

Rafigul Islam, a member of customs intelligence at the airport.

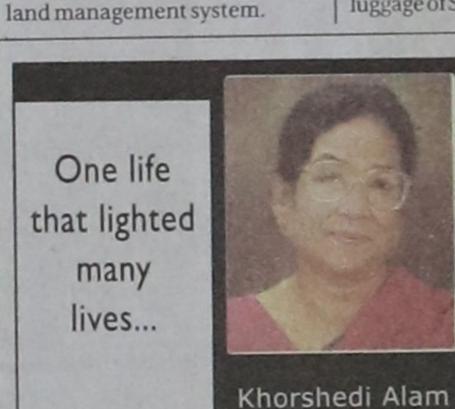
Officer-in-charge (OC) Sirajul Islam of Airport Police Station told The Daily Star that on-duty customs intelligence members Rafigul Islam and Mohammad Zahir realised Tk 40,000 as tax from a passenger from Singapore at the airport at 11.30am for nontaxable items.

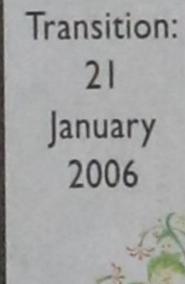
Later, Selim filed a case against visiv asseld summarrished bus all the two dustoms members with airport police to get back his

> Police arrested Rafiqul while Zahir managed to escape with the

Police said the goods in the

country to modernise overall luggage of Selim were not taxable.





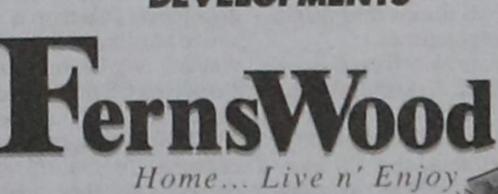
(Dolly) Iftekharul Alam

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He also said that the prime minister is parishad and union parishad will look 'Appoint dy Call to repeal edn institute speaker from management ordinance opposition on 1st day'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the managing committees of the city's schools and colleges yesterday called on the government to repeal the Non-government Educational Institutions Management Committee Ordinance 2009, terming it undemocratic and antipeople.

They also said that this ordinance would encourage the head of the educational institutions to run them in autocratic ways and resort to corruption.

"The persons representing the guardians in the managing committee will now be picked up through selection instead of election," said M Ataur Rahman, convenor of Elected Guardians' Representatives of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, at a press conference in the city.

He also said that it would be difficult for the managing committee to carry out various official and development work without the support from local lawmakers. "So, we suggest allowing local lawmakers or political leaders to act as the president of the managing committee," he

Saidul Hossain Sahed,

College, urged the government not to pass the ordinance in the ninth parliament. Mir Niaz Ali, guardian

representative of Udayan School and College Managing Committee, Dr Majibur Rahman Hawlader, guardian

member secretary of Mirpur representative of Viqarunnisa Bangla High School and Noon School and College, Khandakar Asif, guardian representative of Motijheel Model High School, and Advocate Hosne-ara- Begum, guardian representative of Moghbazar Boys High School,

were present.

SERIAL BLASTS Ctg JMB chief gets 10 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

The Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong yesterday sentenced Javed Iqbal alias Mohammad, divisional chief of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), to 10 years' imprisonment in August 17, 2005 serial blasts case.

Javed was also fined Tk 5000, in default he has to suffer six months more in jail, court sources said. Tribunal Judge Md Shafiqul

Karim declared the verdict for three

bomb blasts in city's Bahodderhat,

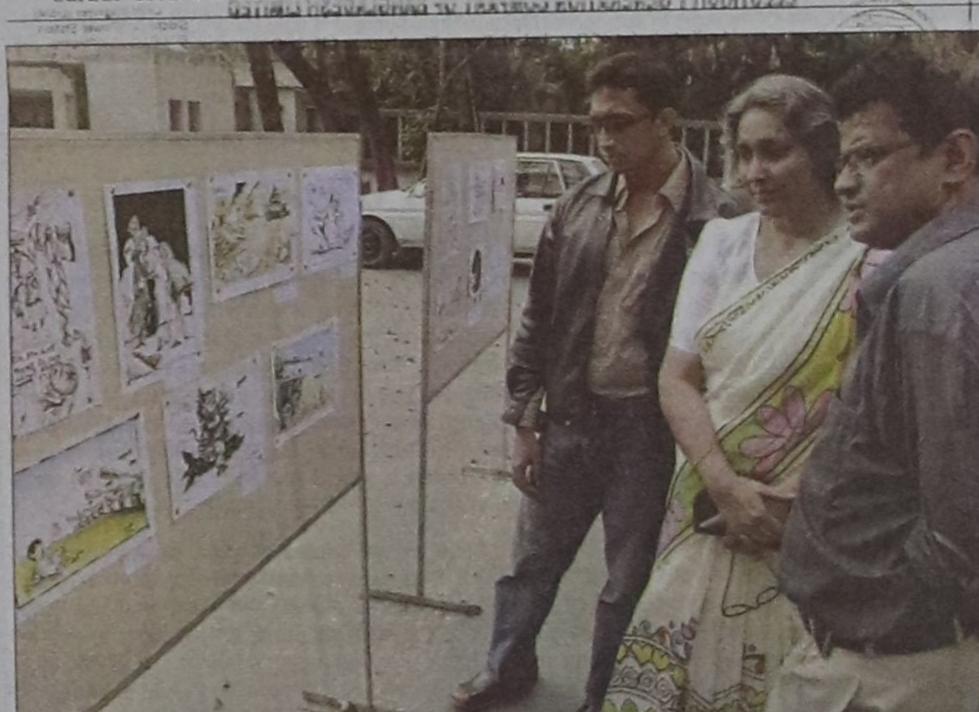
Muradpur intersection and OR

Nizam Road area. The court, however, acquitted Arshadul Alam alias T Alam, a JMB cadre and another accused in the case.

The court made the verdict after the hearing of 12 witnesses. The then Sub-Inspector Abdul Bari of Panchlaish Police Station filed the case accusing the two while the police submitted the charge sheet on January 14,2007.

Later, the charge was framed on April 19 in the same year.

Rapid Action Battalion arrested Javed along with his associate Jafar from a house in the city's Kattali area on December 14, 2005 and seized huge quantity of explosives and bomb-making materials. 1



The monthly Unmad organises a cartoon exhibition on the National Press Club premises in the city yesterday protesting the Israeli invasion of Gaza.

BFUJ calls for full implementation of 7th wage board

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) at a joint meeting yesterday called for full implementation of the seventh wage board award in the newspaper indus-

They also called for reinstatement of the journalists, who lost their jobs during the tenure of past government, transfer of money of the journalists' welfare fund to the BFUJ and punishment to the persons involved in killing and harassing journalists on various occasions.

The meeting was held at the National Press Club marking the handover of the charge of the outgoing committee of BFUJ to the new committee. Outgoing president of the BFUJ Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul was in the chair, a BFUJ press release said.

Newly elected BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Altaf Mahmud, outgoing Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Dhaka Union of Journalists President Shah Alamgir and BFUJ Vice-President Kartik Chatarjee, among others, addressed the function.

The meeting decided to submit a set of recommendations to prime minister, information minister and other concerned offices for proper solution to the problems prevailing in the newspaper industry.

People's unity a must to establish equal rights

Speakers tell publication ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book launching ceremony yesterday underscored the need for uniting the countrymen to establish equal rights in the society. People from all social strata

should play an important role from their respective fields in stoppingviolenceagainstwomen to develop the country, they

Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) Bangladesh organised the programme at National Press Club in the city.

The book, titled 'Rokeyar Uttarsuri' by Prof Majeda Saber and published by RDRS, highlights the pioneering role of Begum Rokeya and her successors in the sector of women development and the then social circumstances.

Noted litterateur Selina Hossain was present at the programme as the chief guest, while former adviser to the immediate-past caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury was STAFF CORRESPONDENT present as the special guest. Selina said, "We have to find

are facing development setbacks so that we can take proper steps to moveforward." "Both male and female should be encouraged to apply the philosophy and values of Rokeya in their practical life for the advancement of the country as

out the real causes why women

the book contains the way of life of the distinguished poet and her successors."

Praising the book highly, she said it is an ambitious work and a commendable attempt of Prof Majeda, one of the successors of Rokeya, adding: "It will really help people who are practising Begum

of practising Rokeya in our practical life, Rasheda said we have to follow Rokeya as she worked throughout her whole life for the empowerment of

With RDRS Trustee Board Chairperson Syeda Rejwana Hasan in the chair, the programme was also addressed by its Executive Director Kamaluddin Akbar.

NU masters exam on

under National University (NU) will be being on February 23, says a press release. The schedule of the examinations would be available in

respective colleges and at the

website www.nu.edu.bd.

The masters final year exami-

nations of the session 2006

BCL FACTIONAL CLASH JU authorities take reconciliation move door meeting Prof Nasiruddin A JU CORRESPONDENT told The Daily Star that leaders of Jahangirnagar University (JU) both groups have promised not to involve in further clash. authorities yesterday took a BCL unit President Shohel

reconciliation initiative to end the conflict between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the campus.

JU Proctor Prof Nasiruddin also the dean of arts faculty sat with the leaders of both groups -one led by BCL JU unit President Sohel Parvez and General Secretary Mahmud Naser Jony and another group led by Ajibur Rahman and Adnan Bhuiyan who joined the BCL after 1/11 changeover in the country -- at his office yesterday morning.

under existing committee. However, Ayan and Ajibur clearly rejected the proposal and said they have fought for a new committee of the BCL at the JU. Leaders of both the groups,

however, could not reached in consensus whether students who left their rooms during the clash would be able to back or After a two-hour long close not.

told The Daily Star that he pro-

posed the opponent group leaders

Ayan and Ajibur of doing politics



Managing Director of Aktel Jefri Ahmad Tambi hands over 1000 blankets to Anjuman Mufidul Islam Relief Committee Chairman Abdus Samad at the latter's office in the city yesterday for distribution among the poor people.