

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.

He also said that the prime minister is

keen on the rationing system considering its benefit for the poorer section of society.

"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 parishad and union parishad will look

after the matter.

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

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.

Call to repeal edn institute management ordinance

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 anti-people.

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, convener of Elected Guardians' Representatives of Vigarunnisa 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 added.

member secretary of Mirpur Bangla High School and 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

representative of Vigarunnisa 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, Chittagong

The Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong yesterday sentenced Javed Iqbal alias Mohammad, divisional chief of the banned Jama'at ul 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, Miradpur intersection and OR Nizam Road area.

The court, however, acquit-

ted 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 Jafer from a house in the city's Kattali area on December 14, 2005 and seized huge quantity of explosives and bomb-making materials.

'Appoint dy speaker from opposition on 1st day'

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 Ashrafur 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 to BNP.

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 criminal.

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 book.

The book was published in February 2007.



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.

Shaheed Asad Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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

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-Ithasani) 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.

Gonatantrik Chhatra Front began a five-day programme yesterday in observance of the day.

BNP won't allow foreign troops to fight terrorism

Says Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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 government to combat terrorism.

Delwar also alleged that a 'puppet government' and a 'rubber stamp parliament' have been formed through the farcial polls held on December 29.

The BNP secretary general was speaking at a discussion meeting at the Business Studies Conference Hall at Dhaka University (DU).

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) organised the meeting to mark the 73rd birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman.

Blasting the grand alliance government's election pledges for forming a South Asian Task Force in a bid to combat terrorism, Delwar questioned, had our law enforcement agencies and

army failed to combat terrorism? "Independence and sovereignty of our country will be put in danger if foreign troops are stationed here in the name of combating terrorism," he added.

Delwar urged the government to stop 'killing, extortion and terrorist activities' of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) across the country's educational institutions.

He said AL was never a democratic party. Criticising the AL government during the post-independence period, Delwar said there is no country in the world where a partisan government was formed immediately after their independence except in Bangladesh.

He also came down heavily on the formation of Baksal.

Presided over by JCD President Azizul Bari Helal, the meeting was also addressed by DU Professor Aminur Rahman Majumdar, Obaidul Islam, journalist Amanullah Kabir and Rezwana Siddiqui.

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 Rafiqul 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 Rafiqul Islam and Mohammad Zahir realised Tk 40,000 as tax from a passenger from Singapore at the airport at 11.30am for non-taxable items.

Later, Selim filed a case against the two customs members with airport police to get back his money.

Police arrested Rafiqul while Zahir managed to escape with the money.

Police said the goods in the luggage of Selim were not taxable.

CHAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT Take steps to provide Khas land for 9,500 families

Minister tells officials

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 Project (CDSP).

The tenure of the project that began in 2005 will end in June.

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.

After the meeting, the minister

told reporters that a digital land survey would also be carried out throughout the country to modernise overall land management system.

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.

BCL FACTIONAL CLASH JU authorities take reconciliation move

A JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities yesterday took a 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.

After a two-hour long close door meeting Prof Nasiruddin told The Daily Star that leaders of both groups have promised not to involve in further clash.

BCL unit President Sohel told The Daily Star that he proposed the opponent group leaders Ayan and Ajibur of doing politics 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 reach in consensus whether students who left their rooms during the clash would be able to back or not.



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 industry.

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 stopping violence against women to develop the country, they added.

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

The book, titled 'Rokeya Urtasuri' 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 present as the special guest.

Selina said, "We have to find out the real causes why women are facing development setbacks so that we can take proper steps to move forward."

"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

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 Rokeya."

Emphasising the importance 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 women.

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 Feb 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The masters final year examinations of the session 2006 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.



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.

One life that lighted many lives... Transition: 21 January 2006

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