

Half of ordinances to be left out

RTI among 44 picked to be made law; special JS body to review the rest

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The special committee of the parliament yesterday okayed for ratification only 44 of the 122 ordinances promulgated just before and during the immediate past caretaker government's regime.

The committee will keep scrutinising the rest of the ordinances to decide which of those also deserve ratification.

The Right to Information (RTI) Ordinance, and the Human Rights Commission Ordinance are among the ordinances chosen for ratification, according to committee sources.

Although the RTI Ordinance was not on the short list of 50, earlier prepared by an expert committee for ratification, Special Committee Chairman Advocate Rahmat Ali yesterday in the meeting personally urged the law ministry to include that on the new short list of 44.

The remaining of the ordinances okayed for ratification are related to financial matters, electoral affairs, and law and order situation.

Members of the special committee yesterday hinted that 15 to 20 more ordinances might also get the committee's consent for ratification, meaning near about a half of the total ordinances might not be ratified, ending up becoming automatically ineffective after 30 days of their introduction to the parliament on January 25.

On recommendation of the special committee, the law ministry yesterday directed the ministries concerned to prepare the chosen ordinances as bills.

The bills to be proposed in the parliament will be sent to the special committee again for scrutiny. The committee will then bring necessary amendments to the proposed bills during the scrutiny, committee members said.

Talking to reporters immediately after the meeting, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed said the officials of the ministries concerned were directed to turn the ordinances into bills, to be tabled in the parliament.

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A century-old building being torn down at Shankharibazar in Old Dhaka as the owner wants to erect a multi-storey building there.

PHOTO: STAR

Tragedy written on old city wall

Govt sits idle as Shankharibazar houses get more vulnerable

PINAKI ROY

The partial collapse of an old ceiling at Shankharibazar Monday is a chilling reminder that run-down buildings in this part of the city could cost lives any time and the authorities cannot afford delays in dealing with the looming disaster.

Recently, the government has decided to declare Shankharibazar a heritage site following recommendations of an expert committee.

Once a gazette notification is published to that effect, house owners in the area will not be able to knock down the age-old structures to build new ones as doing so will be illegal then.

Locals fear things will get worse if the department concerned does not take safety precautions or start conservation immediately.

In June 2004, 11 people were killed and many others injured when a building came crashing down on its occupants.

Following the collapse, Dhaka City Corporation and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha identified 32 houses as highly vulnerable and 91 as risky. But no measures have been taken to avert repeat of cave-ins.

In Monday night's incident, three people were injured when a huge chunk of plaster broke off the roof of Madan Mohan

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Say bye to Jamaat

Grassroots also ask BNP to drop controversial leaders

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Grassroots level leaders of BNP yesterday proposed to party high-ups that it should not continue ties with Jamaat-e-Islami considering the new generation's sentiment, and drop all controversial leaders from party committees at all levels.

They also suggested that the party leadership reconstitute the committees with young, honest and dynamic leaders. And all the committees should be elected, not imposed, they said.

The suggestions came at a meeting between the party central team for Rajshahi Division headed by Joint Secretary General Mirza Abbas and upazila level leaders from Sirajganj.

Month-long meetings between six central teams for six divisions and field level leaders started yesterday at BNP central office at Nayapaltan in the capital. Two out of six teams began

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Star, Aktel reach out to school-goers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The Daily Star and Aktel will jointly launch an English language programme for school-goers in all district and upazila headquarters.

Minister for Education, and for Primary and Mass Education Nurul Islam Nahid will formally inaugurate the

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BNP to wait on speaker action

To continue JS boycott until seat row resolved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led opposition will continue boycotting parliament proceedings until it receives a "positive and respectful" decision from the speaker about their demand for three more seats in the front row.

The BNP Parliamentary Party yesterday came up with the decision.

"We are yet to reach a decision on the speaker's assurance of one or two more seats for us in the front row," Joynti Abedin Faruq, chief whip of the opposition, told reporters after the

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Reinstate SSF for Khaleda

Demands BNP after security withdrawal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition party BNP yesterday demanded reinstating Special Security Force (SSF) protection for its chairperson Khaleda Zia considering the perspectives of national and international trends of terrorism as well as security threats on her.

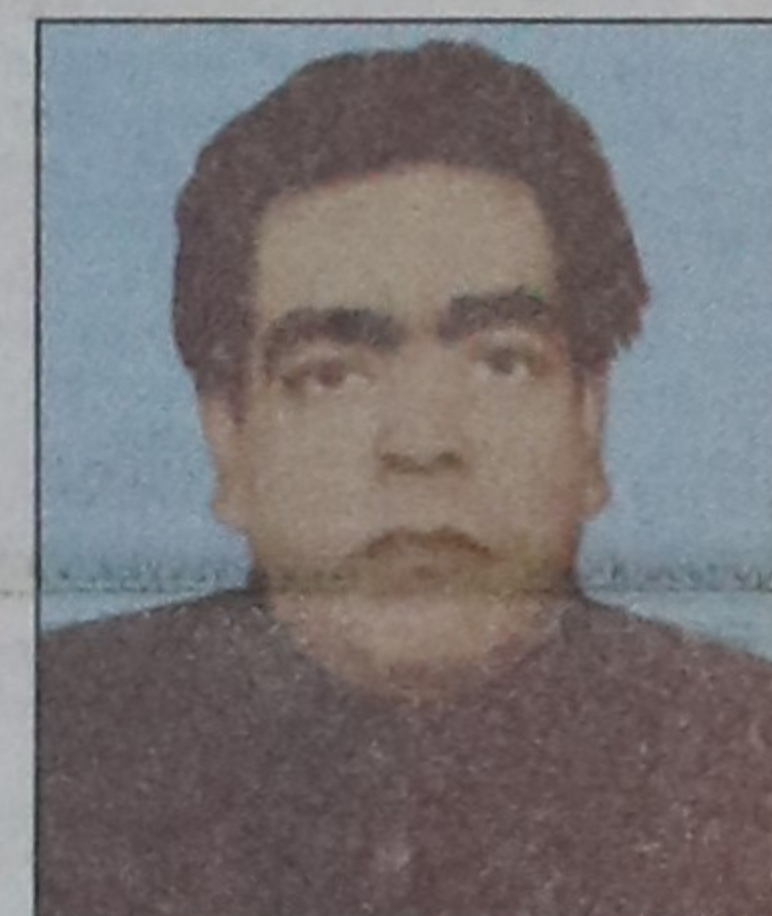
Condemning withdrawal of SSF security of the BNP chairperson, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, secretary

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31st Death Anniversary

(Abul Company) The founder of Abul Khair Group noted industrialist and social worker

Late Janab ABUL KHAIR



Death: 4th February, 1978

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Tk 340cr boost for Bapex

Allocation okayed to up capacity, for gas supply to Ctg

STAR REPORT

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) yesterday approved a Tk 340 crore project that would help Bapex increase its oil and gas exploration capability and Bakhrabad Gas Field Company to boost gas supply to Chittagong within two years.

Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Ecne at a meeting at NEC auditorium also approved a Tk 274.97 crore district road development project in Barisal and Tk-224.98 crore district road development project in Rajshahi zone.

Sources said the around 40-minute-long meeting discussed Bapex and Bakhrabad project under the title of Exploration and

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