



Zillur pays homage to Bangabandhu
UNB, Tungipara

President Zillur Rahman yesterday paid homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara in Gopalganj.

Zillur Rahman, who was sworn in as Bangladesh's 19th President Thursday, placed wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu at about 11:58 am and offered fataha.

A smartly turned out contingent drawn from army, navy and air force gave a guard of honour as a mark of respect when military bugle was played to its last post.

The president stood in solemn silence for some time to pay respect to the memory of Bangabandhu.

Later, he signed the visitor book kept on the mazar premises.

The chiefs of the three services, senior military and civil officials, Bangabandhu's younger daughter Sheikh

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Time runs out fast for ratification

Not a single ordinance tabled as bill, most of stipulated days already passed

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The House might have to race against time to ratify the ordinances placed on January 25 as two-thirds of the constitution-stipulated 30 days have already passed without a single one tabled as bill.

As many as 122 ordinances promulgated during the immediate past caretaker government's tenure will cease to have effect on February 24 if not ratified by the legislature.

Till yesterday, Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat did not receive notice from any minister of plans to introduce an ordinance as bill.

Again, for time constraints,

the committees might not be able to examine the bills thoroughly, said JS Secretariat officials.

Earlier, a special committee formed on January 28 has tentatively selected for ratification 53 out of the 122 ordinances.

The House might have to rush ratification of the ordinances as there remains only eight workdays including today.

In that case, proceedings like one-hour question-answer session, disposal of call attention notices and discussions on the president's address might be put on the

backburner.

If the BNP-led opposition lawmakers, who have submitted a huge number of notices for resolutions disapproving the ordinances, return to parliament, the speaker must allow time for disposal of their notices.

According to decisions by the Business Advisory Committee (Bac), the House starts the day's business at 4:45pm every day five days a week.

Meanwhile, the special committee meets today to discuss the ordinances again. It is likely to finalise the list of

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Corrupt unionism starts to creep up

AL MP, pro-BNP union backing opportunist group in Titas

WASIM BIN HABIB

premises to show off strength though it doesn't belong to any Titas trade unions.

This convener committee was formed on June 23, 2005.

This group is trying to establish supremacy over Titas management so that it can resume illegal activities including transfer and posting of the employees it could not do in the last two years, sources say.

The group is serving the purpose of the pro-BNP Titas Gas Jatiyatabdil Sramik Karmachari Union that does not want any election to Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) in fear of possible defeat. The election has been stalled for 20 years.

This trade union is allegedly the main protector of corrupt meter readers and other staffs. The leaders of this group would help out a corrupt meter reader or staff even if he belongs to some AL banner and thus protect their personal interests.

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India restarts Tipaimukh barrage work
UNB, Binnibazar

India has started construction of Tipaimukh barrage barely one kilometer away from Jakiganj border threatening to dry up the flow of the Surma and Kusshiara rivers during the winter.

The barrage on the Barak River at Churachandpur district in Assam will render barren vast arable lands in north-east of Bangladesh, change ecology and climate in the region.

Officials of the Water Development Board (WDB) told UNB yesterday that work on the barrage was started in March 2007 but postponed in

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PHOTO: STAR

Child workers work alongside others to bind secondary school textbooks at a factory on North Brook Hall Road in Old Dhaka yesterday.

Drug addict kills 2 sisters
UNB, Comilla

A drug addict youth along with his accomplice killed his two sisters at Surjpur village in Devidwar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Tuhin, 11, and Sharmin, 8, daughters of late Mojammel Hossain of the village.

Police and locals said drug addict Younis, 18, and his friend Shafiullah, 18, slaughtered Tuhin and strangled Sharmin to death when they were asleep at about 4:00am.

After the killing, the killers started shouting uttering 'dacoit'.

Hearing their scream, the locals rushed to the spot and

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Little care in hasty textbook publishing

Low quality books come out with lots of errors as printers work round the clock

SURAJNITH DEABNATH

read the books properly, according to market sources and guardians.

"Many pages of my home economics book are missing while some pages have been printed twice. I can't open my religion book properly due to poor binding. The print quality of my Bengali book is also poor," said Sadia Hossain Adrita, a class-VI student of Vizqarunnisa Noon School and College.

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Publishers said these types of problems remain in the new textbooks in the third phase of publishing books, as they have to do the work of printing and binding books round-the-clock due to pressure and do not get sufficient time to check the books again.

Binding textbooks is a long, lengthy and complicated process because publishers have to do the work manually.

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