

54 ordinances to be made law

RTI, HR commission, consumer rights among the ordinances picked by JS special committee

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The special committee of parliament yesterday made its final recommendation for ratifying 54 ordinances out of 122 promulgated just before and during the immediate past caretaker government.

After an exhaustive meeting in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, the committee last night came up with the final list.

The much talked about Right to Information Ordinance, Human Rights Commission Ordinance, and Consumers Rights Protection Ordinance are on the final list.

The committee decided not to recommend for ratification 68 ordinances, meaning over a half of the ordinances will cease to have any effect after 30 days since their introduction to the parliament on January 25.

Ordinances chosen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 54 ordinances chosen to be ratified in parliament are as follows: Sylhet Metropolitan Police Ordinance, 2006, Barisal Metropolitan Police

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Among the 122 ordinances, 119 were promulgated during the immediate past caretaker government and three during the last four-party government.

The ordinances on upazila parishads were not included in the final list. This means the effectiveness of the ordinances will cease to exist on February 24.

At the meeting, committee members and jurists criticised the law secretary for the promulgation of the ordinance on the day the newly elected government assumed office on January 6.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

By-polls in 7 seats on March 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By-elections to seven parliamentary constituencies vacated by four top leaders will be held on March 30, the Election Commission (EC) announced yesterday.

The constituencies are Kishoreganj-6, Bagerhat-1, Rangpur-3 and 6, Bogra-6 and 7, and Kurigram-2.

According to the polls schedule, the deadline for filing nomination papers is March 2 while the scrutiny of the nominations on March 5 and the last date for withdrawal of candidatures on March 12.

Kishoreganj-6 constituency of Zillur Rahman fell vacant, as he was sworn-in as the president of the country

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Food rationing for all on the cards

PM also announces hike in allowances of Ansars, VDP

UNB, Gazipur

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is going to introduce general rationing system so that all sections of people can cope with the prices of essentials like rice, pulses, oils and baby foods.

She disclosed the plan while addressing the members of Bangladesh Ansar and the Village Defence Party (VDP) at the Ansar-VDP Academy in Shafipur.

The prime minister also announced a package programme enhancing allowance for the Ansar members and assigning them to new roles in rural development and peacekeeping. Announcing a number of facilities and



benefits for the country's 4.9 million Ansar and VDP members, the prime minister said daily allowance of the attached Ansar members will be fixed at minimum Tk 180.

The prime minister also directed the authorities concerned to take steps to implement this decision "immediately".

Elaborating the new universal rationing system, she said, "We are considering providing

ration for all. Whatever the wage of a person, he will be entitled to purchase rice, pulses, oils and baby milk under the general rationing system." She said all beneficiaries will have to follow a 'limit' in getting the services under the government rationing system.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

3 independent MPs join AL

UNB, Dhaka

Three MPs who contested and were elected to the 9th parliament as independent candidates joined the ruling Awami League (AL) yesterday, further bolstering its mammoth majority.

They are M Kabirul Haq from Narail-1, Khandakar Abdul Baten from Tangail-6 and Muhammad Imaz Uddin from Naogaon-4 constituencies, a Parliament Secretariat press release said.

AL alone won the December 29 polls in 230 seats while their combined strength with the grand alliance rose to 262 in their landslide victory.

Much ado about nothing

Murder case, not war crimes, being probed against 2 Rajshahi arrestees; govt yet to start war criminal trial process

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The recent arrest of two alleged Razakars in Rajshahi apparently gives the impression that the government has started the process of war criminals' trial, although it has yet to make a formal move to that end. The home minister's reaction to the arrest has appeared as a beacon of hope to the people, who have long been demanding the trial of war criminals.

But the police say they have made the arrests in connection with a murder case filed last year and have little to do with war crime.

Sources in the law and home ministries say the decision to start the trial must come from

the cabinet first. Before that the modus operandi needs to be discussed among the government agencies responsible to implement the whole trial process.

Police on Friday arrested Daud Hossain and Noor e Anwar in Bamundighi Berabari in Mohanpur in connection with a war crime case filed with the local police station last year.

The arrestees are originally accused in a murder case filed under section 302 and 34 of the penal code, says a policeman in Rajshahi. But the murder was committed on November 30, 1971.

Khoda Newaz, investigation officer in the case, told The Daily Star last night, "We are not investigating any war crimes here."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Rally at JS to block upazila ordinance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Treasury bench lawmakers in parliament yesterday opposed ratification of Local Government (upazila parishad) (amendment) Ordinance 2008, and supported a proposal for block allocation of development fund to lawmakers.

The ordinance was promulgated by the immediate past caretaker government scrapping parliament members' (MP) authority to control upazila parishads' development activities.

The ruling coalition lawmakers expressed their opposition to ratification of the ordinance by yelling out 'no' as Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam said the ordinance will be placed in the parliament for ratification if the lawmakers want.

The LGRD minister also said the government plans to amend the Upazila Parishads Act 1998, which was repealed by the caretaker government, adding that the act will be amended to ensure lawmakers' involvement in development activities in upazilas.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Make sure JCD men make no money

Grassroots urge BNP top brass

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grassroots leaders of BNP have urged the party high-command to stop leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) from "making money using party name" and hand over its leadership to general students so that honest and competent leaders can emerge.

They also suggested that the Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, women's wing of the party, be strengthened, party insiders said. The suggestions were made at yesterday's meeting between the central teams and grassroots-level leaders at BNP's central office.

Leaders of different places including Munshiganj, Dinajpur and Khagrachhari met the central teams to give their opinion about party activities and the party's poor result in the parliament elections of December 29.

After interview with field-level leaders, BNP Joint Secretary

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

BNP to skip JS body meet too

Presses for getting SQ Chy in special committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP lawmakers will abstain from meetings of parliamentary standing committees until BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury is included in the special committee as a member.

They also reiterated their demand for reinstating the seating arrangement made by immediate past speaker Jamiruddin Sircar as a condition

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR
This SSC examinee of Viqarunnessa Noon School is in tears as severe traffic congestion delayed her arrival at the Motijheel Government Boys' High School exam centre.

SSC EXAMS BEGIN 79 students, 5 teachers expelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 5,780 candidates were absent on the first day of Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Dakhil and SSC vocational examinations while 79 students and five teachers were expelled for resorting to unfair means.

Among the expelled students 43 are from Technical Education Board, seven from Madrasa Board, eight from Dinajpur Board, five each from Barisal and Comilla Board, four from Dhaka Board, three from Chittagong Board, two from Rajshahi Board, and one each from Jessore and Sylhet Board.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

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