

CABINET COMMITTEE OKAYS SEVEN PROPOSALS

104 apartments to be built for selling to civil servants

UNB, Dhaka

The government will build 104 flats at Lalmatia Housing Estate in the city for selling those to the civil servants.

Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase yesterday approved this project to be implemented by the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) at a cost of Tk 39.17 crore. Each of the apartments will be 1250 square feet (sqf).

Housing and Public Works Ministry placed the proposal to

the committee presided over by the Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

The committee also approved seven purchase proposals. Of those, the Housing and Public Works Ministry placed three tender proposals of the Rajuk for earth feeling, road construction and construction of bridges at the Uttara Model Town Housing project under third phase programme.

The earth feeling work will cost Tk 12.93 crore while road

construction will cost Tk 45.39 crore and bridge construction will cost Tk 45.19 crore.

The committee gave nod to the shipping ministry's contract awarding proposal for installation of Computerised Container Terminal Management System (CTMS) and Management Information System (MIS) at Chittagong Port.

The project titled Chittagong Port Trade Facilitation funded by the

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will cost Tk 63.59 crore.

The selected bidder will have to provide one year warranty and four years maintenance service facility to the project under the contract.

The communication ministry's proposal for consultant appointment at a cost of Tk 38.38 crore for the JICA-funded Dhaka-Chittagong Railway Improvement project and the LGRD ministry's proposal for small water resources development project at Mymensingh, Sylhet and Faridpur area also obtained the approval of the committee.

Cabinet Secretary Abdul Aziz briefed the reporters about decisions of the purchase committee.

Tension mounts as BSF resumes fencing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

The India border guards yesterday resumed erecting barbed wire fencing along their side opposite the Monipur camp in Dinaipur and BDR personnel resisted the efforts.

Sources said the BDR jawans are performing their duties without high officials.

Tension is mounting between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and BDR men as India wants to exploit the worse crisis passing Bangladesh.

Local people said 69 BSF Battalion of Amulia camp resumed constructing a ring road to erect barbed wire fence 150 metre inside no-man's-land at Kamdevpur village under the camp on Saturday.

But in the face of strong opposition by 40 BDR Battalion, the Indian border force stopped the work.

But BSF men again started their activity with heavy machinery, including shovels and tractors, to develop the groundwork.

The BDR jawans again protested the BSF attempt and called for a flag meeting, but BSF did not respond to the meeting.

Despite repeated request, BSF men continued their work violating the international border rules.

Sources said at least 12 BDR men are performing their duties at the Monipur camp without any BDR high-ups. BSF men are exploiting the recent mutiny by BDR jawans that claimed at least 63 lives of army officers.

JU student found dead in Buriganga

A CORRESPONDENT, JU

Tonmoy Pal, a second year student of pharmacy department of Jahangirnagar University, was found dead in the river Buriganga on Saturday night.

Tonmoy used to live in his uncle's house at Shahjahanpur in the city. He went missing on February 26. His uncle filed a general diary on February 27.

On Saturday night local people found his body near Sadarghat launch terminal floating on the river. They picked the body and found a mobile set in his pocket. They got his uncle's number from SIM card of the phone and called his uncle. His uncle identified the body.

His body was taken to his village home in Chandpur.

Huji gives death threat to Prof Zafar Iqbal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Eminent educationist and writer Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal has received a death threat from outlawed Islamist outfit Harkat-ul Jihad al Islami (Huji).

Prof Zafar Iqbal, head of the department of the computer science & engineering at the Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST), received a letter containing the death threat yesterday. He then immediately informed the university registrar office.

The letter dated February 20 was sent by the Sylhet chapter of Huji. It reads "You, the honourable person, have done immeasurable harm to Islam and the Muslims. No forces would be able to save you. You would be killed on any odd-numbered date of the next Arabic (Hijri) month."

Registrar Zamil Ahmed Chowdhury told The Daily Star that they have already informed the SP of Sylhet of the threat.

HC rejects 8 petitions by businessman Mamun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday rejected eight petitions filed by controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun seeking bail in eight separate criminal cases filed against him.

The HC bench of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury passed the order upon a prayer moved by Mamun's lawyer Barrister A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik.

Barrister Manik told The Daily Star that following the HC order Mamun could not be released from jail at this moment.

REAPPOINTMENT OF 10 ADDL JUDGES SC verdict on leave to appeal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) will deliver its verdict today on the leave to appeal filed by 29 sitting High Court judges against the HC verdict directing the government to reappoint 10 additional judges with seniority.

The matter has been enlisted in today's cause list of the apex court, sources said.

The 10 additional judges were appointed during the previous Awami League government but their appointment was not confirmed during the rule of BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

After concluding the hearing on the appeal on February 26, the five-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin fixed March 2 (today) as the date for delivering the order.

On July 29 last year, the SC upon separate petitions filed by then caretaker government and 19 HC judges stayed the HC judgement and asked the petitioners to file regular leave to appeals with the SC against the HC judgement.

Later, 10 other HC judges became party along with the 19 judges against the HC verdict.

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASES Next hearing Mar 5

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday recorded statements of three more prosecution witnesses in connection with the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 Judge Mohammad Masdar Hossain recorded the statements of Mizanul Islam, Zahirul Islam and Motlab Hossain. Later, they were cross-examined by defence lawyers.

The court then fixed March 5 as the date for next hearing of the cases and summoned seven other witnesses to appear before it on the day.

In his statement, Mizanul told the court that on August 21, 2004, he learned that his brother-in-law Haji Abul Kalam Azad was injured in the grenade attacks on an Awami League (AL) rally at Bangabandhu Avenue. On hearing the news, he went to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) the next day. Later, Azad was shifted for

better treatment to Dhaka Metropolitan Hospital at Mahakhal in the city as his condition was deteriorating. But he (Azad) succumbed to his injuries on September 10, the witness said.

Two other witnesses -- Zahirul and Motlab -- said they went to DMCH after hearing the news of their friend who was injured in the grenade attacks on August 22, 2004.

All the three witnesses had also gone to Baruntek at Cantonment on September 10, 2004 where Sub-Inspector (SI) Sharif Faruque Ahmed, also the complainant of the cases, prepared an inquest report on the victim Azad.

They put signatures on the inquest report that was prepared by police in their presence.

Earlier on January 27 and February 12, 18 and 23, the court completed recording statements of six people, including the complainant SI Sharif Faruque Ahmed.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Having chances of light rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh and Comilla, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:02pm today and rises at 6:19am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 32.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 13.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.3	21.5	33	18
Chittagong	31.5	22.4	82	67
Rajshahi	31.3	15.5	32	21
Khulna	31.0	21.9	79	46
Barisal	31.5	22.4	88	48
Sylhet	30.5	17.4	49	26
Cox's Bazar	31.0	22.2	73	61

BDR protests BSF move

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

BDR jawans lodged a strongly protest against the Indian BSF move to construct a road near Giragaon border under Atwary upazila in Panchagarh yesterday.

Commanding Officer of 20 Rifles Battalion Lt Col S Shahed Kamal told this correspondent that BSF members started making a road near the border between pillar no 401/1-s and 401/2-violating the border rules.

On information, Shahed ordered the company commander of Giragaon camp to protest the matter.

Following the order, the company commander sent a protest letter to BSF in this regard. BSF men stopped road making in the afternoon in reply.

SCBA polls on March 24, 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The annual election to the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for its 14 executive posts, including president and secretary, will be held on March 24 and 25.

The association's secretary Nurul Islam Sujon officially announced the schedule for the polls yesterday.

Submission dates for nomination papers are from March 1 to March 11, while the last date for withdrawal of candidacy is March 16.

Senior lawyer Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque will lead the seven-member election subcommittee to conduct the SCBA polls to be held on its office premises.

Around 1,800 SC lawyers have been rolled to cast their votes in the polls.

Sources said main contest in the election will take place between the panel of ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Sammilita Ainjibi Shamannay Parishad and main opposition BNP-Jamaat-backed Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad.

Tribute paid to Comrade Tajul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shaheed Comrade Tajul Day was observed yesterday, marking the 25th death anniversary of Tajul Islam, one of the pioneers of the workers' movement in the country.

To mark the day, different political, workers' and socio-cultural organisations observed the day amid elaborate programmes, including placing wreaths at the temporary altar erected to the memory of Tajul at Muktagan in the city and holding memorial meetings.

Tajul, former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, joined the Adamjee Jute Mills as a general employee after completing his graduation from the Economics department at Dhaka University.

Family members of Tajul also placed wreaths at the memorial. Commemorating the day, CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the country needs more heroes like Tajul to struggle for changing the fate of the labour class.

Free heart camp held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute organised a 'Free Heart Camp' to celebrate the founding anniversary of Bangladesh Diabetic Association on Saturday.

A total of 250 patients received heart treatment for free from the day-long programme.



President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Annisul Huq speaks at a press conference on 'BDR mutiny and the prevailing situation' at the FBCCI board room in the city yesterday. Syed Manzur Elahi, former adviser to the caretaker government, Mahbubur Rahman, president of International Chamber of Commerce, Salman F Rahman, former president of FBCCI, Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan, president of Foreign Investors Chamber, Abul Kashem Ahmed, first vice-president of FBCCI, and Abu Alam Chowdhury, vice-president of FBCCI, were present.

Cruel twist of fate shatters Lt Col Azam's family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Just a week ago, Lt Col Shamsul Azam was busy planning the marriage ceremony of his eldest son, but now his family members are now preparing for his (Azam) funeral.

The wedding ceremony of his son Tarek Bin Azam (Tanim) was scheduled to take place at Darbar Hall of the BDR headquarters on March 3. But in a cruel twist of fate, Lt Col Azam

was killed during the mutiny by BDR jawans at the BDR headquarters at Pikhana.

The air of wedding festivities was also in the house of Parul Begum, 65, mother of Lt Col Azam, at Alekanda in Barisal city, which turned into grief after the news of death of Lt Col Azam reached here.

The body was found at the third mass grave at Pikhana on Saturday, said Md Selim, assistant education officer of Bakerganj upazila.

Talking to this correspondent on Saturday, Parul Begum said Azam's wife Mumun Rina called her on Tuesday, a day before the mutiny broke out, and discussed the marriage ceremony with her. At that time, Parul and other family members were also taking preparations to go to Dhaka on the occasion.

Jago Bangladesh on Mar 27-29

METRO DESK

Due to some unavoidable circumstances, Jago Bangladesh 2009, the challenging walkathon from Teknaf to Cox's Bazar through the longest beach in the world, has been deferred and will now be held on March 27-29.

Cox's Bazar is now topping the list of the 7 Natural Wonders in the world. One of the objectives of Jago Bangladesh 2009 is to help retain the position through increasing awareness to cast vote for Cox's Bazar, says a press release.

The event is going to take place with the sponsorship of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited and active support from Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation. That apart, Square, Danish, Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital and Cure are the co-sponsors of this event.

Participants will be selected upon short-listing the applications. Application can be made either way - online or offline.

Application forms can be downloaded from www.activatebangladesh.org or collected from House 324, Road 22, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212 everyday from 9:00am to 6:00pm except Fridays.

For more information interested people are requested to contact 02-9895029, 02-8714264, 01552451328 and 01912000265 during working hours.

Chandpur Pry Teachers' Assoc polls stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed all processes of holding elections to Chandpur Primary School Teachers' Association (CPSTA).

The four-day long elections to 25 posts of the executive committee of the association were due to be held from March 1 (yesterday).

After hearing an application filed by a leader of Chandpur Government Primary School Teachers' Association (CGPSTA), an HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury also issued a rule upon the leaders of CPSTA to show cause as to why their proceedings for holding the election should not be declared illegal.

Syed Ahmed Bulbul, convener of CGPSTA, yesterday filed the application saying that the Appellate Division has earlier declared the registration of CPSTA illegal and that illegal association cannot hold any election.

The petitioner prayed to the court to stay the processes of holding the elections.

CPSTA President Hafez Ahmed and General Secretary Abul Bashar announced the schedule for holding the election on November 20 last year, the petition said.

Advocate Hasan Foez Siddique appeared for the petitioner.

DHAKA TODAY

JSD discussion

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) organises a discussion marking the first flag-hoisting day. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

The Editor organises a discussion on Pikhana tragedy and its trial. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 2:00pm.

KILLING OF COL MUJIB Wife cries for justice

BSS, Dhaka

Mehrin Mujib, spouse of slain Colonel Mujibul Huq, demanded proper investigation into the Wednesday's massacre in the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters at Pikhana in the city and exemplary punishment to the killers.

In an exclusive interview, she told BSS that it was very difficult to describe how much efforts were made by herself and her son for their survival during the mutiny.

"I never think of such brutal killings. I do not believe that those who carried out the killings are soldiers. It was quite impossible to perpetrate the massacre by real soldiers, said emotion-choked Mehri.

On a query about overcoming her present family problem, she said the loss of her husband is irreparable. She said she lost everything as the killers burnt her house and assets to ashes.

Mehrin expressed her frustration saying that innocent officers were killed brutally in one hand and they were being wrongly blamed on the other.

Describing the Army officers as hard-working people, she said they earn their every asset after long efforts.

"If I say about only my own sufferings, it will be injustice as we also have lost a good number of brilliant officers," she said.

"Now we have to attend the namaz-e-janaza and burial of my son instead of the marriage ceremony of my grandson," said a weeping Parul.

The last time Lt Col Azam visited his mother in Barisal was on December 9, 2008 on the occasion of the death anniversary of his father Moslem Ali Akand, former superintendent of Patuakhali Primary Teachers Training Institute.

Born on January 7, 1960 in Patuakhali, Lt Col Azam was the fourth among eight brothers and sisters.

During the mutiny, Lt Col Azam's wife and three children - Tanim, Janif Bin Zishan, an SSC examinee, and Sudipta Shahin, a student of class five, -- who resided inside the BDR headquarters, were held hostage by BDR mutineers. They were released on Thursday night.

No one can imagine how many efforts the BDR officers particularly my husband made for making the country-wide Daal-Bhat programme a success, she said.

"My husband had to work for at least 18 hours for the programme, but what he got in return? That is nothing, but he had to make supreme sacrifice with slander," she said breaking into tears.

She recalled her memories with her friend Naznin Shakil, wife of slain BDR DG, saying that Naznin was a very close friend of her. Both the family members had a dinner at Pikhana a day before the brutal killing, she mentioned.

She said, "So far I know, most slain officers, who worked under my husband, are honest and hard-working officers as they worked for at least 16 hours for the national interest paying no attention to personal of family affairs."

She made an appeal to countrymen to remain vigil so that such massacre could not be occurred once again.

Expressing her deep shock at the death of the Army officers, Mehri said those who were killed are like a family members. So, she said, "I have lost all my family members."

Talking to the news agency, Major (retd) Afzar, a batchmate of slain Col Mujib, said, "I saw my friend Mujib from very closely who was an honest, sincere and devoted Army officer."

BDR MASSACRE Lt Col Kaiser buried with state honour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lt Col Abu Musa Kaiser Ahmed, who was killed during the BDR massacre at the headquarters of the border guards in the city, was laid to rest with state honour at his family graveyard at Bhara Muhuri in Chakaria in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 24 Division of Bangladesh Army Maj Gen Shamim Ahmed, Brig Gen Fazlur Rashid Mridha, Brig Gen Badrul, Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar Manzurul Alam Bhuiyan, Police Super Matuor Rahman Sheikh and Chakaria Upazila Nirbahi Officer Quamrul Hasan were also present.

Earlier, the body of Lt Col Kaiser, officer-in-charge of construction BDR HQ, was flown to his village home at around 10:30am.

He left behind his wife Musrat Jahan and two daughters Karisa Musrat, a class ten student of Viqarunnisa Noon School, and two and half year-old Shaika.

Numb with grief, they demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible.

The Quikhwani of Lt Col Kaiser will be held at their village home on Thursday noon, his brother Md Enamul Haq told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Old Faujians Association (OFA), Chittagong Chapter held a doa mahfil at its Nasirabad office in the port city praying for the salvation of the departed soul of Lt Col Kaiser, also a member of OFA.

OFA, an association of the former cadets of Faujdarhat Cadet College (FCC), have decided to provide the families of the victim Old Faujians of the BDR massacre with Tk one lakh each.

The bodies of two other Old Faujians - Lt Colonel Enshad and Major Mahmudul Hasan have already been recovered while Major Shahriar and Major Nazmul are still missing, said General Secretary of OFA Chittagong Chapter Dr Mesbahuddin Ahmed.

FCC Principal Lt Col Ahsan, also a course mate of Lt Col Kaiser (8th BMA Long Course), and fellow Faujians Sohail Mohammad Sakur, Md Abdul Halim Mashuk and Mohaimenul Haq were present.

Army officers' janaza today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The namaz-e-janaza of 41 army officers and BDR director general Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed's wife brutally killed at the BDR Headquarters will be held today at the National Parade Square in Dhaka at 10:00 am, said an Inter-services Public Relations (ISPR) press release.

The shaheed officers are Maj Gen Shakil and his wife Begum Nazneen Shakil, Col Md Zakir Hossain, Col Mohammad Mashiur Rahman, Col Kudrat Elahi Rahman Shafiq, Col Mohammad Akhtar Hossain, Col Md Rezaul Kabir, Col Nafiz Uddin Ahmed, Col Kazi Emdadul Haq, Col Samsul Arefin Ahammed, Col Mohammad Nakibur Rahman, Col Kazi Moazzem Hossain, Col Md Shawkat Imam, Col Mohammad Emdadul Islam, Col Md Aftabul Islam, Lt Col Enshad Ibn Amin, Lt Col Shamsul Azam, Lt Col Md Badrul Huda, Lt Col Md Saiful Islam, Lt Col Md Lutfar Rahman, Lt Col Mohammad Sajjadur Rahman, Lt Col Kazi Rabi Rahman, Lt Col Lutfar Rahman Khan, Maj Md Makbul Hossain, Maj Md Abdus Salam Khan, Maj Hossain Sohel Shahnewaj, Maj Kazi Mosaddek Hossain, Major Md Saleh, Maj Mahmud Hasan, Maj Mustak Mahmud, Maj Mahmudul Hasan, Maj Humayun Haider, Maj Md Azharul Islam, Maj Md Humayun Kabir Sarkar, Maj Md Khalid Hossain, Maj Mohammad Maksum-ul-Hakim, Maj Syed Md Idris Iqbal, Maj Md Rafiqul Islam, Maj Muhammad Mosharaf Hossain, Maj Mohammad Mominul Islam Sarkar, Maj Mostafa Asaduzzaman and Maj S M Mamunur Rahman.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Dr Md Safiruddin, former chief medical officer of Bangladesh Agricultural University and a social worker, passed away due to old-age complications at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on Wednesday at the age of 85, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and four daughters.

Sadhucharan Das

METRO DESK

Sadhucharan Das, father of artist Ranjit Das, passed away on February 17 at the age of 88, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and two sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

His Shraddha will be held at 118, Shankhari Bazar in the city at 8:00am on Wednesday.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Reza A Karim Chunnun Mian, a language movement veteran and one of the organisers of Liberation War, says a press release.

Altaf Ali Hasu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Altaf Ali Hasu, former general secretary of Wrisishiz Shilpi Gosthi, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and a prayer session will be held at his residence (336/7 East Rampura) in the city after Asr prayers.

Haji Muhib Uddin