

JS body asks Jiban Bima to remove anomalies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing deep resentment over gross irregularities and confusions in the activities of Jiban Bima Corporation (JBC), a parliamentary standing committee yesterday asked it to remove all its anomalies as soon as possible.

Farooque attended the meeting for a short period. Meanwhile, Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farooque in parliament on Tuesday said opposition members would not attend the parliamentary standing committee meeting if the committee were not reconstituted as per their recommendations.

Alamgir said after the meeting at the parliament building complex. "The committee noticed that the corporation has not taken an initiative to collect Tk 227 crore that was invested," he said, adding, "We also observed that huge amount of money is remaining idle in corporation for want of investment."

Moudud files petition with SC to let him use bank accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former law minister Moudud Ahmed MP yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court (SC) to allow him to use his bank accounts, which were made frozen during the immediate past caretaker government.

AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK CID records statement of commissioner Mokhles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday recorded the statement of former Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Commissioner Mokhlesur Rahman in connection with the August 21 grenade attack case.

Both Mokhles and Partho are now on bail as the present IO of the grenade attack case dropped their names from the chargesheet.

Norway's state secretary due on April 18

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Norway's State Secretary for International Development Hakon Arald Gulbrandsen will pay a 4-day visit to Bangladesh beginning April 18 to discuss various issues, including climate change, with government leaders.

10 leaders of Ahle Hadith resign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten top leaders of Ahle Hadith Andolon resigned from the party on Tuesday after accusing its Ameer Dr Muhammad Asadullah al Galib of anti-party activities.

College student found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A first year student of Malibagh Biggan College was found dead on the roof of the college at Malibagh intersection in the city last night.

WEATHER TODAY Thundershowers likely

Table with weather data: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Cities include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

KHALEDA'S HOUSE AG hails govt decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahubey Alam in an instant reaction yesterday hailed the government's decision to cancel the allocation of the Mainul Hossain Road house at cantonment for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The government has taken an initiative to protect the interest of the army as well as the nation by bringing back the properties through cancellation of the allotment of the land, the attorney general said.

When asked whether the decision was taken legally, Mahubey Alam said: "We will look into this aspect when the matters will come to the court."

Channel 1 writ petitions dismissed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday dismissed two separate writ petitions challenging the legality of the Prime Minister's move to auction off the equipment of Channel 1, a private television channel.

The HC bench of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Miftah Uddin Chowdhury passed the verdict.

One Entertainment Ltd. borrowed Tk 23 crore and 90 lakh in loan from the Prime Bank.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sayed Khawaja Moinul Hassan, professor, Clarin University, South Carolina,

campus, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on April 3 in the USA, says a press release.

He was laid to rest at Long Island in New York on April 5.

Dr Chowdhury B Mahmud

Dr Chowdhury B Mahmud, eminent child specialist and former principal of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), passed away on Tuesday in the capital, says a press release.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 13th death anniversary of former Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa has been arranged at Dhaka University Central Mosque after Asr prayers today.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

DELAY IN INITIATING LEGAL MOVES Govt losing control of abandoned properties

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government has been losing control of huge abandoned properties worth crores of taka due to 'unreasonable delay' in initiating legal moves to recover them.

Most land cases filed by the government are facing dismissals at the higher court because of the delay, since there are no satisfactory reasons behind such delay. As a result, the government is losing control of abandoned properties, government law officers said.

Recently, the government has taken an initiative to file a writ petition with the High Court (HC) with a view to recovering the House No. 1/22, Block-D, Mohammadpur in the city 22 years after an individual took its possession.

This abandoned property was allocated to one Abdur Rahim following a judgement of the court of settlement in 1987.

On February 22 this year, the Housing and Public Works Ministry sent a letter to the Attorney General's office through the Solicitor's office to file a writ petition challenging the legality of the judgement of the court of settlement.

Although the court of settlement in Dhaka delivered the verdict on December 27, 1987 ordering allotment of the property to Abdur Rahim, no previous governments took any initiative to challenge the judgement, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's office has sent the file back to the ministry, fearing that the government might face an embarrassing situation at the High Court rather than getting the expected result if the petition is filed after so many years.

In addition, Additional Attorney General M

Enayetur Rahim has sent a letter to the state minister for housing and public works to take punitive action against those responsible for making the delay in taking the decision of filing the writ petition.

He told The Daily Star that there are thousands of cases in which the government is being defeated at the High Court and the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, since there is no satisfactory explanation of such delay.

In the letter, Enayetur Rahim said that only a photocopy of the judgement of the court of settlement has been sent to the Attorney General's office, but other relevant documents have not been sent.

Although there is no specific time limit for filing any writ petition, it is a recognised rule that such petitions should be filed without any delay after the lower court orders, he said in the letter.

In 1986, the government had issued a gazette notification along with a list of abandoned properties, stating that anybody can get back the lands, subject to proving his or her ownership of the abandoned properties in the court.

Sources said about 90 percent of such cases are being declared dismissed at the higher court, since the dates of the case proceedings expired long ago.

The cases are not being moved in time due to the interference of the middlemen, they added.

Enayetur Rahim has also recently sent some land related cases to the solicitor's office, saying that it will be a futile exercise to file any writ petition against the decision of the court of settlement.

BJP lawmaker Andaleev resigns from JS committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Andaleev Rahman, a lawmaker from the opposition Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), yesterday resigned from the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry, reconstituted on Tuesday.

Andaleev in his resignation letter sent to the Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate said, "I was surprised to see my name in the reconstituted committee of parliamentary standing committee on home ministry."

He said his name to include in that committee is supposed to be sent by the opposition party. But his name was included in that committee though it was not sent to chief whip of the parliament, he added.

Andaleev is the lone lawmaker from BJP, a component of the BNP-led four-party alliance.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farooque on Tuesday demanded that the treasury bench include names of the opposition lawmakers in the standing committee on home ministry as per their recommendation.

He said the opposition lawmakers would not attend any of the standing committee meeting unless their demand is met.

Bir Shreshtha Noor Md Rifles Public School reopens on Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Classes of Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School and College will resume on Saturday, says a press release yesterday.

It said the students of morning shift would have to enter the school through BDR Gate 4 (Rifles Square gate) or through the BDR Gate 5 (Hazaribagh gate) at 7:15am.

The students of day shift would have to enter the school at 10:45am using the same gates and would depart after their classes under the supervision of the teachers.

KHALEDA'S CANTT RESIDENCE Protest against govt decision

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, yesterday demonstrated on Dhaka University (DU) campus protesting the cabinet decision that cancelled the lease of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence.

Protesting the decision, around 100 JCD leaders and activists brought out a procession that marched through different roads and held a rally on the campus in the afternoon.

At the rally near the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) intersection, JCD leaders threatened to launch tough agitations in all educational institutions across the country if the government does not cancel its decision immediately.

They also blamed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for what they said 'hatching a conspir-

acy' against BNP and its Chairperson Khaleda since Awami League assumed power.

DU JCD President Hasan Mamun and General Secretary Saiful Islam Feroz spoke at the rally.

Our RU Correspondent adds: Rajshahi city and district unit of BNP jointly staged a demonstration in the city yesterday evening against the cabinet decision to cancel the lease of Khaleda's cantonment residence.

Several hundred leaders and activists of BNP and its associate organisations brought out a procession and held a protest meeting at Sonadighi Crossing.

They demanded immediate cancellation of the decision. Azizur Rahman, president of district unit, Shafiqul Haque Miloh, former general secretary of city unit, BNP leader Elahi Bux Mondal and others addressed the meeting.

PM briefs president about govt decisions

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday apprised President Zillur Rahman of various decisions taken by her government in its first three months.

Hasina apprised the president of the new government's functions when she called on him at Bangabhaban.

The PM also kept the president posted about different debates in the first session of the Ninth Parliament.

Zillur expressed his satisfaction over the government's role in the three months. "During the call on, Hasina wanted to know about the president's health condition," said President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader.

President leaves for Singapore

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman left for Singapore last night for a medical check-up at Mount Elizabeth Hospital.

A regular flight of Singapore Airlines carrying the president took off from the Zia International Airport at 11:55pm.

Family members of the president, Secretary to the President's Office Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, Military Secretary to the President Brig Gen Md Ehtesham Ul Haque and President's personal physician Brig Gen Sayedur Rahman accompanied the president.

DMC reopens Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Medical College (DMC) will reopen on Saturday after a closure following a fierce clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The decision was taken at its academic council meeting yesterday. Three hostels of the college will reopen on Friday while its classes and examinations will begin from Saturday, DMC sources said.

Two factions of BCL clashed with each other at Dr Fazle Rabbi Hostel on March 31 that left its college unit top leader Abul Kalam Asad Rajib killed and 20 people injured.

Later on the day, the medical college was closed for an indefinite period and a 3-member probe committee, headed by Prof MA Khan, was formed to investigate into incident.

Prof MA Khan of the college told The Daily Star that the investigation is going on and statements will be collected from the students after opening the dormitories.

Small cities need to be developed: Mashur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To reduce pressure of the overpopulated Dhaka city, small and medium-sized cities and towns across the country must be developed with adequate economic activities, Adviser to Prime Minister Dr Mashur Rahman said yesterday.

Speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of Planning Week-2009 on the Buet campus, the adviser said though Rajuk is trying to develop the city and two more development authorities are also working in Khulna and Chittagong, there is no attempt or little try for the development of small towns.

Department of Urban and Regional Planning (URP) and URP Students' Association of Buet launched the three-day week with the theme 'Planning for inclusive urban development'.

Buet Vice Chancellor AMM Safiullah said town planners must have to understand the complexities and they will need to give integrated solutions to these problems during planning, adding that the duty of a planner should be like an adviser.

Senior Management Adviser of UNDP Jean Claude Rogireu said overpopulation is affecting achieving over all MDG target in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Institute of Planners President Prof Sarwar Jahan spoke as the special guest at the programme with Head of URP department Prof Rukhsana Hafiz in the chair.

DHAKA TODAY Conference: The European Commission organises a conference on children with disabilities in Bangladesh. Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of 12 books edited by Prof Anisuzzaman will be held. Baishakhi Utsab: Oxford International School (OIS) organises a three-day OIS Baishakhi Utsab beginning today. Memorial meeting: Bilate Muktijodha Sangathak Forum, Bangladesh organises a memorial meeting to pay tribute to its founder late Azzul Haq Bhuiyan. Human chain: Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) forms a human chain demanding cancellation of the bill regarding the lawmakers' supremacy over the upazila panchad. Conference: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and UK Department for