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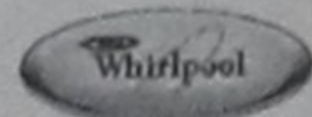
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Khaleda asked to leave house within 15 days

Military lands directorate issues notice; BNP protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was served with a notice yesterday to vacate her Dhaka cantonment residence within 15 days.

The Directorate of Military Lands and Cantonments sent the notice in the afternoon.

In response to the developments, Khaleda Zia held a meeting with BNP standing committee members and senior lawyers last night.

Talking to reporters at the chairperson's Gulshan office, BNP Spokesman

Nazrul Islam Khan said the notice has no legal basis. "This is purely out of personal grudge. We'll face it politically."

He observed the government has a lot of important issues to resolve. When people are suffering from an acute shortage of electricity and the law and order situation is deteriorating, it is busy with a house.

"It seems ousting Khaleda Zia from her house is their [government's] only task," he added.

In the notice, the Directorate of Military Lands and Cantonments gave

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Body formed to appoint another ACC commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a five-member body for appointing a commissioner of the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

The post fell vacant when Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury quit the ACC chairman post.

The commissioner to be appointed is likely to become chief of the corruption watchdog since none of the two incumbent ACC commissioners were appointed chairman following Mashhud's resignation.

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Big budget on cards

Tk 1,13,000cr budget planned for next FY with higher allocations for social safety net, subsidies, development

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is likely to chalk out a big budget of Tk 1,13,000 crore for the next fiscal year, to allocate more money for social safety nets, subsidies, development programmes, and additional salaries for government staff.

It is likely to be 13 percent bigger than the current fiscal's original budget of Tk 99,962 crore, and about 18 percent bigger than the probable revised budget.

The estimated size of the next budget has been set by the finance ministry, taking into account the demands of different ministries and probable revenue earnings.

Economists however are saying, consider-

ing the growth of demand in the country, and the sizes of the neighbouring countries' budgets, the estimated next budget of Bangladesh is not too big.

But, if the implementation efficiency and quality are taken into consideration, economists have enough doubts about how much implemental the new budget will be.

They say the budget should be discussed in the parliament every three months to improve the quality of its implementation.

Sources said according to the primary projection, revenue expenditure might be Tk 82,700 crore in the next budget while the original outlay in the current fiscal is Tk 74,360 crore.

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This barber developed a unique skill for doing his job during power cuts. The photo was taken yesterday evening in Peyarabagh, Moghbazar, where people have to endure severe load-shedding every day.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PM meets Zillur before flying to KSA

Sajeda acting AL chief

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban and apprised him about her visit to Saudi Arabia.

Hasina also apprised the president about the issues which may come up during the meeting with Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, said President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader.

The prime minister left for Saudi Arabia last night on a five-day official visit. This is her first trip abroad after

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Appointment of war crime probe agency delayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The appointment of an investigation agency and formation of a prosecution cell for conducting war crime trial has been deferred until return of the law minister from Iran.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam yesterday said the government could not finalise the persons to appoint to the investigation agency and the prosecutors for various reasons including their security.

The process will be completed after Law Minister Shafique Ahmed is back home, Qamrul said at a press briefing at the ministry. Shafique left for Iran yesterday to attend an international conference and is due to return on April 24.

The government will go for trial of only the 'identified' masterminds of war crimes who had collaborated with the occupation army in killings, looting and arson during the Liberation War, he said.

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Gen Moeen quits as NSC chief

SPORTS REPORTER

Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday stood down as chairman of National Sports Council (NSC), citing personal reasons.

His resignation from the

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BNP STANDING COMMITTEE Vital changes likely as bigwigs under pressure to quit

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The embattled BNP national standing committee might witness a few important changes soon as some of its members are under tremendous pressure from the party men to quit the committee.

Party leaders said some senior members of the committee might follow their colleague Saifur Rahman, who on Saturday stepped down as committee member.

BNP Joint Secretary General Abdullah Al Noman told The Daily Star, "The party men were expecting such a decision from Saifur Rahman as he could not give enough time for the committee because of illness."

Party insiders said Saifur's announcement of retiring from active politics posed challenges for other senior committee members who are now under pressure from the party men to quit from the party's highest policy-making body.

The standing committee led by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is comprised of 10 members including Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, RA Goni, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, Mahbubuddin Ahmad, Mahbubur Rahman and M Shamsul Islam.

Of them, Matin, Mahbubuddin and RA Goni have been suffering from old age complications for a long time.

Moreover, Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, who recently

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JMB suspects held in Jamalpur

Threat letters to Barisal Unicef, WFP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six suspected members of the banned Islamist militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), including two women, were arrested in the early hours yesterday in Jamalpur town.

A joint team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police raided a house at Phulbaria Munshipara in the town around 12:30am, hauled the six and took them to Jamalpur

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CARNAGE AT PILKHANA Govt to consult legal experts to decide mode of trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will exchange views with the legal experts in a couple of days to decide under which law the trial of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) mutineers will be held.

Sources said though many policymakers are in favour of trying the BDR mutineers under the military laws, the final decision will be made after taking opinion of the legal experts.

The sources said the Bangladesh Army has informed the government that the trial could be held under the military laws.

Once finalised, the government will issue a gazette notification mentioning the trial process.

"It's a formality to issue a gazette notification mentioning that the trial of a particular incident will be held under such a law," Additional Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim told The Daily Star.

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CONGRATULATIONS



Our heartiest felicitations to Mr. Abdul Monem, Chairman & Managing Director of Abdul Monem Ltd & Sponsor Director & former Chairman of Pragati Insurance Ltd. on being awarded The Business Person of the year 2008 of Bangladesh Business Awards-2008 jointly organized by The Daily Star & DHL Express.

We wish him long life & greater glory.

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ENTERTAINMENT BILL

Sircar drew Tk 5.5 lakh in three months: JS body

Graft charges against Delwar

RASHIDUL HASAN

Former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar spent Tk 5.51 lakh on entertainment purpose in only three months and took Tk 12.26 lakh in one year for decoration of his official residence against the ceiling of Tk 1.51 lakh.

A parliamentary sub-committee, which is investigating alleged financial anomalies and misuse of power by Sircar, termed "abnormal" his spending Tk 5.51 lakh on entertainment during the parliament session in 2006-07.

However, members of the committee did not make a final comment in this regard saying they need to verify more on the matter.

Meanwhile, an all-party parliamentary probe body also found corruption charges against the former chief whip in parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

Committee chief Advocate Fazle Rabbi Mia yesterday told reporters about the latest updates. He said the committee may summon Delwar, incumbent BNP secretary general, if need be.

"I regret to say that he [Jamiruddin Sircar] flouted laws in taking Tk 12.26 lakh in one year [2002-03] for decoration of his government house," committee member Moyeen Uddin Khan Badal told reporters after a meeting at the parliament building.

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