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Govt footing eviction bill?

TAWFIQUE ALI

The government is spending huge amount from the public exchequer for its ongoing drive against river grabbers, although there is a legal option for realising the cost from the demolished property of the encroachers.

Director (Port Division) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Mahabubul Alam said they have never received any compensation for demolition costs.

BIWTA Deputy Director Saiful Islam said the deputy commissioners (DC) concerned are responsible for realising the demolition costs from the encroachers.

"I believe the offenders should pay the demolition costs, but it's not in practice and as far as I can remember there is no specific law to realise the costs from them," said DC of Narayanganj Md Shamsur Rahman.

Eviction is carried out under the Eviction Ordinance (Presidential Order), 1973 that provides that demolition costs may be exacted by auctioning the demolished property, said Rahman.

"But it is not practically viable. If we intend to realise the expenses under the Public Demand Recovery Act, there has to be a designated authority to declare it," he added.

Eminent lawyer Dr Shahdeen Malik said those who have grabbed khas land and erected illegal structures must be made liable for the demolition expenses.

The government should also take appropriate measures to extract the expenses from the offenders, he added.

Prof Mizanur Rahman of law department of Dhaka University said even if there is no specific law in this regard, the offenders must be made to pay the demolition cost as per the spirit of the jurisprudence.

Deputy Director Saiful Islam said BIWTA had to spend Tk 1 lakh on average every day during the nine-day drive in the Turag.

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BIWTA along with the district administration knocks down illegal structures on the Shitalakhya in Narayanganj yesterday. Inset, a father and son watch the demolition drive that also razed part of their house.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

SHITALAKHYA DRIVE Flour mills, warehouses demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven new structures illegally built on the Shitalakhya were partially demolished yesterday as part of the ongoing drive against encroachments on the river conducted by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) along with Narayanganj district administration.

The structures located near Nitaiganj ferry terminal included four flour mills and warehouses, two houses and a rice mill. They were one to three-storey concrete and semi-concrete structures.

Officials involved in the drive said they faced a tricky situation regarding an adjacent six-storey structure -- Chand Flour Mills-- as the encroachment marking was altered, and its influential owner is lobbying for evading the eviction drive.

Executive Magistrate Abul Kashem led the sixth-day drive yesterday while BIWTA Senior Deputy Director Md Abu Zafar Hawlader, deputy

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BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

JS to get update after 6 months

Treasury bench MPs criticise CG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said he would inform the House after six months about progress in budget implementation in the upcoming fiscal year.

His announcement followed some lawmakers' criticism of the supplementary budget for FY2008-09.

The caretaker government drew up the financial plan and was in power for half the current fiscal year.

Muhith said he had placed the supplementary budget in parliament as per the constitution, and that it does not need to be sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the finance ministry for scrutiny.

The legislature may pass the add-on budget today.

In a brief statement, the finance minister said the country's foreign currency reserves totalled \$7 billion yesterday.

Participating in discussion on the budget for the ongoing fiscal year, Awami League-led ruling alliance lawmakers blasted the caretaker government for 'undemocratic rule'.

AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta proposed doing away with the interim government system, and said the parliamentary election should be held under supervision of the Election Commission.

"In his budget speech, the finance minister did not say much about the caretaker rule--how they nearly destroyed the country. We hope he [Muhith] will speak for scrapping the caretaker system."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

MONEY WHITENING

BTMA favours selected sectors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) yesterday criticised the national budget for 2009-10 fiscal year for the provision of legalising undisclosed money in all sectors against 10 percent tax.

The textile millers prefer some selected sectors like industry and stock market to be allowed to whiten money as the investment of undisclosed money in unproductive sectors like real estate would not generate employment, said BTMA President Abdul Hai Sarker at a press conference at the association office in the city.

"We know the government proposed to allow legalising black money to generate employment so that it [government] can counteract the bad impact of global recession, but allowing it in such a flat fashion would not bring the expected result as most of the black money owners would invest the money in unproductive sectors," Sarker said.

Generally, black money comprises around one-third of GDP in any economy. Black Money means income, as from illegal activities, that is not reported to the government for tax

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Govt mulling import of gas, electricity

Minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Power and Energy Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday informed the House that the government is actively considering import of gas and electricity from abroad.

Replying to a question, he said the government will take steps to set up power plants and produce electricity by using air and stone water after assessing the viability.

"Detailed procedures are being worked out regarding

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Unite against Tipai dam

Seminar urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday called on the government "not to kill people" by allowing India to build Tipaimukh dam and thus cause a drought in Bangladesh.

He said the Tipaimukh dam is not an issue to be used politically, and called on everyone to stand united against the dam to save the country from "turning into a stretch of desert."

Speaking at a seminar on Tipaimukh Dam at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday morning, Prof Muzaffer also said lawmakers and ministers should step down if they fail to stop India from constructing the dam.

The ecological balance of the country would be further threatened and water resources destroyed if the dam is built, he said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

RMG worker found dead at factory

Murdered boy's body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khilgaon police yesterday recovered a hanging body of a female worker from a garment factory in Rampura.

The deceased Mohammad Rakib, 22, was found hanging from a ceiling fan at Paragon Garments (owned by Dragon group) on DIT road, Rampura.

Factory sources said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Dutch support pledged for river training, excavation

UNB, Dhaka

The Netherlands would provide technical and financial assistance for river excavation and river training.

The assurance came when the Dutch Ambassador to Bangladesh Bea Ten Tusscher called on Planning Minister Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) AK

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
June 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Israel's peace term angers Arab world

But US, EU hail Netanyahu's conditional acceptance of Palestinian state

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's conditional acceptance of a Palestinian state came under fire yesterday, with the Arab world and Palestinians saying it killed chances of a peace deal.

The United States, Israel's main ally, saw the address as an important step forward and the European Union as a step in the right direction, but Israeli observers said it amounted to empty rhetoric.

After months of US pressure, the premier broke with his right-wing Likud party's ideol-

ogy on Sunday and endorsed the two-state solution, the cornerstone of international Middle East peacemaking efforts for years.

But he set a slew of conditions: Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish state; full demilitarisation of the future state that will not control its air space or have the ability to forge military pacts; and "ironclad" security guarantees for Israel.

The Palestinians blasted the address in which Netanyahu laid out the peace policies of his 11-week-old government.

"He spoke of a demilitarised state, but he

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Parties asked to submit constitution by July 25

EC to issue show-cause notice if they fail

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) has decided to issue show cause notices to the registered political parties if they fail to submit their permanent constitutions by the July 25 deadline.

"We want the political parties to submit their permanent constitutions to the commission in compliance with the July 25 deadline," Chief Election Commissioner

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

IRANIAN ELECTION

Probe ordered into alleged rigging

Opposition stages rally

AFP, Tehran

Defeated Iranian presidential candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi appeared in public on Monday for the first time since the election that has divided the nation, joining thousands of supporters who defied a ban to stage a mass rally in Tehran.

Mousavi turned up in a car at the opposition march to protest at what the moderate wartime premier has branded a rigged "charade," on the third day of public demonstrations following President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's landslide win.

"Mousavi we support you! We will die but retrieve our votes!" shouted the crowds of thousands, young and old, who poured

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AL candidate wins by-polls in Sunamganj-4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Awami League led grand alliance nominee Md Matiur Rahman has won the Sunamganj-4 by-election held yesterday.

According to unofficial reports, Matiur bagged 79,719 votes while BNP-led alliance nominee former JS Whip Fazlul Haque Aspia obtained only 46,029 from votes cast at a total of 105 polling centres.

No untoward incidents were reported during polling

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OnlinePoll ✓

No govt buildings have taken approval from authorities concerned since 1987, which is mandatory. Do you think it is necessary to probe and take action?

☐ Yes (90.21%)
☐ No (8.67%)
☐ No Comments (1.12%)

Total votes: 623

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the 25 percent duty on mobile phone handsets proposed in the Budget for the next fiscal year?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

আপনার ঘড়ির কাঁটা এক ঘণ্টা এগিয়ে দিলে যদি দৈনিক ৩০০ মেগাওয়াট বিদ্যুৎ বাঁচানো যায়, তাহলে মন্দ কী? তাতে লোডশেডিংয়ের মাত্রা কমে আসবে বলে আশা করা যাচ্ছে।

☐ সরকার দিনের আলোর সর্বোচ্চ ব্যবহারের মাধ্যমে বিদ্যুৎ সাশ্রয়ের উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে। এটি বিশ্বের বিভিন্ন স্থানে পরীক্ষিত একটি বিজ্ঞানসম্মত পদ্ধতি, যা প্রথমবারের মতো বাংলাদেশেও চালু হতে যাচ্ছে।

☐ উদ্বিগ্ন হবেননা, ঘড়ির কাঁটা অনুযায়ী আপনার নয়টার অফিস নয়টাতেই শুরু হবে, ছুটিও হবে সেই পাঁচটাতেই। শুধু ঘড়ির কাঁটায় দেখা যাবে সকাল ও সন্ধ্যা হচ্ছে আগের চেয়ে এক ঘণ্টা পরে।


☐ এখন দোকানপাট রাত আটটা পর্যন্ত খোলা থাকে। আর সূর্যাস্ত হয় সন্ধ্যা সাড়ে ছয়টায়। অর্থাৎ সন্ধ্যার পর দেড় ঘণ্টা দোকানপাটে বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহৃত হয়। কিন্তু ঘড়ির কাঁটা একঘণ্টা এগিয়ে দিলে সূর্যাস্ত হবে সন্ধ্যা সাড়ে সাতটায়, অর্থাৎ দোকানপাটে বিদ্যুতের ব্যবহার হবে মাত্র আধা ঘণ্টা। এভাবে বাসাবাড়ি, রাস্তাঘাটসহ কারখানায় এক ঘণ্টা করে বিদ্যুৎ সাশ্রয় হবে। আমাদের জাতীয় অগ্রগতিতে এ সাশ্রয় অনেক বড়ো অবদান রাখতে পারে।

তাই আসুন,

**১৯ জুন রাত ১১ টায়
ঘড়ির কাঁটা এগিয়ে নিন ১২ টায়**

☐ দিনের আলোয় কাজ সাবন, বিদ্যুতের সাশ্রয় করণ।
☐ দিনের আলোয় সেরে নিন, ঘোরাফেরা আর শপিং।

* দেশের বিদ্যুৎ চাহিদা দিনে দিনে বেড়েই চলেছে। আমাদের প্রত্যেকের সামান্য সংযম ও সাশ্রয়ী ব্যবহার অন্যের বিদ্যুৎ প্রাপ্তিকে নিশ্চিত করবে। আসুন, বিশ্বের বুকে নিজেদেরকে সাশ্রয়ী জাতি হিসেবে পরিচিত করি।

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