

CITY CORPORATIONS

JS body recommends
MPs as advisers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended that the House pass the City Corporation Bill 2009 keeping provisions to make lawmakers advisers to the city corporations and introducing two deputy mayors.

The parliamentary standing committee on LGRD ministry in its report on scrutiny of the City Corporation Bill came up with the recommendations.

As per the recommendations, lawmakers who are elected to the city corporations' areas will be advisers to the corporations concerned.

But the parliamentary body did not specify whether the city corporations would have to seek suggestions from the advisers in running their activities.

Advocate Rahmat Ali, chief of the parliamentary body, placed the report in the parliament recommending that the bill be passed.

Lawmakers earlier were made advisers to the upazila parishads and the parliamentary body has already recommended that the House keep a provision in the municipality bill to make lawmakers advisers to the municipalities in their constituencies.

Meanwhile, two bills on national agriculture award fund (amendment) bill and fertiliser management bill, were passed yesterday.

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain placed a bill in the parliament seeking amendment to the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority

Ordinance to rename it as Bangladesh Bridge Authority.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary body on communications ministry for scrutiny.

Rashed Khan Menon, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry, placed reports in the parliament on scrutiny of the bills on National University (amendment), Bangladesh Open University (amendment), Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University (amendment), Jagannath University (amendment), Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (amendment) and Sylhet Agriculture University (amendment) bill 2009.

Khandaker Asaduzzaman, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on establishment ministry, placed reports in the parliament on scrutiny of the bills on the public servant (marriage with foreign nationals) (amendment), the public servants (dismissal on conviction) (amendment), the members of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (terms and conditions of service) (amendment) bill 2009.

Obaidul Quader, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on information ministry, placed report on scrutiny of the bill on Bangladesh Television terrestrial facility reservation.

Govt firm to try war
criminals: Ashraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday said the government is firm to try the war criminals, says a press release.

Describing the achievements of the government with private television channel ATN Bangla, the minister also said the Tipaimukh problem should be solved after reaching a consensus by both the ruling and opposition party, otherwise others will take advantage of this division.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has solved the so-called BDR mutiny with

courage.

The minister said the government has succeeded in keeping the prices of essentials stable, passing the Upazila Parishad Act, Human Rights Commission Act, Anti-Corruption Commission Act, increasing remittance flow and foreign currency reserve, improving law and order situation, curbing corruption and adopted a satisfactory budget for the fiscal 2009-10.

The government would do everything to fulfil the people's expectations as they voted Sheikh Hasina to power with a huge mandate, he added.

Geeteara
gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to former adviser to a caretaker government Geeteara Shafiya Choudhury and five others in a case filed against them on charge of forcibly occupying a property at Gulshan in the city.

Metropolitan Magistrate Munshi Abdul Majid passed the bail order upon a bond of Tk 50,000 each with two guarantors after they surrendered before the court and sought bail in the case.

The others who got bail are Geeteara's son Nazim Farhan Choudhury, Abu Rushd Tareq, his wife Shamsunnahar Tareq, Shakhawat Hossain and Ripon Chandra Saha.

Moving the bail petition, lawyers told the court that their clients were implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass them, adding, their clients had earlier filed civil suits so that the landlord could not evict them from the residence.

Following the suits, the civil court ordered the landlord not to disturb the tenants and asked the tenants to deposit house rents to the government treasury, they said, adding, but the landlord filed the case violating the court orders.

Moreover, all the sections filed under the case are bailable and as such they prayed for granting bail to their clients, the lawyers said.

On the other hand, the prosecution opposed the bail petition and prayed for sending them to jail.

Complainant Dr Mahbul Alam was also present during the hearing.

In an instant reaction, Geeteara termed it a victory of the truth over falsehood.

"I don't know why such kind of false case was filed against me. I think it is a harassment case," the ex-adviser told the reporters.

Replying to a question, Geeteara said she would face the next phases of the case through legal way.

Her husband former lawmaker Nazim Kamran Choudhury, brother-in-law Mukim Choudhury and son-in-law Adit Bhagat were earlier released on bail on Friday, 16 hours after their arrest on Thursday night.

Gulshan police arrested them at around 11:00pm on Thursday on charges of occupying a property forcibly.

Dr Mahbul Alam, owner of the house, filed a case accusing 11 tenants, including Geeteara on Thursday. Two other accused in the case are Bipul Hossain and Yar Ali.

His wife Farhana Islam had also filed a case with Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court in November 2007 against three companies of the Choudhury's family on charges of illegal occupancy.

But the court quashed the case on January 25, 2008 as the report submitted by the investigation officer said the allegation was 'not proved'.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Nazim Kamran Choudhury said he signed a five-year contract with the landlord in 2002 although the verbal agreement was for 10 years.

He said the landlord gave them a notice to leave the house on expiry of the written contract in September 2007.

"We sought time to shift but the landlord refused. After that I filed a petition in the court and the court allowed us to stay in the house and pay the house rent to government treasury," said Choudhury, adding, "The court also ordered the landlord not to harass us."

He also alleged that in October 2007, the landlord cut off electricity, water and gas lines of the house, which was illegal after the court verdict and as per the rent control rules.

Later at a press conference, the landlord also complained of being physically assaulted by the tenants which was proved false in police inquiry, said Choudhury.

"But the landlord rejected the police inquiry and went to the court. The court also conducted an independent inquiry and upheld the police inquiry and dismissed the petition of the landlord," he added.

Choudhury said in 2008, the landlord filed a case for the eviction of the tenants, which is now going on.

He said he rushed to the office on Thursday afternoon and found that generators were being removed from there by several people under the supervision of Gulshan police.

"Police suddenly went on action to evict us when a legal battle in this regard was going on," Choudhury said, adding he was first taken to Gulshan Police Station and then to Cantonment Police Station.

He said when he was confined in Cantonment Police Station his offices were vandalised and all the properties were destroyed.

A reporter of The Daily Star went to the house and found it under lock and key.

Officer-in-Charge of Gulshan Police Station Kamrul Alam said the landlord has taken over the control of the house.

Siamese twin with unusual
congenital defects operated upon

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

The doctors of Paediatric Surgery department at Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) performed an operation on a conjoined twin with unusual congenital defects here yesterday.

The twin with separate limbs as well as separate respiratory and intestines are joined together below a common navel. One of them has separate legs, while the other, which appears to be a female one, got the legs joined at thighs and feet.

What make the babies most unusual are absence of anus or any other excretory organs that remain to be detected and separated, said the doctors.

A team of doctors led by renowned paediatric surgeon Prof Dr Tahmina Banu, also the head of the department, performed the emergency operation on the twin to make anal and urethral openings.

The twin of Merry Dash, 21, and Mintu Das, 27, a couple of north Kolajuan under Lohagara upazila in the district, took birth at Lohagara Health Complex at 7:00am on Saturday.

Though the conjoined twin could be delivered normally, the unusual congenital defects prompted the doctors of the health complex to contact the CMCH immediately. The twin arrived at the hospital in the evening.

Immediately after the twin were brought to CMCH, the doctors of paediatric department left no time to take all preparations to go for the emergency surgery to develop anus and other excretory organs (penis and vagina).

"Such conjoined babies, which are termed as Siamese twin, are born one in a fifty thousand. And the twin we have here are most unusual since they lack in



Siamese twin with unusual congenital defects are on the operating table at Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday.

anus and urethral openings," said Prof Tahmina while talking to this correspondent at CMCH the same day.

"In medical science, this condition might be termed as Omphalo-ischio-pagus Tripus Recto-bladder Neck Fistula," she added.

"The babies had separate small intestine. But, they shared a common large intestine that opened into a single urinary bladder. One of the babies that looked like female had its heart in the right side and did not have any urethral channel. The other baby had urethra like male."

"We have made two anus and one urethral opening for the babies in the surgery that took some three hours since 11:30am," informed the surgeon.

"Both the babies now look fine. But, if the single urethral opening cannot help them we would construct two separate excretory or reproductive organs - penis

and vagina -- for them during the operation needed to separate them," she noted.

Though it was surprising that the delivery was normal and both the babies were in good health during their birth, their condition started deteriorating since the morning as they don't have openings of excretory organs," she said.

Prof Tahmina said, "The twin babies are now under our close observation. A lot of tests and investigations have to be done on them before going for the rare operation to separate them."

"Even before going for the tests and investigation, we would have to wait for some three months, she mentioned."

The surgeon further said, "It may take us six months to one year before we go for the rare operation upon the twin after consulting reputed surgeons from home and abroad."

ROW OVER CONVENING COMMITTEE IN CTG

Deprived group vows to resist
today's meeting

Convener Jafrul's effigy burnt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two groups of Chittagong south district unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) are now face to face in a row over the new convening committee.

The deprived leaders and activists, who had been agitating since the list of 51-member full committee was sent to the central office, organised a protest procession and rally yesterday to demand its cancellation.

They burnt the effigy of convener and former state minister Jafrul Islam Chowdhury from the rally held in front of the party office at Dost Building adjoining to Chittagong New Market.

Later, the agitating group also hanged a huge lock at the party office before leaving the rally.

At the rally presided over by Boalkhali BNP acting President and Upazila Chairman Azizul Haq Chowdhury, the speakers vowed to resist the first meeting of the new convening committee scheduled to be held today.

They also expressed rigidity to continue the agitation till cancellation of the committee and formation of a new one, excluding Jafrul Islam from the convener post.

Former JCD central vice president and Chandaonish upazila BNP Member Secretary MA Hashem Raju, Sathania BNP Convener AZM Moinul Haque Chowdhury Khokon and Member Secretary Chairman Mujibur Rahman, Nurul Anwar Chowdhury, Noor Mohammad, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and Chittagong south district JCD leader

Shawkat Alam addressed the rally.

Talking to The Daily Star, Hashem said they cannot accept a committee headed by Jafrul Islam Chowdhury whom he termed as a 'reformist' who played a role against the party after 1/11 political changeover.

"Jafrul Islam was involved in a plot to destroy the family of Zia and BNP during the caretaker government regime and he managed to include his loyalists in the committee depriving the dedicated leaders," he alleged.

He said, "These loyalists, whom Jafrul managed to get in the committee through furnishing wrong information to the central office, worked for grand alliance candidates from Awami League and LDP against the four-party alliance candidate in the last parliament election."



Dr M Aminul Islam speaks at a discussion on 'Prevailing Problems of the National University and Remedies' at the Shaheed Munir Chowdhury auditorium at TSC on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. Citizens' Solidarity organised the discussion.

India floods kill one,
displace 400,000

AFP, Assam

One person died and 400,000 have been displaced in a north-eastern Indian state where a rain-swollen river burst its banks four days ago swamping hundreds of villages, an official said yesterday.

"One tribal villager drowned and thousands have been rendered homeless in the flash floods triggered by heavy monsoon rain," Assam's state minister for rehabilitation, Bhumidhar Barman, told AFP.

The official said that around 50,000 more people were still

marooned in some of the worst-hit districts, adding paramilitary forces would soon bring them to safety.

Those who had already been rescued have been housed in schools and hundreds of other temporary shelters.

"We are providing food and medical support to the flood-hit people," Barman said.

Every year floods in Assam wash away villages submerging paddy fields, drowning people and livestock.

In 2004, more than 200 people were killed in floods in Assam.

Man stabbed
to death by
snatchers
in Narsingdi

UNB, Narsingdi

A gang of snatchers stabbed a shop employee to death in Narsingdi town and took away Tk 40,000 in cash from his possession on Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Alkas Mia, employee of a poultry feed shop and resident of Uttar Satirpara on the outskirts of the town.

Local people said the gang swooped on Alkas in front of Birshresta Matir Rahman Stadium at about 11:30pm while he was returning home and took away his cash after stabbing him to death.

Police, on information, recovered the body and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

Tk 1cr heroin
seized in
Cox's Bazar

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Members of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized one kilogram of heroin worth around Tk 1 crore and arrested two persons raiding a microbus on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The arrestees are identified as microbus driver Abdus Salam, 22 and Mahmudul Haq, 18.

Lt Col Abdul Khaleque, commander of 42 Rifles Battalion, said the heroin was smuggled into Bangladesh through Akhaura boarder in Comilla.

Karate training
camp begins
at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-day Karate Training Camp started at Dhaka University (DU) Gymnasium yesterday, says a press release.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the programme.

A total of 50 trainees from different departments of the university will be trained at the camp.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khorshed Alam Bhuiyan, a freedom fighter and former commander of Chittagong North District Unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, passed away at his residence at Mirshorail in Chittagong yesterday at the age of 59, says a press release.

He was buried with state honour at his family graveyard at Mirshorail after Zohr prayers yesterday.

Latif Newaz
METRO DESK

(BARC), died of cardiac arrest at his residence at Rupnagar in Mirpur area in the city on Saturday at the age of 55, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter.

The BARC officials expressed profound shock at his death and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Nat'l Road Security
Plan approved

DU CORRESPONDENT

National Road Security Council yesterday approved in principle the fifth National Road Security Plan 2008-09.

The plan was approved at the 18th meeting of the council with Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain in the chair at the ministry.

Lawmakers Shahjahan Khan, Sarah Begum Kabari, former adviser to a caretaker government Sultana Kamal, Information Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, BRTA Chairman Md Ehsanul Haque, Dhaka University teacher Prof Anwar Hossain, among others, were present at the meet-

ing. Different issues, including road security plan, preserving information related to accidents, introducing road and vehicles act, and traffic controlling system were also discussed at the meeting.

5 Malam Party
men held in
Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A team of Rab-11 in two separate raids arrested five members of Malam (balm) Party and another youth from whom arms were recovered in Narayanganj yesterday.

Rab said a patrol team stopped a passenger bus in Shimrail Janapath area of Siddhirganj in the afternoon which was coming from Narsingdi after hearing shouts of the passengers.

Rab members rescued a bus passenger Gazi Nurul Islam who was unconscious at that time and arrested five members of Malam party.

They also seized Tk 1.03 lakh, four mobile phone sets, two wristwatches and three cans of Malam (balm).

The arrestees are Md Rafiqul Islam, Md Kabir Hossain, Md Farid Miah, Mukul and Md Shahabuddin.

Another team of Rab, acting on a tip-off, raided Purbachal city area under Rugganj upazila and arrested a criminal named Hazrat Ali.

They recovered a revolver with three bullets from his possession.

Dhaka Hawkers'
Samity executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Abu Siddique, Md Maifzul Islam Khan and Md Moslem Mia have been elected president, vice-president and secretary of the executive committee of Dhaka Sangbadpatri Hawkers' Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity Ltd, says a press release.

Members of the Samity are Md Joyal Abedin, Md Amir Hossain, Md Sharif Hossain, Md Golam Rasul, Md Abul Md Kashem, Md Joyal Abedin, Md Imam Hossain Ripon, Md Payer Ahammad and Md Nurul Hadi.

DHAKA
TODAY

Seminar

BASIS organises a seminar on 'Banking and finance in light of digital Bangladesh'. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 4:00pm.

Workshop

BGMEA organises a workshop on RMG export to Germany under present recession period. Venue: Conference hall of GTZ. Time: 11:30am.

Cirdap seminar

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (Cirdap) organises a seminar on 'Challenging rural livelihoods in the Cirdap member countries: Opportunities and constraints'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:15am.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

It is also likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degrees Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 6:17am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 25.0 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

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	33.7	27.0	73	71
Chittagong	31.9	26.0	71	80
Rajshahi	35.5	26.5	83	67
Khulna	33.5	26.7	80	84
Barisal	32.0	26.0	89	90
Sylhet	32.3	25.3	83	88
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.5	79	88