

JS to sue BNP trio

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On completion of a discussion over two hours, the House unanimously passed the proposals. Workers Party lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon placed the proposals including the one for scrapping Sircar's parliament membership.

Lawmakers of the main opposition BNP were however not present in the House during the discussion, as they are still boycotting the parliament since June.

Participating in the discussion on a report of the all-party parliamentary probe committee, ruling alliance lawmakers blasted the trio, and recommended stern actions against them for their alleged involvement in corruption, and misuse of power.

During the discussion, Speaker Abdul Hamid, who was presiding over the session, disclosed that an audit of the parliament secretariat expenditures since 1972 is almost completed.

The audit being carried out by the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General, revealed some anomalies in previous expenditures.

"The audit team found that I took 5,423 taka extra as salaries. I will return the money," Hamid, who was deputy speaker and speaker in the last parliament, and a lawmaker in the previous ones, said.

He said others who withdrew excess money, will also have to return those amounts.

In response to a tidal demand for an enquiry into the alleged corruption that had occurred in the Jatiya Sangsad secretariat during the last parliament, Speaker Abdul Hamid on March 9 formed the all-party parliamentary probe committee.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Faroque was made a member of the committee, but he did not attend any of its meetings. Sircar, Hamid Siddiqui, and Delwar did not appear before the committee despite being summoned by it.

The probe body on July 9 placed its report in the parliament asking the House to strip Sircar of his parliament mem-

Expressway

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tickets over the Internet and mobile phones.

He said the whole of \$460-million pledged by the World Bank for development of the road sector will be spent in construction of Padma Bridge.

The Ecnec-approved proposal on Padma Bridge estimates the construction will cost around Tk 10,161.75 crore.

But the final scheme design submitted by the consultant organisation puts the price tag at \$2.4 billion, he added.

He said the government will issue bonds to collect money from the capital market for construction of the bridge, which may take around three years to be complete.

About the proposed Asian Highway, he said national security will be the top priority in implementation of the project.

Mps urged

FROM PAGE 1
opposition leader Khaleda Zia will share the stage as the chief guest and the special guest," the speaker said.

Campaigns will be organised across the country to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, he added.

Earlier the House could not hold discussion on the amended Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) on Sunday due to wholesale absence of ministers and senior lawmakers.

The House decided to hold the discussion anytime after it resumes its sitting on October 28 as the speaker adjourned the sitting till 5:30pm of October 28.

But participation of main opposition lawmakers remains uncertain, as they have been boycotting the parliament since the budget session of June.

Planning Minister Dr. A.K. Khandker yesterday placed the draft of the amended PRSP with an estimated expenditure of Tk 3,108 billion to achieve the goals and targets set out in the modified document.

He placed the PRSP titled "Steps towards Change: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction-II" for holding discussion in the House as the government wants to finalise it by December.

Aug 21 cases

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Md Rais Uddin came up with the order upon a petition filed by Pintu's brother Shamsur Rahman Toha on behalf of him.

It was stated in the petition that Pintu was tortured in the name of interrogation while on remand, and he would be taken on further remand.

A Dhaka court on Sunday placed Pintu, accused in two criminal cases in the August 21 grenade attack, on a three-day fresh remand to trace suppliers of Arges grenades used in the carnage that left 23 people dead.

Contacted, Additional Attorney General AKM Zahidul Hoque said Pintu was not tortured while on remand, and the government provides him treatment if he is ill.

In addition to his entitlement, the former speaker used three other vehicles, and took Tk 37,80 lakh as additional fuel allowance.

His deputy Akhtar Hamid used two additional vehicles and took Tk 58,86 lakh, while former chief whip Delwar used one additional vehicle and took about Tk 36 lakh as fuel allowance beyond their entitlements.

The probe body also revealed anomalies in their purchase of furniture and gift items, and in entertainment bills during the last parliament.

The House finally held a discussion on the probe body findings and passed the resolution. Ruling AL lawmaker Fazle Rabbi Mia, who led the 11-member probe body, kicked off the discussion in which 13 other lawmakers participated.

Participating in the discussion, the lawmakers said stern actions must be taken against the trio, for tarnishing the image of the House.

They said the actions should be taken, so that none dares to commit such corruption in future while holding such important posts in the parliament.

Some of the participants also criticised the past caretaker government for not carrying out its anti-corruption drive properly.

AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta, Khan Tipu Sultan, Atiur Rahman Atik, BM Mozammel Haque, Nurul Islam Sujan, Israfil Alam, KM Khalid, Tarana Halim, Ziaul Haque Mridha, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal MP Hasanul Haque Inu, Jatiya Party lawmaker HM Golam Reza, and independent lawmaker Fazlul Azim also participated in the discussion.

Vandalism

FROM PAGE 1
College and Commerce College clashed at Mirpur section-2 at around 6:30pm following a previous dispute.

At least 10 people were injured and five vehicles were damaged in the clash.

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About the proposed Asian Highway, he said national security will be the top priority in implementation of the project.

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BCL factions

FROM PAGE 1
Local AL activists say preparations are underway to accord Abdullah a "befitting honour" by welcoming him with a caravan of motorcades.

Rajuk officials accepted the open plot as the car parking space despite a huge signboard for a multi-story building planted there that reads Multi Plan Shining Star, which is awaiting construction.

The team knocked down a portion of the boundary wall and almost wrapped up the demolition drive.

Belal and Rajuk Chief Inspector Nazrul Alam were seen frantically active to cover up illegal structures in presence of other officials.

Asked about the funding of such huge arrangements, Barisal Mayor and convenor of the reception committee Hiron said the arches have been erected by different organisations and associations from their own funds to avoid extortion or toll collection.

Asked about traffic congestions on roads and highways due to erection of so many arches, Hiron said the people did these "spontaneously" and "we cannot prevent them from expressing their feelings for their beloved leader who is returning after eight long years".

When reminded of AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam's instruction of not wasting money by decorating streets with huge gates or arranging any motorcades, Hiron declined to comment.

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