

AL trying to alienate opposition MPs from electorates

Alleges BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has been trying to alienate the opposition lawmakers from their constituents by allowing its MPs to supervise development activities in the constituencies of opposition lawmakers, BNP leaders said yesterday.

They also demanded that the ruling party immediately withdraw the letter asking its lawmakers elected to the reserved seats to supervise development activities in the constituencies of BNP MPs.

"We do not have any scope to play any role in our constituencies as the ruling party lawmakers are now supervising the development activities," BNP lawmaker Barkat Ullah Bulu told a press conference at the Jatiya Sangsad media centre.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Faroque said the ruling party's move is part of an attempt to make parliament ineffective.

In September, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, issued a letter designating

most of the 36 AL lawmakers elected to the reserved seats as 'lawmaker-in-charge' of the constituencies of opposition MPs to supervise all development activities.

Copies of the letter were also sent to the local administration, including the deputy commissioners and the upazila nirbahi officers, in the respective constituencies. The local administration was also asked to assist the AL lawmakers in accomplishing their responsibilities.

Terming the ruling party's move unconstitutional and undemocratic, Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin said even the constituency of the leader of the opposition, Khaleda Zia, was not spared.

He also said the opposition lawmakers took up the issue with Speaker Abdul Hamid, but there has been no response from him.

Zainul Abidin called on the ruling party to withdraw the order immediately, allowing the opposition lawmakers to contribute to the development of their constituencies.

The move is apparently aimed to build a strong base of

the ruling party at the grassroots levels, he added.

In addition to 300 lawmakers elected to regular constituencies, parliament has 45 women MPs nominated for the reserved seats. Among them, 36 MPs belong to ruling AL, five to BNP and four others to Jatiya Party, an ally of the ruling coalition.

The opposition chip whip said that his party was ready to assist the government to make parliament effective, but the government seems to be happy to keep the opposition away from the House.

He defended the decision of the leader of the opposition to refrain from joining the anti-poverty rally along with the prime minister on the same stage, saying that the government was hostile to the opposition.

Khaleda, who had earlier accepted the invitation of the speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad to share the stage with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to address the anti-poverty rally on October 17, backed out at the final hour citing the government's hostile attitude towards the opposition.



Slum dwellers at the Begunbari Hatirjheel project in the city yesterday remove their belongings when Rajuk men went to demolish the illegal slums.

PHOTO: STAR

Lawyer injured during blast by JMB dies at DMCH

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A lawyer of Gazipur Judge's Court, who sustained injuries during a suicide bomb attack of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in 2005, passed away at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Tuesday.

Lawyer Khandker Al Mamun Makhan had been working as the assistant public prosecutor (APP) in Gazipur court and elected auditor of District Bar Association till his death.

His urinary tract was seriously affected by the splinters of the bomb, which later turned into urinary tract cancer and he died after fighting with cancer for about four years.

His younger brother Al Amin Faruque said after cancer was detected in his urinary tract in March last year he underwent treatment at a hospital in West Bengal and he had been given chemotherapy since last December.

His physical condition deteriorated about a month back.

Makhan, who was actively involved with Awami League politics, left behind his wife, a seven-year-old son and two-year-old daughter.

SUNSET LAW AT CU Extension of entry time demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Female students of Khaleda Zia Hall at Chittagong University (CU) staged a sit-in in front of the hall on Tuesday evening demanding extension of time for entering the hall after dusk from 7:00pm to 10:00pm.

Sources said some hundred residential students of the hall started the programme around 6:45pm in front of the hall gate to press home their demand.

They demanded that the time be extended till 10:00pm since the last shuttle train from the Chittagong city arrives at the CU station around 9:30pm.

Terming the existing rules that fixed the time at 7:00pm a "Sunset Law", they also demanded sufficient security measures during the extended period.

Vice Chancellor Prof Abu Yusuf said all the universities of the country follow the same rule. Besides, if needed, one can stay outside the hall after that time taking permission from the hall provosts earlier.

"But it is not possible to keep the hall gate open for all till 10:00pm since movement of female students on the hill-beset campus may not be safe till then," the VC said.

He further said they asked the students, who want to remain outside after 7:00pm, to apply to the hall authorities in this regard.

In such cases, the guardians have to take the responsibility of ensuring security of their wards on their own.

Trial in 6 divisional courts

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The accused in the mutiny case would get the opportunity to appoint defence lawyers, said the law minister.

In a reply to a question, Shafique said the CID is likely to submit its investigation report within this month.

About the number of accused, who are going to face trial, he said it could be ascertained after the completion of the probe.

Asked if the trial will be fair under the incumbent chief of the paramilitary force, who is also an army general, the minister said the trial would be neutral and there would be

no scope for any partiality.

"There will be no lack of transparency and no innocent people will be awarded punishment," he told the reporters.

Shafique refuted the allegation of the opposition that the government is interfering with the judicial process claiming that there is no direct or indirect involvement of the government in it at all.

A total of 74 persons, including 57 army officers, have been killed in the mutiny.

The government on September 15 decided to try

the mutineers under the BDR Act and those charged with killings and looting under the penal code by speedy trial tribunal.

Earlier President Zillur Rahman sent a reference to the Supreme Court on August 17, seeking opinion on the trial process, specifically whether the trial of the BDR mutineers could be held under the Army Act 1952.

The court appointed 10 senior lawyers as amici curiae to advise on the reference. Majority of them opined that trial of BDR personnel could not be held under the Army Act, 1952 even by notification.

Dhaka to ask Male to regularise workers

FROM PAGE 16

Training (BMET) Director General Khorshed Alam and the minister's personal secretary Dr Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday the minister said they learnt that Bangladeshi workers go to the Maldives as tourists but later they somehow manage to get jobs there. "But because of their illegal status many of them are exploited and subjected to abuses."

Which is why, Mosharraf said, these workers often don't get their salaries and other facilities as were promised before they had joined the jobs.

"It is my responsibility to

go there and listen to them and discuss the issue with the authorities of the Maldives," he said.

"We came to know about their positive attitudes through our high commission," Mosharraf said, adding that Bangladesh and the Maldives have a very friendly relations and it is expected that the visit will bring something very fruitful.

He said the Maldives earlier requested Bangladesh to set up a university there and provide teachers for it and Bangladesh had agreed with the proposal.

According to officials of the expatriates' welfare min-

istry, there are some Bangladeshi professionals in Male like engineers and doctors too.

"The delegation will also make sure if there is still any job prospect for Bangladeshi workers," said an official.

Recruitment agency sources said the workers go to the Maldives either via Kolkata or Singapore and obtain visas after their arrival in Male. There are brokers to find them jobs once jobseekers arrive there, a recruiting agent said.

"Jobseekers go there on tourist visas but they manage to get jobs as the Maldives need workers," he said.

43 canals demarcated

FROM PAGE 1

locations of the canals as many structures have been built on the filled up canals.

The standing committee hopes that the rescue operation will start soon.

"We hope it will be possible to recover at least 20 canals by next June if there is no court stay order on the drive," Mozammel said.

Once recovered, the canals will help greatly improve the persistent water-logging situation in the capital. Roads built on the canals will be excavated again and alternative roads will be constructed, Mozammel said.

He said recovery of the canals may need fresh laws since the task seems difficult and complex. Among the grabbers there are many influential persons who might

create obstacle to the rescue operation, he explained.

On October 6, lawmakers in the House expressed their concern over the city's water logging problem and demanded that the government initiate all-out measures to rescue Dhaka's water bodies.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam told the lawmakers that the government was facing difficulties in recovering the canals and water bodies encroached upon by real estate companies and individuals who are "highly influential and financially powerful".

Ashraf, however, told the House that despite these obstacles the government is firm to recover the canals and water bodies to save the capital.

At its meeting the parliamentary standing committee also discussed recovery of a huge amount of land and wealth of the estate of a nawab in Dhaka, Savar and Gazipur from grabbers.

"You will be astonished to hear that wealth worth thousands of crores of taka has been plundered by different quarters and individuals," Mozammel told reporters.

He said the committee has already asked the land ministry to begin the process for recovering and acquiring the estate's land.

Mozammel said land ministry officials informed the parliamentary committee that setting up of land survey offices in upazilas will start in January 2010. The committee asked the ministry to digitalise the survey task.

Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Md Asaduzzaman, former director of Planning Commission and husband of lawmaker Advocate Sanjiza Khatun of Dhaka-4 constituency, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence in the city yesterday at the age of 57, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, daughter, son and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Rajbari.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed shock at the death of Asaduzzaman and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Zahura Khanam

DU CORRESPONDENT

Zahura Khanam, a social worker and mother of Jubo League leader Altaf Hossain Bachchu, passed away at her residence in Chittagong on Tuesday at the age of 70, says a press release.

She left behind her four sons, four daughters and a host of admirers to mourn her death.

She was buried at her family graveyard in Chittagong.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed shock at the death of Zahura and prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Md Taher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Taher, guardian representative at the management council of Silverdale Preparatory School, passed away at a city hospital yesterday.

Officials, employees, guardians and students of the school have expressed shock at his death.

Nazma Begum

METRO DESK

Nazma Begum, wife of Language Movement veteran, musician and lyricist Abdul Latif, passed away due to kidney related disease at her Shyamoli residence in the city yesterday at the age of 71, says a press release.

She was buried at Martyred Intellectual Graveyard in Mirpur.

Her gulkhwani will be held at her residence (131/Ka, PC Culture Road) in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 15th death anniversary of Dr Wali Ahmed, a former lawmaker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his flat at Japan Garden City (Building No. 20) after Maghrib prayers.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Abdur Rahman Biswas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Abdur Rahman Biswas, father of Ashraf Islam, treasurer of Dhaka Sub-Editors Council, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at his village home in Jhenidah.

CLIMATE CHANGE

People should get direct assistance after disaster

Says Razzaque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A certain portion of the Multi-donor Trust Fund meant to face impacts of climate change should be earmarked for disaster management and immediate help for the affected people after disasters, Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque said yesterday.

"The people affected by the impacts of climate change should be provided with assistance that is directly beneficial to them, instead of holding symposiums and

seminars," he said.

The minister was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a workshop titled 'Climate change and trade union' organised by Bangladesh Advanced Studies Executive Director Dr Atiq Rahman said the money being mobilised to face climate change effects must be used in a planned way to ensure that the affected people are really benefited.

Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman presented the keynote paper at the programme while trade union leader Abdul Kader Hawlader and OSHE Chairperson Zaki Rezwana, among others, spoke.

Razzaque said the status of the poor people should be upgraded to minimise the impacts of climate change.

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies Executive Director Dr Atiq Rahman said the money being mobilised to face climate change effects must be used in a planned way to ensure that the affected people are really benefited.

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PHOTO: STAR

Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque speaks at the inaugural function of a workshop titled 'Climate change and trade union' organised by Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

Students, shop staffs clash in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Eastern University clashed with the employees of the shops at Happy Arcade market in the city's Science Laboratory area yesterday, halting traffic movement in the area.

The students also vandalised the shopping mall, damaging its windowpanes and furniture.

Police lobbed up several teargas canisters and charged batons to disperse the unruly students.

They also detained three of the students in this connection.

The clash ensued following a quarrel between the students and the shop employees when the students went to the market to buy CDs.



No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:26pm today and rises at 7:00am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 32.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 17.3 degrees Celsius also at Srimongal.

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	32.2	21.2	67	53
Chittagong	31.0	21.4	73	63
Rajshahi	31.2	18.3	78	73
Khulna	32.0	21.0	67	78
Barisal	32.6	20.5	79	91
Sylhet	32.2	20.0	82	71
Cox's Bazar	32.5	22.8	63	59