



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina crosses the newly built Shah Amanat Bridge (3rd Karnaphuli bridge) on her motorcade after inaugurating it yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Change in vested property act likely to be delayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said enactment of the Vested Property Return (Amendment) Act might be delayed for an indefinite period unless its bill is placed in the next parliament session.

Suranjit, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina postponed its tabling in the parliament although the cabinet approved the bill last November.

The prime minister did this because of her belief that different opinions exist among the Hindu community leaders on the draft act, he added.

"There exist differences and there will. But it should not cause delay in the bill placement," Suranjit said at a discussion titled Vested Property Return (Amendment) Act 2009 and Peoples' Expectation.

Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Vested Property Act Prevention Movement, and Sammilito Samajik Andolon organised it at National Press Club.

Suranjit said the parliamentary standing committee is there to look at the amendments if necessary and will make it ready for placement in the parliament.

If the bill is sent back to the ministry for another drafting, vested quarters are ready to take opportunities to impose tangle, he said.

The vested property, which was termed enemy property before the Liberation War in 1971, was left behind by the Hindus during the 1947 partition and the India-Pakistan war in 1965.

The government took the properties' ownership by enacting the enemy property act after independence in 1971, and renamed the law as the Vested Property Act in 1974.

The law still retains the fundamental ability to deprive a Bangladeshi citizen of his/her property simply by declaring them as enemies of the state.

Properties of Hindu families that left the country have been confiscated as they were labeled as state enemy.

ALRD Executive Director Samsul Huda said the Act affected 44 per cent of the country's 27 lakh Hindu households who

have lost 26-lakh acres land.

The incumbent government drafted the Vested Property Return (Amendment) Act, the cabinet approved it, but the prime minister postponed its placement in parliament suspecting differences among the Hindu leaders.

Speakers said the act should contain provisions to form district level tribunals to settle the cases involving vested properties.

They also demanded ensuring rights of the owners' heirs irrespective of sex to the property, and prioritising members of the same family of the original owner while returning the property.

Justice Golam Rabbani supported the proposals, except the formation of district level tribunals.

The speakers unanimously said the government should enact the Act in consultation with all concerned groups.

AKM Mozammel Haque, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on land ministry, Gono Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya, Adivasi leader Sanjeeb Drong, and Nijera Kori coordinator Khushi Kabir, spoke among others.

Aug 21 attackers succeed Bangabandhu's killers

Says Qamrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Successors to the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman launched grenade attacks on the Awami League rally on August 21 in 2004 in order to kill Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam yesterday.

He said late president Ziaur Rahman was involved in the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members on August 15, 1975 and the grenade attacks on Hasina was launched by perpetrators with the support of the then prime minister Khaleda Zia.

He made the remarks while speaking as the special guest at a meeting organised by The Editor, an online newspaper, reminiscing the grenade attacks on 21st August and a photo exhibition on it at National Press Club in the city.

Qamrul said the government would ensure trial of all the perpetrators of 21st August gre-

nade attacks and carry out fair and neutral investigation into the incident.

He said Tarique Rahman has been abroad for several months in the name of treatment, escaping the law, which is similar to contempt of court.

The government has no intention to restrict Tarique on his returning home, he said, adding that in fact, Tarique is willingly remaining abroad to avoid arrest on charges of corruption.

Presided over by dramatist M Hamid, the meeting was addressed by ruling Awami League lawmakers Sanjida Khanam and Shahida Tarek Dipti, former Awami League organising secretary Mamudur Rahman Manna, Managing Director The Editor Shamim Hayder Talukder and some victims of the grenade attacks.

The speakers demanded the government to bring the culprits involved in the grenade attacks to book and try them.

KHOKA'S CHILDREN HC judgement stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for six weeks a High Court judgment that upheld the Anti-corruption Commission's notice asking Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka's son and daughter to submit their wealth statements.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice ABM Khairul Haque passed the order following two separate leave to appeal petitions filed by Khoka's son Ishrat Hossain Sadeque and his daughter Sarika Sadeque against the HC verdict.

Justice Khairul also fixed October 8 for hearing the petitions at the regular bench of the apex court.

Petitioners' lawyer Mahub Uddin Khokon told The Daily Star the proceedings of the Anti-corruption Commission's cases filed against his clients would also remain stayed following the order of the chamber judge.

The ACC on August 29 this year filed two separate cases with Ramna Police Station against Ishrat and Sarika for not submitting their wealth statements within the timeline specified by the commission.

In November last year, the commission served the notices to submit their wealth statements.

The defendants filed separate writ petitions with the HC challenging the legality of the ACC notices in the same month.

The HC on April 5 this year rejected the petitions and declared the ACC notices valid.

Hearing on charge framing against Mahmudur adjourned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing on charge framing against detained Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, till October 10 in a case for not submitting wealth statement to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

Judge (In charge) Mohammad Ismail Hossain of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Mahmudur's lawyer submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing.

The ACC on July 15 pressed charges against Mahmudur for not submitting wealth statement within the given period.

ACC Deputy Director Nur Afham, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

Mahmudur, former energy adviser to the BNP government, was shown arrested on July 13 in the case.

According to the case statement, Mahmudur was accused of defying orders of ACC, which served a notice on April 19 asking him to submit his wealth statement.

The anti-graft watchdog on June 13 filed the first information report with Gulshan police station against Mahmudur, who has been in detention since June 2.

E-MAIL THREAT Maruf on 3-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Maruf Raihan arrested on charge of sending e-mail to the information and communication technology ministry, threatening to blow up important installations of the country and to attack police, on a three-day remand for interrogation.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ismail Hossain passed the order after detective branch (DB) of police produced Maruf before it with a ten-day remand prayer.

Maruf was accused of threatening to blow up important installations of the country and to attack police unless the four top Jamaat leaders are released before the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr.

In the forwarding report, DB Sub-Inspector Farid Uzzaman, also investigation officer of the case, said Maruf had committed a heinous

offence for sending the e-mail threat. So, he needs to be remanded to know about the cause behind the threat and whereabouts of his accomplices responsible for committing such offences, Farid said.

Detectives arrested Maruf, a civil engineer and a manpower broker, at Natun Babupara in Saidpur upazila of Nilphamari district on Tuesday.

Maruf sent the e-mail on August 25 in the guise of a Jamaat Sura member to the ministry using his client Mohammad Monir's e-mail address.

Maruf sent the e-mail threatening to blow up the KPIs and to make attack on police and the ministry officials in a bid to implicate Monir in a legal tangle so that Monir cannot realise the money paid to him [Maruf] for sending Monir to Dubai in 2007, DB police said.

Special healthcare in Eid vacation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital will open a special booth to provide free diagnosis of over-weight, blood pressure, and blood sugar during Eid vacation in the capital.

In front of the hospital, the booth will remain open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday, says a press release.

Moreover, an ambulance with doctors, nurses, and paramedics will run through the city from Friday to Monday for providing emergency treatment to the city-dwellers.

Authorities will keep open the hospital's indoor and outdoor section along with the diagnostic centre round the clock during the Eid vacation.

Patients can also contact at 01716355433, 01713443330 for emergency treatment.

Main Eid congregations in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Preparations have already been made to hold Eid-ul-Fitr jamaats in the capital and other districts across the country.

The main Eid congregation will be held at the National Eidgah in the High Court premises at 8:30am on Eid day.

Five jamaats will be held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, scheduled at 7:30am, 8:30am, 9:30am, 10:30am and the last at 11:15am on that day.

There will be separate arrangements for women and foreign diplomats and their wives to perform Eid prayers at those premises.

Dhaka Metropolitan will ensure security for the devotees and arrange car parking for them during Eid jamaats, said a government handout.

Like previous years, the biggest Eid congregation will be held at Sholakhia Eidgah Maidan in Kishoreganj.

Two Eid congregations will be held at Dhaka University Central Mosque Masjidul Jamaa-first at 8:00am with senior Imam Khatib Hafez Maulana Mohammad Khalilur Rahman while the second Jamaat at 9:00 am with Maulana Mohammad Shahe Alam.

Besides, two other Jamaats, one at Salimullah Muslim Hall Mosque at 8:00am and another at Shahidullah Hall lounge at 8:30am will be held, said a DU press release.

Eidgah Jam-e-Mosque at 8:30am, Aeroplane Mosque at Elephant Road at 8:00am, Gulshan Central Mosque and Eidgah Maidan at 8:30am, Baitul Quran Mosque at Maghbazar at 8:00am and Kalyanpur Housing State Maath [field] at 9:00am.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, in separate messages, greeted the countrymen and the Muslim ummah on the occasion.

The national flag will be hoisted at government and non-government offices on the occasion. Main city streets will be decorated with flags having "Eid Mubarak" written on them in Bangla and Arabic.

Eid will also be celebrated in Bangladesh missions abroad.

Special diets will be served in hospitals, jails, government owned shelter homes for the socially handicapped and children, vagabond welfare centres and shelter homes for the destitute.

Shishu Park will remain open for the underprivileged children on Eid day. Cultural functions, friendly football matches and Eid gatherings of children will also be held across the country.

Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television as well as private television channels and radio stations will broadcast special programmes on the occasion.

Build illiteracy-free country by 2014: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday called for building illiteracy-free Bangladesh by 2014 through concerted efforts and implementation of pragmatic programmes.

The president made the remark while inaugurating at function marking the International Literacy Day-2010 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

Addressing the function, Zillur Rahman said the present government is firmly committed to ensuring education for all and it has been working with a target of building an illiteracy-free Bangladesh by 2014 with the cooperation of all.

"That's why putting emphasis on the education sector, the maximum allocation has been given to it in the national budget," he said.

The president said the government has been implementing various programmes that include providing education to the working children, hundred percent admissions to all school going children and building schools in

all villages under the basic education activities.

He said "It's my firm belief that it will be possible to build an illiteracy-free Bangladesh within the stipulated period through concerted efforts and implementation of pragmatic programmes."

The president expressed the hope that the country would be free from the curse of illiteracy within the targeted period with the help of all.

Describing poverty as the main obstacle to fulfilling the basic demands and implementing the development programmes, he said elimination of poverty would have to be given the topmost priority for resolving the socio-economic problems in the country.

President Zillur urged the conscious citizens and also the government and non-government institutions to play positive role in resolving the national problems to take the nation forward.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education M Motahar Hossain and Primary and Mass Education Secretary Abu Alam Shahid Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Teachers' recruitment exam result published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of assistant teacher and headmaster recruitment examinations for government primary schools were published yesterday.

Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) published the results in its website at www.dpe.gov.bd.

At least 30,712 examinees succeeded for the post of assistant teacher and 1,852 examinees succeeded in the headmasters recruitment test, according to the website.

The written test for the post of assistant teacher was held on January 8 this year while the viva was held in June this year. Around 8.72 lakh examinees took part in the test and 1.30 lakh of them faced viva.

Allegations of several irregularities marked in the assistant teachers test.

On the other hand, the written test for the post of headmaster was held in December last year and viva was held this year.

4 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

At least four people were killed and eight others injured in separate road accidents in Rangpur and Gazipur yesterday.

Our correspondent from Rangpur reports: At least three day labourers were killed and five others injured in a road crash on Dhaka-Rangpur highway at Mithapukur upazila in Rangpur yesterday.

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately.

The accident occurred at about 12:00pm when a goods-laden truck from Dhaka skidded off the highway and fell into a roadside ditch as its driver lost his control over the steering. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Mithapukur Police Station, Altaf Hossain said.

Nearly 15 people were sitting on the pile of goods in the Rangpur-bound truck, the OC added.

The day labourers had boarded the truck for a cheap ride to reach their near and

dear ones to enjoy the Eid-ul-Fitr.

Police sent the bodies to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A correspondent from Gazipur adds: A CNG run auto rickshaw driver was killed and three others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Kharajora under Kaliakoir upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Shahin, 28, son of Dewan Abul Kashem of Bimil village under Mirzapur upazila of the district.

According to locals and police, the accident took place when a Tangail-bound bus hit a microbus from behind and the driver of the microbus lost control of his vehicle and collided head-on with an auto rickshaw leaving the auto rickshaw driver dead on the spot.

Locals rescued the three injured and took nearby clinic.

A case was filed with Kaliakoir Police Station in this connection.

Moon sighting committee meets today

BSS, Dhaka

The National Moon Sighting Committee will meet at the Islamic Foundation at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 7:00 pm today to decide the day of holy Eid-ul-Fitr after reviewing reports on the appearance of the Shwal moon of Hizri 1431.

Committee Chairman State Minister for Religious Affairs advocate M Shahjahan Miah will preside over the meeting, said an Islamic Foundation release yesterday.

If the moon is sighted anywhere in the country, the concerned people have been requested to pass the news over phone or fax at the following numbers: 9559493, 9559643, 9555951, 9556407, 9558337, 9555947; fax - 9563397.

ACC approves charging sheets in 57 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) approved charge sheets in 57 cases last month.

A total of 110 people including government and non-government officials, politicians, businessmen and people's representatives are accused in those cases for amassing wealth beyond their known source of income, hiding information of wealth, money laundering and taking bribe, said a press release.

The accused include Abul Kalam Azad, former assistant manager of Bangladesh Bank Barisal branch, for misappropriating over Tk 24 lakh; Nizamuddin Khan Nilu, former chairman of Narail municipality for misappropriating money of a road construction project; and former lawmaker Shahjahan for giving allocation of plots of 383 shops misusing power.

The ACC also gave approval to file 36 cases accusing 60 people of committing the same kind of crimes.

Besides, the ACC gave approval to final report of 32 cases and acquitted 82 people.

Khaleda to exchange Eid greetings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia will exchange greetings with politicians, common people and members of the diplomatic community in the city on the Eid day.

She will host a reception at Ladies' Club in the city on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said Khaleda would exchange greetings with politicians and common people from 12:00pm on the Eid day. Before meeting political leaders, she will exchange Eid greetings with diplomats at 11:30am, Rizvi added.

Khaleda, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, is scheduled to return home today after her 10-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

British HC closed Sept 12 for Eid-ul-Fitr

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commission in Dhaka, its office in Sylhet and DFID Bangladesh will remain closed to the public on September 12 on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the eighth death anniversary of Md Makhbul Ali, a singer and social worker, says a press release.

He was the founder of Abbas Uddin Academy Folk Institute in Rangpur.

On the occasion, a special prayer and doa mahfil will be held at his residence "Swapanee" at Munshipara in Rangpur after Asr prayers.

All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:08pm today and rises at 5:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.5 degrees Celsius also at Sylhet.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, and Cox's Bazar.