

Khaleda to appeal

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made the whole process of the lease highly illegal; and V) the lease was against public interest, since the property was of national importance as an official bungalow earmarked for high ranking military officers, and was being used as the official residence of the chief of army staff, and also of the president.

The HC rejected Khaleda's lawyers' arguments in which they tried to show that the decision of handing over the property to her had been taken by the erstwhile government, and that it is a Class-B (4) property.

According to rule 5 (i) of CLA Rules 1937, all properties used or occupied by the military authority are Class A-1 military land, the judgment said. It is not acceptable at all to deem that the property no longer remains under the occupation of the military authority, just because the original allottee, who had been a military officer, died and his civilian heirs continue to live in that bungalow, the court added.

It said the government notice served to Khaleda is legal, and it did not violate the principle of natural justice, because after the first notice was served on April 20, 2009 the government served a second supplementary notice asking her to show cause within 15 days as to why she should not be directed to return the property, and the final notice was served on expiry of that 15 days.

Regarding Khaleda's lawyers' argument over the legality of the issuance of the notice by the Military Land Administrator (MLA), the judgment said the MLA only communicated the decision of the proper authority.

About the petitioner's argument that registered lease deeds cannot be cancelled by an order of the executive branch of the state, only a competent court can cancel it, the judgment said no order of the executive branch cancelled or sought to cancel the lease deed, rather the lease deed has been void from the very beginning.

Regarding the argument that since the government itself made the wrong decision

BSF kills

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injuries while the others managed to escape unhurt.

Later, he succumbed to his injuries on the way to Baliadangi health complex at about 3:30am.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

An unnatural death case was filed with Baliadangi Police Station in this connection.

Commanding Officer Lt Colonel Mahfuz Alam of 20 Rifles Battalion confirmed the incident. He said they strongly protested the unprovoked killing and asked their Indian counterpart to refrain from such shooting.

OMS suffers

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Each OMS dealer will be given 4 tonnes of rice every day for five days a week, the circular states.

Alfaz Uddin, a rickshaw puller of Kamarpara, could not buy OMS rice from Shapla point on Sunday.

"It was a long queue. When my turn came, the OMS dealer told me that there was no rice left for selling," he said.

For the first 14 days, each dealer received 4 tonnes of rice per day. After that, the allotment was cut down to 3 tonnes, dealers said.

Regarding the reduction in rice supply, DC Enamul Hoque said the OMS committee took the decision in a meeting to check the possible corruption among OMS dealers.

"We have got information that OMS dealers were selling only a small quantity of the allocated rice at the OMS rate and the bulk portion at higher price in local markets," he said.

Asked if any action was taken against the unscrupulous dealers, the DC said, "The committee cancelled the license of OMS dealer Namir Uddin of Taraganj upazila on charge of selling OMS rice to local markets."

"Namir Uddin sold the OMS rice to the local market at higher price and purchased lower quality rice for OMS beneficiaries," the DC added.

An OMS dealer of Gangachara upazila said 4 tonnes of rice is not enough for a dealer to meet up the huge demand. "Whereas the authority gives only 3 tonnes of rice to each dealer," he added.

OMS dealer Nurul Islam Bablu at Shapla point said the dealers opposed the OMS committee's decision and requested them to give rice as per the circular.

back then, the court now should not allow it to undo its own action, the judgment said a wrong decision taken by a government run by one political party, can be modified by a subsequent government run by another political party.

Responding to the argument that Khaleda has acquired vested right in the property through living there for long 28 years, the court said, "Petitioner's possession for 28 years on the basis of a void deed cannot create vested right against the government."

Pilots defy

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because of inclement weather in Chittagong.

The flight was not disrupted because of the protest by pilots, he claimed.

Biman was to operate 16 flights, including four for hajj pilgrims, yesterday. Of them, ten took off timely from Dhaka by 7:45pm.

According to the Biman decision, pilots would not get benefits such as insurance and rehabilitation coverage in the case of loss of licence for medical unfitness during the extended retirement period.

"Our main demand is that the administrative order must be withdrawn. We will continue our protest until it is done," said Captain MA Basit Mahtab, general secretary of Bangladesh Pilots' Association (BAPA) that represents 115 Biman pilots.

The pilots said the Hajj flights would be out of the purview of the protest programme.

Pilots said they would firmly stick to the agreement signed between Biman and BAPA to realise their demand for cancellation of the Biman order.

The airline in its order said the increase in retirement age would remain beyond the scope of the agreement under which pilots now fly for the national carrier.

Pilots said the authority must follow the accord that ensures benefits such as insurance coverage for the BAPA members in the case of loss of licence.

Biman insiders said the airline is unwilling to give the pilots such benefits during the extended period since the risks of unfitness of the pilots go up with their age.

According to the agreement, pilots are supposed to fly 70 hours and enjoy eight holidays a month, and not to fly more than two consecutive nights, said the pilots.

They claimed that they gave concessions to Biman on the provisions of the agreement.

But records show that pilots usually fly less than 70 hours a month.

"We will fly in line with the agreement until November 7 and decide on the next course of action on November 8 according to the labour law," said the BAPA general secretary.

Biman on October 21 warned pilots of legal action for any activity that could disrupt flight schedules.

Burnt woman dies 7 days after fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife succumbed to her burn injuries Thursday night after fighting for life for seven days at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The deceased is 28-year-old Khuku Begum, who passed away at 11:00pm at the intensive care unit of the burn unit.

Earlier on October 16, her husband Jewel, 35 and mother-in-law Aleya Begum, 55, also died from burn injuries that they received the day before in the capital's South Goran.

Her father-in-law Abdul Hye, 60, was also injured in the fire. He was released from DMCH on October 15, as his injury was minor.

Golam Rasul Mollah, sub-inspector (SI) of Khilgaon Police Station told The Daily Star that Jewel poured petrol on himself and set the fire with a matchstick.

"When he [Jewel] poured petrol, some of it spilled on the floor which also caught fire. His mother and wife rushed to rescue him and got burnt," added the SI.

Locals and relatives suspect a family feud triggered the suicide.

According to a neighbour Munna, Jewel's parents were intending to give a major share of their four-storey building to his (Jewel's) elder sister Suma, an American expatriate. It caused a row in the family.

Jewel, father of a baby, ran a phone booth in the area.

Tawhid

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Muslims by propagating their ideology, said the OC quoting locals.

The arrestees are Doly Khatun, 22, and Muhammad Eslam, 19, of Bajje Kajla; Shafikul Islam, 19, of Khojapur Jahazghat; Rabiul Awal, 35, of Dharampur; Rabiul Ahmed, 14; Al Ameen alias Sujon, 19; Ashraf Ali, 26 of Kajla; Nazrul Islam, 38, of Dharampur; Mizanur Rahman, 27, of Raninagar; Mominul Islam, 40 of Tanore upazila; Asaduzzaman Khan Sohel, 27, of Beel Simla, and Nargis Khatun, 23, of Bajje Kajla.

Among them, Doly, Eslam, Shafikul and Rabiul were arrested earlier on September 26. Released on bail, they again got themselves engaged in the illicit activities, said police sources.

The arrestees admitted that they are activists of Hizb-ut Tawhid.

In Chapainawabganj town, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three Tawhid men including the district ameer at Rehaichar moholla yesterday noon.

The arrestees are Shamnur Imam alias Emon, 23, of Balubagan moholla in the town and ameer of the organisation, district unit; Abdus Samad alias Lalon, 25, of Sakua village in Rajshahi, and Aktar Hossain Shamim of the town.

On information, a team of Rab-5, of Rajshahi, raided the area near Birshreshtha Capt Mohiuddin Jahangir Bridge around 1:30pm when the activists were distributing leaflets, Rab sources said.

The Rab team recovered some books on Jihad and leaflets from them.

ASP Mirja Golam Sarwar of Rab-5 said the arrestees admitted that they are members of Hizb-ut Tawhid.

The Tawhid men were taken to Rajshahi where the Rab team interrogated them.

Drutojan

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The government took initiatives to restart the train quickly considering the distress of passengers on Dinajpur-Dhaka route, said Md Anwarul Islam, assistant station master of Dinajpur.

Six people were killed on October 11 when the train ploughed through a BNP rally at Soidabad near Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge.

Following the incident the angry mob vandalised and set fire to 11 compartments of the train including the engine and power car causing damage worth Tk 23 crore.

The train was brought to Parbatipur Railway Junction on October 13 for renovation.

Md Abdul Karim, station master of Parbatipur Railway Junction, however, said the train left without the canteen coaches which he expected to be added on Saturday (Today).

High officials of railway including Md Rafiqul Islam, divisional railway manager, Md Joydul Islam, divisional mechanical engineer, and Asadul Haque, divisional engineer, were present on the occasion.

Lutfur elected

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Lutfur was Labour's initial candidate.

But when the party rebuffed him he announced he would stand as an independent with several Labour councillors' backing.

"Whatever party you may belong to, whatever community you may belong to, please give me the chance to serve and deliver for the people of Tower Hamlets," said Lutfur, following his win in the poll, which had a 25.6 percent turnout.

"THE GUTTER" Labour's London mayoral candidate Ken Livingstone has risked internal discipline by campaigning for Lutfur against the party's new candidate, Helal Abbas.

On Monday, he was seen on the streets of Tower Hamlets campaigning with Lutfur.

Mr Livingstone called the deselection of Lutfur an "utterly unacceptable" move by the National Executive Committee (NEC), Labour's ruling body, which "ignored the views of the local electorate".

He insisted however that he backed the official candidate and was simply trying to encourage voters to put the independent down as their

Govt to cut

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of MoP will be Tk 13 a kg and DAP Tk 25 a kg. The government will issue a circular soon in this regard to make the new prices effective.

"We want the farmers feel encouraged to produce more winter crops, especially potato and reduce their dependency on urea only. It is important to ensure balanced use of fertiliser, which would also help sustain soil fertility," the release said.

Prices of all non-urea fertilisers were almost halved on January 14, 2009 and later on November 3 last year the government again slashed the prices.

The government will subsidise Tk 2200 crore for these fertilisers this fiscal year, said an official at the agriculture ministry.

The country requires four lakh tonnes of MoP and 3.5 lakh tonnes of DAP for this fiscal year, he added.

Govt spending

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expenditure in 98-02 FY declined to 19.3 percent in 03-07 FY.

Investment in infrastructure, especially in power and ports, is crucial for the country's economic growth, the report added.

It said the transport sector has been the hardest-hit (excluding roads) while the expenditures on fuel and energy have increased mainly reflecting increases in subsidy to SoEs to cover their greater than ever operational losses. Meanwhile, the capital-intensive infrastructure sector suffers more from implementation issues and low absorptive capacity.

According to the report, though the expenditure in national infrastructure dropped in rural-level development, it shot up during the review period.

Referring to a previous WB study the report said development of rural roads improved the service delivery in the project areas, increased access to school by seven percent, banks by 33 percent and health centres by 60 percent than that of the 98-02 FY. With the improvement of roads, transport charges for passengers have reduced to almost half while freight charges by 35 percent, the report added.

It said though the investment in the infrastructure sector decreased, expenditures on military and civil administration did not increase substantially. The military expenditure has been low compared to that of the neighbouring countries creating space for other priorities. As the expenditure on civil service has not been up to the international standards, they have not produced expected outcomes showing major signs of inefficiency accorded with over-employment in class-III and IV levels and outdated management practices.

According to WB sources, in 2008, military expenditure in Bangladesh was 1.3 percent of the GDP while it was 2.4 percent in India, 3.5 percent in Pakistan, 1.8 percent in Nepal and 3.6 percent in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, economists have expressed their opinion about the WB study. They said besides the government the WB is also responsible for the fall in investment in infra-

second choice in an effort to keep out the Conservatives.

Labour deselected Lutfur as its party candidate over "serious allegations" over both "the eligibility of participating voters" and Lutfur's "conduct", the party said in a statement.

The NEC took the decision last month, even though Lutfur was voted in by local members.

Labour said whether Mr Livingstone would be disciplined was "a matter for the NEC".

Mr Abbas launched a bitter attack on Mr Rahman, accusing him of being "in the gutter".

"This is a sad night for those of us who want to build a better future and a united Tower Hamlets."

"Lutfur Rahman has won tonight but not as he wanted, as the Labour candidate," he said in a statement.

"Thankfully, Labour's ruling National Executive had the backbone to stop him from being the Labour candidate."

"We may have lost tonight, but at least the Labour Party has clean hands."

3 drown

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that has been organised every year for the last 150 years celebrating the Laxmi puja, a Hindu festival.

Witnesses said the trawler swaying wildly due to the mad movement of the spectators overturned around 4:30pm.

On information, fire brigade and police rushed for the rescue. Uzirpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Priyo Sindhu Talukder was also present during the rescue operation.

The rescue team has salvaged the capsized boat.

Meanwhile, four more people went missing as another trawler carrying 60 passengers capsized in the river Ichhamati in Sirajdikhan upazila last night, reports our Munshiganj correspondent.

The missing persons were reported as Mohiuddin Chhoton, 26, staff reporter of the daily Bangladesh Shomoy, businessmen Md Imran and Shahidul Islam Azad, 38, and Konok, 26.

Stalker beats up victim's father

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Manikganj

A stalker yesterday beat up father of a college girl at Paturia ferry terminal for complaining to his parents.

The victim was identified as Younus Mollah, 45, of Baruria village under Shivalaya upazila in Manikganj.

Locals said the stalker Sheikh Sayed Sarder, 23, son of Hossain Ali of Teghuri village, attacked Younus Mollah with an iron rod around 1:00pm.

With severe injuries on his body, Mollah was taken to Shivalaya upazila health complex later on.

Family members of Younus said Sheikh Sayed, an illiterate youth, had been stalking Panna Akter on her way to college for long.

Younus recently complained to Sayed's parents against him. When Sayed came to know of it, he attacked Younus, they said.

When contacted, Sub-Inspector of Shivalaya Police Station Abdus Sattar Khan said nobody has lodged any complaint in this connection.

US nuke

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aide that the codes were on the president's person but that he was in an important meeting and could not be disturbed.

A different official went to do the same check a month later and was told a similar story. When it came time to change the codes, an aide admitted they had been missing for months.

Gen Shelton said it was apparent that the president had not had the codes and that he had been unaware that an aide had lost them.

The general described the episode as a "comedy of errors".

3 held

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Major Kabir adding that, Zahir received a bullet in his right leg when the Rab men fired back.

Rab seized three 9mm pistols and 11 bullets from Zahir's house.

Rab men arrested Zahir and rushed him to Meherpur General Hospital, where he is being treated under police custody.

With information from Zahir, Rab arrested his cohort Anisur Rahman from near BM Government Primary School of Meherpur around 4:30pm on the same day.

Later around 8:30pm, with further details from Zahir and Anisur, the Rab team raided the Alamdanga cattle market in Chuadanga and arrested Zahir's partner Nazrul of Kalidashpur village.

Rab also seized three 9mm pistols, one revolver, three bullets and 2 kg of gunpowder from Nazrul's possession.

According to Meherpur Sadar police, Zahir is an area supervisor of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) and he was arrested with drugs on September 3 this year.

Following his arrest, a section of BATB labourers seized the police station demanding Zahir's release, terming him as 'innocent'.

The police produced Zahir before the district's Chief Judicial Magistrate's court where he was released on bail on the same day of his arrest.

Dhaka City

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The affected animals will be treated at separate locations, he told The Daily Star on Tuesday, adding, the teams will be deployed in the rural areas soon.

The government decision comes against the backdrop of the recent anthrax outbreak that killed at least 37 animals out of 47 cows and 56 goats infected so far.

Dr Baki, however, said the anthrax attack is now under control and there is no report of any animal being affected since September 18.

The government on September 5 declared a "red alert" following reports of human infection through consumption of meat of infected animals, mostly cows, but withdrew it on October 7 saying that the situation had improved.

According to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), a total of 607 people were infected by the virus since its outbreak in August with no death reported.

On checking sales of sick animals, Md Nurul Islam, acting chief health officer of DCC, said the city corporation itself will not take any steps, but they are ready to help the livestock department if necessary.

Hundreds sent to battle Indonesian forest fires

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesia has sent hundreds of firefighters to battle blazes on Sumatra island that have enveloped Singapore and Malaysia in a choking haze, senior officials said on Friday.

Dozens of fires were still burning across Sumatra on Thursday - many lit by small landholders to clear trees from areas of peatland in order to grow oil palm or other crops.

Indonesia's forest fire chief Noor Hidayat said about 300 extra firefighters had been sent to the worst-affected area, Sumatra's Riau province, which lies opposite Singapore across the Malacca Strait.

"We have been making efforts to contain the fires. It's very difficult in the peatland areas," Forestry Minister Zulkifli Hasan told reporters.

Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo telephoned his Indonesian counterpart Marty Natalegawa Friday to express the city state's concerns about severe air pollution, and offer help in controlling the fires.

Natalegawa "assured minister Yeo that Indonesia would address the haze problem, adding that many Indonesians in Sumatra are also affected," the Singapore foreign ministry statement said.

"This so-called haze situation is a classic case or example of a challenge that is transboundary in nature that cannot be solved simply by one country," Natalegawa said.

"It must be recalled that we have not had a similar case for more than three or four years," Natalegawa said, referring to previous success in the

attempt to curb haze.

Malaysia has also been hit by the problem, which peaked on Sunday when 351 hotspots were recorded on Sumatra, but air travel has so far remained normal in all three countries.

The haze issue has resurfaced ahead of a summit meeting of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders in Hanoi next week.

Diarrhoea

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Almost half of the patients are being released from ICDDR'B within 24 hours of their admission.

Diarrhoea is a waterborne disease which causes dehydration of the patient and thus make him or her weak. Doctors advise patients to drink enough pure water to prevent the disease.

Usually, diarrhoea breaks out alarmingly in the country twice each year from April to June and from August to October.

Meanwhile, the sale of oral saline has been increasing for the past few days with its price soaring due to supply shortage. Mizanur Rahman, an employee of Khan Zahan Ali Medicine in front of DMCH told The Daily Star.

AH Badsha, a patient of DMCH, told The Daily Star that he and his cousin Rubel had lunch with vegetable roll and chicken roll from a fast food shop on Thursday.

"Within half an hour both of us felt severe stomach pain and came to the hospital," he said.

Bill Clinton races to help Democratic candidates

AP, Washington

Bill Clinton, out of the Oval Office for nearly a decade and once considered a political liability, is campaigning for Democratic candidates at a pace no one can match, drawing big crowds and going to states that President Barack Obama avoids.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Clinton attended large and small events in the Florida cities of St. Petersburg, Orlando and Miami for several Democratic candidates. On Thursday he headed to Asheville, N.C., to campaign for Rep. Heath Shuler in a swing district where Obama is unlikely to venture. Then he went north to Maryland to help Gov. Martin O'Malley.

And he makes the message personal. "This man has earned the right to be re-elected," Clinton told several hundred people at an outdoor rally for Shuler. "All of the things they say in the cartoon attacks don't apply to him. He's represented you faithfully."

Obama, of course, can draw bigger crowds when he chooses, such as the 35,000 people who recently turned out at Ohio State University. But he's also burdened, like any sitting president, with tough and controversial decisions.

Clinton's staff says he has campaigned this year for more than 65 candidates at nearly 100 events. Many of the appearances took place in the past few weeks, when Clinton slowed his work on charitable projects, such as fighting AIDS and malaria, to focus on the election's final sprint.

The pace would tax anyone, not just a 64-year-old who had major heart surgery in 2004. Consider the past few days.

Clinton drew 5,000 people

Tidal surge

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The tidal wave has inundated 22 villages in Moheshkhali, as nearly 18-kilometre stretch of the embankment there was washed away. Around 10,000 people from Moheshkhali were shifted to safe places.

The Met office said the low-lying areas of Chittagong, Noakhali, Feni, Laxmipur, Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali and their offshore islands and chars also suffered tidal surge three to five feet higher than the regular water level.

All fishing boats and trawlers have been asked to stay put in safer places until further notice.

Fishing trawlers in Mohipur of Patuakhali have already taken shelter in safe places, according to Fazlu Gazi, president of Hilsa Fish Traders' Association in Mohipur.

Loading and unloading of goods at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port was partially hampered due to yesterday's rough weather.

Sources said Water Development Board shut all the sluice gates at different points of the southern upazilas to resist tidal surge.

to an event Sunday in San Jose for California's gubernatorial and congressional Democrats, two days after speaking to 6,000 people at UCLA. On Monday afternoon, it was 2,000 people in Everett, Wash., for Sen. Patty Murray, and