

SC LAND GRABBING
HC asks govt to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain within 10 days why it should not be directed to demarcate the land of Supreme Court through conducting a survey and to protect and maintain it in an effective manner.

The HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury, Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain issued the rule following a writ petition filed by two SC lawyers seeking its direction on the government to demarcate and identify the land belong to the SC.

Asaduzzaman Siddiqui and Akash Uddin Bhuiyan jointly filed the writ petition as a public interest litigation yesterday stating that different organisations are grabbing land of the apex court.

Petitioners' counsel Advocate Manzill Moshid told the court that the SC protects the rights of people, but its own properties are not being protected and maintained.

He told The Daily Star that different organisations including Roads and Highways Department and Shishu Academy have illegally occupied some land of SC.

ACC official suspended

Bss, Chittagong

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) suspended its Deputy Director (DD) Sabir Hasan after six days of his arrest with bribe money.

Newly-appointed ACC Divisional Director, Chittagong, Major Faisal Pasha, told BSS that Sabir Hasan has been put on suspension as per written order by ACC Chairman Golam Rahman.

SMOOTH OBSERVANCE OF 21ST FEBRUARY

Govt wants more altars at Shaheed Minar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has sent a proposal to Dhaka University to build additional altars besides the existing one at the central Shaheed Minar for smooth observance of the 21st February.

It was said at an inter-ministerial meeting at the secretariat in the city yesterday. The meeting was organised to discuss security issues during the national day.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun chaired the discussion attended by DU vice-chancellor and proctor and officials from different law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

Over 8,000 law enforcers will be deployed in and around the Central Shaheed Minar in the city for smooth observance of Amar Ekushey February, said the meeting sources.

Security will be fortified over the DU cam-

pus by setting up 24 CCTV cameras and archways. Metal detectors and dog squad will also be used in and around the memorial.

"Security will be tighter than before in the capital and across the country this year, as we have to maintain strong security for the World Cup Cricket tournament in the period."

The DU authorities assured of considering the proposal of setting up additional altars on the campus ahead of the International Mother Language Day, said the meeting sources.

The sources added the opposition leader will be given VVIP security on the day if she agrees to appear at the memorial with certain number of her party leaders and activists.

Khaleda Zia will be proposed to accompany 30-40 leaders and activists. If agreed, she will get the security and be allowed to place wreath followed by the parliament speaker.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid inaugurates the website www.champs21.com, the first ever e-learning website for Bangla medium school students and a joint initiative of The Daily Star and TeamCreative, at The Daily Star Auditorium in the city yesterday. Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and Rokia Afzal Rahman were present on the occasion. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

Take action against fake certificate holders

JS body asks BSS management

Bss, Dhaka

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Information yesterday asked the concerned authorities to take legal action against the persons who were appointed in Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), national news agency, on the basis of fake academic certificates.

The standing committee in a meeting at Sangsad Bhaban said the action is required so that no quarter can make such a forgery with the government as well as the people in future.

Chairman of the committee Obaidul Quader presided over the meeting while members Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, Shaheen Monwara Haque, Reza Ali, Sukumar Ranjan Ghosh, BM Mozammel Haque, Anisul Haque Mondol and Shahriar Alam attended the meeting.

Information Secretary Hidayetullah Al Mamun, acting BSS Managing Director Azizul Islam Bhuiyan and City Editor Ajit Kumar Sarker were present.

It was informed in the meeting that a parliamentary committee in September 2009 verified certificates of 79 journalists, working for the news agency.

The committee found certificates of seven journalists fake who were appointed during the immediate past regime of the BNP-Jamaat government.

The standing committee asked the ministry to realise the amount of money the seven journalists received as salary and allowances till their dismissal from the service.

The standing committee expressed satisfaction over the objectivity of BSS news, coverage of news in different dailies and new ideas to improve coverage and quality of reporting.

Plan to cut pressure on groundwater

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has planned to meet 70 percent of its demand from surface water within next 10 years to reduce pressure on groundwater.

Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan said this yesterday at a view exchange meeting with journalists in Wasa's conference room.

He said Wasa has taken different projects on water treatment plants to add around 162.50 crore litres of surface water daily. Currently a total of 206 crore litres production consists of 87 percent groundwater and 13 percent surface water, he added.

Taqsem said Sayedabad water treatment plant phase-II, with a capacity of producing 22.50 crore litres per day, will be completed by 2012 while process of phase-III, having capacity of 45 crore litres per day, is going on.

The initiative to set up Pagla/Keraniganj treatment plant having capacity of 45 crore

litres per day and another at Khilkhet with a capacity of 50 crore litres is going on.

"We will obtain result within the next 10 years."

Taqsem said it is very important to increase use of surface water as recharging capacity of city's groundwater is reducing day by day due to unplanned urbanisation and filling up of flood flow zones.

He said Wasa has also taken initiatives to reduce water problem in the coming dry season. "We have set up or replaced 26 deep tube wells between July 2010 and January 30, 2011, which has increased production by 7 crore litres."

Work on setting up 16 more tube-wells are also going on which will add another 4.5 crore litres, he added.

He said they have also set up 233 permanent generators to cover 587 pumps of Wasa.

"We have also set up dual connections in 181 pumps and works to connect 16 more pumps is going on to run the pumps round the clock, even during load shedding."

Suranjit, Qamrul spar over judge transfer

RASHIDUL HASAN

Lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta and State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam locked horns at a meeting yesterday over transfer of a joint district judge of Dhaka, a former a private secretary to Suranjit.

During the meeting of parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, committee chief Suranjit enquired Law Minister Shafique Ahmed and his deputy about the transfer of Harun-ar-Rashid. The authorities recently transferred him to Pirojpur.

"The committee chief alleged law ministry transferred Rashid to harass him as the judge was his private secretary," said a committee member present in the meeting, seeking anonymity.

Responding to the allegation, the state minister informed that Harun-ar-Rashid was serving in Dhaka district court for long 11 years out of his 21-year career. But many brilliant judges serving in different district judge's courts do not get posting in Dhaka, committee sources told The Daily Star, quoting Qamrul Islam.

It is the Supreme Court, not the ministry, that transfers district judges, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told the meeting adding, the ministry only recommends while the SC takes the final decision.

"We recommended transferring Rashid to his home district Sylhet, but the SC did otherwise," mentioned the minister.

Asked about the issue, Suranjit declined to comment.

The committee chief is likely to brief the reporters about the meeting today at the Jatiya Sangsad Media Centre.



LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, and Finance Minister AMA Muhith along with other cabinet members receive Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday on her arrival from the UK after ending a five-day official visit.

SWADHINATA STAMBHA PROJECT

Six experts quit committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six members of the expert committee on much-talked about Swadhinata Stambha project resigned Saturday following a comment by the state minister for liberation war affairs.

They are Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, architects Shamsul Wares, Rabiul Hussain, and Mubashar Hussain, artist Hashem Khan, and historian Prof Muntasir Mamun.

State Minister ABM Tajul Islam made an accusatory remark blaming the committee in a report of the daily Amader Shomoy on January 23 the project implementation delay.

Tajul was quoted to have said the project implementation has been delayed due to the members of the expert committee and they are obsessed with their ego.

The minister did not deny or retract what was reported. As to whether he

was quoted correctly in the report, Tajul said, "I do not know how the paper quoted me."

Jamilur Reza Chowdhury said, "No self-respecting person, in such a situation, can continue his involvement with the project."

"The truth is totally contradictory to what he (the minister) said. It is due to the minister himself and the ministry is responsible for the delay."

Those who resigned just voluntarily wanted to make their contributions to a work that bears national significance, said Prof Jamilur.

It has so far appeared that the ministry and the minister do not have relevant experience of project implementation, he added.

Prof Mamun said there is no personal clash or ill-feeling of the committee members to anybody. The members did not have any intention to

create an issue, he added.

"We were shocked after having seen the report. We expected that the state minister would retract his comment, but he did not."

"It made our collective professional dignity and efficiency questionable," said the historian.

Prof Mamun said the committee members were working without taking any honorarium, but there has always been an attempt to make them scapegoats for any failure.

Though it is a project for presenting the country's national identity, no decision makers other than the liberation war ministry is aware of what is going on, he said.

The minister said, "It was a misunderstanding and I will talk to them to get everything alright."

High government officials constitute half the members of the committee on the independence memorial.



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