

NEWS IN *brief*

115 more cases to be dropped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to withdraw 115 more 'politically motivated' cases filed against upazila and ward level ruling party leaders.

The decision was taken at the 27th meeting of the government-set up central committee on withdrawal of cases filed for harassing political leaders during the BNP-Jamaat coalition rule and immediate past caretaker government's tenure.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting at the home ministry, State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam who heads the committee said, "A total of 807 cases were placed before the meeting and the committee has suggested withdrawal of 115 cases and rejected 287 cases."

Road crash kills man in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An employee of a construction firm was killed as a bus hit his motorbike in the city's Ramna at 3:00pm yesterday.

Giasuddin, 65, of Tikkapara of Mohammadpur and an employee of Muniko Limited died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital at 3:00pm.

Switzerland provides \$5 lakh for Bangladeshi refugees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Switzerland has provided five lakh US dollars for repatriation of Bangladeshi migrant workers caught in the middle of the Libyan crisis, said a Swiss embassy press release in Dhaka yesterday.

As a part of humanitarian response, the Switzerland has contributed two million US dollars to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), five lakh dollars of which is specifically earmarked for repatriation of the Bangladeshi migrant workers.

Contributions of five lakh dollars each have also been made to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and World Food Programme (WFP) and three lakh dollars to UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The Swiss government has made 3.3 million dollars available for this purpose so far, according to the handout.

HC issues rule to ensure gas supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain within three weeks why it should not be directed to ensure sufficient supply of gas for households in the capital and to control the price of liquid petroleum (LP) gas cylinder.

In the same rule, it also asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to set up a compressor at Bhairab's Ashuganj point in order to increase gas-pressure in the gas pipeline in Dhaka city.

An HC bench of Justice Mohammad Momtazuddin Ahmed and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

Japan to donate for dev projects

METRO DESK

Japan decided to extend three grants assistance totaling US \$272,477 (approximately Tk 1.9 crore) for grass roots human security projects in rural areas.

The grant contracts have been signed between H E Tamotsu Shinotsuka, ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh and representatives of three recipients at the embassy of Japan yesterday.

Service to hearing-impaired stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Society for Education and Care of Hearing Impaired Children (HICARE) has underscored the need for expansion of the society's activities for rendering services to the hearing-impaired children in the country.

The society could reach only 12 out of 64 districts in the country so far, its officials noted at its annual general meeting (AGM) at the HICARE's Dhanmondi office in the city on Saturday, says a press release. HICARE's vice chairman Faizur Rahman Chowdhury chaired it.

Ashfaq Ahmed Khan, secretary general of HICARE, presented annual report while Tofazzal Hussain Bhuiyan, its treasurer, presented the audit report.

Guests at the launching ceremony of a book titled "Kalbortika", published by Manusher Jonno Foundation, in Chhayanaut auditorium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



'Recognise women for facing adversities to establish rights'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The success of today's women was achieved due to the guiding paths created over the years by many women who had to face many adversities, said discussants yesterday.

Those who crossed all hardships and social obstructions over the years while immensely contributing to different sectors should be remembered as well as recognised, they added.

They were speaking at the publication ceremony of a book titled "Kalbortika" at Chhayanaut auditorium in the city. Manusher Jonno Foundation published the book that gives a brief description of these women from 1910 to 2010.

Attending the function as the chief guest, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said, "Women of this subcontinent sacrificed a lot over the years to achieve their rights."

Histories of women struggling in different professions and sectors that determine the development of a society have been written in Kalbortika, she observed.

"Women had to stand using their own strength and they will have to go ahead using their own power," Matia said, adding that role of the state for the development of women should not be forgotten.

Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam said many women of this land have built the base of progress of today's

women over the years.

She expressed concern as many women still face social adversities and violence against them still prevail.

"We feel proud to publish this book by accumulating contribution and participation of women in different sectors from 1910 to 2010," Shaheen Anam said after paying her rich respect to these great women.

The book provides a short description of women who contributed and participated in anti-British movement, language movement of 1952, anti-Pakistan movement and War of Liberation in 1971.

It also sheds light on land movement, women and human rights movement, women education, literature, politics, culture, media, admin-

istration, police and defense, art, sports, women entrepreneurship and expatriates.

Sharing her memories during the language movement, Rawshan Ara Bachchu said, "On February 21, 1952, we girls were not frightened but rather participated in the movement alongside boys. I know how difficult it was for a girl under the then social circumstances."

Five noted women were honoured in the ceremony for their contributions.

Nurjahan Begum was honoured for her contribution in journalism, Prativa Mutsuddi and Rawshan Ara Bachhu in language movement and Dr Sultana Kamal and Kumuduni Hajang in land movement.

WARRANT OF PRECEDENCE

SC allows govt to appeal against HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday allowed the government to move an appeal with this court against the High Court verdict that declared the existing warrant of precedence illegal.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque also said that its chamber judge's order that stayed the HC verdict will continue till disposal of the appeal.

The apex court passed the order after granting a leave to appeal petition filed by the government against the HC verdict.

It also fixed April 26 for hearing the appeal.

In response to a writ petition filed by District Judge Md Ataur Rahman the HC delivered the verdict on February 4 last year, directing the government to issue a new warrant of precedence, an order that determines precedence in terms of ranks of officials in the executive, legislative and judicial organs of the state.

It said the district judges and equivalent judicial officers must be given precedence over secretaries and chiefs of the armed forces.

Following a government petition, the chamber judge of SC on February 8 last year stayed the HC and asked the government to file a regular leave-to-appeal petition within the six weeks.



This photo taken yesterday shows the bank of Buriganga River adjacent to East Shahidnagar Beribadh of Kamrangirchar area in the city filled up by Truck and Covered Van Drivers Union to construct a parking lot.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

No to random tax exemption: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

The government will not entertain tax exemption indiscriminately in the future and will motivate eligible taxpayers to pay their due taxes.

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina said this when a delegation of Bangladesh Insurance Association (BIA) led by BIA Chairman Sheikh Kabir Hossain called on her at her office (PMO) yesterday.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said the PM asked all to change tax evasion mentality for the betterment of the country's people.

Hasina said some people often opted for tax exemption, but such exemption will not be allowed to continue.

She said that many renowned persons of the country have a wrong perception that there is nothing wrong in evading taxes. "This is not an ideal perception."

Include all communities in census

Demand eminent personalities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some eminent personalities yesterday urged the government to include all people of different underprivileged communities in the national census for protecting their rights.

Exclusion of communities like Dalit and the indigenous from the census is not only a clear violation of human rights but also of the constitution, they said.

They made the call at a dialogue at Cirdap auditorium in the city. National Census Observation Committee and Self Help Association for Rural People Through Education and Entrepreneurship (Sharee) jointly organised the function.

Justice Ghulam Rabbani said the census should be conducted transparently to contain information of all communities and races.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman, "If government does not include them in the census, I, on behalf of my commission, will ask the government to explain," he said.

Information Commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim, Noted economist Prof Abul Barakat also spoke. Sharee Executive Member Dr Gool Hossain chaired the event.

HEARING ON SCBA'S ROOM CONST Pro-BNP lawyers express no confidence in court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of pro-BNP lawyers yesterday created a chaotic situation during a hearing on a suomoto rule at a High Court bench, shouting in obscene language.

After the hearing, the bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain directed Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) not to allocate rooms constructed on its building's roof to lawyers for next three months.

The bench also asked SCBA not to make any financial transactions to allot the rooms. It also issued a rule upon authorities to explain within a week why they should not be directed to refrain from allotting the rooms and from collecting money from anybody for this purpose.

The pro-BNP lawyers led by SCBA President Khandker Mahub Hossain and its Secretary Bodruddoza Badal yesterday also expressed no confidence in the bench, saying that they will not get justice from it.

The lawyers requested the bench to drop the matter from its hearing-list or to adjourn the hearing.

When the judges held the hearing and passed the order defying their request, they left the courtroom chanting slogans against the judges in obscene language, creating tension at the court premises.

The bench on March 6 issued a suomoto order directing Public Works Department to immediately stop SCBA from constructing rooms on its building's roof.



Discussants at a scientific seminar held at Sonargaon hotel in the city recently. Paediatric Cardiac Society of Bangladesh and Max Healthcare, Delhi jointly organised the event.

PHOTO: COURTESY

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:07pm and rises tomorrow at 6:08am.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali and Rangamati and lowest 15.6 degrees at Sayedpur and Dinajpur.

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 | 32.9 | 21.7 | 66 | 66 |
| Chittagong | 31.8 | 20.1 | 59 | 53 |
| Rajshahi | 31.4 | 16.4 | 81 | 49 |
| Rangpur | 30.0 | 16.4 | 62 | 46 |
| Khulna | 33.2 | 19.8 | 82 | 51 |
| Barisal | 32.8 | 19.0 | 73 | 54 |
| Sylhet | 33.8 | 18.8 | 56 | 39 |



National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman speaks at a dialogue on inclusion of under privileged communities in the upcoming census in the city's Cirdap auditorium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR