

VESTED PROPERTY RETURN ACT
YET TO BE AMENDED

Suranjit blames bureaucrats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will face a big challenge in the next polls if it does not enact the vested property return (amendment) act, said Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta.

The act is yet to be passed [in parliament] due to the intervention of bureaucrats, said Suranjit.

He urged the government to enact the proposed vested property return (amendment) bill 2010 in the current session of parliament.

He told a roundtable yesterday in the city, Arpito Sampatti Ain Pratirodh Andolon (ASAPA), Sammilita Samajik Andolan, Nijera Kori and ALRD, Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, BLAST and HDRC organised it.

Lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon said the government is delaying in enacting this act fearing that it would lose votes from the Muslims.

The minorities and the progressive people will drop their support from the government if it fails to implement its election pledges of enacting the act, said Sultana Kamal, former adviser to a caretaker government.

AFM Mozzamel Haque, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on the land ministry, assured of reviewing the proposed bill before placing it in parliament.

Arpito Sampatti Ain Pratirodh Andolon General Secretary Subrata Chowdhury placed a 7-point demand, including a gazette on the list of all properties as vested property till March 23, 1974.

Kamal Lohani, Prof Ajoy Roy, Syed Abul Maksud, Prof Mesbah Kamal, Sara Hossain, Rana Das Gupta, also spoke at the meeting, chaired by freedom fighter CR Dutt.

Stop unauthorised drug advertisement

Demand speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday emphasised proper implementation of the drug act to stop unauthorised advertisement of drugs.

They also recommended formulation of a common policy for media on medicine related advertisement.

They were speaking at a view exchange meeting titled "Public Awareness to Stop Unauthorised Advertisement of drugs".

Rights to Worker and Consumer Safety and Public Accountability in Bangladesh, a project of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), organised the programme at its conference room in the city.

Underscoring the need of addressing loopholes in the law, they said the Drug Administration, responsible for controlling advertisements on drugs, should be strengthened.

Responsibility of mass media and awareness of both advertisers and customers are also important in advertisement, they added.

Deputy Director (Law) of BLAST Farida Yasmin, Safety and Rights Programme Director Sekender Ali Mina, Advocate Qazi Zahed Iqbal, journalists and advertisement managers of different media also spoke.

HC summons Bogra court judge, PP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the district and sessions judge of Bogra, and public prosecutor (PP) of his court in connection with disposal of a sensational murder case through compromise.

In a suo moto order, an HC bench directed the judge and prosecutor to appear before it today morning for explaining their status about the reported out of court settlement of the case.

The HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore passed the order following a report published on The Dainik Destiny yesterday with a headline "Dr Shuvro killing case suppressed: Compromise of two wives with killers".

Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain placed the report before the HC bench for necessary orders.

The report stated that Dr MM Yeatimul Haque alias Shuvro was killed in Isabpur Tupipara area of Kahal Uppazila in Bogra on December 29, 2007.

Shuvro's second wife Angura Begum filed a murder case against his first wife Julekha Khatun and some others. Julekha also filed a case against the witnesses of the case filed by Angura, it said.

DAG Altaf Hossain told The Daily Star that the district and sessions judge of Bogra dismissed the case on June 1 on the ground that it has been settled through compromise out of the court.

Earlier additional district and sessions judge felt embarrassed to deal with the case, he added.



BNP standing committee member MK Anwar addresses a rally in front of BNP office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday demanding release of BNP leaders and activists arrested during the recent 36-hour hartal called by the party and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami.

PHOTO: STAR

PM asks SSF to ensure people's access to VVIPs

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the Special Security Force (SSF) to ensure that the people are not deprived of access to public representatives for security reasons.

"You will provide security, but don't isolate the public representatives from the contact of people in the name of ensuring security", she said at the 25th Raising Ceremony of the SSF at the Officers' Mess in the city's Tejgaon.

Hasina reminded the elite force that the prime minister of the country is also a public representative and came to the power for five years with the people's mandate and will again go to the people for seeking their mandate after the tenure ends.

She said the SSF members should handle the people carefully so the VVIPs are not kept away from the people. Even a poor man should be allowed to meet the prime minister or other VVIPs, she said.

"Make it sure that nobody gets hurt by your (SSF) attitude."

Hasina said a leader or a public representative will have nothing if he or she loses the contacts with the mass people. "This is very painful for a leader."

The SSF has to pay equal attention to everyone, she noted. "One might not be well dressed, but that person may come to me for a serious matter, need to talk to me and that person is my voter." And voters always get priority to her, as she is leader of the mass people, she said.

"I know you are doing a very tough job, but you must not show negligence to the people," the prime minister advised the SSF personnel.

She asked them to maintain good relation, close coordination, and contacts with other associated agencies to ensure foolproof security for the VVIPs.

The premier further advised the SSF members to maintain good character, strict discipline, sharp intelligence, honesty, and tolerance alongside developing professional skills.

SSF Director General Maj Gen Mian Mohammad Joynul Abedin gave the welcome address.

4 Khelafat men held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested four leaders and activists of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, including its Dhaka city unit President Nomman Majharai and Secretary Advocate Mijanur Rahman.

Two others are Qamru Hasan, President of Dhaka city unit (South) of Chhatra Majlis, and General Secretary (North) Abdul Bashar.

Chhatra Majlis is the student wing of Khelafat Majlis, a ally of BNP-led four-party coalition.

Police picked up them from a procession near the city's Bijoynagar area. They brought out the procession from its central office at Paltan in favour of the caretaker government system.

CTG WATER PLANT

Tk 302 cr deal with Chinese co signed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority signed a contract with a Chinese joint venture company yesterday for establishing phase one of Karnaphuli Water Supply Project, a water treatment plant, at Pomra of Rangunia upazila.

China National Technical Import and Export Corporation (CNTIEC) and Beijing Sound Environment Engineering Corporation (BSEEC), got the Tk 302 crore deal.

Chittagong Wasa Deputy Managing Director Sayed Ohidur Rahman, President of CNTIEC Shah Wei and General Manager of BSEEC Wei Wei signed the contract on behalf of their respective organisations.

The total cost of the project is 1501 crore.

Stricter UK visa rules on cards

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The British government has set out plans for stricter visa criteria for applicants who want to stay in the UK, and the new rules would break the link between immigrants coming to work in the UK and settling there permanently.

A statement issued yesterday by the British High Commission in Dhaka reads, "Migrants coming to the UK to work on temporary visas will no longer be able to apply for settlement."

The UK government's proposals, announced in London on June 9, are to implement reforms in their immigration system to reduce the levels to more sustainable levels.

The UK government is re-classifying the visa titles as either "temporary" or "permanent". "We intend to break the automatic link between immigrants coming to the UK to work and settling here permanently", said Immigration Minister Damian Green.

"Settlement has become almost automatic for those who choose to stay. This needs to change. The immigration system has got to be made to work properly. We want the brightest and best workers to come to the UK, make a strong contribution to our economy while they are here, and then return home," Green added.

Under the current system, many workers are allowed to apply to stay in the UK permanently.

MONEY LAUNDERING Hearing on Koko's case on June 19

COURT CORRESPONDENT

ADhaka court yesterday fixed June 19 for hearing on arguments of a money laundering case against Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, and Ismail Hossain Saimon, son of former shipping minister late Akbar Hossain.

After completion of recording statement of ACC Deputy Director Abu Sayeed, also the investigation officer of the case, Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special judge Court-3 set the date.

Meantime, two more prosecution witnesses -- Munshi Abdul Majid, a former metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka court, and Abdur Rob, an assistant secretary of foreign affairs, -- gave their statements before the court.

The court on June 6 framed fresh charges against Koko and Saimon under Money Laundering Prevention Act 2002 to avoid legal complications as they were indicted for activities which occurred before 2009.

The same court indicted Koko and Saimon under Money Laundering Prevention Act 2009 on November 30 last year.

The ACC filed the case against the duo on March 17, 2009 on charge of siphoning Tk 19.7 crore off to Singapore.

The ACC pressed charges against Koko and Saimon on November 15, 2009.

Koko had earlier gone abroad for his treatment while Saimon has been absconding since filing of the case.



When the city's people are experiencing daily power outages due to a shortage of electricity, these lampposts on Tejgaon flyover in the city keep on glowing around 12:00 noon yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

INTRACO
PROPERTIES

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29

REHAB SUMMER FAIR'11

BICC, DHAKA

16-19 JUNE, 2011

INTRACO

PROPERTIES

@
Kolatoli
COX'S BAZAR

RAFFLES
Sea View
HOTEL & APARTMENT

400

Studio Apartment

For Sale

29
PARK ROAD, BARIDHARA, DHAKA

Apartments
FOR SALE

Chittagong

Intraco Six Sector
at BOHS Cartonment

Intraco Evergreen
at BOHS Cartonment

Intraco Hill View
at BOHS Cartonment

Intraco Continent
at BOHS Cartonment

Intraco Casablanca
at BOHS Cartonment

Intraco Cleopatra
at BOHS Cartonment

Intraco Pyramid
at BOHS Cartonment

MEMBER REHAB