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'Parliament just approves laws the govt wants to enact' Says GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday told parliament that in the existing system, the parliament is incapable of doing anything other than legislating laws the government wants to implement.

He holds Article 70 of the Constitution responsible for this situation, demanding its amendment.

According to Article 70, a person elected as a member of parliament through an election in which they were nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate their seat if -- they resign from that party, or vote in parliament against that party.

Quader, also the deputy leader of the opposition, made this observation while participating in a discussion on the special

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Amidst a sea of plastic, a lone worker meticulously sifts through a towering pile of discarded bottles. Each bottle represents a small victory in the battle against waste, as it will be transformed into pellets and given new life in recycling and manufacturing factories across the city and its outskirts. This photo was taken in Meradia area of Khilgaon recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TK 132CR EMBEZZLEMENT

End probe against Wasa MD, 8 others by May 30

Court asks ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to submit by May 30 the probe report on documents submitted earlier regarding the Tk 132 crore embezzlement allegation against Wasa managing director Taqsem A Khan and eight others.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after the ACC failed to submit any probe report by yesterday, said Munjur Alam, a lawyer for the complainant.

The judge also directed the complainant to submit to the court a series of documents, which were earlier submitted to the ACC, on "corruption" of the accused.

On January 30, the same court directed the ACC to submit the probe report by yesterday.

Shahab Uddin Sarkar, secretary of Wasa Karmachari Bahumukhi Samabay Samity Ltd, a cooperative of Wasa employees, on November 10 last year filed the case against Taqsem and the others for their alleged involvement with corruption.

Shahab, in the complaint, alleged that Taqsem and the eight accused withdrew around Tk 132 crore from the cooperative's account with Janata Bank without any approval of the committee concerned.

PRAYER TIMING APRIL 11					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:24	12:45	4:45	6:22	7:45	
JAMAAT 4:34	1:15	5:00	6:32	8:15	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					
SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING					
RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR		
19	11		6:22		
20	12	4:18	6:23		
21	13	4:17	6:23		

The grim picture of street children's lives

4 out of every 10 never enrolled in school, finds BBS survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around four out of every 10 street children have never been enrolled in school, according to a survey conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The survey findings reveal that over 56.6 percent of street children who attend school are unable to complete grade five. Only a small fraction -- 8.8 percent -- can complete this grade.

"Survey on Street Children 2022" was conducted with support from Unicef Bangladesh and the Department of Social Services, Planning Minister MA Mannan unveiled the survey findings at the BBS Auditorium in the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

The findings reveal that Chattogram, followed closely by Barishal and Dhaka, has the highest number of street children.

The survey findings are based on first-hand reports from a sample of 7,200 children aged five to 17 years in hotspots of the country's eight divisions. While the report does

AT A GLANCE

- » 56.6pc unable to complete fifth grade
- » 65.1pc come to the streets with parents
- » 64pc of girls use unhygienic cloth during menstruation
- » 13.7pc abuse drugs
- » 61.7pc physically abused at work
- » 72pc unwilling to rehabilitate

The survey's findings are shocking. They tell us not only of the urgent work ahead but also of the empathy and support that children living and working on the streets need from us.

Sheldon Yett
Unicef representative to Bangladesh

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not contain exact figures, Unicef fears that the number of children living on the streets in Bangladesh could be in the millions.

"The survey's findings are shocking. They tell us not only of the urgent work ahead but also of the empathy and support that children living and working on the streets need from us," said Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh.

The survey revealed that 28.3

percent of street children can read and write, while 30.8 percent can write, and 31.5 percent can only read.

Poverty or hunger, parents' migration to urban areas, and the need to explore work opportunities are the main driving factors for the children to leave their homes and end up on the streets, according to the findings. The survey report also mentioned that 65.1 percent

No threats centring Pahela Baishakh: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun yesterday said they were not aware of any threat centring the celebration of Pahela Baishakh.

"However, highest security measures will be taken during Mangal Shobhajatra," he said while inspecting security measures at Bashundhara City Shopping Complex in the city.

Top police officials including DMP Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq accompanied him.

The IGP said police took security measures at all markets and shopping malls and people are shopping without any inhibition.

All units of police are working their level best to ensure security and ease of traffic jam on the streets, he added.

The police chief also said that citizens can avail police escort when carrying large sums of money.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT Govt takes up Tk 2,995cr project

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

The government plans to take up a Tk 2,995 crore project for enhancing its technical and administrative capacity to manage the environment in a sustainable manner across the country.

Under this project, the Department of Environment (DoE) will build its permanent regional offices and laboratories in at least 35 districts and four divisions by acquiring 13.15 acres of land.

The project will establish a "Green Credit Guarantee Scheme" to incentivise the financial sector to support green investments, which will reduce air pollution, according to the documents of the planning ministry.

The project, "Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation", will be placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) today.

The project will also be helpful to improve environmental regulations and curb pollution.

Aiming at reducing pollution, the DoE will establish an air-quality forecasting system.

Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, and Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority will jointly implement the project under the leadership of the DoE.

The project is expected to start in July 2023 and be completed in June 2028. The World Bank will finance the project with Tk 2,569 crore, and French aid agency Agence Française de Développement (AFD) will provide Tk 232.13 crore.

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Human trafficking syndicate busted

Gang, in guise of NGO, forged visas to send people abroad

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The promise of a better life in a foreign land has long been a lure for many. But for some, this dream turns into a nightmare when they become targets of human-trafficking syndicates.

The Cyber and Special Crime Division of the police's Detective Branch (DB) has revealed that a syndicate has been forging documents to obtain visas for countries like the USA and Europe, and then trafficking people into those countries as NGO workers.

The details of this elaborate scheme came to light after the detectives arrested three members of the syndicate. The three suspects, Abul Kashem Shaikh, Bokhtiar Hossain, and Nazrul Islam, were apprehended by DB yesterday. They were involved in the criminal activities for over a decade.

Kashem, who identified himself as the CEO of an NGO called Kathak Academy, has been involved in trafficking people since 2008, according to Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"We have seized 31 passports from Kashem's possession. He collected these passports through his agents with an aim of trafficking people to the USA, Germany, Japan, Italy, Dubai, and France," said Rashid.

Kashem's modus operandi involved sending a

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Announce April 10 as 'Republic Day'

Speakers demand at event on Proclamation of Independence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday demanded announcing April 10 as "Republic Day" since Bangladesh's Proclamation of Independence was adopted on this day in 1971.

"I believe that April 10 -- the day on which Bangladesh emerged as an independent country -- will be recognised as Republic Day," said Barrister M Amir-ul Islam, who drafted the proclamation, while presenting a keynote at the event held at Dhaka's Foreign Service Academy.

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) organised the conference titled "The Proclamation of Independence: 10th April 1971 and Birth of a Sovereign Republic".

Amir-ul Islam said, "The Proclamation of Independence is the constitutional basis of the state named People's Republic of Bangladesh, which was born on April 10, 1971 in Mujibnagar. The proclamation is the birth

certificate of Bangladesh."

Speaking as chief guest, Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said, "Bangladesh's Proclamation of Independence is a result of a long-run movement for independence in which Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was at the epicentre."

He stressed on preserving the history of "Republic Day" using technology and spreading it to the young generation.

According to a press release issued by BILIA, former high commissioner of India to Bangladesh Veena Sikri said the March 7 speech of Bangabandhu and the Proclamation of Independence of April 10 are the "arts of events" in the history of Bangladesh.

Indian army officer who took part in the fight for Bangladesh's liberation and author of the book "From East Pakistan to Bangladesh" Brig (ret'd) RP Singh, former police superintendent Mahbub Uddin

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Eminent personalities, including those who contributed to Bangladesh's fight for liberation, spoke about the importance of giving due recognition to the country's Proclamation of Independence by observing April 10 as "Republic Day" at a conference held at Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED