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'The property belongs to govt'

SC on case filed over ownership of abandoned property worth Tk 300cr in Dhanmondi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday quashed a case filed by one S Nehal Ahmed who sought ownership of an abandoned property in Dhanmondi worth around Tk 300 crore.

Upholding an HC verdict which ruled that the government is the owner of the property, the court said it found forgery in documents submitted in support of the case.

The property is located at House-29 of Road-2 in Dhanmondi.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique delivered the order after hearing four petitions filed by Nehal Ahmed, a claimant of the property, and the government.

"It is being found from the documents that different signatures of the same person have been put in the papers prepared and submitted in one day to the court in connection with this case," the CJ told the lawyers for Nehal Ahmed during the hearing.

"The documents over the date of birth are also seen tampered. There is no signature and seal of the court of settlement in the relevant papers of the case. Why did such forgery take place? There must be a syndicate behind this," he added.

The apex court also affirmed the HC order that fined Tk 10,000 to journalist Abed Khan for claiming

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In times of calamity, animals often fade into the background, but not for this little girl. In the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha, she tenderly holds her two beloved cats while her family tries to salvage whatever's left. This photo was taken in St Martin's Island yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



It may disrupt smooth LDC graduation

Hasina on climate-induced disasters

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she feared that frequent climate-induced disasters may disrupt Bangladesh's smooth transition from LDC to a developing country.

"Climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction are, therefore, policy priorities of my government," she said.

The premier said this in her pre-recorded video speech that was played in the 79th Annual Session of the Economic and Social

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Dhaka facing over 600 MW of load shedding during daytime

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka alone been experiencing more than 600 MW of load shedding during daytime.

According to official sources, like the previous few days, the country has been seeing over 2,000 MW of power shortage. As a result, consumers across the country are facing power outages for 6 to 7 hours at different times of the day.

"After evening, the situation will be deteriorating with the increase in demand," said a top official of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). He pointed at gas shortage for the reason behind the lack in power supply.

"We have been getting a lower supply of gas that forced us to keep at least 25 generation units across the country shut," he said. BPDB receives a normal supply of gas. It can produce 6,500 MW of electricity from its gas-fired plants.

"We're now producing 4,667 MW because of gas shortage," he noted.

Meanwhile, Managing Director of Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco), Md Kausar Ameer Ali, said the area under them was experiencing 308 MW of load shedding during daytime. "Desco is receiving about 800 MW against a demand of 1,111 MW," he said.

Desco is entrusted with the distribution of electricity in Dhaka's north, north-west and eastern parts, while Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPPC) is responsible for power supply in the south, south-east and central parts.

DPDC Managing Director Bikash Dewan said areas under DPDC has been experiencing a shortage of about 340 MW which might be up after the evening. DPDC has a demand of more than 1,600 MW and receiving 1,250 MW.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Nasrul Hamid yesterday said that it will take two days to improve the power and gas supply situation in the country.

Will identify, demolish risky buildings

Rajuk chairman tells seminar on earthquake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives (LGRD) Minister Md Tazul Islam yesterday underscored the importance of constructing earthquake resilient infrastructures in the country.

"Numerous areas of Dhaka lack the necessary infrastructure and facilities to carry out post-earthquake rescue operations. It is imperative that we acknowledge this before it is too late," he said.

The minister was speaking at a seminar titled "Dhaka at earthquake risk, what the media should do", organised by the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) at its auditorium.

He also highlighted the importance of wide roads and open spaces where people could seek shelter during the earthquake.

He said, "Our country is prone to earthquake, so even minor flaws during construction can result in a disaster."

Regarding unplanned development and infrastructure construction, the minister held everyone accountable and called for stronger roles from institutions responsible for overseeing structures to ensure compliance with the National Building Code.

He criticised companies that

deviate from the approved plans by Rajuk for financial gains. To address this issue, he proposed that Rajuk appoint a monitoring agency to oversee construction works.

Pointing out the lack of accountability in accidents such as the Rana Plaza collapse, the minister stressed the need to

three months, following which the city corporations would start demolishing those.

The seminar featured a keynote paper on earthquake risk reduction in Bangladesh, presented by Mehedi Ahmed Ansary, a professor at the department of civil engineering at Buet.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Construct earthquake resilient infrastructures

Build facilities for post earthquake rescue efforts

Increase accountability of authorities concerned

Establish monitoring agency to oversee construction works

ensure responsibility.

"While the building owner was arrested, the construction company responsible for the structure was not held accountable," he said.

He also emphasised the importance of creating a master plan for a well-planned Dhaka.

Rajuk Chairman Md Anisur Rahman Miah, a special guest at the seminar, announced that all risky buildings in Dhaka would be identified within the next

The event was presided over by Mursalin Nomani, president of DRU, and moderated by Tofazzel Hossain Rubel, the information technology and training affairs secretary of DRU.

Among others, former director general of fire service Brig Genl (ret'd) Ali Ahmed Khan, architect Iqbal Habib, and assistant professor of the institute of disaster management and vulnerability studies at Dhaka University Jewel Mia addressed the programme.

18 more get hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 18 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new ones, the total number of dengue cases this year rose to 1,261, according to the DGHS.

Some 93 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment while the total number of deaths this year is 12 so far.

PRAYER TIMING
MAY 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-36 8-00
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-40 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Participants of the World Human Rights Day Write-up Competition-2022 at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The Law and Our Rights section of The Daily Star organised the event. Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam handed over certificates to the participants. PHOTO: STAR

HUMAN RIGHTS Star awards two best writers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star yesterday recognised two best writers on human rights and handed over certificates to participants of World Human Rights Day Write-up Competition-2022.

The Law and Our Rights section of The Daily Star has been organising the competition since 2017.

Tareq Hasan and Julian Rafah of Dhaka University were recognised as the best writers.

In November last year, the newspaper called for write-ups. Around 20 students, professionals, rights activists, and even others responded to the call.

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Postponed SSC exams to be held after May 23

Says Dipu Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said the postponed SSC and equivalent examinations, which were scheduled for May 14 and 15, will be held after the theoretical examinations ends on May 23.

The education minister told reporters of the development while answering a question during a programme in the capital.

The SSC and equivalent exams were postponed due to cyclone Mocha.

'He tarnished Wasa's image'

3 employee orgs demand action against chairman for 'remarks in talk show'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three employee associations of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) demanded immediate action against Wasa board Chairman Gholam Mostafa for what they claimed tarnished the image of the state-run agency.

In a letter sent to the local government ministry on May 11, Dhaka Wasa Sramik Union, Dhaka Wasa Engineers Association, and Dhaka Wasa Diploma Engineers Association said Mostafa tarnished Wasa's image through his remarks in a recent TV talk show.

According to the letter, the chairman said the Wasa board was virtually ineffective.

The board consisted of 13 members including Wasa Managing Director Taqsim A Khan, who has no voting rights. However, Taqsim never allowed any board meeting to happen in his absence, the

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DGDA meeting over drug price hike tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) has called a meeting tomorrow with high-ups of different government agencies and business organisations to rein in the price hike of medicines and medical equipment, after a notice was issued by the Prime Minister's Office last Thursday.

The meeting will be held at the drug administration headquarters in Dhaka.

Additional Inspector General of Special Branch (Police), Director Generals of the Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection and the National Security Intelligence, high ups from the PMO, health directorate, and the health ministry as well as representatives of business organisations will join the meeting, among others.