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BANGABANDHU
KILLINGLaw in motion
to identify
conspirators

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government has already prepared the draft law for constituting a commission to identify the conspirators who were behind the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members on August 15, 1975.

A bill on the law will be placed before the parliament if the prime minister approves it and then the commission will be formed, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

EC REGISTRATION

47 Jamaat
supporters
want to

argue at SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-seven supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami have sought permission from the Supreme Court to place arguments before it in favour of the party's long pending appeal against a High Court verdict that scrapped its registration with the Election Commission.

They submitted an application to the Appellate Division of the SC yesterday.

The 47 applicants include Jamaat's former lawmakers -- Dr Syed Abdullah Md Taher, Hamidur Rahman Azad and Hafeja Asma Khatun, Manarat University's Vice

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Following assurance from government hi-ups, secondary school teachers, who have been protesting in front of Jayita Press Club for the last 22 days for nationalisation of their educational institutions, withdrew their strike yesterday night.

PHOTO: STAR

Teachers withdraw strike,
will go back to classes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After 22 days of continuous sit-in, secondary school teachers called off their programme yesterday night following a meeting with former cabinet secretary Kabir Bin Anwar and Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury.

Sheikh Kawsar Ahmed, general secretary of Bangladesh Teachers' Association, told journalists last night they will be included in the two committees that would be formed regarding nationalisation of their educational institutions.

The prime minister will take the final decision regarding their salaries and eliminating the discriminations they face, he added.

"So, we have decided to withdraw our agitation. Now we will go back to class," he added.

Earlier in the day, the teachers started a fast unto death programme in front of

the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka, demanding nationalisation of their educational institutions.

Hundreds of teachers started the strike around 10:00am.

Earlier, they had earlier threatened hunger strike if they were not allowed to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by July 31.

While visiting the spot, this correspondent saw teachers shouting slogans wearing shrouds (a white cloth in which a body is wrapped for burial) around their bodies to press home their demands.

Attending the movement, Dilip Adhikary, 45, a teacher from Kotalipara, Gopalganj, expressed his concerns about the challenges faced by teachers due to their low salaries.

"We can't sustain our daily expenses with such a small salary at the end of the month. While we do receive respect in our society, respect alone cannot fulfil our needs," he told this newspaper.

"In these times of soaring prices of essentials, we need the nationalisation of our institutions to safeguard the dignity of teachers and support our families," he added.

Another teacher, Md Morad of Bogura, said, "We are frustrated at the government's silence on teachers' demands."

"The Directorate Of Secondary & Higher Education failed us, even the education minister did the same. Now, we want to meet the PM to hear our demands," he added. "Then we want to go back to classrooms as soon as possible," Morad said.

Sheikh Kawsar Ahmed, general secretary of Bangladesh Teachers' Association, said, "We want to have at least a five-minute meeting with the PM. Until then, we will continue the hunger strike, even if it leads to death," he added.

Teachers have been on a sit-in protest since July 11 in front

of the press club. They have already had two meetings -- one with the DSHE and another with Education Minister Dipu Moni -- to resolve the matter.

Dipu Moni, in a meeting with the teachers, said nationalising private educational institutions before the upcoming parliamentary elections would not be possible. She, however, declared the formation of two committees to look into the issue.

But the teachers termed the meetings "unfruitful" and continued their agitation demanding to meet the PM.

They said entry-level teachers in private schools receive a basic salary of Tk 12,500 with an additional Tk 1,000 as rent, Tk 500 as medical allowance, and 25 percent of their basic salary as festival bonuses.

Meanwhile, teachers at government schools get Tk 16,000 as basic, 45 percent of this as house rent and a medical allowance of Tk 1,500 per month.

STUDENT'S DEATH IN BLAST

HC issues rule
on govt for
compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain why it should not be directed to give Tk 12 crore as compensation to the family of university student Mehedi Hasan Shaon, who died after sustaining burn injuries in a gas pipeline explosion in capital's Dhupkhola in May.

The court also ordered the deputy commissioner of Dhaka to conduct an enquiry through an official not below the rank of additional deputy commissioner into whether there is any negligence in preventing the incident of gas explosion and death of Mehedi Hassan, an honours third-year student of Jagannath University.

The DC has been ordered to complete the probe and submit its report to the HC in 60 days.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik Al Jalil issued the rule and order following a petition filed by Mehedi's father.

Mehedi, who suffered burns in a gas pipeline explosion on May 1, died at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery on May 6.

TARIQUE, ZUBAIDA

Verdict on graft
case today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court is supposed to deliver today the judgement in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2007 against BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court will pronounce the judgment in their absence at around 1:00pm, said Dhaka Metropolitan Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

The couple has been shown as fugitives in the charge sheet.

On July 27, the judge set the date for delivery of judgment after closing arguments from the prosecution in the case.

The court recorded statements of 42 prosecution witnesses, including complainant of the case. On April 13, the same court framed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Fire fighters working to rescue passengers of a car and rickshaw after a Krishnachura tree fell on them while the vehicles were crossing the Central Shaheed Minar on the Dhaka University campus around 4:00pm yesterday. The accident left five people injured, including the car's driver and rickshaw-puller.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

AL to get 70pc
votes if polls fair

Quader tells journalists

STAR REPORT

Seventy percent of people will vote for Awami League if a free and peaceful election takes place, said Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

The minister said this while talking to journalists at Rangpur Zilla School, where the PM will be speaking today.

This will be her first visit to Rangpur in four and a half years.

"People will vote for development," said Quader.

He said that there has been a lot of development during the 15-year tenure of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. No matter how much propaganda is spread,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

AL knows nothing
about etiquetteSays Fakhrul on photos of
Gayeshwar having lunch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday accused Awami League of political bankruptcy following an incident involving the release of photos and videos showing standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy having lunch at the office of Detective Branch in Dhaka.

"The government did it to divert people's attention from

the ongoing movement of the opposition," he said during a human chain held by BNP's Keraniganj south unit at the Nayapaltan party office.

"Awami League knows nothing about etiquette," he added.

Fakhrul also criticised AL's history of violence by saying during its 73-day strike in 1996, they killed people with arson. "And now, they have turned

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

China for
strengthening
military tiesDIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

China hopes that its military will strengthen cooperation and deepen friendship with Bangladesh armed forces for maintaining world peace.

"Guided by the consensus reached by top leaders of China and Bangladesh, both militaries will continually strengthen solidarity and cooperation on the basis of the already fruitful results," said a Chinese embassy statement marking the 96th founding anniversary of People's Liberation Army of China.

The Chinese embassy in Dhaka held a programme on Monday to celebrate the anniversary. Lt Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman, principal staff officer of Bangladesh Armed Forces Division, was present as chief guest.

Over 200 dignitaries from the Bangladeshi armed forces, government, police, foreign missions, and defence attaches in Dhaka, and the local Chinese community attended the event.

Senior Colonel Du Xinsheng, defence attaché of the Chinese embassy in Dhaka, said since its birth in 1927, PLA has embarked on an extraordinary journey to achieve China's independence and liberation, safeguard the country's sovereignty, security, and development, as well as advance peace and progress in the world.

Over the past decades,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

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