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Writ petition seeks reserved JS seats for expatriates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition has been filed with High Court seeking its directive on the government to take necessary steps to reserve seats for expatriates in parliament to ensure equal treatment for them.

Abul Kalam Azad and SM Rafiqul Islam, two Bangladeshis living in the US, submitted the petition to the HC through their lawyer, Md Shofiqul Islam, recently.

They also requested the court to direct the legislative and parliamentary affairs division of the law ministry to dispose of their application for keeping reserved seats for expatriates in parliament.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Das Gupta, who received a copy of the writ petition, told The Daily Star yesterday that the HC has yet to fix a date for hearing of the petition.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana offered ziarat at the Rawza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) in the holy city of Madinah yesterday afternoon. The premier arrived at Saudi Arabia on a three-day visit to attend the international conference on “Women in Islam: Status and Empowerment” to be held in Jeddah.

PHOTO: PID

AL nomination forms get costlier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Want to buy a nomination paper for Awami League? Get ready to pay more!

Aspiring candidates will now have to shell out Tk 20,000 more to obtain AL nomination forms.

During last election, aspiring candidates acquired nomination forms by paying a Tk 30,000 security deposit for each candidacy. However, the new policy dictates that nomination seekers will need to pay Tk 50,000 to collect AL nomination forms.

Obaidul Quader, the general secretary of the party, made this announcement during an unscheduled meeting at the central office of Awami League on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital.

“Selling and submission of nomination forms of Awami League will be done at the Awami League central office... Those who will collect our nominations will have to deposit Tk 50,000,” said Quader. When questioned about when AL will start distributing the forms,, he responded, “We will let you know when we will start it. We have started taking preparations.”

Quader also said nomination aspirants will have the option to collect and submit their nomination forms online, eliminating the necessity for physical presence in Dhaka.

This new decision aims to curb infighting among nomination-seekers during the collection and submission of nomination forms, providing relief to the party office staff who often face substantial pressure during this process.

COUNTRYWIDE BLOCKADE

A lone passenger's quest to find a bus

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

There was an unusual silence at the Gabtoli bus terminal when this correspondent visited it yesterday morning. But amidst such an eerie atmosphere, this correspondent saw one Delwar Hossain juggling from one counter to another to get a bus, as he had to go to Naogaon on an emergency basis.

“I have been trying to purchase a bus ticket for almost three hours. My aunt has to undergo an emergency surgery. I raised some money [for the surgery]. That's why I have to reach Naogaon at any cost today (yesterday).”

“Everyone is saying that the bus cannot leave with just one passenger,” he said.

“I am running from one counter to another but everyone said there was no passenger except me,” Delwar told The Daily Star.

On the first day of the two-day blockade enforced by BNP and Jamaat, it was seen that the counters were opened at Gabtoli bus terminal, but no buses left.

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JCD activists 'lock gates' at DU, JU

STAR REPORT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists claimed they padlocked multiple entrances at Dhaka and Jahangirnagar University early yesterday, as part of BNP's nationwide 48-hour blockade.

“We locked the gates of Curzon Hall, Central Mosque, gymnasium, science library, and buildings housing the Faculty of Fine Arts, Business Studies, Institute of Education and Research, Nutrition and Food Science, and the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University,” said DU JCD activist Nahiduzzaman Shipon.

Similarly, Chattra Dal activists led by former Acting General Secretary of the student body's Jahangirnagar University unit, locked multiple gates inside the campus.

However, all the gates were unlocked within a short time. Academic activities, including classes and exams, went on as usual in both universities.

DU Proctor Prof M Maksudur Rahman told The Daily Star, “We only found one gate locked at the Curzon Hall in the morning and we unlocked it.”

BNP men torched vehicles wearing press vests: DB

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Detective Branch and Uttara divisions of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday claimed Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal activists set fire to buses and police vans in Dhaka wearing vests and identity cards of journalists and rights activists.

They came up with the allegations following the arrest of two Jubo Dal leaders and a Chhatra Dal activist from the capital's Khilgaon and Uttara.

The ‘troublemakers’ are adopting new strategies to hide their identity, police added.

Following a tip off, Al Amin Mahin, 33, convener, and Mohiuddin Hridoy, 36, senior joint convener of Ward-19 Ramna Jubo Dal, were arrested in connection with the arson attack on a police van and a Balaka Paribahan bus near Mouchak flyover on October 28.

“Both arrestees admitted to their involvement in

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AL remains vigilant on Dhaka streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The presence of Awami League leaders and activists on the streets were relatively thinner on the first day of the two-day blockade called by BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, compared to last week.

Ruling party activists cited two reasons for their reduced presence: first, many leaders attended a rally on Saturday, leading to fatigue, and second, they dispersed across more locations than usual yesterday, meaning the number of activists in each of the locations automatically declined a bit.

“Last week, Ward 26 AL activists resisted the opposition's blockade by gathering in the Farmgate area. However, yesterday they dispersed into smaller groups, occupying positions in Bijay Sarani, Farmgate, and Karwan Bazar areas,” President of the ward unit AL Shahabuddin Patwari told The Daily Star.

This correspondent saw a presence of AL activists while visiting Kalyanpur, Shyamoli, College Gate, Farmgate and Karwan Bazar, Gulistan, Shahjahanpur,

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Why is Labour Party not registered?

HC asks EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court issued a rule yesterday, asking the Election Commission to explain within four weeks why it should not be directed to register Bangladesh Labour Party as a political party.

The bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Khizir Hayat issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Labour Party's Chairman Mostafizur Rahman Iran, challenging the EC's decision to reject the party's application to be given registration as a political party.

Petitioner's lawyer Zohura Khatun said Bangladesh Labour Party has properly fulfilled the provisions of the Representation of the People Order, but the EC illegally rejected the application.

Deputy Attorney General Sk Shaifuzzaman represented the state during the hearing of the petition.

14TH SOUTH ASIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Cooperation needed to combat climate change: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a summit yesterday emphasised the importance of regional cooperation and direct collaboration among organisations to combat climate change.

Centre for Policy Dialogue organised the 14th South Asia Economic Summit titled, “Reframing South Asian Regional Cooperation in the New Context National and Global Dimensions” at a Dhaka hotel.

Stressing the importance of effective planning within the regional countries, Dr A Atiq Rahman, executive director at the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, said this kind of management between agencies and countries can be achieved, as climate change is a global issue, and cooperation at a regional level is essential.

Associate Prof Sabyasachi Saha, Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries

in India emphasised India's robust climate action agenda, particularly its transition to renewable energy, as 40 percent of their electricity is generated from non-fossil fuel sources.

Kshitiz Dahal, senior research officer of SAWTEE in Nepal, said, “We aim to become carbon neutral by 2045 and implement climate-resilient planning in all 753 local governments by 2030.”

Florian Hollen, head of cooperation at the German embassy, highlighted the need to de-risk private investments in the green sector.

The session, chaired by Dr M Asaduzzaman, former research director at BIDS, was addressed by Prof Babar Shahbaz of Education and Rural Development University of Agriculture Faisalabad; Prof Praveen Jha of Centre for Economic Studies and Planning at Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Dr Swarnim Wagle, a member of the Federal Parliament of Nepal.



Miscreants set a bus on fire in the capital's Bangla Motor area yesterday amid the two-day countrywide blockade. PHOTO: COLLECTED