

VESTED PROPERTY RETURN ACT

# Affected families pay Tk 2,270 in bribe: study

Staff Correspondent

LEGAL owners are yet to get back the vested properties even after enactment of the Vested Property Return Act 17 years ago in 2001 and spending Tk 2,270 crore in bribe, revealed a study.

Conducted by Human Development Research Centre in association with Association for Land Reforms and Development, the study report was disclosed at the National Press Club on Sunday.

Dhaka University economics department professor Abul Barkat, who led the research team, said that each of the affected families, who had filed cases for getting back the vested properties, spent on an average Tk 2.27 lakh.

He said that 50 per cent of the expenditure was spent to bribe land officials and employees. According to the study, Abul Barkat said, two lakh petitions were filed by legal owners to get back the vested property and in the cases the legal owners spent Tk 2,270 crore in bribe.

He said it was unfortunate that the civil and land ad-



Human Development Research Centre in association with Association for Land Reforms and Development organises a seminar at National Press Club in Dhaka on Sunday. — New Age photo

ministration were not showing sincerity in resolving the pending cases despite prime minister's directive for their quick disposal. Abul Barkat alleged that delay in the disposal of the petitions was the main barrier to the implementation of the Vested Property Return Act 2001.

The study recommended that the government should prepare an updated list of the legal owners of the vested properties for returning them to the owners as early as possible.

Abul Barkat said that they also recommended that the government should use the vested property, owners of which were absent from Bangladesh, for the welfare of underprivileged Hindu families and human development.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal presided over the programme addressed, among others, by economist MM Akash, ALRD chairperson Khushi Kabir, Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad general sec-

retary Rana Das Gupta and Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad adviser Kajal Debnath.

After the 1965 India-Pakistan war, the properties left behind by citizens who left for India until February 16, 1969 were listed as enemy properties and in independent Bangladesh the properties were renamed as vested properties.

The government formulated the Vested Property Return Act 2001 aiming to return those properties to the legal owners.

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তারিখ.....	
চীফ, পরিসংখ্যান বিভাগ	
চীফ, ডি.এল.পি বিভাগ	
সিস্টেম এনালিস্ট	
সিস্টেম ম্যানেজার	
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