

REAPPOINTMENT OF DHAKA WASA MD HC order on challenge Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver its order on Sunday on a writ petition that challenged the legality of the process for reappointing Taqsem A Khan to the post of managing director (MD) of Dhaka Wasa.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam yesterday fixed the date after concluding hearing on the matter.

Khandker Monjur Morshed, former additional chief engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board, submitted the writ petition to the HC on September 24.

In it, he prayed to the HC to stay the proposal for extending the tenure of

Taqsem as Wasa MD by three more years.

Citing the petition, Khandker Monjur's lawyer Md Tanvir Ahmed told The Daily Star that the Wasa's board meeting is supposed to be convened by its chairman or vice chairman to select its MD as per The Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Act 1996. But, the meeting was convened by its board secretary on September 17.

Besides, a selection committee was supposed to be formed for the appointment of the MD and a gazette notification must be issued for constituting the selection committee as per the relevant rules, but no such committee was formed, lawyer Tanvir said.

Together

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They demanded exemplary punishment for offenders in all pending rape and sexual violence cases as soon as possible.

Protesters' other demands include ensuring security for women on hills and plain land, taking steps against those involved in harassing victims, bringing necessary reform in education system, implementing and making the sexual harassment cell functional in educational institutions, repealing section 155(4) of Bangladesh's Evidence Act 1872 and completing trial of rape cases within 90 days through speedy tribunal.

The rally ended around 2:30am.

Amid nationwide protests in the wake of a series of gang-rapes and sexual assaults on women, the president on Tuesday promulgated an ordinance allowing death penalty as the highest punishment for rape instead of life-term imprisonment.

Experts, however, said death penalty is not a solution and the government needs to immediately address systemic problems in rape trials and the extremely low conviction rates.

HC directs

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along with the warrant orders.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the verdict following a petition filed on December 9 last year challenging the arrest warrant issued against Gonoshasthaya Kendra programme officer Awlad Hossain.

Awlad's wife Shahnaj Parvin filed the petition seeking necessary order from the HC. She said in the petition that Ashulia police arrested her husband on October 30. Later, a fake arrest warrant was issued against Awlad and he was produced before different courts of Dhaka, Cox's Bazar, Bagerhat and Sherpur, Shahnaj claimed.

She prayed to the HC to order police to produce Awlad before the HC to show that he was not detained illegally.

Petitioner's lawyer Emadul Haque Bashir told The Daily Star that some cases were filed against Awlad under the women and children repression prevention act.

Following the petition, the HC bench issued a rule questioning the warrant against Awlad.

Awlad was released from custody following the HC order, lawyer Emdadul added.

Finish trial

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submitted the petition claiming that the trial court judge has rebuked a witness during case proceedings.

Lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan appeared for the Anti-Corruption Commission and lawyer Parvez Hossain argued for Babar.

Babar has been convicted and sentenced to death in the sensational 10-truck arms haul case and August 21 grenade attack case.

ACC filed the case with Ramna Model Police Station on January 13, 2008 against Babar for amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 7.5 crore.

The commission submitted charge sheet to the lower court on July 16, 2008, which accepted the charges on July 23, the same year.

The case is now at the stage of recording and examining the statements of the witnesses.

Integrated

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country. Besides, a significant number of people are trafficked in many other countries from Bangladesh, he said.

Mahmud Hossain said the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act-2012 provides a broad legislative framework for prevention of trafficking, prosecution of traffickers and protection of potential victims of human trafficking.

Besides, the constitution of Bangladesh serves as a potent anti-trafficking legislation.

The constitution guarantees the right of every citizen to enjoy protection of law, and imposes an obligation for the state to prevent violation of human rights in any form, that also include human trafficking, he added.

The chief justice said equipping judges and prosecutors with better understanding of law related to human trafficking and

related crimes are particularly important.

"Trafficking undermines democracy, rule of law and accountability of governments," he said, adding that it is a great violation of human rights and considered one of the most serious crimes under both local and international laws.

The CJ said the judiciary has played a vital role to deal with and dispose of trafficking cases with utmost urgency.

The anti-human trafficking tribunals set at seven divisional headquarters disposed of 950 trafficking cases in 2019, said the CJ.

In 2019, the High Court Division of the Supreme Court in a writ petition directed the government to form a high-powered committee in order to probe the incident of human trafficking and to identify the travel agencies and human traffickers responsible for the deaths of 37 Bangladeshi nationals in the Mediterranean Sea, he added.

Bangabandhu's

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Recalling that in February this year he had invited Naville's attention to the plights of the stranded Bangalees, the prime minister observes that since then there has been steady deterioration in their general condition.

The prime minister tells Naville, "In the considered view of my government the International Committee of Red Cross, who have been taking an active interest in regard to the persons of non-Bangali origin living in Bangladesh and owing allegiance to Pakistan, are well-placed to play an equally significant humanitarian role in securing safety and well-being of the Bangalis stranded in Pakistan".

PEACE MEDAL AN HONOUR TO MARTYRS

The National Executive Committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League garland Bangabandhu at the Gono Bhaban today while felicitating him on his being awarded the Joliot-Curie Medal by the World peace Council Presidential Committee.

Replying to the felicitations, Bangabandhu says the honour of the award does not belong to him. He says the martyrs who shed blood in the liberation struggle of Bangladesh are virtually accorded the honour. "It is the entire seven and a half crore people of Bangladesh who have been honoured," he observes.

PRESS CLUB LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR BANGABANDHU

Jatiyo Press Club today in a meeting unanimously decides to confer life membership of the club to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. A deputation would soon meet Bangabandhu to seek his consent.

SOURCES: October 16, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Bangladesh being used

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Muhammed Ahsanul Jabber, director general of the DNC, shared the findings with journalists at a press briefing at its headquarters in the capital's Segunbagicha.

He said they already talked to the authorities of a delivery service company and they told them that a scanner had been installed at its office.

"We will visit the office soon to check the activities of the scanner. Other delivery service companies must install scanners or else they will be held responsible," he said in reply to a query.

On September 9, the customs authorities conducted a drive in the export cargo village and seized the 12.32kg of amphetamine powder packed in a consignment of clothes for export.

The next day, a case was filed with the Airport Police Station in this connection.

Seven people have so far been arrested for their alleged involvement in the smuggling, including the so-called "mastermind" Abul Kalam Azad alias Bunty, a chemical businessman in the capital's Mitford area.

The six others are: Rezaul Haque Ablu, Junayed Ibne Siddiqui, Nazrul Islam, Babul Mazumdar, Md Mazed and Md Bappi.

DNC DG Ahsanul said the syndicate smuggled the amphetamine powder to Bangladesh from India through the Benapole border.

In primary interrogation, Abul Kalam Azad alias Bunty said he collected the powder with the help of Indian chemical trader Habib Master, he said.

Habib's associate Rajkhan was responsible for sending the powder to Bangladesh after crossing the border illegally and later it was sent to Dhaka through different Bangladeshi delivery service companies, said the DNC official, quoting Bunty as saying.

After the powder reached Dhaka, Bunty sold it to Junayed and Nazrul through his men Din Islam and Saiful. The DNC is now looking for Din Islam and Saiful.

The seized 12.32kg amphetamine powder, worth over Tk 24 crore, was supposed to go to Australia via Malaysia. Junayed and Nazrul took the powder to an international courier service provider to send it to Australia.

Asked about taking action against the service provider, DG Ahsanul said they are still probing the incident.

He said it was not the first time a syndicate smuggled amphetamine using Bangladesh as a route.

The DNC chief, however, did not go into details in this regard.

Responding to another query, Ahsanul said they have an agreement with the Narcotics Control Bureau of India for sharing information and intelligence and they already told their Indian counterpart to take action against the smuggling.

Peru opens Machu Picchu

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majestic mountaintop dotted with ancient ruins that once attracted thousands of tourists a day but has been closed since March because of the coronavirus.

The Japanese boxing instructor, identified by local media as a 26-year-old from Nara, has been stuck in Peru since March, when he bought a ticket for the tourist site just days before the country declared a health emergency.

He told a Peruvian newspaper he had only planned to spend three days in the area, but with flights cancelled and movement limited by the virus, he found himself stuck there for months.

Former Ducs VP Nur

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Sams Joglul Hossain took the case into cognisance and recorded the statement of the complainant.

The court instructed the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to investigate the case and submit a report to it by November 29.

In his Facebook Live video, Nur said, "I have investigated the allegation [of rape] and found that Abdullah Hil Baki, Nazmul Huda and Saiful Islam of Chhatra Adhikar Parishad are not involved in the incident. Nazmul and Sohag may be involved."

"The female student's brother said Nazmul Hasan Sohag used to visit their home. They talked about their marriage. A picture of the student and Nazmul smiling happily in the launch cabin went viral on Facebook. The allegation of rape inside the launch cabin is absolutely ridiculous," added Nur, also the joint convener of Bangladesh Chhatra Adhikar Parishad.

Nur used the word "dushcharitraheen", but there is no such word in Bangla.

Contacted, the former Ducs VC claimed that he did not call the DU student "characterless", rather he meant to say that she was "not characterless" by using the word "dushcharitraheen". He said the word is used colloquially.

Nur alleged that the student filed the cases after being politically influenced and also to harm the image of him and his organisation.

THREE PREVIOUS CASES

The DU student had previously filed three more cases against Nur and five others under the Women and Children Repression and Prevention Act and the Digital Security Act (DSA).

On September 20, she lodged a rape case against Nur and five others with Lalbagh Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. The other accused in the case are Hasan, Nazmul Hasan Sohag and Saiful Islam, joint conveners of Bangladesh Chhatra Adhikar Parishad, Nazmul Huda, vice-president of the platform, and DU student Abdullah Hil Baki.

Another case was filed by the same student with Kotwali Police Station against the six on September 21 under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act and DSA.

On September 23, she filed a third case with Shahbagh Police Station under the Pornography Control Act and DSA.

Meanwhile, the DU student continued her hunger strike until death at the foot of Raju Memorial Sculpture on the university campus for the sixth straight day yesterday demanding arrest of the six accused, including Nur.

After falling ill on Saturday, she received treatment at two city hospitals. She resumed the strike the following day after being discharged from a hospital.

Trump, Biden set to face

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Debate organizers said they wanted to switch the format to a virtual appearance, for safety reasons, and Trump refused, forcing cancellation of the event.

NBC News said yesterday it had received a statement from the clinical director at the National Institutes of Health and lead infectious diseases expert Anthony Fauci that they had "a high degree of confidence" that Trump is now "not shedding infectious virus."

Trump and the NBC host will be socially distanced at the outdoor venue and the audience will wear safety masks, NBC said.

Biden has been frequently testing for coronavirus and reporting negative results since Trump's illness.

Their hard labour goes unrecognised

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Anjum Banhi Chakma, project coordinator of Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha, Khagrachhari, in the Chittagong hill tracts, said an overwhelming number of indigenous women belonging to Chakma, Marma and Tripura communities cultivate rice, vegetables and fruits in their subsistence gardens and Jhum.

"They engage in almost every step of the production, such as seed collection and preservation, sowing, planting, reaping, carrying crops home, sorting and selling," she said.

Although their numbers are higher than the male farmers, they are not usually registered as farmers. "In a few cases, their husbands are registered in the database and state support is also given to them," she added.

The DAE does not have specific data on the rural indigenous women's farming activities, she said.

However, Arunangkor Chakma, deputy assistant agriculture officer of DAE Panchhari upazila of Khagrachhari, said the number of female farmers in Panchhari upazila is 763 and the number of the male farmers is 9,577.

"We are enlisting only one name from an agricultural family and that's why the number of the male farmers is high," he said.

To tackle the impact of Covid-19, he said they will provide five kg aush paddy seeds and 10 kg fertilizers free of cost, Tk 835 for seeds and fertilizers under a project for creating homestead gardens and Tk 1,500 for creating a fence and overall caring of the garden.

He, however, could not give any information on how many women would receive the support from his office.

Sarah Marandy, director (social development), Gram Bikash Kendra, a grassroots organisation in Parbatipur of Dinajpur, stressed the need for focussing on the indigenous women who are mostly landless farmers and engage in seasonal agriculture work.

For example, Santal women find it hard to maintain a livelihood, she said, adding due to agricultural automation, they don't have work for more than 3-4 months a year and the outbreak of Covid-19 only made matters worse.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said rural indigenous women are the custodians of indigenous identity and culture.

"But sadly, in Bangladesh, there is no policy or specific measures targeted to protect their rights, health and economic development, even though they endure hours of back-breaking works both at home and on the fields," he said.

Sanjeeb said at least 25,000 rural indigenous women should be enlisted as beneficiaries of the Tk 5,000 crore stimulus package for small-holder farmers.

HC upholds life term based

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Ferdoushi Rupa told The Daily Star that the HC verdict and observation regarding the punishment of the convict without medical report of the rape victim was applicable for this particular case, not for all other similar cases.

Besides, the Supreme Court's Appellate Division may make final observation and guidelines about this issue, she said.

DAG Jannatul said the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Tribunal (Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal)-1 of Khulna on March 13, 2019, convicted Ibrahim and sentenced him to life imprisonment in the case filed for the rape of a 15-year-old child in Dakop area of the district in 2006.

The tribunal also fined him Tk 20,000 and said he will have to serve two more years in jail in case he fails to pay it.

The tribunal delivered the judgment under Section 9(1) of the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain (Women and Children Repression Prevention Act), 2000.

Ibrahim then filed an appeal with the HC challenging the tribunal verdict.

DAG Jannatul said the victim was eight days late for filing the case due to pressure from the local influential people.

The hospital concerned had not conducted the medical test of the victim as the police did not cooperate with her, said the DAG, adding that the medical test of the rape victim is to be conducted in 48 hours of the rape incident under the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Ain, 2000.

Asked for comments, Ibrahim's lawyer Aminul Haque Helal told this correspondent that he was yet to receive the full text of the HC verdict.

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Date: October 15, 2020

Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children

Invitation for Tender

Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting for tender from interested experienced bona fide vendors for Providing **Internet Bandwidth and Data Networking Services** for its offices and other locations in Bangladesh.

For details please see the IFT schedule, which is available on <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

Description, submission time & date:				
SL	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Pre-Tender Meeting Schedule and Place	Last date of Tender Submission
1	Internet Bandwidth and Data Networking Services	IFT/SCI/BDCO/ FY-20/00011	19/10/2020 at 3.00 PM https://zoom.us/j/99862863883	November 8, 2020 at 2.00PM

Special Instruction: (a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies. **(b)** If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place.

Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain

NGO Forum for Public Health

Central Office, 4/6 Block – E, Lalmatia, Dhaka - 1207

TENDER INVITATION FOR SUPPLYING OF HYGIENE KITS

Date: 14-10-2020

NGO Forum for Public Health (NGOF) is a national level NGO hereby invites sealed quotation from the bonafide dealers / suppliers / sole distributors / agents for Supplying of 700 sets of "Hygiene Kits" to Mymensingh City Corporation (MCC) under "Covid - 19 Oxfam Response to the Pandemic" project supported by OXFAM. Tender schedule will be available at free of cost at the reception desk of NGO Forum for Public Health, 4/6 Block – E, Lalmatia, Dhaka - 1207 within 22 October, 2020 during office hours. Sealed tender containing technical and financial proposals in 2 separate envelopes must be submitted within 25 October, 2020 by 05 pm. NGO Forum for Public Health will follow the terms & condition of the tender schedule as well as the rules and procedure of procurement policy of its own and the participating dealers / suppliers / sole distributors / agents should obey the same including the security deposit issue for delivery of "Hygiene Kits". This circular and associated tender schedule will be treated as the integral part of the tender documents and the authority is not bound to award work order to the lowest bidder as the evaluation will be done as per the manuals of NGO Forum for Public Health. The decision of the authority of NGO Forum for Public Health will be treated as final binding and no entity will be entitled to solicit any legal action against it. The authority also reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or can cancel the total tender process without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Procurement Department, NGO Forum for Public Health

**Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)**

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 8181658-61, 8181664-69, Fax: 8181678, Website: <http://www.pksf-bd.org>, www.facebook.com/PKSF.org

Request for Application (RFA)

(Selection of Individual Consultant: National)

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is hereby requesting for applications in sealed envelope from competent national individual consultants for providing short term consulting services for the study on **"Artemia preparation/culture in Bangladesh for crab hatchery"**, Package No: PKSF/PACE/SD-09 under a project titled "Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises (PACE) Project of PKSF jointly financed by PKSF and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Individual Consultant Selection (ICS) method and Standard Request for Application (SRFA:PS-3) Documents for selection of Individual Consultants on Lump-sum Contracts of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 of the Government of Bangladesh will be followed for evaluating applications.

The Detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and Request for Application (RFA) document is obtainable from the office of the undersigned during office hours: 10:00 am to 4:30 pm at free of cost. It will be also available at PKSF website (<http://tender.pksf-bd.org>). Interested eligible consultants are requested to submit RFA along with all necessary documents in sealed envelope to the office of the undersigned directly or by courier/mail by 2:00 PM on or before 01 November 2020.

Any kind of persuasion will be treated as disqualification of the applicant. PKSF reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all applications or cancel this advertisement without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Dr. Md. Jashim Uddin
Deputy Managing Director