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PHILIPS

Gen Nasim's writ not maintainable: HC

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday observed that the writ petition of Lt Gen (ret'd) ASM Nasim challenging his retirement or dismissal from the post of Chief of Army Staff, is not maintainable.

The writ stands rejected after the division bench of the HC, comprising Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Abu Sayeed, passed the order on the maintainability of the petition. Soon after the order was passed Nasim told The Daily Star, "After obtaining the copy of the order I shall decide whether I should challenge the order before the Appellate Division."

The hearing on the writ petition began on December 3. But Attorney General KS Nabi sought hearing on maintainability of the petition first.

After hearing elaborate agreement of Barrister AR Yousuf, counsel for the petitioner, and that of the Attorney General on Thursday and yesterday, the court passed the order.

Earlier, the division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Abu Sayeed, passed the order on the maintainability of the petition. Soon after the order was passed Nasim told The Daily Star, "After obtaining the copy of the order I shall decide whether I should challenge the order before the Appellate Division."

Lieutenant General Nasim was removed from the post of the Chief of Army Staff on May 20, 1996 by the order of the then President Abdur Rahman Biswas on allegations of insubordination and mutiny.

By a notification dated May 20, 1996 he was given retirement with full benefits.

On May 30, 1996 another notification substituting the earlier one was published giving him premature (Compulsory) retirement with full financial and other benefits.

Subsequently on June 6, 1996 by the third notification he was dismissed from his service.

Lastly on January 9, 1997 by the fourth notification he was again given premature (Compulsory) retirement under the Army Act, Rules and Regulations.

Only Bangalees

Constitution was designed by Ziaul Abedin. He was assisted by Junabul Islam, Samajit Roy Chowdhury and Abul Bark Alvi. AKM Abdur Rouf wrote the constitution of the Constitution.

The exhibition will remain open for visitors from 10:30 am to 6:30 pm.

Meanwhile, Joy Bangla Sanskritik Oikya Jote organized a discussion meeting at the Ramna Batamul yesterday afternoon as part of its month-long Victory Day programmes.

Yesterday's discussion was held on "The role of students-teachers-intellectuals-professionals and cultural activists in the liberation struggle and in mass movements".

Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rab addressed the meeting as the chief guest while State Minister for Civil Aviation and Planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir was present as special guest.

Presided over by Awami League leader Nurul Islam, the meeting was addressed, among others, by journalist Shafiqur Rahman, general secretary of the Jote Sheikh Abdul Kader and Jote leader Debendra Malakar.

In his speech the Shipping Minister said that Bangalees was the only nation in the Sub-continent who fought a war for achieving freedom.

He said that the students, teachers, intellectuals, professionals and the cultural activists had played a significant role in the liberation of Bangladesh. Many people are trying to distort the history of the Liberation War, he added.

The discussion meeting was followed by a cultural function. Meanwhile, street dramas were staged at the Central Shaheed Minar premises as part of the Victory Day programmes organized by Somya, a drama group.

Netherlands to help develop CHT

The Dutch ambassador in Bangladesh has assured that his country will provide all sorts of help and cooperation for the development of water sector in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Ambassador Dick CB Den Haas said this when he called on Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak at his office in the city yesterday.

During the meeting, Dick Den Haas also welcome the Hill Tracts peace agreement and said his government will extend support for the development of the hill districts.

Earlier, the Water Resources Minister briefed the envoy about the necessity and importance of reexcavation of the silted rivers under Goral River project and sought his country's technical and financial assistance in this regard.

He said the agriculture and forest sectors would be badly affected if the rivers are not properly dredged in time.

Referring to Ganges Barrage project, Abdur Razzak informed the envoy that an international seminar on the Ganges Barrage will be held in Dhaka in next February. He invited the government of the Netherlands to participate in it.

Edn policy

fore the parliament for discussion.

He said the vision of the education policy of the government is to alleviate poverty in the few years.

The children of the country should have similar education and the education policy provides for special emphasis on English and Arabic in English medium schools and madrasahs respectively.

Vocational education will begin from class eight, he said, adding that this will help develop technical education among the youths and thereby reduce unemployment problems.

President Shahabuddin thanked the chairman of the National Education Formulation Committee for completing the report in time.

The member-secretary of the committee and secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology Muhammad Fazur Rahman was present on the occasion.

Polls violence

Our Bangura correspondent adds: At least 50 people were injured in a clash between supporters of two candidates at Dhaka union Sunday night.

Of the injured, Kasem Sikdar and Abdul Khaleque were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital while ten others were under treatment at the Barguna General Hospital.

Police said the clash erupted in the village Khataltali when some supporters of a candidate were crossing the house of a rival candidate at about 11 pm. Both the groups exchanged gunfire during the clash. Election of Dhahua UP will be held on December 13.



Flames race thru' Indonesian central bank tower: 15 killed

JAKARTA, Dec 8: Flames raced through the top of a gleaming office tower of Indonesia's central bank today killing at least 15 people and injuring five others, reports AP.

At least six victims had been new 25-story Bank Indonesia building in central Jakarta.

A police helicopter plucked four workers from the roof and landed in a nearby plaza.

Shattered by the flames, the building fell in two places.

Smashed in the street as smoke gushed from the gutted top three floors.

It seems the dead had been trying to run from room to room. But all the rooms were full of smoke so they became trapped, said Suharsno, chief of the city's fire department.

Yelling for help, trapped workers waved bright red cloths from the windows. About 200 people were evacuated down the smoke-filled stairs of the twin tower.

Officials suspect faulty electrical wiring sparked the fire.

58 Thai finance cos liquidated

BANGKOK, Dec 8: Thailand launched the biggest-ever re-amp of its financial system today, liquidating nearly all 58 insolvent finance companies suspended earlier this year as an economic crisis rippled through Asia, reports AP.

The Stock Exchange of Thailand index rose 3.4 per cent, or 13.03 points, to 401.80 in reaction to the government's announcement it was closing 56 companies, one of the strongest moves taken by Thailand after months of indecision. The local currency, the baht, strengthened to 41.20 against the US dollar in offshore spot markets.

BNP

According to sources close to the leaders concerned, Bhuiyan complained that a group of party leaders had consistently been trying to turn the BNP into a communal organisation, which is contradictory to the party's original goal and objectives.

He also accused Khaleda Zia of entertaining the group out to divert BNP from its 'nationalist ideals' and convert the party into a political platform for the religious fundamentalists.

Bhuiyan argued that the trend would definitely prove to be counter-productive for both the party and the party chief. In the beginning Khaleda Zia also reacted sharply to Bhuiyan's attitude and accused him of certain failures. However, eventually she gave in to his arguments and approved the changes Bhuiyan brought about in the original package of programmes, which was published in yesterday's newspapers, sources said.

OIC summit today

Until recently, Iran had tense relations with Saudi Arabia, notably Saudi Arabia, because of fears that Tehran was trying to export its revolution to the conservative kingdoms.

Arafat last visited here 18 years ago, six days after the Shah was deposed by the revolution, when he was received by spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

But Iran, which vehemently opposes the Arab-Israeli peace process, fell out with Arafat because of his pro-Iraq stance in the Iran-Iraq war and has in the past branded him a 'traitor' for signing interim peace accords with Israel.

The leaders of Turkey, Qatar, Senegal, Tajikistan and the Maldives also arrived here this morning, along with the prime ministers of Morocco and Bangladesh.

Among the other Muslim leaders expected later in the day are Syrian president Hafez Al-Assad, Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad and Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Bangladesh's prime minister Sheikh Hasina was the only woman leader to arrive. Iranian officials said all 55

OIC members would be represented at senior level, with at least 20 heads of state, and that the high turn-out is a massive snub to Washington's attempts to isolate the country.

The conference will be opened with a speech from Iran's paramount leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini, his first international stage since taking power in 1989, followed by words from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

OIC foreign ministers have approved a record 142 resolutions to put to the summit.

The collapse of the Middle East peace process under Israel's right-wing prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has forged Islamic unity with both enemies of and partners in the process signing up to a host of resolutions condemning the Jewish state.

Other hot political issues such as the ongoing war in Afghanistan, violence in Kashmir, and the fragile situation in Bosnia are also the subject of resolutions.

An Islamic charter of human rights, the need for an Islamic Common Market, the promotion of women's and children's rights, and the need for greater cultural and economic co-operation are also on the agenda.

UN convention on climate change Dhaka's call to reach protocol to contain global warming

KYOTO (Japan), Dec 8: Environment Minister Sajeda Chowdhury today made a call to mobilise collective political will through accommodation, flexibility and understanding to reach a protocol acceptable to all countries for containing global warming, reports BSS.

Addressing the ministerial-level United Nations framework convention on climate change here, Sajeda Chowdhury said some binding provisions in the form of protocol were essential for the survival of the global family and to save the planet.

Sajeda Chowdhury is leading a five-member Bangladesh delegation to the 'UN Framework Convention on Climate Change' which began here on

December 1 with senior officials preparing the ground for the three-day ministerial level meeting which started today.

Highlighting the climate change assessment report, the minister told the conference that the projected one-metre rise in sea level by 2100 will inundate 17.5 per cent of the total land of Bangladesh. Intrusion of salinity, increased frequency of floods and cyclones and disastrous effect on the Sundarbans are the likely consequences of global warming, she said, adding the sea level rise would have adverse effects on our eco system, food supply and water resources.

The conference is being attended by ministers from different countries and representatives from various international organisations and NGOs.

A bank director clarifies

By Staff Correspondent

A director of Pubali Bank, MA Rakib, whose name was also included in the list of defaulting directors, in a clarification yesterday said he had repaid his loan 12 days before publication of the report.

He said IFIC Bank had sent his name as a defaulter to the Bangladesh Bank without informing him and added that he had repaid the amount after receiving a notice from the Bangladesh Bank.

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Kibria

From Page 1

the previous government. However, he added, it has been possible to check the downward trend of the foreign reserve due to appropriate measures taken by the present government.

Kibria told the seminar that the government is to incur a loss of Tk 2500 crore annually for the losing industrial units in the public sector.

To overcome the situation, the government has undertaken massive reforms and accelerated the privatisation programme.

Referring to the power sector, the minister blamed the "wrong steps" of the past BNP government for disaster in this sector. He, however, assured that the problem would be solved by next year.

He said the rate of inflation remains below five per cent and the overall economy is picking up.

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