

Lawyers urged to uphold sanctity of profession

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman has called upon lawyers to maintain the sanctity of the legal profession instead of running after money.

"Please keep in mind that lawyers by their oath are obliged to uphold the constitution and other rights of human beings brushing aside all that is unconstitutional and unethical," he said.

Justice Rahman was speaking at a function after administering oath to 226 new lawyers of the High Court Division at a hotel here Sunday night.

Former chief justice A T M Afzal, former acting chief justice B B Roy Chowdhury, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Bar Council members Barrister Shafiq Ahmed and Advocate Abul Baset Majumder spoke on the occasion.

Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister M Amirul Islam delivered the address of welcome while Ex-officio Chairman of Bar Council and Attorney General Mahmudul Islam chaired the function, organised by Bangladesh Bar Council.

Justice Rahman, who is going to retire on Wednesday, said, "Accord-

ing to my experience if a lawyer really wants to be eminent in the profession he or she has to stick to certain things."

These are, he said, to be punctual to court, not to run after money, to attend seniors' chambers regularly, to read law journals and to be patient in dealing with clients and show restraint in court.

Describing the legal profession as noble, enlightened and sacred, the chief justice said there is no short-cut to fame in the law profession. "You have to attain it gradually by dint of your labour, sincerity, good behaviour in the court, and with the client and people."

Expressing dismay, Justice Rahman said the gap that exists between the junior and senior lawyers in different bars across the country is not good for the profession. "From this function of the apex body of lawyers, Bar Council, I call upon the senior lawyers to send a message to their fellow seniors to patronise the juniors."

He underscored the need for good relations between the bar and the bench. Bar and bench are complementary to each other, he said. "Please come forward to make the judiciary dynamic and more pro-

people."

Justice BB Roy said lawyers have to do their best to maintain the rich tradition and long heritage of the profession. Recalling the contribution of late S R Pal to the profession, he asked the lawyers to follow him as a model to achieve success. Justice Roy also urged the lawyers to be skilled in drafting, proficient in language and crystal clear in voice.

Khasru said people would not honour the lawyers merely for their uniforms. "Only service to people will bring them respect," he asserted. He regretted that many bars lack good lawyers because of dearth of expertise.

He also urged juniors to visit the chambers of the senior lawyers for inspiration and guidance in order to succeed in the profession.

Welcoming the new entrants to the High Court, Barrister Amirul Islam said a lawyer should be trained as 'social engineer'. He said lawyers also need to be involved in crucial social issues, including poverty alleviation, women's role, the environment and human rights.



PHOTO: STAR

Pro-hartal pickets set a auto-rickshaw on fire at Fakirapool crossing in the city during hartal hours yesterday.

Hasina-Musharraf parley

FROM PAGE 12

"The ice has started melting." Foreign secretary Syed Muazzem Ali told reporters after the meeting Sunday afternoon.

Replying to a barrage of questions, he admitted that there had been some irritants in the bilateral relations, but "the meeting will have a salutary effect on strengthening our bilateral ties."

The Foreign Secretary said outstanding bilateral issues, including repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis as well as trade and investment, came up for discussion in the meeting.

Besides, he said, the two leaders discussed the need for maintaining peace in South Asia and early holding of SAARC summit stalled for more than two years, apparently following acrimonious relations between two rival neighbours-India and Pakistan.

To a question Ali said, "It was a spontaneous and good meeting held in a very cordial and warm atmosphere."

The Foreign Secretary would not say whether the expulsion of Pakistan diplomat Irfan Raja from Dhaka following his comments

against Bangladesh's independence and Pakistan's apology for its army atrocities during 1971 cropped up during the summit talks between the two sides.

The Dhaka-Islamabad relations suffered a serious setback when the Pakistani Deputy High Commissioner, Raja, made audacious comments about Bangladesh's war of liberation in 1971 and was expelled in reprisal.

Apart from meeting with the Pakistani military ruler, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held a series of talks with Turkey's President Ahmed Necdet Sezer, Nigerian President Olwgun Obasejo, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi and Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharaji on matters of bilateral interest.

Hasina's discussion with the D-8 leaders mainly featured expansion of trade and economic cooperation on bilateral and global planes, in the context of challenges stemming from globalisation.

Iqbal will be quizzed: DC DB

FROM PAGE 1

When contacted, DC of Detective Branch (DB) of Police Abdul Hannan said police were so far unable to locate hideouts of the culprits. Asked about arrest of Khoka, he said, "Everyone in the procession from where the shots were fired is responsible for the crime. He will be useful in the police investigation."

Asked why Iqbal was not being arrested, he said, "Why do you think he will not be interrogated? He will be interrogated at the end of DB police investigation."

Hannan however said DB investigation to the case is yet to start. Local police are now conducting investigation.

He categorically denied the allegation that police reached an understanding with Liaquat's group.

Some sources said Khoka was not involved with any terrorist group. However, his brother Hasib used to have good relations with chief of the Seven Star group Shuvro.

Ramna AL President Abul Bashar, when contacted by this correspondent, claimed that Khoka is known as a good person. People of Nayatola area where Khoka

resides also gave similar views. Some senior leaders of the ruling AL also expressed surprise that instead of arresting the culprits involved in the Malibagh killings, police arrested Khoka.

Khoka was present in the procession led by Iqbal, but witnesses said he was not carrying any arms nor he was involved in the acts of violence. He is not even an accused in any of the four cases filed in this connection.

Sources said Khoka is a potential DCC ward commissioner candidate from Ward No 55 in the forthcoming elections. But Liaquat's 'top hitman' Juba League leader Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon also aspires to become ward commissioner from the same ward on AL ticket. He is now trying to cash in on the current situation and keep Khoka off his path, the sources noted.

Khoka's brother Monzur Morshed Monzu told this correspondent that among the members of their family, only Khoka is involved in politics. "If he had fired shots from that procession, he would not have come back home and slept, rather he would have gone into hiding. There is no doubt that he is a victim of conspiracy," he added.

AL Ramna thana unit leaders also made similar remarks.

A senior DB official said Khoka was present in the procession and that is why he was arrested. Asked why police were not arresting others, especially those spotted in press photographs, he said they could not be traced as yet.

Another DB official, requesting anonymity, said it should be investigated why Khoka was arrested.

Some underworld sources also claimed that Liaquat had master-

mind the Malibagh incident and was present in the procession.

"Liaquat is not on good terms with Iqbal but he had voluntarily joined the procession along with his gang members. He had a motive behind this," one of the underworld leaders said. On February 12, Liaquat had discussed with his men the 'next day's operation', he added.

Underworld sources also said that during the February 13 incident, Liaquat was carrying a shotgun. His accomplices Shaon used a 9 mm pistol, Arman used a Czech pistol -- C-Z, Hannan 7.65 mm, Dulal 9 mm and Mithu 7.65 mm pistols. All of them are now absconding.

Opposition

FROM PAGE 12
Fazlul Haq Amini, BNP leader Ziauddin Murad, before the Eid-ul-Azha.

Bhuiyan pressed the demand for withdrawal of false cases filed against opposition leaders and activists across the country, and condemned filing of false cases under the PSA against over a dozen of BNP leaders and activists at Keraniganj yesterday.

BNP leaders M Shamsul Islam, Anwar Zahid, Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Abdus Salam; JP leaders Nazir Rahman Manjur, ABM Golam Mostafa and Saifur Rahman; Jamaat leaders Ali Hsan Mujahid, Mohammad Kamaruzzaman, Abdul Qader Mollah and ATM Azharul Islam, and IOJ leaders Ahmed Abdul Qader and Abdur Rab Yusufi attended the CLC meeting and was present at the briefing.

Amit's pacemaker

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Besides, there has also been a long gap between diagnosis of Amit's disease and implantation of the breathing pacemaker."

Dr Lutful Aziz, in-charge of the hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) where Amit has been kept so far, said, "Normally, the device takes two months to work fully but in Amit's case it is taking more time."

There is almost no activity of the respiratory muscles on which the device depends to properly function, experts treating Amit said. The nerves are responding but not up to the level expected, they added. Nevertheless, they said, Amit is responding well and can breath with the aid for up to 45 minutes.

On February 7, a medical board, convened to review Amit's conditions, found the pacemaker's performance satisfactory and decided to send him home. The board concluded that the 13-year-old no longer needed intensive care.

However, for the time being, Amit has to depend on an artificial breathing aid like the one he has so far been connected to at the intensive care unit of the hospital. A ventilator costs nearly eight lakh taka.

Meanwhile, a team of doctors went to Amit's home at Central Basabo in the city two weeks back to assess whether the conditions there were conducive for the schoolboy.

New polymer notes of Tk 100 denomination soon

UNB, Dhaka

New polymer notes of Tk 100 denomination is likely to be introduced in the country within next 10 days.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Mohammad Farshuddin told a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance Ministry yesterday.

He said all notes of the Taka currency would be standardised in two separate sizes: notes of Tk 100 and Tk 500 denominations in one size and others in another size by next two and a half years. The notes will gradually be converted to polymer notes.

"The notes will be in dollar sizes to make those handy," he was quoted to have told the lawmakers in the meeting at Sangsad Bhavan with the committee chairman, Prof Ali Ashraf, in the chair.

Earlier, the central bank had introduced polymer notes of Tk 10 denomination in the first phase.

Mubarak

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh. The Prime Minister apprised the Egyptian President of her government's socio-economic and micro-credit programmes as well as success in food production in the country.

Hasina invited President Hosni Mubarak to visit Bangladesh. The Egyptian President accepted the invitation gladly, saying that the visit would take place at a convenient time. Mubarak recalled his trip to Dhaka in 1979 as vice-president of the Arab country.

Hasina also congratulated Hosni Mubarak on his assumption of the chairmanship of the D-8 and hoped that the new economic grouping would be further consolidated under his dynamic leadership.

On the question of Palestine, the Prime Minister expressed Bangladesh's full support to the Palestinian and Arab cause, and hoped that the Middle-East peace process would be "perused in the right direction."

Authorities still hopeful

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he ruled out payment of money to buy freedom for the hostages saying it would encourage others to go for kidnappings in future. The authorities have already assured the abductors of safety if they turn up for talks and future safety if they release the hostages unharmed, the source added.

Ruling out the military option to

secure freedom of Torben Mikkelsen, Nils Hulggaard and Tim Selby, the official said it might take sometime but a breakthrough is expected.

The abductors have so far skipped talks and stuck to their demand for Tk nine crore ransom and withdrawal of a tight cordon laid by the Army with assistance from BDR and police.

Bangla newspaper launched in Malaysia

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's first newspaper for the Bangladeshi community was launched yesterday.

Deputy Home Minister Zainal Abidin Zain said it was the first time the government had granted a licence for a company to publish a newspaper for foreigners.

"It is very rare in the world for a government to issue a licence for a publication which is not for its people but for immigrants, what more in a foreign language," he was quoted as saying by the Bernama news agency.

Editor Moniruzzaman Razu told AFP that the weekly tabloid "Probashi" (Expatriate) had been on sale in Singapore since 1998 with some 12,000 subscribers and is the only Bengali-language newspaper in Southeast Asia.

He said the Malaysian edition of

Pethidine crisis

FROM PAGE 12

Crisis of the drug is hampering emergency treatment at government hospitals and health complexes. Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), being the biggest one in the country, is the worst hit. At least 36,000 ampoules of pethidine are used at the hospital annually.

Non availability of the drug has also affected surgeries at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), Chest Diseases Hospital, Suhrawardi General Hospital and also Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

However, in emergency cases doctors now use diconafec sodium and similar other analgesics.

When contacted yesterday, Manager (Administration) of EDCL Rafiqur Rahman said, "We are still unable to supply the drug to all government hospitals although we have resumed production of it after getting the raw materials recently."

In a letter to the Director of

DMCH, the EDCL authorities said they would not be able to supply pethidine at least till March 17.

Ganoshasthya Pharmaceutical Ltd (GPL), the only private sector plant that produces the drug, supplies it to private clinics, hospitals and authorised pharmacies.

Production of pethidine at GPL was also affected due to raw material crisis from June to August last year. Prices then shot up to Tk 400 per ampoule in the black market, sources recalled.

Meanwhile, doctors at the DMCH, especially at the burn unit, were seen yesterday desperately trying to relieve agonising pains of some patients after surgeries by using some less effective pain killers.

In the casualty ward, a patient with burn injuries was crying in pain. The doctor standing beside him said the only way to relieve his pain is to administer pethidine. But he regretted that the hospital has no supply of the drug for the last one month.

Pustaka deadline

FROM PAGE 1

papers, sources said. "These books would not be durable and not good for eyesight as those books have been printed on the papers of poor quality," another source said.

The tender schedule requires that the secondary textbooks be printed on 48-gram foreign papers, but Pustaka and its subcontractors have used 40-gram papers, he said.

Officials of Pustaka were not available for comment, despite repeated attempts to contact them.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption has begun investigation into the textbook scam following filing of a case by one guardian. The bureau officials have seized some documents from the NCTB upon its failure to provide those in time.

Besides, the textbooks are mostly printed on low-quality

papers, sources said. "These books would not be durable and not good for eyesight as those books have been printed on the papers of poor quality," another source said.

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Sathkira By-election

FROM PAGE 12

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh are keeping away from the race.

The candidates are: B M A Nurul Islam of Awami League, Krishak Mohammad Sadek of Bangladesh Krishak Samik Mukti Andolon and Md Shahidul Islam of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal. Abul Kalam Azad, Khan A Mirza Masud Jewel, Md Abdul Majid and Sheikh Sirajul Islam are the independent candidates.

According to the fresh voters' list, a total of 3,03,088 voters, 1,50,955 male and 1,52,133 female are eligible to exercise their franchise in the upcoming polls.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday banned movement of all vehicles from mid-night Monday night to 6 am on March 1 in the

constituency area. The vehicles under ban included motor cycle, baby-taxi, micro-bus, jeep, pick-up, car, bus, truck, tempo, launch, engine-boat and speed-boat.

But the restriction will not be applicable to candidates contesting the by-election, persons with valid identity cards, election agents, journalists from home and abroad, officers and employees on election duties, members of law enforcing agencies and emergency services like fire-service, ambulance, electricity and gas, an official handout said.

Besides, carrying of all sorts of legal arms, except by the members of law enforcing agencies on election duty, has also been banned during the period.

Don Bradman passes away

FROM PAGE 1

"He was a person who at a time of economic and social despair during the Depression lifted the spirits of the Australian people and gave them heart and a sense of belief in themselves."

Rumours of Bradman's pending death have been circulating around Australia for the past few years since his son reclaimed the family name after decades of living under an alias to avoid oppressive media and public attention.

They intensified last August when Bradman made a rare public statement, in a speech read by his son, proclaiming his "days on earth were rapidly drawing to a close" and reflecting on his glittering career.

A month later, during the Sydney Olympics, the Australian Cricket Board issued a statement quashing rumours he had died but they reappeared in December when Bradman spent a week in hospital with pneumonia.

The premier of South Australia, where Bradman lived, said the government had offered to honour the batting legend with a state funeral if the family agreed.

But Bradman's son John issued a statement to say his father had requested a private cremation but said a public memorial would be held in about two or three weeks.

"The family asks that the privacy of the funeral be respected," John Bradman said in a statement.

"(But) the memorial service will be open to the public."

Mulvaney said a giant screen would be installed at Adelaide Oval, so thousands of people who could not attend the memorial service could watch it on television.

He also said the Australian postal service had agreed to provide condolence books at around 190 offices throughout the country.

Australia's former cricket captains immediately joined in paying tribute to Bradman.

Mark Taylor paid the ultimate compliment to Bradman in 1998 when he equalled his Australian Test batting record of 334 in a match against Pakistan but refused to better his record, declaring his innings closed out of respect to him.

"Sir Donald is certainly the greatest Australian I have met," Taylor said. "His innings may have closed but

his legacy will forever live on in the hearts of millions of Australians."

Known simply as "The Don," Bradman became a national sporting icon during the 1930s and 1940s by rewriting cricket's record books.

He retired from first class cricket more than half a century ago, but his records remain the yardstick for sportsmen around the globe.

He played in 52 Tests for Australia between 1928-1948, scoring 6,996 runs at an average of 99.94. He scored 29 centuries with a top score of 334.

But part of Bradman's legend is that in his final Test innings, against England in London in 1948, he was bowled second ball for a duck when he needed just four runs for a career average of 100.

Despite the anti-climax, Bradman's key statistics remain a source of fascination and bewilderment for generations of cricketers.

Of the many great players that have followed him to the wicket, none has come close to matching his feats.

In fact, only three batsmen, South Africa's Graeme Pollock (60.97), West Indian George Headley (60.83) and England's

Moving with 'extra caution'

FROM PAGE 1

media interest is high. "But we strongly oppose the use of force to bring the situation to an end. We understand that action is intended after midnight (February 22). What does this mean?"

"Our overriding concern is for the safety of the hostages. They would be placed in grave danger if military action was used in a rescue attempt. We are sending experienced advisers to assist our Heads of Mission. They will be able to help the negotiation strategy," the joint note said.

The note by the British and Danish governments also carried an appendix from the two missions. "In our view this kidnap must end in a peaceful manner. Therefore, we welcome the government of Bangladesh assurances that the police and the military will continue to show restraint. It is the experience that such cases have to be solved using great patience and sensitivity, while the safety of the hostages is not compromised."

"Our representatives in Ranganati (should) be included in briefings, and kept informed of all new information regarding the kidnap and are taken into confidence of the negotiators at all times," the appendix said.

"Since the foreigners who are involved suggest that negotiations be the only way, it has to be done peacefully. Time should not be a deterring factor but taking more time should be encouraged. Perhaps the captors could be worn out," said one official.

Another official termed the stand taken by both British and Danish "ambiguous in many ways." "They want a peaceful resolution of the conflict and the government to negotiate but are against use of force," he said. "Also, there is no scope for payment of the ransom as rules of one foreign government specifically negates dealing with hostages for ransom."

The Army, whose troops have laid a cordon in the hills, said that they had not planned any action on the night of February 22 or anytime till now.

"We will wait and carry out only the political decision and not act on our own," a military official said. Another official pointed out that there were four distinct players in hostage negotiations: local administration, local political leadership, foreign diplomats and security agencies.

"A co-ordinated action plan has to be worked out to break the impasse," he said.

An intelligent man with a wonderful sense of wit, Bradman was also asked how he thought he might perform against modern bowling attacks.

Bradman replied he would average 65, before adding with a grin: "You have to remember I am in my 80s."

Bradman's amazing achievements made him a hero to cricket fans the world over.

When Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1990 after more than 25 years behind bars, one of his first questions was to inquire whether Bradman was still alive.

One recruiter admits

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means. It had suggested to the ministry concerned to take actions against the violators of the recruiting rules.

However, despite having received 'unsatisfactory replies' from the four recruiters against separate showcause notices served upon them, the Labour and Employment Ministry failed to take any actions against them, said sources in the parliamentary committee.

A ministry official, who attended the meeting yesterday, also acknowledged that some 150 Bangladeshis were languishing in the Saudi city of Dammam for over a year now failing to get any job.

"The ministry would ask our Counsel General in Jeddah to send a detailed report about the agency responsible for the immense sufferings of the Bangladeshis in Dammam," the official said, preferring anonymity.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary committee has asked the three other recruiting agencies to submit records of manpower recruitment for the last two years to the committee at the earliest.

In another development, the parliamentary committee yesterday endorsed all recommendations of a

court order in this regard. In the report, DB police said that there was doubt about Dipu's involvement in the case.

The complainant Nurul Islam gave a judicial statement before the CMM's court yesterday, stating that he was not home during the time of the murder.

The complainant also submitted an affidavit before the court yesterday stating that Dipu Chowdhury was not involved in the murder.

Taraj Uddin, president of a cooperative society at Narda in the city's Uttara, was gunned down by a gang of armed men on February 8.

Police have so far arrested 11 persons for their alleged involvement in the killing. Of them, Dipu was granted bail while the hearing for remand for Rana and Saurav would be held today.

When contacted last night, Dhaka Central Jail authorities said that Dipu was released on bail yesterday.

The decision was made in presence of the representatives of the apex forum of the garment sector, the BGMEA.

When asked about such a shift in the decision-making, Shahjahan Khan, MP, told The Daily Star, "It is not totally true that we did not endorse our earlier decision today (Monday). Rather, the sub-committee would sit again soon to consider a BGMEA proposal for dropping the penalty clause from our report."

He, however, asserted that there should be a 'token' fine on the salary-defaulting garment factory owners.

Hartal disrupts life

FROM PAGE 12

Hasan Tripty, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Abdus Salam, Khairul Kabir Khokon, JP leaders Saifur Rahman, Talibur Rahman, Abu Hossain Babla, Gazi Kamrul Islam Sajal; Jamaat leaders Ali Hsan Mujahid, Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and ATM Azharul Islam and IOJ leader Abdur Rab Yusufi led their respective processions.