

HC rule on ex-Speaker Adv Abdul Hamid

UNB, Dhaka The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon former Speaker advocate Abdul Hamid, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar and the Law Secretary to explain why Hamid should not be deemed to have vacated his seat as a member of the eighth parliament.

The rule is returnable within three weeks. A High Court division bench comprising Justice Syed JR Muddassir Hossain and Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain issued the rule after hearing a writ petition.

Adv Muhammad Fazlur Rahman, one of the rivals to Adv Abdul Hamid in the October 1 general election, filed the writ. Adv Hamid is now the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Adv Khan Saifur Rahman moved the writ, arguing that article 67(1) of the Constitution provides vacation of a parliament seat if the MP-elect concerned does not take oath within 90 days from the first sitting of the parliament. The Speaker has to administer the oath to him.

Rahman submitted that the Speaker did not administer the oath to Adv Hamid, so he is deemed to have vacated his seat in the parliament.

The counsel for the petitioner said it was a rigid constitutional obligation on Adv Abdul Hamid to attend the oath-taking ceremony administered by the Speaker to enter upon the office as a member

of the eighth parliament within 90 days from the date of its first meeting.

As the said period have passed without compliance with the rigid obligation, as mandated in the Constitution, Adv Hamid must be deemed to have vacated his seat as member of parliament, the counsel said.

Former Speaker Adv Abdul Hamid administered the oath to the newly elected members of parliament after taking oath of office by himself, which is not permitted by the Constitution, he argued.

Meanwhile, Adv Abdul Hamid told UNB yesterday that being a Speaker, he took oath first by himself as a member of parliament as per rule before administering oath to all other members of present parliament.

"There is no bar to it in the Constitution... it was done as per rule," he said.

He said the question of taking oath second time from the new Speaker is "unwarranted" and does not arise at all.

"Being the Speaker, I took oath first by myself and administered oath to all the members of parliament... Why should I take oath administered by Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar who I had administered oath to?" said the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

Hamid, however, said that since the court has issued the rule, he would give reply in a legal way.



Jatiya Janata Party formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding that a stadium be named after General MAG Osmany.

Clinical wastes spread TB, leprosy, cholera in city

UNB, Dhaka Unplanned and reckless disposal of clinical wastes in the capital city has long been generating various bacterial diseases, which are causing continuous suffering for lakhs of city-dwellers of all ages.

According to a recent study, the diseases like tuberculosis, leprosy, cholera and skin complications have become almost a regular phenomenon in the city with thousands of patients getting admitted into hospitals or visiting doctors in their chambers everyday for treatment.

Doctors said these diseases had been spreading rapidly, affecting both male and female as well as

old and young because of direct disposal of these hospital wastes into open spaces, surface drains, tanks and ponds as well as rivers around the capital city.

It was observed in the study that free-style waste disposal along with unbridled emission of black smoke and also the dense canopy of dust together made the total environment of the city quite unbearable for all here.

"The way the hospital wastes are being disposed of is completely unsafe and hazardous to the environment," says Dr Reaz Mubarak, the author of the study.

He conducted the study titled "Hospital Environmental Management in Dhaka" under the aegis of Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies (BCAS). It is a well-known fact that many a patient, particularly those undergoing operations in the city's hospitals, subsequently develops infections often leading to fatalities, he observed.

However, Dr. Reaz Mubarak said he could not collect the rate, prevalence, types and other indicators of such diseases spreading through endogenous and exogenous infections as the hospitals here did not document them.

It said liquid and solid waste

containing hazardous materials is simply dumped into the nearest drain or garbage heap. Even the waste of the hospitals and diagnostic centers are not separated, segregated or sorted out, the study findings said.

The study focused on waste disposal of Sir Salimullah Medical College and Hospital, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (MSMMU) and the Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital.

The study said there is no protection or protective mechanism for cleaners or others handling waste, which are often infectious and potentially dangerous. There is no incinerator or any alternative method for safe disposal of waste, it added.

It also revealed that there is no proper treatment facility for medical waste in the country. The disposal of waste is done through a crude method resulting in possibilities of infection for professionals, workers, waste collectors and people in general.

The study said mainly the pathological, gynecological and surgical departments produce thousands of litres of liquid waste.

SAARC scout camp begins in Bhutan today

UNB, Dhaka A 33-member team of rovers and scouts left Dhaka for Bhutan on Saturday to attend the weeklong SAARC Rainbow Scout Friendship Camp beginning today.

The team includes 14 rovers, 16 scouts and two unit leaders. Deputy Training Executive of Bangladesh Scouts Dhanalal Muhuri is leading the contingent.

The objective of holding the camp is to build up more friendship and brotherhood among the rovers and scouts of the SAARC member countries, said a press release.

950 bottles of liquor seized at Ctg port

BSS, Chittagong Bangladesh Navy seized 950 bottles of foreign-made liquor of about Tk 13 lakh from two engine boats at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port in the early hours of yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Anti-smuggling Cell of the Navy apprehended the boats and the liquor at 3 am, official sources said.

The seized liquor and boats were handed over to the Customs Department.

A case was lodged with Patenga thana in this connection.

Obituary

Begum Sakina Sultana (Meena), wife of Dr Muhammad Sirajul Islam, former vice-chancellor of Islamic University, breathed her last on Monday at a city hospital at the age of 69, says a press release.

She left behind three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Her namaj-e-janaza will be held on February 23 and her qukhwani will be held after Maghrib prayers on February 27 at her Dhanmondi residence.

Death anniversary

Today is the 14th death anniversary of freedom fighter Allahma Ataur Rahman Chowdhury, founder-chairman of Mustafa Alalhmda Gup Foundation and ex-Subedar Major of British Indian Army, says a press release.

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Environmental degradation puts millions of people at risk

Minister tells national seminar in city

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said severe environment pollution caused by the emissions of industrial waste, thick black smoke from vehicles, mills and factories and unplanned urbanisation have pushed millions of people into the jaws of deadly diseases.

The country will become unlivable if environment pollution is not checked immediately, they said while addressing the first national seminar on "Environmental Hazards Endangering Health in Bangladesh: Save Environment, Save Health" in Sasakawa auditorium of ICDDR,B in the city.

Organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA), the seminar was addressed by environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj, Information Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, State Minister for Water Resources

Goutam Chakraborty, chairman of seminar organising committee Dr S K Roy and member-secretary Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin.

Shajahan Siraj said the country's environmental degradation has put the health of millions of people at risk as well as hindered the socio-economic development.

He identified indiscriminate use of fertilisers and pesticides, uncontrolled emissions from vehicles and mills and factories, unplanned urbanisation and poor drainage system as the major causes for severe environmental degradation in the country.

The environment minister said soil fertility is being reduced and water bodies are being polluted substantially due to uncontrolled use of pesticides and fertilisers.

The use of chemical fertilisers in agricultural field is increasing the production cost of agricultural produces while excess use of pesticides is making the water bodies

unfit for fish cultivation, he said.

Shajahan Siraj said the presence of heavy metal and other hazardous chemical ingredients in industrial waste and lead in air are the causes for lung, liver and kidney diseases.

The environment minister said the government is undertaking a programme to save the people from air pollution caused by emission of toxic smokes from vehicles from March 1, 2002.

Law would be enacted soon to assemble catalytic converters and diesel particulate filters in vehicles, he said.

Dr Moyeen Khan said the life of people could not be saved if environmental degradation was not halted.

"The country would be unlivable if we continue to exploit the nature," he said, urging all to save the country from severe environmental degradation.

Dhaka elected OIC body meet vice-chairman

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh was elected a vice-chairman of the 10th General Assembly Meeting of the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Co-operation (COMSTECII).

The meeting was held in Islamabad from February 16 to 18. State Minister for Science and Technology Lutfor Rahman Khan attended the meeting as the head of the two-member Bangladesh delegation.

The state minister, who addressed a session of the meeting, returned home yesterday.

New national committee of Junior chamber

The Junior Chamber Bangladesh announced its new national committee for the Year 2002 in its 2nd annual conference held in the city recently.

The programme marked the installation of the new executive committee. Waqar Chowdhury took over as its president at the ceremony.

Other members of the committee are JC (GS), JC Asif, JC Atiq, JC Adib, JC Safena, JC Iftekar, JC Partho, JC Mamun, JC Tahseem, JC Farzul, JC Anirban and JC Saif.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, a former minister and business leader, attended the programme as chief guest. Junior Chamber International Senator and Past Vice-President K V Valap Das was also present.

Saber Hossain also gave away the certificates to the participants of a training seminar on marketing which was a part of the conference.

Junior Chamber Bangladesh is a fully affiliated member of Junior Chamber International, an organisation existing in over 123 countries.

Affiliated in 1999, Junior Chamber Bangladesh has been successfully carrying out many programmes that fulfil the goals and visions of this international body.

Agro-based EPZ to be set up in Rajshahi

UNB, Dhaka

The government is taking urgent steps to establish an agro-based EPZ in Rajshahi to boost agricultural sector through export of huge farm produce available in the region.

Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury gave the assurance while exchanging views with the elite and businessmen on the proposed export-processing zone.

"The government is interested to set up the EPZ in Rajshahi as it believes in decentralization-oriented development policy," he told the meet held at the Rajshahi Udyan Unnayan Kendro to assess the prospects for setting up such EPZ that has long been longed by people of the industrially backward area.

He said the government has adopted decentralised development strategy instead of centralized development for overall socioeconomic development of the country.

"Living standard of country's common people could never be elevated conducting development activities based on Dhaka or a few other cities," he said.

Referring to dillydallying in the activities of the public sector, the commerce minister invited private entrepreneurs to come forward to assist setting up agro-based EPZ in Rajshahi. The government is giving priority to the private sector, he added.

Agriculturist Raghunath Kunda presented a keynote paper on

"Establishing Agro-based EPZ in Rajshahi Region: Scope and Opportunities."

It was estimated in the paper that about 14.45 lakh tons of vegetables are cultivated in about 90,000 hectares of land in Rajshahi-Bogra region.

Organised by the Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the meeting was attended by city mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Korean EPZ and Yangone Corporation Chairman Kihak Sung, and Executive Director of Barendra Bahumukhi Unnayan Prokhalpo Dr M Ashrafuzzaman.

The commerce minister later visited the probable site for the EPZ.

Dacoity at travel agency office in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Burglars took away cash, gold ornaments and a licensed revolver from a travel agency office at Outer Circular Road in the city's Motijheel area yesterday.

A gang of burglars entered the office of Aziz Travels at 188, Outer Circular Road and took away cash Tk 2.60 lakh, gold ornaments weighing 20 tolas and a licensed revolver with six bullets.

Sources said that the gold ornaments and revolver were kept inside the locker as it was not safe to keep them at the residence.



The 2nd annual conference of Junior Chamber Bangladesh was held at a city hotel recently.

National transport policy next month

UNB, Dhaka

A national transport policy will be announced next month with the objective to build an integrated road and rail network across the country.

The draft of the policy has already been finalised, Communications Minister Baridhara Nazmul Huda told a high powered delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday.

During the meeting at the communications ministry, the minister said the road and rail communication would be improved and expanded in the light of the policy.

ADB's technical and financial assistance in modernisation, expansion and development of the country's roads and railways came up for discussion during the meeting.

State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed, Communications Secretary Syed Rezaul Haque, ADB's country director Toru Shibuchi, Senior Project Implementation Officer Ray Cahoon took part in the discussion.

ADB representatives stressed the need for formulating an integrated national transport policy by speeding up reforms in the roads and railways sector for its sustainable development.

They also laid emphasis on effective and efficient utilisation of the ADB funds as the communications minister sought the bank's financial and technical assistance in this regard.

The minister also sought ADB's help in expansion, development, computerisation of railway and procurement of weighing machines for roads and highways.

Career Opportunity

An internationally reputed Pre-Engineered steel building manufacturer, Emirates Building Systems (EBS) of Dubai invites application for the position of Sales Engineer for Marketing EBS Products in Bangladesh Engineers having Degree in B.Sc Engg (Civil) with 5-10 Years experience in Marketing of Engineering Products preferably Steel Structures are requested to apply for the position with confidence for immediate appointment. Attractive salary will be offered to the really deserving candidates.

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Table with columns: খতিয়ান নং, দাগ নং, বরফ, পরিমাণ. It lists land parcels with their respective numbers and details.

মোট = ৪.৯৬ একর
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Scope for Work for Midterm Evaluation for hiring of US based International Firms Integrated Food Security Program of CARE - Bangladesh hereby invites proposals from the experienced international firms based in US to conduct midterm evaluation of the program. The Program is designed to address CARE Bangladesh, USAID and the Government of Bangladesh's (GOB) developmental goal of improving food security of vulnerable households. The five-year (fiscal year 2000-2004) program, funded by USAID and the GOB, is being implemented in food insecure regions of the country, with greater emphasis on the least-developed upazilas, flood and disaster prone areas, crowded, unhygienic low-income urban settlements through four different thematic components. The goal of the program is to promote and protect the food and livelihood security of vulnerable groups in underdeveloped high-risk rural and urban areas of Bangladesh. Strategic objectives: 1. To protect and promote household resources and assets; 2. To improve health, hygiene and nutritional practices of vulnerable groups; and 3. To promote effective and sustainable institutional support system. In order to reach these strategic objectives, the Integrated Food Security Program is being implemented through four thematic components: Building Infrastructure for Local Development (BUILD), Disaster Management (DMP), Flood Proofing (FPP) and Supporting Household Activities for Hygiene, Assets and Revenue (SHAHR). The Mid-term Evaluation will be guided by the Scope of Work. Interested organizations should submit a detail proposal and budget to CARE/Bangladesh by COB (local time) March 13, 2002 at 2.00 P.M. The proposal should include: 1. A detailed methodology to carry out the Scope of Work; 2. CVs of proposed staff along with clear indications of their roles and responsibilities during the evaluation; (this can be in the form of a Scope of Work for each position); 3. An indication of the timing proposed to carry out the work, and 4. A detail budget. Proposals will be evaluated on the capacity of the organization, mix of personnel, technical merit of the methodology, and cost. The detailed scope of work for the activities will be available with Md. Musharraf Hossain, Manager-HRM at musharof@carebangladesh.org or House # 61, Road # 7/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1209. You can also visit www.bdjobs.com for Scope of work for this consultancy. Only suitable international firms (US based) will be contacted for the assignment. CARE-Bangladesh reserves the right to accept/reject any or all of proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

North South University (Established by the North South University Foundation) Appointment of Architecture-Engineering Consultant Time Extension Sealed offers were invited from reputable consulting firms for planning, designing, and supervising the construction works to build a state of art campus buildings for the North South University. The invitation was published on December 23, 2001. Originally the last date for submitting offers was March 9, 2002. Based on requests from participating firms for time extension, the final date for submitting offer is extended by 3 weeks as follows: Revised date: Complete offers must reach the office of the undersigned on or before, March 30, 2002. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason whatsoever. The Chairman Board of Governors North South University Foundation 12 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka 1213. Tel: 9886111-20, Ext-175 Fax: 880-2-8821495 E-mail: mmh@nsu.agni.com, Web: http://www.northsouth.edu