

SC orders 9 officials

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in conformity with the 12 directives of the Supreme Court.

The petitioner also suggested the new formulations of the Law Commission will make sent back to court in six weeks for implementation.

Barrister Amir-Ul Islam submitted to the court two documents containing recommendations and opinions made by Bangladesh Administrative Service Association and the establishment ministry on the separation.

The court also ordered Attorney General AF Hassan Arif in writing to inform it whether the draft rules prepared and sent for presidential approval are in line with Supreme Court directives.

The attorney general submitted a copy of the draft rules and relevant papers sent by the establishment ministry to the Prime Minister's Office for presidential approval, which it had asked for Sunday.

'NAMETHEM'
The court asked TH Khan to divulge the identity of the person who directed Senior Assistant Secretary of the establishment ministry Khalilur Rahman to convene the November 1 meeting.

"Those can be found in the documents that I have already submitted to

Shibir men lock Ctg medical college again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

the court," Khan said, without disclosing the name. "Moreover, you (court) did not give any written order for this. Please order me in writing," he added.

The court later decided to issue the written order.

OFFICIALS KEPT STANDING

At one stage of the hearing, Khan told the court, "For the last three days, you have kept them (government officials) standing. I expected you to ask them to take seats."

"There are joint secretaries among my clients whose ranks are equivalent to the High Court judges," he remarked.

The court reacted sharply to the remarks and ordered the counsel to furnish the warrant of precedence.

Barrister Amir-Ul Islam protested at the remarks and observed no such comparison should be drawn.

Khan later apologised for his comments.

WRONGDOING ADMITTED

The counsel for the government officials admitted that his clients committed wrong by distorting the Supreme Court draft rules.

"The draft you made did not reach my clients, they got the one the law ministry prepared," he said.

Invest more

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would be the country's largest private sector satellite earth station aimed at facilitating local and overseas data and multimedia communications.

The finance minister observed that, due to lack of infrastructure facilities, the country could not make much progress in information and communication technology (ICT).

But, he expressed the hope, once the country is connected with the information superhighway through submarine cable network by September next year the sector would witness significant growth.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Syed Marghub Mosharraf was the special guest of the function.

Economic Relations Division Secretary Mirza Tasadduq Hussain Beg, Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) Chief Operating Officer (COO) M Fouzul Kabir Khan, Prime Bank Chairman Azam J Chowdhury and Janata Bank Chairman Khandaker Shahidul Islam spoke, among others.

Mosharraf in his speech appreciated the initiative to build such a satellite earth station and termed it a milestone in the country's ICT sector.

The single largest ICT infrastructure project will be built through a syndicated loan and equity financing from the central bank at the Savar Export Processing Zone.

Iraq abductors mistook Kashem as Egyptian

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The total project cost has been estimated at Tk 16.24 crore. Of that the syndicate comprising IDCOL, Janta Bank and Prime Bank will provide Tk 9.74 as loan, the Equity and Entrepreneurship Fund of Bangladesh Bank will provide Tk 3.18 crore as equity and the remaining Tk 3.32 crore will be invested by DNS SatComm.

DNS SatComm Ltd earlier had obtained the licence from the BTRC, the telecom watchdog, to construct the station.

DNS SatComm Ltd COO Atiquil Ahsan said, "Corporate houses, banks and satellite television channels would be our prime prospective clients."

He said, after the earth station is set up, DNS would be able to provide lower bandwidth enabling banks to establish more automated teller machines (ATMs) at remote places with lower cost involvement.

"Once the station is on, we expect to have a boom in use of ATMs and credit cards," he said.

Currently banks use VSAT (very small aperture terminal) for online banking and running remote ATMs. The lowest bandwidth locally available is 64 kbps (kilobytes per second), which is costly.

So, once we are ready, local banks would be able to go online with a lower budget, he quipped.

DNS SatComm Ltd Managing Director Rafael Kabir offered the vote of thanks.

Berlin-based TI

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plans change in CPI methodology. The UNB report was run by a number of English dailies.

A copy of the letter was sent also to The Daily Star.

In the letter, the TI official said that the Transparency International's Chairman Peter Eigen has had a meeting with Bangladesh's Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman recently to discuss Bangladesh's low score in the CPI as well as Bangladesh government's initiatives to combat corruption.

Officials of the corporation told the parliamentary probe body the authorities already took measures concerning alleged anomalies and against officials involved. Moreover legal action was taken to collect outstanding space rent and recover corporation's land illegally occupied at Narayanganj and at Mouchak in Dhaka.

As was pointed out with the minister, the CPI is compiled in a very responsible way, using highest quality surveys and based on peer-reviewed academic standards. Contrary to your report, we have no plans to change the methodology of the CPI, nor are we under threats from governments for legal action, or otherwise, regarding the CPI, which this year ranked more than 140 countries based on expert perceptions of corruption, reads the letter.

It also mentioned that at the meeting with Saifur TI chairman stressed that before expecting Bangladesh's anti-corruption reputation to improve, the government needs to tackle corruption more rigorously, and at the same time, to communicate the steps it takes to end it.

The TI welcomed the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission in Bangladesh.

Rice goes

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Economists attribute the situation to the persistent inflation in recent times.

Raju Ahmed, a retailer at the city's Mohammadpur Krishi Market, said only a month ago one *maund* *Swarna* rice would cost Tk 540-Tk560 while now it costs Tk 630-Tk640.

About two months ago one *maund* *Minikit* would cost Tk 720-Tk 740, but now it costs Tk 820-Tk 840, Raju added.

In the same period, price for one *maund* *Naziruzzaman* was around Tk 700 but now it is between Tk 740 and Tk 760. The BR-28 rice, which would sell at Tk 550-Tk 600 a *maund*, now costs Tk 700, said Ruhul Amin, another retailer.

Low-cost coarse rice was priced at Tk 520 a *maund* two months ago, but now it is Tk 600.

At the retail market, price of one *kg* *Naziruzzaman* has topped to Tk 22-Tk 24 from Tk 18-Tk 19. *Swarna* rice at Tk 18-Tk 20 rising from Tk 15-Tk 16, *Minikit* at Tk 24 from Tk 20-Tk 22, coarse rice at Tk 17 from Tk 14 two months ago, the traders said.

Prices of almost all kinds of rice have shot up by Tk 20-Tk 25 a *maund* over the last one week, they said.

While both the retailers and wholesalers blamed the hike in price of rice on shortfall in the production due to devastating floods this year, some of the wholesalers said that inadequate supply was also caused by unsupervised rice millers who hoard rice for higher profit.

BNP, Awami League, the 11-party, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Workers Party, different factions of Jatiya Party, Bilkalpa Dhar Bangladesh, Gono Forum, Bangla Academy, Sammilita Sangkritya Jote and other socio-cultural organisations arranged various programmes to mark the day.

"The traitors who killed our fathers, brothers and mothers are now the part of the government and they are trying to erase their names from history," said Tajul Islam,

Govt weighs

FROM PAGE 1
and she was tortured by the family she lived with as a house help.

Robbed of her possessions on return to Dhaka recently, Jamila was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The Daily Star yesterday ran a report on her ordeal.

The expatriate welfare ministry sent an official to the DMCH on the day to know about Jamila and people linked to the illegal sending of women abroad.

The official however did not find the girl as she had already left for home with her mother.

State Minister for Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Quamrul Islam asked the local authorities to track down the brokers and others who had sent Jamila to Dubai.

He also talked with local lawmaker and State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Rezaul Karim, and Minister for Commerce Attaf Hossain Chowdhury, also in-charge of Narayanganj district, about possible actions against the gang involved in women trafficking in the district.

Expatriate welfare ministry sources said a notorious gang is very active in Narayanganj, sending people abroad illegally. They often traffick women and children to the Middle East countries.

Jamila had told The Daily Star there were a number of Bangladeshi female workers in the locality she lived in. One of them was Sufia, aged around 15, whom she had seen in the same house but she was not allowed to talk to her.

"Sending female workers to Dubai is completely banned since 1997," Quamrul Islam said. The government allows sending them only to Saudi Arabia under strict rules and regulations, he mentioned.

Declining to let the caller speak to Jamila, Ayesha said, "We don't let Jamila speak to anyone except her parents."

Jamila does not know the name or

address of her employer in Dubai. The letters she used to send to her parents bore the address: Jamila, C/O Md Ibrahim, PO Box 6177, RAK, UAE.

The girl said she used to give the letters to one Hammud to send that for her.

Jamila could not also say why her employer sent her back home suddenly. A member of the family only said, "We do not need you anymore."

It was Hammud who on Wednesday asked her to get into a car and took her to his house. The next day, she was taken to airport for a Bangladesh-bound flight.

When contacted, Mostafa, who brokered Jamila's going to Dubai, said he does not know the address of Jamila's employer. "I am just a mediator for a Dubai-based agent and my job is only to supply manpower. I do not know for whom Jamila worked."

Mostafa claimed himself as a "floating broker" without any office and refused to name the local agency he works for.

Jamila's father showed a photocopy of an 'entry permit' issued against his daughter. It bore the name of one Laila Kulsun Mortaj (Emirates), of PO 50.5143547, PO Box 3125, as her sponsor in Dubai.

The Ministry of Interior of United Arab Emirates had issued the permit-2527378/201/2003, Jan 1, 2003, Dubai.

A source at Bangladesh Consulate in Dubai yesterday confirmed that Jamila no longer works there.

But when a source in Dubai contacted Jamila's employer's house over telephone, one Ayesha said Jamila was still working for them.

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5 Bangladeshis drowned in India boat capsizes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

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the northern state of Punjab.

Housewife Kamla Rani had been doing her chores deep in the Indian countryside when she heard a terrible bang and raced outside.

Just a short distance away two passenger trains had collided head-on, killing and injuring many people.

"I heard a loud crash, almost a big blast. I ran out of my house to see smoke all around. Men and women from our village rushed to the accident site with ladders to try and get out as many people as possible," said Rani.

She quickly arrived at a horrific scene of twisted metal near this village in the northern state of Punjab.

Blue and cream wagons reared into the air at crazy angles. Inside, passengers screamed for help.

"People were shrieking as they were trapped inside coaches," said Jodha Mal, 40, owner of a nearby shop. He said he heard a huge screaming as the drivers tried desperately to halt the trains before the collision 150 kilometers (90 miles) east of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

Rescuers used gas cutters to free passengers screaming for help. Some villagers helped them while thousands more looked on from both sides of the tracks amid a cacophony of curious chatter.

At least four carriages were smashed in the collision between an express train travelling from Jammu in Kashmir to Ahmedabad in western Gujarat state, and a local train heading from Jalandhar to Pathankot.

Along line of bodies covered with white sheets stretched across the ground as workers loaded them into vans to send to hospital morgues.

Soldiers pulled an elderly man from the wreckage, his leg bloodied. Others prodded with long metal rods deep inside the wagons searching for victims.

Many of the dead were badly mutilated, police said.

Railway officials said there appeared to have been a mixup that allowed the local train onto the

single-track main line at the wrong time.

But Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav said the cause still had to be determined.

The grisly scenes that played across Indian television screens were all too familiar.

There are around 300 accidents a year, small and big, involving the railway system, which sprawls across the nation of a billion-plus people and carries around 13 million people each day.

'Criminal' dies in shootout with police

UNB, Chittagong

A suspected criminal was killed and another injured in a gunfight with a police patrol at Munipukur in the port city's Pancholia area yesterday evening.

The shootout broke out at about 6:30 pm when the cops chased after a gang of four driving past the area in an auto-rickshaw, said witnesses.

A police sub-inspector was also injured during the exchange of fire that lasted about half an hour.

The police officers chased by the policemen opened fire on them, the policemen returned fire, police sources said.

Identified of the suspected terrorist who died on the spot and the other one who got injured could not yet be confirmed, sources said.

Unofficial sources said the two

police sub-inspectors were killed in the collision between an express train travelling from Jammu in Kashmir to Ahmedabad in western Gujarat state, and a local train heading from Jalandhar to Pathankot.

Police said they recovered a swan-like rifle, a pistol and eight cartridges and seized the CNG-run vehicle from the scene.

Injured Sub-inspector Rafiqul Alam was admitted to the city's Dampara Police Hospital.

All the shops in the area were shut following the gunfire that panicked the locals.

Outlaw killed, 2 cops hurt in shootout

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusht