

NON-APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT JUDGE HC rule on president, law secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the president and law secretary to explain within two weeks why the non-appointment of Abdus Salam Mamun as a regular judge of the HC on completion of his service as an additional judge without any blemish should not be declared illegal.

After hearing a writ petition filed by Abdus Salam Mamun, a HC bench comprising Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Masquique Hossain Ahmed in the rule also asked the president and law secretary to explain why they should not be directed to appoint Mamun as a regular judge of the HC with effect from January 27, 2005.

President Iajuddin Ahmed appointed Mamun along with 10 others as additional judge on July 29, 2002 for a two-year term, but services of all except Mamun were confirmed on July 28, 2004.

Mamun had his job extended for six months the same day (July 28, 2004) but he was not confirmed on expiry of the period on January 27, 2005.

Mamun filed the writ on Monday stating that there was no reason for not confirming his job after completion of his service as an additional judge of the HC division.

He also stated in his petition that the then law minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed had requested him (Mamun) to take oath as an additional judge of the HC for more six months and assured him of confirming his job by this time, but his job was not regularised.

His counsel barrister Masood Reza Sobhan told the court that Mamun was a very competent judge and there was no allegation against him in the files of the government and that not confirming his service was mala fide and illegal.

Conference on tropical diseases begins July 28

METRO DESK A two-day international conference on neglected tropical diseases (Kala azar, filariasis and soil transmitted helminthiasis) will begin at Biam auditorium in the city on July 28, says a press release.

Directorate General of Health Services will organise the conference. Resource persons from WHO head office, regional offices in India, Nepal, Thailand, India, Japan and Bangladesh, public health managers working at different regional offices and hospitals will participate in the conference.

Country experiences, research findings and latest techniques on diagnosis of the diseases will be presented in the conference.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal Sajeda Matin, a teacher of Barisal Baptist Mission School, former district secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and wife of Abdul Matin, a CPB leader, passed away due to cancer at her Nabogram Road residence in the town yesterday at the age of 57.

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

She was buried at Nabogram Road graveyard after Asr prayers yesterday.

Different socio cultural organisations, leaders of different political parties expressed shock at her death.

Halima Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Halima Khatun, mother of Kamal Ahmed, assistant registrar of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, passed away at her residence in the city on July 19 at the age of 71, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons, grand children and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at Banani graveyard in the city.

Her family members requested all to pray for her departed soul.

Qulkhwani

BSS, Dhaka Qulkhwani of journalist Farida Akhter Khan will be held at her 40, Shantibagh residence in the city after Asr prayers today.



Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and the YES Group of Sachetan Nagorik Committee (Sanak) Savar conducted a two-day mobile information and suggestion programme at Savar that ended yesterday. Chairman of TIB Trustee Board Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, third from left, is seen at the programme.

Govt wants to see NGOs as dev partners: Rasheda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The government wants to see the NGOs as its development associates, but it is unfortunate that some quarters term such partnership with the government as 'NGOisation', Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury said yesterday.

She made this remark in reference to the primary teachers' protest against the government move allowing Brac to supervise primary schools in 20 upazilas in a bid to upgrade standard of primary education.

"Nobody opposed when 27 foreign consultants were appointed under PEDP second phase (Primary Education Development Programme-2). Nobody said it was 'donorisation', but now when we are implementing a home-grown model, a quarter is opposing it," Rasheda K Chowdhury said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Brac Development Institute of Brac University at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

"Opposition is there whenever there are some good initiatives. Is there any gap between the government and common people? Maybe, there is something like that," she added.

Referring to opposition of National Women Development Policy by a vested quarter, the adviser said there cannot be any human rights policy that goes against religion.

Speaking as the special guest, Rasheda K Chowdhury, also adviser to women and children affairs, said there are a lot of cases where women are subjected to violence because of disputes linked to land, adding "Women face harassment for land on which they actually have no rights," she said.

Woman cleaner held on charge of lifting 29 files

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Police yesterday arrested a woman cleaner of Bangladesh Secretariat when she was departing with 29 files of the security section of the home ministry.

Nayek Shafiqul Islam, who was on security duty at the secretariat's visitor gate, challenged the arrestee Azironnesa, 50, at 10:40am on suspicion.

Searching Azironnesa's bag, the police seized the 29 files related to detention of the year 1998 and 1999 of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

An top official of the home ministry being informed asked the security personnel to file a case with Shahab Police Station and handed her over to the police.

Quoting Azironnesa, Officer-in-Charge of Shahab Police Station Rezaul Karim said she collected the files abandoned on the floor of the storeroom in the secretariat while sweeping.

She gathered those for the last three days and was taking away yesterday for sale considering those as worn-out papers.

Asked, the OC said the files are not those important. The files were given back to the secretariat.

Smokers fined for using public places

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A mobile court during separate drives in the city yesterday fined six people with Tk 50 each for smoking at public places while Hotel Sheraton with Tk 1,000 for naming one of its lounges as Dunhill Lounge.

The mobile court, led by Magistrate Mohammad Kamruzzaman, conducted the drives at Kamalapur Railway Station area and collected Tk 300 as fine from the people for smoking at public places.

In another drive, the magistrate fined Tk 1,000 to Hotel Sheraton for violation of Narcotics Control Acts-2005.

One Ulka Store in the city was also fined with Tk 200 for displaying cigarette advertisement.

Indian books for Asiatic Society

METRO DESK Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, High Commissioner of India, handed over a 55 volume works on the history of Indian science, philosophy and culture to the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh President Prof Sirajul Islam at a ceremony in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Asiatic Society General Secretary Prof Mahfuza Khanam and other academicians, researchers, scholars and council members of the Asiatic Society were present on the occasion.

The Centre for Studies in Civilisation in India presented the books as gift to Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

The 55 volume publication is a part of an inter-disciplinary research project of New Delhi-based non-governmental organisation Centre for Studies in Civilisation under the chairmanship of Prof DP Chattopadhyaya and is expected to be spread over 100 volumes.

The scope of the works includes history of Indian philosophy; various Indian art forms including music, art, architecture; mathematics; science; aspects of India's international relations; medicine and life sciences in India and Indian women.

Asiatic Society is one of the two leading institutions in Bangladesh who have been presented with the above publication as a gift.

Earlier, on June 30 one set of publication was presented to the Central Library of the University of Dhaka.

The Asiatic Society also presented some of its recent works to the high commissioner.

TIB, Sanak conduct mobile information, suggestion programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT With the slogan 'Only information can make people aware against corruption', Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and the YES Group of Sachetan Nagorik Committee (Sanak) Savar conducted a two-day mobile information and suggestion programme at Savar that ended yesterday.

About 500 people of the area get to know about different government and non-government organisations at four important spots at Savar.

Chairman of TIB Trustee Board Prof Muzaffer Ahmad was present at the programme conducted by Sanak member Hamid Ranju and Muhammad Atiqur Rahman of TIB.

TRIAL OF ARIFA HC asks Khulna court to ensure best treatment of her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The High Court yesterday directed the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) of Khulna to conduct the trial of Arifa, a 10-year-old girl who was arrested on charges of drug peddling, ensuring best treatment of her.

A HC division bench of Justice Md Iman Ali and Justice Emdadul Huq issued the order following a petition moved by advocate Fahima Nasreen, vice-president of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA).

Fahima Nasreen told The Daily Star yesterday that the HC asked the trial court to conduct the trial of Arifa under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act as she was shown as a 10-year-old girl.

On April 22, the HC issued a suo moto rule asking the CMM of Khulna to explain why the action of arresting the girl and putting her behind bars on charges of carrying phensidyl should not be declared unlawful.

Fahima Nasreen, drawing attention of the court to a report published in The Daily Star, said the child was held in violation of the existing penal code that provides immunity to children up to nine years of age in criminal offences.

The DB police arrested Arifa, a student of class three, and Ripon, an alleged drug peddler, on April 19 while the two were on their way to Khulna Jaikhana ferry ghat. The police found 20 bottles of phensidyl, a contraband drug, strapped around Arifa's waist and legs under the loose clothes she was wearing.

Arifa was sent to the district jail on April 20 after a case was filed against her.

Advocate Habib-un Nesa appeared for the petitioner.

RCC ELECTION

Campaign for candidates new source of income for hundreds

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Canvassing for mayor and councillor candidates has become a source of income for hundreds of unemployed and poor youths, especially women, in Rajshahi city as they are being offered attractive figures for electioneering for the candidates.

The opportunity has come as a relief among the skyrocketing prices of essentials, although purchasing votes or influencing election through spending money is a violation of the election code of conduct.

A good number of employees of Rajshahi City Corporation and some other government offices have also engaged themselves in the election campaign seeing a new source of income, even at times hampering their duties.

"The demand for women workers is high as women have easier access than men to households. Full time workers are being paid Tk 100 to Tk 160 per day while part-time workers are getting Tk 30 to Tk 80, according to the workers.

Children are also being hired despite the fact that engaging children under 16 years of age is prohibited in the electoral law.

In some cases, a worker is electioneering for more than one candidate following crisis of workers, since this time as many as 281 persons, including 15 for the post of the mayor, are contesting in the election. There were not more than seven mayor candidates in previous RCC polls.

The candidates are hiring the workers for distributing leaflets, accompanying them while they go door-to-door to seek votes and for taking part in election processions.

"Allah blessed us as the election season came at last. We are now able to have three meals a day," said a female worker seeking anonymity. She added that many poor people

like her used to get donations from politicians during the regime of the political governments. "We are getting no money from the politicians since the state of emergency was declared."

Khatun's cousin said maximum candidates are offering a satisfactory figure, but some are paying them as low as Tk 30 to Tk 50 per day.

Rubel, a youth of Laxmipur area, said he has so far worked for three candidates.

"I got Tk 50 participating in a procession of Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul of BNP, Tk 60 distributing leaflets for AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and Tk 100 for campaigning for Raihanur Rahman of Progressive Development Party (PDP).

An employee of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) said many of them (RCC employees) are working full-time for Tk 150 per day. He informed maximum of RCC workers are working for acting mayor

Rezaunnabi Dudu and Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul.

Another RCC official said the activities are being hampered following absence of workers.

"Ahead of the elections, Dudu (Acting mayor) earned sympathy from employees by canceling a RCC plan for expelling some 300 employees from July that was essential for curtailing annual expenditure," said the official seeking anonymity.

Many workers are eager to work for him because of that move, he added.

The outgoing ward councillors, who are also contesting the poll, are also using RCC employees rampantly in campaigning for them, alleged several councillor aspirants.

They said some candidates are distributing donations among poor people and promising them jobs and other facilities provided they win the election.

TRAINING ON USE OF NON-LETHAL WEAPONS ENDS Control of mob without fatal injuries stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trainers from the US Marine Corps yesterday presented a practical demonstration of how to control a mob using non-lethal weapons without causing fatal injuries.

The demonstration took place on the golf field of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in the city on the last day of a training.

During the 10-day training, the US personnel trained about 100 security personnel, including 16 high officials from the armed forces, BDR, police, Ansar, Coast Guard and the fire service.

The objective of the training was to promote the use of non-lethal weapons in order to minimise the loss of lives and damage to infrastructure as well as seeking new ways to tackle unrest without violating human rights during any peacekeeping operation.

The security personnel were trained on how to use modern non-lethal weapons such as fuse hand grenade, grenade rubber, foam baton and fin stab.

A 17-member team of US Marine Corps, led by Col Aydin D Budak, assistant chief of staff, plans and policy, US Marine Forces Pacific, conducted the training that began on July 12.

As part of the practical demonstration yesterday, people first started gathering in an area designated as a future food distribution centre of an ongoing humanitarian aid mission. But some people were not happy with this plan. They started protesting.

The UN peacekeepers deployed in the area then tried to control the agitators but they gradually became violent.

The peacekeepers then used non-lethal weapons such as X26 Taser, sting ball grenade, NL grenade and 40mm foam baton and brought the situation under control.

"The training will be useful for the BDR and I think we all will be benefited," BDR Director General Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed told reporters after the demonstration.

"This will enhance our capacity to handle unruly mob and help maintain law and order," he added.

Col Aydin D Budak said this training would enhance techniques and performance of members of the law enforcement agencies to handle crowd.

Seminar on NLW Meanwhile, a three-day seminar on non-lethal weapons began at Radisson Garden Hotel in the city yesterday.

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman inaugurated the seminar jointly organised by Bangladesh Navy and US Marine Corps. Some 74 participants from 26 countries are taking part in the seminar.

Partial eclipse of sun Aug 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Partial eclipse of the sun will be seen in Bangladesh from 4:47:45pm to 6:32:13pm on August 1.

Bangladesh Astronomical Association (BAA) organises an eclipse observation programme and beach carnival on the day at the Inani Beach at Cox's Bazaar with the assistance of Insata Tourism, says a press release.

At the beach carnival, people can also vote for Cox's Bazaar to be voted as the number one in the new seven natural wonders of the world.

Inani was selected as the venue for the observation programme as the sun will stay at the western sky during the eclipse.

People from all walks of life can participate in the beach carnival by registering within July 25 by giving a fee.

Registration cards can be collected from BAA office at 75, Science Laboratory Road in the city or from Insata Tourism (Suit-9, AK complex 4th floor, 19, Green Road).

Interested people can also dial 01552484201 and 01818015570.

Participants will also be able to watch five planets Venus, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter and Mercury on that night.

SCC ELECTION

One dies in clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet A young man succumbed to his injuries at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital last night.

Supporters of rival councillor candidate swooped on Alamgir, 28, a supporter of another candidate in the Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) election, at about 8:00pm at his VDO shop in the Pir Mohalla area in the city, leaving him seriously injured.

The cadres of rival candidate Syed Zakir Akhter attacked Alamgir, a supporter of Aftab Uddin, with sharp weapons.

Ward 7 Councillor candidate Aftab Uddin, a cadre of Bangladesh Chhatra League has a longstanding rivalry with Syed Zakir, a Jatayatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadre.

Prof Arefin said at the rally condemned the attack on Aman, saying such attack on a freedom fighter is not acceptable.

He demanded implementation of different conventions which were signed in the country for the trial of different genocides during the liberation war and trial of war criminals, saying "The trial of war criminals is now a demand of the time."

KGU Correspondent of the Bhorer Kago Shetamal Sheikh spoke at the rally.

Meanwhile, a group of DU students under the banner of 'Juddhaporadhider Bichar Mancha', a platform for the trial of war criminals, observed a two-hour hunger strike on the Curzon Hall premises in the morning, demanding the trial of war criminals.

Later, Prof Arefin, Prof Anwar, Prof MM Akash and Dr Mashur Rahman expressed their solidarity with the programme and ended the strike by offering them water.

JICA training on intellectual disabilities begins today

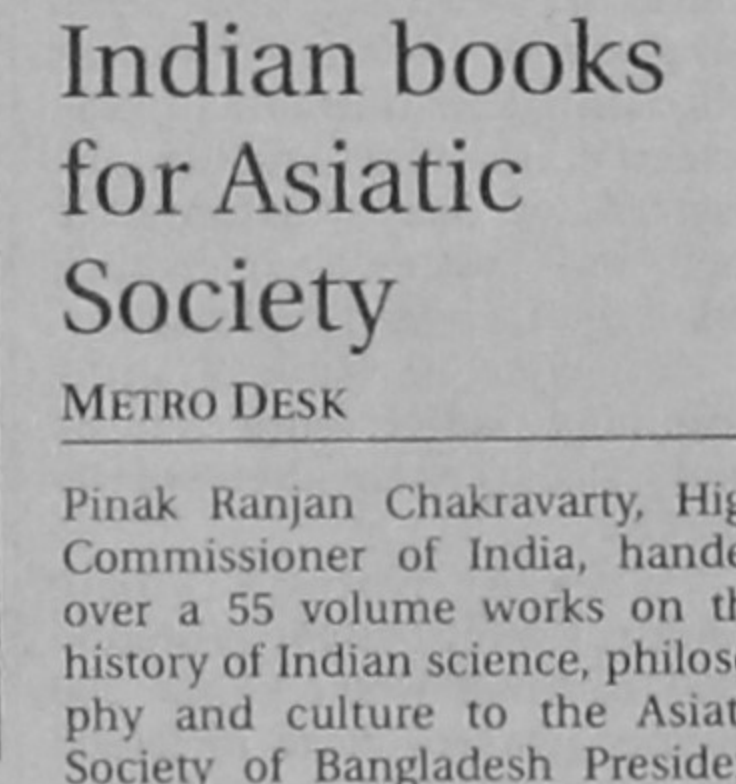
METRO DESK

An 11-member team for JICA training on 'Intellectual disabilities in community activity' arrived in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The training will begin today and continue till August 2. This is the second phase of the training. The first phase was held in Japan.

Participants from Cambodia, Jordan, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Colombia, Fiji, China, Philippine, Nepal, Bangladesh and Uganda will attend the training.

WEATHER TODAY Thundershowers likely UNB, Dhaka Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.



Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty hands over books to Asiatic Society of Bangladesh President Prof Sirajul Islam at a ceremony in the city yesterday. On their right is Prof Mahfuza Khanam.

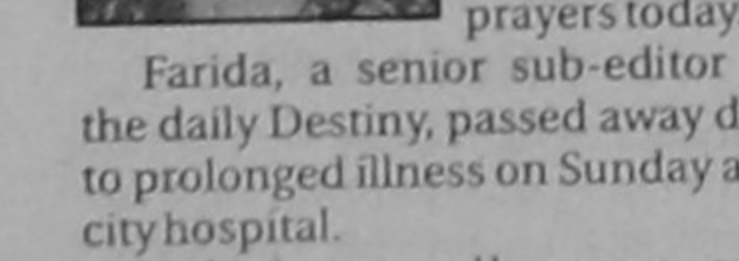


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