



Separation of judiciary spirit at stake SC told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Empowering executive magistrates to take cognisance of offences for trial in any case is against the spirit of the constitution and separation of judiciary from the executive, barrister M Amir-Ul Islam told the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday.

Amir, who has been fighting for long 14 years for separation of judiciary, made the comment when a full bench of appellate division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin sought his expert opinion during the hearing of Masdar Hossain case, popularly known as judiciary separation case.

The Appellate Division was yesterday scheduled for holding the hearing on the government's progress in executing

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Mega malls nearly unfit to fight fire

The Daily Star visit to 5 leading shopping centres reveals sorry state of fire safety

HELEMUL ALAM

Most of the shopping malls and markets in the capital are running without proper firefighting equipment and expertise, posing a serious threat to the life and property of owners, tenants and customers.

Although a number of big shopping malls have some necessary safety measures, those are not enough for lack of trained hands and fire drills. Besides, these shopping malls also don't have modern equipment like sprinkler, smoke detector and fire lift.

These shortages and inexperience surfaced during a two-day investigation

conducted by The Daily Star into fire safety measures as possessed by five prominent malls.

Lack of fire equipment on the upper floors of many multi-storey shopping-cum commercial complexes also put the entire building under risk of fire.

The recent inferno at Bashundhara City Shopping Complex has however increased the level of awareness among different malls and markets and many are making preparation to conduct training and fire drills.

Lack of in-house trained personnel was the foremost reason behind the devastating blaze at Bashundhara City Tower on March 13.

During a visit to Eastern Plaza, it was found that the mall has some safety measures like fire extinguishers, emergency exits and hydrant system side by side with lack of proper training and drills.

Its upper floors (fourth to ninth) also have left the plaza under huge risk because of very poor safety measures. There was no extinguisher on any of these top floors, which house a commercial complex, and most of the hydrant system on these floors was out of order.

"We have a few extinguishers in the store room on every floor," claimed Engineer of Eastern Plaza Commercial

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Yet another BDR man dies

Relatives allege excruciating torture; authorities sit today to discuss deaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) member died in 'mysterious circumstances' at the city's Pilkhana headquarters yesterday.

The deceased, lance nayek Mobarak Hossain of ID-48235, fled the HQ shortly before the 33-hour mutiny ended on February 26, and later reported back for duties.

Following his death, the number of BDR troops who have died since March 9 stands at four. Of them, three died at Pilkhana and one in Joypurhat. BDR central mosque's pesh imam (someone who leads prayers) too died during the same period.

Mobarak's relatives alleged that he was tortured to death. They claimed he was in good health when he returned to Pilkhana.

He was posted to Rifle Security Unit in 29 Battalion in Chittagong, and came to Dhaka on February 18 to join the BDR week.

Mobarak's cousin said, "He had to undergo excruciating torture and died an agonising death."

He talked to reporters at Dhaka Medical College (DMC) morgue on condition of anonymity.

Sources in DMC Hospital said Mobarak's wrists, arms, knees and shoulders were swollen and they bore blood clots.

The border guard was rushed to the hospital unconscious by

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Deranged man kills 4 kids

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A deranged youth yesterday hacked four children to death and injured five others at Zinnagarh under Char Fashion upazila in Bhola.

The deceased were Sagar, 8, son of Masudur Rahman, Imon, 7, son of Abul Kashem, Tamanna, 10, daughter of Mohammad Ibrahim, and Sonia, 4, daughter of Mohammad Babul of the same village.

The injured are Amena begum, Marium Begum, Anwara Rahman, and Shamim.

"Bahar ran into the house of Maksud around 11.30am, picked up an axe and charged on the victims," says a spot account.

Witnesses also said Sagar and Imon had died on the spot and the other two at the hospital.

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PHOTO: SHAFIUL ALAM

A child with pitchers waits on an empty Dhaka Wasa mobile tank for Wasa water vehicles to come and fill it up on World Water Day yesterday. The photo was taken at Senpara on Rokeya Sarani in the capital.

BSMMU VC, pro-VC, treasurer resign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid mounting pressure from the government, Vice-chancellor (VC) of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and its three senior officials resigned yesterday.

VC Prof Nazrul Islam, Pro-VCs Prof Chowdhury Ali Kawser and Mohammad

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Graft, politics push hospital into sickbed

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Partisan politics of doctors and government's interference plunged the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) into a vicious cycle of immoral practices that earned it the name 'hospital of corruption'.

During the tenure of Awami League (AL) in 1998 the then Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR) was made a medical university for research and improvement of medical education in the country.

Pro BNP-Jamaat doctors' organisation

Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) and pro Awami League (AL) body of the doctors Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad (SCP) used the university as a means of making some quick bucks and promoting their party men.

During the tenure of the interim caretaker government when politicians arrested on corruption charges were detained at the BSMMU a good number of doctors there overtly provided illegal facilities to detained politicians to get their blessings.

Many corrupt politicians were granted bail

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PM's maiden visit to Zillur

President hails govt role in BDR carnage

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina yesterday paid a courtesy call on President Zillur Rahman and apprised him of the government's performance and its handling of the troubles inside the BDR headquarters.

"The government's patient and courageous role in managing the recent carnage in the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters is appreciable," the president told the prime minister at the meeting.

The PM expressed shock over the killing of talented army officers during the BDR carnage. "It is an irreparable loss for the country," she said.

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BNP rejects probe body on Sircar's 'graft'

Farroque says he won't attend all-party probe meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday rejected the all-party parliamentary body, formed to probe widespread allegations of financial anomalies and wastage of public money against previous speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, saying that the probe body will not be able to carry out the investigation fairly.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque, whose name was incorporated in the probe committee, at a press conference, announced that he will not attend any meeting

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এর
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