

TRANSFER OF HIGH-PROFILE GRAFT CASES

5 special courts inactive

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Five special courts dealing with some high profile corruption cases involving Niko, Gatco and Barapukuria coal mine now remain inactive as these cases have been transferred to other courts.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) had filed the cases during the immediate past caretaker government.

On December 22 last year, the law ministry issued a notification transferring the graft cases from the special court Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 10, to the special court Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in Dhaka.

All the 10 courts, which were set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises during the caretaker government, have

now been shifted to the Dhaka Judges' Court area.

ACC's panel lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the court Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 10 have virtually nothing to do except send the persons convicted earlier by the same courts to jail on their surrender to the courts.

These five courts now have no jurisdiction to carry out trial proceedings of any cases following the government notification, he said, adding that at least 50 high profile corruption cases, including Niko, Gatco and Barapukuria cases, had remained pending in these courts.

As a result, Khurshid Alam Khan said, he could not move a corruption case against former BNP minister Khandaker

Mosharraf Hossain at Special Court No. 8.

The Supreme Court on October 20 last year cleared the way for the trial court to go ahead with the case proceedings by overturning a High Court order that stayed the proceedings of the case filed against Mosharraf Hossain for amassing illegal wealth and concealing the information about it.

Khurshid Alam also said the government has no jurisdiction to issue such a notification transferring the cases pending in a special court to another special court.

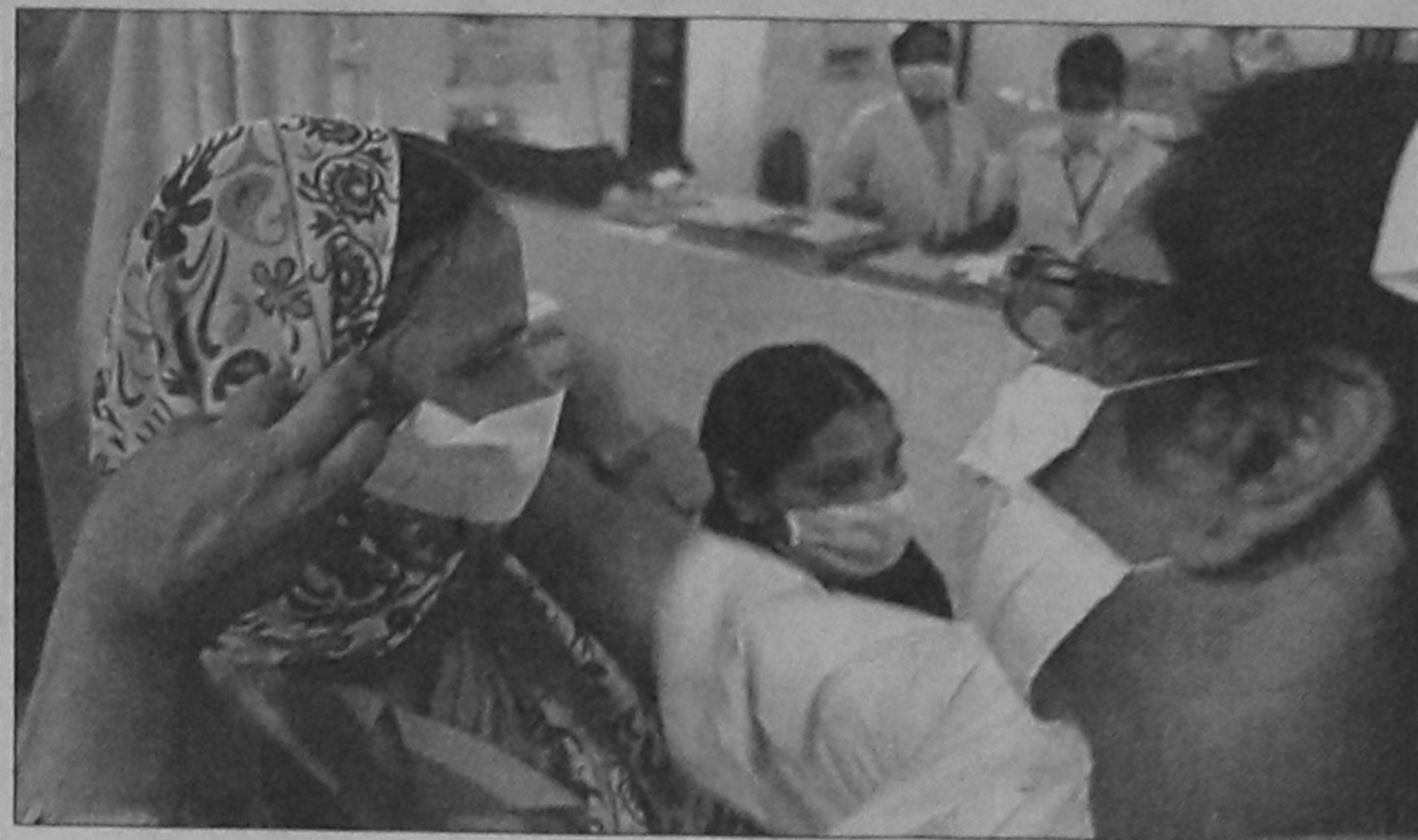
Unless and until the notification is withdrawn, the proceedings of the cases transferred to other courts may become illegal, he added.

"I have already urged the

ACC authorities to take steps for the withdrawal of the notification, but to no avail," he said.

According to laws, only the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge has the jurisdiction to send the cases pending with any special courts to another court, he said, adding that the High Court can also order any subordinate court to transfer any cases to another court following any petitions.

According to Section 4(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) Amendment Act 1958, only the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge may transfer, at any stage of the trial, any case from the court of one special judge to the court of another special judge having jurisdiction within the same territorial limits.



Patients at the emergency unit of Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in the city wear masks yesterday to avoid swine flu virus that is spreading rapidly across the country.

Hasina seeks UK help to combat climate change

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought assistance from the international community, including the United Kingdom, for enhancing Bangladesh's adaptation to climate change as two British ministers discussed with her modalities of an international climate deal in the offing.

Visiting Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander and Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Ed Miliband made the courtesy call on the PM at her official residence Jamuna on Sunday evening.

Hasina maintained that although Bangladesh is a zero

contributor to the global warming caused by excessive greenhouse gas emissions, the country is severely exposed to the adverse impacts of the changing climate.

She said to combat the climate change her government has undertaken several steps, including river dredging and land reclamation, creating green belt in the coastal areas and construction of embankments.

The prime minister noted that adaptation programme needs huge funds and the international community, including the UK, should come forward to extend their cooperation.

The British Ministers

assured that the UK would extend all-out cooperation in enhancing Bangladesh's capability of mitigating and adapting to the climate change.

The Prime Minister also narrated various development plans of her government to bring about changes in socio-economic life of the people. The British ministers said the UK would continue its assistance to Bangladesh.

Finance Minister AMA Muhi, Principal Secretary to the PM MA Karim, PMO Secretary Mollah Wahiduzzaman and PM's press secretary Abdul Kalam Azad were present during the talks.

Nigerian student succumbs to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Nigerian student succumbed to his injuries yesterday, 38 hours after passengers of a bus pushed him and his fellow classmate, also a Nigerian, out of the vehicle at Khilkhet in the city following an altercation.

Billal Musa, 23, a student of Computer Science at Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in Gazipur, died at Apollo Hospitals in the city around 11:00am.

The injured, Jamilu Mottula, 22, a student of the same department of the university, is undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khilkhet Police Station SM Badiuzzaman said the IUT authorities filed a murder case with the police station last night.

Quoting Jamilu, the OC said they were going to Gazipur by a passenger bus from Mohakhali on Saturday night and locked into an altercation with some passengers.

At one stage, the passengers pushed them out of the running bus, leaving both of them seriously injured.

The injured could not tell them the registration number of the bus or even its route, the OC added.

Sayedee sued for war crimes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A freedom fighter filed a case against Jamaat-e-Islami Central Executive Committee member, Maulana Delwar Hossain Sayedee, his brother and two of their associates yesterday in connection with war crimes.

Mahbubul Alam Howladar, deputy commander of Zianagor upazila Muktiyoddha Sangsad, filed the case with Pirojpur senior judicial magistrate's court.

He is a resident of Tangrakhal in Zianagor upazila.

Magistrate Chowdhury Mahbubur Rahman ordered officer-in-charge of Zianagor Police Station Abdur Razzak to take up the case.

The three other accused are Sayedee's brother Mustafa Ahasan Sayedee, Habibur Rahman Munshi and Maulana Mosleuddin.

The plaintiff alleged that Sayedee in collaboration with Pakistani army vandalised, looted and set fire to houses, tortured women and killed many people in the village between 10:00am-12:00noon on June 3, 1971.

Earlier, Manik Poshari, of Chitholia village in sadar upazila, filed a case against Delwar Hossain Sayedee and four others on charges of war crimes with Pirojpur chief judicial magistrate's court on August 12, 2009.

Book fair begins

DU CORRESPONDENT

With the slogan 'Uthsobe Upahar--Boi-e Prothom' (Book first choice as gift in occasion), a fortnight-long book fair will begin on the public library premises in the city today, says a press release.

Oitijo, a book-publishing house, will organise the fair. Visitors at the fair will get 32 percent discount in buying books published by Oitijo. The fair will remain open from 10:00am to 8:00pm daily till September 15.

LAW MINISTRY Shahidul's appointment as addl secy challenged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain within four weeks why the appointment of Shahidul Haque as additional secretary at the drafting wing of the law ministry should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Obaidul Hasan issued the rule upon a writ petition filed by a Supreme Court (SC) lawyer stating that Shahidul was appointed to the post ignoring a SC decision in this regard.

The petition stated that the apex court on June 28, 2007, in an opinion told the government that the post of the additional secretary at the drafting wing of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs will remain vacant until abolition of this post or creation of two divisions of the ministry as the government has earlier decided.

But the caretaker government on November 11 last year appointed Shahidul as additional secretary at the drafting wing of the law ministry, promoting him from the rank of joint secretary.

Barrister AM Masum on August 30 filed the writ petition as public interest litigation.

Six more held in Rab assault case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Madhabpur police yesterday arrested six more villagers on charges of assaulting Rab men on Friday morning.

The arrestees were identified as Sayed Miah, Harun Miah, Sayedur Rahman of Uttar Noapara, Amir Miah, Abu Bakar Siddique of Bengadoba and Zahir Miah of Karra village.

Police said the total number of arrestees now stands at nine.

Tapan Kumar Dey, deputy assistant director of Srimongal Rab camp, filed a case against 200 to 300 villagers, including 16 identified people, on charges of assaulting the Rab men.

Sources said two plainclothes Rab men were beaten up by angry people on that day as they wanted mobile phones from two young men. The villagers took them to a house of village matbor (arbitrator).

Later, union parishad chairman and a Rab team reached the spot and rescued them. The Rab team carried baton on the villagers, including females.

One of the Rab men -- Abul Quasem -- was declared dead by the physicians, hours after he was taken to Habiganj Sadar Hospital after he had fallen sick.

Police said the Rab members picked up matbor Rais Ali

and two others. They were later shown arrested in the case.

An uneasy calm has been prevailing in the area since the incident.

Defamation case against ATN Bangla chairman

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A defamation case was filed yesterday against chairman of private television channel ATN Bangla Mahfuzur Rahman and four others.

Saifuddin Mahmud, a lawyer of the Supreme Court, filed the case with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

He alleged that a programme, 'Bibeker Kachhey Proshno' (Question to conscience) aired on Aug 7 had defamatory information about him and termed him 'land grabber'. Magistrate Julfikar Hayat yesterday recorded statements of the plaintiff and set Tuesday (today) for order.

Four other accused are-- Faisal Mahmud, Hadichh Hawlader, Abdul Jabbar Mian and Abdul Wadud.

10 sued for lashing housewife thru' fatwa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A housewife filed a case with Dupchachia police station yesterday against 10 persons on charges of inflicting 101 lashes on her through Fatwa (religious edict).

Rezia Begum, 24, and her neighbour Abdus Sattar were lashed in a village arbitration on August 25 on charges of having an immoral relationship.

Officer-in-Charge of Dupchachia police station Sakir Uddin said the main accused Abed Ali and his nine cohorts fled the area after the case was filed.

Local people said the families of Rezia and Sattar were made outcast in the society after their relationship came to fore.

BDR MUTINY SC hearing on mode of trial today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) will resume today the hearing on the president's reference on whether the offences committed during the BDR mutiny can be tried under the military law.

The Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin earlier held the hearing for three days before adjourning it until September 1 morning.

Barrister Amir-UI Islam, an amicus curiae (friend of court), is expected to continue his submission today.

Earlier three amici curiae -- Advocate TH Khan, Barrister Rafique-UI Huq and Advocate Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed delivered their expert opinions on the reference to the apex court.

Meanwhile, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday refuted the allegation made by BNP Vice President MK Anwar that government is delaying the trial of the BDR mutiny to implicate the opposition party men in the case.

At a press briefing at his office, the minister said that the government has sent the reference through the president to the Supreme Court, so that the government can hold the trial of the BDR mutiny in a fair manner.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona



Alh A J Mohammad Abu Abbas, former law-maker from Netrakona-2 constituency, passed away due to old-aged complications at Birdem Hospital in Dhaka yesterday.

He left behind wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard at his village in Netrakona.

He established over 20 educational institutes, including Abu Abbas Degree College.

Death anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 6th death anniversary of Nurjahan Murshid, a woman leader and one of the organisers of the Liberation War, says a press release.

On the occasion, her family members and Brotee will place wreaths at her grave at Mirpur Intellectual Graveyard in the city at 6:00pm. Special prayers will also be offered and food be distributed among poor children.

Quamrul Islam Siddique

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Engineer Quamrul Islam Siddique, former secretary to the government, former president of Global Water Partnership Bangladesh, and a freedom fighter, says a press release.

On the occasion, his family members arranged a doa and milad mahfil after Asr prayers at 'Concord Windsor' (House-7, Road-59, Apartment-203, Gulshan-2) in the city.

Father seeks govt's help for release of convicted son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment exporter Sardar Mohammad Sharif, father of Ehsanul Islam Sadequee, who has been detained in solitary confinement in Atlanta, USA for more than three years for his alleged involvement in Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, yesterday demanded the government take necessary steps to free him immediately.

"I urge the prime minister to consider my appeal and take steps to rescue my son who is a victim of discrimination for being a Muslim," he said.

Sharif placed the demand at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

Terming the charges brought against Sadequee imaginary and false, he also urged different human rights organisations to support his call for a re-investigation of the case to dig out the truth.

"The charges brought against Sadequee have no legal basis and the members of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have been applying all sorts of face-saving tactics, including false propaganda against Sadequee," Sharif alleged.

He claimed that the FBI agents confined Sadequee and tortured him both physically and mentally. All sorts of ill treatments and abuse have been experimented on him which had made him a severe patient.

Sadequee, a Bangladeshi origin US citizen, was picked up by intelligence officials from Dhaka on April 17, 2006 and sent back to the US on April 21, 2009.

A US court in Atlanta on August 13, 2009 convicted him on terrorism-related charges, as he was found guilty on four counts of supporting terrorists and a foreign terrorist organisation after a seven-day trial, reports CNN from Georgia quoting a news release of Patrick Crosby, spokesperson for the US Attorney's Office.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Bangobir Osmani Smriti Parishad organises a discussion marking the 91st birth anniversary of MAG Osmani. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Fair

Autism Welfare Foundation organises a 14-day Eid fair of handicrafts produced by autistic children. Venue: Autism Welfare Foundation. Time: 10:00am.

Delwar urges party men not to recruit 'corrupt, betrayers' as members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday asked the central leaders not to recruit any of the 'corrupt and betrayers' as members who worked against the party during its bad time.

Hinting at the reformists, the secretary general said it isn't possible that the leaders, who had worked to divide the party and left party chairperson and his family into danger, should ever be faithful to the party ideologies.

"Those, who have filed false cases against Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman during the emergency, will

not be spared," said the secretary general while addressing a discussion in the city's Mohanagar Natya Mancha yesterday.

The discussion was organised on the occasion of 31st founding anniversary of Bangladesh Nationalist Party. BNP Vice President Sarwari Rahman presided over the meeting conducted by Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan.

Ruling out the allegation of Ziaur Rahman's involvement in Bangabandhu murder, Delwar Hossain said it was not Shahid Zia rather some Awami League leaders and a group of disgruntled army officials who took part in the killing.

Comilla varsity closed after BCL clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Comilla University was closed for a month from yesterday following a factional clash between two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists on the campus.

University Vice-Chancellor A Z Zahidul Karim said the vacation for Eid-ul-Fitr was to begin on September 15 but the authorities closed the university yesterday because of the clash.

All the dormitories were also declared closed and residential students were asked to vacate the halls by evening as tension mounted.

Sources said, the BCL activists of campus group and local group clashes over a trifling matter in the morning, leaving Zitu and Masum, students of the mathematics department, injured.

Later in the evening, the authorities in an emergency meeting of the academic council, decided to announce the vacation 15 days earlier on September 15 to continue till October 1.

A contingent of law enforcers has been deployed on the campus to avert further clash as a tense situation was prevailing in the area.



No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over all the six divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:16pm today and rises at 6:40am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.2 degrees Celsius at Satkhira.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.4	25.8	75	74
Chittagong	32.5	25.5	79	82
Rajshahi	34.0	26.0	81	76
Khulna	32.5	25.6	86	75
Barisal	32.0	25.4	97	89
Sylhet	34.8	27.1	78	65
Cox's Bazar	31.7	25.0	83	80