

JS membership

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Earlier this year, BNP leader Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, who conceded defeat to Jasim in the polls, filed a writ petition challenging his election. The HC declared illegal the EC's decision to allow Jasim to contest the ninth parliamentary election.

As per the Representation of the People Order (RPO), if anybody is sent to compulsory retirement, they cannot contest parliamentary elections within five years since the retirement. Hafizuddin's counsel barrister Rafique-Ul Huq yesterday told reporters.

Jasim's counsel advocate Mahmudul Islam told The Daily Star that his client can however contest the Bhol-3 by-election as the stipulated five-year period since Jasim's punitive retirement has expired.

Jasim had submitted his nomination paper on Awami League-led grand alliance ticket for contesting the December 29 parliamentary election from Bhol-3 constituency.

Afghanistan needs credible leadership Says US official

AFP, Washington

BNP candidate in the constituency Hafizuddin appealed to the EC opposing the candidature of Jasim.

He stated in the appeal that Jasim was sent to compulsory retirement on August 31, 2004, and the stipulated five years' time would not be completed on the polling day, December 29, 2008.

However, on December 10, 2008, the EC rejected the appeal and allowed Jasim to contest the election.

Hafiz then filed a writ petition with the HC, challenging the EC decision and prayed for cancellation of Jasim's parliament membership.

On February 26 this year, the HC declared the EC decision and Jasim's parliament membership illegal.

Upon a petition filed by Jasim, the SC then stayed the HC verdict and asked Jasim to file a regular leave-to-appeal petition against the HC verdict.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the SC yesterday dismissed the appeal.

Textbook board

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printing 19 crore copies of textbooks for different classes."

"We will form an inquiry committee today to investigate the cause of the fire and to ascertain the extent of the damage," the minister added.

The fire broke out in the warehouse no 3 on the ground floor and spread to the first floor which was heavily stuffed with stacks of textbooks, printing papers, and reams of hard papers for book covers.

The army engineering corps and navy divers were called in to join the freighters of Fire Service and Civil Defence around 11:30am as the firefighters had not been able to make any headway into the warehouse alone, said the minister.

Meanwhile, a fire service diver Abul Khair, who got into the warehouse defying the raging fire but could not go in too far, said he noticed fire in the northwest part of the warehouse.

"Extreme heat, smoke, and humidity made it difficult to go inside," said Khair.

An NCTB staff on condition of anonymity said at least 60,000 reams of Karnaphuli paper were supposedly stocked in that part. Books were stored on the first floor.

Mohammad Fazlul Haque, who is in charge of the warehouse, said early in the morning he heard people shouting "fire, fire," so he came out of his room and saw smoke gushing out of the warehouse.

Fourteen units of the fire brigade took part in the operation.

Tarique

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Upon a petition filed by Tarique, now in London, an HC bench comprised of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Rais Uddin issued the rule.

Selim, an employee of an elastic factory close by, said they smelt burning papers and saw smoke coming out of the exhaust hole on the back wall of the warehouse around 1:00am, while they were working a night shift.

Director General (DG) of Fire Service and Civil Defence Brig Gen Abu Nayeem Md Shahidullah said all agencies at the scene were fighting the fire in a coordinated manner under his command.

But an assistant director of Rapid Action Battalion-2 on the scene said, "Personnel of different agencies are working in their own way."

The firefighters, army engineers, and navy divers at one stage agreed that they would make an opening in the back wall and gradually clear off the stacks of paper in an effort to make headway into the warehouse, said Maj Shahjalal, director operations of the fire department.

Bundles of burnt papers with Karnaphuli Paper Mills Limited stamped on them were pulled out from the burning stacks.

High officials of the fire

department, army engineering corps, and the navy said the job of the firefighters were made tough by inappropriate stocking of books and papers in the warehouse.

"Even the basic principles of stocking were not followed," said Shahjalal adding, "Stocking of papers without keeping any gap between the stacks posed serious obstruction to firefighters' access."

"We haven't been able to detect the source of the fire yet," he added.

"Even the ventilation passage of the warehouse was blocked by stacks of papers," said the fire department DG.

The building built during the Pakistan period is very old and the firefighters could not knock down the walls fearing that might cause the entire structure to collapse.

The firefighters had to toil for six hours just to make way for an excavator, so it could start removing the burnt debris.

Brig Gen Nayeem said in the afternoon that it would take till this morning to fully douse the fire.

The education minister, fire service DG, and other high officials stayed at the scene till evening.

An army helicopter was seen hovering over the three-story NCTB building all through the day till around 5:30pm. The fire fighting officials said the chopper was there to monitor the events on the ground.

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SC upholds

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December 9, 2007 with Teagao Police Station accusing Hasina and six others. The charges were corruption and abuse of power in awarding three "abandoned" gas fields in Chhatak, Kamta and Feni to Canadian energy company Niko Resources Ltd during the tenure of previous Awami League government.

In the case statement, the plaintiff said Manna was admitted to the hospital with chest pain around 4:15am and died at 2:00pm. He alleged Manna was in the hospital without treatment for over five hours.

Khaleda and Tarique filed the petitions with the HC on September 15 for quashing the proceedings against them in his command.

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High officials of the fire

Misuse of rules

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amend laws, rules and regulations, if necessary, for the implementation of the projects.

The rules and laws should not be barriers to implementation of development projects under any circumstances, she said.

The government is aware of the benefits and limitations of government officials and employees and the new pay scale will be made effective from July 1 this year, Hasina said.

She said her government is also considering introduction of rationing system to supply necessary food items at low prices for government employees.

Jalil

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in connection with dodging income tax to the tune of Tk 4 lakh.

In the case statement, the NBR mentioned that Jalil, chairman of Mercantile Bank Limited, had evaded income tax worth Tk 4,07,485 on his income amounting to Tk 54,60,234 from the bank for the fiscal years 2003-2008.

He concealed his income of Tk 54 lakh in his tax returns submitted to the NBR.

Jalil repeatedly provided false information about his real income and expenditure to Income Tax Department, alleged the NBR.

6 doctors

FROM PAGE 16
Hussain, Fathima and Maimul Islam Majumder.

They pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court.

Manna's brother-in-law Reza Kader filed the case with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka against the doctors and members of the board of directors of the hospital on September 17 last year.

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14 Taliban, 1 US soldier killed in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

ern Uruzgan province left eight armed Taliban dead and three wounded after clashes with Afghan and international forces, provincial police chief General Juma Gul Hemadsaid.

Southern Afghanistan -- the tribal heartland of the Taliban -- has seen the most fierce fighting since US-led international forces toppled the hardline Islamist regime in 2001.

Myanmar

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Locals alleged that Kew Ba Mong was involved with kidnapping people for ransom.

Recently he created a heavy pressure on the locals for huge amount of toll to buy firearms for his party, a villager said.

In this situation, they caught and handed him over to the law enforcement agency, he added.

SQ Chy

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Committee president Dr Sheikh Farid on September 8.

Sheikh Farid in his complaint mentioned that the accused Salauddin Quader Chowdhury alias SQ Chowdhury insulted Bangabandhu and his family members by saying the killings were essential at the Kholna Press Club on August 15 last.

After hearing, the chief judicial magistrate accepted the case and directed Senior Judicial Magistrate Masud Parvez to investigate it.

The court issued the warrant after Masud Parvez had submitted his case report.

Sheikh Farid, an organiser of the liberation war, said he felt ashamed when he came to know about Salauddin's acrimonious remarks through newspapers.

BSF kills 1

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members of Koiladangi camp opened fire on Bodir Hossain while he was returning home with some cattle around 3:30am leaving him dead on the spot.

BSF members took away the body to India immediately.

BRD protested the killing in a letter and asked its Indian counterpart to return the body.

Later, a BRD-BSF flag meeting was held and BSF agreed to return the body, Md Abul Hossain, company commander of Chapasha border outpost in Haripur said.

Suicide attack

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prosecutor in the Sistan-Baluchestan provincial capital Zahedan, was quoted as saying by ISNA agency.

Marziah said Abdolmalek Rigi, leader of the shadowy Jundallah (Soldiers of God) Sunni group, had claimed responsibility for the attack.

"So far no one has been arrested, but terrorist Malek Rigi has accepted the responsibility for this terrorist attack," Marziah said.

The interior ministry earlier said at least 29 people were killed and 28 wounded in the blast.

Iran's state broadcaster said the attack occurred at around 8:00 am (0430 GMT) in front of a local gymnasium in Pisheen.

Fars news agency said the bomber struck when Guard officers were meeting local leaders of the Shia and Sunni communities. Some local tribal chiefs were among the dead, media reports said.

The official IRNA news agency said the suicide bomber "wearing an explosives vest blew himself up inside the meeting."

Fars said: "In this terrorist act, General Nur-Ali Shushtar, deputy commander of the Revolutionary Guards ground forces, General Mohammad-Zadeh, commander of the Revolutionary Guards in Sistan-Baluchestan province, the Guards' commander for the town of Fars and the commander of the Amir Momenin unitied."

Three other commanders from the adjacent province of Kerman were also killed, according to Fars.

Parliamentary speaker Ali Larijani confirmed the officers' deaths in an announcement to parliament, which was broadcast on television.

"The goal of the terrorists is to disturb the security of the Sistan-Baluchestan province," he told parliament.

Jundallah is strongly opposed to the government of predominantly Shia Iran.

to have economic progress in this region. But certainly the Guards will act with more force to establish security in the region."

In a separate statement later he said the United States was implicated in the deadly attack.

"We consider the recent terrorist attack to be the result of US action. This is the sign of America's animosity against our country," Larijani said.

"Obama has said he will extend his hand towards Iran, but with this terrorist action he has burned his hand," he said referring to US President Barack Obama's repeated diplomatic overtures to Tehran.

The Guards said foreign powers were behind the attack.

"The world arrogance, by provoking its lackeys and mercenaries in the region, carried out a terrorist attack on a popular meeting between the Guards and tribesmen," the Guards said in a statement carried by local media.

Iranian officials and several government bodies term Western powers, including the United States, as "world arrogance."

Aladdin Borjerdi, senior MP and head of parliament's commission on national security and foreign policy, also pointed the finger at Washington.

"The enemies of the Islamic revolution, especially the United States is the main supporter of terrorist networks" such as Jundallah, he was quoted as saying by Mehr News Agency.

Iranian officials have previously accused Britain and the United States of supporting ethnic minority rebels of Jundallah operating in the sensitive border areas, especially in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Jundallah is strongly opposed to the government of predominantly Shia Iran.

Huda

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When the court asked Mamun whether he wanted to say the incident of killings did not take place, the counsel said it is true that Bangabandhu and his family members were killed. His clients were not involved in the incident but rather a third force was involved in it, the counsel said.

Mamun said many contradictions are there in the statements of the prosecution witnesses in this case and his client will be proved innocent if those are considered.

The court said according to the provision of article 103 of the constitution, the Appellate Division cannot hear arguments on the statements that had already been placed at trial court.

Mamun said the Appellate Division is the last resort to seek justice. If the court does not hear arguments on the statements, there will be no place for his clients to seek justice.

The five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Tafazzul Islam adjourned the hearing till 9:30am today.

The committee also evaluated the implementation of different sections and subsections of CHT peace treaty.

Chaired by Muhammad Shah Alam, the newly appointed chairman of the committee, the meeting was attended, among others, by Dipankar Talukder, state minister for CHT affairs ministry, Jatindra Lal Tripura and KM Khalid.

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