

Reshuffle in judicial posts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday reshuffled the positions of some district, additional district and joint district judges as per the advice of the Supreme Court.

Md Ehsanul Haque, additional chief metropolitan magistrate (CMM) of Dhaka, has been transferred to Patuakhali as joint district judge. He was replaced by Mohammad Ali Hossain, joint district judge of Patia in Chittagong.

Mahmudul Karim, additional CMM of Dhaka, has been sent to Joypurhat as joint district judge while Abu Zafar M Kamruzzaman, senior assistant judge of Kushtia, promoted to joint district judge and posted as additional CMM of Dhaka.

Ziauddin Mahmud, senior assistant secretary of law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry (joint district judge), has been transferred to Bogra as joint district judge while M Mizanur Rahman, additional chief judicial magistrate of Panchagarh, has been sent to Shariatpur as joint district judge.

ABM Sajedur Rahman, additional district judge of Patuakhali, has been elevated to district and sessions judge and appointed member (district judge) of the administrative tribunal in Khulna.

M Shahenur, deputy director (additional district judge) of Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission, has been given new posting as controller of examinations (additional district judge) on deputation at the commission secretariat while M Nurul Islam, joint district judge of Gopalganj, made deputy director of the commission secretariat on deputation.

Chand M Abdul Alim AL-Razi, joint district judge of Chuadanga, has been transferred to Gaibandha while M Mohsinul Haque, joint district judge of Kurigram, to Chuadanga.

Golam Ahmed Khalilur Rahman, additional district judge of Bogra, has been made additional district judge of Noakhali. Md Abul Bashar Munshi, chief judicial magistrate of Khagrachhari, has been promoted as additional district judge of Narail and Md Ikhtiarul Islam Mallik has been made chief judicial magistrate of Khagrachhari.

One arrested for identifying himself as IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Special Branch (SB) of Police arrested a fraud at Gulshan in the city on Tuesday night on charges of cheating people by falsely identifying himself as the Inspector General of Police.

The arrestee, Azhar Babu, who hails from Khulshi in Chittagong, has been staying at his sister's home at the Geneva Camp in Mohammadpur.

The police said Azhar, identifying himself as the IGP, made a phone call to the Officer-in-Charge (immigration) of Zia International Airport and asked him to receive a woman who is coming from Pakistan by a flight.

During the preliminary interrogation, Azhar said he wanted to help one Irfana Begum, who was coming to Bangladesh with 70 kilograms of luggage.

Azhar also disclosed that he often deceived people by using the identity of the IGP or any senior officials of the Rapid Action Battalion and the customs department.

Notre Dame College to celebrate 60th anniversary tomorrow

METRO DESK

Notre Dame College (NDC) will celebrate its 60th anniversary tomorrow (Friday).

Noted jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, an ex-Notredamian, will attend the celebration as the chief guest while former adviser to a caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury, former principals Father JS Peixotto CSC and Father RW Timm CSC, Dr SA Samad, adviser to the prime minister, former minister Dr Moyeen Khan, and Mezbah Uddin Ahmed, vice chancellor of Jagannath University, will be present as special guests, says a press release.

The programme will begin at 9:00am with the inaugural speech of NDC Principal Fr Benjamin Costa, CSC.

The celebration also includes reminiscence programme, cultural show, documentary film show, festive lunch, souvenir distribution and other attractive events.

Bangladesh set to eradicate poverty, eliminate extremism: PM

UNB, Gazipur

Using education as an important weapon, Bangladesh is set to eradicate poverty, ensure food security and social safety net, eliminate extremism and face the fallout of climate change, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

The PM listed the priority tasks of her government when she made a call for the fresh graduates of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) to devote themselves to the noble mission of establishing peace in the strife-torn world and strengthening further the friendly relations among the Muslim countries.

Addressing the 23rd convocation of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) here, she expressed the hope that the graduates as enlightened persons would succeed in realising aspirations of their own and their parents as well as nations.

"I am urging you all to dedicate yourselves to establishing peace across the globe. Specially, I would tell the Bangladeshi IUT students to continue to keep contact with their foreign fellows and thus strengthen

further the friendly relations among the countries of Muslim Ummah," she said.

Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Prof Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, also chancellor of the university, was conferred on honorary doctorate by the IUT.

Hasina as the chief guest of the convocation handed over the certificate of the Honorary Doctorate Degree to the OIC chief executive.

Tabassum Aziz Hossain, a Bangladeshi student of Mechanical Engineering, was awarded OIC gold medal for scoring the highest Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) among all the departments of the IUT.

Three other students -- Md. Rashedul Huq Shamim (Master of Science in Technical Education), SM Shahnewaz (Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Information Technology) and Abduhu Ruhul Hasin (Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering) -- received the IUT gold medals and certificates for highest CGPA numbers in their respective departments from the prime minister.

IUT Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr M Imtiaz Hossain

gave the address of welcome while Turkish Ambassador in Dhaka Sakir Ozkan Torunlar, also chairman of the governing body of the university, spoke at the function.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni and Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid were present on the occasion.

To the engineering graduates, Hasina said she believed that the friendships they have made here and the memories of this remarkable institute would continue to inspire them in the days ahead.

"I am sure you would also remember with deep gratitude all your teachers who dedicated themselves to preparing you for the next phase of your life," she said.

She said Bangladesh would seek to work closely with IUT, OIC and IDB in establishing this institution as a centre of excellence and pride.

Hasina said Bangladesh believes education is the key to development and progress.

"Now, with the return of democracy, Bangladesh is ready to face all challenges on its way to peace, progress and prosperity," she said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gives away a certificate of honorary doctorate to OIC Secretary General Prof Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu at the 23rd convocation of the Islamic University of Technology in Gazipur yesterday.

In this context, the PM mentioned that the Islamic Development Bank has provided the IUT, on the guarantee of the Bangladesh government, a loan of 3 million Islamic Dinars for completing IUT's second building by

December this year. Besides, the IDB is also financing construction of dormitories and utilities to accommodate more students in future.

Congratulating the OIC secretary general on his receiving the doctorate,

Hasina said much of the success of the OIC and the IUT is due to his commitment reflected in his Ten-Year Action Plan, adopted in Makkah in 2005.

"Therefore, the doctorate degree conferred on you by IUT is truly well deserved."

3 arrested for supplying contaminated blood

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday arrested three persons in connection with collecting and supplying contaminated blood during a raid on a private blood bank at Jatrabari in the city.

The court led by Magistrate Anwar Pasha raided the Life Blood Bank in the morning and arrested its owner Firoz Ahmed, employee Rafiqul Islam Sumon and a broker.

Talking to The Daily Star, Anwar Pasha said the centre had been collecting blood from drug addicts and supplying those to different hospitals and clinics. They used to run their business in secret without licence.

He said the team busted the blood bank after they had followed some drug addicts who went to the centre to sell their blood.

The court, accompanied by a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and a health directorate official, also seized 20 bags of contaminated blood.

It sentenced the owner to two years' imprisonment while the other two were sentenced to one year's imprisonment each.

The blood bank collected blood from the drug users for Tk 130 to Tk 150 per bag and sold those at Tk 800 to Tk 1,500, said Anwar.

'305 child domestic workers died from torture in 8 years'

Lack of monitoring system blamed



Md Israfil Alam speaks at a seminar on 'Child domestic workers: Law and code of conduct' at the Biam Auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Shaheen Anam and on his left are Dr Ahmedullah Mia and Husni Ara Quasem.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 305 child domestic workers have died from torture, 235 more have been severely injured and 77 others fell victim to rape in the last eight years since 2001.

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, convener of the Network to Establish Domestic Workers' Rights, revealed this at a seminar on 'Child domestic workers: Law and code of conduct'.

The child workers face various forms of domestic

violence in the absence of a strong monitoring system and policies, he said while presenting the keynote paper.

He also recommended refraining from engaging children in hazardous work, fixing work list, working hour and a weekly day-off for them, paying regular monthly salary on a fixed rate and giving a one-month notice period before dismissal of workers.

Shoishab Bangladesh with the support of Manusher Jonno Foundation organised the seminar at Biam

Auditorium in the city, with Dr Ahmedullah Mia, a member of Shoishab Bangladesh, in the chair.

Other speakers also called for issuing identity cards for domestic workers, fixing a minimum wage and not employing under-14 children as a fulltime worker.

Speaking as the chief guest, Md Israfil Alam, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on labour and employment ministry, said the government would review the labour law to ensure child

workers' rights.

Poverty mainly forces the children to work as a domestic help, he said.

He also said many street children become drug peddler, drug addicts, muggers and sex workers, which should be stopped through proper intervention from the state, society, family and non-government organisations.

Speaking as the special guest, Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, called on the employers to ensure the rights of domestic workers such as basic education, access to healthcare and recreational facilities, and proper wages.

As the government is providing education for all, child workers should also be brought under the scheme, she added.

A monitoring cell should be set up to curb domestic violence against the domestic workers, she added.

She also called for changing attitude towards the domestic workers.

Joint Director of the Labour Directorate Kabir Ahmed Choudhury, Executive Director of Shoishab Bangladesh Husni Ara Quasem, Advocate Rashida Hossain of BNWLA and Shahin Akhter Doly of Nari Moitree also spoke at the seminar.

Six business firms fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined six business firms in the capital Tk 4.5 lakh for violating the rules of the Bangladesh Standards Testing Institute (BSTI) in selling products.

The mobile court fined My Life Natural Drinking Water in Maniknagar and Sabrina Food and Beverage in Jatrabari Tk 1 lakh each.

The court fined Imply Trade International in Swamibagh Tk 50,000 and KS Associates in

Demra Tk 25,000 for selling drinking water without BSTI license.

Shah Alam Food Products in Kamrangirchar was fined Tk 75,000 and Three Star Melamine Fashion in Kamrangirchar Tk 1 lakh.

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Full restoration of '72 constitution unlikely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said full restoration of the original constitution of '72 might not be possible, rather its foundations should be restored.

"The basics of the original constitution should be reinstated with timely reforms in it," he said at a discussion organised by Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee at WVA auditorium in the city to mark the Constitution Day.

The constitution of Bangladesh was adopted by the then government on this day in 1972.

"The original constitution of '72 is the best example of progressive mindset of the Bangalee nation. It said about human rights, removal of disparity among people, empowerment of people, democratic governance and secularism," Muhith said.

He noted that the High Court judgement that declared the Fifth Amendment illegal gave us a chance to reinstate the original constitution of '72.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim alleged that BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar has given an anti-state statement by saying that those who were elected in the 1970 election did not have the mandate to frame the constitution of '72.

He [Delwar] should be charged with sedition, he mentioned.

Selim said the country should go back to the fundamentals of the constitution of '72 to bring it back to get the liberation war spirit from the Pakistani track.

"Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed in 1975 to take the country back

to the Pakistani track from a new progressive track based on the spirit of liberation war," he added.

The CPB leader said those who had changed the basics of the constitution in '75 wanted an extension of Pakistan-like state in Bangladesh.

Speakers at the discussion called on the government to observe November 4 as the Constitution Day at state level and reinstate the constitution of '72.

They also demanded quick start of the process to try war criminals and finish the trial of Bangabandhu murder case to punish the criminals.

Justice Gholam Rabbani read out a keynote speech while Prof Muntasir Mamun and barrister Tania Ameer also spoke at the discussion with Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, adviser of the committee, in the chair.

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