

Help ensure justice for common people

CJ asks judges, lawyers

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Tafazzul Islam yesterday asked the judges and lawyers to discharge their duties sincerely so that common people can receive proper justice and do not face any harassment.

He said this during his surprise visit to the Dhaka Bar Association auditorium in the city.

"I started my career by joining this Bar Association in 1967 as a lawyer and since then, I have always tried to do something to ensure welfare of common people," the chief justice said.

He also said when the rule of law breaks down, dictatorship surfaces.

He added that the practice of democracy has started in the country.

Replying to a question, the chief justice said he delivered the verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case in line with the verdicts of trial court and the High Court.

Dhaka Bar Association President Moklesur Rahman Badal, General

Secretary Gazi Shah Alam and senior lawyer Syed Rezaur Rahman welcomed the chief justice when he arrived at the association auditorium.

Earlier, the chief justice also made a surprise visit to Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court Conference Room where Dhaka District Judge Krishna Devnath, Metropolitan Sessions Judge ANM Bashir Ullah, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Enamul Haque, Chief Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Rafiqul Alam, Additional Sessions Judge Syed Jahed Mansur and Joint District Judges Al-Mamun and MA Awal were present.

Directive to build ramp at SC

Chief Justice Tafazzul Hossain has directed the registrar of the Supreme Court (SC) to take steps to construct ramps at the Supreme Court building to facilitate movement of the persons with disabilities, thereby ensuring their access to justice.

He also asked the registrar to organise training for the Supreme Court employees to sensitise them to the issues of the persons with disabilities.

The chief justice gave the directive during a meeting with a delegation of lawyers, human rights activists and representatives of legal aid organisations yesterday. Ain O Salish Kendra Executive Director Sultana Kamal led the delegation, said a press release.

The delegation members told the chief justice that the persons with disabilities are most marginalised and they often face various obstacles to receiving justice, including limitations on their movement.

The delegation members included Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Executive Director Mohsin Ali Khan, Barrister Sara Hossain, Brac Director Faustina Periera, Advocate Ruhul Quddus Babu, Firoja Khatun of National Council of Disabled Women, advocate Mosharrif Hossain and advocate Khondker Shahriar Sakir.

MPO policy for educational institutions finalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday finalised the monthly pay order (MPO) policy for teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions to streamline the procedure of allocating government's share in their payroll.

The MPO policy, based on the policy guideline prepared by a high-powered committee, was endorsed at an inter-ministerial meeting at education ministry. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid chaired the meeting.

The policy would soon be published on the website, sources in the meeting said.

In the light of the new policy, applications would be invited from the institutions that are willing to be included in the MPO list, said the sources. The applica-

tion forms and other details would also be available on the education ministry's website (www.moedu.govt.bd) and daily newspapers.

The MPO listing of new educational institutions came to a halt in 2004. So far, the total number of listed institutions is 26,340, which includes 2,386 colleges, 15,515 secondary schools, 7,344 madrasas and 1,095 technical education institutions, said an official handout.

Currently there are 4,693 approved educational institutions in the country which are not MPO listed, added the handout.

The government on June 13 last year formed a high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister's Education, Social Development and Political Affairs Adviser Alauddin Ahmed to formulate a

policy for MPO allocation and enrolment of new educational institutions.

The committee on January 3 this year submitted its report to the education ministry.

The report suggested some qualification criteria, including academic approval of an institution, its number of students and examinations appearing in public examinations and their success rate, for inclusion of non-government educational institution on government payroll.

Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman, Additional Secretary SM Golam Faruk, Director General of Department of Technical Education Nitai Chandra Sutradhar, chairman of madrasa board, high officials of law, finance, establishment and LGRD ministries, among others, were present at the meeting.



Visitors flip through books at the Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy in the city, as new books pile up at a stall yesterday, the second day of the fair.

Maulana Salam on eight-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday placed Islamic Democratic Party (IDP) convener Maulana Sheikh Abdus Salam on an eight-day remand in a case filed last year for his alleged involvement in anti-state activities.

Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Zafar Mollah Kamruzzaman passed the remand order after CID produced Maulana Salam before it with a ten-day remand prayer.

He was shown arrested on Monday in a case following an appeal filed by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Fazlul Haq, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case.

In his forwarding report, Fazlul Haq mentioned that Maulana Salam was directly involved and he needs to be interrogated about the activities subversive to the state.

Salam was arrested from a residence in the city's Uttara area on January 6 last year in connection with an arms case and later he was shown arrested on November 2 last year in the August 21 grenade attack case.

He had earlier given confessional statement admitting his links to the attacks on an Awami League (AL) rally.

Indian General VK Singh visits war museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Indian General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of Eastern Command Lieutenant General VK Singh visited the Liberation War Museum yesterday and praised the war museum effort in preservation of heritage of the War of Liberation.

"It was a moving experience to visit the museum. Having been a part of the joint command of Indian army and Mukti Bahini I salute all the martyrs both uniformed and civilian. You are maintaining a heritage of history, I complement you for your effort," said General VK Singh.

"Sometimes it needs to be maintained as the younger generation doesn't know what trauma they came through," General VK Singh, a veteran of the 1971 Liberation War, added.

General Singh accompanied by his wife and two other delegates.

Liberation War Museum Trustees Akku Chowdhury, Mofidul Hoque and Ziauddin Tareque Ali were present on the occasion.

Dhaka keen to send farmers to Papua New Guinea: FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday expressed Bangladesh's readiness to send farmers and agriculturalists to Papua New Guinea, saying that Bangladeshi farmers are successfully engaged in many countries and contributing to their economy.

She said this when newly appointed High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea Tarcisius

Adrian Eri called on her at the foreign ministry in the city.

Dipu Moni also mentioned that there were scopes to employ Bangladeshi teachers at the universities of Papua New Guinea.

She underscored the need to strengthen cooperation in trade, culture, education, media, ICT and agriculture sectors for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

She also called for working

together to meet the challenges of globalisation that have adverse impacts on development goals.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues, including culture, education, trade and employment.

Dipu Moni thanked the government of Papua New Guinea for hosting a good number of Bangladeshi citizens, particularly in the corporate sector.

Dr Mannan new DG of BRR

UNB, Dhaka

Dr Mohammad Abdul Mannan, a plant breeder of the country, joined Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRR) as its director general.

Prior to his new assignment, Dr Mannan was director general of Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI).

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka

NEW APPOINTMENT NUMBER

8845242

Effective from 15th January

(02)-8845242

Existing Appointment Number : (02)-8401680 (effective till 15th February). Other numbers will remain unchanged.

stggroup Apollo Hospitals Dhaka
Touching Lives



Hasan Mahmud, state minister for environment and forest, speaks at a meeting titled "Buriganga, Government Initiatives and Public Opinion" at the Sadarghat Launch Terminal in the city yesterday. Dhaka Citizens Right and environmental group Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) organised the event. (Story on Page 16)



400 YEARS OF DHAKA. 400 YEARS OF HISTORY.
400 REASONS TO CELEBRATE.
GUESS WHERE WE CAN GO TO CELEBRATE?