

It needs to be mentioned that the debate over anomalies in the WoP is not new. In the early British period, men in the judiciary took precedence over those in the executive. The order was, however, reversed after 1861 when the executive branch took precedence over the judicial branch of the state. The military, in those days, occupied the third position, and this trend continued throughout the colonial period. Throughout the British Raj, for the locals, the priority in position was determined according to the weight of the titles conferred upon them by the British government, such as Maharaja, Raja, Nawab, Sir, Sultan, Roy Bahadur, Khan Bahadur, etc.

In independent Bangladesh, the WoP has been amended several times since 1972. On October 16, 1975, the Cabinet Division of the government of Bangladesh issued a warrant of precedence superceding all previous notifications on the subject. Further amendments were made on November 22, 1983, and December 1, 1984. In September 1986, the cabinet division issued a new WoP superceding all previous notifications. This is still in use with some amendments made in October 1987, March 1988, December1991 and again in March 2000. The major amendments in the warrant of precedence were however made in December 1991 when the country switched over from presidential to a parliamentary form of government. Under this particular amendment, the prime minister has been placed second in order of precedence next to the president whereas in an earlier order issued in 1986, the prime minister was placed fourth after the president, the vice president, and the speaker.

Judges vs. Secretaries: Whither Teachers and Business Leaders?

It seems the HC verdict deals with a sensitive