

DC faces

FROM PAGE 1
reprimanded Giasuddin for acting like the "king" and "owner" of the district and accused him of taking bribes.

"We have seen many contemptors but not one like him," said Justice Shamsuddin. The judge then addressed Giasuddin's lawyer, saying: "Ask him how much money he has taken from the other side [the lessee]."

Giasuddin's attorney Belal Hossain Joy remained silent.

The court further said the DC must remember that he is a servant of the people and shun his "colonial attitude" because he is paid by the taxpayers. He should be respectful to the law and remember that he is not above the law, the court added.

The High Court has rarely reprimanded a high government official.

On April 4, DC Giasuddin renewed the lease of Bakkhali ferry ghat to Monirul Islam, who had been enjoying the lease since 2003 under a ministerial order.

Such leasing is normally awarded through tender.

Maksud Mia, secretary of Maheshkhali Ferry Parapar Jatri Odhikar Sangrakkhon Committee, filed a writ petition with the High Court to challenge the DC's action, saying the DC arbitrarily renewed the lease to Monirul who was not the lowest bidder.

On April 11, the HC bench stayed the operation of the DC's tender notice and directed Giasuddin to float a fresh tender by fixing the rate of toll and area of the river terminal.

But the DC ignored the HC order and on April 13 issued a letter, asking the Maheshkhali Thana Nirbahi Officer to hand over the possession of the terminal to Monirul Islam.

In separate letters dated April 15, the DC also asked the additional district magistrate and officers-in-charge of Cox's Bazar and Maheshkhali through the office of the SP to take action against the writ petitioner for creating obstacles to the operation of boats and ferries at the terminal.

Pollution

FROM PAGE 1
The DoE investigator in the cases alleged that the authorities of the ship-breaking yards didn't respond to the repeated DoE notices that asked them to collect environmental clearance after ensuring protective measures against pollution.

The yards have been developed without environmental clearance or required protective measures and facilities for removing liquid and solid hazardous waste during cleaning and dismantling the ships, Saiful also alleged in the cases.

Saiful told The Daily Star that the cases have been filed against nine high officials of the yards, including their owners and managing directors.

Flyover

FROM PAGE 16
Three existing gateways to the capital are Jatrabari, Amin Bazar and Mohakhali.

The prime minister said the government is set to build six more rail overpasses within the city and establish circular waterways, Jatrabari-Gulistan Flyover and elevated expressway to address perennial traffic woes of the city dwellers.

Commuter train service connecting Dhaka city with surrounding districts will also resume soon while the government will develop four satellite cities around the capital, the premier added.

The government is also working on an effective public transport system, she said.

The one-way interchange will be 6.7-9.2 metres wide and 14.5 metre high.

A 13-km long and 300feet wide link road is being developed to connect Purbachal New Town with Kuril Bishwa Road. One million estimated population of the New Town will have the interchange facility.

The TK 300-crore construction of the interchange is scheduled for completion by April 2012.

Consultants for the project are DDC, Acumen Consulting House and Divine Associates while contractors are Project Builders Ltd Bangladesh and Major Bridge Engineering Corporation, China.

Government has to acquire around 13 acres of land in Kuril for the project that is being implemented as part of Purbachal New Town with Rajuk's own fund.

The writ petitioner then filed a contempt of court petition with the HC against the DC for ignoring the court order.

The court on April 20 in a ruling asked DC Giasuddin to explain in writing why contempt proceedings should not be made against him and why he should not be punished on charge of violating the court order.

It also directed him to appear before the court on May 2.

Without any reply to the HC rule, the contemptor appeared before the HC bench yesterday morning and tendered apology to the court.

The bench of justices AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Md Delwar Hossain directed the DC to rescind his order regarding the ferry ghat.

The court said Giasuddin has to submit a report on cancellation of his order to it by Thursday. If he fails, the court will issue a contempt of court rule against him.

Giasuddin wrote a reply to the HC rule standing in the dock. He promised to withdraw his order on the TNO and the police super, offering apology to the court.

The court exempted Giasuddin from appearing in person before it in future in connection with the contempt of court petition.

Giasuddin quickly left the court premises after the court proceedings.

On the allegation of taking bribe for leasing the ferry ghat to Monirul Islam, Giasuddin told The Daily Star that the higher authority can probe the allegation.

Salina Akter Chowdhury stood for the petitioner and Belal Hossain Joy for the contemptor.

4 power projects

FROM PAGE 16
They are Contour, Ruerlec, Chinese Shantou and local Summit, Shahjibazar Power Co, United, Energy Prima and Se Power.

And Katakahi 100 MW dual fuel project drew 10 bidders. They are Contour, Ruerlec, Chinese combo, Chinese Shantou, Iranian Arian and local Summit, Shahjibazar Co, United, Energy Prima and Eden.

An evaluation team from the PDB will now review documents submitted by the bidders and drop the companies not suitable for the power tenders.

Sources said the PDB will now take a few weeks to complete the process.

Later, the qualified bidders will be asked to submit their financial proposal outlining project cost and power tariff.

The bidders for the Bibiyana-2 project are Malaysian Kuasa Nusajaya SDN BHD, Mutiara Power, YTL and Malakoff, Contour Global of USA, GMR Holdings of India, ERM Power of Australia, International Power of Singapore, a joint venture headed by British company Ruerlec, two other joint ventures headed by local Otobi and Summit respectively, and Chinese Sino Global Ltd.

All these bidders except GMR Holdings of India also submitted documents for the Bhola project. Another bidder is Malaysian Ranhill.

The PDB intends to complete the bidding process by December so that the power plants can start operation by 2013.

Russian Vladimir Gumenyuk, 73, refused to disclose the location of the ashes fearing the site could become a neo-Nazi pilgrimage one.

Vladimir is the last survivor from the team of three sent by the KGB in 1970 to exhume Hitler's remains along with those of his mistress Eva Braun.

"We were ordered to burn the remains of Hitler and all his entourage, and blow them to the wind," The Sun quoted him, as saying.

Biman lands

FROM PAGE 16
upazila in the district, minutes before the scheduled landing of the aircraft.

However, the flight carrying 303 passengers landed safely at 9:54am. The flight was scheduled to go to Dhaka with 170 passengers after dropping the rest in Chittagong.

Twenty-seven of the passengers including children and women were sent to Dhaka by a Biman BG-614 flight before noon while the rest 143 by another flight at 5:00pm, said the sources.

Station Manager of Bangladesh Biman BK Solaiman said the aircraft suffered a minor technical glitch and it left Chittagong airport after engineers fixed the missing flap at 9:17pm on the same day.

The much-talked method was introduced by the government aiming to prevent students from memorisation.

CU STUDENT MURDER

Key suspect

Liton denies involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sarwar Kamal Liton, prime suspect in the murder of Chittagong University student Asad, in a statement to a magistrate yesterday denied his involvement in the killing.

Liton said the harassment of his wife Subarna Khan at the hands of Zahidul Islam Jewel and his accomplices on the university campus infuriated locals and prompted them to attack the three university students including Asaduzzaman.

He claimed that he was not present at the scene of the incident when the villagers attacked the three on the university campus on April 15. Asad later succumbed to his wounds.

Liton was produced before Senior Judicial Magistrate Keshab Roy Chowdhury in the afternoon after completion of a five-day remand. The court sent him to jail.

"WRONG TREATMENT"

Hospital staffs beat up patient's relatives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A few staffs of Bangladesh Medical College Hospital yesterday beat up three family members of a patient for filing a complaint with police alleging wrong treatment to their patient.

Dhanmondi police rescued patient Ali Akkas's son Anisuzzaman, 25, brother-in-law Shamim Ahmed and nephew Abul Hasan, 22, from the hospital's parking space around 9:00pm.

Admitting the incident of beating, BMCH Deputy Director Dr MA Rouf Sarder told The Daily Star last night that punitive measures would be taken against the staffs involved.

Patient Ali Akkas' brother-in-law Shamim Ahmed said their patient has been having severe pain in the abdomen since the operation on April 25. "So, we filed a general diary with Dhanmondi Police Station on April 29," he said. "A few hospital staffs tied us up to pillars in the hospital's parking space and beat us for this. Later, police rescued us."

On information, Sub-Inspector Zahedul Islam of Dhanmondi Police Station rushed to the spot and rescued those three persons.

Ali Akkas from Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj was admitted to BMCH on April 24 and now he is undergoing treatment at the hospital's intensive care unit. His condition was stated to be critical.

Ex-KGB officer claims to have cremated Hitler

ANI, Moscow

A former KGB officer has sensationally claimed to have cremated the bones of Adolf Hitler.

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BDR mutiny

FROM PAGE 1
Havilders Shibbir Ahmed and Sohrab Hossain and sepoy Abul Kalam Azad each received a six-year rigorous imprisonment. The court also fined them Tk100 each.

Chairman of the court, set up at Mechanical Transport Shed at the BDR sector headquarters, BDR Director General Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam delivered the judgment around 2:20pm.

This is the fifth verdict of BDR special courts.

The other members of the court are Lt Col Abdur Rouf and Major Golam Mostafa Al-Mamun.

During the verdict the BDR DG said that the accused were provided with all kinds of legal aid.

Ctg city polls

FROM PAGE 1
Mentioning the legal obligation for holding the Chittagong City Corporation poll before June 25, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret) M Sakhawat Hossain told journalists that they are making preparations to hold the poll before that date.

The current CCC, constituted through the election on May 9, 2005, held its first meeting on June 26 the same year. Its five-year tenure will expire on June 25 this year.

According to the Local Government (city corporation) Act 2010, election to the CCC must be held in 180 days before its tenure expires.

"The poll is likely to be held between June 15 and June 20," a senior EC official said.

The EC at a meeting yesterday discussed deployment of the army in the electoral areas but no decision was made, said a source.

If engaged in election duties, army personnel, empowered by the city corporation law, will have sweeping authority to arrest anyone without any warrant.

In the past, army was deployed to maintain law and order during elections to city corporations. But then they did not have the legal authority to arrest anybody without warrant.

The present government amended the Representation of the People Order (RPO) in February last year, scrapping such authority of the armed forces if engaged in parliamentary election duty.

The EC Secretariat yesterday sent letter to Chittagong divisional deputy election

commissioner to prepare a panel of 14,931 polling officials.

On announcement of the poll schedule, 687 presiding officers, 4,748 assistant presiding officers and 9,496 polling officers from the panel will be appointed to conduct voting in 687 polling stations. The CCC has 16.94 lakh voters in 41 wards.

A senior EC official said on finalisation of the polling date, they would inform the LGRD ministry about it.

The EC earlier decided to hold the long overdue poll to Dhaka City Corporation on May 31. But on April 15, the EC deferred the election by five months as the government had reservations about holding the election on that date.

The government high-ups told the EC that they wanted to redraw the boundaries of the DCC wards before the election. They asked the commission to delay the poll until winter.

In fact, policymakers and leaders of Awami League fear that the ongoing power, water and gas crises coupled with high prices of essentials might cost the ruling party-backed mayoral candidate dearly in the DCC election.

They favoured holding the poll in winter hoping that the prices of essentials would fall and the power situation would improve by then.

The EC wanted to avoid confrontation with the government over the DCC poll as it failed to hold the election in 180 days before the DCC's tenure expired on May 14, 2007 because of the imposition of the state of emergency.

Anti-graft body

FROM PAGE 1
These proposals go against the present government's pledge to ensure good governance and fight corruption, said TIB at a press conference at the National Press Club.

ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman had earlier requested the law minister not to bring the amendments, saying these would hamper ACC independence.

"Differentiating the public servants from the politicians and other citizens in filing cases on corruption charges goes against the basic value of equal rights for all in the constitution," said Hafizuddin Khan.

TIB Trustee Board former chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said during the tenure of BAC, the government allowed only 10 percent of the cases to be filed. Those filed cases took over ten years to be settled, he said.

In principle, ACC can go against corruption in all the three organs of the government, Ahmad said, adding: "Bringing ACC under the government's control will hamper its basic spirit."

Absorbing the officials of BAC in ACC has primarily weakened it and the government's authority to appoint and remove its secretary will further weaken it, he noted.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said ACC's accountability will be affected by political influence if it is made accountable to the president.

"This is because in parliamentary democracy, the president acts on all the issues in consultation with the prime minister, except for the appointments of the prime minister and the chief justice," he said.

He suggested that ACC be made accountable to a special parliamentary committee comprised of lawmakers of all political parties and known for

highest level of integrity.

The amendment proposal of five years of jail term for false corruption charges appears to be reasonable, but it will work as strong deterrence in filing corruption cases, Iftekharuzzaman added.

Such a special rule is not important in ACC law, as it is already there in the existing law that punishes those filing false cases, he said.

The section 36 of the ACC Act, 2004 that authorises the government to interpret the laws and provide instructions to ACC if any complexities arise in enforcing the laws should be cancelled to check possible one-sided intervention of the government, Iftekharuzzaman observed.

TIB suggested that ACC be given power to reconstitute its organisational structure, recruit officials and frame budget for its independence.

"To ensure its accountability, ACC could form a strong internal audit unit accountable to the ACC chairman besides government audit," Iftekharuzzaman said, suggesting expansion of ACC's legal purview so that it includes all sorts of corruption in the financial, banking, foreign companies and foreign exchange transactions.

He also recommended forming a citizens' advisory committee comprised of honest and neutral citizens to advise ACC and evaluate its functions.

"Integrity of the officials and employees of ACC has to be re-examined... they should be provided incentives for good performance and subjected to stern actions for irregularities," Iftekharuzzaman added.

Fathimath

FROM PAGE 16
The key post rotates among the member countries and it's the Maldives turn this year to nominate the secretary general.

Dhiyana is the second Maldivian to be appointed Saarc secretary general after special envoy to the president Ibrahim Hussein Zakee, who also held prominent positions in the former regime.

Dhiyana was appointed the Maldives' Attorney General on 12 November, 2008--a day after Mohamed Nasheed took oaths as the country's new president.

In May 2009, Nasheed dismissed her from the post, after she alleged that political appointees, including ministers and councillors were abusing their positions to influence the May 9 parliamentary elections.

Dhiyana's nomination to Saarc comes a year after Nasheed sacked her from the attorney general position following public disputes and days after her husband Abdulla Jabir, chairman of Yacht Tours and also former lawmaker, joined the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party.

President of the Maldives included Dhiyana in the official delegation at the 16th Saarc summit held on April 28-29 in Bhutan.

3 held, looted

Tk 28 lakh recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion arrested three persons, including two women, and recovered Tk 28.40 lakh from a house in the city's Badda Saturday night after a driver of G4S allegedly fled with Tk 45 lakh on April 22.

Rab personnel arrested Munia Islam alias Sumi, 21, a friend of Shah Alam who is the son of G4S driver Farid Ali, Sumi's mother Monowara Begum, 40, and Shah Alam's friend Md Mamun Siraj, 24, at their residences in Kuril, Badda.

They recovered the cash from Sumi's house at about 10:00pm.

Driver Farid Ali of G4S, a private security solutions firm, allegedly made away with Tk 45 lakh during the delivery of the amount from Bangladesh Bank to an HSBC branch in Motijheel.

Following the incident, G4S Assistant Manager of Administration Chowdhury Saad Faruque filed a case, accusing Farid Ali, his sons Shah Alam and Jaane Alam. All three have been absconding since the incident.

Sumi told reporters at Rab-1 headquarters that Shah Alam, who was her classmate at high school, asked her over cell phone to wait outside her house on the evening of April 29.

When he arrived he handed over a bag to her, asking her to keep it at her place, Sumi said, adding that she panicked on finding the money inside and pleaded him to take the bag away but Shah Alam paid no heed and forced her to keep it.

Major (ret) Aynul Islam Khan, chief of G4S Cash Service Division, said while in front of Bangladesh Bank, Farid said the vehicle had a mechanical fault.

Farid might have removed the money when he entered the vehicle to bring out the tools to fix the trouble, Aynul said.

Rab Legal and Media Wing Director, Commander Mohammad Sohail said a Rab intelligence team and Rab-1 personnel hunted through cell phone call lists and traced the money and arrestees. They are trying to capture the driver and his family members in order to recover the remaining money, he added.

Jamaat

FROM PAGE 16
organised efforts requires bringing drastic changes to the basic structure of the country's constitution.

A number of clauses in Jamaat's charter call for establishing the rule of Islam.

"But the country's constitution, the supreme law of the land, does not allow parliament to amend its basic structure," the senior EC official said.

In its ratified charter, which Jamaat submitted to the EC on July 22 last year, the party also refuses to accept parliament's law-making power sanctioned by the country's constitution. The people must not accept anyone except Allah as the maker of laws, it says.

In the face of the commission's objection, Jamaat deleted the clause from the provisional amended charter to get registered before the ninth parliamentary elections, but it later reinstated the controversial clause in its ratified charter, said EC officials.

Jamaat also did not include in the main body of its charter the provisions of keeping 33 percent posts in all committees at all levels reserved for women and achieving the goal by 2020. The provision is mentioned in a special note on the last page of the charter.

The EC in January this year and then in April asked Jamaat to include the provision in the main body of the charter.

When contacted by The Daily Star yesterday over telephone, Jamaat-Islami's Senior Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman said they would talk to the EC and reply to its letter.

Thirty-nine political parties got registered with the EC by submitting their provisional amended charters before the December 29, 2008 parliamentary elections. They promised to get the provisional changes ratified at party national councils within the timeframe stipulated in the RPO, which expired on January 24 this year.

War probe chief

FROM PAGE 1
The allegation is an embarrassment to the government that formed the seven-member war crimes investigation agency amid much fanfare a little over a month back.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder said, "We will soon open a departmental inquiry."

Talking to The Daily Star after a meeting attended by the home minister and the state minister for law yesterday evening, he said the chief investigator had clarified his position to the minister.

Addressing a roundtable on Friday, Prime Minister's Adviser Dr Alauddin Ahmed raised questions about Matin's political allegiance in the years leading to the independence war.

His remarks have created a sharp division among the government high-ups over the issue.

Some say the adviser did the right thing.

Others say he could have tried to persuade the prime minister to cancel the appointment, instead of going public with the allegation. Similar are views of some officials at the Prime Minister's Office, said highly-placed admin sources.

In efforts to put an end to the controversy, the government is going to ask Matin to leave the position, they added.

It appointed him chief investigator on March 25.

Though the home ministry was the appointing authority, it did not know anything about Matin before announcement of the appointment.

The ministry however had thoroughly examined the backgrounds and political affiliations of the other members of the agency and suggested the prime minister give her nod to their appointments, sources in the government told The Daily Star.

MATIN'S REBUTTAL
Matin yesterday refuted the allegation that he was a member of Islami Chhatra Sangha, which later became Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Talking to reporters at his office, he said he was neither a collaborator nor a freedom fighter during the Liberation War.

He claimed he was a freedom fighter at heart though.

About the allegation that he was a Sangha candidate in the students' union polls at Barisal BM College in 1963, Matin said he was an independent candidate and that Sangha had no existence in Barisal at that time.

"The government has appointed me the chief investigator and now if it wants, I will quit."

Referring to his Friday's statements, Dr Alauddin yesterday said he was partially quoted in the media, and it has created misperceptions among people.

"As some discussants raised questions over his [Matin's] political identity, I said, 'I don't know if the allegations are true'. However, we now have to look into the matter seriously. The allegations, if proven true, will have bearing on the trial process."

HOW HE WAS APPOINTED
Preferring anonymity, a senior home ministry official said Matin was never their choice. Rather, a few government high-

3 clubs asked

FROM PAGE 16
The bench, comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Md Delwar Hossain, however felt embarrassed to hear the prayer in the same petition for similar restriction on Gulshan Club.

Reasons behind its feeling embarrassed could not be known immediately.

The writ petition was filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

The petitioner's counsel Manzil Murshid told this correspondent that as the bench felt embarrassed, he deleted Gulshan Club from the petition.

Respondents to the HC order and rule include the power and energy secretary, the MDs of Desco and DPDC and chairmen of the three clubs.

30 kids

FROM PAGE 16
that kill parasitic worms (helminths) from the body.

The kids were sent to the health complex immediately. Of them, 22 were released after giving first aid. Ibrahim, 8, Shantona, 8, Sheuly, 9, Yasin, 10, Shaon, 9, Mahub, 11, Mitali, 9, and Ankhi, 10, were in a critical condition.

All the thirty children are the students of Pourashabha Government Model Primary School.

Upazila Health Officer Hekmtul Ali of Kotchandpur said, children may feel sick after taking anthelmintics, but there is nothing to panic about. He added the situation was under control.

ups opted for him at a meeting with the prime minister on March 24.