

SC slams on contempt

Holds unprecedented trial to jail Mahmudur for 6 months; bureaucrat-turned-journalist Asaf-ud-Daula apologises to HC over contempt charge

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court yesterday passed a verdict relating to protecting the image of the judiciary, sentencing Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of daily Amar Desh, to six months in prison for gross contempt of court.

In a move termed unprecedented by eminent lawyers, the Appellate Division of the court, which deals with



appeals, tried as they term for the first time and convicted Mahmudur for publishing a report on April 21 under the headline "Chamber manei sarkar pakkhe stay" [Chamber bench means stay order in favour of the government].

"This is the first time the Supreme Court convicted and sentenced anyone after it drew proceedings against a person for contempt of court,"

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ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION 2 dyeing units fined Tk 62 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment yesterday fined two industrial units in Savar and Tejgaon around Tk 63 lakh for violating environment law.

The dyeing and finishing unit of Biswas Garments at Rajphulbaria was fined Tk 60.5 lakh for having no environment clearance certificate and polluting the Bangshai River in Savar while Win Thread Co at Tejgaon industrial area Tk 2.22 lakh for draining liquid waste into the Begunbari canal.

The enforcement and monitoring unit of DoE conducted a raid in the Biswas Garments unit Wednesday and asked its

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CONTEMPT OF COURT Khoka asked to explain his position

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule against Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and another person to explain why contempt of court should not be drawn against them for not complying with its order.

An HC bench of Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Obaidul

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Omor Ali, who served a 21-year term in prison, is locked in warm embrace with his mother near Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after being freed on amnesty. The government started releasing 1,000 long-serving prisoners, a move that jail authorities say is the largest mass release for the elderly, disabled and sick and those who showed good conduct.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

1,000 out of jail

Largest ever release on amnesty evokes joy, worry alike

SHARIFUL ISLAM, EMRAN HOSSAIN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Hrishikesh, a convicted murderer, heard the rumour for the last six months.

Then at 5:00pm Wednesday, he heard the news that he and 74 others would be released from Dhaka Central Jail.

After spending a sleepless night, Hrishikesh, aged around 50, walked out of the steel door fifteen minutes past yesterday noon, a free man.

"I have passed 19 years four months and nineteen days inside the jail," he said, adding that he was going to Mohonganj in Netrakona.

"Neither my daughter nor my wife knows that I am coming."

Hrishikesh was among the 1,000 prisoners the government released across the country yesterday. The prisoners are from 67 jails.

Inspector General of Prison Brig Gen Ashraf Islam Khan said this is the highest number of prisoners released at

a time because of old age, disability, illness, and good behaviour.

He added that the process of releasing long-term prisoners will continue, and they already sent a list of several thousands to the home ministry.

Former inspector general of police ASM Shahjahan said good behaviour of the released convicts might not last, as prisons do not have the ability to rehabilitate wrong-doers.

"It will be a challenge for them to live

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Koko's parole cancelled

Asked to return home by Aug 31

UNB, Dhaka

Arafat Rahman Koko who had been on parole for treatment in Bangkok was asked to return home by August 31 and surrender before the court, official sources said yesterday.

Koko, the youngest son of BNP Chairperson and ex-premier Khaleda Zia, is facing a number of corruption cases. He was arrested during the previous caretaker government.

Later, he got parole and left for Bangkok on July 19, 2008 for better treatment as he had been suffering from respiratory problems.

His lawyer barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon MP told UNB yesterday night that

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Policeman, criminal die in gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police constable and a miscreant died in a shootout in the city's Dilkusha area in the early hours today.

Motijheel police said the unidentified man shot constable Manjurul Islam, 25, on the chest when Manjurul and two other patrol police intercepted the rickshaw carrying him in front of Pubali Bank around 12:55am.

Police immediately

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ATIF RAHMAN'S QULKHWANI TOMORROW

Late Atif Rahman (Bipu) son of Mr Rezaur Rahman, Managing Director, Bengal Airlift Group, will be buried in Banani Graveyard today, August 20, 2010 after Jumma prayers. The mortal remains of Late Atif Rahman will be taken to his residence at K R Villa, House # 305, Block # C, Shafayet Road, Basundhara R/A at 1100 hrs. Thereafter, Atif's mortal remains will be taken to the Basundhara Islamic Research Center (Mosque) for another Namaj-e-Janaza before burial.

His QULKHWANI will be held tomorrow, August 21, 2010 after Zohr prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque.

Mr Rezaur Rahman and his family request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to kindly join them in Atif's Qulkhani and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

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