

8 HC directives to protect sanctity, dignity of Shaheed Minar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued eight directives upon the government to protect sanctity and dignity of the Central Shaheed Minar that was set up to maintain the spirit of the Language Movement and pay tribute to its heroes.

The HC bench of Justice Md Montazuddin Ahmed and Justice Naima Haider came up with the directives following a writ petition filed as public interest litigation by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

The bench ordered the government to set up Shaheed Minars at the premises of all universities and other educational institutions across the country to show respect to the memories of the language heroes.

It directed the authorities concerned to set up a museum along with a library at any side of the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka and take effective measures so that no unsocial activities take place there.

The bench also asked the government to take effective steps so that no function or meeting can be held at the original Bedi (main part) of the Minar. However, there would be no embargo on holding any function outside the original Bedi.

The HC ordered the government to form a committee for preparing a list of language heroes and publish it in a gazette notification by January 31, 2012.

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has been asked to appoint three security guards to protect the area of the Minar.

The bench also directed the government to honour the language heroes, both dead and alive, with posthumous and other awards for their contribution to the movement.

The court ruled that the government would provide financial support to the language heroes if they apply for such assistance. It asked the government to publish brochures containing the history of the language movement both in Bangla and English to distribute those among the visitors to the country.

The government was also asked to invite the language movement heroes in all state programmes and ensure all governmental facilities for them.

The secretaries to the Prime Minister's



Central Shaheed Minar

Office, Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Dhaka mayor, Dhaka University vice-chancellor, chief engineer and chief architect of the public works department have been made respondents to the HC verdict.

Advocate Asaduzzaman Siddiquee filed the writ on behalf of HRPB on February 7 this year stating that the 21st February is observed every

year as International Mother Language Day, and the sanctity and honour of the Central Shaheed Minar are maintained for that day only.

On other days the Minar is used by the people in different ways and its honour and dignity and memories of the language heroes are undermined, the petitioner said.

The HC on February 9 issued a rule upon the

respondents to explain why they should not be directed to take appropriate measures to protect sanctity and honour of the Minar and set up a museum on its premises so that visitors can learn the history of the Language Movement of 1952.

Advocate Manzill Murshid appeared for the petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General Mostafa Zaman Islam represented the government.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

'Rural girls' rights still a far cry'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the adolescent girls in rural areas are to spend their days in homes and marry off at an early age, said a group of girls at a press conference here yesterday.

The adolescent girls from rural areas said most of the girls tend to drop out of school early and have a little participation in making family decisions, including their own marriages.

The Stromme Foundation organised the press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

The organiser said a special grant from the Norwegian Crown Prince and Crown Princess has been awarded to the foundation's 'Sanglap' programme to support disadvantaged adolescent girls in Bangladesh.

It was disgusting to stay in the house without doing anything, said Salma from Noakhali, who dropped out of school at class nine, adding, "No one gave any importance to what I said or wanted."

Latifa from Satkhira said her family fixed her marriage with a much older person. "I refused to get married but no one would listen to me," she said.

"But no more," said Latifa, "I have learnt a lot of things from Sanglap; I know how to be more vocal, take care of myself, help my family in all kinds of matter, and be confident about myself."

Latifa now is working as a tailor in Dhaka said recently my family decided to arrange marriage of my brother to a younger girl. But I opposed the decision, as the girl was too young. Both the families listened to my decision.

Deputy Head of Mission at the Norwegian Embassy Kyrre Elvenes Brækhus was present as a special guest.

'Sanglap' programme is designed to create awareness among the adolescent girls in rural areas about personal, social and rights related issues. They also get an interest free loan to help involve in entrepreneurial activities, said Joel S. Das, operations manager of the foundation.

Under the programme, training has been given to 40,000 adolescent girls, aged between 11 to 19, in 33 districts of the country, he said.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CHT AGREEMENT

Govt gives only assurance

Says Raja Devasish

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is only giving an assurance of implementing the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Agreement, said Chakma Circle Chief Raja Devasish Roy at a programme yesterday.

He said the indigenous people hoped that their rights would be ensured through the peace accord, which is yet to be implemented.

Raja Devasish was speaking at the launching ceremony of a book titled 'Between Ashes and Hope: Chittagong Hill Tracts in the Blind Spot of Bangladesh Nationalism' at the WVA auditorium in the city.

Drishitpat Writers Collective, with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), published the book

containing 75 essays and research articles.

He said, "The Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Commission is trying to do the job of Amin and Kanungo through cadastral survey instead of resolving land disputes in the area."

He also opined that there is no need to deploy Army in the area as no insurgency is going on.

"The human rights of the hill people are being violated," alleged Devasish.

"Whenever a commission like the human rights commission is set up in Bangladesh, successive governments have tried to make the commission as a 'cat' rather than making it a 'tiger,'" said Raja Devasish.

Nirupa Dewan, member of the National Human Rights Commission, said the situation in the hill areas are getting criti-

cal, as the peace accord is not implemented.

She said rights to the indigenous people should be recognised in the amendments to the constitution.

Asif Saleh of Drishitpat and editor of the book Naeem Mohaiemen spoke at the function while Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, was in the chair.

The book will be available soon at Drik and Omni Book in Dhanmondi, Pathak Shamabesh in Elephant road, Bookworm in Old Airport, UPL Showroom in Bishwara Road, Words n Pages in Gulshan, and Aarong of the city, Bishaud Bangla in Chittagong, and other bookstalls at a price of Tk 350.

Proceeds from the sale will be donated to Moanaghor, a school and orphanage for hill children in Rangamati.

Job fair at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A daylong job fair for the fresh graduates was held at Dhaka University yesterday.

Dhaka University Alumni Association and Dhaka University Career Club jointly organised the fair.

Prime Minister's Adviser for Health Prof Syed Modasser Ali inaugurated the fair at the alumni floor of the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

Different commercial companies participated the fair with their offers for job seekers. The participating companies included MGH Group, Microsoft BD Limited, BD Jobs, Energy Pac BD Limited, IDLC Finance Limited, Rahim Afroz BD Limited, Eastern Bank Limited, Lanka Bangla Finance Limited.

Inaugurating the fair as the chief guest, Prof Modasser said it should not be expected that students only concentrate on their textbooks. They should be efficient and competent enough to face the challenges of today's world, he added.

Attending the inaugural session as the guest of honour, Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said such fairs would create opportunities for graduates to find jobs in their preferred organisations.

In the present competitive world, the biggest challenge for the students is to prepare themselves perfectly and it should start from student life, he added.

Govt to put right persons in right places: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has taken policy to put the right people in the right positions.

The prime minister said this to the executive committee members of the Engineers' Institution, Bangladesh (EIB) when they called on her at her office.

EIB President SM Nazrul Islam and General Secretary Mejbahur Rahman Tutul led the 12-member delegation.

Sheikh Hasina asked the engineers to perform their duties with sincerity and honesty. This government wants to place the eligible and right persons in the right places, she said.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul kalam Azad briefed reporters about the meeting.

The prime minister informed the engineers that people have voted the government with the aspiration of welfare of the nation. She said laws are for the people and taking this into consideration her government would go for simplifying the laws if those create obstacles to do anything good for the people.

She directed the engineers to complete the annual development projects in time.

The EIB members apprised the prime minister various problems they are facing. The Prime Minister assured of taking appropriate steps to mitigate their grievances.

Expand e-education to rural areas, urges minister

UNB, Dhaka

The government wants to expand e-education to the country's remote areas within a year while the e-health facilities within the shortest possible time, Post and Telecommunications Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju said yesterday.

He also said all unions of the country would be brought under optical fiber connectivity by 2012 to materialise Bangabandhu's dream of "Sonar Bangla" (Golden Bangla).

The telecom minister revealed the government plans while speaking as chief guest at a roundtable titled "Bangabandhu and digital Bangladesh" held at the Cirdap auditorium,

organised by editor.com.

Raju said "our much desired Sonar Bangla" could be built through digital revolution and the government is giving special attention on strengthening government's technical wings.

Jatiya Party Presidium Member Anisul Islam Mahmud, lawmaker Murad Hasan, BTRC Chairman Zia Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University AK Azad Chowdhury, Bangladesh Computer Council President Mostafa Jabbar, journalist Mozammel Haque Babu and Chief Executive Officer of Rtv M Hamid took part in the discussion.



PHOTO: STAR

(From left) Naeem Mohaiemen, member of the National Human Rights Commission Nirupa Dewan, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) Shaheen Anam, Chakma Circle Chief Raja Devasish Roy and Asif Saleh holds copies of a book titled 'Between Ashes and Hope: Chittagong Hill Tracts in the Blind Spot of Bangladesh Nationalism' at a publication ceremony in the city's WVA auditorium yesterday.

Three industries fined for polluting water

DoE asks Akter Brick Works to remove kiln

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Department of Environment yesterday fined three industries Tk 13.38 lakh for polluting air and water in Bayezid Bostami and Nasirabad areas of Chittagong.

A team from DoE, led by its Director (enforcement) Munir Chowdhury, gave the penalty to the three industries in a drive under the operation to Prevent Environment Crime.

Munir Chowdhury said Export Pack Limited was fined Tk 6 lakh for not using effluent treatment plant (ETP) effectively,

while Fish Processing Limited was fined Tk 2.26 lakh for running business without DoE clearances.

On the other hand, Concord Ready Mix and Concrete Products Limited was fined Tk 5 lakh for manufacturing construction materials without clearance certificate and without any air pollution protecting equipments, Munir said.

Meanwhile, a brick kiln named Messer's Akter Brick Works at the city's Mohora area was asked to remove the kiln within the next seven days as it did not have DoE clearance.

TANHA MURDER

Rajib confesses crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajib on the last day of his police remand yesterday confessed to killing three and a half-year-old Jennifer Islam Tanha, daughter of his paramour Halima Yasmin.

Rajib made the confession to Khilgaon police after he was brought face to face with Halima. He admitted to police of strangling Tanha to death.

Until making the confession, Rajib denied to have committed the crime. He even pretended not to know Halima, the owner of their rented Siphahibagh house, the caretaker and a tenant of the house, when they all identified him at the police station.

Police said both Rajib and Halima will be produced before the court today.

Tanha was killed on July 29 afternoon. On August 4 Khilgaon police recovered the decomposed body of the baby from the sun shed on the 3rd floor of a five-story building in Siphahibagh. Tanha's mother Halima was arrested on charges of murdering her daughter. On August 16, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court of Dhaka sent Rajib to jail hajat rejecting his bail prayer.

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