

Remand prayer for Izharul rejected

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday rejected a 10-day remand prayer for Mufti Izharul Islam Chowdhury, president of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), and sent him to jail.

Judicial Magistrate Md Akbar Hossain passed the order after MA Latif, sub-inspector of the police station concerned and investigation officer of the case, produced him before the court.

Five activists of the banned militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji) were also produced before the court with a 10-day remand prayer for each on the same day. The court also rejected their remand prayers.

The case was filed on December 16 at Raozan Police Station on charge of Mufti Izharul's alleged involvement in Huji.



Around 20 elderly women activists of Muktijoddhar Santan (freedom fighters' children) form a human chain at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla at Dhaka University yesterday demanding eviction of encroachers of the Buriganga River and a stop to its pollution.

BID TO CLEAN GULSHAN-BARIDHARA LAKE 10-day drive starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of government officials along with local community leaders launched a ten-day drive for cleaning the Gulshan-Baridhara Lake yesterday.

Six government officials trained under Management at the Top (MAT) workshop have undertaken the participatory drive as a pilot project to make it sustainable, said Rawnak Mahmud, convener of the cleaning programme.

The drive launched from Baridhara Lake Park continued for a one-kilometre stretch of the Gulshan-Baridhara Lake up to road No 80 near Kalachandpur.

The first phase of the project will continue until end of December and the second phase will be run through January to June 3, said Mahmud, executive officer of Dhaka City Corporation zone-9.

Some eight workers will be appointed during the second phase to guard and clean the said stretch of the lake. Private waste collectors have agreed to collect the lakeside wastes dumped in bins.

Thirteen local community organisations will bear the cost worth Tk 65,000 to carry out the drive.

Major General (ret'd) Amin Ahmed

Chowdhury, convener of Gulshan Society (zone-6), said it was inspiring to see the government officials taking an initiative with the local people in such a public service.

"I am hopeful that the move will sustain and the community will extend cooperation, as the government and the locals will work together," he said.

A total of 55 house owners have been identified as illegally connecting their sewage lines with the surface drains that directly release into the lake.

Leaders of the drive will hold a meeting with the landlords of Gulshan and Baridhara on January 7 and request them to stop releasing domestic sewage into the surface drainage system.

Officials of deputy secretary and joint secretary ranks since 2005 have been taking part in the MAT workshops funded by DFID and Bangladesh government to receive training on innovative and reformative ways of doing public service.

The MAT workshops are aimed at working in five broad areas of socio-economic welfare ultimately to facilitate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, said Rawnak.

ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY Bid evaluation report submission today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tender evaluation committee on Dhaka Elevated Expressway (DEE) submits its appraisal report on the winning bidder's financial bid to the communications minister today for approval.

The committee will hold further negotiations with the bidder after ministerial approval, said Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, head of the Tender Evaluation Committee (TEC).

It will take some time to analyse in detail both the technical and financial offers of the winning bidder and determine the negotiation strategies for further gains of the government, he said.

Some areas of the negotiations include the annual concession fee and reducing construction cost of "Box" and "T" type girder of the elevated way, said Chowdhury, ex-professor of BU and former vice-chancellor of Brac University.

"Technical teams of Buet and Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Centre are preparing a cost analysis of the project and we will ask for item-wise analysis of the project cost proposed by the bidder for negotiation."

Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, secretary to Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), implementing agency of the 26-kilometre DEE project, said they sat yesterday with TEC and expert teams from IIFC and Buet to ascertain areas of further negotiations.

They sit with the bidder, Ital-Thai Development Company, tomorrow to inform points of agreement and disagreement on the technical and financial offers.

PILKHANA MUTINY Two BDR men plead guilty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two BDR Rifles Security Unit (RSU) members yesterday pleaded guilty of their involvement in the February 25-26 mutiny last year at a special court at the Darbar Hall of Pilkhana.

After the proceedings began, the three-member Special Court-7 led by BDR Director General (DG) Maj Gen Md Rafiqul Islam completed reading out individual charges against 113 accused mutineers of the RSU.

The BDR DG then said, "The court will show special consideration if you [BDR jawans] admit your guilt."

When sepoys Wazed Ali Mollah and Komor Uddin pleaded guilty, the court asked the security to free them from handcuffs and separate them from others. Both of them were seen in tears at that time.

Wazed has been charged with collecting firearms and ammunition from the magazine, and participating in the mutiny while the allegations against Komor are not informing the higher authorities about the mutineers' plans and not resisting them.

Some of the 113 are accused of more than one crime.

Prosecutor of the Special Court-7 Lt Col Atiqzaman, commanding officer of the RSU, said 40 BDR men are indicted for carrying

firearms and taking part in the mutiny whereas 31 are accused of removing the bodies of slain army officers.

Besides, 51 field level workers of the intelligence unit are charged with not informing the BDR authorities about the mutiny beforehand.

Atiqzaman also said leaflets on the mutiny were printed at a coaching centre near BDR gate no 5 and handed out before the mutiny.

The intelligence found it on February 21 last year. The mutiny would not have taken place had the intelligence informed the authorities about it, the prosecutor added.

The criminal investigation department (CID) earlier arrested the owner of the coaching centre, and 13 of the 113 were charge-sheeted.

The trial proceedings were adjourned until 9:00am on January 30.

Meanwhile, 31 alleged mutineers of the BDR Record Wing yesterday cross-examined seven witnesses at the Special Court-9 at the new courtroom of 13 Rifle Battalion in Pilkhana.

BDR Dhaka Sector Commander Col Habibul Karim led the court and adjourned it until 9:00am on December 23. The allegations against 111 jawans of the unit include leaving the Darbar Hall, showing solidarity with the mutineers, participating in the mutiny with firearms, not working to prevent the mutiny and failing to control unruly subordinates.

Indian '71 war veterans leave Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indian delegation of 1971 War of Liberation veterans from the Indian Armed Forces left Dhaka yesterday for India after a six-day visit.

Master General of Ordnance of Bangladesh Army Major General Abdul Matin saw the 17-member team, led by Lt General (Retd) SPM Tripathi, off at Hajrat Shahjalal International Airport.

During their visit, the delegation paid homage at the National Mausoleum in Savar and also observed the parade of combined military forces in the city's National Parade Square.

They also joined a reception programme at Bangabhaban on invitation of President Zillur Rahman.

The team also paid homage at a monument at Comilla Cantonment and visited a mass killing site at Beltali field in the south of Laksham Railway Jangshan.

SC clears way for poura polls in 3 districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday cleared the way for holding elections to Chandpur Sadar, Madaripur Sadar and Netrokona's Madan Poursavas.

Chamber Judge Justice SK Sinha of the Appellate Division stayed for six weeks the High Court (HC) orders that stayed the process for holding elections to the municipalities.

The chamber judge passed the stay orders following three separate petitions filed by the government and a few local individuals of Chandpur Poursavas seeking stay on the HC orders.

The judge also directed the government and individuals to file regular leave to appeal petitions with the SC against the HC orders within a period of six weeks.

Earlier on December 19, the same judge of the Appellate Division stayed the HC orders that stayed the process for holding elections to Cox's Bazar Sadar, Chakoria, Moheshkhali and Teknaf in Cox's Bazar and Magura Sadar pourasavas.

Following separate writ petitions filed by some voters of the municipalities, the HC on December 12 and December 15 stayed the election process for Chandpur Sadar, Madaripur Sadar and Netrokona's Madan Poursavas.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman and Assistant Attorney General Ekramul Haque Tutul appeared for the government, Advocate AM Amin Uddin stood for the individuals of Chandpur Poursavas and Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun argued for the writ petitioners.

BSMU RECRUITMENT Doctors blame admin for losing job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The medical officers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), who lost their jobs following a recent High Court (HC) verdict, blamed the current administration yesterday.

Under the banner of 'Doctors from every level of BSMMU', they formed a human chain in front of the university at Shahbagh in the city and claimed that the appointment issue was resolved in 2006.

The issue was revived and the university authorities did not fight as the defendant. Rather, it cleverly hid real information from the court. That is why the HC on December 14 this year declared appointment of 236 doctors illegal, they said.

Prof Iqbal Arslan filed the writ petition on January 2, 2006. The HC on February 28 that year said there are no irregularities in that appointment.

However, as the then authorities did not dismiss the case, Dr Iqbal, secretary general of Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad, a pro-Awami League doctors forum, revived the case again in November this year.

But this time the university authorities did not fight the case as the defendant. That is why the result went in favor of the plaintiff, they said.

Dr ABM Shafiqullah, assistant professor of Gastroenterology of BSMMU, Dr Amena Begum of Gynae department, Dr Asadur Rahman of Gastroenterology and Dr Shirajul Islam of Cardiology spoke, among others.



Ganotantric Bam Morcha brings out a protest procession from the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding unconditional release of Moshrefa Mishu, president of Garment Sramik Oikya Parishad.

Dipjol on 2-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Councillor and film actor Monwar Hossain Dipjol was remanded yesterday for two days in a case filed for ransacking and torching vehicles on June 26.

Third Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ali Hussain passed the order after the investigation officer (IO) of the case produced him before the court with a seven-day remand prayer.

Before passing the remand order, the magistrate showed the film actor arrested in the case in response to the petition by the IO Inspector Fazlul Haque of the Detective Branch (DB) of police.

Meanwhile, Metropolitan Magistrate Tania Kamal rejected a five-day remand prayer and granted Dipjol bail in another case filed with Mirpur Police Station. He was accused of torching vehicles in the area during hartal, enforced by Bangladesh Nationalist Party on the eve of June 27.

On Sunday evening, the detectives arrested the actor again at Dhaka Central Jail gate minutes after his release on bail in a case filed for assaulting a traffic police constable on November 16 in the city's Gabtali area.

Earlier on Sunday, Judge (vacation) Mohammad Abdul Mazid of the Metropolitan Session Judge's Court granted Dipjol ad interim bail after his lawyer submitted a criminal appeal with the court against a bail rejection order of the lower court.

The film actor allegedly assaulted constable Aftab Uddin for protesting Dipjol's violation of traffic rules in the city's Gabtali area.

Dipjol surrendered to police on November 28. He has already been awarded 45 years' imprisonment in absentia on different charges including possession of illegal firearms and ammunition and acquiring wealth through illegal means.

Test for govt high school teachers' posts Jan 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The written test for selection of candidates for the post of assistant teachers of government high schools will be held on January 7 next year.

The teachers will be appointed against 1,968 posts created after the introduction of double shift in 82 government high schools across the country, an official handout said.

The test was scheduled for July 9 this year, but the authorities concerned postponed the exam after its question papers were leaked out in Rangpur just a day before the test. Some 167 people were arrested on charge of the question leak.

The test will be held in nine regions of DSHE.

One jailed for displaying porn at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A magistrate court at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Saturday sentenced a person to two months simple imprisonment for displaying pornography on a big screen in front of the airport terminal.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) sources said Rezaul Haq, a staff of Unicom that operates the screen, was found responsible for the indecent display.

Rezaul was on duty when the vulgar video ran for five minutes on Friday morning.

Besides, CAAB also canceled the lease contract awarded to Unicom a year ago.

"We have taken stern actions against the company who was awarded contract for operating the giant display in front of the airport terminal," a senior CAAB official said yesterday.

Habiba Akhtar, a security official of the airport, filed a non-FIR prosecution against Rezaul for his alleged involvement in the incident, said Md Abul Kalam Azad, assistant sub-inspector of Airport Police Station.

The SI quoted the case description as saying CAAB officials, on information, rushed to the airport and immediately stopped displaying the video.

Upon conviction following hearing of the case, Rezaul was sent to Dhaka Central Jail, said the SI.

DBBL donates ambulance

METRO DESK

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) donated an ambulance to Mosabbir Palliative Cancer Care Unit, a project of Mosabbir Memorial Foundation (MMF), to set up a Palliative Care unit.

Sayem Ahmed, chairman of the executive committee of the board of directors handed over the key of the ambulance to Lt Col (ret'd) Mudassir Hossain Khan, BP, chairman of Mosabbir Cancer Care Centre at a simple ceremony held at bank's head office in the city on Sunday, says a press release.

K S Tabrez, managing director, Abul Kashem Md Shirin, Md Sayedul Hasan, Khan Tariqul Islam, Md Mosaddiqur Rahman, deputy managing directors of Dutch-Bangla Bank, M A Jalil, executive director of Mosabbir Cancer Care Centre and senior officials of the bank were present at the occasion.

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