

**Protesting HC judges not to go on leave**

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court judges, who were dropped during the tenure of BNP-Jamaat alliance government, have withdrawn their decision to go on leave for an indefinite period or step down in protest against the recent appointment of four judges to the Supreme Court.

The protesting judges of the HC, who recently went on leave for a short period, changed their decision yesterday in response to a 'special request' of the attorney general. The judges will join their offices and resume discharging their judicial functions on February 27, said Attorney General Mahbubey Alam to The Daily Star yesterday.

Mahbubey Alam said he has requested the High Court judges to withdraw their decision of going on leave for a long time for the greater interest of the judiciary. Five of the protesting judges of HC on February 23 went on leave till February 28 in protest against the appointment of four judges without meeting their demand of appointing two of them to the apex court, sources in the SC said.

The five judges are Justice Md Momtazuddin Ahmed, Justice Md Shamsul Huda, Justice Md Abdul Hye, Justice Faruque Ahmed and Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik.

They were demanding promotion of two judges -- Justice Md Momtazuddin Ahmed and Justice Md Shamsul Huda -- to the Appellate Division, said the sources. The president recently promoted four senior HC judges to the Appellate Division. Newly appointed SC judges were sworn in on Wednesday amid a 'protest' of the deprived judges.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits a stall at Asia Pharma Expo-2011 after inaugurating the international fair at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

**NHCR to take legal action against irregular doctors**

Says its chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh would monitor public hospitals with the help of students of respective localities and take legal action against doctors failing to attend their respective jobs, said the commission Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman yesterday.

At a conference titled "Health Rights: Peoples' Expectation" at city's IDB auditorium, Mizanur said health service at union, upazila and district level is limping as most doctors draw salary without regularly going to hospitals.

The commission would also hand over an annual report to President Zillur Rahman on March 31 containing recommendation to label health as a 'right' in the constitution, he added. Shasthya Andolon, a non-government organisation, organised the daylong national conference where health experts highlighted flaws in the health system and discriminatory service pattern and placed recommendations to upgrade the system.

If making profit becomes the main pur-

pose, ensuring health service to the poor would not be possible, they said, adding that imposing additional fees to run lab tests poses a negative impact on peoples' health service seeking behaviour.

Prof MQK Talukder criticised the government's dependency on donors and for not consulting experts before whimsically deciding to abolish the 15 year-old National Nutrition Programme.

The experts also said the draft National Health Policy emphasised more on treatment rather than prevention of diseases.

It would be more effective and viable to spend money on health education and prevention of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, said Dr Makhduma Nargis, additional secretary of the health ministry and project director of Community Clinic Project.

Member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health Dr M A Mannan, National Health Rights Movement National Committee President Prof Rashid E Mahub, IEDCR Senior Scientific Officer Dr Mushtuq Husain, Health Movement Co-convenor Prof Dr Naila Khan and Ubiniq Executive Director Farida Akhter also spoke.

**CNG-filling station fined Tk 5 lakh**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DoE) fined Tk 5 lakh against an owner of a CNG filling station at Mugdapara in the city yesterday.

A DoE team led by director (enforcement) Mohammad Monir Chowdhury fined Shanto filling station as residents of adjoining the station were under huge sufferings due to huge noise of the station.

The team also directed the owner to stop noise pollution by March 10. The drive was conducted following a complaint by 61 affected residents in Mugdapara in February 22, says a press release.

The team found around 300 square km area was affecting due to huge sound pollution for the filling station, which rate was 94 decibel where the acceptable level is 24 decibel.

**Check sub-standard drugs: PM**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon pharmaceutical companies to be more vigilant in preventing the marketing of sub-standard medicine.

She made the call while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the three-day 5th Asian Pharma Expo-2011 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday.

The premier also asked them to take steps towards reducing the prices of medicines, so that the masses could avail lifesaving drugs.

"The pharmaceutical producers have to reduce the price of medicine to make them affordable to the commoners," she said.

The PM asked the Quality Control Department of the government to

strengthen monitoring system to stop supply and sale of below quality medicine.

She also urged the entrepreneurs to take necessary steps including carrying out research for producing the raw materials within the country.

"The government will extend all out support to this vital industry for its expansion including manufacturing raw materials," she assured.

The premier called upon the pharmaceutical industry owners to provide free medicine to the community clinics for the poor.

Regarding the herbal medicine, she said that the herbal medicine is spreading fast all over the world. "We have to seize the growing market of herbal medicine. The government will provide all necessary assistance in this regard."



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