

# SALARY HIKE OF SC JUDGES Implement JS body recommendations

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to implement recommendations of the parliamentary sub-committee concerned to increase salaries and allowance of Supreme Court judges.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore came up with the verdict after holding final hearing on a writ petition.

A parliamentary sub-committee in January last year recommended making the salaries and other privileges for the chief justice Tk 1.52 lakh, for the Appellate Division judge Tk 1.20 lakh and the High Court judge Tk 1.08 lakh per month, the petition said.

The grounds on which the court delivered the verdict could not be known, as the copy of the verdict was not released yet.

Petitioners' counsel Advocate Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that the government now has to give salaries and privileges to the judges of the Appellate and High Court Divisions of SC as per recommendations of parliamentary sub-committee following the HC verdict.

The salaries fixed by the government for the judges will now be cancelled, he said.

He added that the government in February this year made the salaries and other privileges for the chief justice Tk 56 thousand, the Appellate Division judge Tk 53 thousand and 100 and the High Court judge Tk 47 thousand per month.

Secretaries to the cabinet division, prime minister's office, president, Jatiya Sangsad, and ministries of law and finance and SC registrar have been made respondents to the verdict, he said.

Manzill Murshid and another SC lawyer Asaduzzaman Siddiki jointly filed the writ petition as public interest litigation on March 20 this year challenging the government's decision to neglect the recommendations of parliamentary sub-committee.

Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain represented the government.



Students of Pagla High School form a human chain at Pagla Bazar in Narayanganj yesterday demanding punishment to people responsible for firing the stray bullet that hit Swadhin Ahmed Shuvo, a class-X student of the school, and led to his death Tuesday night. Inset, the boy's bereaved mother. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



# Metal factory sealed for pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday sealed an illegal metal factory at Mirhajirbagh in the city's Jatrabari for creating severe sound and air pollution.

It also fined the owner of the factory Tusher Metal Industries Tk 5 lakh for violating the environment law, says a press release.

DoE Director (Monitoring and Enforcement) Mohammad Munir Chowdhury with help of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-2) led the drive.

The DoE team also ordered the owner to relocate the factory from the area within 10 days.

The factory, which produced electric fans, has been creating pollution in the area for the past three years where around 40 to 50 residences are situated.

# Increase forest to fight climate: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasised the need for increasing forest land in the country to face climate change challenges.

Hasina, also president of Bangladesh Awami League, was inaugurating a three-month 'Tree Plantation Campaign-2011' launched by Bangladesh Krishak League at her Gono Bhaban official residence in the city.

She asked the Krishak League leaders and workers to encourage the people to plant at least three saplings each.

Hasina also urged the countrymen to plant saplings of fruit bearing and timber trees beside the canals, open spaces, educational institutions and hospitals to protect the environment maintaining ecological balance and meeting vitamin requirements of people.

She also mentioned her government's various steps to raise the forest land by planting saplings on roadside and implementing social afforestation programmes. She highlighted the government programmes to boost the agricultural production.

On food security, she said her government has been working relentlessly to make Bangladesh self-sufficient in food by 2013 as per its Vision-2021. She also stressed the need for increasing research to produce oil seeds, pulses and other food grains to meet the domestic demand.

Hasina asked the upazila chairmen to submit master plans of their respective areas identifying the places where projects for housing and mills and factories could be taken.

Later, she planted three separate saplings on the Gono Bhaban premises.

# DRAFT CIVIL SERVICE LAW Limitations must go before enactment

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed draft Civil Service Law 2010 carries many limitations and if the government passes the law without addressing them, there would be a permanent damage in the country's civil administration, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They expressed concern over the provisions of the law like president's quota for superior posts and selection board for appointment of the candidates and said these provisions would politicise the civil administration unabated.

A merit-based, efficient, and impartial civil administration is imperative for a country to advance, they said, stressing the need for thoroughly analysing the draft law

along with bringing reforms in the existing administration.

The roundtable titled "Reforms in civil administration, current initiatives and citizens' thought" was organised by Shushashoner Janya Nagorik (Shujan), a platform for civil society members, at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

The government recently uploaded the draft law in the website of the ministry of public administration inviting opinions and recommendations from the stakeholders and people on the draft.

"Politicisation in the civil administration may reach to an uncontrollable level if the law is made effective without removing the limitations of the law", said Shujan secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumder.

Reading out the keynote paper, he said the provision of selection board might be misused as the government can facilitate its choice people through influencing selection board and the candidates.

Public Service Commission (PSC) should be authorised for cadre selection and appointment of the officials on the basis of merit and qualities, he said.

Referring to the clause that facilitates the civil servants from arrest before the government permission, Dr Badiul said the clause is a dangerous one, as it has the possibility to spread corruption unabated in the administration.

The law avoided crucial issues like quota system, contractual appointment, and officer on special

duty, he added.

M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said preparing a law is not enough to rid civil administration of political partisanship; political commitment is a must as the major political parties politicised the civil service severely.

Former Cabinet Secretary Ali Imam Majumder said it is not possible to have an efficient civil administration unless the meritorious people are attracted to these jobs.

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud, Shujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, former Rector of Public Administration Training Centre Dr Sheikh Maksud Ali and former secretary Abdul Latif Mondal also spoke.

# BNP leader Milon gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to former BNP state minister Ahsanul Haque Milon in two criminal cases filed against him in Chandpur.

In response to two bail petitions filed by Milon, the HC issued two separate rules asking the government to explain why the petitioner should not be granted regular bail in the cases.

The HC bench of Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Anwarul Haque also directed the law enforcement agencies not to harass or arrest him in two other cases.

This order came following two other bail petitions filed by Milon.

Four people of Chandpur have filed the cases with Kachua police station.

Advocate SM Monir Hossain appeared for the petitioner.



Princess Margriet Francisca of the Netherlands calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Advertisement

বিস্তৃত ফর ফিউচার লিঃ এর নির্মিত উত্তরার 'পলওয়েল কারানেশন শপিং সেন্টার' গত ১৪ই জুন ২০১১ ইং তারিখে বিকাল ৩:০০ টায় পুলিশ হেড কোয়ার্টারে বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কো-অপারেটিভ সোসাইটি লিমিটেড (পলওয়েল) এর নিকট হস্তান্তর করা হয়। উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত ছিলেন বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ এর আই.জি. জনাব হাসান মাহমুদ খন্দকার, এডিশনাল আইজিপি (প্রশাসন) এ.কে.এম. শহীদুল হক, ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের কমিশনার জনাব বেনজীর আহমেদ, পলওয়েলের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ও সি.আই.ডি. এর প্রধান জনাব মোঃ মোখলেসুর রহমান ও পলওয়েলের অন্যান্য পরিচালকবৃন্দ এবং বিসিডি ফর ফিউচার লিঃ এর চেয়ারম্যান স্থপতি কাজী আনিসউদ্দিন ইকবাল, ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক প্রকৌশলী তানভিরুল হক প্রবাল, প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আসলাম উদ্দিন, মোঃ সাজিদ হোসেন, মোঃ মাহমুদ হোসেন সূমন প্রমুখ।

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