

SC asks HC to examine shipbreaking rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday sent two rules framed by the government regarding shipbreaking to the High Court so that the latter can examine whether they were prepared as per previous HC directives.

One of the two rules, Ship Breaking and Ship Recycling

Rules, 2011, was issued through a gazette by Ministry of Industries on December 12 last year.

On January 8 this year, the ministry amended the rule in compliance with SC's December 14 directive which said the rule had not ensured the protection of workers and the environment.

The second, Hazardous

Waste and Ship Breaking Management Rules 2011, was issued through a gazette by Ministry of Environment and Forests on December 22 last year.

The rules were sent by a five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday after the government and Bangladesh

Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) placed them before it.

Bela's lawyer, Advocate Iqbal Kabir Lytton, said they will submit an application to an HC bench to examine the rules as the Appellate Division did not specifically mention any bench for it.

Following Bela's writ petition, the HC, at different times since 2006, directed the government to frame the rules to ensure a pollution-free shipbreaking industry and workers' safety.

On December 15, 2010, the HC asked the government to frame the rules in three months in light of six existing laws.

The laws are -- Basel Convention Act, 1989; Bangladesh Environment Protection Act, 1995; Bangladesh Marine and Fisheries Ordinance, 1989; Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006; Bangladesh Territorial Water and Maritime Zone Act, 1974; and Environment Protection Rules, 1997.

Barrister Fida M Kamal appeared for Bela while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam represented the government.

Laskar RHD chief engr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Additional chief engineer Aminur Rahman Laskar has been appointed chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) under the communications ministry.

He replaced superintendent engineer Abdul Quddus, whose tenure as chief engineer expired on January 10.

Laskar, also president of engineers' association of RHD, took over charge yesterday.

He said he would try to ensure the best use of limited resources to repair and maintain the roads and highways before the next rainy season.

On his first day in office, Laskar held a meeting with a team of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and discussed the projects funded by the bank.



WE MOURN

We mourn the sad demise of Mr. Samson H Chowdhury, Chairman Square Group. Late Mr. Chowdhury had served as a Director of SMC Board for many years and his contribution will be fondly remembered. We admire him for his honesty and wisdom and effort to bring transparency and accountability to businesses in Bangladesh. We are truly honored to have benefitted from his long association with SMC.

We convey our deepest condolence to the members of the bereaved family.



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