

JASIM'S JS MEMBERSHIP Why EC's decision not illegal: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the Election Commission (EC) and the government to explain in three weeks why the EC's decision, which cancels the parliamentary membership of former Awami League lawmaker Maj (ret'd) Jasim Uddin, should not be declared illegal.

The rule came after Jasim Uddin filed a petition last week, saying that as per Article 66(4) of the constitution and the Member of Parliament Determination of Disputes Act 1980, the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS), not the EC, is the authority to cancel the parliamentary membership of any elected lawmaker on acceptable grounds.

On February 3, 2010, the EC cancelled Jasim Uddin's JS membership and announced the seat for Bhola-3 constituency vacant after the Supreme Court in 2009 declared his candidacy in the ninth parliamentary polls illegal, as he had contested the polls before five years had elapsed after his retirement from the defence service. The EC also held a by-election to the constituency in 2010, in which AL candidate Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon won.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim issued yesterday's rule after hearing Jasim Uddin's petition.



Artists from Purulia of West Bengal perform Chhau, an Indian tribal dance, during a celebratory programme at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy on Monday night. Alliance Française de Chittagong and Assistant High Commission of India jointly organised the event marking the 150th birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

CASE AGAINST MOUDUD HC asks govt to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sought an explanation from the government why the initiation and continuation of the tax evasion case against BNP leader Moudud Ahmed should not be declared illegal.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) lodged the case against Moudud, a former law minister, with the Senior Special Judge's Court on January 15 on a charge of dodging Tk 6.85 crore in income tax for 1997-98 to 2006-07 fiscal years.

The case statement says Moudud concealed information about his wealth worth Tk 27, 68, 81,078 and gave false information to the income tax department about his authentic income and expenditure.

Following a writ petition, the HC bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Md Khurshid Alam Sarker issued a rule upon the government to explain in three weeks why the proceedings of the case against Moudud should not be declared illegal.

Moudud filed the writ petition with the HC on February 1 saying that the proceedings of the case were illegal, as another case had been filed against him during the caretaker regime in 2007 on the same allegations.

Another HC bench on January 16 granted anticipatory bail to Moudud for two months in the case.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq and Advocate Ahsanul Karim appeared for Moudud, while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Additional Attorney General MK Rahman represented the government.

KCC WATER PROJECT DoE certificate stayed for 10 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for 10 days the effectiveness of the environmental certificate issued by the Department of Environment (DoE) for implementation of a water supply project of Khulna City Corporation (KCC).

In response to a writ petition, the court also issued a rule upon the government to explain in 10 days why the DoE's decision to issue the certificate for Phultala Water Supply Project of KCC should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim also fixed February 19 for hearing the rule.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela) filed the writ petition on February 6 as a public interest litigation

stating that the DoE has given the environmental certificate to KCC in May last year for running the water project on the basis of an "improper" environmental impact assessment (EIA) report.

The KCC had got the EIA report prepared by the science and environment department of Khulna University in 2009 which did not assess the environmental impact of lifting 90 lakh gallons of ground water every day under the project, the petitioner said.

According to the petition, the KCC authorities in 2004 started the project titled "The Khulna City Interim Water Supply Project" to supply 90 lakh gallons of water per day to the city dwellers by lifting water through 40 deep tubewells in Phultala area.

Advocate AM Aminuddin and Advocate Iqbal Kabir Lytton appeared for the petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain represented the government.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Mymensingh

Rabeya Akhter, mother of lawmaker KM Khalid Babu from Muktagacha, died of cardiac arrest at a hospital in the capital on Monday night at the age of 82.

She left behind her five sons, including eminent cultural personality M Hamid and Mahmud Sazzad, and two daughters.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Alhaj Nizamat Uddin Ahammad,

former member of parliament and an organiser of the War of Liberation.

ABDUCTION OF BUSINESSMAN Three policemen, four others land in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three policemen of the capital's Kafrul Police Station along with a retired army personnel and three others were sent to jail yesterday for abducting a businessman in an attempt to extort Tk 50,000 from his family last Thursday.

The seven were sent to jail after they were produced before the court.

The detained policemen are Sub-Inspector (SI) Mosharrar Hossain, Assistant SI Rabiul Alam and Constable Neyamat Ali.

The four other detainees include former army sergeant Zahedul Islam and his associates Ruhul Amin, Abdul Hai Mithu and Jamal Hossain.

The victim, Aman Ullah is a businessman from Moulvibazar in the old part of the capital. A team of Detective Branch (DB) person-

nel arrested all the seven accused and rescued the businessman near the IDB Bhaban, last Thursday.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Masudur Rahman, chief of Media and Community Service unit said the policemen aided by their accomplices had stopped the businessman on February 2 under the Mohakhali Flyover.

They held the businessman as hostage and told him to make a phone call to his family and ask them to pay Tk 50,000 against his release, said Masudur Rahman. Anxious family members informed the matter to senior officials of the DB police, who deployed a team.

They rescued the businessman from Agargaon in the city on that very evening and arrested the guilty, Masudur added.

The three policemen were suspended after their involvement was detected.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Students of Rota Welfare Center Primary School and Adult Education Center of Korail Basti in the city's Banani pose for a photograph at the Dhaka Zoo. They also visited the Novo Theatre and Parliament House as part of an educational tour jointly organised by the Rotary Club of Gulshan and Inner Wheel Club of Gulshan recently.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management will organise a seminar; Venue: BIBM Auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Gono Oikya Committee will hold a discussion; Venue: Liberation War Museum auditorium; Time: 10:30am.

Memorial meeting
The Bangladesh Monitor will arrange a memorial meeting; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Workshop
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and LCG-WAGE will organise a workshop; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable
Jagrata Janata Forum will arrange a roundtable; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 3:45pm.

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Fact At A Glance

- More than 1020 booths
- Leading brands from 31 countries and regions

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