

CORRUPTION CHARGE HC stays 8 Dhaka parishad tenders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for three months the proceedings of eight tenders, floated by Dhaka Zila Parishad authorities for different development projects worth over Tk 15 crore, over corruption charges.

Responding to a writ petition, the court also ordered the government to form a committee in seven days to reevaluate the amount required for the projects and submit a report to the court in four weeks.

The committee is to comprise a Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology professor, the chief engineer of Public Works Department and additional chief engineer of Local Government and Engineering Department.

Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told the court that the parishad's Chief Executive David Paul Khandker Swapan and Assistant Engineer Mukhlesur Rahman floated the tenders on November 15 and December 1 last year and January 10 this year.

However, they inflated the estimated costs and floated double tenders for a single work to misappropriate state money, said Manzill.

Following the petition, the HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif issued a rule upon the government to explain in three weeks why it should not be directed to remove the accused duo from their offices.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh yesterday filed the petition as a public interest litigation seeking necessary orders from the HC to prevent misappropriation of state money.

Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Saju represented the government.



A partial view of the human chain formed by Dhaka Metropolitan Mishuk Malik-Sramik Parishad before Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding Mishuk, a diesel-run auto-rickshaw, be allowed on the city streets. PHOTO: STAR

AMAR EKUSHEY BOI MELA

Toons grab attention of visitors

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

It is a different crowd seen outside the Bangla Academy premises. Unlike visitors busy rummaging around stalls at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela, it gathers on the road divider near a stall having set up a television screen.

It is a swarm of disadvantaged children laughing, singing, and dancing as they watch nursery rhymes and children's songs playing on the screen. The kids were not taught to read properly. They have been brought up on streets, slums without the nursery songs and rhymes that are synonymous with childhood.

Taking a respite from selling candies, flowers, and other miscellane-

ous items, some 20-25 children sit in front of the stall of Tonatuni, a publisher of children's books and videos, to enjoy a part of childhood they never experienced.

"I have seen cartoon in the book fair first. Now I regularly come to the stall to enjoy cartoon and sell candies around the stall", said Chand Mia, a street vendor who used to sell candy in and around the Suhrawardy Udyan, told the correspondent yesterday.

Alfaz, a 10-year-old boy, like other days has been visiting the book fair with others from Chankharpul since the fair opened to enjoy the cartoon. "We don't have a TV in the house, so I regularly come to the fair to enjoy cartoon

and leave the fair at night".

"Sometimes I carry books for booksellers but basically I come to enjoy the cartoon", said Mehedi, 13, who left his job as bus helper to enjoy the TV show at the fair. "I wish I had a CD of cartoon, but we have no facility to watch cartoon in the house", he added.

Rubel Ahmed, a salesman of Tonatuni stall, said they were selling educational CDs, DVDs, and books. They were getting a very good response especially from the children, as children are usually fan of cartoon, he added.

Meanwhile a total of 84 new books arrived at the fair yesterday while presence of crowd visitors was low as on other working days.

Two found dead in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police recovered two bodies from separate places of Bandar upazila in the district yesterday.

Local people found the floating body of a youth on the Shitlakhya river in Nabiganj area yesterday morning and informed the police.

The deceased was identified as Harun-ur-Rashid, 18, son of Amir Hossain of Kaitakhali area.

Amir Hossain, father of the deceased, said two of Harun's friend, Bappi and Michelle, called Harun out of his house around 9:00pm on Saturday and since then he remained missing.

Later, Amir filed a general diary with Bandar Police Station.

Akter Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Bandar Police Station, said on information, the police recovered the body and sent it to Narsingdi General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police suspected that miscreants dumped the body in the river after killing him elsewhere, added the OC.

The body bore injury marks on the head.

Meanwhile, Bandar police recovered a body of a minor girl from the rooftop of an under construction building in Kadamrasul area early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Tanha, 5.

Zakia Begam, mother of the victim said Tanha's step grandfather called Tanha out of her house around 9:00pm on Tuesday and she was missing since then.

The OC said the body bore marks of injuries on her chest and the police found a piece of rope beside the body.

The police sent the body to the hospital morgue.



Shajahan president of Consular Corps

METRO DESK

Mohammed Shajahan, honorary consul of the Republic of Moldova, was elected president of the Consular Corps, Bangladesh for a two-year term in its 4th Annual General Meeting held recently.

Consular Corps is representing 48 Honorary Consulates in Bangladesh and is a member of World Federation of Consuls.

Shajahan is also a director of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries and chairman of the Board of Trustees and a founder of North South University.



Police take away the body of an Islami Chhatra Shibir worker killed during a clash with the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League at Chittagong University yesterday. (Story on Page 1). PHOTO: STAR

Haji Selim gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim and 20 others yesterday got bail in a case filed for assaulting police and preventing them from discharging duties in March 2004.

Metropolitan Magistrate Keshab Roy Chowdhury passed the order after Selim and the others surrendered to the court and sought bail in the case.

The accused appeared before the court a day after it issued arrest warrants against them.

Vehicles' parts recovered, 4 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested three members and recovered stolen parts of four vehicles from their possession at Siddhirganj in Narayanganj on Tuesday.

In another drive, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered seven stolen auto-rickshaws and arrested another person in this connection at Rugganj in the district on the same day.

The arrested are Billal, Khalek, and Farid, and Abdul Zabber. DB Senior Assistant Commissioner Mohammad Ashiqur Rahman, who led the drive, said Billal Hossain had been leading a gang that robs parts of motor-vehicles by holding security guards of parking lots or buildings at gunpoint for years.

"Billal has so much expertise that he takes not more than 15 minutes to remove almost all the parts of a vehicle," he said.

"Accused in at least 20 cases with different police stations in and out of the capital, Billal was earlier arrested for more than 15 times and, as soon as he comes out of jail on bail, he rejoins his earlier profession," he added.

Following his confessional statement, Rab men recovered seven stolen auto-rickshaws from a garage at Bottola in Chonpara.

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