

RHD ON SC LAND Officials get 7 days to return land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday gave the government officials concerned seven days to return Supreme Court's 7.9-acre land, where Roads and Highways Department is situated.

It may be mentioned that, on July 28 last year, the SC had fixed 15 days for the return.

Hearing a contempt of court rule yesterday, the HC also directed four government officials to appear and submit a report to it after returning the land to the SC registrar's office on February 23.

The four officials will face serious consequences if they do not comply, added the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim.

The four, kept standing in the dock from 11:00am to 4:30pm, with a one-hour break, yesterday for defying the apex court's order, assured to compliance.

The officials are -- Communications Secretary MAN Siddique, RHD Chief Engineer Aminur Rahman Laskar, Additional Chief Engineer Mafizul Islam and Superintendent Engineer Faridul Alam.

SC lawyer Asaduzzaman Siddiqui filed the petition on February 14 saying the respondents had not returned the land despite the SC order, which amounts to contempt of court.

Within hours the HC issued a rule upon the four to explain why they should not be punished and fixed yesterday's date for them to appear before it.

Advocate Manzill Murshid represented the petitioner, advocate Anisul Huq the four and Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain the government.

Primary scholarships to be announced on Feb 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scholarships of the Primary Terminal Examinations 2011 will be announced on February 20 as the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) has finalised a list of the scholarship recipients.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen will make public the scholarships at a press conference on the day.

However, the number of scholarship will remain static at 55,000 as in the previous year. According to highest marks secured in the last year examinations, the students will receive the scholarships in two categories, talent pool and general.

A total of 22,000 students in talent pool and 33,000 in general will be awarded. The talent pool recipients would get Tk 200 monthly while the general Tk 150 for the next three years. Both the recipients of each category will get a one-off payment of Tk 150 yearly.



Noted economist Prof Rehman Sobhan speaks at a discussion on the life and works of late Prof Razia Khan Amin at Omni Books auditorium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Shun politics of confrontation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday urged political party leaders to hold dialogues on ways to hold a credible parliamentary election and shun the ongoing practice of confrontational politics, which are often detrimental to life and property.

The national advocacy meeting, "Political Violence and Human Rights", was organised by Odhikar, a human rights body, in the city's Brac Centre Inn.

Odhikar presented its report, "Violence and human rights violations in politics of Bangladesh", at the meeting.

It revealed that political violence from 2001 to 2011 resulted in 3,457 deaths while 1,24,252 people sustained injuries.

During the present Awami League-led government's term since 2009, 595 people were killed and 41,194 others injured in political violence, it added.

The debate over the caretaker government issue was leading the two main political parties towards confrontation, likely to have dreadful consequences in national life, said the speakers.

Abdul Quayum, joint editor of the Bangla daily Prothom Alo, said the country's political parties spoke of democracy but the practice of tolerating others' opinions was not noticeable.

Solutions to any debate must be figured out through dialogues, not violence, he added.

Asif Ibrahim, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman also spoke with Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan in the chair.

Tarique, Mamun sued on specific charges

Says prosecution witness

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The money laundering case against BNP Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun was filed on specific allegations, a prosecution witness told a Dhaka court yesterday.

Hosne Ara Begum, the then officer-in-charge (OC) of Cantonment Police Station, said she scrutinised the first information report (FIR) after the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) submitted it on October 26, 2009, realised its importance, and then recorded it as a regular case.

The case was filed against Tarique and Mamun on specific allegations for laundering Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore, she said, adding that it was not filed to harass them politically.

Hosne Ara Begum, the third prosecution witness of the case, made the statements while being cross-examined by Mamun's lawyer Khondaker Mahub Hossain.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 adjourned the hearing till March 1.

'Prof Razia Amin to live forever thru' her works'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Litterateur and academician Prof Razia Khan Amin will live forever through her works and extraordinary personality, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

Prof Amin was not only a teacher and litterateur, but also was a leader, a care giver, and an activist for protecting women's rights, they said.

The discussion, "A colourful life intensely lived", was organised by her family at Omni Books at Dhanmondi in the city, to mark her 76th birth anniversary.

In praise of the talents of Prof Razia Khan Amin, renowned economist Prof Rehman Sobhan said, "She created her literary works with excellent brilliance".

Prof Amin had such impressive behaviour that nobody would forget the memories

subsequently associated with her, said Dr Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, former vice chancellor of Rajshahi University.

Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Serajul Islam Chowdhury, noted author Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam, Prof Kaiser Haq, cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar, and The Daily Star executive editor Syed Badrul Ahsan, among others, also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Rebecca Haque, chairperson of the Department of English at Dhaka University, moderated the function.

Dr Razia Khan Amin, professor of English at DU, poet and novelist, passed away on December 28, 2011. For her contributions to literature, she received the Bangla Academy award, the country's most prestigious literary award, in 1975.

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OBITUARY

In the name of Allah the Beneficent – the Merciful
With a profound sense of grief we announce the sad demise of Lt. Col. Hesusuddin Ahmed, psc (Retd). He passed away at 4 AM on the 14th of February in Dhaka (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'un) at the age of 77. He was an accomplished Soldier, Aviator and a Civil Bureaucrat. As Secretary he held the charge of the Ministries of Since and Technology, Civil Aviation and Tourism and Relief. Prior to becoming a Secretary he was the Chairman of Bangladesh Oil, Gas and mineral Corporation (Petrobangla), Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation and the Dhaka Improvement Trust. He was also the Administrator of the Dhaka Municipality till 1977. While in the Army he took part in the Dir-Bajaur, Kashmir, Rann of Kuch Operations and 1965 Indo-Pak War. He was the 1st Bengali Officer to have Commanded a Battalion of the famous Frontier Force Regiment. Col. Hesusuddin was a well known Sports Organizer. After Independence he organized the National Shooting Federation – Bangladesh and was its President for over 12 years in two terms. For his outstanding contribution in the Field of Sports he was honored with the National Sports Award 2003 by the Govt. of Bangladesh. He was a renowned Social Worker. As President of the Lions Club of Dhaka Premier, Zone Chairman and Dy District Governor of Lions Clubs International District 315 he rendered commendable service for the betterment of the poor and needy for over 14 years. For his commendable Social Service he was awarded Atish Dipannkar Gold Medal for the Year 1992 by the Atish Dipannkar Council and Poet Sarojini Naidu Gold Medal for the Year 1995 by the Poet Sarojini Naidu National Memorial Council. He was one of the Founder Member and Vice Chairman of Retired Armed Forces Welfare Association (RAOWA) for four terms. Prior to his death he was the Vice Chairman of the Under Privileged Children's Education Program (UCEP), Founder Chairman, Desh Bandhu C.R. Das Research Council and Adviser, Society for Assistance to Hearing Impaired Children (SAHIC). He is survived by his wife, one daughter, one son, son-in-law and host of relatives and well wishers to mourn his death. **His Quikhwani will be held on Friday 17th of February 2012 Baad Maghrib at his own residence 1 United Nations Road, Baridhara, Dhaka.** May Almighty Allah grant him an eternal abode in the Heaven and also give strength to the members of his family to bear the irreparable loss due to his death with courage and fortitude.

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