

Bill placed to amend CrPC

It will empower govt to shift judicial magistrate's courts to outside district headquarters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government placed a bill in parliament yesterday to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1898 seeking power to shift judicial magistrate's courts outside district headquarters.

The move, however, runs counter to constitutional provisions as the government can no longer seek such authority after separation of the judiciary in 2007, jurist Shahdeen Malik said.

"It is the Supreme Court which now enjoys the power to shift judicial magistrate's courts anywhere. The government may only make recommendation to the Supreme Court for shifting any magistrate's court," Shahdeen told The Daily Star yesterday. But the proposed amendment said the government may, by general or special order in the official Gazette, direct at what place or places the courts of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate and other judicial magistrates shall hold their sittings.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam, who piloted the bill on behalf of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed, however, argued that it is necessary to shift judicial magistrates' courts outside district headquarters considering the huge number of cases, transport system and people's demand.

Getting justice in an easy way is people's constitutional right. But there is no provision in the Code of Criminal Procedure to shift courts outside district headquarters, Qamrul said.

Therefore, introducing a provision for shifting courts is needed. If the proposal is made a law, people will be benefited, he said.

Shahdeen mentioned that the Code of Criminal Procedure was made during the British rule conferring the power to shift courts on the government. But the entire situation has been changed after separation of the judiciary in 2007, he said.

Qamrul placed another bill, on behalf of the law minister, seeking to amend the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973 for transferring cases from one tribunal to another.

The government, however, has already made the amendment to the law through an ordinance. Now, it placed the bill for continuation of the change since effectiveness of the ordinance will end this month.

And Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira placed in the House a bill seeking to amend the Vested Property Return Act 2001 for increasing the timeframe for making a list of returnable vested property, publishing the list and completing other procedures.

All the three bills were sent to the parliamentary standing committee the on ministries concerned for scrutiny.

ACC grills 3 more Destiny directors

STAR REPORT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday quizzed three more directors and an official of Destiny Group over various irregularities by the multilevel company.

Destiny directors Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, Nepal Chandra Biswas and Abul Kalam Azad and General Secretary of Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Zakir Hossain were interrogated at the ACC office in the capital, according to ATN Bangla news.

A three member probe body led by ACC Director Squadron Leader Tahidul Islam grilled them.

In mid-April this year, the commission launched an investigation into financial anomalies, including illegal banking, by the company and its sister concerns.

Meanwhile, our staff correspondent in Chittagong yesterday reported that a court issued arrest warrants against 10 officials of multi level marketing company Unipay2U in two cases on charges of misappropriating money.

The accused includes Chairman Sahiduzzaman Sahin and Managing Director Muntasir Hossain.

The court ordered Panchlaish Police Station to arrest the accused by July 19, sources in the court said. Kamal Pasha and Abul Kalam Azad, investors of the company, alleged in the cases' statements that the officials had misappropriated around Tk 7.5 crore.



Heat wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Pabna and it may continue, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The highest maximum temperature is likely to be 38-39 degree Celsius and lowest minimum temperature may be 21-22 degree Celsius.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:44pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11am.

Country's highest temperature 39.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Chuadanga and lowest 21.0 degrees at Srimongal, Mymensingh and Sitakunda.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.5	23.4	79	72
Chittagong	32.5	24.0	88	82
Rajshahi	39.5	26.8	81	71
Rangpur	31.2	24.0	81	83
Khulna	36.6	29.5	82	78
Barisal	34.5	29.0	81	81



Non-resident Bangladeshis protest the Indian River Linking Project at a rally organised by Bangladesh Environment Network in front of United Nations headquarters in New York on May 25.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Shun destructive acts

Hasina urges opposition

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday again urged the opposition to refrain from any destructive activities for the sake of the country's interest.

She made the request while extending financial help to the family members of two hartal victims at her office. The family members of the two drivers were killed during hartal in April enforced by the opposition.

Hasina gave Tk 3 lakh to Mostafa Mia, father of late Abdur Rashid, a private car driver who was killed during hartal on April 22. She also gave a savings certificate worth Tk 3 lakh to Shamsunnahar, wife of Abdur Rashid.

Rashid was killed as he was hit on his head by brick thrown by pickets at Rajfulbaria bus stand in Savar.

The prime minister also provided a savings certificate worth Tk 3 lakh to Hawa Begum, wife of late Badar Ali, a driver of Eagle Paribahan, who was burnt alive while asleep

inside the bus near Khidmah Hospital at city's Khilgaon on April 21.

Badar Ali's helper Motaleb also suffered burn injuries as the miscreants set ablaze the bus with both of them fast asleep inside the bus.

PM's press secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed the reporters after the meeting.

Hasina said: "I don't understand what could be the purpose of burning poor people to death without any fault."

She also raised that question that after such destructive incidents, who would take the responsibility of these families as they became helpless.

Accusing the BNP-Jamaat alliance of resorting to killing and torture of innumerable people of the country during their rule, she said the "BNP goons murdered some 24,000 leaders and activists of Awami League including people of minority communities."

"They (BNP-Jamaat) don't feel good if they could not kill people," she said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina extends financial help to the family members of Badar Ali, a driver of Eagle Paribahan, who was burnt alive while asleep inside the bus at Khilgaon in the capital during the opposition's hartal in April.

PHOTO: PMO

Resist polluters: Minister

UNB, Dhaka

Environment and Forests Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday urged all to build strong resistance against the polluters and land grabbers to protect the country from environmental peril.

Addressing a press conference at his Secretariat office ahead of the World Environment Day, he mentioned the government initiatives to protect the environment.

Hasan Mahmud said apart from the six divisional headquarters, offices of the Directorate of Environment (DoE) have been set up in 21 district headquarters to strengthen monitoring activities to bring the environment polluters to book.

"We have enacted the Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2010 and the

Environment Court Act, 2010, and also announced a number of guidelines to protect the country's environment," he said.

The environment minister said the government has been giving more emphasis on the enforcement of these laws than at any time in the past.

"Only 20 per cent of the country's industries had Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) when we (Awami League) assumed office in 2009, but now 60 per cent of industrial units have ETPs."

"Bangladesh is being affected by all indicators of global climate change. I think, we are the most vulnerable country in the world due to the negative impacts of climate change," he said.

Asked about the proposed Rampal Power Plant near the Sundarbans, he said, "We have not yet given environmental clearance to set

Dispose of rule in four weeks

SC asks HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed its High Court Division to hear and dispose of within four weeks the rule issued over the assault on an assistant commissioner (AC) (land) of Feni.

Some plainclothes police led by officer-in-charge of Feni Sadar Police Station Nazim Uddin, allegedly assaulted the AC, Nazrul Islam, and surveyor Khademul Islam, who were evicting illegal structures before the police station on May 3.

On May 7, the HC following a writ petition issued the rule upon the government to explain why it should not be directed to prosecute the policemen for the assault.

The Appellate Division of SC yesterday, however, said the HC order for suspending OC Nazim Uddin will remain stayed till disposal of the rule.

The seven-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain passed the order after hearing a petition submitted by the writ petitioner for vacating its chamber judge's order that stayed the HC order for suspension of the OC.

On May 14, during hearing the rule, the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim ordered the government to suspend OC Nazim Uddin on charge of assaulting the AC land.

Man beaten by miscreants dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man severely beaten up on Saturday night by miscreants at Dakkhin Khan area in the capital over parking of vehicles, succumbed to his injuries early yesterday.

Mozammel Hossain, 30, an employee of a private firm, was beaten up by around 16 miscreants led by local Palash, owner of pick-up vans at Faiddabad Dakkhin Para.

Mozammel's family members rescued him and took to a clinic at Uttara where he died at around 2.30am.

Shamsul Haque Sarder, the victim's father, told reporters that Palash's pick-up vans were kept just in front of Mozammel's house creating problems for them.

When Sarder asked Palash to remove the vans a quarrel started. Mozammel came out of the house when his father and Palash were locked in a clash.

Then Palash's gang came and beat up the victim. When the miscreants left the spot, Sarder took him to the hospital.

Lokman Hekim, officer-in-charge of Dakkhin Khan Police Station, told The Daily Star that Sarder filed a murder case against seven people by name and around 12 unidentified miscreants.

RUMI MURDER

Bachchu on 4-day remand

He narrates brutality of killing before journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The alleged killer of Rumi Akhter, who was strangled and severed at an office in Nahar Plaza in the city's Hatirpool on Friday, narrated to journalists yesterday the brutal account of her killing.

Saiduzzaman Bachchu, proprietor of Sonali Travels, said he had developed a relationship with Rumi around three years back.

On Friday night, he took her to his office to for illicit purposes but as locals raided his office, he immediately strangled her and tried to get rid of the body by severing it into pieces, some of which were flushed through the toilet while the others were thrown out of the window, he said.

The entire process took him the whole night, he said, adding that he did not try to flee thinking that the police might suspect him.

Bachchu admitted killing the girl when he was produced at a press briefing at the Media Centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in the capital yesterday.

Later on, seeking a 10-day remand, police produced Bachchu before a Dhaka court yesterday that put him on a four-day remand for interrogation.

He was arrested on Saturday after police recovered dismembered remains of the victim from his office of the Sanali Travels, an alley next to it and the roof of a neighbouring building.

Monirul Islam, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of DMP, said, "The method of killing and dumping the body seemed very professional. It was a cold-blooded killing. We will interrogate Bachchu to find out if he had any accomplices during the killing."

Bachchu had been living in the office room of Sonali Travels for the last five years and he preserved kitchen knives and saws in the office for cooking, he added.

Police suspected that Bachchu lured Rumi, 15, daughter of Saddam Fakir from Faridpur, by promising her a job at his travel agency.

POLICE ASSAULT AT COURT PREMISES

Fair probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee and Sammilito Nari Samaj yesterday expressed their deep concern over the recent incidents of police repression on women, journalists and lawyers and demanded punishment to the alleged police.

In a human chain programme held before Jatiya Press Club at 4:30pm, leaders of Samajik Protirodh Committee criticized the home ministry's role in maintaining law and order and demanded trial of the policemen who allegedly abused a teenaged girl for protesting assault on her parents and assaulted three journalists on Dhaka magistrate court premises on May 29, said a press release.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam at the human chain mentioned the incident as very sad as the women are being the victims of torture although a woman is in

charge of looking after the law and order of the country.

President of Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Jote Shirin Akhter, Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam, Maida Choudhury of Actionaid, Rawshon Jahan of Ain O Salish Kendra, Rashida Hossain of BLWL, Umme Salma of Concern World Wide, Chanchala Chakma of Hill Women Federation, Dil Monowara of magazine Ananna, Rokeya Rafik Beby of Karmajibi Nari and Nirmol of Steps Towards Development also spoke.

Sammilito Nari Samaj held another human chain programme in front of Jatiya Press Club at 11:00am.

The leaders of the two organisations demanded fair and neutral investigation into the incident, urging the prime minister and authorities concerned to take action to stop atrocities against women.

Death sentences commuted for Trisha killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday commuted the death sentences of three young men to 14 years of rigorous punishment in the Sadia Sultana Trisha murder case in Gaibandha.

According to the case statement, the three men intercepted Trisha, a student of class IV, in a bid to abduct her while she was returning home from school on July 17, 2002. Frightened Trisha jumped into a pond and drowned.

The three convicts are Mehdi Hassan Modern, Mohammad Shahin and Ariful Islam Asha.

On September 30, 2002, the district and sessions judge of Gaibandha handed down the death sentence to Modern, 19, Shahin, 20, and Asha, 19.

The High Court on May 19, 2004 confirmed their death sentence awarded by the Gaibandha court for harrying to death the 10-year-old schoolgirl.

A seven-member full bench of the Appellate Division of SC headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday delivered the verdict after allowing in part an appeal jointly filed by the convicts against the HC verdict.

After the SC passed the verdict, Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan, a counsel for the convicts, told The Daily Star that his clients have been in custody after the murder case was filed against them on the same day as her death.

He added that his clients were children when the incident took place and their intention was not to kill Trisha.

Advocate Khondkar Mahub Hossain appeared for the convicts while Deputy Attorney General Razik Al Jalil stood for the state.

Media team in Delhi to visit Tipai site

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A 10-member Bangladesh media team yesterday reached New Delhi for a six-day trip to dispel misgivings about the adverse effects the controversial Tipaimukh Multipurpose Project would have on Bangladesh.

The media team consists of newsmen from Prothom Alo, Samakal, Manabzamin, New Age, The Independent, online newspaper bdnews24.com, and private TV Channels Channel i and ATN Bangla.

Foreign ministry sources said the team is visiting Tipaimukh site at the invitation and sponsorship of Indian government. But the foreign ministry selected the media houses and journalists.

The media team will first meet with Indian Water Resources Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal today and later will be briefed by Water Resources Secretary Dhruv Vijay Singh about the Tipaimukh project.

The group will then fly to Guwahati in Assam and on June 6 it will leave for Silchar for two days to visit the Tipaimukh site.

Deputy Director (External Publicity Wing) Md Zashimuddin is accompanying the media team.

Pubali Bank art contest

METRO DESK

The prize giving ceremony of Pubali Bank Ekushey Children Art Competition was held at Bangladesh Shilpakola Academy in the capital on Saturday.

Some 20 children won awards at the competition that was held on the eve of 60 years celebration of the Bangla Language Movement.

The programme was organised by Potua Kamrul Hasan Art School and sponsored by Pubali Bank Limited, says a press release of the bank.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique, former adviser to caretaker government presided over the function while Prof Nazrul Islam, former chairman of UGC and Helal Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of the bank, were also present.