

APPOINTMENT OF SC JUDGES Bill seeks change of procedure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A private member's bill was submitted to the parliament secretariat yesterday proposing for enactment of law for specifying qualifications and disqualifications for appointment of judges to the Supreme Court (SC) to do away with the politicization of the appointment process.

The proposed legislation, placed by Jatiya Party MP Mujibul Haque, seeks to curtail the government's sweeping authority to appoint judges to the SC.

It proposed to form a Superior Judicial Commission lead by the chief justice to recommend names to the president to appoint as judges to the High Court (HC) Division as well as the Appellate Division.

The judicial commission, as the bill proposed, will consist of a senior judge of the Appellate Division, a senior judge of the HC Division, a lawmaker nominated by the Speaker, Public Service Commission's chairman, attorney general and president of Supreme Court Bar Association.

The commission will select competent individuals for appointment as judges to the HC Division and will also determine the number of SC judges considering the number of pending cases and other aspects.

The president, if need be, will have the authority to refuse any recommendation of the commission, said the proposed legislation in the copy of the bill obtained by The Daily Star.

According to the current constitutional provision, a person shall be qualified for the appointment if he or she has been an advocate of the SC or has held judicial office for at least 10 years.

The constitution also provides "other qualifications" to be prescribed by law. But none of the successive governments has moved to enact a law prescribing these criteria.

Legal experts said the current criteria allowed all successive governments to pick persons loyal to them as SC judges without scrutinising their academic qualifications, professional ability, goodwill and honesty.

In the wake of the prevailing situation, the Jatiya Party MP submitted the bill to the parliament secretariat.

The proposed legislation, which will be placed in parliament soon, also seeks to specify some other qualifications for individuals willing to get appointed as SC judges.



Bangladesh Mathematical Society brings out a procession on Dhaka University campus yesterday marking its 40th anniversary.

PHOTO: STAR

Migration of indigenous people on rise

Speakers identify repression as cause

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday expressed concern over the rise in the exodus of indigenous people from Bangladesh, especially the northern part of the country.

This scenario is hardly taken into account by the country's policymakers, speakers also said while addressing a programme organised by the parliamentary caucus concerning indigenous people at a hotel in the capital.

"The rise in the migration of the indigenous community has occurred as a result of increase in repression on them in recent times," said Prof Mesbah Kamal, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Adhikar Andolan and also chairman of

Research and Development Collective

Some people from the administration try to refrain the community from celebrating the international indigenous people's day only because it is observed in August, the month marked with some national days of mourning, he said

Lawmaker Omar Faruque Chowdhury said, capitalising on the lack of education of indigenous people, other people often lodge false cases against them, forcing them to yield or leave their land.

Rashed Khan Menon, president of Bangladesh Workers' Party and also convener of the caucus, presided over the programme.

ARSON CASE Charge framing deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday for the second time deferred till July 24 the hearing on charge framing against 46 opposition leaders, including BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, in an arson case.

Police filed the case against the accused hours after a vehicle was set ablaze near the Prime Minister's Office during hartal hours on April 29.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Erfan Ullah deferred the hearing following time petitions filed by eight accused, including BNP leaders Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Mirza Abbas.

Fakhru and 19 other opposition leaders were present in the courtroom while Jamaat-e-Islami Acting Ameer Maqbul Ahmad and three leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir are on the run.

Indian ex-president due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former president of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam will arrive here today on a two-day visit to attend the celebration of 33rd foundation day of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (Cirdap).

This is his second visit to Bangladesh. He first came here on July 19, 2009.

On the first day, he will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office, give an interview to a TV channel and attend Cirdap foundation day dinner.

Tomorrow he will attend the celebration of Cirdap's 33rd foundation day and deliver the lecture on 'Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas' (PURA).

Rejoinder

Baizid Steel Industries Limited protested a report, published on Monday in The Daily Star, headlined "Steel mill in Ctg fined".

Abu Sayed Chowdhury, director of Baizid Group, told The Daily Star over the phone that a Department of Environment (DoE) team visited their factory premises on Saturday and found "everything okay".

However, the report was based on a DoE press release and contacts with a DoE source. It said the DoE conducted a drive in Nasirabad Industrial Area on Saturday and found a steel mill of Benz Industries (Bangladesh) Ltd, Saleh Steel Mills, and Bayezid Steel Mills polluting the environment and running their activities without the DoE approval.

The three mills were summoned for a hearing in this respect at the DoE Chittagong office where only the authorities of Benz Industries (Bangladesh) Ltd were present and fined, said the DoE release.

After publishing the report, DoE Director Md Zafar Alam told The Daily Star that they summoned the authorities of "CSS Corporation" located on the premises of Baizid Group to its Chittagong office for environmental pollution.

Abu Sayed also said CSS Corporation is a sister concern of Baizid Group.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rowshan Ara Begum, wife of former chief accountant of Chittagong Steel Mills Late Golam Kader, died of cardiac arrest at Chittagong Medical College Hospital on Sunday at the age of 76.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held on North Khulshi Mosque premises in Chittagong city after Jhor prayers today.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 25th death anniversary of Abdul Hakim Bikrampur, former member of the undivided Bengal Legislative Assembly and Pakistan Provincial and National Assembly, says a press release.

Felling of trees on JU campus protested

JU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) under the banner of "Poribesh Rokkha Sangathan" yesterday formed a human chain protesting random felling of trees on the university campus.

Holding placards, festoons and banners, they attended the programme in front of the JU administrative building around 12:00pm.

Speakers at the programme urged the JU authority to form a committee consisting of environmental researchers at the university to make a policy for cutting trees and restoring greeneries on the campus.

Prof Nasim Aktar Hossain, ATM Atiqur Rahman, Manosh Chawdhury, Rayhan Rayn, Zamal Uddin Runu, Monoar Hossain, and Shadhin Shen, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Authorities of AFM Kamaluddin Hall cut down various types of trees including a big fig (Dumur) tree in front of the hall on Friday.

Contacted, SM Abu Dayen, provost of the hall, admitted about the felling of the trees.

"We will plant saplings of trees around the hall soon," he added.



A mobile court throwing away chemical-mixed sweets after a seizure of those items from Adi Bonoful sweet shop at Dholaipar in the capital yesterday. The court also fined the owner Tk 1 lakh.

PHOTO: STAR



Prime Minister's Finance Adviser Dr Mashiur Rahman hands over "Kabitlap Award 2011" to Mohammad Abdul Mannan, historian and managing director of Islami Bank Limited, at National Press Club's conference lounge on Sunday. Chaired by Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Dr Anisuzzaman, the programme was attended by poet Belal Chowdhury, among others. Other award recipients are poet Abubakar Siddik, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, poet and essayist Ausim Saha, poet and litterateur Sahabuddin Nagri, poet Kazi Rozy, poet Monjurur Rahman, journalist Liakat Ali and poet Dukhu Bangal.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Domestic help found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman's body, hanging from a balcony railing by a scarf tied to the neck, was recovered by police from a house in Abedin Colony area of Chittagong city yesterday.

The deceased was Aktara Begum, 32, daughter of Abu Taher of Lalmohan in Bhola. She was working as a domestic help at the house of Bangladesh Navy officer Lt Commander Mohammad Sharif.

Sub-Inspector Utpal Barua of Kotwali Police Station said a member from Sharif's house informed police over phone around

7:00am that Aktara committed suicide.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Chittagong Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, Aktara's relatives alleged that she was tortured to death by her employer.

Aktara used to complain about the misbehavior of Sharif and his wife towards her, said her cousin Rahima Begum.

"Whenever I contacted her over phone, Aktara used to request me to take her away from the house," she said.

An unnatural death case was filed with Kotwali Police Station in this regard.

Grameenphone STAR PROGRAM

Enjoy

20%

reward talktime on your calls

For registration dial *999*2# (FREE) by 15 July, 2012

- > 20% reward talktime (GP-GP calls) will be provided upon using a certain minutes in July
- > For prepaid, reward talktime will be disbursed by 10th August, 2012 with 5 days validity
- > For postpaid, 20% discount (GP-GP calls) will be reflected in next monthly bill
- > Individual subscriber's benefit condition will be communicated through SMS from GP STAR
- > Offer is not applicable for Business Solutions & Ekota STAR customers

Stay Close | grameenphone