

Govt denied

FROM PAGE 1
know.
"We have to wait for the full text of the order to know of the observations," Attorney General Mahbub Alam told The Daily Star. He could not say when the full text would be made public.
The government filed the petition for the top court's permission on September 1. In a ruling on June 18, Speaker Abdul Hamid said Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik had violated the constitution by making "derogatory remarks" about the Jatiya Sangsad and the Speaker.

Responding to a writ petition on July 24, the HC bench of Justice Hasan Foz Siddique and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain said the Speaker's ruling had no legal effect and was baseless in the eye of the law.

It all began on May 29 when the Speaker made a few comments about the judiciary. Hamid told the House that it looked odd when courts took quick decisions to resolve their own problems and people had to wait for years to get justice.

He also said that if people were aggrieved at verdicts, a day would come when they would stand against the courts. "Likewise, if the government becomes autocratic, people will resist it and there are numerous instances of it."

The Speaker's observations came in relation to an HC order that the Supreme Court be handed over its land that was under the control of the Roads and Highways Department.

During a court hearing on June 5, Justice Manik said the Speaker had committed an offence tantamount to sedition by making the comments.

The judge also said the Speaker was ignorant of the apex court and the constitution.

Hours after Manik's remarks, the ruling alliance MPs in parliament blasted the judge and accused him of violating the constitution by making "derogatory remarks" against the Speaker.

They also demanded that the president ask the chief justice to constitute a Supreme Judicial Council for removing the judge.

Thirteen days later, Abdul Hamid came up with his ruling. He urged the lawmakers to withdraw their demand for the judge's removal and let the matter end there.

Muhith to talk

FROM PAGE 1
scheduled to leave for Tokyo tomorrow to join the annual meeting of the WB and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The panel of experts in Dhaka would mainly talk to the Anti-Corruption Commission, he said.

The WB's panel of experts would be informed about the whole matter through a meeting with the ACC. After that they would reach a judgment and send recommendations to the

WB, Muhith said.
The WB cancelled its \$1.2 billion credit for the project on June 29, saying it had proof of a corruption conspiracy involving Bangladeshi officials, executives of a Canadian firm and private individuals. On September 20, it declared its decision to engage anew in the project.

Thousands in anti-austerity Madrid march

AFP, Madrid

Thousands joined a protest march in the Spanish capital yesterday against the conservative government's austerity policies amid growing uncertainty over whether the country will need a financial bailout.

"No more unemployment, no more cuts... They will ruin the country, we must stop this," read a large banner as union and leftwing party leaders led the march.
Others in the crowd carried "No" signs with scissors painted on them, a reference to the budget cuts that are affecting many Spaniards, with unemployment at 24.63 percent.

West Indies

FROM PAGE 1
spinner Sunil Narine.
Chasing a challenging 138 to win on a sluggish turning wicket, Sri Lanka's batsmen were put under pressure from the start as Tillakaratne Dilshan was bowled by a peach of a delivery from Ravi Rampaul in the first ball of the second over.

It was always going to come down to a battle between the Sri Lankan big three -- Dilshan, skipper Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara -- and the West Indian bowling. Jayawardene and Sangakkara, after Dilshan's departure, consolidated well by putting on 42 runs for the second wicket, albeit at a slow pace. But Sangakkara's dismissal in the tenth over, caught at deep square leg off Samuel Badree, opened the floodgates. Angelo Mathews went three runs later, bowled by West Indies skipper Darren Sammy, and then in the thirteenth over Sri Lanka's last hope, Jayawardene, fell trying to reverse sweep Narine.

Then Jeevan Mendis and Thisara Perera were run out in the space of four balls, as the pressure of the climbing run rate became too hot to handle for the home team. At 64 for six, the game was as good as won, although Nuwan Kulasekara briefly threatened a coup with a 16-ball 26. But it was to be West Indies' day as Malinga became Narine's third wicket, and the one that sealed West Indies first ICC multinational tournament triumph since the 2004 Champions Trophy.

Earlier, the West Indies batsmen faced similar problems when at the start of the innings. Johnson Charles was out in the first over trying to clear the infield against Angelo Mathews, and Chris Gayle's innings could not have been in sharper contrast to what fans have come to expect of the big-hitting Jamaican. Gayle played and missed for 15 balls for only three runs before being trapped in front by Ajantha Mendis in the sixth over, by which time West Indies had crawled to just 14.

Samuels was watching from the other end as his side's ambitions of lifting the treasured title seemed to have vanished with Gayle's departure. At the end of ten overs West Indies had reached 32 for two and Samuels on 20 off 32 balls, a competitive score a distant dream. Nuwan Kulasekara then dropped Samuels on the boundary, and then the match turned, mostly through some astonishing strokeplay by Samuels.

He picked the opposition's best bowler, Lasith Malinga, for particularly harsh punishment. Malinga's second over, the thirteenth of the innings, was hammered for 21 runs, with Samuels clobbering three sixes.

Ajantha Mendis, Sri Lanka's other danger man in the bowling department in the bowling department, was having a much better day. He trapped Dwayne Bravo leg-before -- an erroneous decision as Bravo had inside-edged the ball on to his pad -- in the next over with the score on 73, but Samuels went on his way hitting a six and a four in the next over by Jeevan Mendis. Ajantha then put Sri Lanka on top again, picking up two in two balls -- that of Kieron Pollard and Andre Russell -- leaving West Indies at 89 for five at the end of the sixteenth.

But it was Samuel's day and he again reserved his best for the best as 19 came off Malinga's last over, which saw a boundary and two sixes off Samuel's bat. The second of the two maximums, an almighty crack over the long on boundary, was recorded as the biggest six of the tournament at 108 metres. In all, Samuel's had plundered 39 runs off the 11 balls he faced from Malinga.

He was finally dismissed in the next over, attempting his seventh six off Akila Dananjaya to be caught at midwicket for 78 off 56 balls, including 52 off his last 19 deliveries. It was then left to captain Darren Sammy, who scored 26 off 15 deliveries to take West Indies to 137, a total scarcely imaginable ten overs previously.

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Classical Music

FROM PAGE 20
Besides music maestros from Kolkata ITC SRA, seasoned Bangladeshi artistes will perform in the event.
A press conference was held yesterday in this regard at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital.

Ravi Mathur, executive director of ITC SRA; Pandit Ulhas Kasalkar and Ustad Mashkoor Ali Khan, its teachers; Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation; Syed Fahim Munaim, chief executive officer of Maasranga Television; Abdul Qayyum Mukul, associate editor of the daily Prothom Alo; Sadya Afreen Mallick, editor of Arts and Entertainment, The Daily Star; and Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director general of Bengal Foundation, spoke at the conference.

In her written statement, Luva Nahid elaborated on the initiatives of the two organisations and the music festival, in particular. Abul Khair outlined the course of action that will be followed ahead of the festival.

Then followed a question-answer session where journalists from both the print and electronic media participated.

The Daily Star is assisting in the festival while Bangla daily Prothom Alo is the strategic partner of the event. Maasranga TV is the telecast partner, ABC Radio the broadcast partner, and Ice Media Limited the media partner of the festival.

Swapan took shelter at a grocery store when the BCL activists surrounded it. They called him names and vandalised his car with bricks.

Swapan alleged that the attack had been instigated by Yusuf Ali, upazila AL convener.

The car driver Monir and BNP activists Maksud Mridha, Shamim Khalifa, Azizul Sardar, Hafizur Rahman, Tipu Hawladar and JCD leader Zakir Sardar, were injured in the attack.

The police arrived one and a half hours after being informed even though they were close to the spot, Swapan said.

However, Yusuf Ali denied the allegations against him. Sajjad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Agoiljhara Police Station, said the BCL activists had first brought out a procession, protesting at Swapan's visit, before launching the attack.

Police rushed to the spot, rescued Swapan and escorted him out of the upazila, the OC added.

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HC clears

FROM PAGE 20
more than Tk 7.38 crore illegally and concealing information about wealth of more than Tk 4.4 crore from the commission.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Khondker Musa Khaled and Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder rejected a petition filed by Moudud for quashing the case. It also vacated an earlier HC order that had stayed the proceedings of the case.

The grounds of yesterday's HC verdict could not be known, as its written text was not released.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam and ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that after the HC verdict, there is no legal bar to proceed with the case against Moudud at the lower court.

However, the BNP stalwart said he would file an appeal with the Supreme Court against the HC verdict.

He also said different HC benches had earlier quashed similar cases against ruling Awami League leaders Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and two others.

Hall-Mark MD arrested

FROM PAGE 1
Corruption Commission (ACC) authorities.

Tanvir dodged the law enforcers in the early hours yesterday when more than 100 personnel from Rab, police and the ACC conducted a three-hour drive in the company's factories in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital. The drive started at 2:00am.

Tanvir was arrested on a request from the ACC, which filed 11 cases on October 4 with Ramna Police Station against 27 officials of Hall-Mark and state-owned Sonali Bank for misappropriating Tk 1,568 crore.

The cases were filed under the Money Laundering Prevention Act and the Corruption Prevention Act.

Of the accused, seven are Hall-Mark officials, including Tanvir, while the rest are Sonali Bank officials, including its former managing director Humayun Kabir.

Talking to The Daily Star

about their failure in the first drive to arrest Tanvir, Lt Col Ziaul said the elite force had faced obstacles on the road near the factories in Savar as two vehicles were left abandoned there.

"It delayed our operation and by then, Tanvir had fled through an alternative way.

"We found three women in Tanvir's room and more than 30 others in another. We also saw a huge quantity of liquor there. But we neither arrested the women nor seized anything as our first priority was to nab Tanvir," he added.

He also expressed surprise over the security arrangements in and around the factories. There were several hundred private security personnel under the company "Hall-Mark Patrol" in addition to 350 Ansar personnel.

According to an audit report, the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch of Sonali Bank had disbursed Tk 3,606 crore in loan to Hall-

Mark Group and five other companies defying bank-rulings.

The Bangladesh Bank also revealed massive irregularities in the sanctioning and disbursing of loans, especially to the little-known Hall-Mark Group.

COURT ASKS ACC REPORTS

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday asked the investigation officers of the ACC to submit the probe reports of all the 11 cases by November 16.

Also yesterday, the High Court adjourned for two weeks the hearing on a writ petition that sought its directive on the government for recovering the loan.

Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond filed the petition on September 17 with the HC, seeking its order on the authorities concerned to confiscate the assets of the companies for their failure to refund the money.

Graft stalls railway

FROM PAGE 1
and ruling Awami League-backed union leaders in the railway manipulated the recruitment process to get their candidates into the railway, depriving the eligible candidates.

Railway officials on conditions of anonymity allege that these syndicates made crores of taka out of this "recruitment business".

Their corrupt practices, however, could not ensure jobs for the bribing candidates, as the candidates who did not get appointed despite having been selected, challenged the legality of the recruitment moves one after another in court.

In response, the court imposed injunctions on the process, halting recruitments over the past six years.

What Azam Khan, the whistleblower driver of former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta's sacked assistant personal secretary, claimed in his interview with Rtv was a clear hint of what had been going on in the railway.

Appearing on TV for the first time since the April 9 railwaygate scandal, Azam alleged that the Tk 74 lakh stashed in his car was taken from railway jobseekers and the money was being taken to Suranjit's house. Rtv aired the two-part interview on Thursday and Friday.

Suranjit, now a minister without portfolio, trashed this claim and said he would issue a statement on this tomorrow.

But Azam's allegation is not one that is isolated. In an interview with The Daily Star in June, the now-suspended railway general manager Yusuf Ali Mridha made

similar claims. Claiming himself innocent, Mridha described how some ministers, lawmakers, railway union leaders and railway officials lobbied for their candidates during the recruitment move last year.

He said each of these groups sent a list of their own candidates to him and also to the then rail minister and the railway director general, AbuTaher.

Following the railwaygate scandal, Mridha was suspended for his alleged involvement in the recruitment business.

"It was the railway trade union leaders who wanted to grab 35 percent of the recruitment. They went to the then railway minister and the director general and demanded that all of their candidates be hired.

"You can ask the director general about the recruitment. I am not alone responsible for any wrongdoing," he told this correspondent, adding that he had discussed each and every step of recruitment with Suranjit and the DG.

Contacted, Abu Taher said it was only natural that Mridha would defend himself. "It was not the director general; rather it was Mridha who was the man in position for recruitment in the east [Chittagong] zone."

Suranjit has refused to comment on Mridha's statement.

FAILED ATTEMPTS
Reeling from a severe manpower crisis, the rail authorities moved to recruit 1,650 people in various positions in 2006, for the first time in two decades.

But the process had to be cancelled following allegations that some officials had

taken bribes from some candidates. Without probing the allegations, the communications ministry made a fresh move to hire 3,586 people in 2007.

At this, a number of candidates who were selected for jobs the previous year but did not get appointments filed writ petitions challenging the move. In the event, the High Court slapped an injunction against the process.

The railway's attempt to recruit 7,275 people in 2010 also got foiled, again by the deprived candidates of 2006 who took the issue to the court and managed a stay order from the HC.

The communications ministry did not take any effective steps to vacate the court orders, sources in the railway told The Daily Star.

Finally, after taking office as rail minister, Suranjit Sengupta late last year moved to hire 4,892 people. Yet again, the process was suspended, this time owing to the railwaygate scandal.

The Anti-Corruption Commission, which is probing the alleged recruitment business, found primary evidence of corruption in the process.

In June this year, the railway in its latest move gave a circular for recruiting 1,834 people, including cleaner, guard and trolley men. But it could not do the same for important posts like locomaster and stations master due to the court orders.

Recruitment in the railway is not possible until the writ petitions were either withdrawn or disposed of, officials say.

3 injured

FROM PAGE 1
Ali. They live in Unishbighi village under Shahbajpur union.

Lt Col Monjurul Alam, commanding officer of 9 Border Guard Battalion (BGB), said the BSF team of Nawda camp under 125 Maldah opened fire on the three around 7:00am when they were entering Indian territory through the Chakpara border.

Locals rushed Sayem to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition and Saidur to Shibganj Health Complex. Setabul was admitted to a local clinic.

The BGB verbally protested the incident at a company commander-level meeting held at zero line of Chakpara frontier around 8:00am. Later, the BGB also sent a protest letter to its Indian counterpart.

AL rally

FROM PAGE 20
anti-Islamic posting on Facebook," Alamgir told journalists who enquired about the rally which was brought out minutes before the violence erupted.

"But they did not participate in the attack," he added.

The minister was talking to reporters at Border Guard Training Centre and School in Satkania after attending a programme of the 81st batch of Border Guard Bangladesh.

A mob went on the rampage in Ramu of Cox's Bazar on the night of September 29, desecrating 12 temples and monasteries and destroying over 50 houses.

The violence was apparently triggered by a Facebook posting of a photo derogatory to the holy Quran.

About the alleged police inaction, the minister said a four-member administrative body has been formed to investigate the matter.

The minister gave the assurance that the government was dealing with the Ramu issue with utmost importance.

Regarding the murder investigation of journalist couple Sagar and Runi, the minister said that the motive behind the killing would be unveiled by October 10.

Stop polluting

FROM PAGE 20
authorities will take action against those house owners," said Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan after the meeting at his ministry's auditorium yesterday.

The taskforce also decided to take stern action against those industries which were yet to set up any effluent treatment plant (ETP) or had left their ETPs dysfunctional after installation, said the minister.

At the meeting, officials of the districts around the capital presented reports on the installation of boundary pillars. They said out of 5,041 pillars in Narayanganj only 322 pillars were left to be pitched while in Dhaka, only 3,273 were installed out of 6,584.

The district administration of Gazipur informed the meeting that it had completed the pillar installation work while the Munshiganj authorities said there were only 17 pillars left out of 604 pillars designated.

However, green campaigners present at the meeting said the way the pillars had been set up was nothing but killing those rivers by shrinking them officially.

"If we destroy the rivers in this way, the next generation will not forgive us for such heinous acts," Architect Iqbal Habib, vice-president of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA), told the meeting.

Another green campaigner present at the meeting said the district administrations had recorded the rivers' boundary in a manner as if those were "private property".

However, the minister said it was very tough to maintain the pillar installation work properly as "the river-line changes due to erosion".

He said all the allegations and concerns were being addressed accordingly.

Philippines govt

FROM PAGE 20
"This framework agreement paves the way for a final and enduring peace in Mindanao," President Benigno Aquino said in a nationally televised address.

"It brings all former secessionist groups into the fold. No longer does the Moro Islamic Liberation Front aspire for a separate state."

The MILF hailed the breakthrough, which was achieved in the latest round of peace talks in Malaysia that ended on Saturday, as the "beginning of peace".

"We are happy and we thank the president for this," MILF vice chairman for political affairs Ghazali Jaafar told AFP by phone from his base in Mindanao.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called the agreement "a testament to the commitment of all sides for a peaceful resolution" to the conflict.

"The next steps will be to ensure that the framework agreement is fully implemented," she said in a statement.

also welcomed the agreement but said more needs to be done.

The Philippine government and the MILF said they were aiming to reach a final peace deal before the president's term ends in the middle of 2016. But they also pointed to major obstacles to be overcome.

Muslim rebel groups have been fighting for independence or autonomy in Mindanao since the early 1970s.

Aquino said a final agreement would have to be approved by a plebiscite.

Such approval is not certain in the mainly Catholic country. A planned peace deal during the term of previous president Gloria Arroyo crumbled in 2008 at the final moment amid intense domestic opposition.

There are roughly four million Muslims in Mindanao. They see it as their ancestral homeland dating back to Islamic sultanates established before Spanish Christians arrived in the 1500s.

The rebellion has claimed

more than 150,000 lives, most in the 1970s when all-out war raged, and left large parts of Mindanao in deep poverty.

After decades of Catholic immigration, Muslims are now a minority in Mindanao. But they have insisted they should be allowed largely to govern the region themselves and control its riches.

Mindanao is home to vast untapped reserves of gold, copper and other minerals, as well as being one of the country's most important farming regions.

Aquino said Muslims would have a "fair and equitable share of taxation and revenues" in the new autonomous region. The national government would retain control over defence and security, as well as monetary policy.

Aquino reinvigorated the peace process in August last year when he met MILF chairman Murad Ebrahim in Japan. Their encounter was the first ever face-to-face talks between a sitting president and a MILF leader.