

MONEY LAUNDERING SC upholds carrying on case against Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that cleared the way for continuing a money laundering case against BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun in a trial court.

The Appellate Division of SC passed the order after rejecting a petition filed by Mamun seeking a stay on the HC order.

On October 26, 2009, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) lodged the case with Dhaka Cantonment Police Station against the duo on charge of laundering Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

On January 17 this year, the HC rejected a criminal revision petition filed by Mamun on November 8 last year, challenging the legality of the case proceedings.

In the petition, Mamun, now in custody, said the ACC must have prior permission from the government to run the case against him as per provisions of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2009, which the anti-graft body did not follow.

The HC in its order said the ACC did not need a permission from the government to run the case as per an earlier order of the Appellate Division.

Mamun recently filed a petition with the SC seeking stay on the HC order.



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NATION UNITED IN CANDLELIGHT VIGIL



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1) Masses of people light candles at 7:00pm in Sylhet city as elsewhere in the country yesterday as the nation stands united on the demand for sentencing of all war criminals to death. 2) Lighted candles around a huge national flag at Shatmatha in Bogra town. 3) The port city people join the candlelight vigil in front of Chittagong Press Club. 4) Candles form the shape of the Bangladesh map at Alupatty in Rajshahi city. 5) Thousands hold up lighted candles during the vigil in Khulna city.

PHOTO: STAR



4

The baby black hole

FROM PAGE 20
galaxy and, in space terms at least, it's just around the corner.

Information from Chandra X-Ray Observatory suggests that the supernova remnant's oddly-shaped clouds of glowing gas may contain a young black hole.

The remnant, called W49B, is about 1,000 years old. That is equivalent to a blink of an eye in a universe believed to be nearly 14 billion years old. Our own sun has clocked up 4.5 billion years.

It's also just 26,000 light years away and was created in a very rare way, reports the Los Angeles Times.

"It appears its parent star ended its life in a way that most others don't," said Laura Lopez, who led the study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Nasa said the supernova explosion that occurred when this star ran out of fuel was "peculiar".

The star exploded with "jets shooting away from the star's poles" -- making the supernova elongated and elliptical. Usually, the explosions tend to be symmetrical.

Supernova explosions occur when massive stars run out of fuel, but Nasa notes such blasts are not well understood.

Lopez says in a blog post, these "exotic explosions can happen within our own galaxy, and further study... will give great insights into how these awesome events come about".

Chandra X-Ray Observatory is a telescope that observes the cosmos from an orbit 1,39,000 kilometres above the Earth.

Cabinet okays two special ordinances

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved a proposal to place in parliament two recently promulgated special ordinances in the form of bills to turn those into laws. The two special ordinances comprise 172 ordinances promulgated under the martial law regimes of Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad.

The approval was given at a special meeting of the cabinet held at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told journalists that the two special ordinances were placed in the House on January 27, 2013 for continuation of the ordinances promulgated during the military regimes in the 70s and 80s but declared "void ab initio" (to be treated as invalid from the outset) by the court while nullifying the 5th and 7th amendments of the constitution.

Of the ordinances, 91 were promulgated from August 20, 1975 to April 9, 1979; and 81 from March 24, 1982 to November 10, 1986 under martial law, he said.

As many as 16 ministries and divisions yesterday placed 133 drafts on those ordinances in the form of bills for the cabinet's nod.

But, the cabinet decided to bring the drafts of bills under two umbrella bills on the basis of their promulgation time, and place those in the Jatiya Sangsad by February 26 next.

The cabinet also asked the respective ministries to place the 133 bills separately later in the cabinet after necessary scrutiny, revision and amendment.

ANTI-WAR CRIMINAL DEMOS

Oaths, candlelight vigils mark continuation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demonstrations continued in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Rajshahi University yesterday demanding, among others, death penalty for war criminals, including Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

The other demands include revocation of the amnesty for war criminals, ban on pro-Jamaat-Shibir media and organisations, order to forfeit their property, renaming of roads and establishments after freedom fighters instead of Razakars and initiating diplomatic activities to bring back war criminals.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: Chittagong residents lit candles at 7:00pm on the 9th day of demonstrations in memory of martyred freedom fighters of the 1971 Liberation War.

Apart from Jamal Khan area, "Gonojagoron Manchhas" were formed in Agrabad, Nimtola Intersection, Barapula area, Bandartila area and before Chittagong Export Processing Zone.

Demonstrators kept busy with mass songs, poetry recitations and slogans against war criminals.

Our Khulna correspondent says: A coffin-carrying procession of Khulna University

and Engineering Technology students and the presence of over 1,000 students of Khulna University marked the 9th day of demonstrations in "Nirdolio Gono Mancha" at Shibbari intersection of Khulna.

Khulna Union of Journalists, in a statement, hailed the Jatiya Press Club for cancelling the membership of Jamaat leaders Mollah and Muhammad Kamaruzzaman.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports: Hundreds stood with candles from Alupotty to Sonadighi in Rajshahi chanting slogans, reciting poems, and performing songs for the masses at "Ekattur Mancha" in Rajshahi city's Alupotty area.

People irrespective of age, sex and religion and students and teachers from Rajshahi University of Engineering Technology and Rajshahi Medical College joined the programme.

Our RU correspondent says: Meanwhile, RU students and teachers alleged that Shibir activists threatened them over phone of dire consequences if they did not stop the demonstrations at "Gono Mancha" in Tukitaki Chatter.

However, RU Shibir unit denied the allegation.

DELAY IN RECORDING RAPE CASE

HC orders probe into allegation against two OCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the police chief to probe, through a committee, into the allegation of negligence of officers-in-charge of Kamalganj and Sreemangal police stations of Moulvibazar in recording a rape case.

During hearing a rule, the HC directed the inspector general of police (IGP) to form a one-member committee of an officer not below the rank of additional deputy IGP to investigate the allegation and submit the probe report to it within 15 days.

On February 10, The Daily Star published a report stating that criminals raped a 12-year-old girl at a tea garden in Kamalganj on the night of February 8.

The report said police did not record any case concerning the incident until the victim's mother filed a case on February 10. She filed the case against three people including one Khokon Paul.

Following the report's publication, Hira Lal Sarker, an apprentice lawyer, on February 11 filed a petition with the HC accusing the OCs of being negligent.

OCs Nihar Ranjan Nath and Mohammad Abdullah appeared before the HC yesterday and told the court they were not negligent about taking steps regarding the incident and had already arrested Khokon Paul.

The HC fixed March 6 for passing further order on this issue.

All united

FROM PAGE 1

31. The conference, presided over by Moulana Bhashani, was attended by representatives of the Youth League, Dhaka University State Language Committee, Tamaddun Majlis, Islamic Brotherhood, East Pakistan Muslim Students League and East Pakistan Awami Muslim League.

At the meeting, a number of politicians, such as Abul Hashim, Hamidul Haq Chowdhury, Shamsul Haq and Khaleq Nawaz Khan roundly condemned the government over its insensitivity to Bangalees' feelings on the language question. The conference formed a 40-member All-Party State Language Committee of Action, with Kazi Golam Mahub as its convener. A good number of resolutions were adopted at the conference, including one voicing support for the general strike called for February 4.

Political machinations toward adopting the Arabic script for Bangla were criticised and the release of all

political prisoners was demanded. Among the prisoners was the young activist Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

A large number of students gathered for a meeting on the Dhaka University campus on February 4. Presided over by Gaziul Haq, the meeting debated the matter of whether a demonstration should be organised in the city in the course of the general strike.

At a certain stage, Abdul Matin, convener of the DU State Language Committee, intervened to ask the students if they were ready to march to the residences of the vice chancellor and the chief minister. The answer was unambiguously in the affirmative.

The strike was observed successfully in Dhaka, Chittagong, Mymensingh, Comilla and Narayanganj on February 4. Encouraged by the public response to the strike, the students of Dhaka University called another strike in the province for February 21, 1952.

Stéphane Nordé, managing director of Nestlé Bangladesh Ltd, inaugurates a clean drinking water tank at Monipur High School in Gazipur on Wednesday, in line with Nestlé's global initiative of "Creating Shared Value". Naquib Khan, corporate affairs director, and Mirza Golam Hossain, senior manager, Corporate Affairs and Communication of Nestlé Bangladesh Ltd are also present.

PHOTO: COURTESY

