

PAY SCALE FOR LOWER COURT JUDGES SC accepts govt action report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday accepted a government report on its action of fixing a new pay scale for the lower court judges.

The finance ministry on June 2 issued a statutory regulatory order (SRO) on the new pay scale that set Tk 40,000 as the highest monthly salary for a senior district and session judge or an equivalent judicial officer on completion of five years of service.

According to the SRO, the new pay scale will take retroactive effect from July 1, 2009, and the lower court judges can receive their due salaries as arrears until May 8, 2013, but other benefits beside salaries will not be applicable in this regard.

The highest of the new six-level salary structure has now risen from Tk 35,600 to Tk 39,600.

The second level has increased from Tk 33,750 to Tk 37,000.

In the third salary level, the pay has gone up to Tk 37,000 from Tk 31,250. The fourth level is from Tk 29,700 to Tk 34,200, the fifth level is now Tk 29,200 from the former Tk 26,200, and sixth level is Tk 25,600 from Tk 20,370.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam yesterday placed the report along with the SRO before the Appellate Division of Supreme Court, saying that the government had announced the new pay scale for judicial officers as per its April 25 order.

He submitted the report during hearing the Masdar Hossain Case popularly known as separation of judiciary case.

The attorney general also said the government was taking steps to amend the Bangladesh Judicial Service (formation of service, appointment and suspension to service post, dismissal and removal) Rules, 2007, as per the apex court's previous order.

The nine-member Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain fixed July 11 for passing an order on the issue.

Three-storey building tilts in Demra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-storey residential building in Demra on the capital's outskirts tilted early yesterday, prompting the authorities to order its demolition.

The building gradually leaned on an adjoining six-storey building on Madrasah Road at Purba Hajinagar, and it came to the notice of people in the midnight. Afsar Uddin, an official of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), told The Daily Star.

"It is a non-engineered building, lacking Rajuk approval, architectural and structural designs, and soil tests," said Afsar. "We have ordered the owner to demolish it within a week."

Rajuk would write to the Narayanganj district administration to approve the demolition and sue the owner if he fails to comply, he said. The demolition is to start today, he added.

Afsar said the Narayanganj district administration officials evacuated six families, including that of the owner, and sealed off the building.

The owner, Mohammad Ali, who had lived in Kuwait for two decades, said he had the building made by the husband of his wife's sister in 2000 without Rajuk approval, as no building in the neighbourhood obtained such approval at that time.

The building's foundation soil loosened during construction of the adjoining six-storey building, he said. "I will pull it down immediately. It's my bad luck."



The residential three-storey building on the right tilted on the adjoining six-storey building in Demra on the capital's outskirts early yesterday prompting the former's residents, inset, to evacuate.

PHOTO: STAR



PROMOTING DOCTORS 'VIOLATING SENIORITY RULES' HC asks govt why move should not be called illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule directing the government to explain in two weeks why its action to promote 131 doctors to the posts of assistant professor and associate professor, allegedly violating seniority rules, should not be declared illegal.

The court came up with the rule after hearing a writ petition filed yesterday by 15 doctors, who were deprived of promotion, challenging the legality of the government's action.

Petitioners' counsel Bodruddoza Badal told The Daily Star that the ministry of health on March 30 promoted 60 assistant professors to the post of associate professor and confirmed 71 assistant professors, who were serving on a temporary basis.

The promotion were made on political consideration and violated all relevant rules and procedures, he added.

DHAKA CITY CORPORATIONS

Inclusion of new areas in law delaying polls: EC officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The announcement of the election schedule for the bifurcated Dhaka city corporation is being delayed, as the newly delimited areas are yet to be included in the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009, Election Commission officials said yesterday.

The commission will announce the schedule soon after the Local Government Division (LGD) issues a gazette, amending the first schedule of the act, in which the latest delimited areas will be included, they told journalists at the EC Secretariat.

The LGD on Thursday issued a gazette,

announcing the inclusion of Sultanganj union in the Dhaka South City Corporation territory.

"Sub-section-4 of Section-4 of the act will have to be amended to include the newly delimited areas," said Election Commissioner Mohammad Abdul Mobarak. "The process of completion of the task is underway. We will announce the schedule as soon as the gazette is issued."

An EC official said if the commission could announce the schedule immediately, the elections were possible by the first week of July. Or, it will take place after Eid-ul-Fitr, he added. The last Dhaka city corporation election was held in 2002. The term expired in 2007.

TOKI MURDER CASE

Why investigation not to be given to Rab

HC asks govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

The High Court has issued a rule upon the government to explain in two weeks why it should not be directed to hand over the investigation of Tanvir Mohammad Toki murder case in Narayanganj to Rapid Action Battalion to reveal the truth behind the killing.

In response to a writ petition, the HC issued the rule on May 20, also asking the officials concerned to explain why their inaction to investigate the case should not be declared illegal.

The home secretary, inspector general of police (IGP), deputy IGP (Dhaka), superintendent of police (SP) in Narayanganj, and officer-in-charge of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station were made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul-Haque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain came up with the rule after hearing the writ petition filed by Rafiur Rabbi, father of Toki.

About the HC order, Rafiur Rabbi said although three months had already passed, there was no visible progress in the investigation by the agencies like police and detectives.

He said he had submitted a written complaint to the Narayanganj SP, naming seven suspects, including former lawmaker Shamim Osman and his son Ayon Osman, in connection with the murder.

SP of Narayanganj Syed Nurul Islam said they had received a copy of the HC rule from Toki's father, but they are yet to receive any official documents.

Toki was found dead on the bank of the Shitalakkhya river on March 8, two days after he went missing.

CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2013



A campaigner uses a megaphone to urge residents of Sadar road in Barisal city to cast their votes for mayoral candidate Shawkat Hossain Hiron in the Barisal City Corporation polls, scheduled for June 15.

PHOTO: STAR

CAMPAIGN IN RAJSHAHI

Local dev lost in national issues

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

With 11 days left for the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) polls, only one of the three mayoral aspirants declared his election manifesto while two are highlighting national issues instead of local development.

Many electorates said none were talking about solving the city's major problems including spread of drug abuse, traffic congestion and land grabbing.

AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, Awami League Rajshahi city general secretary, and Habibur Rahman are yet to declare the manifesto.

Liton, in his election campaigns, was stressing prevention of the rise of fundamentalism and violence. The outgoing mayor, however, recently told The Daily Star that the city's visible developments would lead to his win.

In his manifesto, Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, Jubo Dal Rajshahi city president, did not mention anything about the drug problem. He rather emphasised on solving water supply problems and expanding Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital, both of which are not under RCC's jurisdiction.

He recently told The Daily Star that he was planning to make use of anti-government sentiments.

The three will sit for a dialogue organised by Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik in Rajshahi city's Swopnil Auditorium today.

Increase campaign hours, seize illegal arms

Kamran, Ariful urge EC in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Mayoral candidates Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran and Ariful Haque Chowdhury at a meeting yesterday demanded increasing electoral campaign hours and conducting drives against illegal arms respectively.

Addressing the meeting with officials of the regional Election Commission at the Sylhet Zila Parishad auditorium, Kamran said the existing hours, from 2:00pm to 9:00pm, were insufficient.

The Awami League Sylhet city unit president also demanded that provisions be changed to let each candidate set up nine campaign offices, one per three wards, from the existing six, one per police station. The EC shut two of Kamran's unapproved campaign offices in wards six and 19 on Sunday night.

Ariful said illegal arms must be seized so as to prevent their use in the June 15 Sylhet City Corporation election and activists of the pro-ruling party student organisation who recently unleashed violence in the city should be immediately arrested.

During election campaigns yesterday, Kamran accused Ariful of spreading falsehood against him and misleading people.

"I do not need certificates from anybody. My past activities would help the city dwellers understand the reality," said the outgoing mayor.

Ariful, in his campaigns, said no major development project was implemented and corruption had spread during the past mayor's tenure. Development projects undertaken by the BNP-led alliance government were halted while the mayor's men grabbed lands, added the BNP Central Committee member.

BBC is scheduled to hold a dialogue among the three mayoral aspirants in the Jalalabad Gas auditorium today.

BCC MAYORAL POLLS

Electoral code violation accusations coming up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Two mayoral candidates accused the remaining one of violating the electoral code during campaigns for the June 15 Barisal City Corporation polls while the accused filed a complaint against one of the two.

The three, alongside 160 councilor aspirants, are conducting door to door campaigns, publishing advertisements, hoisting banners and posters and attending social functions to gather votes in their favour.

Mahmudul Haque Khan Mamun alias Khan Mamun, Jubo League Barisal city unit joint convener, verbally accused campaigners of Shawkat Hossain Hiron, Awami League Barisal city unit president, of vandalising a campaign vehicle of his on Sunday night.

Ahsan Habib Kamal, BNP Barisal district (south) unit president, also verbally accused Hiron of illegally using coloured billboards for his campaigns. However, none of the two filed any complaint in this regard.

Meanwhile, Hiron filed a complaint with the regional Election Commission on Saturday accusing Kamal of making use of religious sentiments in campaigns.

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Eid 2013

Criteria for participation:

1. Materials used should be locally produced.
2. All submissions must be accompanied with price and a short description of the product.
3. Designs should be original and suitable for weather conditions.
4. The attires and accessories sent for the album are returnable.
5. Entry fee per submission is tk.500 (minimum 6 entries for each participating house).

Participants nationwide are requested to send in their selected outfits and accessories for the album.

Contact: (for submission of products & Advertisement)
Syeed Ahmed Chowdhury / Kamal Hossain
Advertisement Department
E-mail: advdept@yahoo.com
Phone: 9144330-1, Cell: 01711623905

Last date of submission: June 15, 2013