

# HC questions executive magistrate run mobile courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of some provisions of the Mobile Court Act, 2009 that empowered executive magistrates to run mobile courts.

The HC also issued a rule asking the government to explain in two weeks why such provisions would not be declared unconstitutional.

The HC came up with the rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Pinnacle Sourcing Limited, a food supplement manufacturer.

Seven government officials, including law and home secretaries and the director general of Rapid Action Battalion, have been made respondents to the rule.

The writ was filed after a mobile court, led by an executive magistrate with the assistance of Rab men, in a raid at the company's Mohakhali office on October 26 fined it and jailed its three officials for different terms for irregularities, including running the firm without valid documents.

Making reference to the Appellate Division's judgment in Masdar Hossain case, popularly known as separation of judiciary case, Managing Director of Pinnacle Giyasuddin Khan in his petition said an executive magistrate has no power to run a mobile court.

As per the apex court's judgment, a mobile court has to be run by a judicial official, not by an executive magistrate, as conducting such a court is a judicial function, petitioner's counsel Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star.

The three officials, including its chief executive officer Debashish Kumar Bhattacharya, are now behind bars.

The lawyer, however, claimed that the company has all relevant legal documents.

## Claiming IS presence does no good

Slain publisher Dipan's father tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It will not be good for the country if everyone starts saying that there is IS in Bangladesh, said Prof Abul Quasem Fazlul Huq yesterday.

As a part of its "war on terror" the United States may eventually send troops to combat IS here if people from different quarters declare the presence of IS in unison, he added.

Prof Abul Quasem, father of slain publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan, said these while addressing a discussion held in memory of late leftist leader Comrade Nurul Haq Mehedi.

The event held at Jatiya Press Club was organised by Comrade Nurul Haq Mehedi Shokhshava Jatiya Committee.

# Enact law on right to food

FAO, Oxfam urge govt; British Council workshop also stresses food safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a dialogue yesterday emphasised the need for enacting a law on right to food in the country to ensure food security.

This will enable a person to seek the court's intervention if he or she is deprived of food, said MB Akhter, programme director of Oxfam, in a press briefing held after the dialogue in the Cirdap Auditorium in the capital.

Meanwhile at a workshop, academics, researchers and civil society members said the government must ensure food safety in Bangladesh.

MB Akhter at the dialogue said although the country is now self-sufficient regarding food production, food crisis will emerge in a decade or two due to climate change.

Oxfam and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations organised the three-day dialogue on the right to food that ended yesterday.

In Bangladesh, 16 percent of the population, mostly those living in coastal, char and areas affected by river erosion, do not get adequate food, said Mohsin Ali, secretary of Right to Food Alliance, quoting FAO statistics.

Replying to a question regarding food banks in Saarc countries, MB Akhter said

although there was a decision taken to form a food bank, a charitable organisation that would distribute food to those in need, it was not implemented.

At the workshop on "Food Safety System in Bangladesh", speakers suggested creating mass awareness about the danger of unsafe food. British Council with Bangladesh Food Safety Authority organised the workshop at Probashi Kalyan Bhaban in the capital.

Prof Shah Monir Hossain, senior national advisor to FAO in Dhaka, said there are many unethical traders who ignore safety issues.

An expert on food and health, Dr Aliya Naheed said instead of food safety campaigns, focus should be on conducting researches and disseminating knowledge among stakeholders.

Syed Abdul Hamid, associate professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Health Economics, presented a keynote paper at the programme.

As per an ongoing research conducted by Promoting Knowledge for Accountable Systems of British Council, the workshop was organised to learn views of experts on institutionalisation and governance of the food safety system.

# ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 16-day countrywide campaign starts

DU CORRESPONDENT

Several social and women's rights organisations yesterday arranged different programmes, including rallies and processions, in the capital in observance of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jote organised a rally on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital. They later brought out a procession.

Chairperson of the Jote Sultana Kamal hoped that men and women would live with dignity and a secured environment for females could be created. Several organisations participated in the programme.

Prof Geeti Ara Nasreen of Dhaka University said there has been no progress in hundreds of rape cases.

A theatre group, changemaker, and a group of sex workers performed two street plays.

Later, Sultana Kamal announced start of a 16-day campaign programme to be held in 48 districts in this regard.

In the morning, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and DU's women and gender studies department organised a rally at Aparajeya Bangla with the slogan "The family and society will be the fortress to prevent violence against females".

President of the parishad Ayesha Khanam said the country's achievements are questioned when females are assaulted.

Later, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organised a seminar on "Female movement in Bangladesh: Elimination of violence against women and youth participation" at DU.

## Death anniversary

CITY DESK



Today is the 5th death anniversary of Md Mujaddid, a former director of Bangla Academy and teacher of Dhaka University's Institute of Modern Languages.

On this occasion, a daylong programme, including a Qurankhwan and a milad mahfil, will be held at a mosque. Besides, cooked food will be distributed in orphanages and among the destitute.

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Al-Quran 67:2

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to Dr. Momenul Haq  
Managing Director, General Pharmaceuticals Ltd.  
& family  
on the loss of his beloved father  
Maj. Gen. (Rtd.) M. Shamsul Haq  
on 21 November 2015

Who served the nation as  
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Election Commission  
Notice  
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This is for information to the honorable Members of the Institute that the Council of Election of Dhaka Regional Constituency and Dhaka Regional Committee (DRC) will be held from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (without break) on 28 November 2015 at ICAB Auditorium, CA Bhaban (9th floor), 100, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka and the Council Election of Chittagong Regional Constituency will also be held at HBFC Building (3rd floor), 1/D, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong on the same day and time.

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