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CJ's status should be equal to that of the Speaker

Observes SC in its full verdict on Warrant of Precedence

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court yesterday released the full text of its verdict on the appeal against a 2010 High Court order, observing that the status of the chief justice should be equal to that of the Jatiya Sangsad Speaker in the Warrant of Precedence.

The apex court also directed the government to amend the existing Warrant of Precedence used for all government purposes, including ceremonial occasions, and give district judges the status equivalent to that of government secretaries.

The Speaker holds third position and the chief justice fourth in the existing Warrant of Precedence formulated in 1986 and revised in 2008.

The president and the prime minister enjoy the first and the second positions. The current position of district judges is 24th and that of secretaries is 16th.

The SC said, "It is to be noted that vice president was placed at serial no 2 and the prime minister was placed at serial no 3 of the table of the Warrant of Precedence of 1975.

"Because of the abolition of the post of vice president, the post of prime minister was upgraded to serial no 2, and the Speaker was upgraded to serial no 3 alone keeping the chief justice in serial no 4 thereby degrading the position of the chief justice which is not contemplated in the constitution.

"The chief justice should be placed at serial no 3 of the impugned Warrant of Precedence along with the Speaker," it mentioned.

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Montaz Begum mesmerises music lovers with her performance on the opening night of the second edition of Dhaka International Folk Festival at the Army Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Grooving to the music of the roots

Folk Fest begins

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The second edition of the Dhaka International Folk Festival opened in the city's Army Stadium yesterday in a festive mood amid tight security.

Audiences braved heavy Thursday evening traffic to join the festival in hoards to enjoy a variety of performances.

Pallavi Dance Centre opened the festival, dressed in bright costumes and dancing energetically to folk tunes and songs, most recognisably to Joler Gaan's "Bokul Phool".

Abdur Rahman Baul, a senior disciple of Baul Shah Abdul Karim, took the stage next, performing with a traditional instrumental ensemble. His performance of "Maya Lagaise", "Agey Ki Sundor Din Kataitam" and "Matir Pinjiray" got loud applause from the audience.

The formal inauguration ceremony followed, where Anjan Chowdhury, SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

IN MALAYSIA

Bangladeshis are 3rd largest legal migrants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 2.5 lakh Bangladeshis are now working in Malaysia with valid work permits, says Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, deputy prime minister of the Southeast Asian country. Replying to a lawmaker's query yesterday, he told the Malaysian parliament that a total of 1,854,684 foreign workers, including the Bangladeshis, were holding the temporary employment pass or the work permits issued by the Malaysian immigration department, reports local English newspaper The Star.

The highest number of legal migrants is from Indonesia (749,226), followed by Nepal (411,364), Bangladesh (2,37,991), Myanmar (140,259), India (121,430) and others (194,374), Zahid, who is also the Malaysian home minister, said in a

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Dhaka loses £13m climate funds

The sum, committed by DFID, won't be released as the country's climate change resilience fund run by WB closes next year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has lost around 13 million British pounds of climate fund for adaptation projects as the country's Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) run by the World Bank is set to close next year.

Department for International Development (DFID) committed the grant for Bangladesh, one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world, but the fund was returned since the BCCRF is to be closed before the fund will be released.

The Bangladesh government set up the BCCRF in 2010 with contributions from development partners and around \$130 million was gathered over the six years.

Though many climate activists protested the move, the World Bank was selected to manage the BCCRF as donors did not want to deliver the fund directly to the government.

"But the World Bank suddenly declined to manage the BCCRF due to lower rate of service charge. Now the government is lobbying donors so that they provide the fund to Bangladesh directly not through the World Bank," said Anwar Hossain Manju, environment and forest minister.

When asked whether the money was already returned, the minister said the DFID was supposed to place the fund but the fund was never placed since the World Bank declined to manage the BCCRF.

Now we have to discuss with donors and decide on the management mechanism of climate related funds of donors, the minister said.

"The World Bank and the donors have decided not to continue with the

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Battle for Mosul nears ancient Nimrud

Fear grows over destruction of the famed heritage site

AGENCIES

The battle for Iraq's second city Mosul neared the remains of ancient Nimrud yesterday, the military said, raising fears for the famed heritage site already ravaged by jihadist bombs and sledgehammers.

Troops and allied militia were advancing on two villages held by the Islamic State group near the ancient site some 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of Mosul, the Joint Operations Command said.

"Units of the 9th Armoured Division and the Hashed al-Ashaeri (tribal militia) are beginning to advance to liberate the villages of Abbas Rajab and Al-Nomaniyah, toward Nimrud," it said, later announcing that Abbas Rajab had been retaken.

Nimrud was the one of the great centres of the ancient Middle East. Founded in the 13th Century BC, it became the capital of the Assyrian empire, whose rulers built vast palaces and monuments that have drawn archaeologists from around the world for more than 150 years.

Many of its monumental stone sculptures and reliefs were taken away for display in museums around the world but

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Rubik's Cube loses fight over its shape



REUTERS, Brussels

Rubik's Cube, a multicoloured three-dimensional puzzle, lost a trademark battle yesterday after Europe's top court said its shape was not sufficient to grant it protection against copycats.

The toy, invented in 1974 by Hungarian Erno Rubik, is popular among young and old, with more than 350 million cubes sold worldwide.

British company Seven Towers, which manages Rubik's Cube intellectual property rights, registered its shape as a three-dimensional EU trademark with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) in 1999.

But German toy maker Simba Toys challenged the trademark protection in 2006, saying that the cube's rotating capability should be protected by a patent and not a trademark.

Patents allow inventors to block rivals from SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Manna granted HC bail

Govt to file appeal against the order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna in a case filed on charges of provoking the armed forces to topple the government.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Hussain and Justice Md

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 11

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-00 12-30 3-45 5-22 7-00
JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



AN UNEXPECTED GUEST

A man tries to feed a black kite on the premises of Alliance Française at the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday morning after it landed there from nowhere. Many from the institution were surprised to see it. They also gave it fish to eat.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CLASH IN GAIBANDHA

Another injured Santal dies

Police refute the death claim

KONGKON KARMAKER and REZAUL HOQUE from Gaibandha

One more Santal died of injuries from Sunday's clash between indigenous people and sugarcane mill labourers along with police in Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha.

The victim, Romesh Soren, 40, of Sintaduri village in Sapmara union, had not been admitted to hospital fearing arrest, said his relative and local leader of the community Rozen Soren.

The death was confirmed by Rabindra Soren, a central leader of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad.

Subrata Kumar Sarker, officer-in-charge of Gobindaganj police, refuted the death claim.

Philimon Baske, another leader of the indigenous community, said Dinajpur police buried an unclaimed body that belonged to one from their community at Fultola Cremation Yard in Dinajpur town on Tuesday noon.

Niranjan Roy, caretaker of the cremation ground, said the body was buried under police protection. He showed the death certificate issued by Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, according to which the dead was admitted to the hospital on November 3 and he died the next day.

Meanwhile, a few attackers patrolled by motorcycles Madarpur and Joypur villages of Gobindaganj yesterday morning, heightening panic among the Adivasis evicted from a disputed land by police and labourers of Rangpur Sugar Mill in the upazila.

They drove around the areas for half an hour, said Rafayel Hasda, adding that these people were on the front line during the attack on the indigenous people on Sunday.

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