

ROADS, STRUCTURES Remove '71 collaborators' names in 2 months: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday gave a two months' deadline to the government for removing names of collaborators of anti-liberation forces from all roads as well as from structures of all educational institutions in the country.

The court also asked the secretaries to the ministry of education and the ministry of local government, rural development and cooperatives to submit a report before it by March 1 next year after complying with the order.

The bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah passed the order during hearing a rule issued in 2012 in this regard.

Following a writ petition, the HC in May 2012 issued the rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why structures named after collaborators of Pakistan should not be renamed and why they should not be directed to rename those roads, buildings and other structures after freedom fighters.

Prof Muntassir Mamoon and Shahriar Kabir filed the writ petition saying that since the

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Utility lines being laid on Rokeya Sarani, on the stretch from Agargaon to the Mirpur 10 roundabout, in the capital as part of the construction of metro rail yesterday. Since the rearrangement is to go on till February before the excavation shifts to Pallabi, vehicles bear the long, slow queues and the absence of hard barriers while people the dirt and risks to get on with their daily lives.

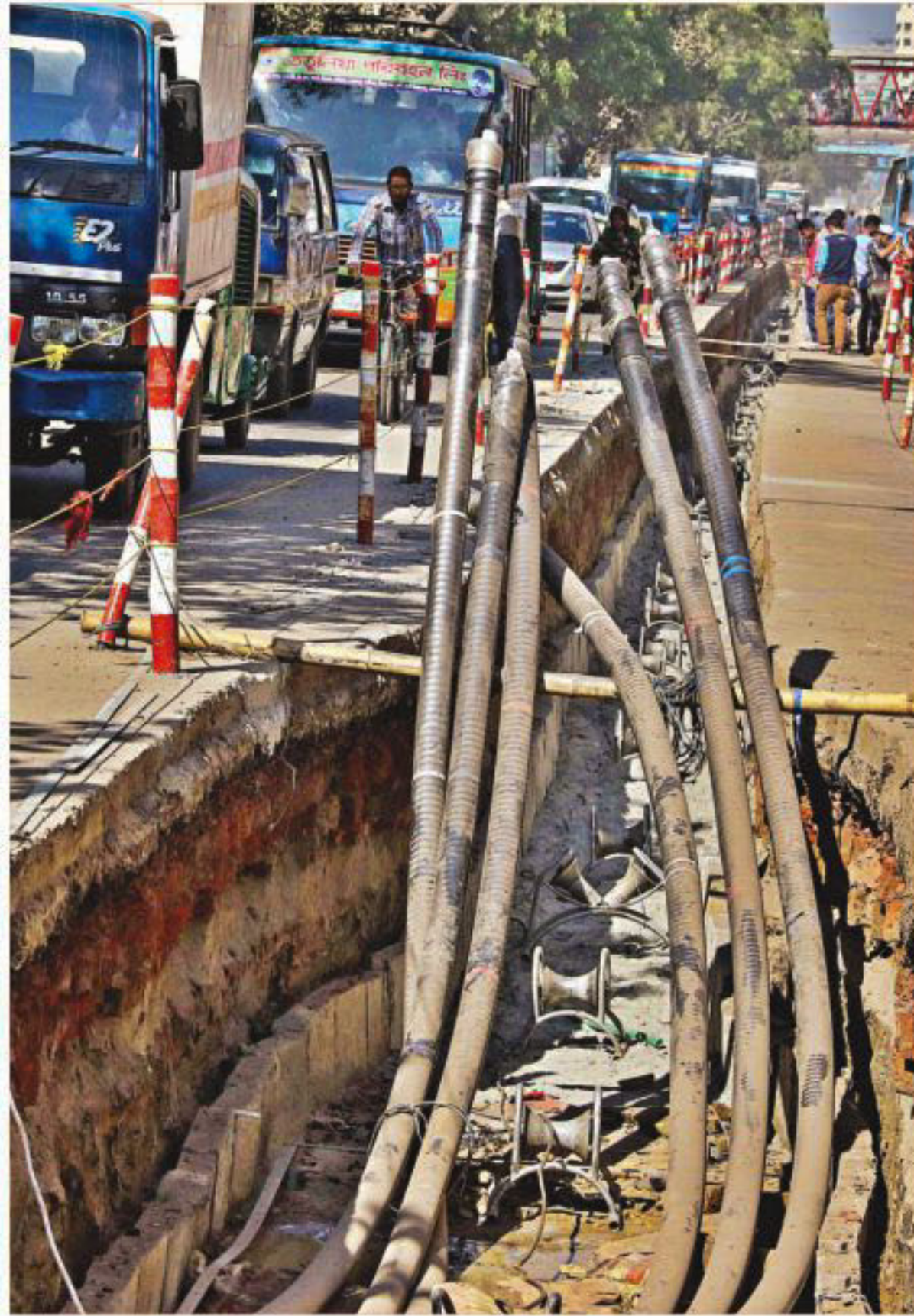


PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN



Ex-PM Ataur Rahman's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 25th death anniversary of former prime minister and a veteran national leader Ataur Rahman Khan will be observed today.

In observance of the day, Ataur Rahman Khan Smriti Sangsad will hold a memorial programme at Jatiya Press Club in the capital at 3:00pm, said a press release yesterday.

BNP Standing Committee Member Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan will be

**Discussion on
ATAUR RAHMAN**
Time: 3:00pm today
Venue: Jatiya Press Club

present as the chief guest while BNP Vice Chairman advocate Khandaker Mahub Hossain will preside over the programme. Born in 1905 in Balia village of Dhamrai in Dhaka, Ataur Rahman Khan was involved in political movements during British, Pakistani and Bangladesh periods.

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HC delivers split verdict on Nizam Hazri's JS seat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-judge High Court bench yesterday delivered a split verdict on a writ petition that challenged the legality of holding Jatiya Sangsad membership by Nizam Uddin Hazri, an Awami League leader in Feni.

Justice Md Emdadul Huq said in his part of the judgement that Nizam Uddin Hazri cannot hold the office of parliament member as per Article 66 (2)(D) of the constitution as he is convicted in an arms case.

Meanwhile, Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan said the writ petition is not acceptable, as there is a question of disputed fact regarding serving jail by Nizam Uddin Hazri in the case.

Hazri's lawyer Barrister Shafique Ahmed said the judges will now send the writ petition along with the split

verdict to the table of the chief justice. After receiving the petition, Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha will assign another HC bench for final hearing and disposal of the petition.

Shakhawat Hossain Bhuiyan, a Jubo League leader of Feni, filed the petition as public interest litigation with the HC on June 8, 2014 praying to the court to declare Nizam disqualified for contesting the parliamentary polls and holding the office as a lawmaker because of his alleged forgery in getting early release from jail in a criminal case.

Quoting a newspaper report, Shakhawat in his petition said a Chittagong court sentenced Nizam to 10 years' imprisonment in an arms case on August 16, 2000. He surrendered to the court on September 14, 2000, and was sent

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Ershad says his power transition was legal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday claimed that he came to power in a constitutional way in 1982, and not through any illegal means.

"Some people say, I got the power in an unconstitutional way, but it's not true," said Ershad at a discussion making its "Constitution Protection Day" in the capital while other parties observed the day as "Democracy Restoration Day".

On this day, in 1990, the then dictator Ershad was forced to step down in the face of a mass uprising.

Ershad said the then president Abdus Sattar handed over the power to army, and as an army chief he got the power.

SPECIAL CHILD MARRIAGE PROVISION Society to go back 100yrs

Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Society will roll back 100 years if the proposed Child Marriage Restraint Act 2016 keeps the provision of allowing marriage of girls under 18 years under special circumstances, said rights activist Khushi Kabir yesterday.

The intention to marry a child is a sign of mental sickness, she told a discussion ActionAid Bangladesh organised as part of a two-day programme on "Breaking Barriers, Transforming Young Lives" at a hotel in the capital.

"We cannot bring equality without considering men and women as human beings," she said, adding that the provision might seem alright to the naked eye but was unacceptable.

Gender-based disparity begins at family level and is deep-rooted in society and a female child needs nourishment for growth but giving birth leads to extra physical

burden and a lack of nutrition, she said.

Getting a girl married before she gains maturity forces her to become a woman and deal with a lot of responsibilities and puts immense pressure on her mind, said Khushi.

Terming dowry a conventional problem, she said some families still took girls as a burden. She emphasised working with youths and schoolchildren to change the mindset towards women.

The special provision indicates that the nation's achievements throughout the years were about to be lost, said ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir, adding that Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved if child marriages cannot be stopped.

She also termed the practice of making rape victims marry the perpetrators "a capital punishment for the victim".

One Sabina Yasmin of Magura said she

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AG for uniform edu system to fight religious fanaticism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communalism is gradually spreading and Bangladesh needs a universal education system through which religious fanaticism can be fought and the new generation be taught secularism, said Attorney General Mahubub Alam yesterday.

"Until we become able to keep religion away from our state affairs, there will be no escape from the gradual progression towards religious fundamentalism... There is no way to be self-contented," he said.

He was addressing a discussion, "Bijaya Sommillion 2016", organised by Bangladesh Supreme Court Ainjibi Somity Bijoya Punormiloni Parishad at the Shaheed Shofur Rahman Auditorium of the Supreme Court.

"Religious zealotry is gradually gripping us. It's evident in our attire. We are moving away from our centuries-old culture," said

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7 Nigerians, another held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has arrested eight people, including seven Nigerians, on charges of fraudulence in the capital.

They are Ugochukwu Alfred alias William, Anukwu Donatus Eswealor, Chidi Ibewuikwe, Michael Onyedika Nneji, Obum Samuel Chukwu Dulo, Henry Esia, Anayo Ogagba and Bangladeshi Md Ariful Islam. The Nigerians are staying illegally, said Khandakar Lutful Kabir, commanding officer of Rab-4, at a press briefing yesterday.

Rab seized 22 mobile phones, one laptop, two modems, SIM cards, 3,500 Nigerian Naira, US\$301, and Tk 1.41 lakh from them.



Nagorik Samaj organises a "citizens' rally" on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital yesterday demanding restoration of the land rights of the Santal community in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila.

PHOTO:
STAR

HC summons DC over remark on Santal issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the Gaibandha deputy commissioner on December 12 to explain a derogatory remark he used in a report over the attack on Santals in Gobindaganj upazila submitted to it on November 30 following its earlier order.

Deputy Commissioner Md Abdus Samad will have to appear before the bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Krishna Debnath by 10:30am.

He had stated that Santal people and "Bangali miscreants" were locked in a clash with workers of Rangpur sugar mill on November 6.

Hearing a writ petition yesterday, the HC said the Pakistani occupation forces used languages, including "Bangali dushkritikari" (Bangalee miscreants).

The bench also ordered the Gaibandha superintendent of police and Gobindaganj Police Station officer-in-charge to produce

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