

No need for gazette notification

Decides the president on disciplinary, conduct rules for lower court judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The president has decided that there is no need for issuing a gazette notification on the disciplinary and conduct rules for lower court judges.

Law ministry yesterday issued a notification about the president's decision.

The president has decided that there is no need for publishing the draft proposed by the Supreme Court for the amendment of a separate conduct rules and discipline rules for the judicial officials and Bangladesh Judicial Service (service making, appointment to the service post, dismissal, suspension and removal) Rules, 2007 in the Bangladesh gazette, the law ministry notification signed by its senior assistant secretary Mostaque Ahamed read.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had ordered the law ministry several times to finalise the rules determining the disciplinary and conduct rules for the lower court judges as per its directives and issue a gazette notification in this regard.

On December 6, the Appellate Division of the SC also ordered two

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In tears, parents of Swetchhasebak League leader Manik hold a photo of their son and daughter-in-law after he got shot in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Ctg AL leader

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with local criminal Rana over establishing supremacy in Alkaran area. Rana is also accused in five to six cases, said Officer-in-Charge of Sadarghat Police Station Morjina Akter.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Abdur Rahim of Kotwali Circle of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) said Rana and Manik had a feud over possession of a shop in Sahebpara. They filed separate cases against each other. Rana was in jail and came out on bail about a month ago, he added.

Quoting detained Rana, the police said Rana along with Suman and Kaliya was returning from court on a rickshaw after testifying in case yesterday.

When their rickshaw reached Sadarghat Kali Mandir, a group of 10 to 12 people led by Manik, stopped them. The three made a run for it in different directions. When Rana reached Alkaran intersection in front of GPO, Manik's associates Rafiq and Aslam caught and shot him.

During the scuffle, Manik was also bullet-hit, said the police, who detained Rana with an injury mark in his leg.

Manik was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

Manik's brother Belal Hossain Hira alleged that Rana shot his brother dead because as Manik used to protest Rana's drug dealing and gambling.

Police said they were investigating the matter.

Humiliated, she took

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The other arrestees are Ismail Hossain, a village guard, Joydev Kumar Das, and Hasan Ali, owner of the shop where the girl had gone to have her mobile phone account recharged.

Talking to the correspondent, Ariful Islam, the victim's brother-in-law, said Afroza went to a shop at Sonabaria Bazar on Friday afternoon to recharge her phone account.

Locals held her along with one Palash and accused them of having an "objectionable relationship". They tied the two with ropes and took them to the chairman's office, he alleged.

In the name of arbitration, Chairman Monirul rebuked them and beat them up. Later, he let them go, Ariful claimed.

After returning home, embarrassed and tormented Afroza committed suicide by hanging herself

around Saturday noon, he added.

Emdadul Haque Sheikh, officer-in-charge of Kolaroa Police Station, said the arrestees were sent to court.

Chairman Monirul, however, refuted the allegation of beating up the girl. He claimed that guard Ismail and others brought the two before him. He told them off and let them go.

Ismail claimed that after he informed Monirul about the duo, the chairman asked him to take them to his place. Monirul then beat the boy up and rebuked the girl and asked them to go home.

At least eight women became victims of so-called village arbitrations in the first nine months this year. The number was 12 last year, according to Ain o Salish Kendra.

The documents of the rights body show the arbitrations were mainly conducted by local influentials, including the ruling party men and elected representatives.

Terror attacks kill 140 in 4 countries

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Vodafone Arena stadium and Macka park at around 2230 local time," according to a TAK statement published on its website.

In Egypt, a bomb blast tore through a church near Cairo's Coptic cathedral during a service yesterday, killing at least 25 people in the deadliest attack in recent memory on the country's Christian minority.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing but Coptic Christians, who make up about 10 percent of Egypt's population, have been previously targeted in jihadist attacks.

At least 31 people were also wounded in the blast, the health ministry said, as the attack drew condemnation from political and religious leaders and led President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to declare three days of national mourning.

The bombing hit around 10:00 am at the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church, which is adjacent to Saint Mark's Cathedral, the seat of the

Coptic pope Tawadros II.

In Yemen, 48 soldiers were killed in a suicide bombing claimed by the Islamic State group in the southern port city of Aden, officials said yesterday in an updated casualty toll.

"We have 48 dead and 29 wounded," all soldiers, Abdel Nasser al-Wali, health department chief for Aden, told AFP, revising an earlier toll of 35 dead.

The bomber detonated his explosives belt as hundreds of troops had gathered to collect their monthly pay at a barracks in Al-Sawlaban near Aden's international airport.

IS claimed responsibility. "A martyr from the Islamic State detonated his explosives belt in Al-Sawlaban military camp in Aden during a gathering of the Yemeni army," the IS-affiliated Amaq news outlet said.

In Somalia, a suicide truck bomb hit the entrance of the country's biggest port yesterday, killing at least 29 people, police said, an attack claimed by Islamist al-Shabaab militants.

The fighters said they were trying to disrupt protracted parliamentary elections - part of efforts to rebuild the fractured nation after decades of war. The three-month vote is due to end on Dec 29.

Gunfire rang out after the blast at Mogadishu Port, Mohamed Hussein, a worker there, told Reuters. Two others said work had been halted and staff sent home.

The bodies of victims lay strewn outside the capital's terminal in a street filled with rubble from damaged tea shops.

"At least 29 civilians died and 50 others have been injured in the blast. We believe it was a suicide truck bomb," police officer Colonel Abdikadir Farah told Reuters.

SUICIDE ATTACK AT NIGERIA MARKET

Two girls approximately seven or eight years old blew themselves up in a northeastern Nigerian market yesterday, killing themselves and wounding at least 17 others, witnesses said.

The girls were "seven or eight", a local militia member in Maiduguri, Abdulkarim Jabo, told AFP.

Emergency services on-site in the town, the epicentre of the Boko Haram jihadist insurgency, said 17 people sustained injuries.

Maiduguri militia-man Jabo said he saw the girls yesterday immediately before the explosion. "They got out of a rickshaw and walked right in front of me without showing the slightest sign of emotion," he said.

"I tried to speak with one of them, in Hausa and in English, but she didn't answer. I thought they were looking for their mother," he added.

"She headed toward the poultry sellers, and then detonated her explosives belt."

The attack was not immediately claimed by Boko Haram but bore all the hallmarks of the jihadists, who have regularly used women and young girls to carry out suicide attacks in their seven-year insurgent campaign in the troubled region.

Noor praises Faraaz's bravery

A CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor yesterday lauded Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain for his supreme sacrifice during the July 1 terror attack on the Gulshan Holey Artisan Bakery.

The young man stood up against the terrorists and refused to desert his friends that day. He was eventually killed along with 20 hostages, including 17 foreigners.

"Faraaz was a meritorious youth and a patriot who sacrificed his life for his friends. He had the chance but he did not leave his friends. This Bangladesh is Faraaz's Bangladesh. Bangabandhu dreamt of such a Bangladesh," Noor said.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a programme at Durgapur upazila in Netrakona. Khudro Nri-gosti Cultural Academy at Birishiri organised the programme at Garo Baptist Convention Field to mark "Owagala", a traditional festival to hail the new crops and harvest.

Noor said the country achieved

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Fire breaks out in Sat Tala Bosti

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at a slum in the capital's Mohakhali early today.

The fire broke out around 1:00am at Sat Tala Bosti. Thirteen fire engines were trying to douse it, a fire service official told The Daily Star around 2:00am.

No casualties were reported as of 1:30am, Md Wahiduzzaman, an inspector of Banani Police Station, told The Daily Star.

At least 500 shanties were destroyed in a fire that broke out in Korail-Boubajar slum in Mohakhali on December 4.

The making of 'Blockade'

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away in the USA.

A small group of peace activists and some expat Bangalis in Philadelphia, in defiance to the then US government's policy on supporting the Pakistani military dictatorship, staged non-violent protests against the brutal oppression on Bangalis.

With canoes and dinghies, the Americans and their Bangladeshi friends, risking their lives, surrounded a Pakistani freighter and stopped it from reaching the Port of Baltimore for collecting weapons. The ship was being used for supplying arms to Pakistan.

The non-violent protest received a huge national media interest and made a substantial impact on public opinion.

Nearly four decades after that, an expatriate Bangladeshi filmmaker living in New Jersey, USA, pieced together the extraordinary event of human conscious and compassion, and made a documentary called "Blockade".

Based on a book with the same title written by Richard K Taylor, a Philadelphia resident and co-founder of Witness for Peace, which works in Central America, Arif Yousuf worked some eight long years to reproduce the otherwise little-known episode of the history on video.

In this venture, his friend Tasbir Imam, a native of Washington DC, worked with him.

"I've been very enthusiastic about the history of our Liberation War. I had long cherished to work on this tiny part of this vast history," said Arif, the director and producer of the documentary.

An IT executive in New York, Arif, who is in his late 40s, spoke about his love for films and history as he shared with The Daily Star during his visit to Dhaka last month the story behind the making of Blockade.

"My personal interests in films and history worked together here and I wanted to see if I can express myself through a new medium in a new way," he said.

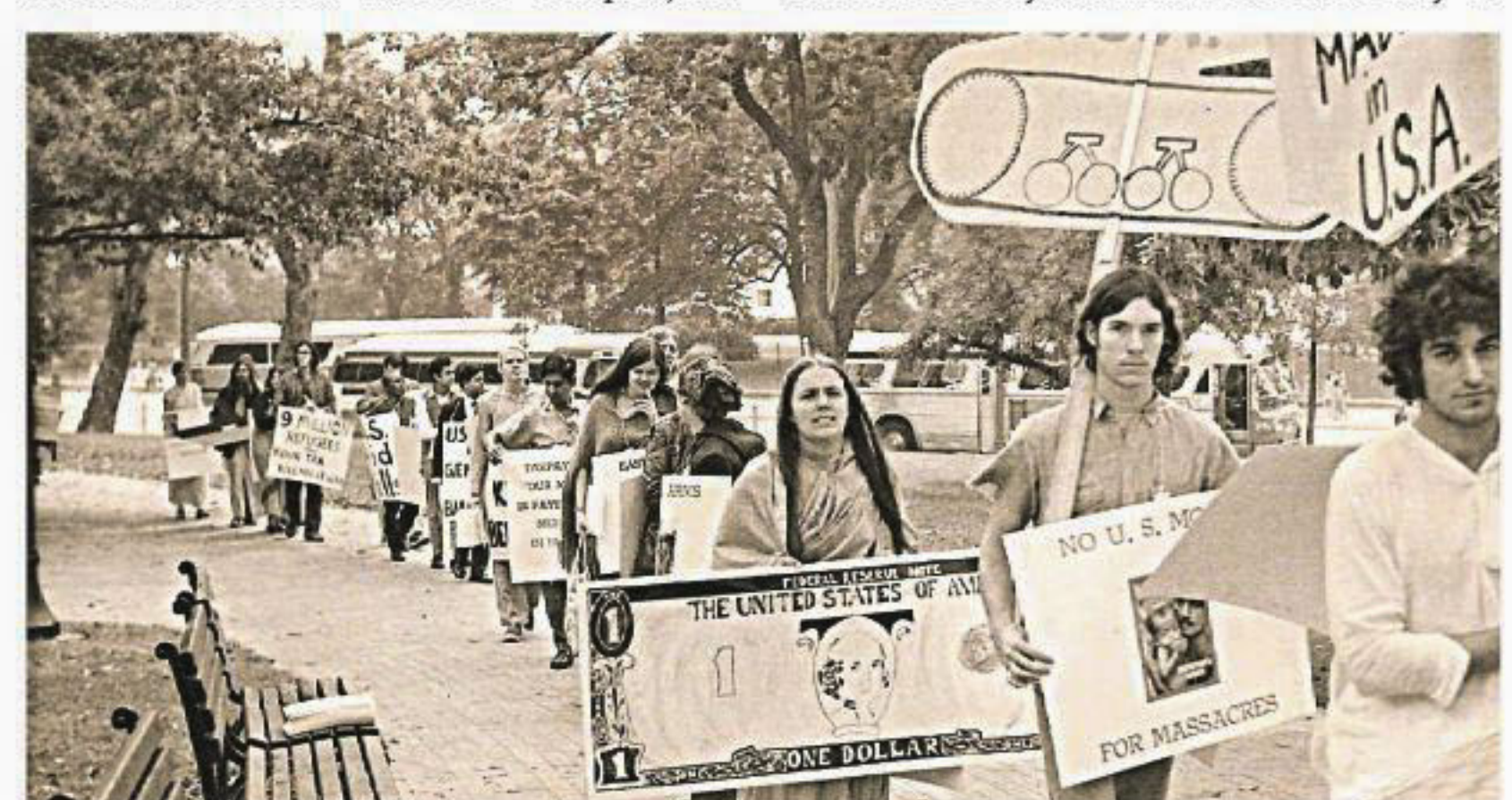
Created through a private initiative and self funding, the 85-minute documentary contains interviews and reminiscences of some of the blockade participants, chiefly three -- Richard K Taylor and his wife Phyllis Taylor, and Sultana Alam, a Bangladeshi expatriate.

The film has rare news clips, video footage and photographs of the non-violent protest.

Arif first came to know about the incident in 2007 from an article written by US-based journalist and author Hasan Ferdous. Arif and his friends -- Adib Rashid Mamun and Mridul Chowdhury -- found the canoe blockade story so fascinating that they decided to make a documentary on it.

Arif contacted Hasan Ferdous right away and got the phone number of Richard Taylor, Ziauddin Ahmed of Philadelphia also knew many of the activists and introduced them for interviews. After some exchanges over phone, Arif finally managed to get time from some of them.

His work began in 2008. Initially, Mridul and Adib were on the project.



Protesters chant slogans in Philadelphia against the US helping Pakistan during the Liberation War in 1971.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ARIF YOUSUF

They started taking interviews. Arif took the interview of Sultana, who used to teach part-time in universities in Philadelphia and Middletown in 1971, in Dhaka in December, 2008.

"But after interviewing them, I came to know that the protest was not the only event that happened at that time. There were many other events linked to the incident. I thought of making a serious documentary then," Arif said.

But making the documentary was challenging and daunting. His project was stalled for some time after Mridul and Adib moved back to Dhaka by the end of 2008. However, in early 2010, Arif got Tasbir on board.

Tasbir filmed various Bangladeshi American issues over the years. The

events of the Liberation War deeply impacted his family like many other Bangalis.

The duo started working on the project. Arif concentrated on research work--where and how to get the photos, videos and the tiny details of the incident while Tasbir looked after the technical parts -- editing and postproduction.

"Actually we worked really hard to collect the materials. The incident took place a long time ago and telling the story after so many years was difficult," said Arif.

"We thought it would be boring if the movie was made only on the basis of interviews."

So, they started searching for photos, documents and other materials on the incident. They shuttled from one city to

photos," Arif said.

But putting together all these materials was as challenging as collecting them.

Both of Arif and Tasbir were not professional filmmakers. They spent many nights on their storyboard, discussing how the story could be told in the best way. Their friend Sujjan E Bin Wadud living in Silicon Valley California composed the wonderful original music and score for the film.

However, doing the technical job and managing the finance was another big challenge. Their location turned out to be a hurdle too. They lived in two separate cities and had to manage time out of their busy daily work.

But, they were determined. "We worked whenever we got time and sit together for two to three straight days whenever possible," said Arif.

"I have learned many things while making the film. I was deeply touched by the fact that people do many things for humanitarian causes."

The documentary was first screened before an invited audience in Philadelphia on this January 30 in presence of Richard and Phyllis Taylor, and several other blockade participants.

Blockade was also screened in some other states in the USA.

There were several screenings of the documentary in Dhaka as well. And the response Arif got was excellent.

"It is a film that has been made primarily by two persons on the basis of some interviews and people are watching it. It means a lot to us."

Arif wishes to work more on the stories on the Liberation War and the South Asian history.

"I want to work on the stories which are rarely told. With the experience from Blockade, I hope my next project would not take eight years to complete," he said.

He also said he has plans to release the documentary online. "We don't have a fixed date for its release yet."

"We've plans to dub the documentary in Bangla depending on the funds. Several TV channels in Bangladesh also expressed interests in airing it," he said.

Breath

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Apart from the two major mayor candidates, central leaders of both the AL and the BNP are campaigning for their candidates. The leaders too were not using abusive language or attacking their rival candidates during the campaign.

"The candidates have shown good gestures which will introduce a positive political culture in the city," said Enamul Haq Khokon, a lawyer at Narayanganj district court.

During the maiden NCC elections in 2011, a tense situation prevailed in the city as two mayoral hopefuls -- Shamim Osman and Ivy -- had engaged in mudslinging and character assassination.

Both of them had brought allegations of violating code of conduct against each other, which was widely reported in the media.

Visiting different areas in the city corporation, The Daily Star correspondents did not see any poster of the candidates on the roadside walls, median strips and trees.

Even supporters of the two contenders did not complain about posters being torn up by rival candidates' men, which was common during previous polls.

No loudspeakers were used and supporters of the candidates were seen using megaphone, seeking voters' blessings.

On the election atmosphere, Ivy said she wants a free, fair and peaceful environment.

Her counterpart Shakhawat said he does not want to use political vengeance or character assassination as a tool to woo voters.

Dilip Kumar Sarkar, central coordinator of Shushasoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a citizens' platform advocating good governance, said, "The reason why there is no major incident of violation of electoral code of conduct so far is because there are no controversial mayor candidates. Most of them are known as decent people."

He also expressed hope that there would be no major incident of electoral code of conduct violation this time. "The Election Commission has so far managed to ensure a level playing field for the candidates."

"We haven't seen any personal attack, character assassination and mudslinging among the mayor hopefuls," he added.