

Judge embarrassed to hear Moudud's plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court judge yesterday felt embarrassed to hear a petition filed by former BNP law minister Moudud Ahmed challenging the legality of the trial proceedings of Niko corruption case against him.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim, who led a HC division bench, felt embarrassed citing his personal difficulties.

Now the bench will send the petition to the chief justice and after receiving the petition Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha will assign another bench for its hearing. Anti Corruption Commission lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star. Earlier on December 1 last year, the HC stayed the trial proceedings against Moudud in the case and issued a rule asking the ACC and the government to explain as to why the proceedings against Moudud should not be quashed.

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Left, valuables being removed from the DCC market in the capital's Gulshan while firefighters, right, still working yesterday to douse the fire which originated from a transformer blast Tuesday night. More than 300 shops were gutted and eventually a portion of the building collapsed following the blaze.



PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

Why not evaluate answers using competent teachers?

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to evaluate the answer sheets of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations by competent

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Defend rights of your domestic workers

Seminar urges employers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday sought help from employers of domestic workers to ensure the rights of the workers and stop violence against them.

Most of the households in urban areas have at least one domestic help each; so, violence against them cannot be stopped until the employers come forward, said Habibur Rahman Shiraz, chairman of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS).

The Domestic Workers' Rights Network (DWRN) organised the seminar in the capital's Jatiya Press Club, marking the anniversary of the Domestic Help Protection and Welfare Policy-2015.

The organisations working under DWRN will organise several programmes in this month including rally, seminar, discussion and distribution of leaflets and posters to households in Dhaka, to raise awareness among the house owners and motivate them to protect the rights of domestic workers.

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Spend more on education

Demands Brac-Copenhagen Consensus Centre seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More budget allocation for education is needed as the return on investment in it is more compared to other sectors, discussants told a seminar yesterday.

They said high dropout rates at secondary school and lack of quality education remain key challenges while sufficient budget allocation can play a vital role in achieving due results.

In terms of percentage of GDP, the country spends only around 2 percent for education, which remained almost static for the last one decade. The allocation of budget for education is 2.4 percent of the GDP for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Brac in association with Copenhagen Consensus Centre arranged the seminar on "Bangladesh Education Policy Priorities" in Brac Centre Inn in Dhaka.

In his keynote paper on "Promotion of Girls' Education, Delayed Age at First Birth, and Child Nutritional Status in Bangladesh", North South University Assistant Professor Ahsan Zaman said more investment is required for female education as it can prevent child marriage. Dhaka University Associate Professor Atonu Rabbani, in his keynote paper, focused on investment in early childhood development.

DU Professor SM Hafizur Rahman presented a keynote paper emphasising establishing more educational institutions in remote areas. Shafiqul Islam, director of Brac Education Programme, said with changing employment pattern for technological development it is important to conduct research on what will be the basic alignment of skill development in future. Primary and Mass Education Minister Advocate

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Sylhet mayor out on bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Suspended mayor of Sylhet City Corporation Ariful Haque Chowdhury was freed on bail yesterday afternoon, hours after a Sylhet court sent his bail order to jail.

He got out of the Sylhet Central Jail around 4:50pm, Abu Sayem, Jailer of Sylhet Central Jail.

The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday upheld the High Court (HC) orders that granted bail to Ariful Haque Chowdhury and Habiganj Municipality Mayor Golam Kibria Gaus in two separate cases.

A four-member bench of

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EC FORMATION

President talks to 2 more parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday held dialogues with Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal (M-L) (BSD) and Bangladesh National Awami Party at Bangabhaban on formation of the next Election Commission (EC).

Meanwhile, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the ministry's legislative division can quickly prepare a draft law for constituting the EC if the president gives the order.

He was talking to journalists after the inaugural of a training course for the lower court judges at the capital's Judicial Administrators Training Centre.

BSD placed a nine-point proposal. One was for promulgating an ordinance, if necessary, to enact the law in line with the constitution where there will be a constitutional council comprising the prime minister, opposition leader, Speaker, chief justice and attorney general.

The council will propose names to the president for his

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Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina along with Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders cuts a cake in the capital's Gono Bhaban yesterday, marking the pro-AL student organisation's 69th founding anniversary.

PHOTO: BSS

Jannatbagh slum demolition stayed for six months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the eviction of Jannatbagh slum in the capital's Mohammadpur for next six months.

The court also issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks as to why the eviction activities without issuing any prior notice to the slum dwellers should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman gave the order and rule following a petition filed by three slum dwellers in assistance with Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) challenging the legality of the eviction drive.

BLAST lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has evicted some slum dwellers without any notice.

The DNCC now cannot evict the slum dwellers following the HC order, he said.

SIMI BANU SUICIDE

Examine court's verdict: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday cleared the way for examining whether the metropolitan magistrate court's verdict, in the case filed for abetting fine arts college student Simi Banu to kill herself 16 years ago, was correct or not.

Simi, 21, a final year student of Narayanganj Institute of Fine Arts, killed herself at her Khilgaon Siphahibagh residence on December 23, 2001 after she was tormented by a

gang of hooligans.

She had left a note saying Khalil Doel, Ripon, Mofazzal, and Sub-Inspector Abul Bashar of Khilgaon Police Station, who abetted them, were responsible for her death.

A metropolitan magistrate in Dhaka in 2002 acquitted Enayet -- an accused of the case -- of the charge and sentenced five others to one year's imprisonment in the case.

Yesterday, the Appellate Division of the SC asked the sessions judge's court

in Dhaka to treat the appeal of Simi's father against the metropolitan magistrate's verdict as revision and to settle it through holding hearing.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order after disposing an appeal filed by the accused against a High Court verdict to this effect.

Following the apex court order, the sessions judge's court will examine

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The Daily Star

18th 'O' & 'A' Level

Award Presentation Ceremony, 2015-2016

Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates and Schools

Private Candidates
Private candidates who fulfill the criteria described below are requested to register their names at *The Daily Star* for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows:

Criteria for 'O' Level
Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings within May/June 2015 to May/June 2016

Criteria for 'A' Level
Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2015 to May/June 2016)

Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Sheikh Yasir Arafat at *The Daily Star* 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, with their **original Results Certificates and a photocopy and 2 (two) passport-size photographs** in person on **29,30 or 31 January, 2017**, between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm.

Schools
Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted by *The Daily Star* (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact Mr. Sheikh Yasir Arafat at *The Daily Star* (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215), on the aforementioned dates and times or email him at o.alevel.tds@gmail.com by 28th January, 2017, with:

- The name of the school, phone number of a responsible representative and a valid email address that is checked regularly.

The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of results certificates for each candidate.

No registration will be allowed or accepted after 5:00 pm of 28th January, 2017.

NOTE: If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please communicate the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony as well.

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