



EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS HC yet to dispose of three rules

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has yet to dispose of three rules issued at different times in the last 10 years questioning the legality of extrajudicial killings in law enforcers' custody.

Usually, the HC comes up with a verdict after hearing arguments from the counsels concerned upon reply from the respondents to such a rule.

But the court could not reach a settlement as the jurisdictions of judges of its benches concerned were changed by the then chief justices after the rules were issued.

The chief justice reconstitutes the jurisdictions of HC judges as a routine work under the High Court Rules.

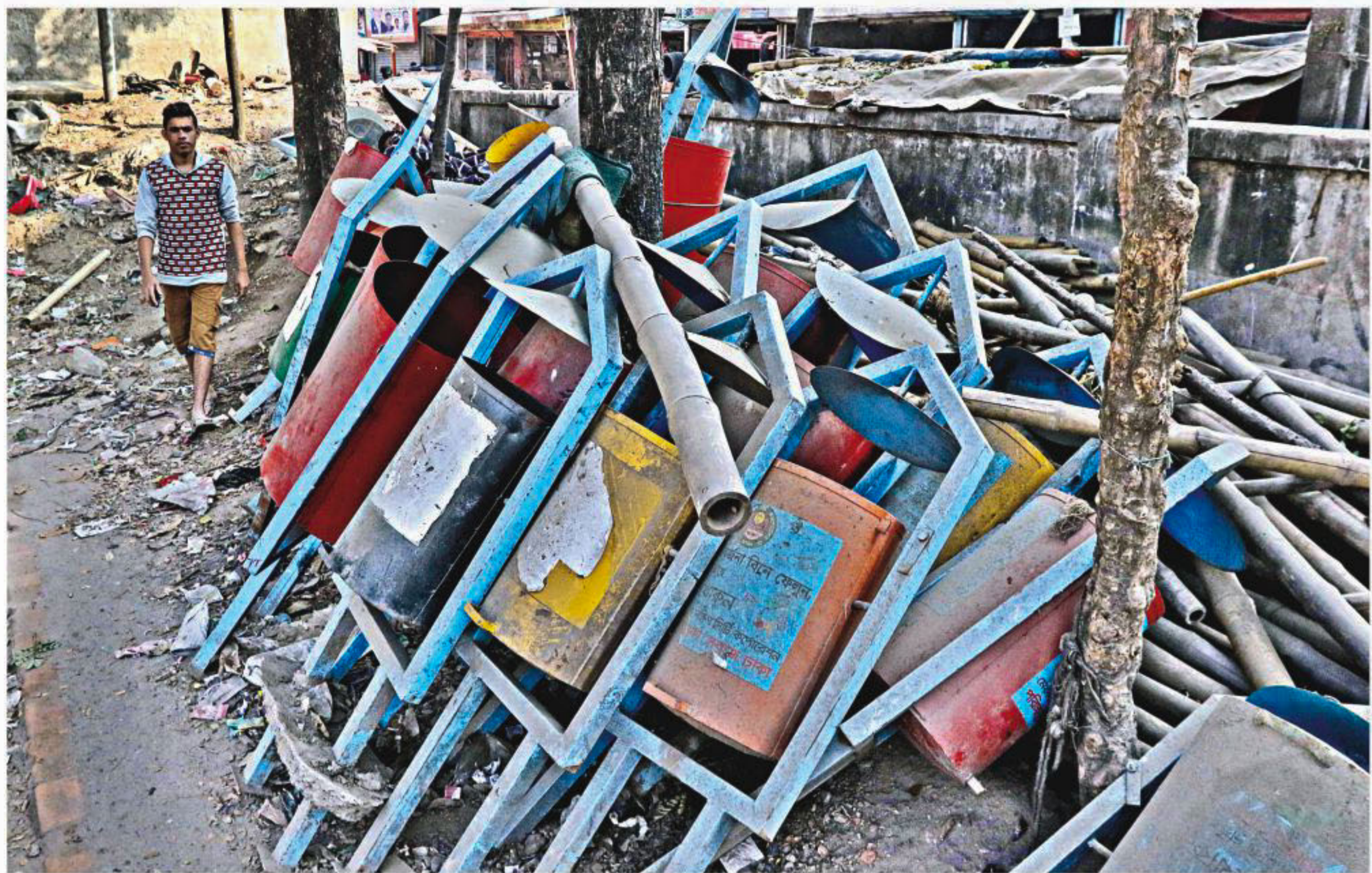
In the three rules, the HC asked the authorities to explain why they should not be directed to ensure protection of people held in custody and why custodial death should not be declared illegal.

Had the HC delivered a judgment on the rules, there might have been directives for the authorities to ensure protection of the accused in law enforcers' custody, some legal experts say.

According to the lawyers concerned, the authorities have yet to reply to the HC rules as no date was fixed for the hearings.

Contacted, Attorney General Mahubey Alam told The

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GOOD JOB GOING WRONG

Bins taken out from city streets are dumped in Bangladesh Math in Old Dhaka. Two city corporations of Dhaka had set up those on streets to get people into the habit of using dustbins and keep the city clean. But poor maintenance and theft of many bins are apparently spoiling the good initiative. Top left, a bin crammed with trash near the BSMU in Shahbagh. A bin holder without the bin near the city's Bangla Motor intersection. The photos were taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Photo journo Zia under 48-hr observation

Case filed over the hit-and-run incident; police arrest accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zia Islam, chief photojournalist of daily Prothom Alo, who was critically injured after his motorbike was hit by a car on Monday, underwent a major surgery at the city's Apollo Hospital yesterday.

Citing physicians of the hospital, a senior reporter of the daily said Zia underwent the four-hour operation and his life support was taken off.

Doctors kept him under 48-hour observation, he added.

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Senate begins to grill Trump picks

Choice for attorney general rejects racism charges at confirmation hearing; outrage as son-in-law named senior White House adviser

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump's choice for attorney general yesterday vehemently denied accusations of racism against him, as the US Senate launched confirmation hearings for key nominees to the Republican president-elect's cabinet.

Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama was the first of a parade of nominees set to go before their Republican and Democratic Senate peers this week, as Trump seeks to get some of his top people into place before taking office on January 20.

Sessions, whose nomination has drawn fierce pushback from Democrats, swiftly sought to tamp down a swell of criticism of his civil rights record, which has threatened to upend his bid to become the nation's top law enforcement official.

"These are damnably false charges," he told a packed Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, referring to accusations about alleged racially charged comments he made in the 1980s toward and about African Americans when he was a federal prosecutor.

"This caricature of me in 1986 was not correct," Sessions said, referring to the period when his federal judgeship nomination collapsed amid what he called "an organized effort" of racism accusations.

"I did not harbour the kind of animosity and race-based ideas that I was accused of. I did not."

Sessions pointed to his involvement in several high-profile civil rights cases in his district, including one in which he successfully prosecuted a member of the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan group for murdering a young black man.

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AWAMI LEAGUE RALLY City commuters suffer for lack of transport

STAR REPORT

City dwellers suffered badly yesterday for shortage of public transport and traffic restrictions imposed on some major streets due to an Awami League rally at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

A large number of buses and minibuses were reserved for the rally-goers, leading to the transport crisis across the city.

Many of the sufferers, including commuters, school-goers and patients, waited for vehicles for hours while the others walked to their destination.

The streets near the rally venue were completely choked with processions and vehicles carrying AL supporters, leading to traffic gridlock in other parts of the city.

The party organised the rally to mark the Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

As per its previous announcement, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police diverted and restricted traffic movement on different roads of the capital, particularly around the Suhrawardy Udyan.

Many city dwellers did not come out, fearing a traffic nightmare yesterday.

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Spotify offers Obama job



AFP, New York

If President Barack Obama is still wondering what to do when he leaves office next week, he has a ready job offer -- from Spotify.

The world's leading streaming service on Monday advertised an opening for "President of Playlists" -- and said it was looking for someone with "at least eight years experience running a highly regarded nation."

If it wasn't any more obvious whom Spotify was seeking for the New York-based position, it asked for an applicant with "good team spirit, excellent work ethic, a friendly and warm attitude and a Nobel Peace Prize."

The company said the President of Playlists would come up with songs to suit occasions from "shooting hoops with your friends" to warming up

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Reporter hailed for 'scoop of the century' dies at 105

AFP, Hong Kong

Veteran British war correspondent Clare Hollingworth, who broke the news that the Second World War had started, died in Hong Kong yesterday aged 105.

Hollingworth later reported from many of the 20th century's troublespots, witnessing the horrors of war in Vietnam, Algeria, the Middle East, India and Pakistan, as well as the

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 11
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-00
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-40 7-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Mother, two children found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young mother killed her two little kids, aged five and three, and then committed suicide in the capital's Darussalam yesterday, police suspect.

The motive is unclear, but it appears she may have some family grievances.

The victims are Anika, 21, her daughter Shamima and son Abdullah.

Police found Anika's body hanging from the ceiling and those of the two children lying on the bed, their throats slit open by a kitchen knife.

The door of the tin-shed house was locked from the inside, said Faruk-ul-Alam, inspector (investigation) of Darussalam Police Station.

Deaths of children at the hands of their parents have been on the rise in recent years. In the first 10 months of last year, at least 57 children were killed by their parents. In 2015, at least 40 children faced similar fate, according to Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum.

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Md Shahjahan, 28, waits for customers at his tea stall on the custom-built three-wheeler. The man from Chandpur had lost the use of his legs after a disease when he was two and a half years old. Three years ago, he bought the wheeler chair with financial help from others and started selling tea in different areas of the capital. He now makes around Tk 300 a day. The photo was taken in the city's Chankharpool area yesterday.

TEXTBOOK ERRORS Action after investigation Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would take actions against those responsible for the errors in school textbooks and measures for correcting those following findings of the probes, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said yesterday.

"We're waiting for the probe reports. Once we get the reports, we'll take measures on the basis of the findings..." he told reporters at a press briefing at his ministry's conference room in the secretariat.

"Those who have made the mistakes do not deserve to be spared," he said.

Two probe committees have been formed in the wake of widespread criticism over some embarrassing blunders in school textbooks, especially at the primary level.

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) formed a committee on January 6, and the secondary and higher secondary division of the education ministry another three-member probe body on Monday to find out the errors and those responsible for them.

Meanwhile, the NCTB yesterday suspended one of its artist/designer, Sujaul Abedin, on the basis of its preliminary investigation.

About the mistakes, the minister said, "There are some errors [in the textbooks], and there might be in the future. Angels do not make mistakes, human beings do."

He, however, said some mistakes should have been averted.

"Getting the NCTB's preliminary investigation report, we promptly made two officers OSD [officer on special duty] for the mistakes which should not have happened," Nahid said.

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