

BNP suggested

FROM PAGE 1

him to withdraw the comment. President Abdul Hamid held talks with 31 political parties on forming the next EC. The BNP during its meeting with the president proposed some names for the search committee but neither the party nor the Bangabhaban disclosed those.

The country's political arena had gone from bad to worse when the last BNP government extended the retirement age of judges, resulting in Justice KM Hasan being in line to head then next caretaker government.

Addressing a programme at Mahanagar Natyamancha, Quader said, "You [Khaleda] have proposed the name of ex-chief justice KM Hasan, whom you wanted to make your chief adviser, to be included in the search committee. Was not KM Hasan the international affairs adviser of the BNP? Then who is neutral? Who is biased?"

Just a few hours later at a programme in the capital, Fakhrul said, "It is my question whether the Awami League or Mr Quader have any secret link to the president? Various political parties are taking part in the discussion and making proposals. Will the president form the search committee after talking to them [AL]?"

"If so, then there is no need to form any search committee. People will not accept that sort of search committee. People will not accept any search committee or Election Commission loyal to the Awami League," he said.

"Obaidul Quader's statement is totally false. I think he should withdraw his comment," he said.

Quader said the government would not interfere in the formation of the EC.

He said the people the president would name would not be open supporters of the Awami League or the BNP. "What the BNP had done, the Awami league will not do."

President Hamid had finished talks with the political parties and he is likely to form the search committee soon.

Outlawed

FROM PAGE 16

criminals picked him up from his home Saturday night.

Later, Kubad's body was found on a char of the Padma river in Badlapara area around noon yesterday.

"Criminals hacked him to death and dumped the body," the OC said, adding that the body of Kubad was sent to Pabna Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Man serving

FROM PAGE 16

In the report, they recommended filing a fraud case against Bhutto, his lawyer Shah Alam, Bakul's brother, apprentice lawyer Shamim Ahmed and a middleman Liaquat Hossain and asked the District Bar Council to take action against the lawyer and apprentice lawyer as soon as possible.

Hannan told reporters at the court. The district administration office should get rid of middlemen, the investigators said.

The issue came to light after Bhutto disclosed his real identity to the authorities of Sylhet Central Jail.

In June, 2012, three accused -- Doras Miah alias Goyas, his wife Ruzina Begum and Iqbal Hossain Bakul of Hausa village under Sylhet sadar upazila -- were given life imprisonment in the murder case.

According to legal papers, "Bakul" surrendered before the court on October 11, 2015 and the court sent him to jail.

After languishing 14 months in prison, "Bakul" told the jail authority that he is Ripon Ahmed Bhutto, a truck driver, of Syed Mugni Residential Area in Sylhet city.

Erroneous

FROM PAGE 16

Quasar, a school teacher, said earlier that since there is no Bangladesh mission in Assam, they submitted visa applications to the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala, the capital of Tripura, through a local broker on December 23 last year.

They got their visas on January 9 and went to Zakiganj port four days later. As they approached the Indian immigration, officials there identified the mistake in Baharul's visa.

The issuance date was "05-02-17 (February 5, 2017)" and the last date of entry "04-01-17 (January 4, 2017)".

The brothers immediately contacted an official of the high commission by phone, but the official rejected the complaint and blamed them for the error.

They then submitted the passport for correction on January 14.

Suktan Ahmed, an official of the high commission, said the mistake occurred as a large number of visas were issued for people who wanted to attend Biswa Jhema in Tongi of Gazipur.

He regretted the mistake.

This newspaper earlier ran a report titled "Comedy of error".

Quasar on his Facebook page thanked The Daily Star for drawing the authorities' attention to the matter.

The brothers have planned to travel to Bangladesh on January 28.

May braces for new Brexit

battle over court ruling

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Theresa May faces a landmark court ruling on Tuesday that could put a dent in her Brexit plans by handing control of the process to restive lawmakers.

The Supreme Court will decide whether she can use her executive power to begin formal talks on leaving the EU, or whether she must seek prior approval from parliament.

The 11 judges are widely expected to back an earlier High Court ruling that the magnitude of Brexit means the process to instigate it can only be introduced through formal legislation.

May has promised to trigger Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon treaty, beginning two years of divorce talks, by the end of March.

In the event they lose the case, ministers are preparing to rush emergency legislation through the Houses of Commons and Lords.

Opponents would almost certainly table amendments to try to tie the government's hand in negotiations, for example on the rights of EU citizens already in Britain.

But the vote on Article 50 should pass, because although May has only a slim majority, the main opposition Labour party has agreed not to block it.

The Supreme Court ruling may yet create further complications, including whether the devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

must approve May's plans.

And this week May promised parliament a vote on the final Brexit deal -- raising the prospect, however remote, that MPs could reject it.

The original High Court decision in November drew outrage from Brexit supporters, who accused the claimants of trying to undo the result of last June's EU referendum.

One tabloid newspaper condemned the judges as "Enemies of the People" -- and tensions are still running high.

But Jo Murkens, associate law professor at the London School of Economics, said the case was about the limits of the government's "royal prerogative" powers.

"It would be much easier if the prime minister could just do as she pleased using prerogative power. The problem is that the courts have not allowed that since the 17th century," he told AFP.

He said a ruling against the government would be unlikely to bind its hands, but would clarify "there is a proper process and it's (through) parliament".

"If you've got a majority then you're in the clear -- but if you don't have a majority you've got a political problem," he told AFP.

The majority of MPs campaigned against Brexit, but most now accept it will happen -- and that the process will begin within weeks.

Send GD

FROM PAGE 16

against Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Salim Osman and others involved in humiliating the teacher.

While hearing the rule yesterday, the HC said the duty of law enforcers is to exercise the law impartially and without discrimination.

Nobody can take the law into own hands, the court said, adding that nobody is above the law and everybody is subject to the law and it is the spirit of rule of law.

MK Rahman, a Supreme Court lawyer who placed different newspaper reports on the incident before the court for an order on May 18 last year, yesterday told reporters that the judicial probe has not found any authentication of the allegation against Shyamal of making derogatory comments about religion in May last year.

The judicial probe has found it true that Shyamal was beaten up and forced to squat holding his ears, he said.

The CMM's court will now take legal steps based on the GD, judicial probe report and other relevant documents concerning the humiliation of the Narayanganj school-teacher, he added.

In the second week of May last year, a video clip went viral in the social media, showing how the headmaster of Piyar Sattar Latif High School in Narayanganj was humiliated and forced to squat holding his ears in presence of Salim Osman.

Civil servants

FROM PAGE 3

PMO has introduced the public administration award for good work, and is working on introducing an innovation award to encourage innovation by civil servants, he said.

Referring to the agreement, the principal secretary said there was a tendency of the ministries to set conservative targets so that they got good progress scores. But now is the time of sustainable development goals (SDGs), so ministries need to have ambitious goals, he added.

Dr Prajapati Trivedi, former secretary of Performance Management Division of India, suggested performance-based incentives to public officials to improve their performance.

He said each and every step of the government activities has to be transparent so that all officials responsible for certain jobs remain accountable.

"A good system can check 80 percent of corruption," he said. Malaysia's Performance Management and Delivery Unit Director Ravindran Devagunam said when people found the government fighting corruption and crimes, investors from home and abroad had confidence and made more investments driving the economy.

Such an effort by Malaysia in 2009 eventually led to creation of 3.3 million new jobs within a few years, he added.

Malaysia has developed systems where the government is less bureaucratic and the decisions made are more data-driven, Ravindran added.

PMO's Principal Coordinator (SDGs) Abul Kalam Azad, Cabinet Secretary Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Division Secretary (coordination and reforms) NM Zeaul Alam, Bhutan's head of governance performance system Chencho Dorji, and BIGD Executive Director Dr Sultan Hafeez Rahman also spoke.

Be cautious while

FROM PAGE 1

carried out the act being driven by greed and high ambition, he added.

"Although the incident caused temporary damage to the dignity of Rab to some extent, it could not tarnish the good image of the force as a whole," the public prosecutor said, adding the judge in the verdict praised the Rab and also rebuked the force.

CASE DOCUMENTS REACH HC The case documents and judgment reached the HC from the Narayanganj court as death reference. Additional Registrar of HC Sabbir Faiz told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We will now pray to Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha for his approval for preparing the paper book of the case. If the chief justice gives the approval, we will take steps for preparing the paper book for hearing the death reference," he said.

Sabbir further said it may take two months to prepare the paper book. Once it is ready, the chief justice might assign an HC bench for hearing the death reference.

He said each and every step of the government activities has to be transparent so that all officials responsible for certain jobs remain accountable.

"A good system can check 80 percent of corruption," he said. Malaysia's Performance Management and Delivery Unit Director Ravindran Devagunam said when people found the government fighting corruption and crimes, investors from home and abroad had confidence and made more investments driving the economy.

Such an effort by Malaysia in 2009 eventually led to creation of 3.3 million new jobs within a few years, he added.

Malaysia has developed systems where the government is less bureaucratic and the decisions made are more data-driven, Ravindran added.

PMO's Principal Coordinator (SDGs) Abul Kalam Azad, Cabinet Secretary Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Division Secretary (coordination and reforms) NM Zeaul Alam, Bhutan's head of governance performance system Chencho Dorji, and BIGD Executive Director Dr Sultan Hafeez Rahman also spoke.

Terrorism

FROM PAGE 2

"Compared to the other South Asian neighbours, terrorism here is relatively new, and is a largely homegrown phenomenon; he said, adding that over the last two decades, a number of militant groups have established their presence through violent acts of terrorism in the country.

"It's high time to deal with terrorism effectively to ensure a cohesive and secure society. We have to prepare really well for the tangible as well as intangible damages of possible terrorist events," Ruhul said.

Shafi Ahmed, general surgeon of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and Prof Raquibul Anwar, president and CEO of RAHETID, were the keynote speakers, while Commandant of Armed Forces Medical College Major General Md Fashiur Rahman and BUP Vice-Chancellor Major General Md Salahuddin Miaji were present at the event as special guests.

36 killed in India train accident

FROM PAGE 16

in the remote district of Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh state.

It came only two months after nearly 150 people were killed in a similar disaster, highlighting the malaise on a network which is one of the world's largest.

Saxena said government officials and emergency workers worked through the night to try to find survivors.

The spokesman said investigators were considering possible sabotage of the tracks by Maoist rebels, who he said were active in the area.

Police in Odisha, where the train was headed, dismissed any involvement by Maoist rebels known as Naxals in the derailment.

Television footage showed a line of carriages lying on their sides as rescuers in neon orange safety vests and hard hats tried to hoist passengers through the windows while locals looked on.

Mishra told the NDTV news network there were some 600 people in the carriages that derailed.

He added that 10 buses have been arranged for passengers who escaped injury to travel to the Odisha state capital of Bhubaneswar.

The train came off the track nearly 160 kilometres (100 miles) from Visakhapatnam, the nearest city to the accident site.

Rail traffic on the coast line has been suspended.

Chief ministers of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh expressed their grief over the latest tragedy, while Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu said he was rushing to the spot.

Prabhu announced compensation of 200,000 rupees (\$2,936) for the relatives of the dead and 50,000 for those injured.

India's railway network is still the main form of long-distance travel in the vast country, but it is poorly funded and deadly accidents occur relatively often.

On Friday 10 coaches of an express train were derailed in the western state of Rajasthan, leaving many passengers with minor injuries.

He added that 10 buses have been arranged for passengers who escaped injury to travel to the Odisha state capital of Bhubaneswar.

The train came off the track nearly 160 kilometres (100 miles) from Visakhapatnam, the nearest city to the accident site.

Rail traffic on the coast line has been suspended.

Chief ministers of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh expressed their grief over the latest tragedy, while Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu said he was rushing to the spot.

Prabhu announced compensation of 200,000 rupees (\$2,936) for the relatives of the dead and 50,000 for those injured.

India's railway network is still the main form of long-distance travel in the vast country, but it is poorly funded and deadly accidents occur relatively often.

On Friday 10 coaches of an express train were derailed in the western state of Rajasthan, leaving many passengers with minor injuries.

Why sand filling

FROM PAGE 16

further damage to the villagers so largely dependent on agriculture and ordered the developer for restoration of the arable land to the original state.

The sand filling was first launched by a real estate developer in 2009 for a resort city. It was then stopped for two years in the face of court injunction. But later it resumed for private Sonargaon Economic Zone.

The court yesterday also asked for explanation why legal action should not be taken against the respondents for non-compliance.

The respondents include secretaries to the ministries of housing and public works, land, environment and forests, and home affairs, deputy general, a director and a deputy director of the Department of Environment, deputy commissioner of Narayanganj, Sonargaon upazila nirbahi officer and assistant commissioner (land) of Sonargaon and managing directors of Unique Property Development Ltd and Sonargaon Economic Zone.

Chief Executive of Bela Syeda Rizwana Hasan said hearing on the contempt rule would continue this

week and the judgment would be delivered next week.

It may be noted that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on January 18 called upon the world community for greater emphasis on agriculture for food security to reduce risk of lives and livelihoods of farmers, fishermen and women at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos of Switzerland.

In April last year at Krishibid Institution, Hasina said her government would not allow indiscriminate industrialisation destroying cultivable land and forests.

Termining Bangladesh an agriculture-dependent country, the PM said the country will surely go for industrialisation, but not at the cost of agriculture. Industries would be accommodated in 100 special economic zones to be built across the country.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics findings, the country is losing agricultural land at a rate of around 1 percent every year and is feared to lose a third of its agricultural land in the next 25 years unless the trend is halted.

Global protests

FROM PAGE 16

had all slipped into a false sense of comfort, that justice would prevail and that good would win in the end."

It's been a heart-rending time to be both a woman and an immigrant in this country. Our dignity, our character, our rights have all been under attack and a platform of hate and division assumed power yesterday. But the president is not America. His cabinet is not America. Congress is not America. We are America. And we are here to stay," said Actress America Ferrara.

Actress Scarlett Johansson urged the president to listen to the people's voice: "Support my daughter who may actually, as a result of the appointments you have made, grow up in a county that is moving backwards, not forward, and who may potentially not have the right to make choices for her body and her future that your daughter Ivanka has been privileged to have."

Trump took to Twitter early yesterday to needle the protesters, including celebrities who took part.

"Watched protests yesterday but was under the impression that we just had an election! Why didn't these people vote? Celebs hurt cause badly," Trump tweeted.

A second, more formally worded, missive followed an hour later in which the Republican leader stressed that he respected the right to demonstrate.

"Peaceful protests are a hallmark of our democracy. Even if I don't always agree, I recognize the rights of people to express their views," he tweeted.

Historian Douglas Brinkley told CNN that people will always remember the inauguration and the march as momentous events.

More than half a million people packed the streets of Los Angeles, according to police there, and similar numbers gathered in New York. Other marches took place in Chicago, Dallas, San Francisco, St Louis, Denver and elsewhere.

In Boston, where up to 175,000 people demonstrated, fiery Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren took aim at Trump's campaign of "attacks" on women and minorities.

"We can whimper. We can whine. Or we can fight back!" Warren said to a loud roar.

Saturday's rallying cry was heard far beyond America's shores, with protests held from Paris to Prague, Sydney to Johannesburg, and in some 20 cities

across Canada.

March organisers said protests took place in more than 600 cities across the world.

One of the largest was in London, where tens of thousands of women, men and children marched chanting "Dump Trump."

Overall, the protesters were law-abiding, with police reporting only four arrests in 21 American cities. Nobody was arrested in Washington.

The march organizers believe more people came out Saturday for the protests than for Trump's inaugural events on Friday.

Not everyone agrees. Trump, in his first speech after the Inauguration, said the media undercounted the size of the crowd for his Friday swearing-in ceremony.

"I get up this morning, I turn on one of the networks, and they show an empty field. I'm like, wait a minute. I made a speech. I looked out, the field was, it looked like a million, million and a half people. They showed a field where there were practically nobody standing there. And they said, Donald Trump did not draw well," he said.

Trump said the unnamed network reported he drew 250,000 people.

Later Saturday, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer called his first press briefing and questioned the media's reporting on crowd sizes, saying the Trump inauguration was "the largest audience to ever witness an inauguration, period."

The protesters, which included many men, hit the streets for different reasons, among them health care, the future of the Affordable Care Act, the environment and income equality.

But Trump's stated attitudes toward women and his comments about judging women by their weight and appearance kept coming up, as did his now infamous remarks about grabbing women by their genitalia.

"That's just something that really angers me, and I don't think it has any place in my world," Maeve Kelly, 25 of Lambertville, New Jersey. "It feels like everything we have worked toward -- so we could vote and be successful -- is threatened now."

Leaders and activists from hundreds of left-leaning groups joined the march, including the NAACP, Planned Parenthood, the American Federation of Teachers, as well as pro-immigrant and pro-environment groups.

রেলওয়ে বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অতি সম্প্রতি বেশ কয়েকটি বহুল প্রচারিত জাতীয় দৈনিক বাংলা ও ইংরেজি পত্রিকা এবং টেলিভিশন চ্যানেলে বাঁশ ব্যবহার করে বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের সেতুসমূহ রক্ষণাবেক্ষণের বিষয়ে সংবাদ/প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশিত/প্রচারিত হয়, যা বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের দৃষ্টি গোচরিত হইয়াছে। রেল সেতুতে বিদ্যমান সেতু স্তীপার, ফিটিংস এবং অন্যান্য আনুষঙ্গিক বিষয়াদির সমন্বিত কারিগরি বিষয় বিবেচনা না করে শুধুমাত্র বাহ্যিক দৃষ্টিকোণ থেকে প্রকাশিত/প্রচারিত সংবাদ/প্রতিবেদন বহুনিষ্ঠ হয় না। এ ধরনের সংবাদ/প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশ/প্রচার জনমনে বিভ্রান্তি সৃষ্টি করে। দেশের রেল ব্যবস্থার উন্নয়ন ও পরিচালনার দায়িত্ব বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের উপর ন্যস্ত আছে। বিদ্যমান রেলওয়ে নেটওয়ার্কের উন্নয়ন ও সম্প্রসারণ এবং মোরামত, সংস্কার ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণে বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে নিরলস পরিশ্রম করে যাচ্ছে। রেল সেতুসমূহ নির্মাণ, মোরামত ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ইত্যাদি কাজ রেলওয়ের গণ ওয়ার্কস ম্যানুয়াল দ্বারা নিয়ন্ত্রিত। রেলওয়ের সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীগণ উক্ত ম্যানুয়াল অনুযায়ী রেল সেতুসমূহের নির্মাণ, মোরামত ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ইত্যাদি কাজ করে থাকেন। রেল সেতুর উপর স্থাপিত কাঠের স্তীপার যাতে Out of Square না হয় এবং একত্রে জমা হতে না পারে, সে লক্ষ্যে কোন কোন রেল সেতুতে অতিরিক্ত নিরাপত্তামূলক ব্যবস্থা হিসেবে বহুকাল হতে স্থানীয়ভাবে বাঁশের ফালি/চেরাই কাঠ ইত্যাদি ব্যবহার করা হচ্ছে। উক্ত বাঁশের ফালি/চেরাই কাঠ ট্রেনের ভার বহনে কোন ক্ষতিমা রাখে না। শুধুমাত্র স্তীপারসমূহের Out of Square এবং একত্রে জমা হওয়ার প্রবণতা রোধ করে। উক্ত ব্যবহৃত বাঁশের ফালি/চেরাই কাঠ সেতুর মূল কাঠামোর অংশ নয় এবং কোনভাবেই তা ট্রেন চলাচলের নিরাপত্তাকে বিঘ্নিত করে না। রেল সেতুর রক্ষণাবেক্ষণের দায়িত্ব নিয়োজিত প্রকৌশলীদের সাথে আলোচনা করা হলে এরূপ বিভ্রান্তিকর সংবাদ/প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশ/প্রচারের প্রয়োজন হতো না। বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের পক্ষ থেকে গঠনমূলক সংবাদ পরিবেশনকে সর্বদা উৎসাহহর্যক হিসেবে বিবেচনা করা হয়। রেল সেতুতে বাঁশের ফালি/চেরাই কাঠ ব্যবহারের ফলে কোন রকমের দুর্ঘটনা ঘটানো অবকাশ নেই মর্মে বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষ হতে দেশের আপামর জনসাধারণকে আশ্বস্ত করা হলো।

উপ-পরিচালক (প্রকৌশল)
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে
রেল ভবন, ঢাকা

ডিজি/পিআর-১১৯
জিডি-১৭৯