

NO ACTION TO SAVE BHOLA CANAL Contempt rule issued against 14 govt officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against 14 government high officials including four secretaries for their failure in complying with its 2015 order over protecting a canal from encroachment in Bhola.

In the rule, the court asked the officials to explain in four weeks as to why they should not be prosecuted for contempt of court due to their failure in implementing its directives.

The officials are the land secretary, acting secretary to the ministries of environment and forests, fisheries and livestock secretary, senior secretary to water resources ministry, chairman of national river protection commission, director general of the department of environment (DoE), director general of Bangladesh Water Development Board, chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Bhola, director of DoE (Barisal), upazila nirbahi officer, mayor and assistant commissioner of land of Bhola.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das came up with the rule after hearing a contempt of court petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela).

In the petition, Bela said the HC on May 4, 2015, directed

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A delegation of National Defence College, Bangladesh at a discussion with senior journalists of The Daily Star at the newspaper's office in the capital yesterday. The team, led by senior directing staff Air Vice Marshal M Sanaul Huq, GUP, ndc, psc, GD(P), included five faculty members, 80 course members and two staff officers. The college organises visits to various ministries, institutions and media houses as part of its training curricula. Inset, a course member speaking at the event.

**CTG BOAT CAPSIZE
9 more bodies
recovered,
9 still missing**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bodies of nine more people were recovered from Sandwip channel in Chittagong yesterday, raising the death toll from Sunday's boat capsizing incident to 14.

The dead were Hefez Ullah, 55, Mainuddin, 35, Nizamuddin, and Maksudur Rahman, of Sandwip upazila, Shamsul Alam, 31, of Cox's Bazar teacher of Purbo Rahmatpur Govt Primary School Yusuf Alam, teacher of Senerha Primary School Md Osman Water Development Board's Sub Assistant Engineer Tanjim Md Zobabed, Incepta Pharmaceuticals' Sales Representative (Chittagong zone) Md Kamruzzaman, said Shamsul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sandwip Police Station.

Locals pulled out the bodies when those washed

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Qazi Shafat passes away

CITY DESK

Qazi Shafat Ahmed, son of late Dr Col Qazi Shafiquddin Ahmed, passed away in Dhaka on March 31 at the age of 38.

He was suffering from cancer, says a press release.

Shafat left behind his four-year-old son Shahzeb, mother Amina Sabiha Ahmed, sister Sabah and brother-in-law Khatib.

A programme to pray for the salvation of his departed soul will be held at Banani DOHS community centre from 4:30pm to 6:00pm on Saturday.

His well-wishers are invited to attend the programme.

ISSUING LOWER COURT JUDGES' CONDUCT GAZETTE It's painful when president is referred: Chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday said it is painful when the government refers to the president about issuing a gazette notification on the rules determining the discipline and conduct of lower court judges.

The CJ said they get hurt when the government refers to the president, who is respected and acceptable, with all these.

He was presiding over a seven-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC during a hearing on the Masdar Hossain Case, known as judiciary separation case.

The chief justice came up with the comment when Attorney General Mahbub Alam moved a petition seeking two weeks' time from the SC for issuing the notification.

The attorney general sought time saying that the law ministry hopes the issue regarding the rules will be resolved in two weeks.

The court adjourned the case hearing till May 8 and asked the government to publish the gazette by this period. The court hoped that there will not be any excuse after this period.

Earlier, the SC expressed discontent at the government for not issuing a gazette notification on the rules.

The government has earlier sought time from the apex court for more than 10 times on different grounds for issuing the notification.

On March 28, the attorney general submitted an application on behalf of the government before the Appellate Division, saying, "The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs expects that necessary steps will be taken by the honourable president in respect of the proposed rules within four weeks."



SK Sinha

Artworks compiled by Saima unveiled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A book, containing artworks by differently-abled young artists, compiled and edited by Saima Wazed Hossain was unveiled in the capital yesterday.

"... It is a true portrayal of what type of individuals they are. They are truly talented and great," said Saima, an advocate for autism, at the launch of the book titled "Unique Glimpses" at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) on the sideline of the 136th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) assembly.

She said the book is their (children with autism) vision -- the way they see Bangladesh and the world.

"I hope you will enjoy this book and it will give an image of Bangladesh, events of Bangladesh that are hard to find," she said.

Speaker of the Parliament Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury was present in the programme as the chief guest.

Praising the book, IPU President Saber Hossain Chowdhury, said it is the celebration of special talents of individuals.

Speaking about how she developed the concept of compilation, Saima said many of the artworks were collected by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over the years and used in her formal greeting cards.

If the artworks are compiled in a book, those will last forever -- a realisation motivated her to compile the works for a book, she added.

Cover artists Poshla and Dhruvad also participated in the programme. The money collected from the sale of the book will be given to the children with autism.

Representation below 30yrs very poor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The representation of youths under 30 years of age in parliaments across the world is only 1.9 percent, finds a recent study conducted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The smeared images of politicians portrayed before the young generation could be one of the reasons why the latter are turning their back on politics, said Osoru Maurine, the youngest parliamentarian of Uganda who is the newly-elected president of IPU Young Parliamentarians Forum.

The 26-year-old MP made the remarks yesterday while disclosing findings of the study during a media briefing at IPU media centre in Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

"Politics is absolutely something interesting, but youths are less interested in it. Why our young are not interested that is the question. The images the politicians portray before them discourage them [the youth] to engage in politics," she said.

The study titled "Youth Participation in National Parliaments 2016" was conducted on 45,000 MPs of 128 parliaments around the world.

According to the study, the Swedish parliament has 12.3 percent -- the highest in the world -- of lawmakers who are below the age of 30. The parliament of Ecuador has 10.9 percent, Finland 10.5 percent while Norway has 10.1 percent representation from the age group.

More than 80 percent of upper houses of parliaments in the world have no MPs aged

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DIPAN MURDER

COURT CORRESPONDENT

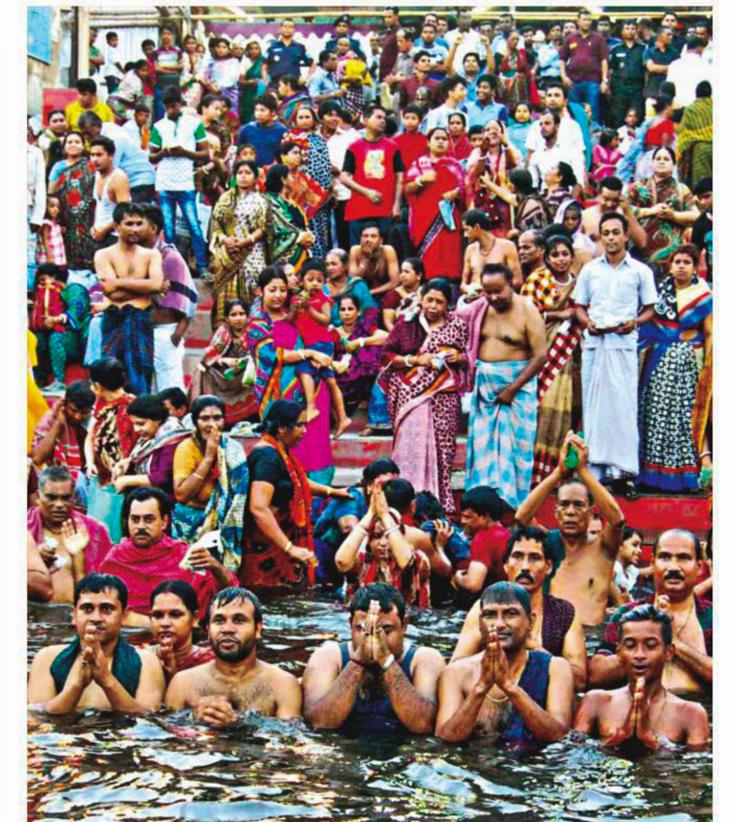
A Dhaka court yesterday for the 15th time asked the Detective Branch of police (DB) to submit the probe report of publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan killing case.

It fixed May 7 for the submission after Fazlur Rahman, a DB inspector and the investigation officer, failed to submit any probe report yesterday.

Dipan, 43, publisher of Jagriti Prokashoni, was hacked to death inside his office on the second floor of Aziz Cooperative Super Market in the capital's Shahbagh on October 31, 2015.

Later, his wife Razia Rahman filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station accusing unknown persons.

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Hindus taking their traditional holy dip (Ashtami Snan) in the Brahmaputra at Rajghat in Langolbandh of Narayanganj yesterday.

No gate-lock, sitting service buses in Dhaka from April 15

SAY TRANSPORT OWNERS

Transport owners yesterday announced that no public transport will operate in Dhaka city in the name of sitting service, gate-lock or special service from April 15.

Khondaker Enayet Ullah, general secretary of Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Malik Samity, in a press conference at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh announced the decision.

The transport owners will have to operate vehicles according to the route permit by picking up passengers from designated stoppages and allowing them [passengers] to travel by standing.

Representation below 30yrs very poor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The transport owners were also directed not to charge more than the fare-chart approved by the government, said Enayet. The association took the decisions after a meeting with transport owners.

Bus owners will have to accommodate permitted number of seats in their buses within the deadline, and they have to repair dilapidated busses within a month, said Enayet. The association will form a vigilance team to enforce the decisions, he said.

According to the association, at present approximately 150 transport companies are operating around 4,500 busses in the city.

LABOUR LEADER AMINUL MURDER Death penalty for killers demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Labour leaders of Bangladesh Garments And industrial Worker Federation (BGIWF) and Bangladesh Centre for Worker Solidarity (BCWS) yesterday demanded capital punishment of the killers of labour leader Aminul Islam, who was killed five years ago after being abducted.

They came up with the demand at a press briefing at the Ashulia office of BGIWF where BGIWF President Babul Akhtar, Aminul's wife and two sons were present.

Babul said the case filed for the killing of Aminul needs further investigation.

Aminul's wife said the charge sheet in the case has not yet been completed and no arrest has been made in five years.

On April 5, 2012, Aminul was found dead in Ghatal of Tangail a day after one of his acquaintances, Mustafizur Rahman, took him out of his office in Ashulia.

Mustafizur, the lone accused in the case, is on the run.

Maldivian cops start digging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two Maldivian police officials, who arrived in Rajshahi on Monday for assisting Detective Branch of police in probing the death of Raudha Athif, a medical student and a model from that country, talked to her family members and visited the site of her death yesterday afternoon.

Chief Superintendent Mohamed Riyaz and Chief Inspector Ahamed Ali of the Maldives police also talked to the detectives probing Raudha's death, the authorities of Islami Bank Medical College and some students of the college.

They did not, however, make any comment. "We will talk to the local police about our visit," said Mohamed Riyaz when a group of reporters approached him.

Contacted, Raudha's mother Aminath Muharrimath said the police officials spoke to the family members on Monday night. "We told them that we found several grounds that suggest she was murdered."

"Local authorities are claiming it was a suicide, but they did not provide us with the autopsy report. In fact, we are waiting for it," she said.

She said local police told her that the report will take time as the viscera were sent to Dhaka for tests, although the medical board provided the police with a preliminary report.

Abdul Aziz Riad, secretary of the medical college, said the police officials stayed at the college for three hours since 1:00pm.

They had talks with four Maldivian students including one male student separately.

They also spoke to two Indian female students who first saw Raudha hanging from the ceiling fan. The officials talked to the vice principal of the college, two professors and in-charge of the women's hostel.

Quoting the officials, Riad said, they are to stay in Rajshahi until they get sufficient

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RAUDHA'S DEATH

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