

ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS Session fees illegal: HC

Court also orders forming managing committees

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and WASIM BIN HABIB

The High Court yesterday declared illegal annual readmission and session fees charged by English medium schools, much to the relief of students and their guardians.

HC bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Md Badruzzaman delivered the verdict after hearing two writ petitions filed by two guardians in 2012 and 2014, challenging the legality of the fees.

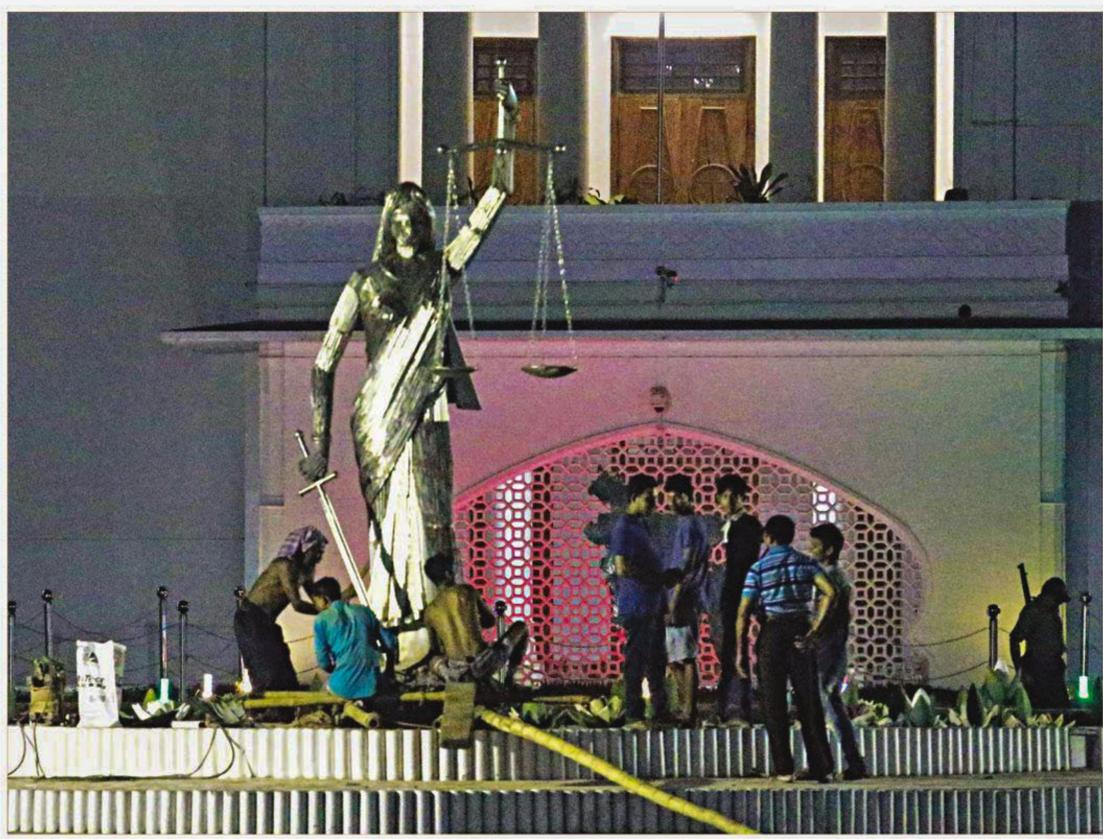
The court also issued a set of directives for running the educational institutions in a smooth and transparent manner.

It said a managing committee must be formed at every English medium school as per the Private (English medium) School and College Ordinance 1962 and the Private English Medium School Registration Rules, 2007.

The committee must have representatives from the guardians and the teachers and the school authorities. It would have to hold meetings on a regular basis and appoint teachers and staff through advertisements in newspapers.

The committee would determine the admission and tuition fees of the students and also the salaries and other benefits of the teachers and other employees. The owners would not be allowed to interfere in the school activities, said the court.

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Some workers taking down the statue of "Greek Goddess Themis" on the Supreme Court premises early today. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Statue of Greek goddess on SC premises being taken down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court authorities were taking down the statue of the Greek Goddess of Justice Themis on the SC premises in the wee hours today.

Some five to seven workers were hammering at the base of the statue while four to five other people, including Mrinal Haque, the sculptor, were overseeing the work that began around 11:30pm yesterday.

There was a pick-up parked nearby. Journalists were not allowed inside the premises.

Contacted, Attorney General Mahubey Alam said the chief justice (SK Sinha) had a meeting with the incumbent and former presidents and general secretaries of the Supreme Court Bar Association, including eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain. At the meeting, the CJ sought their

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Mamata at it again

Alleges Bangladesh 'blocking flows of 3 common rivers'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi



In an apparent bid to counter criticism of her for blocking the Teesta river water sharing treaty between India and Bangladesh, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday said Dhaka had set up barrages and structures to change the course of three common rivers -- Atrai, Tangon and Punarbhava.

In a letter to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi whom she met for half an hour here in New Delhi, Mamata said the India-Bangladesh Ganga water-sharing treaty had not benefited West Bengal or ensured the navigability at Kolkata and Haldia ports.

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Day labourer turns successful retailer

DIPANKAR ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

Malmolia village in Khulna's Dumuria upazila is remote. Thirty-five kilometres from the city, it doesn't have sealed roads or grid electricity. What it does have is a well-stocked shop selling agricultural supplies. The brainchild of an unlikely entrepreneur, the shop harbours a tale of success against the odds.

In the well-furnished brick-built store, The Daily Star meets business-woman Aklima Begum, 43.

Once a humble day labourer, she used to toil from morning until evening and still couldn't earn enough to cover minimum living costs for her family. To see her now, it's hard to imagine such a past.

"People used to ignore me for my poverty," she remembers. "Nowadays everybody is respectful."

The transformation in Aklima's life began in 2007. "I decided to mortgage fifty decimals of family land for Tk 80,000 to establish a retail outfit selling fertiliser, seed, fishmeal and other agro-products," she says.

She took crucial training from an NGO on how to manage business records, part of a three-day workshop on unconventional business opportunities focusing on women entrepreneurs. The

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Aklima Begum at her agricultural supplies shop in Malmolia of Khulna's Dumuria. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

SC circular ineffective

Says govt, ruling out bar on 17 judges' travelling abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has issued a statement regarding a Supreme Court circular that 17 lower court judges cannot travel abroad without the apex court's approval.

The statement, issued by the law ministry yesterday, said the SC circular "has no effectiveness."

The ministry has decided to send around 500 lower court judges to Australia for training on different issues, including cyber crime, at a university

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REMOVAL OF JUDGES CJ sees crisis if there's no two-thirds majority in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday said there would be a crisis if two-thirds majority in parliament cannot be secured for removing a judge over serious allegations raised under the 16th amendment to the constitution.

It's a matter to ponder what would happen then, as some provisions in the 16th amendment leave a scope for creating a vacuum, he said.

The chief justice made the observation during a hearing on an appeal against a High Court verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment.

A seven-member bench headed by the CJ heard the appeal yesterday for the seventh day. The amendment empowered parliament

to remove an SC judge for incapacity or misbehaviour. Two-thirds majority in the House is needed for that.

Following a writ petition filed by nine SC lawyers, the HC on May 5 last year declared the amendment illegal. The government on January 4 this year filed an appeal with the SC, challenging the HC verdict.

The apex court will resume the hearing on the appeal at 11:30am on Sunday.

During yesterday's hearing, the chief justice said a political party may or may not have majority in parliament.

"There may be a hanging parliament. What will happen then?" he asked.

Yesterday, three amici curiae (friends of court) -- Advocate TH Khan, Barrister M Amir-UI Islam and Barrister Rokanuddin

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Islami Bank crisis deepens as two directors quit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two independent directors of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd (IBBL) resigned from the board yesterday, two days after they were removed from their executive posts.

They are Syed Ahsanul Alam, vice-chairman of IBBL, and Abdul Mabud, chairman of risk management committee of the bank.

"I have received resignation letters from

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BNP leader, bodyguard shot dead in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Unidentified attackers shot and killed a BNP leader and his bodyguard in Phultala of Khulna last night.

The dead are Alauddin Mihtu, 41, organising secretary of the district BNP, and Nowsher Gazi, 45.

The incident happened around 10:30pm. A group of five to six men came in two motorcycles and stormed Mihtu's office in front of his home in Damodar area and opened fire, said

Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Phultala Police Station.

The BNP leader was killed on the spot, he said, adding that the victim was shot in the head.

Mihtu's father-in-law

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