

HC cancels man's bail for placing false documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cancelled the bail of an accused for submitting false documents before it in an arms case. The court also asked Humayun Kabir Jhonu, the accused, to surrender before the trial court concerned in the next seven days. Moreover, the HC asked the registrar general of the Supreme Court to file a criminal case against Jhonu and others involved in committing the forgery. The HC came up with the order during hearing a bail petition filed by Shahar Ali, another accused of the same case. The bench also rejected the bail petition of Shahar Ali, considering that the petition was not properly moved before it. After examining the documents of the case, submitted by Shahar Ali, the HC judges found that Humayun Kabir Jhonu secured bail from this court on February 27 this year by submitting false documents.



TOO NARROW TO SURVIVE: A few more years, there will be no canal called Uttar Kutubkhali Khal, which snakes through Kutubkhali, Jatrabari, and Shanir Akhra of the capital before emptying into the Shitalakkhya River. At places, the canal is completely blocked or as wide as merely 2-3 feet. Though this water body is a major drainage channel, which could protect locals from waterlogging, if properly maintained, people instead are closing in on their collective goal -- slowly filling it up to gain land. The grabbing starts with the construction of makeshift bamboo structures or garbage dumping. In this case, the encroachers have advanced so much that they have already built concrete structures at some points. Now a narrow stream, soon it will be non-existent. Based on the current situation, one can only deduce that the government authorities are either unwilling or unable to contain the grabbers and conserve the water body. The photos were taken Tuesday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

CASE AGAINST KHALEDA Court asks banks to place statements on trust's accounts

UNB, Dhaka

A Dhaka court yesterday asked seven banks to submit statements and ledger books of the Zia Charitable Trust's accounts to it in a graft case filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman of the Special Judge Court-5 also fixed July 13 for the next hearing in the Zia Charitable Trust and Zia Orphanage Trust graft cases. On August 8, 2011, the ACC filed the Zia Charitable Trust case with Tejgaon Police Station accusing four people, including Khaleda, of abusing power in raising funds and their management. On July 3, 2008, the ACC filed the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case with Ramna Police Station against Khaleda, her son Tarique Rahman and four others on charge of embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore.



KL asks illegal migrants to surrender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid a crackdown against undocumented foreign workers, the Malaysian Immigration Department yesterday urged those who failed to apply for the enforcement card (e-card) to surrender for avoiding the risk of being fined and jailed, a local newspaper reports. The Immigration Department director-general, Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali, said those who surrendered would only be charged a penalty of 400 ringgits instead of paying up to 5,000 ringgits if they were caught by the authorities. The Star Online report quoted him as saying. Should the case be brought to court, the minimum fine of RM 10,000 could be imposed, he said. "They (undocumented foreign workers) can surrender and be deported immediately but before that, they will be investigated. "Under our 3-Plus-1 programme, they will need to pay a fine of RM 400, then buy an air ticket and return to their coun-

tries of origin. "They will also be given a blacklist period which can be up to five years from entering Malaysia," Mustafar told reporters. The crackdown launched after the end of validation of the e-card on June 30 midnight saw at least 789 Bangladeshis detained between Saturday and Wednesday, according to media reports. Mustafar yesterday noted that to date, the department had arrested over 2,000 foreign workers and 44 employers during the nationwide crackdown. Meanwhile, another English language daily, New Straits Times, reports that the Penang Immigration Department rounded up 24 illegal immigrants raiding three locations in the state yesterday. Of them, 18 were Bangladeshis and three each from Myanmar and Indonesia. The e-card acts as a temporary validation to allow foreign workers who do not have valid documents to work in Malaysia. The card, however, expires on

February 15 next year, and before that the cardholder must obtain a valid travel document from the embassies of the respective countries. Soon after the crackdown, a large number of both legal and illegal foreign workers have gone into hiding and their employers fear they will not turn up for work until things have cooled down. Amid this, Mustafar said they had detected false e-cards since the registration exercise began on February 15. Mustafar yesterday said there was no possibility of an extension for the e-card registration, says The Star Online report. He also said the detention depots were expected to be packed with arrested undocumented workers following the special operations being conducted almost every day after the deadline. However, he added, the clearing process was being done by speeding up the investigation and prosecution, while deportation could help solve the problem of the undocumented migrants.

Invest more in research on non-rice crops: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Washington-based global food research think tank -- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) -- has called for more investment in research and development of non-rice crops in Bangladesh. IFPRI said research is imperative to enhance per unit productivity of non-rice crops so people in Bangladesh can gradually shift from their over-dependency on rice-centric diets and go for more nutritious options like vegetables, fruits, fish and dairy products. IFPRI Country Representative Dr Akhter Ahmed along with experts representing its collaborative research organisations was addressing a press conference at a

hotel in the capital yesterday. Dr Akhter said Bangladesh needs to invest in non-rice crop research. Also, research has to be done to enhance the productions of animal protein so that consumers get a choice between rice and more nutritious alternatives. He emphasised carrying out a research to understand why crop diversification is not taking place at a faster rate. He also stressed the need for policy interventions. Dr Akhter called for developing cold chains for perishable non-rice products and spreading nutrition knowledge among people. He said simple knowledge like not to drain out water while cooking rice and not to wash vegetables after peeling can make a big difference in helping people get health-ier diets. "If you wash vegetables after peeling and drain water while cooking rice, the water-soluble vitamins and nutrients would be drained out also," explained Akhter. Dr Inge Brouwer, who teaches nutrition at the Netherlands' Wageningen University and Research, an IFPRI partner in multi-nation Agriculture for Nutrition and Health programme, identified a lack in dietary diversity as a challenge for Bangladesh. DR Herbert Smorenburg, representative of Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, said each dollar invested in nutrition pays back a dividend of USD 16 through increased productivity and reduced health costs.



Teachers and students of Rajshahi University bring out a procession on the campus yesterday marking its 64th founding anniversary yesterday.

RU celebrates 64th founding anniversary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University yesterday celebrated its 64th founding anniversary amid much enthusiasm and festivities. RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr M Abdus Sobhan inaugurated the programme in the morning by hoisting the national flag in front of the administrative building of the university. Students, teachers and other staff of the university who were present at that time in the ceremony sang the national anthem. After that, pigeons and colourful balloons were released in the sky. The VC also planted a tree near the senate building of the university. A colourful procession attended by the VC, students, teachers and staff of the university with banners and festoons was brought out later on the campus. A discussion was also held at the Senate building around 11:00am where RU VC and former VC Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan spoke among others. All the important buildings of the university were nicely decorated with colourful lightings the day before to mark the founding anniversary. The university started its journey in 1953 with six departments under three faculties and only 161 students and 68 teachers. Prof Itrat Hossain Zuberi was the first VC of the university. Now after 64 years, the university has 57 departments and five institutes under 10 faculties with 36,437 students and 1,216 teachers.

Joyous end to a journey

Country's first female judge finishes her last day at work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Yesterday was the last working day for Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, the first female judge of the country. She was supposed to retire today. But she completed her last day at work yesterday as today is Friday. In this regard, she was accorded a farewell in the court no. 1 of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC). Speaking on the occasion, Justice Nazmun said she had not failed as a judge in discharging her duties. "If I had failed as the first female judge, around 400 women would not have felt encouraged to become judges later on," she said. Justice Nazmun is also the first female judge of the lower court, the High Court Division and the Appellate Division of the SC. "... Many of my judicial decisions might have been wrong and those were corrected in the appeals. But I never did any wrong consciously..." she said. Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Supreme Court Bar Association President Advocate Zainul Abedin spoke on the occasion and appreciated Nazmun for her outstanding performance as a judge. Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, other judges of the Appellate Division, SC lawyers, court officials, and journalists were also present at the farewell ceremony. Justice Nazmun obtained BSc and LLB degrees, and enrolled as an advocate in the Mymensingh District Court in July 1972. She joined the Judicial Service as a Munsif (judge) on December 20, 1975, and was promoted to District and Sessions Judge on December 20, 1990, according to the official website of the apex court. On May 28, 2000, she was elevated as Additional Judge of the High Court and was appointed as a regular judge on May 28, 2002. She was elevated as a judge of the Appellate Division of SC on February 23, 2011.

CMP investigating

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As the SI, who was new at the police station, went to his fellow police members nearby to inform the matter, Mainul got furious and started slapping him. The SI immediately informed the matter to the high officials of CMP over the phone. Mainul went to the hotel earlier at 1:30am and took wine in room 415, where he regularly drinks, said OC Mohiuddin, quoting the hotel staff. In a CCTV camera footage, Mainul was seen beating two staff of the hotel and its security in-charge in the hotel. He also called in his chauffeur and beat him too. The hotel staff said Mainul beat them as they could not provide him a specific brand of wine, the OC said. Later, Mainul and his chauffeur left the hotel around 2:15am after the hotel staff provided him some bottles of wine, said Mohiuddin. He went to the hotel again at 3:15am and confronted the mobile-team of Double Mooring police, the OC added. Najmul Hasan, additional deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of CMP and head of the probe committee, said the CMP commissioner formed the committee on Wednesday and asked them to submit a report in seven days. Mentionable, Inspector Mainul was closed from his duty as Sadarghat Police Station OC in 2016 as he beat up a former Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader at Al-Islamiya Hotel while he was staying there with his wife.

Media reports move ACC to act on fertiliser

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The letter sought documents of inconsistent reports of fertiliser audit accounts on the quantity of fertiliser in transit, fertiliser smuggling by Nabab and Company, withdrawal of transportation bills through fake documents by Bulk Trade International, irregularities in the project to restart Chittagong Chemical Complex, irregularities in recruitment in BCIC in 2014, and the accounts of fertiliser in transit from 2007 to 2016 of different bidders who imported and transported the fertiliser to the state warehouses. Following media reports on the corruption in fertiliser import and transportation by BCIC, the High Court on March 20 asked the government and ACC to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to launch an investigation into massive corruption and irregularities in the fertiliser sector managed by BCIC. The Daily Star ran a series of reports on corruption in the fertiliser sector in January this year. Some other newspapers also published similar stories. Talking to The Daily Star, a high official of Police Headquarters, seeking anonymity, said Yeasmin is wife of Mazharul Haq, a deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, who was suspended in 2009 on the charge of "professional misconduct". The officer, however, did not say anything about Bakhtiar. The section 9 (2) says, the government may, if it considers necessary in the public interest so to do, retire from service a public servant at any time after he has completed 25 years of service without assigning any reason.

Two add'l DIGs sent on forced retirement

FROM PAGE 3

The home ministry circular, however, said both the officers would enjoy all kinds of retirement facilities as per rules. Talking to The Daily Star, a high official of Police Headquarters, seeking anonymity, said Yeasmin is wife of Mazharul Haq, a deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, who was suspended in 2009 on the charge of "professional misconduct". The officer, however, did not say anything about Bakhtiar. The section 9 (2) says, the government may, if it considers necessary in the public interest so to do, retire from service a public servant at any time after he has completed 25 years of service without assigning any reason.

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