

HC wants to know steps to prevent Chikungunya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in three weeks why it should not be directed to provide adequate compensation to the people affected by mosquito-borne Chikungunya.

In the rule, the court asked the respondents to show causes why they should not be directed to take immediate steps for destroying and crushing the Aedes mosquitoes and other mosquitoes by spraying proper medicine and cleaning the dumping spots of Dhaka City Corporation along with other affected areas of the country.

The HC also asked the authorities concerned to explain why they should not be ordered to make an arrangement for building awareness and preventive measures all over the country.

Health secretary, LGRD secretary, mayors of Dhaka South and North city corporations and the respective chief executive officers have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan came up with the rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Shujaudowla Akonda on July 4.

The petition has been filed as chikungunya disease has broken out widely in Dhaka, Sylhet, and Chittagong cities.



Tired, a boy sleeps on top of a raised platform in the middle of a busy intersection. Even the scorching midday heat and a constant cacophony of honks are unable to wake him up. Like many children on the street, most of his days are spent asking for alms or searching for work. Due to a lack of protection and support, children like him often fall victim to exploitation. His battle for survival will continue again as soon as he gets up. The photo was taken at the Lalkhan Bazar intersection of the port city recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

GAZIPUR BOILER BLAST Writ petition filed seeking compensation for victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rights organisation yesterday filed a petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the authorities concerned to give compensation to the families of the workers of Gazipur's Multifabes Ltd garments, who were killed and injured in the boiler blast.

Thirteen workers were killed and more than 50 others injured in the explosion at the apparel factory Multifabes Ltd, in Kashimpur area on July 4.

Yesterday, Justice Watch Foundation submitted the petition praying to the HC to direct the authorities to take necessary steps for providing treatment to the injured workers and to bring the people including the owners, who are responsible for the incident, to book.

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Find army leadership having Liberation War spirit: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked senior army officials to find out capable and qualified leadership for the force having the spirit of Liberation War.

"Staying above everything and through your analyses... you'll have to find out qualified leadership having patriotism and belief in the great Liberation War," she said.

The prime minister said this while inaugurating the five-day "Army Headquarters Selection Board 2017" held at Dhaka Cantonment.

To establish and consolidate democracy in a country, Hasina said a disciplined and strong army plays a very supplementary role.

"Leadership has to be placed on those qualified officers who are well-educated, workable, intelligent, and above all strongly determined to consolidate the

democracy," she said.

The premier said loyalty to leadership, professional efficiency, field-level success, discipline, honesty, trustworthiness and credibility are also important for promotion.

She expressed satisfaction over the introduction of modern TRACE (Tabulated Record and Comparative Evaluation) method for the promotion of army officials.

Hasina expressed her confidence over the wisdom and righteousness of senior army officials, and hoped that they could be successful in selecting competent leadership based on principles.

She asked the selection board to take into consideration the leadership quality, professional excellence, field-level success, integrity and obedience of the officers for promotion.

Hasina said the army's role is indispensable in maintaining peace and

stability as well as combating militancy.

She said the government has undertaken various steps for the development, expansion, and welfare of the army. Also, steps have been taken for the welfare of their families, she said.

The PM said a process is underway to construct five dental colleges and five nursing institutes for the Bangladesh Army.

The work for the construction of the country's lone burn unit and plastic surgery hospital has been given to Bangladesh Army. It will be one of the best hospitals in South Asia, she said.

Hasina said the salary structure of the members of the armed forces has been re-fixed keeping consistency with that of the civil administration.

The works on the "Jalsiri" housing project for the army is going on at a quick pace, she said, adding that the project will help strengthen mental strength of the officers.

Govt to cultivate genetically modified cotton

Matia tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday told parliament that Bangladesh has taken an initiative to cultivate Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) cotton or BT cotton to boost cotton production.

She also said the government has provided training to 60,000 farmers on modern cotton cultivation and set up 3,050 demonstration plots under a project for increasing its production.

In another reply, the minister said 347.10 lakh metric tonnes of rice were produced in the country in 2015-16 fiscal, enough to meet the country's hundred-percent demand of rice.

DU PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT Half a year lost in publication of results

DU CORRESPONDENT

The psychology department of Dhaka University has published the results of first-year final examinations (session 2015-16) after seven months, while most departments usually take three or four months to do so.

In addition, a huge mistake was found in the result sheet because of which 15 students failed to get the pass marks, thus unable to be promoted to the next session.

The last written exam was held on December 3 and the viva voce on December 19, 2016. Seven months later, the results were published on July 3. A total of 133 students, 19 of them irregular (those who retake exams), had sat for the final exams.

The irregular students said 15 of them failed because the tabulators forgot to add 35 marks of the in-course examination to the final exam marks.

In an academic year, students enrol in five courses, each carrying 100 marks -- 35 for in-course examination, 60 for the final examination and five for attendance.

Assistant Professor Maleka Parveen, one of the three-member committee, which oversaw the tabulation process of the final examinations, acknowledged the mistake in the results and said they would soon republish them after a meeting at the department.

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JnU teacher terminated over sexual harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teacher of Jagannath University (JnU) has been terminated yesterday on charge of sexually harassing a female student.

The university syndicate took the decision after the allegations brought against Mir Mosharraf Hossain alias Razib Mir, an assistant professor of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department of the university was proved, said JnU Vice Chancellor Prof Mijanur Rahman.

In April last year, the authorities suspended him after a fact-finding committee found that the allegations were primarily proved, the VC said. Later, a syndicate-formed committee also found him guilty.



This garbage collection truck of Dhaka South City Corporation is itself in such a shabby condition that it would soon end up as trash and would need another vehicle to carry it away. The photo was taken near Jatrabari bus stand on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Scrapping of section 57 sought

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Mass Communication and Journalism department of Dhaka University yesterday formed a human chain at Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus, demanding withdrawal of the case filed under section 57 of the ICT act against the department's former student Nazmul Hossain.

They also demanded scrapping of the section 57.

Nazmul Hossain, a senior reporter of Jamuna Television, was sued for his June 23 Facebook post.

"The government has not taken any steps to revoke it [section 57] despite a growing demand," said Prof Mofizur Rahman, chairperson of the department. He urged the government to scrap all the cases filed under section 57.

Prof AJM Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan, acting dean of Social Science Faculty, said, "Section 57 was introduced to stop misuse of social networking sites. Now it is being used to harass people."

Many of the former students of the department also attended the event.

Meanwhile, protesting section 57, Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) held a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.



Journalists at a rally before Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding scrapping of section 57.

PHOTO: STAR

day. They demanded withdrawal of the case filed against Ajmal Haque Helal, senior reporter of Sokaler Khabor.

At the rally, DUJ also demanded immediate release of photojournalist Ashik Muhammad of The Daily Observer whom police arrested on June 27 from Shantinagar while he was returning home by his motorbike.

Rights body Ain o Salish Kendra

(ASK) yesterday also expressed deep concern over the arrest of Ashik and demanded fair investigation into the case, said a press release.

ASK said police filed the case against Ashik bringing allegation of recovering Yaba pills from him. "However, his family members and colleagues claimed that he has been falsely implicated," read the release.

BANANI RAPE CASE Thursday fixed for hearing on charge framing

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed Thursday for hearing on charge framing against five accused in a case filed over Banani double rape.

Judge Shafiul Azam of the Second Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression passed the order after a lawyer for one of the accused sought an adjournment on the hearing.

All the five accused -- Ahmed Shafat, Shadman Sakif, Nayem Ashraf alias Halim, Shafat's driver Billal Hossain and bodyguard Rahmat Ali -- who are now in jail, were produced before the court yesterday.

Earlier on June 19, the tribunal accepted the charge sheets against the five and fixed yesterday for hearing on charge framing.

On June 8, Ismot Ara Ame, inspector of the Women Support and Investigation Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, pressed the charges against the five

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Guardians protest Turkish Hope School's new instalment plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Guardians yesterday staged a demonstration outside the junior section of International Turkish Hope School in Gulshan, protesting what they said the new instalment plan imposed by the school authorities.

There used to be an instalment plan for paying yearly fees for an academic session and the guardians had been paying the fees in 11 instalments.

But the guardians of students of junior section said the school authorities had recently decided to receive the yearly payment for the new academic session in eight instalments,

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Franco-German embassy opens

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Franco-German embassy was formally inaugurated yesterday in the capital's Baridhara diplomatic zone.

It is the first embassy worldwide jointly built and operated by France and Germany, located at 11 Madani Avenue. The embassy will serve as a workplace of the two countries' diplomats and their locally employed colleagues.

"It's a very important day... This embassy is a consequence of this shared desire to explore all the opportunities given to us, to strengthen our bilateral relations," said French Ambassador Sophie Aubert at the inaugural ceremony.

German Ambassador Thomas Prinz in his speech said they will work together in the same building integrating their work.

A good number of foreign diplomats, including ambassadors and high commissioners of Japan, Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand attended the function.

Foreign Ministry Director General (Europe Wing) Mohammad Khorshed Alam Khastagir was also present.



Students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) under the platform "Protibader Nam Jahangirnagar" form a human chain in front of JU administrative building yesterday, demanding the withdrawal of a case against a total of 56 students for 'vandalising' vice-chancellor's residence on May 27.

PHOTO: STAR