

Acting chief justice warns court officials against graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Md Abdul Wahab Miah, who has taken charge as chief justice in the absence of Surendra Kumar Sinha, yesterday warned the bench officers and assistant bench officers of the High Court of stern action, including termination, if they were found involved in irregularities and corruption.

He also directed them to send the case documents to the relevant sections immediately after the judges sign the files and finish their jobs within the day.

Chief Justice Miah made the call at a meeting attended by bench officers and assistant bench officers at the Supreme Court auditorium, meeting sources said.

The acting CJ also asked them not to change the cause list and not to change the date to be taken if anyone does this.

He went on to urge his fellow judges to work in such a manner so that the image of the judiciary is not tarnished. He asked them to hold court proceedings on time and not to keep judgments pending after the completion of case hearings.

SC registrar general Syed Aminul Islam and several HC officials were present.

Chief Justice Sinha went on a morning walk on Tuesday on health grounds. The law ministry on Monday night issued a gazette, appointing Justice Wahab, the senior most judge of the Appellate Division, as the acting CJ.

Troubled Unesco begins picking new leader

APP, PARIS

The board of the UN's cultural body yesterday began vetting eight candidates vying to head an organisation accused of bias in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and foot-dragging on Syria.

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation infuriated Israel and its staunch ally the United States by granting full membership to Palestine in 2011.

Both countries suspended their funding to the agency — best-known for its prestigious World Heritage List — over the move.

Most recently, the Paris-based body delighted Palestinians when it decided to name the Old City of Hebron in the occupied West Bank an endangered World Heritage site.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the vote "another delusional decision" by Unesco, which promotes quality education and cultural development around the world.

All 3b accounts

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backup email address, which could make it easier to break into other accounts held by the same user.

Many Yahoo users have multiple accounts, so far fewer than 3 billion were affected, but the theft spans as the largest to date, and a costly one for the internet pioneer.

Verizon in February lowered its price for access by \$530 million for Yahoo assets in the wake of two massive cyberattacks in the internet company.

Some lawyers asked whether Verizon would look for a new opportunity to address the price.

"This is a bombshell," said Mark Molmuthy, lead counsel in a shareholder derivative lawsuit against Yahoo's former leaders over disclosures about the breach.

Verizon did not respond to a request for comment about any possible lawsuit over the deal.

Verizon, the likely main target of legal actions, also could be challenged as it launched a new brand, Oath, to link its Yahoo, AOL and Huffington Post internet properties.

In August in the separate lawsuit brought by Yahoo's users, US Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, California, ruled Yahoo must face nationwide litigation brought on behalf of owners accounts who said their personal information was compromised in the three breaches. Niskanen, the lawyer for the users, said his team planned to use the case to bring a lawsuit in month to expanding its allegations.

Also on Tuesday, Senator John Thune, chairman of the US Senate Commerce Committee, said he plans to hold a hearing later this month over the massive data breaches at Equifax and Yahoo. The US Securities and Exchange Commission already had been probing Yahoo over the hacks.

The closing of the Verizon deal, which was first announced in July, had been delayed as the companies assessed the fallout from two data breaches that Yahoo disclosed last year. The company paid \$4.48 billion for

Trump tells Puerto Rico to be 'proud' of low storm toll

APP, GUAYNABO

President Donald Trump shook hands with storm survivors in Puerto Rico and told them to be "proud" the island did not lose more lives to Hurricane Maria, on a trip designed to quiet criticism of his administration's response to the disaster.

The US president, alongside First Lady Melania Trump, visited the middle class suburb of Guaynabo, walking among trees and signs filled two weeks ago by Maria's jet-blast winds.

Trump asked residents about their homes, posed for photos and stopped in a church along the way to shoot rolls of paper towel basketball-style into a crowd snapping pictures on their cellphones.

Nearly two weeks after Maria thrashed through the US territory,

much of the island remains short of food and without access to power or drinking water.

The administration's critics said the early response was not fast enough or on a scale that could help the island's 3.4 million American citizens.

A fortnight later, seven percent of the island has electricity more than 9,000 people are living in shelters, and just 40 percent telecommunications are back up. Thousands of homes — most of them made of wood — have been destroyed, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

After touching down at Muniz Air National Guard Base, beginning his five hour trip, Trump rallied disaster management workers telling them they "can be very proud" of their response.

The music maker

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from the Chittagong Hill Tracts to grow at his village home. He achieves to play in a flute in a tuning he considers the ultimate challenge.

"The flute is more difficult to play than other instruments," he explains. "While any instrument will have the standard twelve distinct tones on an octave according to music theory, in the flute you will find only six. Yet to play the flute properly one has to achieve 22 distinct tones, which is really a challenge. I think a part of that is wholly inspired; there's creativity in that which is a kind of sixth sense."

Yet the most difficult instrument to make was not a flute but a traditional instrument called an anandalahori, locally known as a khomok.

"I used to play one," Nikhil recalls. "And I started teaching it too but I came to understand that to play it well I would have to learn much more. I spent long days with the khomok and tried to make one. It took 22 years to complete the task ultimately I succeeded."

He has taught more than 150 students instrument-making, including at both Khulna University and the Khulna University of Engineering and Technology. He has his own academy in Khulna City's Upper Lessore Road.

"I feel that music gives me music lessons at the Muroli Folk Institution and Museum he established in 2010 in his home village. Many of Nikhil's former students work as professional musicians, at home and abroad.

"Along with fourteen classmates I took a course from Nikhil for three years," says Upol Kumar Das, 21, a student of Khulna University's fine arts department. "Now I can make a dotara though it is a tiresome business! One

needs full dedication to do it properly."

"Nikhil is a multitalented instrumentalist and a keen folk performer," says veteran filmmaker and Ekushey Padak recipient Tavuk Mukomem. "He has contributed music to several of my films including 'Chitra Nadir Pare', 'Lalsala' and 'Lalon and Rabeeya'." Nikhil likes to travel village to village when he can, with the aim of fostering appreciation in the ancient instruments of Bengal among the country's younger generation.

"A person can learn music at any time in their life," says Nikhil, "but age does matter in the prime time to enrol. If children find music amusing it's a joy that can last a lifetime. Music can do everything to make a man. He can forget mental agonies and sorrows. It's a spring of electricity to remedy unhealthiness. With music, even a physically exhausted person can be mentally free."

Nikhil believes a quality instrument is inseparable from an accomplished performance.

"I have observed hundreds of musicians. Very few can make an instrument," he says. "Yet without one even a singer cannot perform properly; music will lose its gravity and appeal. For this reason I'm dedicated to making instruments. It requires a lot of perseverance."

Nikhil's homemade dotaras have achieved particular acclaim; hardly a day passes when he does not receive a new order for a dotara or flute from the rest of the world. "I want to live in Khulna for a while," he says. "I want to play my own instruments and enrich the indigenous music traditions of Bangladesh."

Govt seeks

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After a bilateral meeting with Kyaw Tint Swe, union minister for the Office of Myanmar's State Counsellor on Monday in Dhaka, Mahmood told reporters that Rohingya population would be verified by the Joint Working Group, but without UN involvement.

"Bangladesh has proposed signing a bilateral agreement [with Myanmar] for registration [of Rohingyas] and handed over a draft to the Myanmar delegation," he added.

But the move to resolve the crisis bilaterally created serious confusion among foreign affairs experts, including Myanmar former diplomats, who strongly viewed that it would not be wise to go ahead with the repatriation process without UN involvement.

Though the experts saw the visit of Myanmar minister to Bangladesh and proposal to take back his nationals "positively," they mentioned that "there is no reason to trust them [Myanmar] as the country may have an intention to defuse the global outcry over the persecution of Rohingyas."

Under these circumstances, the foreign minister solicited support from the UN to ensure the return of the Myanmar nationals.

While briefing the top UN officials yesterday about the influx of Rohingyas, the foreign minister said over 500,000 Rohingyas entered Bangladesh in just one month, the release added.

Nikhil also mentioned that the presence of over 900,000 forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals was creating a serious humanitarian challenge for Bangladesh.

The foreign minister informed the UN officials that Bangladesh emphasised the importance of sustainable return of the Rohingyas during the meeting with Myanmar's minister Kyaw Tint Swe.

Ctg Shibir

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Shibir cadre Nasir is accused in 36 cases including murder and arms filed with different police stations in Chittagong.

With the rise of Shibir cadres in the early 80s, the rise of Shibir cadres has been dominating different educational institutes including Government Chittagong College and Government Haji Muhammad Mohsin College and Chittagong University.

Drivers still

FROM PAGE 1

wrong side overnight but the frequency of the crime was declining gradually. "The drive will continue and we are hopeful that it will come to an end."

DMP conducted a three-day special operation from September 24 against driving on the wrong side. On the first day, police fined 57 drivers for driving against traffic on Iare Road. Drivers of a state minister, a lawmaker, several top bureaucrats, an army officer and journalists were among those penalised.

Vehicles of a senior and a deputy secretary of the home ministry, an additional secretary of the telecommunications ministry and an officer of the public administration ministry were also fined.

The driver of Mafnuha Sultana, secretary of rural development and co-operatives division, was fined on Monday for driving on the wrong side in the car on both occasions.

On September 26, police penalised 105 of a top-ranking police officer, a joint secretary, and more than 57 motorcyclists on Hare Road and Bijoy Sarani.

According to DMP records, traffic police fined 1,16,026 vehicles in the last fiscal year for going against traffic.

'Robber' killed

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robbery, a police team led by officers of Dhaka led by Inspector Station Muklesur Rahman raided the area around 3.30am, said Mohammad Ali Zinnah, officer charge (Investigation) of Bhaairah Police Station.

Sensing police presence the all the robbers fired some 30 rounds of bullets on the police team, the OC said, and the police retaliated with 20 rounds of gunshots.

After the gunfire police found a wounded Sohag and rushed him to the Ipazaha Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead.

He had bullet wounds on his back. Sohag's boy was sent to Kishoreganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Two policemen — Assistant Sub-Inspector Habibullah and Constable Abdul Wahab — sustained bullet wounds in their legs and hands. They were admitted to the local health complex.

Police recovered one pipe gun, a knife and one bullet from the spot.

A case has been lodged in this regard with the local police station.

CJ forced to go on leave

FROM PAGE 1

There is "no scope of doing politics" over the issue.

"Sickness is someone's personal matter. When you talk about someone's personal matter, it infringes his privacy. I would like to say that he is sick and there is no scope of doing politics here," he told reporters at his office on Tuesday hours after the BNP reaction.

Today, senior lawyers and members of the Supreme Court Bar Association led by its President Ziaul Abedin will go to the Appellate Division of the court to inquire about the condition of the CJ.

They will also seek help from the SC to know the whereabouts of Justice Sinha, Ziaul told reporters yesterday.

Over the last few months, Justice Sinha faced a barrage of criticisms from several senior ministers and Awami League leaders over the 16th amendment verdict, scrapping the constitutional amendment that had empowered parliament to remove SC judges without any prior notice.

Some ministers and ruling party members even accused the CJ of undermining order and Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and demanded that he quit.

Justice Sinha and his associates have since the unanimous verdict scrapping the 16th amendment to the constitution came out, the head of the government, ministers, ruling party leaders and their allies have been criticising the top court and its judges using a language that is unconstitutional, illegal and coarse, said Fakhrul.

"Even the language that was used in parliament, when you talk about someone's illness is not only unparliamentary, it is also unusual," he said, reading out from a statement.

He added the government set a "despicable example" of forcing the moral judgement of the country to go on leave.

The CJ has just returned from Canada and Japan, but there is no information that he took any treatment. There also, the CJ went to his BNP residence and signed some important files, he said.

But suddenly the law minister and the attorney general told the media on Monday that Justice Sinha went on leave due to illness, he added.

Justice Sinha went this evening an SCBA delegation led by its president and secretary went to the CJ's residence to meet him. A police officer told the delegation that the CJ was sick but he could not talk, Fakhrul said.

"It is not proven that he is sick but has been sent on forced leave," he claimed.

"UNFORTUNATE" The law minister said it was "unfortunate" that the BNP was making such claims.

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Independence

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against voters during Sunday's referendum on independence which had been banned by Madrid and the courts.

"The Catalan government will 'act at the end of this week or the beginning of next' to declare independence, its leader Carles Puigdemont told the BBC in an interview.

He was scheduled to give a further televised address at 1900 GMT yesterday.

Mireia Boya, a Catalan lawmaker from the pro-independence Popular Unity Candidacy (CUP) party, said on Twitter that a declaration of independence would follow a parliamentary session on Monday to evaluate the results of the vote to break away.

"We know that there may be disbarments, arrests... But we are prepared, and in no case will it be stopped," she said.

The Catalan government's spokesman Jordi Turull said that regional authorities had "nearly finished counting the votes."

"The result will be submitted to the regional parliament which will have two days to proclaim the independence of Catalonia," he said in a television interview.

The move would intensify the standoff with the central government, which along with the national courts has branded the referendum illegal.

"We will call for a referendum to suspend the semi-autonomous status that Spain's system of regional governments," Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has proposed publicly to Sunday's vote, but the king's intervention could clear the way for him to act.

"It is the responsibility of the legislative state powers to ensure constitutional order," Felipe said.

Hundreds of thousands of Catalans rallied in bars on Tuesday during a general strike over violence by Spanish riot police against voters taking part in the referendum on Sunday.

Felipe's dramatic intervention late Tuesday was a gauge of tension in Spain over the independence issue.

Catalan leaders "with their irresponsible conduct could put at risk the economic and social stability of the region," Felipe said.

Asked whether the CJ was under house arrest, he said, "Absolutely not, absolutely not."

"About his whereabouts, Anisul Huq said, "As far as I know, he is staying in his residence and he is sick. A doctor visited him at his residence yesterday [Tuesday] and is also scheduled to visit him today [yesterday]."

But why did not anyone from the government visit the sickening CJ?

"I've contacted the physician and I'll definitely visit him when I get clearance from the doctor... A cancer patient needs time to get well."

Replying to another question, he said, "Justice Sinha's personal matter why he did not go to a hospital. 'I can't tell you anything about that, I can just tell you I'll visit him soon."

The minister also read out before reporters the letter the CJ had sent to the president seeking his leave.

"This is for your kind information that I have been suffering from many physical problems. Earlier, I had been under treatment for long as a cancer patient. I am suffering from various physical ailments and I need rest to gain physical fitness. So, I want to enjoy a 30-day leave from October 3 to November 1."

Responding to another query about the CJ's health, Anisul Huq said, "The Supreme Court programme, Anisul posed a counter question, "Is it my responsibility to explain the matter? He went to his office. Please tell me if the government created any obstructive programme."

Asked about a news report that the CJ would be going abroad soon, he said, "I don't know."

Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbub Alam warned against any kind of "speculations" regarding Justice Sinha's leave.

"There is no scope of doing politics over a judge's leave," he said.

Replying to a question, he said, "It's not my duty to know the whereabouts of the CJ. It is the duty of the government to conduct cases. Overstressing people can lead for it... I am not anyone's guard dog."

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