

16TH AMENDMENT VERDICT

Review petition in next 28 days: AG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will file a petition with the Supreme Court in the next 28 days seeking review of its verdict scrapping the 16th amendment to the constitution that had empowered parliament to remove SC judges for incapacity or misconduct, said Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday.

He told The Daily Star that his office had collected the certified copy of the apex court judgement on November 26 for submitting the review petition.

"According to the Supreme Court rules, the review petition has to be filed within 30 days from the date of receiving the certified copy ... we will file the review petition within this period of time," he said.

The attorney general said his office has finalised the draft of the grounds on which the SC may consider the review petition, but the grounds might be recast through scrutiny and examination.

Mahbubey Alam earlier told this correspondent that the government in the petition would pray to the apex court to restore parliament's power to remove SC judges.

In the full verdict released on August 1, the apex court said the provision of Supreme Judicial Council for the removal of SC judges for misconduct or incapacity has been reinstated in the constitution. An 11-member committee, led by the attorney general, was formed in October for filing the review petition.

The SC's dismissal of the 16th amendment to the constitution has been a much talked-about topic among politicians from the ruling party as the SC in its full verdict made some observations, which were critical of the country's present political culture.



The canal running through Lautola area of Basila in the capital has been filled up illegally and turned into a truck parking lot. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

TK 430CR GRAFT CASES

Ex-Krishi Bank DGM sent to jail on surrender

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Jubayer Manjur, a former deputy general manager of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, to jail after he surrendered and sought bail in four corruption cases filed over misappropriating Tk 430 crore from the state-owned bank.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after Jubayer, also former Ramna Corporate Branch manager of the bank, submitted the bail petitions.

ACC lawyer Mir Ahmed Abdus Salam opposed the petitions.

The court, however, granted bail to him in one of the cases.

On August 4 this year, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the cases with Tejgaon Police Station accusing Jubayer, three bank officials

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Govt to build 2,000 flats for employees

Ecneec approves three projects worth Tk 1,551cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to build around 2,000 flats of different sizes in the capital's Azimpur, Zigatola and Motijheel for increasing accommodation facilities for the government employees.

At present only 8 percent of government employees enjoy the facility in Dhaka city.

Yesterday, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) approved three projects for constructing the flats at a cost of Tk 1,551 crore which will be completed by 2020.

According to the planning ministry proposal, 17 buildings with 20-storey each will be constructed at Azimpur at a cost of Tk 990 crore. There will be 684 flats in nine buildings and 608 flats in eight buildings.

In addition, there are 392 flats in 24 buildings on 13.62 acres of land in Azimpur government colony area. The planning ministry proposal said the buildings are old

and dilapidated; therefore, the government has a plan to dismantle the buildings and construct 23 buildings with 20-storey each.

The ministry said, in the first phase, the construction of six buildings is going on and will be completed by June next year. The number of flats will be 1,748 once the 23 buildings are constructed, said a planning ministry official.

Under another project approved yesterday, six buildings having 13-storey each will be constructed at Zigatola at a cost of Tk 304 crore, containing 288 flats.

In Motijheel, five 20-storey buildings will be built at a cost of Tk 257 crore. The buildings will contain 380 flats altogether.

According to the planning ministry proposal, there are 13,052 flats available in Dhaka city for 1,48,915 government employees. The government plans to increase the number of flats to 18,276.

Yesterday, Ecneec approved 14 projects including these three at a cost of Tk 10,099 crore.

AL can't be ousted forcibly

Quader tells meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League cannot be ousted from power forcibly, said its General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

"It is the BNP government that was ousted by the Janata Mancha," said Quader while addressing a memorial meeting organised in front of Nagar Bhaban marking the 11th death anniversary of Mohammad Hanif, the first elected mayor of Dhaka City Corporation.

He made the comment a few days after BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at a programme had said the government will be forced out of power.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said people did not "respond to BNP's movement"

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Billboard blunder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hours after the blunder in the digital billboard display, which was put up marking the 11th death anniversary of first elected mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) shut it down yesterday.

The digital display was supposed to run commemorative messages such as "Mohammad Hanif -- a close companion of the architect of independent Bangladesh and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; former president of Dhaka City Awami League..."

However, the display showed, "solemn tribute to Mayor Mohammad Hanif, architect of independent Bangladesh."

Though the DSCC shut it down, the mistake already went viral in social media and drew huge criticism.

Contacted, Hanif's son and DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon said when he came to know about the matter, he directed to stop it immediately.

He said those responsible were handed over to Shahbagh Police Station. Police will take proper actions against them.

Officer-in-Charge of Shahbagh Police Station Abul Hasan confirmed it. No case was filed till 7:30pm.

BDR MUTINY

Find out facts behind intelligence failure: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday underscored the need for finding out facts behind the intelligence failure in detecting the impending BDR mutiny in 2009.

"The facts behind the intelligence failure will have to be found out through a transparent investigation," Fakhrul said. He was addressing a programme at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

The demand came a day after the High Court, in its observation on the BDR carnage case, asked the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to form a probe body

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Workers busy decorating the Kakrail church yesterday ahead of Pope Francis's visit to the country. The pope, who is now visiting Myanmar, will arrive in the capital tomorrow on a three-day visit. President Abdul Hamid will receive him upon arrival.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Road safety recommendations remain unfulfilled

Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury's third death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three years have gone by since distinguished journalist and columnist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury was killed in a road accident at the Karwan Bazar intersection, but little has been done to make the intersection safe for pedestrians and commuters alike.

Former chief editor and managing director of the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) was going to the ATN Bangla office in Karwan Bazar on a bus to join a talk show on November 29, 2014. As he was getting off the bus, it recklessly pulled away before he could disembark safely.

Following a public outrage, the government then formed a five-member probe committee that made a 15-point recommendation, including ensuring adequate bus stops and strict monitoring of traffic by law enforcers.



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Anything is possible

First state-funded school student wins prestigious Eton debate competition in UK

CITY DESK

Born and raised in an impoverished area in East London in the UK, and student of a public school, 16-year-old Selina Begum has stunned the world by winning the individual prize at Eton Autumn Invitational debating competition.

Selina is the first state-funded school student who won the prestigious competition held this month at Eton College, beating 200 other students from top private schools including Winchester College, Westminster College and Eton College, said a press release yesterday.

An A-level student at Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre (NCS), Selina lives in an East End council flat with her parents who barely speak English and immigrated to the UK from Bangladesh in the 90s.

Selina beat her competitors in motion debates on junk food and rights to privacy. She also gave a speech on Islamophobia.

Mentioning that she felt like a fish out of water when she arrived at Eton, Selina said, "I didn't know what to expect when I arrived at Eton. I thought there'd be some social stigma being the only Muslim state school pupil competing, but there wasn't."

Regarding the other competitors from well-off backgrounds, she said, "They may have come from far more privileged backgrounds than mine, but they were all as scared as I was. What struck me most was how alike we all were. No one looked down on me, we all encouraged each other. It was a wonderful experience."



Selina Begum

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Mother of slain Diaz again on hunger strike

CU CORRESPONDENT

Mother of slain BCL leader Diaz Irfan Chowdhury went on a hunger strike again on the Chittagong University campus yesterday, demanding immediate arrest of the alleged killers of her son.

Wearing a burial shroud, Jaheda Amin Chowdhury stayed at CU Zero Point for around an hour in the evening, said witnesses.

"The university administration is involved in killing my son. They are patronising the killers," she alleged.

Earlier on Monday, she started a hunger strike on the campus with the same demand.

The body of Diaz, who was the assistant secretary of the central committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League, was found hanging at his home near Gate No-2 of CU on November 20 last year. His family members were not at home at that time.

The incident is being investigated by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

SUICIDE ATTACK AT CTG COURT

Twelve years gone, trial still unfinished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Twelve years have passed, but the trial of a murder case filed over a suicide bomb attack on the Chittagong court premises is yet to be finished.

On this day in 2005, JMB carried out the attack, killing two people, including a police constable and injuring 16 others.

Following the attack, a murder and explosive cases were filed with Kotwali Police Station.

Court sources said only 28 witnesses out of 77 have testified in last 12 years. Even the investigation officer of the murder case is yet to testify.

Currently, the murder case is under trial at Speedy Trial Tribunal in Chittagong.

Special Public Prosecutor Mohammed Ayub Khan of the tribunal yesterday told The Daily Star that no deposition of the witnesses was recorded as the post of the tribunal's judge has been vacant for nine months this year.

Besides, the number of witnesses was increased without any ground, causing the delay as well, said PP Ayub.

In the murder case, detectives submitted a charge sheet to the court, accusing five leaders of the banned Islamist outfit on May 18, 2006.

A Chittagong court framed charges against them on April 16, 2007.

Three of the accused were hanged to death in another case.

Among the remaining two accused in the murder case, Javed Iqbal alias Mohammed alias Hurrar, is in jail while JMB bomb expert Jahedul Islam Sumon alias Boma Mizan is on the run.



Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury speaks at a rally protesting the power tariff hike. Bikalpa Dhara, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Nagarik Oikya organised it in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAN