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SHAH CEMENT

WEALTH INFORMATION

SC judges need to submit it for accountability

Say jurists; the practice stalled for 8 years

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The practice of submitting wealth statements by the Supreme Court judges to the chief justice has been stalled for the last eight years.

In 2011, the then chief justice ABM Khairul Haque requested the SC judges to start the practice for the sake of transparency and accountability.

Lower court judges submit their wealth statements to the SC through the law ministry every three years. It is mandatory for them, but there is no such rule for the SC judges.

With allegations of irregularities in the judiciary being raised sometimes, some eminent jurists have opined that all the judges of the Appellate and High Court divisions of the SC should submit their wealth statements to the chief justice.

Some jurists further said if the wealth statements of the SC judges are disclosed to the people, the prestige and dignity of the SC and the public faith in the judiciary will be greatly enhanced.

On December 30, 2010, Justice Khairul Haque submitted his wealth statement to the then president Zillur Rahman. At a meeting on January 3, 2011, Justice Khairul urged all the judges of the two divisions to submit wealth statements to his office.

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FATHER'S DAY TODAY... A father helps his child touch rain drops at Nazirpara of Barishal yesterday, the first day of the Bangla month Ashar which heralds the rainy season in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

NOAB STATEMENT

It may breed hostility in the industry

BFUJ, DUJ say in joint statement on wage board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Factions of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists yesterday protested the recent statement of Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) on the 9th Wage Board proposals, saying such a statement would create a "hostile relationship" between the owners and media workers.

In a joint statement, the BFUJ and DUJ said the Noab statement seemed to be "unacceptable and unrealistic, devoid of morality, and an attempt to hide facts".

Journalists and workers always carry out their professional duties considering their organisations to be their own, read the statement.

However, the way the owners questioned the media workers' living and

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BSF troops enjoy total impunity

Brad Adams of HRW tells The Daily Star about border killings; ex-NHRC chairman calls for raising voice

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Kabirul Hossain Molla's offence was that he trespassed on Indian soil near the border in Satkhira on May 10. He wanted to bring some packs of tea leaves.

He was caught and brutally tortured allegedly by some members of the Indian Border Security Force. At one point, the BSF men poured petrol into his mouth and rectum. As his condition worsened, they left him on the no-man's land, instead of giving him any treatment.

The 32-year-old died at Satkhira Sadar Hospital hours later.

"My brother was groaning in excruciating pain in the hospital bed... Before passing away, he described how inhumanely he was tortured," Kabirul's brother Rabiul Hossain told The Daily Star recently.

He said his brother could have been imprisoned, according to the law, for trespassing. But the BSF cruelty has shattered everything, pushing the poor family, including the deceased's four-year-old child, into deep uncertainty, he said.

Kabirul is not the only Bangladeshi man killed by the BSF for trespassing.

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FILE PHOTO

'I would call it unfortunate deaths'

BSF chief on border killings; says such incidents incresed recently

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming border killings "unfortunate deaths", Indian Border Security Force (BSF) Director General Rajni Kant Mishra yesterday said such incidents had increased this year.

"The word you used 'killings'; I would call it unfortunate deaths of some individuals... I agree, this year the rate is slightly higher," he said, while replying to a query after a director general-level border conference at the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) headquarters in the capital.

A 19-member team lead by BGB DG Maj Gen Md Shafeenul Islam participated in the four-day conference, which began on June 12, attended by a 10-member Indian delegation led by the BSF DG.

Mishra claimed that seven people were killed in the borders last year, of whom six were Indians and only one was Bangladeshi.

His figures, however, contradict those of Bangladeshi rights body Ain o Salish Kendra, which puts the number of Bangladeshis to 15.

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Muggers kill man in Uttarkhan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of suspected muggers stabbed a young man to death and injured another in the capital's Uttarkhan Batulia area yesterday.

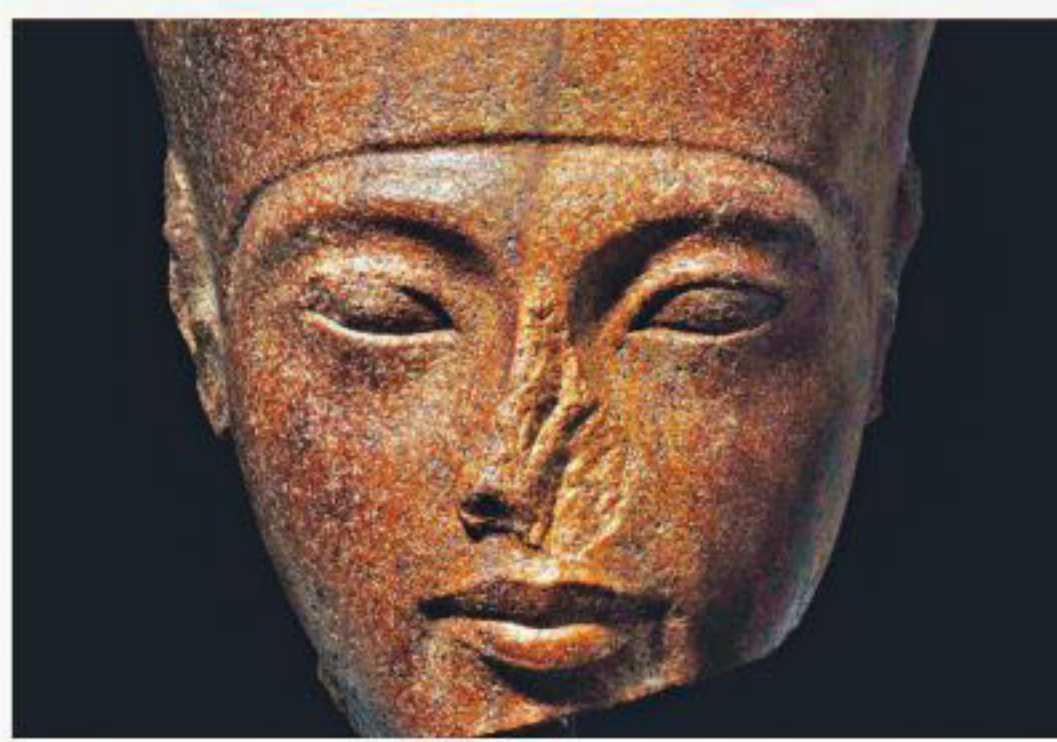
The dead was identified as Md Sakib, 23, son of Rafiq Mia, and the in-jured is Shipon Mia, 22, son of Sultan Mia, both of the same area. The two were friends and worked at a shop in the capital's Uttara.

Speaking to journalists at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Shipon's father said a group of criminals tried to mug Sakib and Shipon when they had gone to a nearby river in the afternoon. As they protested, the muggers stabbed them.

He added that the attackers ran away as soon as people rushed to the spot after hearing a ruckus. The victims were rescued and rushed to a local hospital.

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Stolen Tutankhamun statue up for auction



CNN ONLINE

Egypt is attempting to halt the sale of an ancient statue at Christie's auction house in London over concerns that it may have been stolen.

The 11-inch statue with features reminiscent of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun is set to lead a Lon-don auction on July 4, according to Christie's. Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities has appealed to Christie's and UNESCO to halt the sale, and requested to see documents proving its provenance, according to a statement from the ministry.

Officials from the Egyptian embassy in London asked the UK Foreign Office to return the statue, as well as calling for the sale of other Egyptian artifacts at the planned auction to be halted.

"Once again, we will not be negligent or allow anybody to sell any Egyptian artifact whatsoever," reads the statement.

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One killed in 'gunfight' with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A suspected drug peddler was killed in what police said was a gunfight in Teknaf early yesterday.

Russel Mahmud, 36, of Narayanganj, was shot during a police raid in Hoaikong area around 1:30am, said Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Model Police Station.

He was on his way to buy a haul of yaba pills from suspected local drug dealer

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 16

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

13-year-old tortured over phone 'theft'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two men allegedly beat a 13-year-old boy with sticks and hammer over allegation of theft in Gazipur on Thursday.

They also allegedly pressed a needle into one of the fingernails of the victim, police said.

The incident happened in Potka village of Sreepur upazila.

On Friday night, the family members of the victim -- one Sajid of the village -- filed a case against seven people with Sreepur Police Station over the incident. Anwar Hossain, 40, and Sohel, 24, of the same village, are the prime accused.

According to the case statement, Anwar and Sohel called the boy to their home for work around 8:00am on Thursday and confined him in a room. At one point, the two asked him to return two mobile phones which they claimed were stolen the previous night.

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Progress of the construction of the country's maiden metro rail service is more visible in the capital's Shewrapara area than elsewhere. The city's perenni-al traffic congestion would partially ease once the construction of the metro lines is complete. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

HK suspends extradition bill

China supports move, protests to continue

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam yesterday indefinitely delayed a proposed law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China, in a dramatic retreat after anger over the bill triggered the city's biggest and most violent street protests in decades.

The extradition bill, which would have covered Hong Kong's seven million residents as well as foreign and Chinese nationals there, was seen by many as a threat to the rule of law in the former British colony.

Around a million people marched through Hong Kong last Sunday to oppose the bill, according to organisers of the protest, the largest in the city since crowds came out against the bloody suppression of prodemocracy demonstrations centred around Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

Demonstrations continued through the week and were met with tear gas, bean bag rounds and rubber bullets from police, plunging the Asian finance hub into turmoil and piling heavy pressure on Lam.

"After repeated internal deliberations over the last two days, I now announce that the government has decided to suspend the legislative amendment exercise, restart our communication with all sectors of society, do more explanation work and listen to different views of society," Lam told a news conference.

In her first public appearance or comments since Wednesday, she said there was no deadline, effectively suspending the process indefinitely.

Political opponents called for the bill to be scrapped

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