

SC clears way for Jewellers' assoc polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for the authorities concerned to hold the election to Bangladesh Jewellers' Association (BAJUS) today.

The apex court stayed a High Court order that halted the process for holding the election to the 35-member executive body of BAJUS for 2019-2021 session.

A seven-member bench of the appellate division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after hearing a petition filed by the association's incumbent President Ganga Charan Malakar and Secretary Dilip Agrawal, seeking stay on the HC order.

There is no legal bar for holding the election today to elect the new executive committee of BAJUS following the SC order, Advocate AM Aminudin, a lawyer for Ganga and Dilip, told The Daily Star.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza also appeared for Ganga and Dilip.

Following a writ petition filed by Bipul Ghosh, a candidate for the post of executive member, the HC on November 4 stayed the process for holding the election.

The writ petitioner claimed in the petition that there are 114 disputed voters in the voter list finalised by the election board on September 29 for holding the BAJUS election.

An appeal was filed with the Arbitration Tribunal of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), challenging the voter list. The Arbitration Tribunal rejected the appeal on October 30.

Advocate Imam Hasan, a lawyer for the writ petitioner, told this newspaper that the BAJUS election will be held today on a voter list where there are 144 disputed voters.

A total of 666 voters have been enlisted to cast votes in the election, he added.

Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh and Barrister Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury appeared for the writ petitioner.

Towards your destination'

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Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star; Niloufer Manzur, principal of Sunbeams School and Prof AK Enamul Haque of East West University delivered speeches in the session that started around 2:30pm.

The event comprises six more sessions, which will highlight academic counseling, overcoming stress, career planning, skills development and green initiative.

The programme will conclude on November 14.

নেট গার্মেন্টস ফ্যাক্টরী বিক্রয়/ভাড়া

ঢাকা জেলের সামাজিক বাসন্ত সলাল জেলায় নেট গার্মেন্টস ফ্যাক্টরীর মালিকের নামে বিক্রয়/ভাড়া হচ্ছে। ফ্যাক্টরীর বিশ্বাসে নিম্নলিখিত জেলায় নেট গার্মেন্টস ফ্যাক্টরীর মালিকের নামে বিক্রয় করা হচ্ছে। প্রায় ১১০ মিটার বিস্তৃত জেলায় এবং ১১০৫ মিটার বিস্তৃত (জেলারেটেড)। ব্যালান্স-১০০ মেট্রি, হেলিটেক্ট-১১২, কেন্টিক্রি। রেকেটেড বিস্তৃত ১৩৫০ মিটার ফিল্ট (ও ক্রেস্ট)। যোগাযোগ: ০১৭১২৬৬৮৪৮, ০১৭১২৬৬৮৪৭।

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Col Mia Md Jahangir passes away

CITY DESK

Colonel (retired)
Mia
Mohammad
Jahangir,
psc of
Bangladesh
Army,



passed away at 9:15am on Wednesday at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka. He was 76.

He was suffering from blood cancer.

Col Jahangir joined the then Pakistan Army in 1968. After the Liberation War, he worked in several sectors of Bangladesh Army and Border Guard Bangladesh.

He was born to an aristocrat family in Barishal and was the fourth son of late Altaf Uddin Ahmed and late Zubunnissa Begum. He left behind his wife, children, in-laws, grand children, siblings, and a host of friends and relatives.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Mohakhali DOHS Mosque and he was buried at Banani Military graveyard.

A doa mahfil will be held tomorrow at the mosque for seeking peace for his departed soul.

3 syndicates smuggling

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"We had information that he was involved in gold smuggling and cattle trade, but we never heard that he has links with arms smuggling," he said.

Asked about his whereabouts, Hadiuzzaman said Habibur was not regular in the upazila chairman's office, and that he did not know about his current location.

BIHAR-KOLKATA-JASHORE-DHAKA

Zillur Rahman is another member of the arms syndicate, who has links to arms factories in Bihar of India, said a DB official, quoting the arrestee as saying.

Using the Indian part of the syndicate, demand for firearms are first placed to the factory in Bihar. Later, the arms are brought to Kolkata, and kept at Bonogram area of Angrail village in North 24 Parganas.

Finally, these are pushed inside Bangladesh territory using the Putkhali border point of Jashore, which then make their way to Dhaka, said the official, requesting anonymity.

ADC Muhamarr Ali said the Indian syndicate buys the firearms for around Tk 20,000 each, but the Bangladesh part members have to pay Tk 30,000 to the Indian side.

But the firearms are sold for Tk 50,000

to Bangladeshi criminals, which goes up to Tk 70,000 during political turmoil and election periods, he said.

DB officials said they first got trace of the syndicate in 2018 during a robbery in Dhaka, and finally got the details following arrest of Hafizur.

According to detectives, the smugglers first packed the arms in special plastic, and carried those through Ichamati river along the Putkhali border point, which were later collected by Bangladeshi members of the ring.

Arrested Hafizur used to work as a cattle trader earlier, and has been involved in narcotics and arms trade for the last five years, said ADC Muhamarr Ali.

Recently, he started working exclusively as an arms smuggler after Indian cattle stopped coming to Bangladesh. In recent times, Hafizur brought three shipments in Dhaka and he handed over eight firearms to criminals, Muhamarr Ali said.

"We have also got some clue about the buyer in Dhaka, and are now conducting drives to arrest the criminal," added the ADC.

An official of DB said they also learnt of identity of the syndicate's Indian members, and would inform Indian law enforcers.

No country

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In Bangladesh, land, houses, temples and even burial grounds of these communities are being grabbed along with forests, on which their livelihood mostly depended, he said.

Those are being occupied by influential people, forcing them [people of minority communities] to leave the country.

"Indigenous people have become minorities in their own land," he added.

Blaming the government for the situation, Prof Ferdous said these people have been pushed into a process of becoming landless in the name of development.

If such a situation prevails, no indigenous person will be left in Bangladesh. From minority, their number will turn to zero. They will only be found in researches, archives and museums, he said.

To protect rights of these communities, he suggested that the government formulate a separate act for them; reserve seats in the parliament and local government polls to ensure their political representation, and recognise their identity in the constitution.

Speaking as chief guest at the discussion, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said the rights of indigenous people could not be established yet as the state has a different mindset towards them.

He urged people to continue the fight for their rights and take part in mainstream politics, which will help uphold their demands.

Convenor of the Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous People Fazle Hossain Badsha said, "We don't want to see a Bangladesh divided by religion and ethnicity, as it is against the spirit of the Liberation War."

Lawmaker AKM Fazlul Haque, IPDS President Sanjeeb Drong and Jatiya Adivasi Parishad President Rabindranath Soren, among others, spoke at the programme.

Hearing on probe

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group to hold Mondal responsible for the delay.

This report was submitted by DAG Bashar to the HC bench last month during hearing the same petition filed by Advocate Md Jahir Uddin Limon, chairman of Legal Support and People's Rights, seeking Tk 3 crore compensation for Titash's family.

Expat minister

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workers in Malaysia. He requested Prime Minister Mahathir's cooperation in this regard, the statement said.

Malaysia has taken a strong stance beside Bangladesh on the Rohingya crisis, but labour relations have been sour, often remaining off and on, due to malpractices in recruitment and exploitative practices in Malaysia.

The Mahathir-led government suspended labour recruitment from

Bangladesh in September last year, alleging that there was a monopoly by a syndicate of 10 recruiting agents, which were authorised by the previous Malaysian government.

Workers had to spend up to Tk 4 lakh each, though the recruitment cost was initially set at Tk 37,000 under the G2G Plus deal signed in 2016.

The two governments are now working out a new deal for fresh recruitment from Bangladesh.

Momen seeks global

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only solution to the crisis.

Bangladesh, as one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change, has also become one of the most resilient countries, he said.

A one-metre rise in sea-level is likely to uproot nearly 30 million people of Bangladesh and climate vulnerability is costing nearly between one and three percent of the country's annual GDP growth rate, the minister told the meeting.

Myanmar's IORA

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At the IORA meeting, Bangladesh said Myanmar has failed to demonstrate its willingness to be a responsible state, and lacks respect for international norms and rules.

Rear Admiral (retd) Khurshed Alam, secretary (maritime affairs unit) at the foreign ministry, led a Bangladeshi delegation to the meeting attended by delegations from 22 IORA member states and nine dialogue partners.

Some Southeast Asian countries supported the application of Myanmar's membership for the IORA, but it was declined as IORA charter says decisions on all matters and issues at all levels will be taken on the basis of consensus.

During the meeting of the Council of Senior Officials (CSO), vice chairmanship for the tenure of October 19, 2019 to October 2021 was officially handed over to Bangladesh.

Subsequently, Bangladesh will assume the charge of the chair from October 1, 2021 for two years.

UAE officially assumed the charge of chair for the tenure of October 2019-October 2021.

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