CITY POLLS

Don't arrest candidates without previous warrants: EC to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday instructed Dhaka Metropolitan Police not to arrest candidates -- or their supporters -- of Dhaka city corporation polls without previous warrant against them.

"I have talked to the DMP commissioner in this regard and specifically asked them not to arrest any candidate or their supporters if no arrest warrant was issued against them earlier," EC Senior Secretary Md Alamgir said yesterday.

"If a candidate and their supporters commit any offence or court gives any direction against them, the state can take action to protect the lives of people and their properties," Alamgir said while talking to reporters at his EC office.

The EC secretary spoke with the DMP commissioner in line with the Election Commission direction to do so.

BNP leaders on Monday in a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda informed the CEC that police were arresting and harassing their candidates.

Till that day, a party-backed councillor candidate was arrested, while another was abducted and found in Munshiganj. The house of a party-backed female ward councillor candidate was also vandalised.

"We will give further direction to law enforcement agencies in a meeting scheduled to be held on January 22," Alamgir added.

Journalists will be allowed to enter voting centres, except secret room at voting booths, he said, adding that election officials can only bar journalists if they find any issue against them.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad in separate letters to the CEC demanded for changing the voting date of DNCC and DSCC elections -- slated for January 30 -- as Saraswati Puja will be observed the same day.

Oikya Parishad presidium members Kajal Debnath, Nim Chandra Bhowmik and Puja Udjapan Parishad president Milan Dutta and general secretary Nirmal Chhaterjee handed over the letters to the commission senior secretary Alamgir.

"Saraswati Puja is traditionally celebrated at schools, colleges and universities across the country. It is unfortunate that the two Dhaka city polls will be held on that day," said the Oikya Parishad letter.

"Earlier, we urged the EC to reschedule Rangpur-3 by-polls, held on October 5, which was the second day of Dugra Puja but the commission did not pay heed to

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PHOTO OF THE DAY

PRABIR DAS

No barrier high enough when it comes to petting cute puppies, as proven by this child who extends his arm through a metal grille to make a new friend. This photo was taken yesterday from Dhaka University's TSC area.

Two remanded over attack on Sarwar Ali

Eminent citizens, organisations demand immediate action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two arrestees -- in a case filed over Sunday's attack on Liberation War Museum Trustee Dr Sarwar Ali and his family members -- were sent to two-day remand by a court yesterday. Abul Kalam, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Uttara Pashchim Police Station confirmed the matter to The Daily Star.

The arrestees are Hasan and Hafizul -- security guard of the building and a driver, he said.

During interrogation, Hasan told police that Nazmul, a driver who previously worked in the building, came to the house on the day with the backpack that was later recovered with weapons in it. He entered the building with the excuse of going to the toilet, according to investigators. Another man accompanied him.

Nazmul used to visit the building from time to time

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

39 killed in train accidents last year: railways minister

Number much lower than non-government data

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 129 railway-related accidents killed 39 people and injured 155 across the country last year, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan said yesterday.

Of them, 10 happened on level crossings, leaving 18 people dead; 21 others were killed in 119 accidents caused by signal violations and derailments, he added.

The minister was briefing reporters at Rail Bhaban on the occasion of the first anniversary of the incumbent government.

However, the figure presented by the minister is significantly lower than that of non-government organisations.

According to Nirapad Sarak Chai, at least 198 people were killed and 347 injured in 162 railway-related accidents last year.

Shipping and Communication Reporters Forum (SCRF) said at least 421 people were killed and 366 injured in 393 railway-related accidents in 2019.

Three major train accidents occurred in 2019, the minister said.

On June 23, four people were killed and 64 injured in a rail accident in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar. He said two railway staffers were suspended over the accident and further action against them is pending.

At least 17 people were killed and 54 injured in Brahmanbaria on November 12. The driver, his assistant and guard of Turna Express were suspended and further division action is pending, he added.

The third accident occurred in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj, which damaged huge railway properties. Punitive action has been taken against three railway staff in this regard, the minister said.

"We are working to remove negligence of railway staff so that such

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

DHAKA TODAY

REPORT LAUNCH
Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh
Organiser: Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum
Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity
Time: 10:30am

RALLY
Protesting rape of DU student
Organiser: Bangladesh Students' Union
Venue: Raju Memorial Sculpture
Time: 3:30pm

LECTURE
Flow Generation by Economist Nicolo Andreula
Organiser: Centre for Governance Studies
Venue: BIIS, Eskaton Garden Road
Time: 9:30am

CHARITY CONCERT
Concert for Usnota
Organiser: Bangladesh Student Council
Venue: TSC, University of Dhaka
Time: 12pm

EXHIBITION
Unveiling The Truth by Kazi Habib Hasan
Venue: Dwip Gallery Lalmatia
Time: 3pm

It's been a little colder in Dhaka over the past couple of nights, making the lives of people living on streets more difficult. This woman was sleeping under a footbridge at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue on Monday, trying her best to stay warm.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

HC to deliver order on foreign ministry official's termination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver its order today on a petition filed by a former foreign ministry official challenging the legality of her termination from government service. She was sacked soon after the HC sought a probe report from the ministry's sexual harassment prevention committee over the accusation she made against three ministry officials.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman set the date yesterday after holding a hearing on the petition.

The foreign ministry on January 5 sacked the woman, who was working at the ministry's research wing.

The ministry in a statement said the female official has been sacked as allegation of her misbehaviour was proven in its probe.

Earlier in the day, the same bench

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Car, SUV, microbus to get fitness clearance for 2yrs

Renewal can be done at any BRTA office

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

From now on, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) will issue fitness clearance to cars, SUVs and microbuses for two years, instead of one -- much to the relief of owners.

Road Transport and Highway Division issued a circular in this regard on Sunday and BRTA is now updating their software to start providing the services within a few days, officials said.

"The decision has been taken to reduce hassles of vehicle owners while getting fitness clearance," Lokman Hossain Mollah, director (engineering) of BRTA, told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, other vehicles will have to go through the annual fitness checkup, he added.

Lokman said owners of all types of vehicles can now renew fitness certificates from any BRTA office across the country. Earlier, a vehicle owner had to get clearance from the office the vehicle was registered with, he said.

Lokman said they started the facility from last month.

Vehicle owners have to face hassles as they have to wait for a long time at BRTA offices to have their vehicles tested. Shortage of inspectors and vehicle inspection centres puts huge pressure on BRTA staff members, which often causes mismanagement.

Taking benefit of this situation, brokers become active in and around BRTA offices and they in many cases create problems resulting in further harassment of vehicle owners.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

CORRUPTION CASES

Former AL lawmaker Awal, wife get anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted eight weeks' anticipatory bail to former Awami League lawmaker of Pirojpur, AKMA Awal, and his wife Laila Parvin in three separate corruption cases filed for misappropriating khas (government) land.

The HC, however, ordered Awal and his wife to surrender before the trial court concerned in eight weeks in connection with the cases.

The bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice AKM Zahirul Huq came up with the orders following three separate petitions filed by the accused seeking anticipatory bail.

They also appeared before the HC bench during the hearing yesterday.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the cases with its integrated district office in Barishal against Awal for misappropriating khas land.

According to one case statement, the former lawmaker took lease of a khas land using fake documents and constructed a three-storey building on it. The building was rented out to Pirojpur Rural Electricity Cooperative at the rate of Tk 17,250 per month from October 1, 2017, for about three years.

Awal's wife Laila Parvin was also made accused in the case.

In the second case, Awal was accused of illegally grabbing a government land near Swarupkathi upazila bungalow and building another bungalow there. He also constructed Awal Foundation and Library on it.

According to the statement of the third case, Awal grabbed a 44 decimal pond known as "Rajar Pukur" in Pirojpur town and erected a boundary wall to keep it in his possession.

Advocate Awasafur Rahman appeared for the accused while Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan represented the ACC.

Bail of rape accused officer rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail of Abdur Rakib Khan Bappi, sub-inspector (SI) of Mirpur Police Station, in connection with a case filed against him for raping a woman.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sufian Md Noman passed the order after the officer's lawyer moved a bail petition.

During yesterday's hearing, the complainant was present at the court and opposed the bail petition, saying that the SI raped her.

The defence claimed that the SI and the complainant had an affair.

On Friday, another Dhaka court sent Bappi to jail after he was produced before it, with a forwarding report where the investigation officer appealed to keep him in jail until the investigation is completed.

The court, however, set yesterday for hearing the bail petition submitted by Bappi's lawyer.

On Thursday, a woman filed a case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, alleging that Bappi raped her by making false promises of marriage, said police.

SI Bappi, hailing from Kishoreganj's Tarail, was arrested from the capital's Agargaon area the same day.

ব্রিটিশ কোম্পানি কর্তৃক প্রফেসর ডাঃ একেএম ফজলুল হক এর কলোরেক্টাল

সার্জারীর উপর ডকুমেন্টারী ফিল্ম তৈরী

বিশ্বখ্যাত কলোরেক্টাল সার্জন অধ্যাপক ডাঃ একেএম ফজলুল হক, প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান (অবঃ) বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, কলোরেক্টাল সার্জারী বিভাগ, এর কলোরেক্টাল সার্জারীর দক্ষতা ও নৈপূন্য (Expertise) বিশ্বব্যপী ছড়িয়ে দেয়ার জন্য বিশ্ববিখ্যাত ব্রিটিশ ভার্চুয়াল রিয়্যালেটি কোম্পানি "দ্য মেডিকেল রিয়্যালেটিজ লিমিটেড" অধ্যাপক ডাঃ হকের রোগী দেখার আধুনিক কলাকৌশল ও অপারেশনের পদ্ধতির উপর ডকুমেন্টারী ফিল্ম তৈরীর জন্য তিন সদস্য বিশিষ্ট উচ্চ ক্ষমতা সম্পন্ন একটি টিম ০৭/১২/২০১৯ ইং থেকে ১১/১২/২০১৯ ইং পর্যন্ত ঢাকার ইডেন মাল্টি-কেয়ার হাসপাতালে অধ্যাপক ডাঃ হকের বিভিন্ন ধরনের অপারেশন অত্যাধুনিক ৩৬০° ভিডিও রেকর্ড করেন। ধারণকৃত ভিডিও রেকর্ড থেকে ফিল্ম ও ডকুমেন্টারী তৈরী করে সারা বিশ্বের মেডিকেল ছাত্র, শিক্ষক ও সার্জনদের শিক্ষার জন্য অত্যাধুনিক প্রযুক্তির (Virtual Reality) মাধ্যমে বিশ্বব্যপী প্রচার করা হবে। কলোরেক্টাল সার্জারীতে নিয়োজিত চিকিৎসকবৃন্দ পৃথিবীর যেকোন প্রান্তে পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা, ফিশার, পাইলোনিডাল সাইনাস, রেকটাল প্রোলাপস, কোলন ও রেক্টাম ক্যান্সারের লেপারোস্কোপিক সার্জারীসহ অত্যাধুনিক প্রযুক্তির অপারেশনসমূহ শিখতে পারবেন। লেপারোস্কোপিক, কোলন ও রেক্টাম ক্যান্সার অপারেশনে ডাঃ আসিফ আলমাস হক, এফসিপিএস, এফআরসিএস (ইংল্যান্ড ও গ্লাসগো), অধ্যাপক ডাঃ হককে সহায়তা করেন।

এ উপলক্ষ্যে ০৮/১২/২০১৯ ইং তারিখে এক সংবাদ সম্মেলনে অধ্যাপক ডাঃ হক ও সফররত মেডিকেল রিয়্যালেটিজ কোম্পানির মি. মেথিউ লেদারবারো (প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা), মি. জেইমস পেনড্রি (প্রধান অপারেটিং কর্মকর্তা), মি. সিয়ারন ক্যারিক (প্রধান টেকনিক্যাল কর্মকর্তা) বক্তব্য রাখেন। এ সংক্রান্ত খবর বিভিন্ন টেলিভিশন ও সংবাদপত্রে বিশেষ গুরুত্বের সাথে প্রচারিত হয়।

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