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PETROBANGLA OFFICIALS Reintroduce indemnity Additional attorney gen advises JS body

ASIFUR RAHMAN and RASHIDUL HASAN

A recommendation has been made to a parliamentary standing committee that a martial-law era provision be brought back for shielding Petrobangla officials from legal proceedings for “acting in good faith”.

Additional Attorney General Mohammad Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury has opined for inclusion of the indemnity clause to Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation Bill-2022, placed in parliament in June and now under scrutiny.

“No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Board, the Chairman or any other Director or any officer or employee of the Corporation for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Ordinance,” reads clause 21 of the ordinance, repealed in 2013.

Mehedi is among the legal experts whose opinions have been sought by the parliamentary committee on power, energy and mineral resources ministry, which is now scrutinising the bill.

In favour of the clause, the additional attorney general said if any official, who performs duties in the interest of Petrobangla, gets “immunity or indemnity”, he will do his job freely and without fear.

His proposal, placed on August 4, was on the agenda of the meeting of the House committee yesterday. But no decision was made on this.

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Ignoring safety guidelines, the BRT project authorities use an excavator to dump road surface material onto a truck on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Tongi's Cherag Ali area yesterday. Even after a tragic accident that killed five people during such work in Uttara just days ago, the authorities still seem unwilling to maintain safety measures.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

VIOLATING STAY ORDER HC blasts Kushtia DC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday blasted and cautioned Kushtia Deputy Commissioner Saiful Islam for his inaction to prevent the sale of Tk 123 crore properties at Tk 15 crore through an auction violating its stay order.

On August 11, the HC bench summoned the DC, Kushtia Superintendent of Police Md Khairul Alam, Brac Bank Managing Director Selim RF Hussain, Abdur Rashid, a businessman who has purchased the properties, and an officer-in-charge of Kushtia Sadar Police Station, Md Sabirul Alam, to appear before it and issued the rule asking them to explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against them for ignoring its stay order.

“We are cautioning you. You are a public servant. Don't use heavy curtains for the doors and windows of your office rooms.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

TERRORISM CASE Imran Khan gets protective bail Opposition warns ex-PM's arrest would be ‘red line’

AGENCIES

The Islamabad High Court yesterday granted PTI chief Imran Khan protective bail till Thursday in a terrorism case registered against him for “threatening” a female judge and senior police officers at a public rally.

The former Pakistani prime minister was booked late on Sunday under Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (punishment for acts of terrorism) regarding his comments at his Islamabad rally on Saturday.

Earlier yesterday, Imran's lawyers Babar Awan and Faisal Chaudhry filed a petition seeking pre-arrest bail on his behalf in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

A two-member bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Babar Sattar took up the petition and asked about the objections raised by the registrar's office.

Awan informed the judge that an objection pertaining to approaching the relevant forum was raised on the plea. Justice Kayani remarked that an objection pertaining to biometrics was also raised.

During the proceedings, Awan claimed that Imran's Banigala residence had been “surrounded” and that “he cannot even approach the relevant court”. He urged the court to grant Imran protective bail so that the relevant forum could be approached.

“If the court wants to use its authority to grant pre-arrest bail, it's your jurisdiction,” he added.

Justice Kayani observed that the relevant forum was the anti-terrorism court and ruled out the possibility of the IHC granting Imran pre-arrest bail at this point.

The court then approved Imran's protective bail till August 25 and directed him to approach the relevant court by then.



EC expects all parties wil join polls Says the commission in letters to parties, govt bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday said it cannot force any political parties to take part in the next parliamentary election, but it sincerely hopes the participation of all parties.

It gave a set of opinions on the recommendations made by political parties during recently held talks.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan said they sent their opinions to the political parties that joined the dialogue and top officials of the Prime Minister's Office, the Cabinet Division, and law, defence, public administration, home and finance ministries.

“We sent our opinions to these ministries as many political parties made several recommendations regarding them. We just informed them.”

“Since the parliamentary polls are held in a day, the number of law enforcers to maintain law and order at each polling station may be insufficient or inadequate.

Therefore, the commission thinks that the proposal for the army deployment to maintain law and order is logical,” the EC said in letters.

The EC said having a polls-time government under interim, caretaker or all-party system is a matter of political decision.

It added that the proposal for appointing EC officials and other officials as returning officers instead of deputy commissioners is in “active consideration”.

Installation of CCTV cameras in and around polling centres will be based on EC's capacity, the commission said, adding that online voting system would not be introduced.

Twenty-eight out of 39 registered political parties took part in the dialogue with the EC between July 17 and 31. They made a number of proposals for ensuring a participatory and credible election. Nine political parties, including the BNP, skipped the talks.

The BNP demands a neutral government as it believes free and fair parliamentary polls are not possible under the Awami League rule.

ASSAULT OVER ATTIRE SC stays bail for accused Marzia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has stayed a High Court order that granted bail to Marzia Akter alias Shila, who was arrested in a case filed over assaulting a female student for her outfit.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim, the chamber judge of the Appellate Division, passed the stay order on Sunday following a petition filed by the state challenging the HC bail order.

The apex court chamber judge also sent the state's petition to its full bench for a hearing on August 29.

On August 16, an HC bench of Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain and Justice AKM Zahirul Huq granted six months' bail to Shila, who abused the jeans-and-T-shirt-clad female student on May 18 at Narsingdi railway station for her choice in outfit.

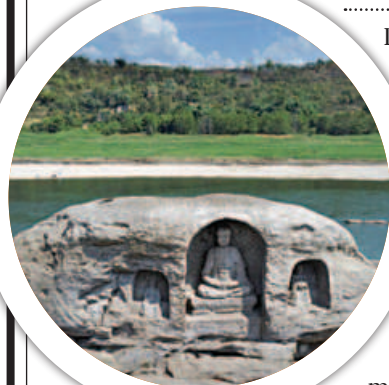
Two of her friends also were assaulted during the incident that went viral on social media, drawing the ire of people over the harassment.

Later, the Narsingdi railway police outpost filed a case with the Bhairab railway police station under Women and Children

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Yangtze river water reveals Buddhist statues

CNN ONLINE



Plunging water levels of the Yangtze river have revealed a submerged island in China's southwestern city of Chongqing and a trio of Buddhist statues on it that are believed to be 600 years old, state media Xinhua has reported.

The three statues were found on the highest part of the island reef called Foyeliang, initially identified as built during the Ming and Qing dynasties. One of the statues depicts a monk sitting on a lotus pedestal.

The Yangtze's water levels have been falling rapidly due to a drought and a heatwave in China's southwestern region.

Rainfall in the Yangtze basin has been around 45 percent lower than normal since July, and high temperatures are likely to persist for at least another week, official forecasts said.

As many as 66 rivers across 34 counties in Chongqing have dried up, state broadcaster CCTV said on August 19.

Weeks of baking drought across Europe have also revealed long-submerged treasures.


In Spain, archaeologists have been delighted by the emergence of a prehistoric stone circle dubbed the “Spanish Stonehenge.”

Another of Europe's mighty rivers, the Danube, has fallen to one of its lowest levels in almost a century, exposing the hulks of more than 20 German warships sunk during World War II near Serbia's river port town of Prahovo.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A man walks among busy traffic to hop on a running bus on Mazar Road in the capital's Gabtoli yesterday. In utter disregard for traffic rules, bus drivers pick up passengers at random instead of doing that at designated stops.



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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, ডা: নীহার রঞ্জন বৈদ্য, (কোড নং : ১২০৩৬০), ইমারজেসি মেডিকেল অফিসার, ১০০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, বরগুনা কর্মরত। তিনি লক্ষন বৈদ্য নামের একজন রোগীকে গুরুতর জখম না থাকা সত্ত্বেও মিথ্যা ডাক্তারী সনদ প্রদান করেন। বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল এর তদন্তে প্রতীয়মান হয় যে তাঁহার প্রদত্ত ডাক্তারী সনদ মিথ্যা ও উদ্দেশ্য প্রণোদিত ছিল। বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল আইন, ২০১০ (৬১ নং আইন) এর ২৩ (১) ধারায় প্রদত্ত ক্ষমতাবলে বিএমএন্ডডিসি হইতে প্রদত্ত তাঁহার রেজিস্ট্রেশন (A-45464, Date of Registration : 3rd June, 2007) ২৩/০৮/২০২২ ইং তারিখ হইতে ০৬ (ছয়) মাসের জন্য স্থগিত করা হইল। উল্লেখিত সময়ে বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল আইন, ২০১০ (৬১ নং আইন) এর ধারা ২২ (১) অনুযায়ী তিনি কোথাও কোনরূপ চিকিৎসা সেবা প্রদান করিতে পারিবেন না। এমনকি উক্ত সময়ে তিনি নিজেকে চিকিৎসক হিসাবে পরিচয় দিতে পারিবেন না।

[Signature]
ডা: মোঃ শিহাবুজ্জামান
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল