



PERMISSION FOR ARREST

It's to protect some corrupt govt officials

Says HC in full text of verdict on provision in Government Service Act

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The provision of the Government Service Act that makes it mandatory for the law enforcers to take permission before arresting public servants in criminal cases is nothing but a way to protect some corrupt government officials, the High Court has observed.

If this provision remains in force, investigations of criminal cases against government servants will not end, the court also said.

"So, the very incorporation of Section 41(l) in the Ain (Government Service Act, 2018) is nothing but to indemnify a handful of corrupt government officials, which the state must not encourage because our past history dictates that granting indemnity to a certain group of people, for whatever manner or purpose it may be, has brought nothing good for our nation.

"Furthermore, in our country it is a common practice that investigation of a criminal case takes a long time, even years together. So, if that provision remains in place as it stands now, then there will be no ending of investigation of any criminal cases filed against the government servants," the HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo said in the 17-page full text of the judgement, which was released recently.

Earlier on August 25, the same HC bench delivered a short judgement on this issue following a writ petition, filed by rights organisation Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, challenging the legality of Section 41(l) of the Government Service Act-2018.

The HC in its verdict scrapped the section and also declared the provision contradictory to fundamental rights and the constitution.

However, on September 1, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stayed the HC verdict till October 23 and asked the government to file an appeal in the meantime.

The apex court passed the stay order following a petition filed by the state seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

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Shops struggled to stay open in the capital's Karwan Bazar kitchen market as rain throughout yesterday waterlogged the entire area. Two women are seen carrying a basket of produce onto the footpath to avoid damage.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Wounded India take on spirited Sri Lanka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India and Sri Lanka will lock horns in their second Super 4 fixture of the Asia Cup in Dubai tonight and the two sides are set to approach the game with contrasting momentums.

The match will begin at 8:00pm Bangladesh Standard Time.

While India -- the top-ranked T20 team -- are favourites on paper against eighth-ranked Sri Lanka with a superior head-to-head record of 17-7 in T20Is, the Dasun Shanaka-led Sri Lanka side have managed to elevate their game, especially on the batting front, in the Asia Cup by winning successive games against Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The Lankans have shown tremendous ability while chasing as they avenged their group stage loss against the Afghans in the two teams' first Super 4 encounter. In that game on Saturday, Sri Lanka batters fired on all cylinders as they chased a challenging 176 with five balls to spare, prompting former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar

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BCL CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Expanding way beyond rule

Top leaders keep recruiting new members to bolster their position in the organisation as council nears

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

The organisational charter clearly states that the central executive committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League can have a maximum of 301 members, but now it has around 700.

Top leaders of BCL, the pro-Awami League student body, are hastily including their favourite ones in the committee to keep them by their side ahead of the next council likely in November, said the organisation insiders.

The incumbent committee will be dissolved by holding the council.

BCL President Al Nahean Khan Joy and General Secretary Lekhak Bhattacharjee added at least 400 new faces to the committee giving them various posts in over seven days from July 31, Syed Arif Hossain, vice-president of the central committee, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Most of the freshers are leaders and activists of different university and college units of BCL, said the insiders.

This move irked many BCL men, who alleged that the president and the general secretary randomly gave posts to their close ones without following the organisational rules and discipline.

However, the BCL office could not say the exact numbers of the present committee.

BCL sources said the president and the general secretary initially wanted to include 170 freshers in the 301-member committee and sent them letters on July 31. After that, over 200 other activists got letters, they added.

"Is the post in the central committee open for all? Are writing names and designations on the organisational pad enough to become a central committee member?" Syed Arif Hossain, vice-president of the committee, wrote on Facebook at that time.

Meanwhile, BCL suspended four activists, who claimed to have gotten posts in the extended committee, over tampering with official letters.

Despite repeated attempts over the phones, Joy and Lekhak could not be reached for their comments.

Md Saif Babu, senior vice-president of BCL central committee, said, "We tried to reward the activists who did not get posts earlier but have long been serving the organisation."

Asked if it was a violation of the organisation's charter, he declined to comment.

Contacted, BCL Office Secretary Indranil Dev Sharma Rony said, "At least 300 new members have been included in the extended committee. Their list will be published soon."

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EC can't force any party to join the polls

Says CEC, holds talks with JP (Manju), NAP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal said the BNP's presence would make the next general election more participatory, but the EC cannot force anyone to join the polls.

"We want the next general elections to be participatory. Competition in polls creates a balance in the election atmosphere. We will sincerely appeal to all of you [political parties] to come and actively participate. Please have faith in the Election Commission," Awal said after holding a dialogue with Bangladesh National Awami Party at his EC office yesterday.

"BNP is one of the major political parties. If they join election, it will be more participatory ... We can't interfere on political strategy of a political party ... we do not have that jurisdiction," he added.

The next general election is set to be held late next year or in early 2024.

Saying that many have expressed mistrust about electronic voting machines (EVMs) while some others have voiced their support, Awal said the EC was comfortable with EVMs and convinced that it is not possible to manipulate the machines.

After the dialogue, NAP acting executive president Ivy Ahmed said they want to use EVMs only after EC makes them acceptable to people.

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Twisted tower unveiled in China

CNN ONLINE

One of the world's most twisted towers has been unveiled in Chongqing, China.

The Dance Of Light tower, designed by architecture firm Aedas and completed this year, is 180 metres (590 feet) tall and features a twisted facade that emulates the shape of the northern lights, according to a press release.

Located on Xingfu Plaza in the Jiangbei district of Chongqing, the building utilizes the simple and elegant form of double-curved facades to create the impression that the building is being twisted, the firm said.

According to Ken Wai, Aedas global design principal, the facade "is not only an outlook expression, but also a way of protection that sculpts interior spaces."

The designers were inspired by the dancing aurora -- the rays and spirals of the polar lights often seen in the Arctic and Antarctic -- so light plays a key role in accentuating the twisted shape of the structure. The view of the tower varies from different angles as light reflects and bends over the glass facades.

"When night falls, the curved facade showcases reflections that allude to the dancing figure of a

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REPORT ON OFFICE TIMINGS

2 journos attacked by BMDA staffers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two journalists were assaulted by staffers of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority yesterday for reporting on how some government employees were coming to work later than stipulated in the new office timings -- 8:00am to 3:00pm.

Outraged by the assault, journalists under the banner of Rajshahi Union of Journalists and Television Reporters Association surrounded the BMDA office around 10:30am. Hours later, two BMDA employees were suspended.

Md Rubel Islam, cameraperson of ATN News, and Bulbul Habib, a reporter for ATN News and The Business Standard, came under attack when they went to the BMDA premises and started broadcasting live around 8:30am.

It all began when BMDA Executive Director Abdur Rashid entered the office half an hour late. As the journalists went to talk to him, an infuriated Rashid began rebuking them and asked why they entered the premises without permission.

At one point, Rashid hit Bulbul, pushed him aside and asked him to leave the compound.

Minutes after Rashid went inside his office, at least 20 staffers, led by Jiban Ahmed, general secretary of the

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With a baby in his arms, a man tries to make his way through a crowded footpath in front of Shishu Hospital in the capital's Agargaon. Occupiers did not even spare this space in front of the hospital dedicated for children. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

3 cops sent to jail for extortion attempt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three policemen, who were suspended a year ago on charges of extortion and robbery, were sent to jail yesterday in another case filed on Sunday for trying to extort money from a man the day before.

The accused are suspended constables Belal Hossain, Hasan Ali and Nasidul Islam, said Jamal Uddin Mir, officer-in-charge of Mugda Police Station.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, he said that even after having cases filed against them with Shahjahanpur and Jatrabari police stations in Dhaka for extortion, the three again attempted to extort Tk 100,000 from a man by framing him as a drug addict.

On Saturday, they entered a house in the capital's North Maniknagar area and tried to detain one Shahidul Islam, claiming he was a drug addict. They told him he would be freed if he paid them Tk 1 lakh.

The three were in plainclothes and did not provide the name of the police station they came from, the OC added.

When Shahidul's wife Ety Akhter got suspicious about the incident and called 999, a team from Mugda Police Station rushed to the spot and found the police personnel

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