

Be careful what you write

HC again warns media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday once again cautioned the media about preparing and publishing reports on its proceedings, saying the news reports must be authentic and true.

“The media must present the true pictures [of court proceedings]. If they make false reports, a wrong message will go to people and they will have a confusing idea about the court.”

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat made the comments during a suo moto (voluntary) proceeding.

There are some legal terms in the court proceedings and those terms need to be used in the reporting. The newsmen should have some knowledge about it, the bench said.

The court made the comments as few media outlets have recently published reports claiming that this bench advised a lawyer to file a writ petition with the HC regarding the reported loan scam of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited.

“When the lawyer came to us and drew our attention to the Islami Bank’s reported loan scam for passing order. We just asked him [the lawyer] to come [move a prayer] in a proper form [way]. But few media outlets published reports saying that we have advised the lower to file a writ petition. These reports are totally false as we did not advise anyone to file a writ petition. This court is not a consultancy firm that will give advice to anybody to file a petition,” Justice Nazrul Islam Talukder said.

The bench also said, “We must talk against corruption and the corrupt people. We are not in favour of anybody. We are neutral and in favour of the law.”

The bench heard statements from the Law Reporters Forum’s (LRF) President Ashutosh Sarkar and its General Secretary Ahammed Sarwar Hossain Bhuiyan on this issue and asked them to convey the court’s message to its members and other

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Mehedi Hasan Miraz (R) runs off to celebrate with his teammates after leading Bangladesh to an incredible one-wicket victory over India in the first ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO:
FIROZ AHMED

TOP POSTS IN CHHATRA LEAGUE

30 may be new age bar before council

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and
SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

The age limit for the activists aspiring to get top positions in Bangladesh Chhatra League central committee is likely to be relaxed once again ahead of the biannual council of the pro-Awami League student body.

Two top AL leaders, who are in charge of overseeing Chhatra League, said they have proposed that a Chhatra League activist not over 30 years of age would become a leader.

BM Mozammel Haque, an organising secretary of the AL, told The Daily Star, “The proposal was sent to our party president for her consideration. She will make the final decision.”

AL presidium member Jahangir Kabir Nanak echoed Mozammel’s comment.



In 1992, the age bar for Chhatra League members was set to 27 in the organisation charter. But before its 26th national council in 2006, Sheikh Hasina, AL president and also Chhatra League organisational chief, increased the limit to 29.

Ahead of the last council held in 2018, Hasina said a Chhatra League activist who is not over 29 years can become a member.

In 2020, the current Chhatra League leadership amended the charter according to Hasina’s 2018 speech, raising the age limit to 29 from 27.

But the age bar is likely to be revised again this time.

According to the party insiders, the AL high-ups are considering three factors, upcoming

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

LPG cylinder now Tk 1,251

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consumers will now pay Tk 46 more for a 12kg cylinder of liquefied petroleum gas after the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission yesterday raised the price to Tk 108.09 from Tk 104.26 a kg.

Previously, a consumer paid Tk 1,251 for a 12kg cylinder.

The prices of LPG cylinders weighing between 5.5kg and 45kg will be adjusted as per the new rate, said BERC Chairman Abdul Jalil.

The new prices took effect yesterday.

Besides, the price of autogas (the LPG that is used to power motor vehicles) will go up to Tk 60.41 per litre from Tk 58.28 last month.

Gram Police member killed in crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

A member of Gram Police was killed in a road accident in Joypurhat’s Kalai upazila yesterday.

The dead is Hamidul Huq, 45, of South Pakuria village in the upazila, said police.

He was returning home from Jamalpur by a battery-run three-wheeler. The vehicle was run over by a speedy truck at Pakarmatha in Joypurhat Sadar around 2:30pm, said Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station.

Hamidul died on the spot, the OC said, adding that he was a member of Gram Police at Ahmedabad Union Parishad.

The truck driver fled the scene with his vehicle, he further said.

Bogura medical student dies of stab injuries

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A medical student, who was attacked by a street food seller and his son in Bogura following an altercation over hygiene issues, died at a Dhaka hospital yesterday.

Meheraj Hossain Fahim, 26, final-year student of Bogura’s Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College (SZMC), breathed his last at Evercare Hospital, said SZMC Principal Rezaul Alam Juwel.

On November 23, Fahim locked into an altercation with Farid Bapary, a street food seller near his campus, over hygiene issues. At one point, Farid’s son Shakil Bapary stabbed him.

The victim’s father Nur Mohammad filed a case against Farid and Shakil the same day. They were sent to jail after police produced them before a court.

Won’t let it become a ‘forgotten crisis’

Says US Asst Secy Noyes on Rohingya issue

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting US Assistant Secretary of the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, Julieta Valls Noyes yesterday said the United States, together with its international partners, will not allow Rohingyas to become a “forgotten crisis”.

She made the comment after meeting the UN agencies working on the ground.

Noyes thanked all partners who work tirelessly to improve conditions of Rohingya refugees and advance their rights.

BNP budes on rally venue

FROM PAGE 1

the banks of the Turag,” Fakhrul said.

Hours after his press conference, a delegation led by Amanullah Aman, convener of Dhaka City North BNP, met Dhaka Metropolitan commissioner to discuss the venue.

BNP’s Publicity Affairs Secretary Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie later told The Daily Star that nothing was finalised in the meeting.

“We said we wanted to hold the event outside of Suhrawardy Udyan. The DMP commissioner asked for an alternative venue,” he said.

Annie last night met a deputy commissioner of the Motijheel division of the DMP and told The Daily Star the officer said he would let them know a decision today.

BNP’s determination to hold the event at Nayapaltan appears to have swayed after several leaders were arrested on Saturday night and a police checkpoint was set up in front of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia’s house in Gulshan.

Fakhrul at the press conference said a political party has the constitutional and democratic right to hold a rally anywhere in the country, but the government is trying to snatch that right away by talking about a possible sabotage.

“I think everyone should play a role in creating a healthy atmosphere to keep the existence of democracy in the country. The government has the bigger responsibility in this regard.

“No one but the government

can carry out subversive acts in Dhaka and if anything bad happens here, the government will be held responsible.”

He thanked the inspector general of police for his remark that law enforcers had no information about any possible subversive acts centring the BNP rally.

Fakhrul alleged that the government agencies were resorting to subversive acts to destabilise the Nayapaltan area.

Meanwhile, BNP leader Ishrque Hossain was attacked while distributing fliers in front of Jagannath University yesterday.

Ishraque alleged that Chhatra League leaders and activists attacked him.

The father of disappearnce

FROM PAGE 12

“The OC asked me whether I am involved with the BNP. I replied that I was 71 years old. I am a supporter of the Awami League and I go to its rallies,” he said.

“The OC then showed me an image where my passport size photo was photoshopped on to a BNP poster that included images of Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman. It said that I was the general secretary of the ward-7 BNP committee.

“I told him that someone must have attached my photo and my name there.”

After the OC failed to find his name

on the list of current and former local BNP committee members, he was released, he said.

Police later found that the image was doctored to include the face of Jamsher whose son Mohon Mia has been missing since he was picked up by men in plainclothes from his house four years ago.

SI Lutfor Rahman denied that he forcefully picked up Jamsher.

“Someone put his name in the BNP committee and made his poster for the December 10 rally on social media. So, the OC wanted him brought to the police station,” the SI said as if it justified what Jamsher was

subjected to.

Contacted, Mustazirur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said they got the picture along with his name on WhatsApp.

“After verifying, we found the claim is not true. So, we let him go,” said the OC.

Four years ago, men in plainclothes picked up Mohon Mia from his Mirpur home. He never returned.

Jamsher, a trader, has long insisted he has proof that Rab-4 members took his son away.

Rab has denied the allegation.

Mohon is one of the enforced disappearance victims listed by the United Nations.

England book France clash in last 8

FROM PAGE 1

his own box and fed Foden, who rolled the ball into the path of the captain to smashed in an unstoppable shot to become England’s eighth scorer in Qatar.

It was a lead that had looked unlikely but England came out full of confidence after the break and it no longer felt like a contest.

Saka, recalled by coach Gareth Southgate in his only change from

the win over Wales, cleverly lifted in the third after 58 minutes following a penetrating run and low cross by Foden.

It was England’s 12th goal of the tournament, the most by any team in Qatar and matching their all-time record set four years ago when they went all the way to the semi-finals.

From then on England were able to go through the motions and keep out of trouble as they are still yet to

have a yellow card and seem to have avoided any major injuries going into the France showdown.

They know they will be unlikely to get away with a similarly slow start next Saturday night against a French team who impressively dispatched Poland 3-0 earlier on Sunday, but the holders too will be well aware that their old rivals possess the weapons to do real damage if they get the chance.

Australia charges extradited IS suspect

AFP, Melbourne

Australian police charged a high-profile Islamic State suspect with six terrorism-related offences yesterday, two days after he was extradited from Turkey, officials said.

Neil Christopher Prakash, 31, was accused of offences including

engaging in hostile activity overseas, supporting a terrorist organisation, and advocating terrorism, police said.

He was charged in Melbourne by a counter-terrorism team after landing in Australia on Friday following his extradition, federal police said in a statement.

The allegations carry maximum penalties ranging from five years to life imprisonment.

Police released a video that showed officers in black balaclavas at Melbourne airport removing Prakash from a plane and escorting him across the tarmac to a waiting car.

We want your blessings

FROM PAGE 1

“Before leaving, I want a promise from you that you will vote for boat in the next election as you did in the past and give us the scope to serve you. Raise your hand and say you will vote for boat [AL’s electoral symbol].”

At the rally, the premier announced the completion of 29 development projects and unveiled the foundation stones of six proposed development

projects with total cost Tk 3,398.66 crore.

Of them, Tk 1,897.61 crore was spent to implement the 29 projects, while the estimated cost of the six other projects is Tk 1501.05 crore.

The rally was organised by Chattogram City AL (North and South). The premier delivered her speech from a 160-foot-long boat-shaped stage.

Provide funds to depositors as per demand

FROM PAGE 1

Adequate cash support will be provided to banks facing liquidity stress so that they can smoothly return depositors’ money, BB Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder told bank MDs in the meeting, said people involved.

The central bank has instructed banks to take all measures to restore depositors’ confidence, said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, the MD of Mutual Trust Bank.

Banks will be provided with policy and liquidity support, he added.

One bank whose depositors’ confidence is shaken is Islami Bank after media reports on largescale irregularities in the bank.

“Islami Bank is now under our surveillance – keeping money in the bank is completely safe and secured,” BB Spokesman Md Mezbaul Haque told a press briefing after the meeting

with bank MDs.

The central bank will provide a guarantee to Islami Bank’s depositors’ money, he added.

Quoting Talukder, a BB official said proper action will be taken against the wrongdoers at Islami Bank identified by the BB investigation team.

BB is now conducting an investigation into Islami Bank for disbursing Tk 7,246 crore this year to nine companies by violating banking rules.

Meanwhile, BB has taken several measures to weaken hundi, an illegal cross-border financial transaction system, to prop up remittance inflows through the official channel, Haque said.

“If under- and over-invoicing can be tackled, the hundi cartel will be weakened,” he said.

Over-invoicing takes place when exporters submit an inflated invoice

With enthusiasm and fanfare, thousands of people rushed to the rally to see and listen to Hasina since the morning. The venue was packed hours before the event started and the crowd spilled over nearby areas.

Decorated arches and gates were built on the streets of the city.

Chattogram City Awami League acting President Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury presided over the rally.

to importers, generating a payment that exceeds the value of the shipped goods to launder money abroad.

Under-invoicing happens when the price of a good on an invoice is less than the price paid. It usually happens when either the importer or exporter wants to reduce a tariff or if the buyer or seller wants to lower their profits to pay less taxes.

The central bank has also asked banks not to drag the process for opening letters of credit to bring in Ramadan essentials, Haque said.

If required, the central bank will provide dollar support to banks so that they can smoothly settle the LCs.

The central bank has recently received allegations that people have to follow lots of rules to deposit money in others’ bank accounts.

Banks have been asked to ease the process for deposits of less than Tk 10 lakh, Haque added.

Goalkeepers stealing everyone’s thunder

FROM PAGE 1

were deprived by goalkeeping brilliance on a couple of occasions in the group stage. After Saudi Arabia had taken the lead against Argentina, goalkeeper Mohammed Al Owais rose to the occasion. He parried shots from point-blank range, rebuffed one-v-ones and lunged between bodies to intercept crosses.

A week later, when Messi placed the ball on the penalty spot with a chance to give his country the lead in their group-stage match against Poland, veteran Polish keeper Wojciech Szczesny winked at his defenders knowingly. Diving to his left, Szczesny’s strong right forearm then denied Messi’s shot, keeping Argentina waiting.

It was a triumphant moment for the Pole, who became the first goalkeeper since Brad Friedel of the United States in 2002 to save two penalties in the same World Cup.

Before stopping Messi’s spot-kick, the Polish shot-stopper had saved Saudi’s Salem Al-Dawsari’s penalty. His glittering performances saw him finish with the joint-most saves (16) alongside Serbia’s Vanja Milinkovic-Savic in the group stage.

But many goalkeepers have stolen eternal memories away from strikers. In total, five of 11 penalties have been rebuffed in Qatar, a scarcely believable return.

The other three denials were provided by Belgium’s Thibaut Courtois against Canada’s Alphonso Davies, Mexico’s Guillermo Ochoa against Poland’s Robert Lewandowski and Uruguay’s Sergio Rochet against Andre Ayew.

In a strange twist of fate, all those goalkeepers bar Szczesny have since bid farewell to Qatar, their respective nations failing to qualify to the Round of 16.

But goalkeeping is no longer limited to just shot-stopping. Unlike

days gone by when a goalkeeper was considered exclusively the last line of defence, today a keeper is the first line of attack. As teams build from the back and keepers get more touches on the ball, commentators repeat the names of keepers more than ever during matches.

Spain’s Unai Simon has distributed the ball most successfully, completing all 30 of his short passes and 73 of 75 medium-ranger passes in the group stage. Switzerland’s Yann Sommer not only made 9 saves across three games, he also completed 21 of 21 short passes and 45 of 46 short passes.

With the knockout rounds already underway, keepers may be afforded the opportunity to become heroes in their nations during those eagerly anticipated tiebreakers. The only question is: which goalkeeper can ‘save’ their nation, not just in the penalty shootout, and lead them to eternal glory?