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MISBEHAVIOUR WITH JUDGE

HC summons B'baria bar president, secy

Issues contempt of court rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the president of Brahmanbaria Bar Association and two other lawyers in connection with misbehaving and scolding the judge of Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Tribunal-1 and creating chaos in the courtroom on January 1.

The three – association President Tanbir Bhuiyan, Secretary (administration) Akkas Ali and lawyer Zubayer Islam – have been asked to appear before the bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil on January 17 to explain their conduct.

The bench also issued a rule asking the three to show as to why a contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against them for their misconduct.

The HC issued the summons and the contempt of court rule after Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique sent the matter to the bench, Deputy Attorney General Tushar Kanti Roy told The Daily Star.

A section of lawyers, led by Tanbir, Akkas and Zubayer, went to the court of Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Tribunal-1 of Brahmanbaria on January 1 regarding a case, he said.

The lawyers requested the tribunal judge, Mohammad Faruque, who is a district and sessions judge, to hear the

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FIDDLERS OF THE SOUTH

A female Blue Fiddler Crab, or Calling Crab, spotted on a sandy beach of the Sundarbans. What differentiates a female of this crab species from the male is the size of the claws. While a female has symmetrical ones, a male has one claw much larger than the other. And that is where it gets its name! When the males move the larger claw while communicating, mating, feeding, or fighting for dominance, it looks like they are playing the fiddle. They are found in mangroves, salt marshes or sandy and muddy beaches across the world. Like all crabs, the Fiddlers also shed their shells as they grow and prefer to remain in hiding until their new shells are hardened enough. However, they live a considerably brief life, spanning up to only two to three years. They are the least threatened species of crabs.

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

Ctg port halts release of late Sajeda Chy's imported car

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

The National Board of Revenue appears to be in a dilemma over releasing an imported luxury car under the duty-free facility in the name of the former leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury.

Sajeda Chowdhury, a lawmaker from Faridpur-2, passed away at Dhaka's Combined Military Hospital on September 11 last year.

The same day, her C&F agent Navana Ltd submitted documents online for the release of a brand-new Toyota Land Cruiser from the Chattogram port.

Customs halted the clearance process because, as per law, the vehicle could not be released under the duty-free facility as she died before it could happen.

MPs get the opportunity once in five years to import cars under the duty-free facility for the purpose of carrying out parliamentary duties.

Sajeda, a presidium member of the Awami League, imported the 3,346cc vehicle from Singapore under the duty-free facility as an MP.

Duty on this imported vehicle is around Tk 4.5 crore. The vehicle has been purchased from Toyota Tsusho Asia Pacific Ltd of Singapore for Tk 81.74 lakh, according to documents.

A few days after submitting the documents online, Navana Ltd provided hard copies to Customs seeking the duty-free facility under special consideration.

Chattogram Custom House Deputy Commissioner HM Kabir told The Daily Star, "There is no scope for duty exemption for the vehicle under the existing law. A letter

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Putin orders 36-hr Ukraine ceasefire

Kyiv rejects call for Orthodox Christmas truce, urges West to supply more weapons

AFP, Kyiv

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday ordered a 36-hour ceasefire in Ukraine to run during Orthodox Christmas, a move that war-battered Kyiv swiftly branded as "hypocrisy".

Putin's directive to his troops was announced days after Moscow suffered its deadliest reported loss of the invasion, and following 11 months of brutal combat.

Both nations celebrate Orthodox Christmas and the Russian leader's order came after a ceasefire was urged by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russia's spiritual leader Patriarch Kirill, a staunch Putin supporter.

"Taking into account the appeal of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, I instruct the defence minister of the Russian Federation to introduce... a ceasefire along the entire line of contact between the sides in Ukraine," said a Kremlin statement.

The Kremlin said it will run from 12:00 (0900 GMT) January 6, to 24:00 (2100 GMT) on January 7.

Kyiv attacked the announcement, calling it "hypocrisy".

Russia "must leave the occupied territories -- only then will it have a 'temporary truce'. Keep hypocrisy

to yourself," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak wrote on Twitter.

Russia occupies parts of eastern and southern Ukraine after 11 months of fighting, but Kyiv has reclaimed swathes of its territory and this week claimed a New Year's strike that killed scores of Moscow's troops.

Earlier Thursday Erdogan, who has good relations with Moscow, had urged Putin to declare a "unilateral" ceasefire during a telephone conversation between the two leaders, the Turkish leader's office said.

The Kremlin reported that Putin told Erdogan he was open to dialogue if Kyiv accepted the "new territorial realities" on the ground.

After votes that were internationally branded as farces, Russia annexed the Donetsk, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions despite not fully controlling them.

Erdogan has used his good relations with both sides to try and bring Putin and Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky to Turkey for a peace summit.

Turkey hosted two early rounds of peace talks and helped strike a UN-backed agreement restoring Ukrainian grain deliveries across the

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ATTACKS ON THE MRO NHRC team finds proof of arson, vandalism

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A National Human Rights Commission delegation has found evidence of arson attacks and vandalism on Mro homes in Bandarban's Lama upazila.

The NHRC team, which visited the community yesterday, however, could not yet confirm the identities of the perpetrators.

Speaking to reporters after the visit, Kongjory Chowdhury, an NHRC member who led the four-member delegation, said, "We have found the incident [of the attacks] to be true. We will further investigate to identify the attackers and then submit a report to the commission."

The long-standing land disputes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts should be resolved immediately through discussions, he said.

Other members of the delegation are NHRC Director Md Ashraf

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\$270,000 for a bluefin tuna!

AFP, Tokyo

The top-selling tuna at Tokyo's traditional New Year auction sold for more than \$270,000 yesterday, nearly double last year's price, breaking a pandemic trend of slumping demand.

Michelin-starred sushi restaurant Onodera Group and Japanese wholesaler Yamayuki forked out 36.04 million yen (\$273,000) for the 212-kilo bluefin tuna in the auction at Tokyo's Toyosu fish market.

The figure was still only a fraction of the 2019 record price but marks a recovery for the symbolic auction after three years in which prices slumped.

"It has all the qualities of a good tuna," sushi master and Onodera chef Akifumi Sakagami told reporters after the auction.

"We have had years of gloom (during the pandemic). I hope that we can deliver happiness to everyone by using opportunities like this."

Last year's top-selling tuna, bought by the same pair of bidders, went for just 16.88 million yen, with observers blaming subdued demand as a Covid wave ripped through Japan in early 2022.

The New Year auction is highly anticipated, and securing the top-priced tuna offers bidders bragging rights.

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Confiscate assets of Tarique, wife

Court orders cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered police to confiscate moveable (bank accounts) and immovable (land-related) properties of BNP acting Chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order and directed the officer-in-charge of Cantonment Police Station to submit a progress report on the implementation of the order by January 19.

The same court on November 1 last year had issued arrest warrants against the duo after accepting the charges brought against them.

On June 26 last year, the High Court declared Tarique and Zubaida "fugitives" and rejected their writ petitions challenging the filing of the graft case. The HC also withdrew a stay order on the case filed during the caretaker government in 2007 and directed the lower court concerned to complete the trial proceedings as soon as possible.

Trial proceedings against Tarique's mother-in-law Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu were rescinded.

Tarique and Zubaida have been in London since 2008. On September 26, 2007, the anti-graft body filed

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Cold spell throws life out of gear

Poor bear the brunt

STAR REPORT

A cold spell accompanied by cool winds and dense fog continues to disrupt daily life across the country, exacerbating the plight of the poor.

In the northern districts, farmers fear a loss of mustard and boro seed beds while cold-related diseases sp hoot among children and the elderly.

"I did not go out with my rickshaw in the morning because of the freezing weather. I now have to pay for my family's expenses with my meagre savings," said Kashem Miah, a resident of the Zila Sadar slum area in Tangail town.

"People without warm clothes are lighting fires for relief from the biting cold. Last year we got winter clothes but this year no one has come to our slum," he said.

Rasheda Begum, another resident of the slum, sought

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A fisherman flaunts his haul of freshly caught fish at a waterbody in Borni area of Sylhet's Companiganj upazila. With water levels going down, fishermen of the upazila are rushing to catch as many fish as possible. They sell the fish at a market next to the Sylhet-Companiganj Road, from where traders purchase and send them to markets across the country.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR