

PAKISTAN NAT'L ASSEMBLY

Bill passed to curb top judge's suo moto powers

DAWN ONLINE

Pakistan's National Assembly yesterday passed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure), Bill 2023, which aims to deprive the office of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) of powers to take suo moto notice in an individual capacity. The bill, presented by Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, was passed hours after the Standing Committee on Law and Justice approved the cabinet's proposed amendments. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, while addressing the law minister, termed the initiative "too little and too late", and said that it should be called a "judges' empowerment" bill. When Tarar spoke, he said, "It is being said that a constitutional amendment should be made. I want them to know there is no need for a constitutional amendment. They should go and read Article 191 of the Constitution, which empowers the Assembly to legislate. The Supreme Court also made their rules according to the Constitution and law since 1980 and it is written on the preamble as well."

China warns Taiwan leader over US visit

President Tsai hits defiant note; senior US officials say no reason for Beijing to overreact

REUTERS, Taoyuan

External pressure will not stop Taiwan engaging with the world, President Tsai Ing-wen said yesterday as she left for the United States, hitting a defiant note after China threatened retaliation if she met US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

China, which claims democratically-ruled Taiwan as its own territory, has repeatedly warned US officials not to meet Tsai, viewing it as support for the island's desire to be seen as a separate country.

The United States says such transits by Taiwanese presidents are routine and that China should not use Tsai's trip to take any aggressive moves against Taiwan.

The United States sees no reason for China to overreact to planned transits of the United States this week and next month by Taiwan's president, senior US officials said ahead of Tsai's departure.

Sultana's death

FROM PAGE 2

the relationship with anyone getting worse? I don't think an accident like this will spoil our bilateral relationship."

Sultana, 38, an office assistant of Naogaon Municipality-Chandipur Union Land Office, was picked up by a Rab-5 patrol team on March 22 while she was on the way to work in the morning.

She died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on March 24, according to hospital authorities.

Menon yesterday said Bangladesh needs no lessons on democracy from others.

"Bangladesh is the only country where 30 lakh people laid down their lives for the struggle of democracy, justice and human rights."

The minister said the democracy in Bangladesh is very strong now.

They're to see patients

FROM PAGE 2

Daudkandi(Cumilla), Pekua (Cox's Bazar), Chhagalnaiya (Feni), Lama (Bandarban), Sharisabari (Jamalpur), Nokla (Sherpur), Gaforgaon (Mymensingh), Durgapur (Netrakona), Monirampur, Keshabpur (Jeshore), Shreepur (Magura), Kumarkhali (Kushtia), Gurudaspur, Baraigram (Nature), Poba (Rajshahi),

Sapahar (Naogaon), Phulbari (Dinajpur), Bodorganj, Gangachara (Rangpur), Domar (Nilphamari), Amtoli (Barguna), Agailjhara (Barishal), Charfashion (Bhola), Sreemangal (Moulvibazar), Golapganj, Bishwanath (Sylhet), Madhabpur (Habiganj), and Chhatak (Sunamganj).

Prothom Alo journo held at dead of night

FROM PAGE 1

No law enforcement agencies admitted detaining him.

But at 12:36am today, Shams called a senior colleague at Prothom Alo and said a CID team was about to drop him off in front of the Bangabandhu International Conference Center, a senior reporter of the newspaper said.

The colleague then told Shams to wait for him in front of the BICC for 10 minutes.

Shams replied, "It seems there is another team there."

He was then heard requesting someone to drop him off a few yards ahead.

Two reporters then rushed to the spot, but could not find him. Shams' phone was also unreachable by that time.

Multiple sources including sub-inspector Raju Mondol of Ashulia Police Station, who accompanied the men in plainclothes, and Shams' landlord Ferdous Alam, said a Criminal Investigation Department team from Dhaka picked him up from his flat in Ambagan area near Jahangirnagar University.

Ferdous told reporters that the CID members said the state has an objection to a report he wrote.

Prothom Alo maintains that the report doesn't mention that the quote was of that boy in the photo. Rather, the report clearly says that it was Zakir who said this.

Shams, aged 37, is the younger brother of the slain Detective Branch assistant commissioner Robiul Karim, who died at

Around 1:15pm, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told journalists at his Secretariat office that a case was filed against Shams over a report published on Independence Day.

Asked why law enforcers told the landlord that the state has an objection about his report, the home minister said it was not about the state's objection.

On Independence Day, Prothom Alo ran a report on its website, and while posting the report on social media, it made a "card" with a quote of a labourer named Zakir Hossain. Although the card contained Zakir's quote, it had the photo of an adolescent boy taken from behind.

The mistake was noticed within 17 minutes, and the card was removed immediately. Besides, corrections were made to the report and the news was again published online mentioning the corrections.

Prothom Alo maintains that the report doesn't mention that the quote was of that boy in the photo. Rather, the report clearly says that it was Zakir who said this.

Shams' mother Kormonnesa, said, "I want my child back in my arms."

Two witnesses said they saw three vehicles stop in front of Shams' ground floor flat. There were at

the Holey Artisan Bakery during the terrorist attack on July 1, 2016.

The man who filed the case is Syed Golam Kibria, 36, general secretary of Ward-11 committee of Dhaka North City Jumbo League.

He filed the case against Shams and several unnamed others with Tejgaon Police Station under the DSA.

He wrote in the complaint that a "false and fabricated report [was published] on the website of daily Prothom Alo on Independence Day to worsen the law and order in the country."

According to the document, the case was filed around 2:15am.

Witnesses said the CID team went to Shams's home around 4:00am. CID officials contacted by reporters throughout yesterday said they had no information about Shams' detention.

But Apurba Hasan, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station, told The Daily Star in the afternoon that CID officers detained Shams.

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