

FACEBOOK POST Sherpur judge withdrawn for 'hurting religious sentiments'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Iman Ali Sheikh, judge of Sherpur's Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman (Women and Children Repression Prevention) Tribunal, has been withdrawn and attached to the law ministry over "hurting religious sentiments" through his Facebook status.

The ministry yesterday issued a notification to this effect.

It says that Iman Ali, a judicial officer with the rank of district and sessions judge, has been attached to the law and justice division of the ministry and ordered to join there immediately after handing over the responsibility of the current position.

Contacted, Anisul Huq, law, justice and parliamentary affairs minister, told The Daily Star that he has hurt the religious sentiments. As a judge and under the code of conduct, he cannot do it.

He said departmental proceedings would also be initiated against Judge Iman Ali under the relevant rules for his act.

In reply to a query, Anisul said his ministry has taken the action in consultation with the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, the SC administration yesterday issued a notification asking the lower court judges to strictly follow the restrictions imposed on using social media on September 22, 2019.

The SC administration issued a notification with a set of directives for the lower court judges on using social media, asking them not to upload images and video clips of SC judges and also not to publish information or make comments that go against the national unity and spirit.

The notification also said the lower court judges have to stop using social media during their working hours from 9:30am to 4:30pm.

If the instructions are defied, it will be considered misconduct and Bangladesh Judicial Services (Discipline) Rules 2017 alongside other relevant existing laws and rules will be applicable in this regard.

The notification also asked the judges to refrain from uploading, sharing, tagging, any status update, post, link, and image that are "irrelevant, unnecessary, defamatory, and unethical".



Ismail Hossain tries to assess the damages to his wholesale boutique in the capital's New Super Market, a day after a massive blaze tore through the market. Traders yesterday returned to their shops there to calculate their losses and somehow try to start afresh.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Ukraine reports bloody fighting in Bakhmut

Russia's Wagner group releases over 100 Ukrainian prisoners of war for Orthodox Easter

REUTERS, Moscow

Ukrainian and Russian armed forces are fighting extraordinarily bloody battles in the smashed eastern city of Bakhmut, but pro-Kyiv forces are still holding on, Ukraine's military said yesterday.

Russia's defence ministry said earlier that fighters from the Wagner mercenary group had captured two more areas of Bakhmut, the main target of Moscow's offensive in eastern Ukraine.

Wagner has spearheaded Russia's attempt to take Bakhmut since last summer in what has been the longest and deadliest battle of the war for both sides.

"Bloody battles unprecedented in recent decades are taking place in the middle of the city's urban area," said Serhiy Cherevatyi, spokesperson for Ukraine's eastern military command.

"Our soldiers are doing everything in bloody and fierce battles to grind down (the enemy's) combat capability and break its morale. Every day, in every corner of this city, they are successfully doing so," he told the 1+1 television channel.

The Russian defence ministry said Wagner units had taken two areas on

the northern and southern outskirts of the city. Russian army paratroop units were supporting the claimed advance by holding back Ukrainian forces on the flanks, it added.

"Our soldiers are doing everything in bloody and fierce battles to grind down (the enemy's) combat capability..."

Serhiy Cherevatyi
Spokesperson for Ukraine's eastern military command

Britain said in an intelligence update on Friday that Ukrainian troops had been forced to cede some territory in Bakhmut as Russia mounted a renewed assault there, with intense artillery fire over the previous two days.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made no mention of Bakhmut in his daily video address later on Saturday and reiterated Kyiv's desire to join Nato as soon as possible. Ukraine would need effective security guarantees before that happened, he said, but gave no details.

Meanwhile, Wagner group sent at least 100 Ukrainian prisoners of war back to Ukrainian forces to mark Orthodox Easter, according to a video posted by the group's founder, Yevgeny Prigozhin, yesterday.

"Prepare all of them, feed and water them, check the wounded," Prigozhin was shown saying in a video posted on Telegram by his press service.

A group of Ukrainian prisoners were then shown being told that they would be passed back to Ukrainian forces to mark Orthodox Easter.

"I hope you don't fall back into our hands," an armed Wagner soldier was told telling the men before they were ordered into a truck, some loading packs of water bottles.

More than 100 men, some limping and some being carried on stretchers by their comrades, were shown making their way in line along a muddy road as a man standing on a tank held a white flag.

Zelenskyy's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, said 130 Ukrainian prisoners of war have been released and returned home in a "great Easter exchange". It was not clear how many Russians were sent back the other way.

Hold single admission test for all public univs

President tells UGC

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid, who is also chancellor of universities, has directed the University Grants Commission (UGC) to take necessary measures to hold a single admission test for all public universities for the 2023-24 session.

A media release signed by Md Mahmudul Alam, joint secretary of secondary and higher education department of the education ministry, conveyed the directive yesterday.

The release also said the public universities that earlier held admission test in the cluster method for 2022-23 session were asked to complete the admission process.

DB gets 11th date to submit report in Tipu murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked the Detective Branch of police to submit its probe report in a murder case filed over the deaths of Awami League leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and college student Samia Afran Jamal Prity by June 15.

This is the 11th date given by the court as DB failed to submit its report.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Sheikh Sadi passed the order after Md Yasin Sikder, a DB inspector and the investigation officer of the case, failed to submit any report yesterday.

The duo was shot dead in the capital on March 24 last year.

Journo gets bail in DSA case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A cyber tribunal in Rangpur yesterday granted bail to Rahim Shuvo, Thakurgaon correspondent of Protidin Bangladesh, in a DSA case filed on April 18, 2020.

Hearing the bail petition, Judge Md Abdul Majid passed the order around 12:50pm.

Around 5:30pm, the journalist walked out of Rangpur jail.

Asked, Rahim told The Daily Star that he was given interim bail.

Mominul Islam Bhashani, president of Baliadangi upazila unit of Swechchhasebak League, filed the case against Rahim and three others for tarnishing his image.

UK cancels new 'smart motorways'

AFP, London

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has cancelled the building of new "smart motorways" amid concerns about safety and cost, the Department for Transport said.

Fourteen planned smart motorways, which use technology to regulate traffic flow and ease congestion, will be removed from the governments road building plans, the department said.

It's political power

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sector was ensured under political leadership.

"At least I can claim that from 2009 to 2023, the unprecedented development of the country was done through political decisions."

Hasina added that her government has adopted the ideals of independence and has followed them while running the administration.

"We are getting the results. Because of this policy, we have attained the status of a developing country."

She urged all to sustain this momentum of development and democracy to benefit the generations to come.

"We have to keep our focus particularly on this," she said.

The PM put utmost importance on training, saying it is urgently needed for a nation to develop.

"The world is changing and now an era of technology is underway. We have to advance further in compliance with the era...."

She said it should be ensured that the country's manpower gets proper training for the appropriate advancement in the coming days.

Sonar Bangla

FROM PAGE 1

Abidur Rahman, divisional railway manager (Chattogram), such a collision with a freight train is rare. "I cannot say what caused it. A four-member probe body, led by Divisional Transport Officer (Chattogram) Tarique Md Imran, has been formed."

However, a railway official said the signalling system was broken at the station and that the switch there was mistakenly directing trains to a loop line instead of the main line, which does not require a train to stop at the station.

The official claimed that the express was doing 70kmph when it hit the freight train, causing extensive damage to carriages.

Of the seven carriages that got damaged, three were AC chair carriages and four were non-AC carriages.

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