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Shut down 27 brick kilns in CHT

SC lifts status quo on HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday lifted its chamber judge's order that issued a status quo on a High Court verdict regarding shutdown of 27 brick kilns in Chattogram Hill Tracts.

The apex court also directed the environment committee under the environment ministry to dispose of in two months the applications submitted by owners of the brick kilns.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the order after hearing two appeals filed by the owners.

Following a petition filed Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the HC in February withdrew its earlier order that in 2014 issued an injunction on shutdown of operations of the 27 brick kilns, as those were not relocated in line with section 8(4) of Brick Kilns Control Act, 2013.

On March 15, the SC chamber judge, following the appeals of the owners, directed the authorities concerned to maintain status quo on shutdown of their operations and also sent the appeals to its full bench for a further hearing.

HRPB lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for the government to shut down the operations of 27 brick kilns following the SC directive.

Meanwhile, lawyer Ahsanul Karim, representing the brick kiln owners, said operations of the brick kilns cannot be shut down as their applications for selecting place for relocation were not disposed of yet.



Amid the ongoing heatwave, exhausted workers at the Gabtoli landing station seek solace beneath a sheltering tree. With the dredging pipes as their makeshift beds, they find a momentary reprieve from the scorching sun. This picture was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Operations on to nab 'terrorists' in CHT

Army chief tells journalists

UNB, Bandarban

Chief of Bangladesh Army General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed yesterday

said army teams are finding out and capturing the suspected terrorists from their hideouts in different hills and have already succeeded to take control of their main training camp.

"They are no longer in the area... some of them have assimilated with locals. As they are also citizens of Bangladesh, we want them to play a role in the socio-economic development of the country like others," he said.

The army chief made

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

'Impose tax on pollution'

TIB urges strict measures to control plastic menace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday called upon the government to ensure strict enforcement of law to control plastic pollution in the country.

Issuing a statement on the occasion of World Environment Day, the graft watchdog said Bangladesh banned use of polythene shopping bag in 2002.

However, concern remains over unabated plastic pollution as the relevant Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act of 1995 does not ban use of single-use and laminated plastic, it said.

TIB urged the government to immediately amend relevant clause of the law to prevent illegal production of plastic, its marketing and use.

Besides, it called upon relevant authorities to impose "pollution tax" and ensure effective enforcement of the environment conservation act to hold accountable persons, organisations and projects involved in plastic pollution.

"Although law has been formulated banning use of polythene, due to its lack of effective enforcement, environment pollution caused from plastic not only continued but increased alarmingly [in Bangladesh]," said TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman.

He said massive dumping of wastages including plastics

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Although law has been formulated banning use of polythene, due to its lack of effective enforcement, environment pollution caused from plastic not only continued but increased alarmingly.

IFTEKHARUZZAMAN
TIB Executive Director

'He laid foundation for six-point demand'

Visionary economist Prof Nurul Islam remembered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The concept of the six-point demand emerged from the writings of visionary economist Prof Nurul Islam in the late 1950s, said speakers at an event yesterday.

The event titled "Prof Nurul Islam: Perspectives from Different Generations" was held at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) to honour his remarkable legacy as a renowned economist and influential figure in Bangladesh's intellectual landscape.

The event, chaired and moderated by Binayak Sen, director general of BIDS, featured the participation of ministers, advisors, members of parliament, economists, journalists, as well as his friends, relatives, and colleagues, who fondly remembered Professor Islam.

Prof Islam served as a teacher at the economics department of Dhaka University from 1955 to 1964 before assuming the position of chief at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

During his tenure at DU, Prof Islam highlighted the discrimination prevalent in the jute trading industry, which was the main crop of East Pakistan at that



PROF NURUL ISLAM

He was a mentor for multiple generations... he was a spiritual teacher of modern economic lessons.

Wahiduddin Mahmud
Eminent economist

He tried to translate the six points demand into action and policy making for the movement of independence.

Mashiur Rahman
Economic affairs adviser to PM

time, said speakers.

The esteemed economist passed away at the age of 94 in Washington on May 9.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

At yesterday's event, eminent economist Wahiduddin Mahmud recounted his first encounter with Prof Islam in 1974, when Mahmud was a student at Oxford, and Prof Islam was invited to give a lecture.

Mahmud emphasised that Prof Islam was a mentor for multiple generations, describing him as a spiritual teacher of modern economic lessons.

"He was a comprehensive economist," added Mahmud, who currently serves as the chairman of the Economic Research Group (ERG) and formerly as a professor of economics at DU.

According to Mahmud, Prof Islam's speeches surpassed those of many Nobel Laureates, particularly in the field of development economics, where he possessed a bird's-eye view.

Mahmud also noted that Prof Islam demonstrated his ability to write about various economic issues, citing his articles on the East Asian financial crisis in 1998.

Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of Prothom Alo, recalled Prof Islam's tireless dedication. Prior to his passing, four books authored by Prof Islam were published by Prothoma.

Pvt companies supplying low quality milk

Alleges JS body

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body has alleged that private milk supply companies supply low quality milk to the market.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the LGRD ministry said these companies buy low-quality milk from local and foreign sources and mix it with harmful substances and sell at lower prices than Milk Vita, a government milk producing company.

The parliamentary watchdog stressed the need for informing the public about this matter. This issue was also discussed in the previous meeting of the committee.

It is learnt that in the previous meeting, Awami League MP Shahe Alam said private milk suppliers buy low-quality milk from the market at a low price.

"Low quality powdered milk is imported from abroad with five percent tax and mixed and sold in the market at a relatively low price," he said.

In the meeting, State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperative Swapan Bhattacharya said Milk Vita products are 100 percent pure.

He also highlighted the need for proper quality control. He said currently they are buying such milk by paying 5 percent tax from the other countries.

The state minister proposed to impose 10-15 percent VAT on imported milk.

LGRD Minister Tazul Islam also said people

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



ELECTIONS TO CITY CORPORATIONS

RAJSHAHI POLLS

Councillor candidate injured in knife attack

UNB, Rajshahi

Three people, including a councillor candidate of the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) election, were injured in a knife attack during a clash between followers of two candidates on Saturday.

The injured are Ashraf Babu, a councillor candidate and vice-president of Rajshahi city unit of Jubo League, and his supporters Rezaul Karim and Joy Hossain.

They were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Saifuddin Shahin, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (headquarters), said

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'They're dishonest, traitors'

BNP expels 19 Barishal polls candidates; JP mayor candidate unveils manifesto

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

BNP has expelled 19 candidates, including independent mayoral candidate Kamrul Ahsan Rupan, and 18 councillor candidates, due to their participation in the Barishal City Corporation election against party directives.

Bilkis Jahan Shirin, BNP organising secretary (Barishal Division), confirmed the expulsion in a letter signed by BNP Senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, which was sent to the candidates.

The letter stated that the candidates were served show-cause notices on June 2 for contesting in the BCC polls against the party's decision. However, their responses were deemed unsatisfactory, resulting in their expulsion.

The letter described the expelled candidates as dishonest and traitors.

According to the Barishal

city unit of BNP, the expelled candidates include Kamrul Ahsan Rupan, a former central committee member of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, and councillor candidates Habibur Rahman, Shah Aminul Islam, and Harun-or-Rashid.

In response to his expulsion, Kamrul Ahsan Rupan, independent mayoral candidate, questioned how he could be expelled from the BNP since he does not hold any party position.

In response to his expulsion, Rupan questioned how he could be expelled from the BNP since he does not hold any party position.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party mayoral candidate Iqbal Hossain Tapos unveiled his electoral manifesto

at the Barisal Club Auditorium yesterday.

Tapos alleged that the local administration and the Election Commission have failed to maintain neutrality and have shown favouritism towards a particular party.

He further accused the ruling party of illegally occupying roads and canals by setting up offices, thus violating the code of conduct.

Tapos unveiled a booklet containing 30 pledges to address civic problems, such as employment, domestic and foreign investment, road repairs, canal excavation, environmental initiatives in Barisal city, planned housing, and the establishment of women and children-friendly hospitals.

He also pledged to reduce the tax burden on people by focusing on increasing the city corporation's income.

41 BNP leaders show-caused for contesting SCC polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BNP has served show cause notices on 41 candidates for participating in the Sylhet City Corporation elections in defiance of the party decision to boycott the city polls.

Of the candidates, one is contesting for mayoral post, 36 for general councillor posts and four for reserved women councillor posts.

BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi issued the show-cause notices on Saturday night, which was circulated by the Sylhet district BNP.

Independent mayoral candidate Salah Uddin Rimon, incumbent councillors Farhad

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Redrew boundaries of 10 constituencies with voters on mind

Says EC Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir yesterday said they gave importance to what voters and locals wanted while redrawing the parliamentary constituencies.

The EC redrew boundaries of 10 parliamentary constituencies ahead of the 12th national election. The constituencies are Pirojpur-1, Pirojpur-2, Cumilla-1, Cumilla-2, Faridpur-2, Faridpur-4, Gazipur-2, Gazipur-5, Noakhali-1, and Noakhali-2.

While talking to reporters at his EC office, he said they did not consider whether any contestants will get any advantages from the delimitation process. "We followed the law. There is no chance to look beyond that," he added.

Alamgir said if anyone has evidence of financial transactions in the process of delimitation, they will have to go to the court or the Anti-Corruption Commission.

They can also come to the EC. The EC will look into the matter, he added.

After the EC published the draft of delimitation there were 126 applications for changes in the boundaries of the 38 seats. The commission then held hearings and it reviewed documents for a long time, he added.

He said according to the delimitation of constituencies law, boundaries of Jatiya Sangsad constituencies should be redrawn based on the distribution of population as

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3