

No gatherings on court premises

SC asks lawyers to strictly follow HC directives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday again asked lawyers to strictly follow the 2005 High Court directives that prohibited them from holding assemblies and bringing out processions on the court premises.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, passed the order while hearing a contempt of court petition against seven pro-BNP lawyers.

The apex court fixed November 15 for further hearing and passing order on the petition.

On August 30, the apex court passed the same order.

Advocate Md Nazmul Huda, a SC lawyer, filed petition on August 29 against the pro-BNP lawyers for making "slandering, derogatory and contemptuous" comments about two apex court judges at a press conference held on the Supreme Court Bar Association premises on August 27.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina waters a sapling after planting it on the premises of Sharak Bhaban in Tejgaon yesterday morning. Earlier, the premier inaugurated 150 bridges in 39 districts of eight divisions by unveiling a plaque. Hasina also unveiled a mural of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

PHOTO: PID

RAPE, MURDER OF BOGURA GIRL Arrest culprits, ensure justice

Urges Mahila Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday issued a statement condemning the rape and murder of a female madrasa student in Shibganj upazila of Bogura.

They demanded the authorities arrest the accused and ensure justice to and safety of the victim's family.

Three accused – Saiful Islam, Nurunnabi Ranju and Nayem Pramanik – raped the girl on September 8 while she was alone at home in Atmul union and later set her on fire, leaving her in a critical condition.

The victim died around one and half months later while undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on October 17.

The accused have been threatening the victim's family to withdraw the case filed after the death of the girl, the statement said.

"The victim's family is on the run as they were facing constant threat to their lives after filing the case. We strongly demand that the authorities arrest the accused promptly, and ensure exemplary punishment to them as well as provide safety for the family," the statement read. Recurrence of such incidents is impeding women's progress and the government must take steps to stop it, the statement added.



You [AL] are creating obstacles for us to participate in the election. You don't want to allow the opposition to join the polls as you want to get what we call a 'walkover in an empty field'.

MIRZA FAKHRUL
BNP Secretary General



Why would the prime minister resign? Don't call for the caretaker government again. The path that BNP is taking is the wrong path. BNP is now on the verge of collapse after a failed movement.

OBADUL QUADER
AL General Secretary

Marriage practices fail to secure girls' consent

Speakers tell roundtable on child marriage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only 20 percent of girls who were married off at an early age were able to continue their education after marriage, said a study.

Around 90 percent of them were school-goers when their families decided to marry them off, according to the study titled "Policy Brief on Consent to Marriage and Best Interest of Girls", conducted by Care Bangladesh.

Around 246 such girls and 106 parents from Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Narail, and Bagerhat participated in the study.

The findings were revealed at a roundtable at The Daily Star Centre yesterday, jointly organised by Care Bangladesh and The Daily Star.

According to the study, marriage practices fail to secure girls' consent and defend their best interests, which often leads to psychosocial problems.

While 56 percent of participants believed consent refers to giving their opinions freely regarding marriage, 36 percent viewed consent as something that would make their parents happy whereas 5 percent considered silence as



PHOTO: STAR

Speakers at the roundtable in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

consent, said the report.

As per the report, 52 percent of the marriages were not registered due to the perception of child marriage as a crime in society, non-practice of marriage registration, and unwillingness of the grooms' families.

While everyone knows child marriage is a crime, many are unaware that girls have the right to give consent regarding

their marriage. Education empowers girls to know their rights and express their opinions, especially when it comes to saying "no" to such questionable social norms, said Sara Hossain, honorary executive director of BLAST.

"Poverty and social insecurity push parents to choose early marriage as they fear that their daughters will face

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'Political leaders, polls aspirants were his targets'

Says Rab about arrested conman who claimed himself to be PM's relative

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

He was a conman who targeted controversial political leaders and aspiring candidates for the upcoming national polls to swindle them out of a huge amount of money.

To avoid suspicion about his credibility, he used to set up meetings with his targets at posh restaurants in the capital.

But what's more farcical is that he used to claim himself as a close relative of the prime minister to make the politicians believe that he could secure their nominations by leveraging that.

The cost of securing a nomination varied depending on the constituency's perceived importance, compelling victims to give him significant sums of money. For instance, a controversial political leader in Gazipur was allegedly coerced into paying Tk 300 crore for a nomination within the ruling Awami League in a significant constituency of that district.

However, this web of deceit was exposed after Rab detained the scheme's mastermind, Abu Hanif Tushar, also known as Hanif Mia, 39, from the capital's Bashundhara area on Tuesday.

Rab said Tushar made another deal with a group of company owners for Tk 150 crore to

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NIKO GRAFT CASE Two Canadian police officials summoned on Oct 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued summons asking two officials of Royal Canadian Mounted Police to appear before it on October 30 as witnesses in the Niko corruption case.

The officials are Kelvin Duggan and Lloyd Schoep, said Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan.

Judge Sheikh Hafizur Rahman of the Special Judge's Court-9 passed the order after ACC submitted an application seeking order for issuing summons in this regard.

Meanwhile, defence for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia completed cross examination of ACC deputy director Muhammad Mahbul Alam, also the case's complainant.

On September 17, the judge allowed ACC to produce an official of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and two officials of Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the case.

Khaleda and seven others are accused in the case filed by ACC in December 2007 over abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko when she was the PM between 2001 and 2006.

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