



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

MORE THAN JUST PINK

it's about saving lives

RBR

Pink is often considered the colour that defines femininity. Thus, in October, which marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a pink ribbon is often used to raise awareness about breast cancer. This practice has been in place since the 90s.

Here in Dhaka, many initiatives are being taken and organised throughout this month to raise awareness. One support group is TishCAN, which is arranging many programmes to raise awareness and help take corrective measures early on.

Last Friday, Gulshan Society in collaboration with TishCAN and Renata PLC, observed a vibrant awareness event titled "Pink October Afternoon" at Gulshan Lake Park.

Srabanti Datta, convener of the event, said that the Gulshan Society pledges to instil insights into breast cancer and make this an annual event to raise awareness. A Self-Test Training Booth was set up by United Hospital with an instant consultation facility, representatives from LabAid and Mt Elizabeth Hospital were present to provide essential information and share special offers.

"Early detection can save lives. That is what TishCAN preaches, because the fact is that many women in Bangladesh are not aware of their cancer early on -- leading to higher fatality rates, which exceed approximately 50 percent. Additionally, all doctors should make it a mandatory practice to advise



their female patients aged 40 and above to get mammograms and ultrasounds (USG) done every six months," says Nuzhat Tarannum, founder of TishCAN.

Nuzhat, being a patient survivor and now activist, knows exactly how tormenting the fears, the struggles, and the emotional journey that comes with this devastating disease, can be.

"The day I started losing my hair was the day I first realised I have cancer. The sudden transition from feeling beautiful to getting bald turned out to be the most traumatic and upsetting side effects of Chemotherapy for me, out of the many other painful side effects. I guess a part of my confidence came from how I looked," she explains.

"For me, realising how crucial funds are for cancer treatment,

how taxing it can be for the family financially, was the reason to initiate my support group to raise funds for patients who cannot ask for donations or raise funds themselves. The high costs of chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation therapy are overwhelming. So, TishCAN is my humble beginning to raise funds to support cancer patients, helping to ease that burden and provide much-needed financial relief," she states.

Through exhibitions, fundraising events, and community support, TishCAN is currently trying to help patients get through this ordeal.

This year, the annual fundraising event will be held on October 25 at 6:00pm at Lambda Hall, Gulshan Club. The evening will feature insightful discussions led by two esteemed experts in the field of oncology, who will share their expertise and shed light on the challenges faced by breast cancer patients, the importance of early detection, and how collective

efforts can bring hope and healing. It will be followed by a live performance by Joler Gaan.

"The funds raised will go directly to Afroza Sultana, a brave cancer patient who needs our help. This is not just an event; it's a journey of empathy, love, and community strength. Every ticket purchased, and every donation made is a step toward giving someone hope in their darkest hours. Tickets are available for Tk 1,000, or you can donate more via Bkash: 0191421481," she urges.

For cancer patients and survivors, the battle isn't just physical -- it's a journey through deep emotional trauma. The mental and emotional toll of hearing the words "you have cancer" leaves scars that go far beyond the body.

The power of community and the strength of people can make all the difference in a person's life who is undergoing cancer treatment and Pink October solidifies that reminder.

Future of 62 ASPs now up in the air

No explanation given for putting off their passing-out parade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's unusual step to postpone the passing-out parade for 62 assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) has created uncertainty among many trainees about their future in the service.

Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, the home affairs adviser to the interim government, and Md Mainul Islam, the inspector general of police, had travelled to Rajshahi for the event, which was scheduled for Sunday at the Bangladesh Police Academy.

However, just hours before the parade was scheduled to begin, it was declared "postponed".

The 62 ASPs were recruited through the 38th and 40th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) exams and were set to begin their probationary postings after successfully completing their one-year training.

The abrupt move came a day after Salauddin Ammar, a coordinator of the Rajshahi University (RU) unit's Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, made a Facebook post.

In his post, Ammar alleged that all the 62 ASPs had been recruited during the tenure of the Awami League regime.

He also expressed reservations about attending the parade, questioning, "Have they [the ASPs] been investigated?"

"The passing-out parade was postponed upon directives from higher authorities -- a new date would be announced later," Md Masudur Rahman Bhuiyan, the principal of the Bangladesh Police Academy, told The Daily Star.

The home adviser could not be reached for comment.

He, however, did not provide any concrete explanation for the postponement of the parade during a press briefing at the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police headquarters yesterday.

Asked why the parade was postponed, he said: "It has already been explained... stay well."

He abruptly ended the press briefing right after.

A background check would be conducted on the 62 ASPs to determine if any of them had political affiliations with the Awami League, said a senior police official on the condition of anonymity.

"A decision regarding the officials will be made after the verification. In the meantime, the trainees have been instructed to continue their training," the official said.

Masudur Rahman, the academy's principal, dismissed the notion that the parade was postponed due to political scrutiny.

"It was postponed as per directives from higher authorities and not for verification purposes," he added.

One ASP trainee expressed frustration over the sudden change.

"We had been preparing for the closing parade, and then, out of nowhere, we were informed that it

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Supreme Judicial Council revived

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THE HISTORY

The constitution of 1972 empowered parliament to probe allegations against judges. But the 4th amendment in 1975 scrapped parliament's power and empowered the president to probe such allegations.

The president's power was curtailed in 1978 through a martial law proclamation, and the council was introduced. It was ratified and validated by the 5th amendment in 1979.

In 2005, the HC declared the 5th amendment illegal but condoned the introduction of the Supreme Judicial Council.

In February 2010, the SC upheld the 2005 HC verdict, and said the system of Supreme Judicial Council would be valid until December 31, 2011.

The AL-led government in mid-2011 made the 15th amendment to the constitution, allowing the council to continue, but in September 2014,

it abolished the council through the 16th amendment.

However, following a writ petition filed by some SC lawyers, the HC on May 5, 2016, declared the 16th amendment unconstitutional and void, saying the changes went against the principles of the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary.

The government appealed to the Appellate Division.

A full bench of the Appellate Division, led by the then chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, who was allegedly forced to leave the country, heard the appeal, and delivered a verdict on July 3, 2017.

In the judgment, the apex court rejected the appeal and upheld the HC verdict.

In the full text of the verdict released on August 1, 2017, it said the power of the council to probe allegations against SC judges and making recommendations

on their removal for misconduct or incapacity was reinstated in the constitution.

The Hasina-led government then filed a 908-page review petition with the Appellate Division on December 24, 2017, outlining 94 grounds on which the court could consider the government's plea for restoring the 16th amendment, cancelling the provision for the council.

This petition was disposed of yesterday.

Justice Sinha's 2017 verdict strained the relationship between him and the AL government. He had to leave the country in October that year amid a further deterioration of the relationship, according to media reports.

HEARING, REACTIONS

Yesterday, AG Asaduzzaman told journalists at the court that following the judgment, the judiciary has moved to a place where it can perform its duties independently, devoid of corruption and political influence.

During the hearing yesterday, Asaduzzaman told the SC bench that he would not defend any of the grounds the previous government placed in the review petition, as those were baseless.

He, however, placed an appeal asking the court to clarify an ambiguity regarding the retirement ages and resignation of SC judges.

Manzill Murshid, lawyer for the 2016 writ petitioners, told the court that the petition was filed to protect the independence of the judiciary.

He said the Appellate Division had upheld the HC verdict, but then law minister Anisul Huq had said that the government would not comply with the SC verdict. The review petition was not acceptable, and it should be rejected, he told the court.

Murshid also said SC judges being able to resign was their fundamental right.

On behalf of the SC Bar Association, lawyer Md

Ruhul Qaddus Kazal told the bench that the previous government had committed fraud. It did not print or publish the constitution in accordance with the SC judgment.

He prayed to the apex court to summarily reject the review petition.

No lawyer placed any argument before the court yesterday on behalf of the then Hasina government that filed the review petition seven years ago.

Lawyer Murshid told The Daily Star that the Supreme Judicial Council has so far conducted inquiry into allegations against three HC judges.

One judge was removed following recommendation of the council and the other two judges resigned before the inquiries ended, he said.

The council can now launch inquiries into the allegations against 12 HC judges, who have been recently excluded from judicial activities, if the president asked the council to do so, he added.

12 HC judges kept away

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and Justice SM Masud Hossain Dolon.

Of them, only Justice Ataur was recruited when the BNP was in power. The rest were appointed during Awami rule.

According to the SC website, the 12 judges were not included in the benches constituted for yesterday's proceedings. The reason behind the move was not mentioned on the website.

As per the constitution, only the chief justice, now Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed, can constitute benches of judges at the Appellate Division and High Court Division.

A source said Justice Ataur and Justice Ashish were excluded for administrative reasons, and the rest faced different allegations raised by a section of lawyers.

SC Registrar General Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan did not answer calls made by this correspondent.

An official requesting anonymity said the judges

were excluded to meet the students' demands.

The 12 judges were not seen at the chief justice's greetings exchange event held on the occasion of the reopening of the SC.

On such occasions, the chief justice exchanges greetings with judges, attorney general, SC Bar Association leaders, and lawyers.

An official requesting anonymity said the judges were excluded to meet the students' demands.

During last week's protests on the SC premises, Registrar General Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan told the protesting students that 12 judges would not be given benches for now, which meant they would not be taking part in judicial activities.

The protesters then postponed the demonstrations.

Aziz, however, did not disclose the names of the

judges that day.

The development comes over two months after then chief justice Obaidul Hassan and five other judges of the Appellate Division of the SC stepped down amid demonstrations.

On August 10, when the SC judges were forced to resign, the students also demanded resignations of "pro-Awami League High Court judges".

When a BNP delegation met Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on October 4, the party demanded the removal of "partisan judges" from the HC.

In 2019, three HC judges were excluded from judicial procedures for five years in the wake of an enquiry against them.

In the afternoon yesterday, Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman and SCBA President AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon accorded felicitation to the 23 new HC judges appointed on October 8.

ZI Khan Panna sued for murder attempt

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Station over the shooting of a protester.

The plaintiff, 52-year-old Mohammad Baker, sells vegetables on a rickshaw van in Banasree area. He filed the case on October 17 over the shooting of his son Ahadul Islam, 25.

Baker, however, said he did not know Panna and how his name ended up in the list of accused.

"A lawyer named Jashim and some other people made the list and I just signed the First Information Report [FIR]," Baker told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

"I wanted justice for my son. So, I sought their help to file the case," he said.

Baker added he had no details of lawyer Jashim. Several attempts by this newspaper to reach the

lawyer failed.

According to the case statement, Ahadul Quader and others were protesting near Meradia Bazar on July 19 afternoon when "many of the named accused along with other unnamed BGB, police personnel and Awami League leaders and activists opened fire at the behest of some other accused".

Ahadul suffered bullet wounds in the left leg and was beaten up as he fell on the ground, according to the case dossier. He later took treatment at multiple hospitals, Baker said in the FIR.

The other accused include Obaidul Quader, former road transport and bridges minister; Asaduzzaman Khan, former home minister; and Major General Mohammad

Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, director general of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Daud Hossain, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station, said they were investigating the case to check if the allegations were true.

Panna recently criticised the interim government on various issues, including Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's remarks about a fresh start, and the cancellation of March 7 and several other national days. He also slammed the wholesale filing of murder cases across the country over killings during the uprising.

Talking about the case against him yesterday, Panna told reporters that he would fight the case legally as a lawyer.

He also said many might

have been hurt by his direct criticism of some "mistakes" of the interim government. They could not tolerate the criticism and their feelings led to the filing of the case, said Panna.

Speaking to The Daily Star later, Panna said he had nothing to say about the "false case because he was wrongly implicated".

"I don't want to see anyone implicated in a false case...," he said.

Panna said he was against the quota system in government jobs all along, even before the students started the quota reform movement.

"I was connected to the movement until the end [of the AL regime] on August 5. Then why would I do such a thing like being involved in the shooting on July 19] at

Sheikh Hasina's directive?" asked Panna.

He sees his implication in the case as an ill attempt to shield the real culprits behind the incident.

The lawyer also said he filed a petition with the High Court, seeking anticipatory bail in the case. The court is set to hear the petition today.

Ain O Salish Kendra, of which Panna is the chairperson, and several other rights groups condemned the inclusion of Panna in the list of accused in the case.

Panna was one of the SC lawyers who stood by the six coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement when they were unlawfully detained by the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police for several days in late July.

Lost chance

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Shakib apologised through a Facebook post on October 9 for his silence during the student movement.

He also sought the support of the interim government for a safe passage out of the country after playing his final Test in Mirpur.

He was honest in his effort to end his 17-year Test career on home soil. And considering his stature as the biggest sporting ambassador of the country, his desire was not illogical despite his political affiliation.

Being the biggest entertainer and the top all-rounder across three formats of the game, Shakib hardly deserved such a dismissive response on security grounds when the government of the day is committed to providing security to a citizen, let alone a cricketer.

Making his Test debut against India on May 6, 2007, Shakib has been the top performer for the country with both bat and ball. It was a privilege to watch his epic 217 against New Zealand in Wellington in 2017.

Against a fiery pace attack in that windy Wellington ground, Shakib's range of shots, especially against anything loose, was a treat to watch. Watching Shakib batting in company with Mushfiqur Rahim, a member of the Wellington Cricket Club was so moved that he prematurely told this reporter: "Well, you have won this Test. See you in Christchurch".

Riding on Shakib's double hundred, Bangladesh did take a first-innings lead, but eventually lost the eventful game.

Across the cricketing world, it is customary to write in length about a retiring icon. Unfortunately, it is an opportunity lost for us. We don't know whether Shakib would change his retirement plan or the government in power would create a window of opportunity to give Shakib a proper send-off.

At the moment, it is all bleak for Shakib and his millions of followers, some of whom were seen protesting outside the home of cricket yesterday and chanting slogans: "Kanpur or Mirpur. Mirpur, Mirpur."