



EDITORIAL

We are pleased to publish the third issue of Legal Counsel News Bulletin with some important updates given the current situation of corona virus. Stay home & stay safe.

NEW LEGISLATION (JANUARY 2020-MARCH 2020)

No new legislation has been enacted in the Parliament during the first quarter of 2020.

WORK FROM HOME

>> Legal Counsel has adopted "work from home policy" since March 19, 2020. We are also conducting all meetings with clients via video and tele conferencing.

>> Legal Counsel has urgently supported a large number of organizations to prepare their internal work from home policies, electronic signature policies, emergency and unpaid leave policies etc. in the wake of the novel corona virus.

ON A SERIOUS NOTE

A defendant isn't happy with how things are going in court, so he gives the judge a hard time.

Judge: "Where do you work?"

Defendant: "Here and there."

Judge: "What do you do for a living?"

Defendant: "This and that."

Judge: "Take him away and send him to prison."

Defendant: "Wait; when will I get out?"

Judge: "Sooner or later."



The Ministry of Public Administration issued a gazette notification stating that the chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) will now enjoy the rank and status of a High Court judge. Furthermore, BTRC vice-chairman and commissioners have been given the status of secretary and additional secretary of the government respectively.

DO YOU KNOW ?

What is Heba?

As per the Muslim Law, an inter vivos (between living persons) gift is called Heba. Transferring any right or interest of property whether movable or immovable from one living person to another without any exchange or consideration is called Gift/Heba. Heba is a very popular method of transferring the title of immovable properties amongst close family members in Bangladesh.

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LEGAL IMPLICATION OF CORONA VIRUS IN BANGLADESH

Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) has been declared as an internal public health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO) which has infected millions of people worldwide. From Wuhan province of China, it has radically spread to other countries including Bangladesh.

Laws such as the Contagious Diseases (Prevention, Control and Eradication) Act 2018 (CDA 2018) have been enacted with the view to preventing, curing and eradicating contagious diseases. Under CDA 2018, the Directorate General for Health Services (DGHS) is responsible for taking appropriate measures regarding contagious diseases, including, but not limited to, purifying/destroying products of infected persons, putting an infected person in quarantine, etc. CDA 2018 further provides penalties for persons spreading contagious diseases advertently, obstructing the DG or other personnel in discharging their duties, etc. Moreover, Section Nos. 269 to 271 of the Penal Code 1860 can be very relevantly invoked to punish the people, who may risk the spreading of the novel coronavirus and /or violate the order of quarantine. Furthermore, an order under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 (or similar provisions for the metropolitan areas) may be imposed against such persons those who are not abiding by the order of quarantine.

In addition to that, the Hon'ble High Court Division has also given an oral direction for the checking of foreign nationals while entering Bangladesh, preparatory measures to be taken by public and private hospitals and the Government to import emergency equipment, if needed. However, it is clearly visible that a lot of people have zero knowledge about the seriousness to the entire issue of COVID-19 and people those who have the minimum knowledge have been seen to be panicking after having even a simple, viral flu.

Although the Government has adopted a few measures, such as production of masks, introducing COVID-19 helpline, briefing IEDCR, closing down schools, colleges, etc., it is still insufficient if we come to analyze the catastrophic effect COVID-19 may bring to our country.

In view of the above it seems that laws do exist to provide ways to take effective measures, however, it would not be operative unless it is rigorously applied, creating a strong sense of awareness amongst mass people and compelling them to follow it in order to fight COVID-19.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) election was held on March 11 & 12, 2020: Advocate AM Amin Uddin has been elected as the President while Barrister Ruhul Quddus Kazal has been elected as the General Secretary.

Jera Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought more Japanese investment in the power and energy sector of the country to meet the growing demand of electricity while the president of JERA Co. Inc, the largest electricity producing firm in Japan, Satoshi Onoda was called on at her office. Mr. Onoda further informed that with the joint venture of Reliance Bangladesh Power and LNG Company, they are setting up a 718MW power plant in Meghnaghat which will be into operation by 2022. The JERA president said that they have already set up a 335MW power plant in joint venture with Summit Power Ltd of Bangladesh and also desirous to establish some more power plants in joint venture with Summit. Mr. Onoda also said that the Summit-JERA-Mitsubishi Consortium has already submitted an expression of interest (EOI) to the government for setting up an LNG terminal in Matarbari, Cox's Bazar.

Income Tax Threshold:

If an individual's taxable income is more than BDT 250,000.00 then he/she is liable to pay income tax as per the Finance Act 2020-2021. So, the threshold for an individual is BDT 250,000.00 per year but in some cases this limit may vary. The followings are the minimum threshold for different categories:

Types of Person	Total taxable income (BDT)
Women & tax payers of 65 years or more	300,000.00
Person with disability	400,000.00
Gazetted freedom fighter	425,000.00

PRO-BONO WORKS: PUBLICATIONS AND TV SHOWS (JANUARY 2020-MARCH 2020)**PUBLICATIONS**

- ✔ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana answered two of the selected questions among various legal issues faced by the readers in readers question section | Prothom Alo | January 8, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2JgmOIW>
- ✔ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana answered two of the selected questions among various legal issues faced by the readers in readers question section | Prothom Alo | January 15, 2020. <https://bit.ly/39okkmd>
- ✔ "The rules to follow" | Dhaka Tribune | January 21, 2020 | by Barrister Omar H. Khan, Managing Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/2QLvvue>
- ✔ "Sexual harrasment at workplace" | The Daily Observer | January 25, 2020|by Barrister Nuzhath Islam, Associate of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/33SuQRJ>
- ✔ "The consequences of possessing Kangaroo hides" | The Daily Star | February 4, 2020 | by Barrister Omar H. Khan, Managing Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/2WKCxrO>
- ✔ "Competition law and sustainable development" | Dhaka Tribune | January 31, 2020 | by Barrister Omar H. Khan, Managing Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/3dv5zBz>
- ✔ "Protection of Intellectual Property through Trademarks" | The Daily Observer | February 8, 2020 | by Barrister Atmaja Bhattacharjee Swarna, Associate of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/3amH33o>
- ✔ "Festival Holiday" | The Daily Observer | February 22, 2020 | by Farhana Azad, Associate of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/3akb58f>
- ✔ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana answered two of the selected questions among various legal issues faced by the readers in readers question section | Prothom Alo | February 26, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3bsGiGs>
- ✔ Laws of Nomination: Banks need to set the right practice | Dhaka Tribune | March 2, 2020 | by Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/2WV5O39>
- ✔ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana had women's day special talk with the Business Standard on " what it takes to break the glass ceiling" | March 8, 2020. <https://bit.ly/39IQoHE>
- ✔ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana writes about "পরিস্থিতি মোকাবেলায় আইনের প্রয়োগ" (the implementation of law is urgently needed in order to deal with the current pandemic COVID-19) | Prothom Alo | March 16, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2y7uE5f>

TV SHOWS AND INTERVIEWS

- ▶ Asian Table Talk, year ending special episode as to "কেমন ছিল নারীদের জন্য ২০১৯" (how was 2019 for women) | Asian Tv | December 31, 2019 | by Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/3dt87QB>
- ▶ New Year special talk show on "নতুন বছর নতুন সম্ভাবনা" (starting New Year with new hope) | ATN NEWS | January 1, 2020 | by Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/33LhMgY>
- ▶ "সিটি নির্বাচন ও রাজনীতির উত্প" | Jamuna TV | January 02, 2020 | by Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/2WFnaki>
- ▶ "বহু বিবাহের ব্যাপারে আইন কি বলে" (Laws of polygamy) | Shomadhan Sutra | DBC NEWS | January 05, 2020 | by Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/3bq0ubH>
- ▶ "ব্যবসা শুরুর আইনি প্রস্তুতি" (Startup laws) | Shomadhan Sutra | DBC NEWS | January 12, 2020 | By Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/3ajCDdD>
- ▶ "চায়ের চুমুকে" | ATN Bangla | January 22, 2020 | By Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/33MpSFZ>
- ▶ "আমার মেয়র" | Asian Tv Talk Show | January 30, 2020 | by Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/2Un3Erj>
- ▶ "সম্পত্তি রেজিস্ট্রেশন আইন" (laws related to Registration Act) | Somadhan Sutra | DBC NEWS | February 9, 2020 | By Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/2wDgZ5E>
- ▶ Watch the whole team of Legal Counsel | Ekushey TV | Career Guide Show on "Career as a Lawyer" | February 10, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2WFXsfz>
- ▶ "ট্রেড লাইসেন্স করার আইনি প্রক্রিয়া" (legal procedure for obtaining a trade license) | Somadhan Sutra | DBC NEWS | February 16, 2020 | by Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/2UiXzvH>
- ▶ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana live at Channel I | February 23, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2QLGrN8>
- ▶ "হিন্দু আইন অনুযায়ী বিয়ে ও বিচ্ছেদ" (Hindu Marriage Law) | Somadhan Sutra | DBC News | February 24, 2020 | by Barrister Miti Sanjana, Partner of Legal Counsel. <https://bit.ly/3bw5yv9>
- ▶ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana had special talk show program of International Women's Day on "অর্থনীতিতে নারীর অর্জন" with Channel I | March 8, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2Un5mcd>
- ▶ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana talks in the special episode of the table talk on the International Women's Day | Asian TV Talk Show | March 8, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3bsOmXs>
- ▶ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana talks about "সম্পত্তি বন্টন: কন্যা সম্পত্তির অধিকার" (daughter's inheritance right in their father's property) | Somadhan Sutra | DBC NEWS | March, 16, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2QPihS2>
- ▶ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana talks about "করোনা ভাইরাসের বিস্তার রোধে আইনের প্রয়োগ" (the implementation of law in order to prevent the spread of corona Virus | Channel I | March 20, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3bp3Uvt>
- ▶ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana had discussion on "করোনা দুর্যোগে আমরা কি করছি ?" (the legal aspects of contagious disease and quarantine) | Ekattor Tv | March 21, 2020. <https://bit.ly/39ovM1b>
- ▶ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana talks about the contagious disease and quarantine | Sokaler Bangladesh | Jamuna Tv | March 22, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2vVQmBE>
- ▶ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana talks about "ব্যবসায়ী আইন" (Business law) | ATN Bangla Talk Show | March 22, 2020. <https://bit.ly/2QY3EM2>
- ▶ Partner of Legal Counsel, Barrister Miti Sanjana had discussion on "করোনা ভাইরাস মোকাবেলায় আইনের প্রয়োগ" (application of law in combating Corona virus) | Somadhan Sutra | DBC NEWS | March 23, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3dypEH1>