

Anti-Terrorism Ordinance promulgated

The President has promulgated the Anti-Terrorism Ordinance with the provision of speedy trial of the special type of offences by Special Tribunals in all the districts, according to an extraordinary Gazette Notification here, reports BSS.

The ordinance, called the curbing of terrorist activities, 1992, was promulgated by the President, Mr Abdur Rahman Biswas under the Article 93(1) of the Constitution as the Jatiya Sangsad is not in session and it was felt necessary to suppress terrorism in the country. The gazette was published on September 15.

The offences are extorting money, creating blockade to resist movement of all kinds of transports, causing willful damage to vehicles and other public and private property, hijacking or snatching away money, valuables or vehicles, teasing the eyes, abducting children and women, creating anarchy or intimidations peoples, creating obstruction in buying tender documents or dropping thereof.

Any person convicted under the Anti-Terrorism Ordinance will be sentenced to death or life imprisonment or jail term of maximum of 20 years and minimum of five years. In addition the accused will be liable to be fined.

Under the Ordinance, the government will set up a tribunal or more than one tribunal in each

district headed by a retired Sessions Judge or Additional Sessions Judge. If necessary, the government will assign a Sessions Judge or Additional Sessions Judge as the tribunal judge in addition to his responsibility. All the appointments will be made by gazette notification. Each tribunal will be based at the district headquarters, but if directed by the government it would be able to hold trial at any other place.

The investigation of each case under the ordinance is to be completed within 30 days after the offence is lodged. But the time limit could be extended for 15 days with the approval of the tribunal for unavoidable circumstances if the tribunal could not complete the trial within the 60 days it could be extended by 30 more days after the tribunal records the reasons.

The offences under the Anti-Terrorism Ordinance would be cognizable.

Irrespective of whatever provisions to the contrary might be there in the Cr. P. C. no magistrate,

or tribunal or appellate tribunal or any other court would not enlarge on bail any one charged for

offences under the ordinance at the stage of investigation.

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The trial of a case would continue everyday uninterrupted until it is disposed of by the tribunal. The trial could be adjourned for not more than seven days if the tribunal is satisfied that the adjournment is necessary in the interest of justice.

An aggrieved person either against convictions or against release orders would be able to appeal within 30 days before the Appellate Tribunals.

The Government, under the ordinance will set up one or more appeal tribunals for the suppression of the terrorist offences.

The tribunal will consist of two Supreme Court Judges—either sitting or retired—and a district judge eligible to be appointed a Supreme Court Judge.