



# Impartiality of Judges



I read this story when I was very young. My father bought me a book on the history of Saonargaon from Bangla Academy's Book Fair.

Sonargaon was then the capital of Bengal. The ruler of Bengal was then Giasuddin Azam Shah. He was a just ruler.

One day Giasuddin Azam Shah went out for hunting birds. He triggered his arrow towards a bird, but unfortunately it missed the target and hit a boy. The boy died immediately.

The boy's mother was a widow. She went to the Qadi for seeking justice. After listening to her, the Qadi summoned Giasuddin Azam Shah.

After receiving the summon, Giasuddin Azam Shah appeared to the court as an ordinary citizen.

After listening to both the parties, the Qadi delivered his verdict. The verdict was: since Giasuddin Azam Shah accidentally killed the boy, he would therefore need to give financial compensation to the widow.

Giasuddin Azam Shah accepted the verdict.

While Giasuddin leaving the court, the Qadi stood up with respect and said, "Excellency, I thank you for honouring the rule of law."

After hearing the statement of Qadi, Giasuddin Azam Shah unsheathed his sword and said, "If you had not delivered the verdict against me today, I would have cut your head off by now."

The Qadi immediately brought a stick from underneath his chair and responded, "And if you had not accepted my verdict today, I would have beaten you with this stick."

This actually happened in Bangladesh!

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*Photo Source: Internet*