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## Dr Kamal says court to decide Maya's fate

### Tribune Report

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain has said that only the court can decide whether Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya can continue to hold his ministerial position or not.

The court can give the right decision once the issue is placed before it, he told reporters after attending a programme in the city yesterday. "I should not comment on a matter still pending with the court, but I think none is above the law."

The Supreme Court on June 14 quashed a High Court order that acquitted Maya of graft charges in a case filed in 2008. It also ordered fresh hearings on the case. Maya, the city unit Awami League general secretary, was sentenced to 13 years in prison in the case.

Earlier Dr Kamal Hossain spoke at a programme arranged by the South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies (SAILS) and Brac to distribute certificates among participants of a training session of para-legal trainers.

SAILS Governing Council Chairman Dr Kamal said: "It is nearly impossible to provide legal aids to the hundred of thousands of people by the lawyers. The poor and neglected population of the society find it difficult to get legal aid. Para-legal persons and organisations can provide them with legal support at the initial stage."

He said that victims from remote areas do not have any idea where to go to file a case, how to go to the court or appoint a lawyer. The para-legal activists can assist them with suggestions. Persons with para-legal training will not move for them in the court but they can show the victim the right path to seek justice.

Syed Aminul Islam, registrar general of the Supreme Court, said it is the responsibility of the government and the state to make people aware of their legal rights and also provide them with the rights. "The para-legal activists can do that in root level where lawyers are not available."

The training, held from June 28 to July 2, was organised in partnership with Open Society Foundations, USA; Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), India and BRAC University. Total 21 persons from Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Myanmar took part in the programme.

Executive Director of SAILS Manzoor Hasan, CSJ Vice-Chairman Gagan Sethi and Brac University Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Fuad Hassan Mallick also spoke. Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the founder and chairman of Brac and also member of the government council of SAILS, was present.