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Brac worker
abducted in
Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul
A Bangladeshi development worker was kidnapped in Afghanistan by unknown men in a brazen daytime attack on his office, officials said yesterday -- the latest in a string of abductions of foreigners.

Six men on Saturday burst into the man's office close to the town of Pul-i-Alam, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Kabul, and "forcefully took him away," a Bangladeshi Rural Advancement Committee (Brac) official said.

Another Bangladeshi employee from the same group was shot dead in the mountainous northeast of the country five days ago. He was working on a microfinancing project, as was the abducted man.

It was not clear who was behind the kidnapping, said the head of the non-governmental organisation's Afghan mission, Gunendu Roy.

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Moudud sued for hiding wealth

Case filed against four other ex-BNP lawmakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday charged detained former law minister Moudud Ahmed with possessing wealth beyond his known income sources and withholding information about his assets.

Besides, cases were filed against four former BNP lawmakers including ex-state minister for civil aviation and tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin and 67 others on charges of extortion, suppression of wealth details and illegal income.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Shariful Haque Siddiqui filed the case against Moudud with the Gulshan Police Station under sections 26(2) and 27(1) of the ACC



Act, 2004, and 15 (d) (5) of the Emergency Power Rules, 2007.

He alleged that the former law minister in his statement to the anti-graft body has kept back information about his actual

wealth and accumulated wealth through illegal means.

According to the first information report (FIR), Moudud did not declare wealth worth Tk 4,40,37,375. He has assets to the tune of Tk 7,38,48,237 which is disproportionate to his sources of income.

The joint forces in a raid on April 13 detained him and seized 32 cans of beer and 16 bottles of other alcoholic beverages from his residence. The following day Gulshan police filed a case against him under the Narcotics Control Act for smuggling in and possessing contraband liquor.

Moudud has been in detention in phases under the Special Power Acts since July 25.

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More ammo seized from Sherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A squad of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered a "reasonable amount" of ammunition at Jhenaiagati upazila, a frontier upazila of Sherpur district, yesterday.

BDR conducted drives at six places in the border areas of Mymensingh region throughout the day and recovered the ammunition. The amount of the recovered material was not revealed for the sake of future drives, BDR sources said.

BDR Sector Commander Col Anisuzzaman of 45 Battalion was leading the operations. BDR sources said they are conducting the drives on secret information.

The amount of ammunition seized yesterday would be less than that of Thursday's recovery, in which 29,100 pistol bullets were seized, BDR sources said.

The operations would come to an end today, they said adding that the job would be handed over to:

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REHABILITATION OF WAR CRIMINALS CEC takes a swipe at politicians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said although war criminals should have been tried immediately after the country's independence, all the successive governments refrained from putting the anti-liberation forces on trial.

Responding to a proposal for banning Jamaat-e-Islami

Bangladesh

from carrying out its political activities including its right to contest in parliamentary elections, the CEC said

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman provided amnesty to war criminals, but he also said people who had specific charges against them were not eligible for the amnesty.

"It was you [politicians], who made anti-liberation leader Shah Azzur Rahman the prime minister after 1975. Anti-liberation people

were made ministers of the immediate past government. Now how are we to go ahead disqualifying them from contesting in the polls?" the CEC asked.

"Give us a mechanism, give us a proposal for approaching the matter," Huda said while holding a dialogue with Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) on electoral reforms in the EC Secretariat conference room.

The KSJL chief, also a veteran freedom fighter, Quader Siddiqui, placed a set of electoral reform proposals including a proposal for inserting new conditions for registration of political parties so that the anti-liberation forces like Jamaat-e-Islami may not get registered for contesting in parliamentary elections until they seek mercy for their crimes in 1971.

"Bangabandhu did not give amnesty to those who had been

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Essentials' prices remain high despite govt effort: Mainul STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law and Information Adviser Barrister Mainul Hosein yesterday said politicians not businessmen are likely to dominate the upcoming list of graft suspects.

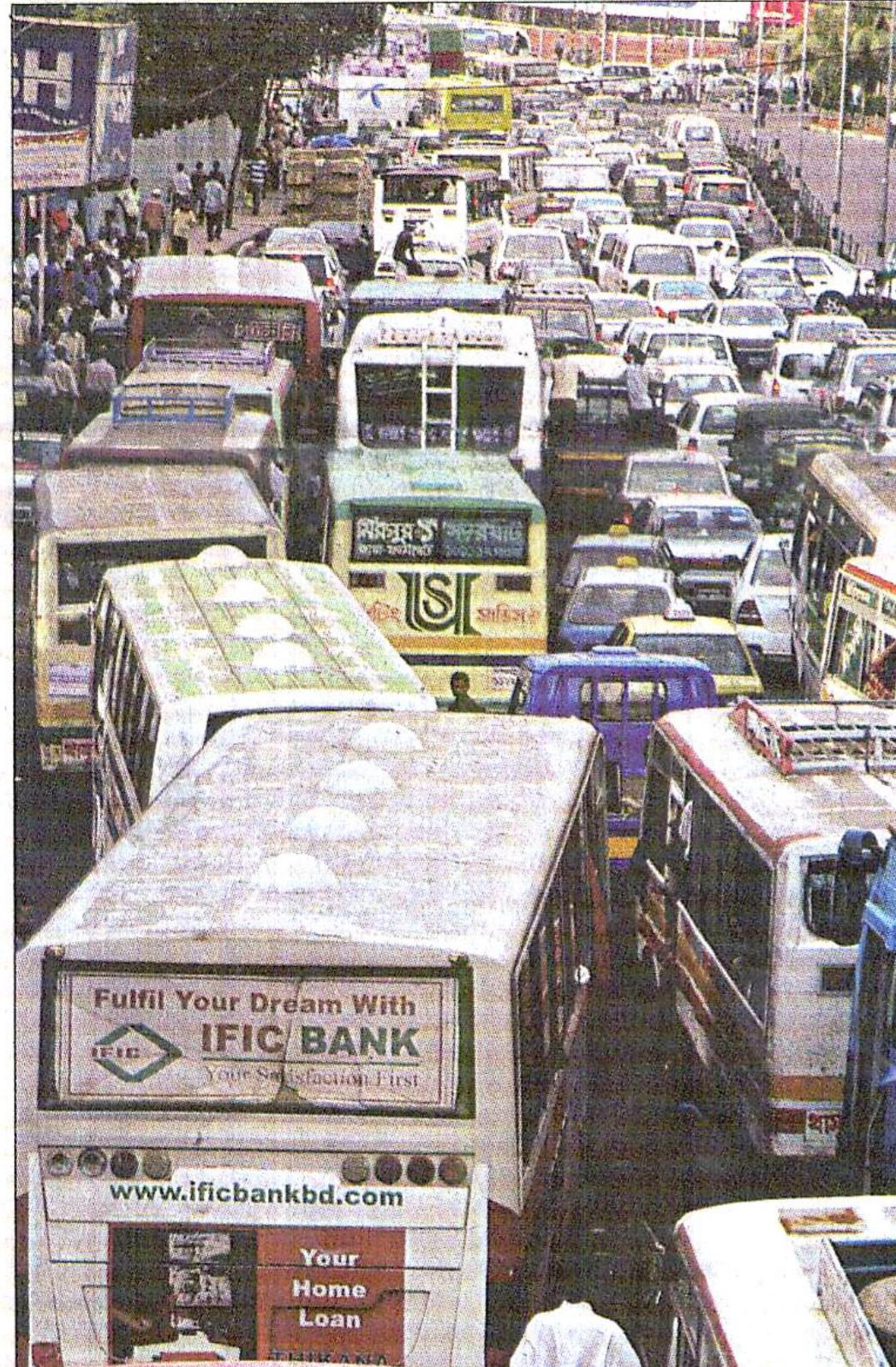
Addressing a press briefing arranged by the housing and public works ministry, he urged the business community to come forward and do everything necessary to boost the country's economy.

Asking them not to worry about being unnecessarily subjected to the anti-graft measures, he said as far as he can assume mostly the politicians would be on the next list.

He lamented that prices of essentials remain high despite the government's relentless efforts.

Mainul, who also holds the housing and public works portfolio, said things are not changing despite the government assurances that it would not harass the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Gridlock paralyses almost the entire capital city yesterday. Traffic remained standstill on the road stretching from Jatiya Press Club to Farmgate for hours. The photo was taken from Shahbagh intersection around 2:30pm.

DU VIOLENCE Prof Sadrul sent to jail on surrender

COURT CORRESPONDENT

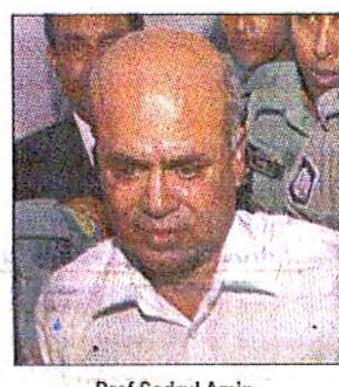
Prof Sadrul Amin, president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) and an accused in two cases for the August violence on Dhaka University (DU) campus, was sent to jail custody after he surrendered before a Dhaka court yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate SM Ferdous Alam gave the order after Amin, accompanied by his lawyers, appeared before the court at 12:15pm in connection with the cases filed with Shahbagh Police Station in August.

Earlier on Thursday, the same court had issued arrest warrants against professors Amin and Neem Chandra Bhownik.

On September 9, police brought charges against four teachers and 15 students of DU for instigating violent protests in August on the university campus as well as in adjacent areas including Shahbagh.

Prof Amin's attorney Masud



Prof Sadrul Amin

Ahmed Talukder and Golam Mostafa Khan submitted three petitions on his behalf -- first one for Amin's surrender, second one for his treatment and the third one seeking division in jail custody.

Moving the petitions, the attorneys mentioned that they did not submit a bail petition because bail is not allowed for a person accused

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Bhuiyan asks leaders to join his reform bandwagon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, BNP secretary general who was expelled by the party's detained Chairperson Khaleda Zia and has been since leading a faction of pro-reform leaders, yesterday urged "anti-reform" leaders to join hands with him and accept the decisions to be made in the party council they are going to hold.

Recently appointed BNP Secretary General Khondaker Delwar Hossain rejected Bhuiyan's call and said they also want reforms but they will not accept any "package" or decisions not made in the BNP party council.

Before leaving for Singapore for treatment yesterday, Bhuiyan urged present and former BNP leaders, who were either forced into inactivity or forced out of the party during the tenure of the last BNP-led government, to join the party again to foster an environment for honest and competent leadership.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Dhaka urges KL to act against recruiter Malaysian cops hand over agitating workers to rights body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday lodged a formal complaint with the Malaysian authorities seeking stern action against Malaysian company PTC Asia Pacific for failing to provide appropriate jobs and facilities to Bangladeshi recruits.

Meanwhile, Malaysian police picked up the 82 agitating Bangladeshi workers during demonstrations on the Bangladeshi high commission premises in Kuala Lumpur on Friday night and handed them over to Tenaganita, a local human rights organisation.

Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, adviser for foreign affairs, expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministries, at an emergency meeting at the ministry decided yesterday to send a team led by expatriates' welfare secretary Abdul Matin Chowdhury to

Malaysia to probe the incidents regarding expatriate workers.

"Actions are also being contemplated against Bangladeshi agencies if found to be at fault," Iftekhar told journalists following the meeting.

"We give utmost importance to any matter that involves the welfare of Bangladeshi workers. We have a great responsibility towards them. At the same time, Malaysia is an important market for our expatriate workforce. So the matter is delicate. We are looking forward to the cooperation of Malaysian authorities and all concerned," he said.

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment is giving the highest priority to the recent problems of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia -- particularly to the workers who had been on hunger strike on the high commission premises, Iftekhar added.

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Tigers shot down by Lee hattrick

STAR SPORT MONITOR

Fast bowler Brett Lee took the first hattrick in 20 overs internationals as Australia crushed Bangladesh by nine wickets in their ICC Twenty20 World Championships Super Eights match at Newlands on Sunday.

Bangladesh were restricted to 123 for nine after being sent in. Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden hammered a quickfire opening partnership as Australia won with 61 overs to spare.

Meanwhile, New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori led from the front as New Zealand brushed aside India by 10 runs in the first Super Eights match at Johannesburg.

The left-arm spinner claimed 4-20, took a catch and affected a run out as the Kiwis, bowled out for 190, hit back to restrict India to 180-9 in good batting conditions.

India failed to build on a blistering start by openers Virender Sehwag and Gautam Gambhir, who put on 76 for the first wicket from 35 deliveries.

Sehwag struck a typically belligerent 17-ball 40 containing six boundaries and two sixes, while Gambhir top-scored with 51 off 33 with five fours and two sixes.

But in Cape Town, it was a ruthless performance by the World Cup and Test champions that made their defeat by lowly Zimbabwe last Wednesday seem a distant memory.

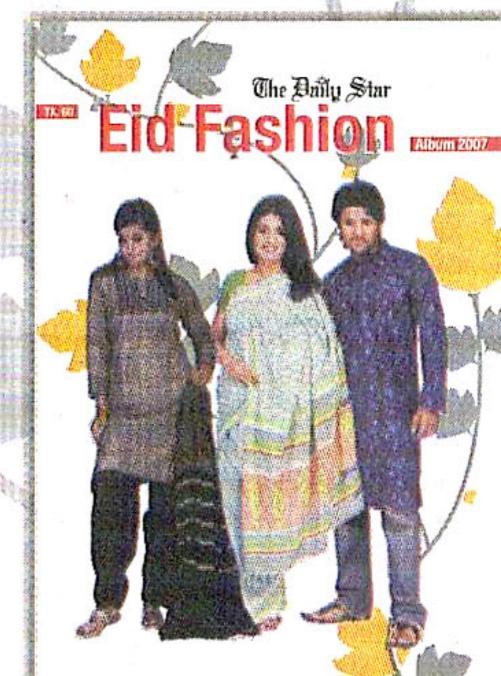
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ALI ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY MUKUL BOSE, ORGANISING SECRETARY ABDUL MANNAN, AL LEADERS AKM JAHANGIR HOSSAIN, AND PROF ABU

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

ASSAULT OF LEADERS AL probe starts today to punish attackers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) probe body today starts its investigation into Wednesday's incident of abuse of four senior AL leaders outside the party's Dhanmondi office in capital.

The one-member committee headed by AL Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will interview the witnesses from 10:00am to 12:00noon at the AL Dhanmondi office.

Sajeda, however, has not been authorised to take punitive measures against the people responsible.