

CARJACKING Charges framed against Paban, four others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Khondaker Akhter Hamid Paban, son of BNP leader Khondaker Delwar Hossain, and four others in connection with a carjacking case.

The accused pleaded not guilty after Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani read out the charges to them.

The court also fixed March 5 for trial of the case and summoned complainant and other witnesses to appear before the court for giving their statements.

Four other accused are Robin, Masum, Halim and Jahangir Alam. Of them, Jahangir has been absconding since the case was filed against him while three others are now on bail.

Paban and three others carjacked a Toyota Premio from its owner at gunpoint from the city's Motijheel area on October 13, 2005.

The Detective Branch of Police arrested Paban with the stolen vehicle from Bailey Road area on June 7, 2006.

Sub-Inspector of Detective Branch of Police Syed Selim Masud, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, pressed charges against them on December 28 the same year.

Statue issue won't affect ties with Dhaka

Says newly appointed French envoy

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has said Bangladesh strongly believes that her relations with France is too strong to be adversely affected by unpleasant developments.

"Exhibition of Bangladeshi archaeological items at the Guimet Museum in Paris could not be held as planned because of the incidence of theft and subsequent developments," he said when newly appointed French Ambassador to Bangladesh Charley Causseret presented his credentials at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Describing the theft of statue as incidental, the French envoy said the issue would not affect the present ties between the two countries.

The president also urged French investors to invest more in Bangladesh availing themselves of existing incentives.

"French investors can avail themselves of the benefits of generous tax and other incentives offered by the Bangladesh government, particularly in the Export Processing Zone," he said.

Referring to the recent upward trend in French investment in Bangladesh, Iajuddin expressed his satisfaction at the fast expanding trade relations between the two countries.



PHOTO: PID
Newly appointed French Ambassador Charley Causseret presents his credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

"There is still ample scope for further expansion of trade relations for mutual benefits of the two peoples," he said.

The president said Bangladesh attaches great importance to her relations with France and considered it as an important development partner.

The president apprised the French ambassador of different measures taken by the government to help cyclone survivors and thanked the French government

for extending their cooperation to Bangladesh by providing Euro 1.6 million as relief assistance.

He suggested that Bangladesh and France should introduce university linkage programme, benefiting Bangladeshi students a lot.

The new envoy praised Bangladesh for successfully facing the cyclone aftermath in the country.

He also termed excellent the current relations between Bangladesh and France.

WALL MAGAZINE FESTIVAL Chandrabati wins best magazine prize

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day National Wall Magazine Festival ended in the city yesterday with the spontaneous participation of hundreds of students from different schools across the country.

At the festival Chandrabati, a wall magazine prepared by the students of Azim Uddin High School of Kishoreganj won the first prize while Prashun of Motijheel Government High School of Dhaka, and Prottyasha of Jannat Bibi Jubilee Girls High School of Pabna won the second and third prizes respectively.

Organised by Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK), the festival was held on the premises of Bangla Academy with the slogan 'Free expression, free expansion.'

The festival was aimed to help flourish talents of school students by creating a space to share their common feelings.

Addressing the concluding function, the speakers said if the children get the scope of free thinking, their creativity will increase manifold.

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury spoke as the chief guest.

Presided over by ASK Executive Director Sultana Kamal, the function was also attended by Jatin Sarkar, Editor of The New Age Nurul Kabir and Motahar Akhand.

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Ashura holiday on Jan 20

UNB, Dhaka

The government has declared January 20 as a public holiday on the occasion of holy Ashura instead of January 19 as mentioned in the government calendar for 2008.

The offices that control the schedule of holidays as per their own rules and regulations or the offices where services have been declared 'essential' by the government will announce Ashura holiday as per their own rules considering public interests, said a PID handout.

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