

CTG ARMS HAUL CASE

NSI officer remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday placed National Security Intelligence (NSI) field-level officer Akbar Hossain Khan on a seven-day fresh remand in a case filed in connection with the sensational Chittagong arms haul.

The Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Osman Gani granted the remand following a petition submitted by the investigation officer of the arms case Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Assistant Superintendent of Police Muniruzzaman for a 10-day fresh remand.

The investigation officer made the petition on April 23 and the hearing was held yesterday.

The prayer for fresh remand was made as the investigators failed to glean any remarkable information from Akbar during his two-day

remand that ended on April 21.

Earlier, the owner and manager of transport agency Greenways identified Akbar as the person who hired seven trucks and a crane from them. Those vehicles were used for the transportation of the huge firearms and ammunition hauled at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd jetty on April 2, 2004.

"The NSI officer did not provide any information, during the two-day remand, about who instructed him to hire the trucks and the crane," Muniruzzaman said.

On April 23, two more witnesses gave statements under Section-164 of CrPC indicating that Akbar was the person who hired the seven trucks and the crane from Greenways.

Sheikh Ahmed, a Kodomtali-based transport broker, and Salim Ullah, an accountant of Greenways were the two witnesses.

Quick bucks

FROM PAGE 1 DOHS, said Azra. Residents of the house sent their caretaker to the Mohakhali zone office. He was put on serial number 32, but Wasa men did not provide any water.

The next day they sent him again and this time he got 42 serial in vain.

Anwara Monjoor, resident on Road 2, said they were facing water crisis for last three days. "I had to go to my daughter's house to have shower and bring some drinking water," she said.

Rehan Hamid, another resident of House 31, Road 7, said he was given the serial 85 at Mohakhali zone office and was told that they could supply only 20 lorries of water per day.

The next day he went again and got serial 126. "I asked Wasa officials why they gave me such meaningless serial but they did not give an answer."

Wasa is maintaining illegal water connections from Gulshan Road 30 and 33 to supply water to Karail slums across the nearby lake, he alleged.

"We don't know who takes money from the slum for the supply," he said.

Nurul Islam, executive engineer of Wasa Mohakhali zone-5, could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

Wasa managing director Shahjahan Ali Mollah said, "If there is any specific case of exacting more money than the government rate, we will take drastic action."

"But normally it is really difficult to prove an incident of bribery," he said.

Regarding false serial numbers, he said he would ask the chief engineer to look into it.

Wasa has meanwhile set up a generator to run its pump at the National Shooting Federation complex to avoid disruption in water lifting due to frequent power outage and allotted one more lorry for Gulshan, said Mollah.

War trial

FROM PAGE 16 crimes perpetrated during the nine-month Liberation War.

Sahara's comments came a day after speakers at a seminar suggested that the government appoint at least 25 lawyers with expertise in international law and courts and competent investigators for a fair trial of the crimes.

Earlier, two state ministers had observed that the government would form a three-to-five-member prosecution team and a five-to-seven-member investigation body for the war crimes trial.

Students down

FROM PAGE 16 news internationally and job-cut spree by the private sector at home.

Suddenly unemployed, Australians are queuing up in record numbers for dole but the international students, who are majority among short-time job-seekers, find it hard to support their tuition and living.

"Presently, I'm exhausting my small savings to keep myself going," said Sabbir Mahmud, a Bangladeshi student who enrolled in a Melbourne university on a full fee-paying student visa. "I already lost my job twice in 3 months. I'm doing my third one at a lower pay rate. I don't know how I'm going to survive and continue my study if I lose this job too."

Like Sabbir, most of Bangladeshi students arrive here on full fee-paying visa, as scholarships are scarce, only about 150 in total a year. Total fee for undergrad courses varies university to university, but it's well over Tk 60 lakh. Students do part-time jobs round the year to support the study as well as living in Australia, a tough job made tougher by the recession.

Executive director of Australian Multicultural Foundation, Dr B Hass Dellal, admitted that international students are in for bigger challenge during recession.

"When there's a decline migrant communities, specially the newer ones, are the first to cop," he said.

The tuition fee from international students, representing 20-25pc of the total, is the bloodline of most of Australian universities. Many felt that universities should come forward now to bail out international students for mutual benefits.

"I think universities should play bigger role in taking care of this issue. Community can play some role too," said Dr Dellal.

With the downturn intensifying, speculations have also gained ground in Australia that the government is about to limit entry of international students, Bangladeshis in particular who demonstrated academic and personal excellence but came with poor

economic record. "We're keen on having international students here," lawmaker Bob McMullan told The Daily Star at his parliamentary office in Canberra. But what he stopped short of telling that Australia wants wealthy international student for now.

Students from rich nations like China and India are preferred in Australia just because of their better financial health, alleged many Bangladeshi students. Indian students now make up almost 18 percent of Australia's total foreign student population behind China with 23.5 percent.

Meanwhile, Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) and national executive officer Andrew Smith recently stacked statistics on international students' remarkable contribution to national economy, encouraging the government to continue supporting the growth of international education by not reducing student numbers as part of migration reform.

"Each international student contributes 28,920 Australian dollars (17,930 US dollars) in value to the economy each year," he said.

According to ACPET, international students, and the associated visitation from friends and family contribute \$12.6 billion Australian dollars in value-added in 2007-08. And total student related expenditure (spending by students and visiting friends and relatives) generates a total of 126,240 full-time equivalent jobs.

Ironically though, job-creators are now first to face the threat of job-cut. Prof Jayasuriya however said that the government is not obligated to take care of the financial distress of those who are not residents.

"But the stimulus package is going to indirectly help minimise job-cuts. If this short-term package is partially successful, students are going to benefit," he hoped.

The global financial trend however shows that the recession has come to stay. The longer it stays the deeper they sink into abyss.

All Dhaka rivers left dead

FROM PAGE 1 water," says a DoE inspector.

According to a study jointly conducted by the World Bank and the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), there are over 300 various effluent discharge outlets from nine major industrial clusters including Tongi, Hazaribagh, Tejgaon, Tarabo, Narayanganj, Savar, Ashulia, Gazipur and Ghorashal.

Of these, 19 outlets carry the major discharge of domestic and industrial waste. Of the discharged untreated liquid waste, 61 percent are industrial and 39 percent domestic waste, the study shows. The lone Sewerage Treatment Plant (SWP) in Pagla in Narayanganj can treat only 10 percent of the industrial waste.

The primary estimates made in this study show that nearly 330,000 kilograms of BOD is discharged from various polluting sources every day in Dhaka watershed.

"This gives an indication of the extensive pollution loads from various domestic and industrial sources. The situation is extremely precarious particularly during the six months of the year from

November to April," the report states.

Over the last 10 years major industrialisation in the Dhaka watershed has been observed, especially in dyeing, washing and textiles sectors. It is estimated that there are over 7,000 industries in Dhaka metropolis located mostly in three clusters -- Hazaribagh, Tejgaon and DND area.

According to statistics from DoE, the number of polluting dyeing mills is 365, tanneries 198, pharmaceutical units 149, engineering workshops 129, chemicals and pesticide factories 118, jute mills 92, rubber and plastic units 63, food and sugar 38, paper and pulp 10, cement and fertilisers five each and distilleries four.

However, the real number is much higher than the statistics, and among all these the dyeing factories and tanneries are the main polluters of the rivers.

Asked why the industries don't use ETPs even if they have it, a DoE chemist explains the reason. He says, "If a dyeing factory produces one tonne of cloth, it discharges 100 cubic metres of liquid waste equivalent to 100,000 litres of water. A factory needs to spend Tk

300 to Tk 400 to purify one cubic metre of water excluding electricity and manpower costs.

"They just don't want to spend that money," the DoE chemist says.

Waste from these industries is connected to the sewerage system that directly leads to the rivers around the city. In fact, the rivers have become a dumping ground of all kinds of solid, liquid and chemical waste of bank-side population.

According to the Environment Conservation Rule, 1997, every industry should have an in-house ETP. Otherwise, they would not get from DoE the environmental clearance, which is mandatory to obtain power and gas connections.

Mahmud Hossain, owner of a washing plant in Gazipur, said their industry generated 150 cubic metres of waste water every day.

"We need to spend Tk 8-10 lakh per month for lime, poly electro lime, poly aluminium chloride and poly electro chloride to treat the waste," Mahmud added.

"If we are honest we can treat the wastewater before discharging and even make profit from the business," he commented.

Govt to train people as per job demands

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said yesterday the government would take steps to train people according to the demands in the job market to create a strong manpower resource.

"Our most valuable resource is manpower, and in order to create a strong manpower resource we need to concentrate more on technical education. We need to train people after knowing the demands in the job market from the employers and investors and we are taking data in this regard," the minister said at a seminar in the city.

He also said: "We need to collect data about what the international job markets demand and we need to provide world class education to face international challenges."

The minister also urged the people of the country to

launch a social movement to remove illiteracy from the country within 2017.

He however expressed concern over reaching the millennium development goal for eradicating illiteracy from the country within 2015.

He said in the last fiscal year's budget education got the second priority.

"We need to cut illiteracy from its root and for that we need to ensure participation of all children in the primary schools within 2011 and at the same time strengthen adult education programme," said the minister.

The seminar on Education For All was organised by Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco to mark the Global Action Week 2009.

The minister also said one of the major challenges now is to remove corruption from the education sector and prove that education and corruption cannot go together.

Advertisement for water supply project in Dhaka. Title: সম্মানিত নগরবাসীর প্রতি বিশেষ আবেদন. Content: Water supply project details, including the need for water, the project's progress, and a request for public support. Includes contact information for the project office.

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