

Samakal editor

FROM PAGE 1
Publisher AK Azad on October 14, Sarwar also alleged that the GD was filed aiming to taint the image of the paper and cause harm to it.

In his GD Sarwar said he has been in journalism for quite a long time and had earlier served as editor of the daily Jugantor and the news editor of daily Ittefaq.

He said a news item under the headline "trial of Sabir killing and bribery case is going to be started" was published in the front page of daily Samakal on October 10, highlighting the investigation of the brutal killing of a promising young engineer and bribery.

The news also focused on the involvement of Bashundhara Group chairman and one of his sons and the present state of the case.

He also mentioned in the GD that another lead news titled "Bashundhara's land encroachment in Keraniganj" was published in the Samakal on October 13 elaborately focusing on grabbing of hundreds of bighas of land of Keraniganj locals and their agony. The news mentioned

the allegation of land grabbing against Bashundhara Group.

Being overwrought by the two news items, a GD was filed on behalf of Bashundhara Group against him and Samakal publisher AK Azad bringing worthless, false and motivated charge of arson in the Bashundhara City Shopping Complex that took place on March 13, Sarwar said.

The GD says that this arson incident is now under investigation at the Criminal Investigation Department. It also mentioned that a report submitted by a high-powered committee after investigation precisely accused Bashundhara Group of non-cooperation.

Besides, as the matter is under investigation Bashundhara Group is supposed to submit any information or allegation relating to the incident to the investigating authority.

"But surprisingly enough Bashundhara authorities breaking the rules filed a GD with Tejgaon Police Station citing their fictitious investigation 213 days after the incident," the GD reads.

NCTB warehouse

FROM PAGE 1
an incident of arson.

"Printing 19 crore books and distributing those on time have been a big challenge for us, and the fire which caused an extensive damage undoubtedly has been a big blow, but we will face the challenge," he said.

He added that the government is determined and will try its best to distribute the books to students on time.

"It might have been an act of sabotage," he said adding that the investigation committee started its work yesterday.

NCTB formed a three-member enquiry committee headed by its Member (Finance) Zahirul Alam, who is also a joint secretary.

The committee will ascertain the cause of the fire and estimate the extent of the damage, and submit a preliminary report within three days.

"We have started the investigation today and will try to file the report within the deadline," said Alam.

The fire broke out Sunday morning on the ground floor of the warehouse in the capital's Tejgaon industrial area.

The stockpiles of paper in the warehouse were for printing books for the secondary and Ibtidai classes.

The firefighters yesterday had to toil throughout the day to remove stacks of printing papers to reach the centre of the fire.

The fire located at the northwest corner of the warehouse suddenly started to spread, as the paper stacks were gradually being removed, said Maj Shahjalal, director of operations of the Fire Service and Civil Defence, around 6:30 in the evening.

"But it could not spread fast, as heavy stacks of paper were piled very tightly," he added.

Around 50 firemen were working round the clock in shifts. NCTB hired 70 labourers in the morning to help remove the stockpiles, said Ratan Siddique, a member of the National Committee for Correcting Wrong Information on the Liberation War History in NCTB Books.

A six-member team of the army engineering corps led by Maj Imran arrived at the scene at noon to help in the operation.

Fork lifts and other equipment were brought in to expedite the removal. Army engineers and navy divers backed the firefighters on Sunday as well.

CURRENT PRINTING, DISTRIBUTION STATUS
NCTB's deadline was October 30 for printing around 19 crore textbooks for primary, secondary, Ibtidai, and Dakhl classes of the academic year 2010.

Star's Bogra
FROM PAGE 16
Bilu said when he was going to a local office under the health ministry, a constable came over and told him the officer-in-charge wanted to meet him.

As he entered the police station, OC Jahangir Hossain said he was going to arrest him on charges of fraud. "He told me two more cases will be lodged and I'll be shown arrested in those too."

Nur Al Shafi of Gabtoli and Muhammad Bashirul Islam of Malotinagar filed the two cases. In the complaints, the two alleged Hasibur Rahman Bilu had taken Tk 1.8 lakh and Tk 45,000 promising them jobs in a local school.

Bilu said Abdul Mannan Sarkar, a former government official who lost his job on charges of corruption and forgery, too had a hand in his harassment.

The number of copies of primary school books to be printed is 7.8 crore, the number of secondary school books to be printed is 7.48 crore, Dakhl books 1.51 crore, Ibtidai books 1.74 crore, and Technical Board books to be printed are 16.4 lakhs.

Till yesterday 32.6 percent of the primary school books, 67 percent of the secondary school books, 3.5 percent of the Technical Board books, and one percent of the Ibtidai books were printed. Dakhl books were still in the process of being printed.

Fourteen percent of those primary school books, 12 percent of the secondary school books, 84 percent of the Ibtidai books were already sent to deputy commissioners of districts and upazila nirbahi officers for distribution, while the Dakhl books were still being processed.

For the first time, the government itself has taken the responsibility of printing the textbooks hiring printers as contractors under 920 package deals.

"No single contractor has got more than five packages, no matter how many machines he or she has," said Prof Kamaluddin, adding, "A ten percent fine on the payment will be slapped on a contractor, as a penalty for each week of delay in production."

He said the board assured the printing contractors of supplying the paper on time, as the government is responsible for providing them with papers.

Maoists vow 'tornado' of violence if India launches offensive

AFP, New Delhi

The leader of India's Maoist rebels has vowed to unleash a "tornado" of violence if the government goes ahead with a planned large-scale offensive against its insurgent forces.

The next day the premier will hold a meeting with President of European Parliament Jerzy Buzek and attend a community reception at Hallunda Folkethus.

Ericsson President Carl Henric Svanberg and SIDA Director General Andres Novstrom will call on the prime minister, said Azad.

On October 24, Hasina will attend the plenary on climate change: The Road to Copenhagen and Beyond in Stockholm. The next day the prime minister will leave Stockholm for Doha.

She will hold a bilateral meeting with Amir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani at Diwan Amiri.

The premier will return on October 27.

Jahangir Alam of the daily Prothom Alo and Abdullah Al Mamun of the daily Jugantor will be, among others, the entourage during her visits.

AL, Jubo League

FROM PAGE 16
said they resorted to baton charge to ensure the situation did not go out of control.

He said the contractors could submit tenders without trouble because of the security measures taken by the police.

Hasina, 3 others

FROM PAGE 16
with two writ petitions challenged the legality of the CHT peace accord and its provisions.

The HC following the writ petitions had issued separate rules asking the government to explain why the CHT peace deal and its provisions should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The matters yesterday came up on the cause list for hearing.

Tajul Islam yesterday told The Daily Star that the High Court appointed amici curiae for expert opinions, as important constitutional and legal points are involved in this matter.

"People will rise up like a tornado under our party's leadership to wipe out the reactionary blood-sucking vampires ruling our country," he said, branding Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Home Minister P Chidambaram "terrorists".

Bilu said Abdul Mannan Sarkar, a former government official who lost his job on charges of corruption and forgery, too had a hand in his harassment.

Drive against

FROM PAGE 1
about Tk 1,32,500 at the Mohammadpur Krishi Market for selling and storing banned poly bags, said DoB officials.

It also confiscated a large amount of polybags.

"We have been facing problems conducting drives through mobile courts after the separation of the judiciary," said Jamshed.

He said the existing provision does not allow the department to have a magistrate to conduct regular drives. They have to request the deputy commissioner's office to provide them with magistrates.

Executive magistrates lost judicial powers following the separation of the judiciary from the executive on Nov 1, 2007. The Mobile Court Act 2009 allows metropolitan and district magistrates to operate mobile courts.

"Fresh drives will be carried out routinely from now on to stop the sale and use of banned poly bags. But it would not be possible unless we refrain from using them," he added.

The government on January 1, 2002 imposed a ban on production, marketing and use of polythene (below 100 micron) in Dhaka city. A nationwide ban on polythene followed from April 8 the same year as polythene being a non-biodegradable causes environmental hazard.

However, an exception to the ban was made for packaging of 14 items. They include biscuit, chanachur, bread, salt, vermicelli, medicine, flour, naphthalene, fertiliser, chocolate and milk powder.

But poly bags for packaging these items must be above 100 micron.

Maximum penalty under the Environment Conservation Act 1995 for manufacturing and marketing polythene shopping bag is 10 years' rigorous imprisonment, or a maximum fine of Tk 10 lakh, or both. Only environment court has the authority to sentence anyone for the offences.

The fine for using poly bags for purposes other than export is Tk 50.

However, production, marketing and use of poly bags continue despite the ban on them.

PM flies

FROM PAGE 1
secretary will join the premier in Qatar.

Hasina will attend the European Development Days 2009 on October 22 and on the same day she will meet with Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, President of European Commission Jose Manuel, Swedish Minister for Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson and speaker and MPs of Swedish parliament.

The ministry noted that conducting a feasibility study for Dhaka Elevated Expressway through appointing a consultant would take a long time. So, without study, proposals can be invited from international investors interested in the project and investor pre-qualification process may be started.

The ministry also submitted a proposal for constructing an Elevated Expressway in the capital, dropping some procedures, before the cabinet committee today to speed up the completion of the project.

But again, the ministry promoted doing such a costly project without any feasibility study.

The ministry will make the final selection after taking technical and financial proposals from them on the basis of single stage two-envelope system.

The ministry also submitted a proposal for constructing an Elevated Expressway in the capital, dropping some procedures, before the cabinet committee today to speed up the completion of the project.

But again, the ministry promoted doing such a costly project without any feasibility study.

The ministry will make the final selection after taking technical and financial proposals from them on the basis of single stage two-envelope system.

The ministry also submitted a proposal for constructing an Elevated Expressway in the capital, dropping some procedures, before the cabinet committee today to speed up the completion of the project.

But again, the ministry promoted doing such a costly project without any feasibility study.

The ministry will make the final selection after taking technical and financial proposals from them on the basis of single stage two-envelope system.

The ministry also submitted a proposal for constructing an Elevated Expressway in the capital, dropping some procedures, before the cabinet committee today to speed up the completion of the project.

But again, the ministry promoted doing such a costly project without any feasibility study.

The ministry will make the final selection after taking technical and financial proposals from them on the basis of single stage two-envelope system.

The ministry also submitted a proposal for constructing an Elevated Expressway in the capital, dropping some procedures, before the cabinet committee today to speed up the completion of the project.

But again, the ministry promoted doing such a costly project without any feasibility study.

The ministry will make the final selection after taking technical and financial proposals from them on the basis of single stage two-envelope system.

The ministry also submitted a proposal for constructing an Elevated Expressway in the capital, dropping some procedures, before the cabinet committee today to speed up the completion of the project.

Service age

FROM PAGE 1

extension of service age, prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told the reporters after the cabinet meeting held at the prime minister's office.

The retirement age of other professionals would remain as before.

The meeting also approved in principle the Private University (amendment) Act 2009 to determine and develop the standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education.

In the bill, a provision has been kept for setting up a National Independent and Unique Accreditation Council like other countries in a bid to determine the quality and standard of higher education