

JS body slates ACC boss for declaring Matin clean

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary sub-committee yesterday criticised Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) chairman for declaring former adviser MA Matin 'clean man' in awarding the container-handling job at Chittagong Port, contrary to a probe report.

"The chairman has no right to declare Matin clean when a sub-committee got enough evidence of his corruption and irregularities," Shamsul Hoque, head of the sub-committee to investigate alleged Gatco graft case said.

"We may send all documents and papers to other investigative agency on demand for further investigation," Shamsul, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, told The Daily Star after a meeting of the sub-committee at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The main committee -- parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry --

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Notice

Our today's issue includes a four-page special supplement on the Martyred Intellectuals' Day.



Gopal Chandra Das, a freedom fighter and also the in-charge of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) Collection Centre, polishes the framed photographs of martyred intellectuals at the archive yesterday, a day before the Martyred Intellectuals' Day.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Martyred Intellectuals' Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation today pays tribute to the martyred intellectuals amid increasing demand for trial of war criminals who systematically killed the country's prominent intellectuals and professionals on this day at the fag end of the 1971 Liberation War.

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WAR CRIMES

Trial by next Feb

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The process of the much-awaited trial of the war criminals would start by February, said Law Minister Shafigue Ahmed on the eve of the 38th Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday. During the Liberation War of Bangladesh, the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators killed three million people, violated a quarter million women and eliminated the best Bangali brains on

December 14 in a plot to cripple the nation.

The law minister told The Daily Star, "I can tell you that the process of the trial of the war criminals would start either in the end of January or in the beginning of February."

His comments came against the backdrop of criticism for dillydallying policy to start the trial in the first year of the present government.

There were several announcements and

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BNP brings 12 more in standing body

Delwar asked to continue as secy gen; 8 joint secretaries general named

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night announced the partial national executive committee and an expanded standing committee of her party with many new faces.

She approved Khandaker Delwar Hossain to continue as the secretary general of the central executive committee until the next appointment to the post.

Khaleda appointed Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir the party's senior joint secretary general.

The BNP chief picked fresh faces for the seven posts of joint secretaries general. She rewarded

party leaders who played important roles for the party during the state of emergency with vital positions in both the committees.

As many as 12 new faces have been inducted into the expanded 19-member standing committee, the highest policymaking body of BNP.

The crucial announcements came five days after the party's fifth national council, which re-elected Khaleda the chairperson and empowered her to announce the names of all office bearers of different committees including the standing committee and the 251-member central executive committee.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Unified curriculum for primary edn

Govt eyes common standard at school, kindergarten, madrasa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has initiated a process to introduce a unified curriculum for kindergartens, madrasas and primary education institutions to establish a common education standard.

She said the newly formed Education Policy Formulation Committee, which aims to achieve a viable education system for the country, has already submitted its recommendations and the government is examining those and finding modalities to implement those.

Hasina was addressing the opening session of the second ministerial meeting of South Asia Education for All (EFA) Forum at the city's Sonargaon Hotel with Primary and Mass Education Affairs Minister Afsarul Amin in the chair.

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PM picked for Indira Gandhi Gold Plaque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been selected to be conferred the Indira Gandhi Gold Plaque 2009 for significant contribution towards human progress.

The Asiatic Society, Kolkata awards Indira Gandhi Gold Plaque annually to an eminent person of global repute for significant contribution to international understanding or human progress or for inter-cultural cooperation.

Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty during his

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CLIMATE SUMMIT AT COPENHAGEN

Legally binding deal not in sight

Around 1,000 protesters freed

PINAKI ROY from Copenhagen

It is now almost certain that the two year-long demand of Bangladesh and small island nations for a legally binding agreement will not be met in Copenhagen as the time has already run out with lots of other issues unresolved.

Meanwhile, Danish police yesterday released nearly 1,000 protesters who were

detained during a mass rally on Saturday demanding strong actions from delegates at the UN climate conference.

In the first segment the UN climate talks have made some progress but still many of the toughest issues such as greenhouse gas emission target by 2020 and financing for poor nations to deal with climate change are yet to

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India dethrone Maldives

SPORTS REPORTER

Goalkeeper Arindam Bhattacharja made two saves in the shootout as a young India side regained regional supremacy by beating Maldives 3-1 in the tie-breaker in the final of the Bangabandhu Sixth SAFF Championship at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into a tiebreaker after both teams failed to break the evening's duck during the regulation 90 minutes and the 30-minute extra-time.

It represents a great success for Sukhvinder Singh and his charges, as the spirited U-23 team held off the much-vaunted

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