

Statement of SCBA president, secretary is personal view  
*Says assistant secretary*  
BSS, Dhaka

Assistant Secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Moshfaque Rahman Sabuj yesterday protested the statement made at a press conference by the president and the secretary of the bar association and said it will be considered as their personal and political opinions.

The press conference was called without the approval of the executive committee of the bar association, he added.

He said the case filed against Mahmudur Rahman is not false.

Arrest of an accused against a case is a normal process which should be resolved through the court, he added.

Sabuj urged the president and the secretary not to involve the Supreme Court Bar Association with politics over such a trifle issue.

Shamim joins Betar as DG  
BSS, Dhaka

AKM Shamim Chowdhury yesterday joined Bangladesh Betar as its director general, said an official notification of the establishment ministry.

Earlier, he served as the director general the of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), the Principal Information Officer (PIO) and the Director General of the Department of Film and Publication, it added.



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping waves after Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni receives him at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## Police hand over charge of Proshika to CEO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pallabi Police yesterday handed over the charge of the Proshika Manabik Unnayan Kendra to its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mahbub-ul-Karim, says a press release.

Activities of the country's largest non-government organisation resumed after three and half months.

Police had handed over the charge of the Mirpur's

Proshika Office to the chief executive officer (CEO) at 3:00pm on Thursday (June 10) and took over the control again at about 10:00pm the same day.

The police along with detective branch personnel without showing any cause took over the charge of the office at mid-night of March 3 after ousting its security staffs and locked the office for three and half months.

Abdur Rab, director of Proshika, told The Daily Star that they would be able to resume the country-wide activities."

The chaotic situation over the organisation makes the life of its about 6000 employees and about 25 lakh association members difficult.

The problem started in June last year as the former chairman Qazi Faruque Ahmed tried establish his control over the NGO illegally, sources said.

## LONG-DISTANCE VEHICLES Changes in fitness inspection rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has brought some changes to fitness inspection regulations, allowing long-distance buses, minibuses and trucks registered in Dhaka city to have their fitness inspection done outside Dhaka.

Md Saiful Hoque, director (Engineering) of BRTA, said, "From now, these vehicles can have their fitness inspection done at the BRTA offices in the districts around the Dhaka city or in other districts mentioned in their route permit."

The communications ministry approved the new regulations last month, he said.

"Truck and lorry owners will benefit from the new system, as these types of vehicles are not allowed to enter Dhaka city during daytime, making it difficult for them to go to BRTA offices during office hours and obtain fitness certificate," said the BRTA official.

Besides, it will save time for bus and minibus companies and also reduce the pressure on Dhaka BRTA office to some extent, he added.

According to BRTA, a total of 30,015 trucks, 8,210 buses, 8,317 minibuses are currently registered in Dhaka city.

A database of the vehicles having their fitness inspections done outside Dhaka and photographs of each vehicle will be sent to Dhaka BRTA office, which will finally issue the fitness certificates to the vehicle owners. A separate counter will open for them, the official said.

## SCBA demands release of Mahmudur

UNB, Dhaka

Echoing Sunday night's statement of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) said the perpetrators who tortured Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, in the name of police remand would be brought to justice in future.

"We are not making the statement using the SCBA as political platform, SCBA President Khondker Mahbub Hossain said at a press conference to protest against the perpetrators who reportedly undressed and tortured Amar Desh acting editor in custody.

Mahbub, as the spokesperson for the apex court lawyers, said they condemn such action in the name of police remand as the lawyers are always vocal in upholding the democratic rights, establishing the rule of law and ensuring the fundamental rights including freedom of press and freedom of expression as enshrined in the Constitution.

He demanded immediate release of Mahmudur and withdrawal of cases filed against him.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed said none violating the SC guidelines over police remand will go unpunished as it involves the image of the highest judiciary.

SCBA Secretary Barrister M Bodruddoza Badal, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian, Barrister Shahjahan Omar, Barrister Nasir uddin Ashim and Barrister Abdur Razzaq were present at the press conference.

DUTEACHERS

DU Correspondent adds: 325 pro-BNP and Jamaat teachers of Dhaka University yesterday demanded unconditional release of Mahmudur Rahman.


In a joint statement, they expressed concern over the safety of the life of Mahmudur.

They also condemned and protested obstacles to republishing the Amar Desh and harassment on its employees.

Signatories to the statement included Prof Md Aminur Rahman Majumder, Prof Md Sirajul Islam, Prof Md Anwarul Islam, Prof Akhter Hossain Khan, Prof Zahidul Islam, Prof ABM Siddique Rahman Nizami, Prof Md Ashrafur Islam Chowdhury.

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights also expressed concern over 'torture' on Mahmudur in remand.

To-day is the fifth death anniversary of our beloved mother.



Jahan Ara Azim

May we request all her relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember her in their prayers and pray for the eternal peace of her soul.

(Rabbir Hum Huma Kama Rabbayani Sagira)

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48/a-b Purana Paltan (12th Floor)  
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Phone: 880-2-9550296  
Email: info@meritrealestatebd.com

**Site Office**  
65/2/2 Purana Paltan  
(Old 48/2 Purana Paltan)  
Box Culvert Road  
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh  
Phone: 880-2-7116996