

Mohiuddin to lose Ctg AL reins

Ruling party seeks to revamp its port city unit; ex-mayor likely to be inducted into central advisory council

HASAN JAHIID TUSHER

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury may be removed from the helm of Chittagong city Awami League and made a member of the central advisory council in a move to revamp the ruling party in the port city.

Working committee, highest decision-making body in AL, will soon meet to discuss the matter, said a central committee leader wishing not to be named.

Party President Sheikh Hasina may also sit with Chittagong AL leaders to have their opinions on how to strengthen the organisation



there, he added.

The issue of restructuring the city AL came to the fore after Mohiuddin's heavy defeat in June 17 mayoral polls.

Political analysts said apart from his shortcomings and image crisis, internal conflict in AL contributed to the downfall of Mohiuddin, who had been mayor for 17 years.

The AL rank and file in Chittagong think the ex-mayor should be made to quit as city

unit president to make way for a fresh leadership. The committees would have to be

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Fair elections possible under political govt

Says SQ Chy after Ctg city polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) election proved that a free and fair election is possible under a political government if there is good intention, BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury said here yesterday.

Terming the June 17 CCC poll as "a fair one", he said, "Political government is not a problem at all in holding a fair election if the Election Commission wants."

SQ Chowdhury was talking to the reporters while giving his reaction on the CCC polls at his residence in city's Rahmatganj area.

He also said through casting vote against the ruling

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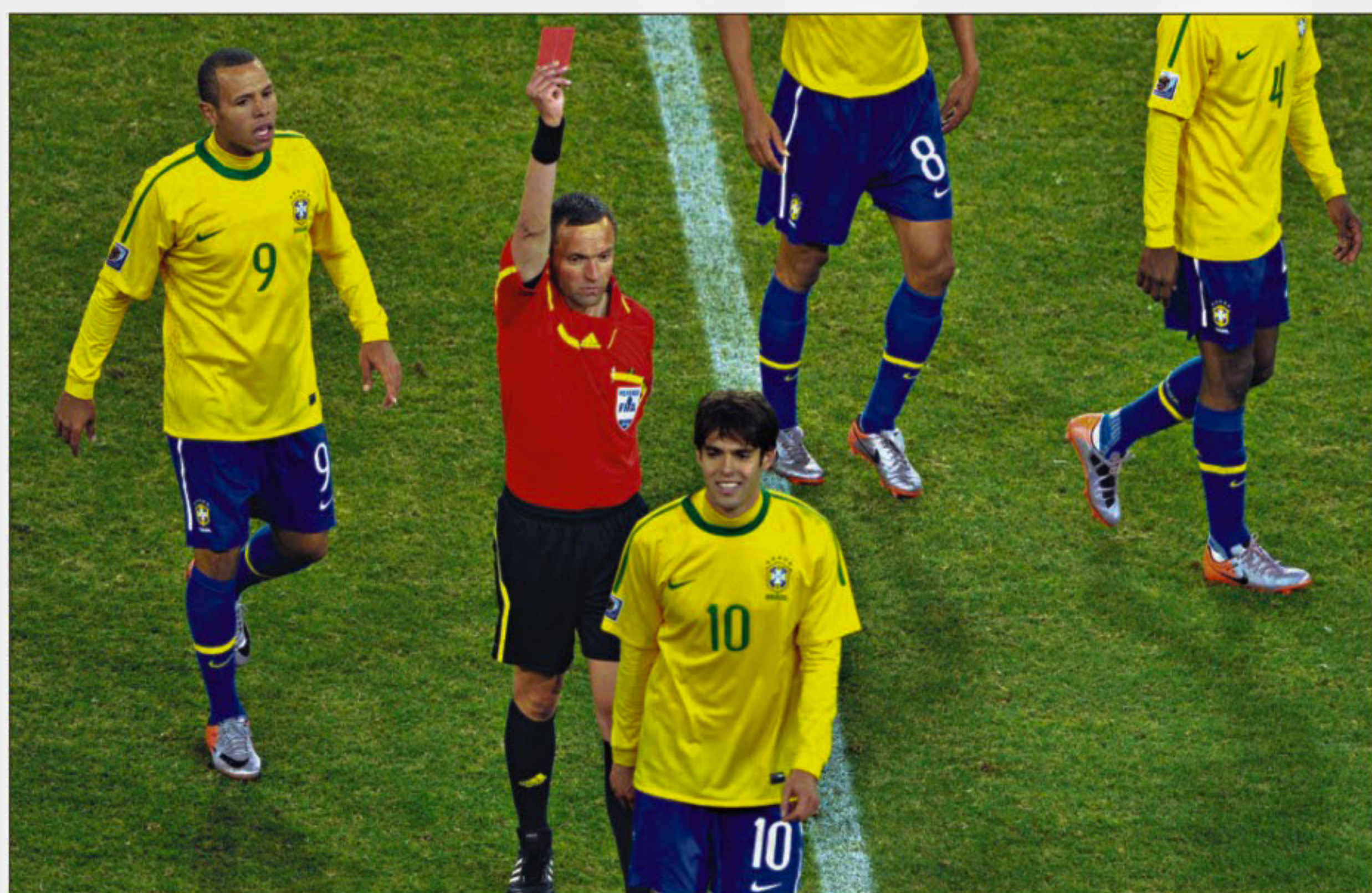


PHOTO: AFP
Brazil's superstar midfielder Kaka (C) walks off the pitch after he was controversially given the marching orders by French referee Stephane Lannoy during their World Cup Group G match against Ivory Coast at the Soccer City stadium in Johannesburg yesterday.

Mahmudur denied bail again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Another Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail petition of Mahmudur Rahman, the acting editor of recently closed daily Amar Desh, in connection with a case filed for obstructing police in discharging their duties.

Judge Mohammad Ismail Hossain of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order.

Earlier on June 7, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court rejected Mahmudur's bail petition in the case.

Tejgaon police filed the case on June 2 against Mahmudur and seven others for preventing the law enforcers from discharging their duties after they entered the Amar Desh office at Karwan Bazar to arrest him.

On the day, the police

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Knock down 53 illegal buildings

Rajuk also asks Bashundhara to demolish part of shopping mall

BSS, Dhaka

As part of the demolition drive against unauthorised buildings, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) has asked Bashundhara Group to pull down 53 illegally constructed buildings and a portion of its 18-storied shopping complex at Panthapath.

Separate notices were served to the private land developers asking why the unauthorised buildings would not be demolished for constructing these illegally without maintaining rules of RAJUK and the building code, officials said.

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PHOTO: FILE

The Bashundhara City Complex on the city's Panthapath. The shopping mall is 85.5-metre high while approved height for the establishment is 79 metres.

India seeks to fund, manage coal power

Bangladesh wants gradual increase of its stake in joint venture; team flies to Delhi today for agreement on coal plant, power import

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi team leaves for Delhi today to negotiate final terms in the draft agreement with India to set up a 1,320 megawatt coal-fired power plant in Khulna and a cross-border transmission line to import 250 MW power from West Bengal.

A high-powered committee headed by Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday held a meeting to discuss the Bangladeshi

terms and conditions that should be accommodated in the agreement.

India has already sent a draft agreement outlining that Indian National Thermal Power Company (NTPC) would manage and finance the two-unit coal plant in Khulna that would be jointly built with the Power Development Board (PDB).

Under this joint venture, the board of directors will be headed by Bangladesh,

while the number of NTPC representatives will be higher than Bangladesh by one.

The high-powered committee yesterday decided to propose to India that the Bangladeshi share in this plant would increase gradually. "The NTPC has the experience and finances to build and operate large coal plants. So we expect the NTPC to finance and manage the project."

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DEMAND FOR MPO
Dhaka-Ctg rail link snapped for 3 hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Rail link between Dhaka and Chittagong remained suspended for around three and a half hours yesterday morning as teachers and students blocked railway at Brahmanbaria demanding inclusion of their college for government subsidy.

The teachers and students of Bayek Shah Alam College in

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JUTE MILL SOLD BELOW MARKET VALUE
Ex-BNP minister explains sell-off
JS body lauds Shajahan Siraj for his appearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday lauded former jute and textile minister Shajahan Siraj for his appearance before it to explain the sell-off of a jute mill at a much lower price than the market value during the BNP-led government.

The parliamentary standing committee on jute and textile ministry in April summoned the former minister to appear before it on May 1.

Shajahan Siraj, also a BNP leader, couldn't make it due to his illness and the committee again called him up. Finally, he was

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Azad panel wins FBCCI elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The panel of AK Azad has won the election of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

A total of 13 directors in the chamber group and eight directors in the association group won the biennial election from Azad's panel, election board chairman Ali

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BNP agitates for press freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday staged demonstrations and brought out processions in the capital and other parts of the country to protest "the government's repression on journalists and interference in the freedom of press."

The party organised the protests as part of its anti-government programme.

BNP held a protest rally in the city's Muktangan and brought out a procession that marched the streets in Bijoynagar, Kakrail and

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PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL
Attorney William Sloan, a foreign delegate, addresses the International Conference on Peace, Justice and Secular Humanism at the Osmani Memorial Hall in the capital yesterday. Speakers at the conference urged international community for extending support to the process that Bangladesh government has initiated to try the war criminals.

It's worst genocide since World War II

Dhaka declaration of an international conference urges global community to help Bangladesh try war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mass killing during the Liberation War of Bangladesh was the worst genocide since World War II, speakers said in a conference yesterday and also urged international community to recognise the "Genocide."

The Pakistan Army and its local auxiliary forces killed 3 million people and raped more than 200,000 women in nine months, the conference said in its resolution.

The MSSK Trust, Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 and South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism jointly organised the conference titled "The International Conference on Peace, Justice and Secular Humanism" at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

In the resolution titled "Dhaka Declaration", the conference also called on international community for extending support to the process that Bangladesh government has initiated to try the war criminals.

The resolution was adopted at concluding session of the conference following daylong discussions attended by delegates including human rights activists, lawyers and experts from 11 countries.

The resolution said the trial of war criminals in Bangladesh would discourage the culture of impunity and urged international community "to unite against the culture of impunity to prevent genocides and war crimes from recurring."

Countries affected by terrorism and regional extremism were also urged to support the

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