

**MAIMING CHILDREN
OC kept
standing in
dock for 5hrs**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday kept officer-in charge (OC) of Kamrangirchar Police Station standing in the courtroom for about five hours in connection with the incident of maiming Neyamul, a seven-year old child, to force him into begging.

An HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain directed the police authorities to inform this court within seven days what steps have been taken against OC Shafiqul Islam Shikdar for his "negligence" to protect Neyamul.

Examining a report placed by the office of inspector general of police, the bench said Shafiqul has neglected to discharge his duty to protect Neyamul, and appropriate steps have to be taken against him.

He (Shafiqul) has committed falsehood by claiming that two associates of Neyamul have cut off his penis, it said.

On January 9, Neyamul placed statement to the High Court judges, saying that Khandker Omar Faruq and Shariful Islam Korban, members of a gang, have cut off his penis.

The court, however, exonerated the OC from personal appearance in the court.

The OC appeared before the bench yesterday morning as per its Sunday's directive.

**Employer held
for torturing
domestic help**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police with the help of locals rescued a teenage domestic help late Sunday night after three months of continuous inhuman torture allegedly by her employers in the city's Rampura.

Originally from Shariatpur, the victim Asma Akter, 16, was admitted to One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with injury marks on her entire body.

Police also arrested employer Kayes Pallab, 30, a garment accessories trader, from his residence at DIT Road in this connection.

Police said they were informed by some neighbours of Kayes about the inhuman torture on the girl.

Family members often tortured the girl by hitting her with iron utensils and spoons and pouring hot water on her, police said.

Operation Officer Nur-e-Alam of Rampura Police Station said, "We arrested Kayes from his residence at about 12:30pm, a few hours after Asma lodged a case against Kayes, his expectant wife Jesmin Akter Lima and mother Jahanara Begum."

Lima and Jahanara went into hiding.



Students on their way to school on a bus, introduced by Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation for the children from Saturday to ease traffic congestion in the city.

PHOTO: STAR

**Cheque
'fraudster'
arrested**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mob beat up an alleged fraudster and handed him over to police, as he was trying to withdraw money with a forged cheque from IFIC Bank Motijheel branch yesterday.

The bank's branch staff officer SA Humayun Kabir filed a fraud case against the arrestee, Manjur Hossain.

Motijheel police said Manjur tried to exchange a cheque of Tk 4 lakh yesterday noon when cash officer Mohsin found it forged.

Police arrested Manjur after the bank staff and others beat up and injured him.

Manjur said he gave Tk 4.62 lakh to one Abdus Sattar of Naya Paltan area for arranging his migration to South Korea.

He said Sattar failed to send him to Korea and returned Tk 62,000 in cash and a cheque of Tk 4 lakh two days back, which he took to the bank.

**Promote science edn
Speakers tell seminar**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Science teachers at a seminar yesterday said interesting content and materials would make science related subjects more fascinating and engaging to the young generation.

They said teachers need more training and hands-on knowledge on how science is taught in developed countries. This would help them improve their teaching methods and promote science education in the country.

They were speaking at the inaugural session of a two-day long Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum Space Education Seminar at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre Auditorium in the city.

Bangladesh Astronomical Society (BAS) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) jointly organised the seminar.

At the seminar, Space Education Programme Coordinator of Unesco Yolanda Berenguer said, "Globally children are losing interest in science related subjects."

"This is partly because science teachers are not fully qualified to teach science and the

curricula is uninteresting and boring to them."

That is why science should be presented and taught in an interesting manner. One way to do so is to introduce students to a fascinating area of science -- astronomy, said the speakers.

However, lack of telescopes in schools make it difficult for students to learn about space, noted the teachers.

They said giving more students access to telescopes would make it easier to spread knowledge on space among the young generation.

On the occasion, Unesco donated a powerful telescope to BAS. The telescope's portability will make it easy for people all over the country to observe stars from anywhere, said BAS officials.

State Minister for Science and Information and Communication Technology Yeafesh Osman was present at the seminar as the chief guest.

BAS General Secretary FR Sarkar, University of Tokyo Adjunct Prof Dr Takashi Kubota, JAXA Space Transportation Senior Researcher Tetsuo Hiraiwa and JAXA Associate Administrator Yayoi Miyagawa were also present.

Teachers need more training and hands-on knowledge on how science is taught in developed countries. This would help them improve their teaching methods and promote science education

**Pro-BNP
lawyers protest
CJ's move**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP faction of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) will stage a sit-in before the Supreme Court office of chief justice from 1:15pm to 2:00pm today protesting the CJ's recent move to fix cases for hearing and to constitute some benches in the High Court.

The association leaders took the decision at an urgent general meeting with its president Khandker Mahbub Hossain in the chair at its south hall yesterday.

SC sources said Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque has recently classified some cases for their disposal on priority basis to reduce the huge backlog of cases pending in the HC, and has constituted some of its benches for their early hearing.

Senior lawyers Abdur Razzaq, Zainul Abedin, and SCBA Secretary Bodruddoza Badal spoke at the meeting.

Advocate Moshafiqur Rahman Sabuj, a leader of ruling Awami League-backed faction of the SCBA, said they will not attend the sit-in.

**GRAFT CASES AGAINST BNP TRIO
Submit probe
report by Feb 27**

Court asks ACC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to submit by February 27 the probe report of graft cases against the speaker, deputy speaker and chief whip of the immediate past parliament.

They are former speaker and BNP standing committee member Jamiruddin Sircar, former deputy speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, and chief whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, also secretary general of the party.

After accepting the first information reports of the cases, Metropolitan Magistrate MA Salam passed the order.

ACC Deputy Director Akhteruzzaman on Sunday filed the three cases with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station in the city.

Sircar, allegedly used three vehicles in addition to his entitlement and took about Tk 40.93 lakh as additional fuel allowances in between 2001 and 2008.

Akhtar Hamid used two vehicles and took around Tk 58.71 lakh, while Delwar used one vehicle and took about Tk 36 lakh as fuel allowances allegedly in addition to their entitlement.

Akhtar allegedly used the government vehicles even for the then BNP senior secretary general Tarique Rahman's political tours and took fuel allowances for that.

**Party should assess
municipal poll
results: Quader**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Obaidul Quader yesterday said the ruling party would have to assess whether any impact of price hike of essentials and law and order issues on the municipal poll results.

"Without holding the rebel candidates only responsible for not securing good results in the municipal polls, we will have to investigate the main reasons behind it. If there is any errors we will have to correct them immediately keeping the next parliamentary elections in mind," he said.

Many local agendas also determine the fate of municipal elections results, he added.

The AL policymaker told a discussion titled "Fair political trend-what we should do" at Photo Journalists' Association office in the city. Later, he distributed warm clothes among the poor people.

The AL leader, however, said the municipal elections were held across the country in a free and fair manner under an independent election commission and the government did not interfere in the poll a bit.

"The present government has become successful in its challenge to hold a free, fair and credible elections and our opposition's prediction that the polls would not be free and fair has been proved as false."

He said the present government did not do well in all sectors in last two years, but it is trying its best to accomplish the target. The main opposition has failed in both the streets and the parliament, said Quader adding that the BNP also failed to keep its promise to speak for people.

He urged the BNP to join the parliament and raise all of its allegations against the government.



A bunch of very young readers visiting the three-day book fair that began on the premises of Sea Breeze International School at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**RMG worker
strangled**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female garment worker was strangled allegedly by her husband at Narasinghpur in Savar on Sunday night as she refused to sell her land.

The victim, Ritu Begum, 25, wife of Saidul Islam, 30, was found lying on the bed at their residence.

Saidul and Ritu, employees of Ha-Meem Group at Savar, got married in 2005 and since then Saidul had been pressing Ritu to sell the land she had purchased with her entire savings, victim's brother Mohammad Ali told The Daily Star.

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