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in Short



Sonia due on July 25

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Congress party President Sonia Gandhi will arrive in Dhaka on July 25 on a two-day visit to attend an internal conference on physically-challenged and autistic children. The four-day

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MOBILE COURTS IN HARTAL Actions shrouded in questions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile court operation during the 36-hour hartal from Sunday dawn has sparked controversy among different quarters as around 113 hartal pickets were convicted for the first time during the countrywide shutdown called by the opposition.

A number of lawyers and eminent persons said conviction of pickets during hartal is totally unlawful, raising questions about the way the courts were conducted.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said the proceedings of the mobile courts during the hartal were not transparent.

A mobile court requires at least two witnesses to convict a person and even the magistrate conducting the court needs to witness the offence, he said.

It is not clear whether the convicted persons made confessions in panic or the police forced them to do so, Mahmud said.

He heard that many passersby were victim of the mobile court action. No court can convict anybody on

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A pile debris of a demolished building is left along the pavement beside a skip for the DCC garbage collectors to pick up. The rubble has been occupying the road at Moghbazar Wireless for over a week.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

New chiefs for BGB, DGFI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed Maj Gen Anwar Hossain as the director general (DG) of Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB). Meanwhile on Sunday, Brig Gen Kazi Fakhruddin Ahmed was made the DG of Directorate General of

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Govt staff to get protection

Contempt of court bill placed in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government placed a bill in parliament yesterday seeking to enact a new law on contempt of court, with provisions for protection of government officials from the charge while on official duty.

The proposed legislation placed by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed came up with a definition of contempt of court to clear confusions in the public mind regarding the charge.

About publishing news on judicial proceedings, the bill says neutral and objective reporting will not be considered as contempt of court.

Publishing comments on the merits of a case after its final disposal will also not be considered as contempt of court.

It proposes to keep the punishment for the offence as it is in the existing Contempt of Court Act of 1926.

Under the present law, an individual may be punished with simple imprisonment for a term of up to six months, or with a fine of up to Tk 2,000 or both.

The bill defines two types of contempt of court -- civil and criminal.

Breach of pledges made before a court, or intentional undermining of a court's verdicts, decrees, directives, orders, writs or proceedings will be

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WAR CRIMES INTERROGATION Kamaruzzaman dodges charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators yesterday claimed that they have enough incriminating evidence to prove the war crimes charges against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman.

Detained Kamaruzzaman, however, denied any wrongdoing.

The investigators said they would be able to prove the charges against the accused in court based on his

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Launch fares increased up to 20pc

Effective from June 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday increased launch fare up to 20 percent, which will come to effect from June 21.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan announced the fare hike after a meeting with

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Minimum tax on sales proposed

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

To prevent companies showing on paper that they are incurring losses and dodging tax, the NBR has proposed to slap a minimum tax on their sales in 2011-2012 fiscal year.

A National Board of Revenue official said the step has been taken as many companies show loss despite making profit. He said there are about 50,000 companies of which only 10,000 pay tax.

The proposal said companies incurring losses will have to pay a minimum tax of 0.50 percent of the amount

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Hard to believe this is a takeaway. The food is cooked in this very boat anchored at Sadarghat in the capital with garbage floating on the filthy water. The photo was taken yesterday.

HARASSMENT REPORT Envoy to Japan finally recalled

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is recalling its ambassador to Japan AKM Majibur Rahman Bhuiyan, a senior foreign ministry official said yesterday amid media reports in Dhaka that he allegedly harassed a Japanese woman working at its Tokyo mission.

In a letter sent to the Tokyo mission yesterday, the government asked the ambassador to return home immediately and report to the foreign ministry, the official told The Daily Star, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The government has recalled him following an unusual situation at the Bangladesh Embassy in Japan," said the official.

Foreign ministry officials said the ministry recently received several complaints against Majibur Rahman, including sexual harassment of a locally-hired Japanese woman.

The Bangladesh Ambassador in Seoul, who was sent to Tokyo to investigate the complaints, found Majibur

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you support the government move to introduce mobile courts for summary trials during hartal?

Yes (38.0%)
No (60.7%)
No Comments (1.3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 540

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the opposition's 36-hour hartal was successful?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING June 15

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

