Adrian Poran's prize withdrawn

The Daily Star has withdrawn the 1st prize awarded to Adrian Poran along with the prize money given in "Chitromoy Chottola," a photography contest held in Chittagong on April 6 as part of the daily's "Odommo Chattagram" festival.



The prize has been withdrawn as Poran had actually submitted someone else's photograph in the competition as his own. In a letter to the photo contest organisers yesterday, Adrian Poran confessed to the misdeed and apologised for the act.

Yeow-Kwang Yeo, a Singaporean photographer, who was previously positioned second in the competition for his photo titled "Patenga Beach, Chittagong", has been declared the new 1st prize winner.

Hasan Murad, who was adjudged third for his photograph titled "Her Old Hearth", has been declared second while ANM Zia who earlier bagged the first honourable mention with his image titled, "Encaged in the Iron Frames", is the new third prize winner.
---The Daily Star

Buses off Rajshahi roads

Ru Correspondent

Movement of buses and CNG-run auto-rickshaws in Rajshahi district remained suspended on the third day yesterday following clashes between workers and drivers of the both types of vehicles.

At a meeting in September last year, owners of the vehicles agreed that the auto-rickshaws could ply some 25 selected roads in the district.

Auto-rickshaws were run on all the roads, alleged the bus owners, demanding total withdrawal of the auto-rickshaws from the roads. Angered by the demand, the auto-rickshaw drivers on Saturday vandalised two buses in the city.



change, speaks at a
discussion organised
by TIB at Brac Centre
Inn yesterday. On his
left are former adviser
to a caretaker government M Hafiz Uddin
Khan, TIB Executive
Director Dr
Iftekharuzzaman
and assistant project coordinator
Mohua Rouf. (Story
on page 20)

Saber Hossain

Chowdhury, chairman

of all party parliamen-

tary group on climate

HOTO: STAR

BDR CARNAGE CASE

Mutineers urged search for army officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around half an hour after the mutiny started at the Pilkhana Headquarters of the now defunct Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), the mutineers, using megaphones mounted on vehicles, urged others to search for army officers hiding in the premises.

Quoting an armed sepoy Mizan, a prosecution witness of the BDR carnage case, havildar Jamal Uddin, said, "BDR brothers, take defensive stance with your arms. Search for the army officers. We have finished the army officers inside (the Darbar Hall). Resist anyone (army officers) who tries to come inside." Jamal said this yesterday while giving his deposition at the Metropolitan Sessions Judges' Court which is trying over 800 accused in connection with the murder of 74 people, including 57 army officers.

So far 102 prosecution witnesses placed their depositions at the court set up temporarily at the Alia Madrasa Playground of the capital's Bakshibazar.

Six witnesses, in their depositions, identified some soldiers who opened fire after the mutiny erupted at the BDR (now Border Guard Bangladesh) headquarters on February 25, 2009.

The court was adjourned till April 11.

Qatar keen to invest in infrastructure

UNB, Dhaka

Qatar Ambassador in Dhaka Abdul Rahman Yousuf A-Rahman Al Mullah called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday and discussed various issues of bilateral interests, especially investment in Bangladesh's infrastructure.

During the meeting, the envoy said his country is ready to invest in Bangladesh's infrastructure and will send a delegation on behalf of the prime minister of Qatar in this regard, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told reporters after the meeting at Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said her government had been working to promote public private partnership (PPP) since it assumed office and they can invest under the PPP.

Later, the envoy handed over the invitation letter of the UNCTAD Summit to be held in Doha from April 21 to 26.

Demand for end to transport extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Social activists yesterday placed a ten-point demand that includes ending of extortion in the transport sector, bringing discipline to the sector and ensuring public safety.

They also demanded that the government stop leasing out state-run buses to any individual or organisation.

The demands were made at a press conference organised by Nou, Sarak O Rail Khat Rakkha Jatiya Committee at Moni Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust Bhaban in the capital, says a press release.

The other demands include strengthening of the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BTRC), formation of a probe commission to investigate corruption and irregularities in the BRTC, introduction of circular waterways surrounding the capital and a stop to issuing false licenses.

The committee advisor Engr M Enamul Haque, convener Ashis Kumar Dey and road accident law expert Barrister Said Arman also spoke on the occasion.



Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover to be ready by Dec 16

UNB, Dhaka

The under-construction Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover, also known as Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover, will be ready for vehicular movement by December 16, muchahead of the schedule.

"The construction work of the project will be completed by December 16 and the prime minister is expected to inaugurate it during the victory month," State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak told reporters after a project evaluation meeting at the secretariatyesterday.

Nanak finds removal of utility services lines of Wasa, Titas Gas, DPDC and BTCL as major barriers to quick completion of the project, and said those to be removed by June 15.

The project Director Ashiqur Rahman said around 50 percent of the work had been completed so far.

The construction work of the 10-km flyover, stretched from Dhaka-Chittagong Highway towards Polassey through Gulistan and Kaptan Bazar, started on June 22, 2010.

The project, being constructed under PPP (public private partnership), was originally scheduled to be completed by June 2013. The Dhaka City Corporation (South) is the implementing agency of the project.

DESTINY COOPERATIVE

Hearing on writ tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed tomorrow for hearing a writ petition filed by Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd challenging the Bangladesh Bank report that raised allegations against the company of doing illegal banking. The HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Sheikh

Hassan Arif set the date following a time prayer moved by Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Motaher Hossain Saju. As the bench took up the petition for hearing yesterday,

the DAG sought one week's time from it for taking preparation to place argument on the matter.

The court granted him two days' time and fixed Wednesday (tomorrow) for hearing the petition.

Md Rafiqul Amin, chairman of the cooperative and also Destiny Group, on Sunday filed the writ petition seeking a stay order from the HC on the central bank report and also a rule upon the government and the BB to explain the legality of the report.

The BB report revealed last month said the cooperative, a concern Destiny Group, had seen an astronomic rise in its capital, shareholders, profit and investment since 2009.

Following the report, which was sent to the finance ministry last month, various newspapers ran reports on numerous irregularities of the company.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, Advocate AF Hassan Ariff and Barrister Mizan Sayeed appeared for the petitioner.



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