

**TAX EVASION**

**Hearing on charge framing against Moudud on June 5**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The hearing on charge framing against BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed in a tax evasion case was adjourned till June 5.

Judge Mohammad Zahurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court yesterday issued the order after Moudud's lawyer submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

In the petition, advocate Taherul Islam Towhid told the court that their client had earlier filed a writ petition with High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the case.

After the hearing, the HC issued a rule upon the government to explain why the proceeding of the case should not be declared illegal. But the hearing on the rule remains pending. So, the lawyer prayed for an adjournment of the hearing.

During the yesterday's hearing, Moudud was present in the court.

Deputy Tax Commissioner Shah Muhammad Ittedah Hassan of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) lodged the case against Moudud on February 15 for dodging Tk 6.85 crore in income tax for 1997-98 to 2006-07 fiscal years.

Ittedah in his statement mentioned that former BNP law minister Moudud Ahmed concealed information about his wealth worth Tk 27,68,81,078 and gave false information to the income tax department about his authentic income and expenditure.



Locals try to douse the flames on a burning bus before Ananda Cinema Hall in the capital's Farmgate after BNP activists, protesting the disappearance of BNP Organising Secretary (Sylhet Division) M Ilias Ali, allegedly carried out a sudden arson attack on the bus at around 8:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**Female DU student stabbed by classmate**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female Dhaka University student was stabbed indiscriminately by a male classmate on the campus yesterday.

The injuries on the victim, Sharmin Akhtar, were so severe that she had to be shifted to the Intensive Care Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital following an operation in the evening, said DU Proctor Prof Dr MA Ali.

Mahfuzur Rahman, in his 5th semester at political science department, started stabbing Sharmin with a knife at the Arts Building around 4:00pm after appearing in an exam. Bystanders immediately grabbed him and the proctor handed him over to Shahbag Police Station.

Sharmin's classmates said she had dated Mahfuz, residing in Sir AF Rahman Hall, but had ended the relationship several days ago.

Mahfuz then started harassing Sharmin in public, sometimes physically abusing her, when she refused to rekindle the relationship. The attack occurred just she started avoiding him, they said.

Mahfuz denied giving any comment in this regard.

**Work to establish consumer rights**

Speakers urge all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The right to information (RTI) act can be used as a vital weapon for the effective execution of the Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009, said speakers at an orientation programme yesterday.

They also urged all to work together to establish consumer rights in the country, says a press release.

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) organised the programme at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Information Secretary Hedayetullah Al Mamun said formulating the RTI act and the consumer rights protection act are landmark steps in Bangladesh.

He said it is a big challenge to preserve consumer rights and the RTI act can act as a powerful force in establishing consumer rights.

Information Commissioner Prof Dr Sadeka Halim said the RTI act and the consumer rights protection act are parts of human rights and social movement.

The RTI act can play a vital role in ensuring administrative transparency and accountability of the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (NCRP) formed to implement the consumer rights protection act, she said, emphasising forming consumer rights protection committee in every districts.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said con-

sumer rights is a part of human rights.

She said the culture of providing information as per the requirement is yet to be developed in the country as a kind of hesitation in seeking and providing information still exists in the society.

It would be possible to remove all misrules from the society if the consumers raise their voices against all unjust, she added.

Abul Hossain Mia, director general of directorate of NCRP, Amitav Chakravarti, additional secretary of commerce ministry, and Nasrin Begum, additional secretary of the law ministry, were also present at the programme.

**JSC, JDC exam fees raised to Tk 200 from Tk 150**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to increase Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) exam fees by Tk 50.

Therefore the examinees will have to pay Tk 200 this year, of which, Tk 130 is the centre fee and Tk 70 is the board fee. Earlier, the expenses were Tk 100 and Tk 50 respectively.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the education ministry at its conference room with Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid in the chair.

The meeting, however, discarded Dhaka Education Board's proposal to charge the full amount from the students, said meeting sources.

A total of Tk 650 is spent behind each student per exam, of which, the government bears Tk 500 while the rest is realised from the students.

Dhaka Education Board had proposed to withdraw the government subsidy and charge the students with the full amount.

But the ministry officials disapproved of the proposal, saying that the fee will turn out as an additional burden on the students and their parents.

A huge number of students refrain from taking the exams as they can not bear the expenses and burdening them with the additional amount will cause the drop out rate to increase, they said.

Last year, over 18 lakh school and madrasa students of class eight took the JSC and JDC exams.

**Concern over 'missing' of Ilias Ali**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over the "missing" of BNP Organising Secretary M Ilias Ali and his driver, three organisations demanded unearthing the incident through proper investigation.

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) in a statement said one after another the incident of missing and secret killings remained unearthed which is a threat to flourishing rights culture in the society and not favourable in the way of democratic development.

It also demanded unearthing all incidents of missing and secret killing, including the "missing" of Ilias Ali, through proper investigation to bring the responsible persons to book.

Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh and Jatiya Party (JP) in separate statements urged the authorities concerned to find out Ilias Ali and his driver immediately.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the 40th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Krishak League at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PMO

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**Know Bangladesh Better**

Ever wonder how Pohela Boishakh is celebrated outside Dhaka?

In tomorrow's **Star Insight** Know Bangladesh Better

read about Magura's festivities on the special day. Also in this issue is an interesting story about how one man in Lalmonirhat has built a museum to preserve various artifacts. Find out about rubber farming in the hill tracts in Shykh Seraj's Farmers' Voice and about Taslima Begum's inspirational struggle out of poverty.

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**FIVE-DAY BOOK FAIR BEGINS**

**Call to read books to utilise time stuck in gridlock**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted actress Sara Zaker yesterday urged people to utilise the time they spend every day stuck in traffic jams by reading books.

She also urged Facebook users to post their statuses in Bangla in order to spread the mother tongue throughout the world.

She was addressing the inauguration of a five-day literature conference and book fair marking the Bangla New Year at the capital's Central Public Library premises.

Sahitya Bazar, a literary magazine, organised the conference and fair, marking its fifth founding anniversary. Sara inaugurated the book fair where ten publishers erected stalls to showcase and sell their books.

Addressing the programme, noted filmmaker and freedom fighter Nasiruddin Yusuf Bacchu said such literary programmes should be organised across the country to encourage the practice of literature among people.

The presence of literary magazines in households has been on the wane over the years, he said, urging people to develop the habit of reading good books to turn out as perfect human beings.

The programme was also addressed by Nazrul researcher Rezaul Karim Talukdar, poet AF Akram Hossain, publisher Rathin Ahsan and Sahitya Bazar Editor Arif Ahmed.