

**Two new envoys appointed**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government decided to appoint Md Touhid Hossain, current principal of Foreign Service Academy, as the new high commissioner to South Africa and Masud Bin Momen, current Bangladesh ambassador to Italy, as the new ambassador to Japan.

Touhid, a career diplomat, belongs to the 1981 batch of Bangladesh Civil Service (Foreign Affairs) cadre.

He obtained his masters degree in history (1st class 1st) from Dhaka University and diploma in international political relations from International Institute of Public Administration, Paris, France.

He is married and blessed with two daughters.

Meanwhile, Masud is also a career diplomat, belonging to the 1985 batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs) cadre.

Masud obtained his masters degree in economics from Dhaka University and another masters degree in international relations from Fletcher's School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA.

He is married and blessed with one daughter and one son, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

**Water transport workers call off strike**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water transport workers yesterday withdrew their strike, which was scheduled to start today's early hours.

The announcement of postponing strike came after a tripartite meeting held at the shipping ministry chaired by Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan.

On July 3, leaders of Bangladesh Nourjan Sramik Federation, a platform of around 1.5 lakh workers, announced to go on strike to press home a 16-point demand.



**With the rainy season on, a boat owner repairs his vessel under the Buriganga Bridge-2 in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**Land minister served legal notice**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice to Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira, bringing a contempt of court allegation against him for not complying with a High Court (HC) judgement.

Following a writ petition, the HC on December 8, 2010 directed the Ministry of Land to appoint 100 selected petitioners including one Mostafa Kamal from Shariatpur to the post of chairman in the ministry.

The secretary to the ministry on June 24 this year passed an order to implement the HC verdict and the state minister for land also gave same opinion, but Minister Rezaul is creating obstruction to implement the judgement in a discriminatory manner, said the legal notice sent by Advocate Asaduzzaman Siddique.

**HC grants bail to ATN Bangla chairman**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to ATN Bangla Chairman Mahfuzur Rahman for four months in 10 defamation cases.

Ten cases were filed with different courts in the country in June and July this year for his remarks about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In the cases, the plaintiffs mentioned that Mahfuzur Rahman, at a press conference in London on May 30, termed the PM 'talkative', which was very much defamatory and derogatory, and damaged the image of the government.

Appearing before the court yesterday, Mahfuzur said he did not make any derogatory comment against the prime minister, rather he termed himself talkative.

He also said media presented reports by distorting his statements, and he protested the distortion instantly.

**EVICITION DRIVE**

**DNCC faces resistance from hawkers**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) officials yesterday faced resistance from hawkers at Mirpur Intersection during a drive to evict hawkers and demolish illegal structures on footpaths.

Witnesses said about 100 hawkers gathered near a lane behind the Fire Service and Civil Defence Office in Mirpur-10 intersection and started throwing brickbats at the officials who were carrying out the drive.

The hawkers fled when police came, they added.

Sheikh Kamal Hossain, executive magistrate of DNCC, said they started the drive from Mirpur-12 and when they reached the intersection the hawkers started throwing brickbats at them.

He said the drive at Mirpur-12 was carried out peacefully. The occupants of the illegal structures removed those themselves.

Kamal said they would resume the drive in Uttara today to clear the footpaths.

A bulldozer, 25 police personnel and 15-day labourers took part in the drive.

In another drive, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) evicted around 500 hawkers and demolished illegal structures on the footpaths in New Market, Science Laboratory and Kataban area.

The drive led by DSCC Executive Magistrate Billal Hossain started at noon and continued for five and a half hours.

Billal said they cleared the footpaths from New Market Gate-1 to the footbridge near Gausia Market near Dhaka College, Science Laboratory and in Kataban.

He said they carried the drive using a bulldozer with the help of police.

The LGRD and cooperatives ministry last Monday last gave the authorities a 24-hour ultimatum for removal of all roadside illegal structures.

**Boy's body recovered**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a boy from the river Turag adjacent to Turag Housing Society of Mohammadpur area in the capital yesterday.

The deceased Zihad Hossain, 8, son of Afzal Hossain, was a madrasa student.

Titu Mia, uncle of the victim, said Zihad moved out of their Diabari residence in Darus Salam area on Saturday afternoon and did not return.

**DoE fines cement factory Tk 27.62 lakh**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined Holcim Bangladesh Tk 27.62 lakh for releasing fly ash into the air, subsequently polluting the environment, while unloading it from a ship at its factory.

DoE Director (enforcement) Mohammad Munir Chowdhury had gone on a visit to the company's factory adjacent to the Meghna river on July 4 where he witnessed the pollution going on.

Munir summoned the factory's Managing Director Rajnish Kapur to DoE office where the latter confessed that pollution was going on and sought six months to set up necessary equipment to prevent air pollution.

However, Holcim Bangladesh Vice President (Business Development) Niaz Uddin Mahmood claimed that the firm had been fined for the dust that was being released from their clinker unloading system.

"All cement factories in Bangladesh and developing countries follow the clinker unloading system which we follow. As the DoE authorities directed us to set up pollution protection measures, we assured them that we would do it as soon as possible," he said.

**MISAPPROPRIATION OF NCTB MONEY ACC sues printer**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ant-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against the chief superintendent of M/S Pustika, a sister concern of Beximco Group, on charge of misappropriating some Tk 11.50 crore of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB).

The case statement stated that the NCTB authorities, in 2001, had fined M/S Pustika, a printing organisation in Motijheel, and its chief superintendent, Iqbal Ahmed, Tk 11,50,00,445 for not supplying books to it within the stipulated time.

"The organisation and its chief superintendent did not pay the fine to the NCTB authorities in the last 11 years and therefore have misappropriated the amount," said ACC Assistant Director Abu Bakar Siddique, who filed the case.

Bakar said they had filed two separate cases last month against two other organisations, Free Press and Suktara Press, for misappropriating some Tk 7 crore.

The companies had taken paper worth around Tk 7 crore from NCTB in 2001 but had neither returned the paper nor paid its price, he said.

**Non-govt teachers to go on hunger strike Wednesday**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges yesterday announced a mass hunger strike across the country for Wednesday to press home their 17-point demand, including nationalisation of the country's education system.

In a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, the teachers and employees, under the banner of Bangladesh Shikshak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad, said they will be compelled to declare tougher programmes if their demands are not met by July 18.

They said the teachers of non-government institutions have been deprived of necessary facilities despite carrying out the similar duties like the government ones.

Dr Nur Muhammad Talukdar, a convener of the parishad, said they will hold a meeting with the other organisations of the parishad on July 18.

Their other demands include providing facilities and allowances like the public institutions' ones, extending teachers' retirement age up to 65 years and formulating a separate pay scale for the teachers and employees.

**ATTACK ON JUBO LEAGUE OFFICE**

**Rab arrests 4**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four persons from the capital's Banani on Saturday in connection with firing on a leader and two activists of pro-Awami League youth body Jubo League inside their party office in Mohakhali on July 1.

The arrestees are Md Liton, 23, Md Fariqul Islam, 24, Asaduzzaman, 25, and Riaz Shikder, 24.

Zakir Hossain, general secretary of Jubo League, DCC north ward-20 unit, and activists -- Mohammad Ali and Noyon Hossain -- were injured in the attack.

Rab sources said that they were interrogating the arrestees.



Brihottoro Sylheter Sangbadikbrindo and Dhakastho Sreemangalbashi form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding arrest and exemplary punishment of the miscreants who attacked and injured Sreemangal correspondent of Bangla daily Jugantor, Syed Abu Jafar Salahuddin. PHOTO: STAR

**Bashundhara chief gets bail**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail for four months to Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam and four others in two separate cases.

The cases were filed against Shah Alam and some others on December 27 last year and May 7 this year on charges of misappropriating over Tk 3 crore from a businessman in Dhaka and for grabbing land in South Keraniganj.

Earlier in June this year, two separate magistrate courts in Dhaka issued arrest warrants against the accused, including the Bashundhara group chief.

The HC bench of Justice Siddiqur Raman Miah and Justice KM Kamrul Kader granted the bail to the five accused after holding hearing on two separate bail petitions filed by them (the accused).

Advocate Ahsanul Karim appeared for the petitioners, while Deputy Attorney General KM Zahid Sarwar Kazal opposed the bail prayers.

**Obituary**

METRO DESK



**K a z i Mohammad Sirajul Hoque, father of Sabina Yeasmeen, managing director of Prochito IMC Ltd, passed away at Holy Family Hospital in the capital on Saturday. He was 80.**

His qukhwani will be held at Shomvurdia of Daudkandi in Comilla on Friday, said a press release.

**Siddiqur Rahman**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

ABM Siddiqur Rahman Putu, president of Shaghata upazila unit of Awami League, died of cardiac arrest at Central Hospital in Dhaka on Saturday. He was 55.

**GRENADE ATTACK CASES**

**CID official cross-examined**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Counsels of all the accused in the August 21 grenade attack cases including the counsel of BNP Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday completed cross-examining a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) official Abu Hena Md Yusuf, the 62nd prosecution witness.

After completion of cross-examination of the witness, Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 fixed today for next hearing of the cases.

Twenty-six of the accused including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, now in custody, were produced before the court.

Seven others including former Dhaka City Corporation Ward Councilor Ariful Islam Arif, now on bail, were also present at the court yesterday.

Eighteen others have been absconding since the cases were filed against them, and Tarique Rahman is residing abroad now.

Twenty-four people were killed and around 200 others injured in a grenade attack on an AL rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in 2004.

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