



Shamprodayikota-Jongibad Birodhi Mancha forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Eidgah Maidan, near the High Court, in the capital yesterday demanding speedy trial of war criminals.

PHOTO: STAR

Pakistani held with Indian rupees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials arrested a Pakistani citizen with 61 lakh Indian rupees at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday. The Pakistani national was identified as Faisal Mahmud, 40. Zahirul Islam, sub-inspector (SI) at the police station, said Faisal arrived in Dhaka by a flight of Ittehad Airlines from Pakistan around 6:00am. The customs officials found some suspicious things while scanning his bag, he said adding, Faisal told the officials that the things were chocolates. But the customs officials found the Indian currencies after searching the bag. The SI said during primary interrogation the arrested man did not give any information.

WB loan cancellation foreign conspiracy

Claims a human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cancellation of the World Bank credit for the Padma bridge project over corruption allegations was nothing but a part of a foreign conspiracy against the ongoing war crimes trial, said speakers at a human chain yesterday. Some evil powers at home and abroad have been trying to counter the trial since its inception. The powers opined that certain aspects of International Crimes Tribunal did not meet international standards and human rights of the accused were violated, they said. The human chain was organised by Shamprodayikota-Jongibad Birodhi Mancha (anti-communalism and anti-militancy platform) in front of Jatiya Eidgah Maidan, near the High Court, in the capital. "When the Pakistani occupation army and their local collaborators killed three million innocent and unarmed people and

violated women, these powers took part or silently helped them," said Communist Party of Bangladesh President Monjurul Ahsan Khan. "They have been trying to save the collaborators since the trial's inception," he said. Foreign powers wanted to create pressure on Bangladesh's economy and tried to corner the country diplomatically and politically. But the government did not give up on the trial and finally World Bank cancelled the loan as a part of the conspiracy, he said. They suggested that the government, if it wanted to construct the bridge, should remove some of the ministers and officials, who have been working in favour of World Bank's interests so far, from office. Workers Party of Bangladesh Politburo Member Bimol Biswas, Prof Ajoy Roy, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Presidium Member Shirin Akhter and leaders of Karmajibi Nari and Adivasi Forum also spoke at the programme.

4 killed, 20 hurt in road accidents

METRO DESK

Four people were killed and twenty others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Chittagong, Jhenidah and Bagerhat yesterday. BSS from Savar reports, an unidentified rickshaw-puller was killed as a bus ran over him at Savar stand on the outskirts of the capital around 8:00am yesterday. Our Chittagong correspondent reports, truck driver Md Ishaque, 37, was killed as his truck hit a roadside tree in Fatehabad area of Hathazari upazila yesterday early morning. He was taken to Chittagong Medical College where the doctors declared him dead. In Jhenidah, bus helper Hafizur Rahman, 18, son of late Ilias Hossain, was killed and over 20 people were injured in a head-on collision between two buses near Valki-Pairadanga bus stand in Harinakundu upazila around 1:30 pm yesterday. Of the injured, 15 were admitted to Harinakundu Upazila Health Complex. UNB from Bagerhat adds, trader Alam Sheikh, 38, a resident of Deudhara village in Morelganj upazila, died instantly as a Khulna-bound bus hit him while he was waiting for bus at Mongla stand in Mongla upazila yesterday morning.

DHAKA COURT MONITORING LAN makes it easier

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The high-ups of the judiciary, from now on, will make use of a Local Area Network (LAN) to monitor day-to-day activities like passing of orders or judgments and progress of cases performed by the judges and magistrates of Dhaka courts. The LAN will help litigants, lawyers and others concerned get information on the daily cause lists of the cases, orders and judgments of any other court being delivered every day. People concerned, particularly litigants, used to bribe court staff to get such information as those used to be carried out manually, said lawyers. Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday inaugurated the LAN of Dhaka Court at a programme organised by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Jagannath-Shohel Auditorium in Dhaka Judge's Court. He announced that the Dhaka courts were connected to a centralised data centre at Supreme Court. "I shall always monitor all the orders and judgments delivered by the magistrates and the judges through the Local Area Network. "The district judge, metropolitan sessions' judge, chief judicial magistrate and chief metropolitan magistrate will also monitor the performances of their subordinates," he added. UNDP Bangladesh funded the Judicial Strengthening Project (JUST), which launched the LAN. UNDP played a major role in strengthening the forms of judiciary, combating obstacles and budgetary constraints to ensure access to justice in Bangladesh. "It will also help people get justice," said UNDP Country Director Stefan Priesner. The reduction of the backlog of cases through this LAN should pay great dividends to average litigants, says a UNDP statement. Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain of the Appellate Division and Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque, Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik of the High Court Division were present at the function. They were accompanied by SM Kuddus Zaman, national project director, JUST Project & Special Officer, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, and Dhaka District Judge Md Abdul Majid.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Jahanara Alam, mother of beautician Kaniz Almas Khan, passed away at Labaid Hospital in the capital on Wednesday. She was 82, said a press release. She left behind five daughters, three sons and a host of relatives to mourn her death. A doa mahfil will be organised at the residence of her eldest daughter in Gulshan of the capital tomorrow.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Momena Khatun, former teacher of New Government High School in the capital. On the occasion, a prayer will be held after Maghrib prayers at the residence of the deceased at 24, Tejuni Para, Farmgate, said a press release. The relatives, well-wishers and colleagues of Momena Khatun have been requested to attend the prayer for the salvation of her soul.

PADMA BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Govt will only lay foundation stone

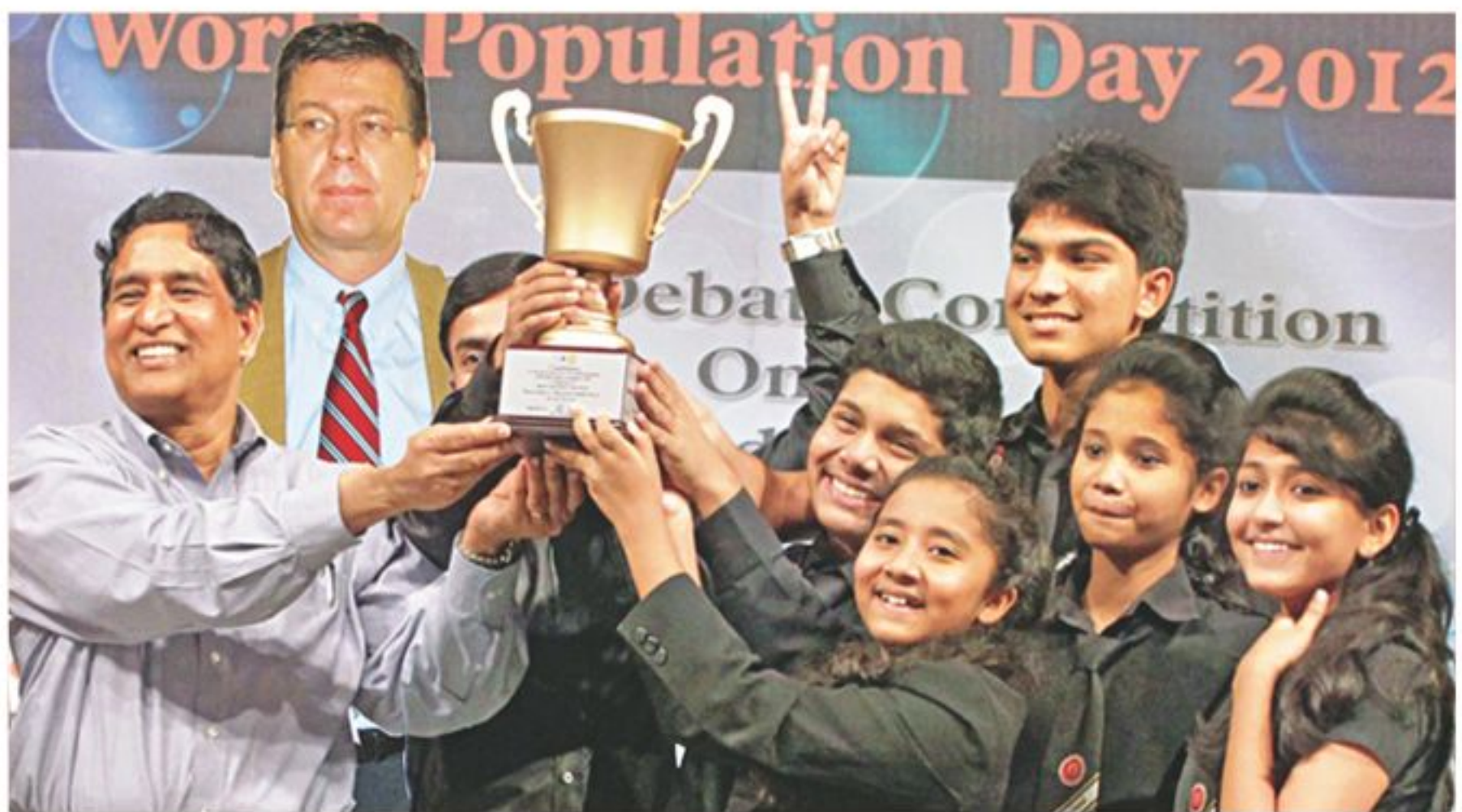
Claims Moudud; Fakhrul urges campaign against 'govt misrule'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the government will only lay the foundation stone of the Padma bridge project at Maowa and claim that the bridge has been constructed. Meanwhile, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir asked the party activists to make people aware about "the government's misrule" through a massive campaign. Moudud, addressing a discussion at Jatiya Press Club, said, "At the last moment of their tenure, the government will show people the foundation stone and say that

they have built the Padma bridge." "Padma Bridge Bastobayan Parishad", a pro-opposition body, organised the discussion. Accusing the government of deceiving the people of the country, he said the government had become mentally unstable by declaring that the bridge would be built with its own funds. "The idea of constructing the Padma bridge with lawmakers' salaries, surcharges and money from the annual development programme was nothing but an illusion," he added. Moudud said the prime minister had accused World Bank of cheating people but the fact was that the government

cheated people by not taking action against corrupt people responsible for World Bank's loan cancellation decision. Former minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and Daily Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman also spoke at the discussion. Meanwhile, Mirza Fakhrul, after inaugurating a training workshop organised by BNP at a hotel in the capital, accused the government of throwing the country into a chaotic situation. "The government is controlling everything by making the administration and judiciary partisan. It has even snatched away people's right to vote by amending the constitution," he said.



Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque gives a trophy to the winners of Inter-School Debate Competition, held in observance of World Population Day on Wednesday, supported by UNFPA. Arthur Erken, UNFPA representative to Bangladesh, was also present.

PHOTO: COURTESY



Brig Gen (retd) SK Abu Bakr addresses a roundtable on 'Arms Control in Bangladesh and the UN Arms Trade Treaty Conference' organised jointly by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIIS) and Saferworld-Bangladesh on Wednesday. BIIS Chairman and Director General Maj Gen Mohammad Imrul Kayes and Saferworld-Bangladesh Country Representative Neila Husain were also present.

PHOTO: COURTESY



Students of local colleges form a human chain in front of Kawkhali Upazila Parishad in Pirojpur yesterday demanding withdrawal of the "false cases" against Limon Hossain, a college student maimed by the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in March last year.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Md Sufiur Rahman new envoy to Sri Lanka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Government has decided to appoint Md Sufiur Rahman, currently serving as director general (economic affairs) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the high commissioner to Sri Lanka. A career diplomat, Sufiur belongs to the 9th batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs) cadre, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday. Sufiur served in Bangladesh High Commissions in New Delhi and Islamabad, and in Bangladesh Permanent Mission to UN, Geneva. He also served in the Saarc Secretariat as a director.

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