

**PADMA BRIDGE
Quader
frustrated
over fiasco**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday expressed his frustration over how the donor agencies were handled for funding Padma bridge while a ruling party MP accused the finance minister of misleading the premier about the issue.

According to sources, at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the communications ministry, Quader also said the finance minister did not inform him about the details of the World Bank loan agreement to fund Padma bridge.

After the meeting, which was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Quader said construction work of the bridge would begin on time.

At the meeting, committee member and Awami League MP Golam Mawla Roni criticised the finance minister for his remarks on Padma funding. "Sometimes we become confused by his remarks," Roni said.

"The finance minister is misleading the prime minister by giving her various information," Roni told The Daily Star after the meeting.

Roni said he urged Quader to talk to the prime minister and clear his position on Padma bridge financing.

Contacted by The Daily Star, Omar Faruk Chowdhury, AL MP and another committee member, said he told the meeting, "There are some ministers who are speaking about other ministries. They should comment on their own ministries."

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Hena Kabir, veteran radio and TV personality.

A doa mahfil will be held on Friday at 6:00pm in her son's residence--house-18, road-7/c, sector-3, Uttara, Dhaka.

Anisul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 17th death anniversary of Anisul Islam, former general secretary of Bangladesh Association of Consulting Engineers and managing director of Bangladesh Survey Organisation Limited.

A Qurankhwani and a milad mahfil will be held at the deceased's Rayer Bazar's residence in the capital after Asr prayers, says a press release.

RISING Stars

This week we take a look at the different sides of maturity on cover. We bid farewell to a man much loved and the Finding



Bangladesh team tells the tale of the crouching tiger and demon crocs. All this, a monkey and The Dark Knight.

ALL THIS AND MORE, IN TOMORROW'S RS.



Police dump the rickshaws at Asad Gate after seizing those for plying the VIP road in front of the prime minister's official residence in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

**ARSON CASE AGAINST FAKHRUL
Charge framing
date deferred**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday for the third time deferred until July 31 the hearing on charge framing against 46 opposition leaders, including BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in an arson case.

Police filed the case against the accused hours after a vehicle was set ablaze near the Prime Minister's Office in the capital during hartal hours on April 29.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Erfan Ullah passed the order following a time petition placed by Barrister Moudud Ahmed, a counsel for the accused.

In the petition, Moudud said former Dhaka City Corporation mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka had gone abroad for treatment. So, he prayed for the deferment of the hearing.

Another Dhaka court yesterday deferred until August 27 the hearing on charge framing against Juba Dal President Moazzem Hossain Alal and 57 others in a case for creating violence in the capital's Motijheel area on December 18 last year.

**HC questions legality of
Bar Council election**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of Bangladesh Bar Council election which was held on July 18.

In response to a writ petition, the court issued a rule asking the Bar Council chairman and 38 candidates of its election to explain in 10 days why holding of the polls based on the panels should not be declared illegal.

The writ petition claimed that as there is no provision or rules in the Bangladesh Bar Council law for holding its election based on panels of candidates, but the election was held on July 18 based on the panels backed by two political parties.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar issued the rule following the petition filed by Advocate Yunus Ali Akand.

Yunus filed the petition on July 18 saying

that candidate lawyers contested the election under the panels, Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Panel (JAOP) and Sammilito Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad (SASP), which are supported by two major political parties, for their political interest which was against the Bar Council law.

Bar Council Chairman Attorney General Mahubub Alam and 38 candidates of the election have been made respondents to the rule, Deputy Attorney General Mokleshur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Bar Council authorities yesterday announced the official results of the election, M Tasdiqul Karim, assistant director of the Bar Council, said.

According to the results, JAOP, a body of BNP-led 18-party alliance, has won nine posts of executive member of Bar Council out of total 14 posts.

SASP, an Awami League-led alliance backed forum, has got five posts.

**HUMAYUN AZAD MURDER CASE
Show cause notice for
not producing accused**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued a show cause notice asking the superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail to explain why the jail authorities failed to produce two accused in Prof Humayun Azad murder case before it yesterday.

The superintendent will have to submit the reply in written form before the court by August 23.

Earlier in the day, the court also fixed September 10 for hearing on charge framing against the five accused in the case.

Judge AHM Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan of Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order as the jail authorities did not produce two JMB leaders Salehin alias Salahuddin and Hafiz Mahmud alias Hassan before it yesterday as per the court order.

Two other accused Anwarul Alam alias Anwar and Mizanur Rahman alias Minhaz were produced before the court while another accused in the case Nur Mohammad is still at large.

On February 27, 2004, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh activists stabbed the 56-year-old Azad, a professor of Bangla depart-

ment at Dhaka University, while he was trying to hire a rickshaw for going home from the Ekushey Boi Mela (book fair) on the premises of Bangla Academy in the capital.

Following the incident, an attempted murder case was filed against several unknown people.

He died of cardiac arrest in Munich on August 12 that year, according to an autopsy report.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Kazi Abdul Malek, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted a charge sheet on November 15, 2007 accusing three JMB leaders. They were Minhaz, Nur Mohammad and Anwar.

But later another Dhaka court on October 20 of 2009 ordered a further investigation on the death following an application filed by Azad's brother on October 6 the same year.

CID investigated the matter and found that the JMB leaders were directly involved in the killing of Azad, said CID Inspector Lutfor Rahman.

CID on April 30 this year pressed charges against five JMB leaders appealing to the court to turn the case into a murder case.



People take troubles in walking the road in the capital's Sobhanbagh neighbourhood, as it has long been left excavated for installation of sewers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

PDF holds mehndi festival

METRO DESK

The capital's Rabindra Sarobar took on a colourful look as volunteers, clad in green and red-coloured panjabis and sarees, sat with their dala-kulas, decorating the hands of young and old visitors with henna from early morning.

Titled Charity Mehndi Festival, the event went on with full spirit despite the fact that the hosts and visitors were not under much cover in this season of downpours.

Hundreds of city people as well foreign tourists thronged the spot on Thursday to be a part of the event, which was meant to raise funds for the Project CARE of Physically-Challenged Development Foundation (PDF).

PDF organised the programme as part of its multiple youth-led charity events under the title "PDF Summer Challenge 2012," where 15 volunteer teams were working.

The mehndi festival's theme was to begin the holy month of Ramadan with a charity-of-choice to appeal to fundraisers to be more purposeful in building interactive relationships with donors.

'LGD fails to take info disclosure policy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Local Government Division (LGD) has failed to take a proactive disclosure policy to ensure people's access to information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009, said Nepal Chandra Sarker, former secretary to Information Commission.

The LGD, under the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives, was asked to take initiatives for publishing annual reports, setting up a RTI complaint website to take feedback from information seekers, and modernising the citizen charter, he said while addressing a meeting yesterday.

Progati, a partner organisation of USAID, organised the meeting jointly with LGD and Information Commission at the conference room of Department of Public Health Engineering in the capital.

According to the RTI act, the LGD and its all departments must publish annual reports and interlink to ensure easy access to information by information seekers, said Nepal Chandra, also an adviser to MRDI.

However, Akhter Hossain, joint secretary of LGD, said they have already taken initiatives to fulfill the recommendations.



The city people, especially girls, get henna decorations on their palms and hands at Charity Mehndi Festival at Rabindra Sarobar on Thursday. The programme was organised by Project CARE of Physically-Challenged Development Foundation (PDF).

PHOTO: PDF