



Gabtol Bus Stand in the capital has started to become crowded with Eid vacationers leaving Dhaka city for their homes to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR

Abdul Hye appointed new envoy to Brunei

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



The government has decided to appoint Mohammed Abdul Hye, currently serving as a director general in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the new Bangladesh high commissioner to Brunei Darussalam. A career diplomat, Hye belongs to the 1986 batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs) Cadre, says a foreign ministry press release yesterday. In his distinguished diplomatic career, besides being the consul general of Bangladesh in Dubai, he served in Bangladesh embassies in Manama, Moscow and Bangkok in various capacities. Hye graduated from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and is married with two sons.

TRIAL OF 46 OPPOSITION LEADERS HC starts hearing govt petition against stay order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday started hearing a government petition seeking vacation of the court's earlier order that had stayed the operations of a Dhaka court dealing with an arson case against 46 opposition leaders. During the hearing, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the government had constituted the Speedy Trial Court-5 of Dhaka as per provisions of relevant law, which had framed charges against the 46 accused. The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) has given judicial power to Magistrate Harun-or Rashid to conduct the speedy trial court in due process of law, he said. Following a writ petition, the HC stayed for eight weeks all the functions of Speedy Trial Court-5 on August 6. It also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain why the CMM Court's decision to give judicial powers to the Trial Court to conduct the case should not be declared illegal. Ahsanul Karim, a counsel for the writ petitioner, opposed the government petition, saying the CMM had no power to give judicial power to any magistrate for dealing with the case, and it was illegal to give power to Magistrate Harun-or Rashid to conduct the Speedy Trial Court-5. The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar adjourned the hearing till today. The 46 opposition leaders including BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir were charged with torching a bus near the Prime Minister's Office on April 29.

CTG EID MARKETS Sellers disappointed over fewer shoppers

SAIDUN NABI and MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

The footpath market of CEPZ area, with more than 800 shops, has seen highest number of shoppers compared to the other footpath markets. Most of the shoppers at the CEPZ market are garment workers and people of low income group who have small budgets for their Eid shopping. Rubel Das, a worker in a garment factory, was seen bargaining with a shop owner at CEPZ market over the price of a panjabi. "This year my budget is Tk 3,000 and within this I have to shop for myself and my two brothers," Rubel said. But the prices of clothes are higher than last year's, he added. "Footpath markets are ideal for us because other markets have very high prices suitable for wealthier customers," Rubel said. Abul Bashar, vice president of Chittagong Metropolitan Hawkers Association, said usually there are about 3,000 makeshift shops on the five footpath markets of the city. Chittagong Metropolitan Hawkers Association is an umbrella organisation of all the hawkers' organisations of the city. Ahead of Eid about 1,000 more shops have been set up, Bashar said. Like other shop owners he too expects that in the last five days of Ramadan the shops would be swarming with Eid shoppers.

Make ICT permanent Six organisations urge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six organisations advocating for war crimes trial yesterday called for enacting a law to give the International Crimes Tribunal a permanent existence with administrative and financial autonomy and sought prime minister's intervention to this end. "We demand a law to give the tribunals a permanent shape so that the tribunals can operate even after change of any government," said Shahriar Kabir, acting president of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee. At a joint press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity, the organisations also urged the prime minister to ensure necessary manpower and other supports to the tribunal for its smooth functioning. Expressing disappointment at the slow pace of the trial, they said timely completion of the trial would not be possible with the existing manpower and logistics. "The trial procedure is going at snail pace. If it continues this way, we fear that trial of 10 war crimes suspects would not be completed by December 2013," said Shahriar Kabir. There will be a serious national catastrophe if the trial is not completed by 2013, he said. About shortage of manpower, Shahriar Kabir said that although 150 officials and employees were required in general division of the tribunal, it had only 15. Moreover, most of the 15 lawyers appointed so far do not come to tribunal regularly as the salary and remuneration are insufficient. Shahriar Kabir blamed law and home ministries for the slow pace saying the ministries failed to understand the challenges of the trial and considered it a criminal case. He also expressed worries about the security of the entire tribunal. "Nobody will notice if anyone plants anything dangerous at the tribunal compound...there is no security of the judges, lawyers, and investigating agency. The witnesses have no protection," he said. The other organisers of the news conference include Antorjatik Oporadh Tribunal Shoyak Mancha, Sector Commanders Forum '71, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Projonmo '71, and Udichi.



Shahriar Kabir, acting president of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, addresses a press conference in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday where they expressed their observations about the International Crimes Tribunals.

PHOTO: STAR



Cars parked illegally on both sides of a road in Motijheel Dilkusha area in the capital narrow it down and cause traffic congestion.

PHOTO: STAR

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Violent Outbreak of Influenza and Dengue Fever All Over the Country

Desk Report: Dengue and seasonal influenza fever, cold and cough have increased severely all over the country recently. Dengue has broken out everywhere. And the reason is the spread of Aedes mosquitoes. To keep your home free from mosquitoes use the most effective insect killer aerosol. Also keep your surroundings clean.

Stay free of Mosquitoes in your home and surroundings. Stay away from Dengue.

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