

**10-TRUCK ARMS HAUL
2 magistrates
testify in court**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two magistrates, who recorded statements of the witnesses and the accused in the 10-truck arms haul cases, testified before a Chittagong court yesterday.

Both of the metropolitan magistrates--Muntasir Ahmed and Md Abu Hannan--were later cross-examined by defence counsels.

In his testimony, Muntasir said he took the statement of former DGFI director general Maj Gen (ret'd) Sadik Hasan Rumi, a prosecution witness.

He was cross-examined by the counsels of former DGFI director Brig Gen (ret'd) Rezzakul Haider Chowdhury, former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar, and former director general of National Security Intelligence (NSI) Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdur Rahim.

Replying to a question, Muntasir said, "I recorded everything in the witness's statement that he [Rumi] said and left nothing." In another reply, he said there was no case reference in Rumi's statement.

The other magistrate, Md Abu Hannan, testified that he took the confessional statement of the accused, NSI director Wing Commander (ret'd) Shahabuddin, and the statement of the prosecution witness, constable AKM Mohiuddin.

He was later cross-examined by Shahabuddin's counsel. When the counsel claimed that he recorded the confessional statement ignoring Criminal Procedures Code (CrPC), Hannan denied it. On April 2, 2004, around 1,500 wooden boxes containing arms and ammunition were seized at the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd. Two cases were filed the next day.

**Tk 7.8CR EMBEZZLEMENT
ACC charges seven
Oriental Bank staff**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against seven former officials of now defunct Oriental Bank Ltd in eight cases filed for embezzling Tk 7.80 crore of depositors' money.

According to ACC investigation, the seven officials, including five vice-presidents of the bank, misappropriated the amount in the name of disbursing loans from the bank to some fake business firms in 2005.

The five ex-vice-presidents of the now-defunct bank are Shah Mohammad Harun, Abul Kashem Mohammad Ullah, Fazlur Rahman, Mahmud Hossain and Kamrul Islam.

The two other accused are Tariqul Alam, former executive officer, and Imamul Huq, former deputy managing director of the bank's principal office in the capital.

Abul Hossain, ACC deputy director, said he along with two other deputy directors submitted the charge sheets to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

He was speaking at a press briefing held at ACC office in the capital.

ACC investigation found that the accused sanctioned Tk 1 crore in loan to Abul Hossain, a business firm, Tk 95 lakh to Modern Builders Ltd, Tk 95 lakh to Latif Engineers, Tk 95 lakh to Momtaj Enterprise, Tk 95 lakh to Nur Machineries, Tk 1 crore to Bakkar Hossain, Tk 1 crore to Abdus Salam and Tk 1 crore to City Com.

Deputy Director Abul Hossain said all eight business entities are fake and the account holders of the businesses are nonexistent.



Dutch Ambassador in Dhaka Gerben De Jong, second from right, and Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, third from right, visit Grameen Shikha-CISD Vocational Training Centre in Savar after its inauguration yesterday.

**REPATRIATED FROM TANZANIAN JAILS
Deceived workers want
punishment for brokers**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty Bangladeshis, who returned last year from two prisons in Tanzania, yesterday urged the government to take strict action against their brokers for fraud and to help them get back their money from those brokers.

The repatriated migrants alleged that these brokers of unauthorised recruiting agencies had lured them to go to Tanzania promising them of giving lucrative jobs and had abandoned them at the border of the East African country without travel documents.

A strong broker network exists in Bangladesh and Tanzania to deceive overseas job aspirants, the workers also alleged at a press conference in Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital.

"We had to give a huge amount of money to the brokers to migrate to South Africa. But we could not reach our destination rather we suffered a lot both in the

jungles and jails of Tanzania for many days", said Faruk Hawlader, one of the 20 workers.

He said, after they were repatriated to Bangladesh last year, the government had filed a case against their brokers under the anti-human trafficking law, but the brokers are yet to face trial.

Most of these workers went abroad through local brokers without taking clearance from Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), thus making it difficult to take legal action against their brokers, said BMET Deputy Director Roksan Ara Begum.

The workers alleged that their brokers did not face any trial yet and even denied returning their money.

The 20 Bangladeshis were caught and sent to jail by Tanzanian immigration police while trying to enter South Africa without travel documents in between 2010 and 2011.

**No one likes
hartal
Says Mozena**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobody likes hartal as it destroys economy and hampers peace in the country, US Ambassador in Dhaka, Dan Mozena said yesterday.

He made the observation at a views exchange meeting with Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAAMS Arefin Siddique at the latter's office.

Later the ambassador gave a lecture on "Values of American Democracy" at DU Senate Bhaban and said holding of US presidential polls and peaceful transition of power is one of the most important values of American democracy.

He called upon the political science students of the university to be imbued with the values of democracy.

Prof Arefin Siddique said, "The promotion of democracy and human rights has always been a part of US policy."

"Today's lecture by Dan Mozena will strongly inspire and encourage our young minds present here and enhance friendly relations between our two countries," he added.

**GRAMEEN SHIKHA-CISD TRAINING CENTRE LAUNCHED
Dr Yunus for exploring
opportunities for youth**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh can expect higher remittances if it can export skilled manpower, Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus said yesterday.

"The Bangladeshi youth are very creative and are quick learners. We should explore new opportunities for them," said Yunus, while highlighting the role of youth in solving social problems.

Yunus's comments came at the launch of the "Grameen Shikha-CISD Vocational Training Centre" in Savar.

"We are not teaching in the academic sense, rather we are creating skilled manpower," Yunus said.

Gerben De Jong, the ambassador of Netherlands to Bangladesh, emphasised the need for skill development among the youth.

"We are thinking of working with the private sector for the development of Bangladesh."

Grameen Shikha, with financial assistance from the Netherlands-based C&A Europe, has been conducting a vocational training programme since 2008 for the country's poor and the school dropouts, said Nurjahan Begum, managing director of Grameen Shikha.

Nurjahan said the programme is conducted as a form of social business.

The organisation has trained more than 2,300 students on vocations such as electronics, industrial swing, mobile phone servicing, garment machine mechanics, computer, solar home management and computer applications, she said.

Most of the graduates find employment

within a couple of months after graduation, Nurjahan said.

"The objective of the programme is to develop the human resource of Bangladesh with a view to expanding the country's economic development," said C&A's Director Chris Brennkmeier.

The programme empowers the youth from the rural and slum areas as it provides vocational training at a minimal cost, he added.

Grameen Shikha also started a scholarship management programme with a unique idea of Prof Yunus from 2002, Nurjahan said.

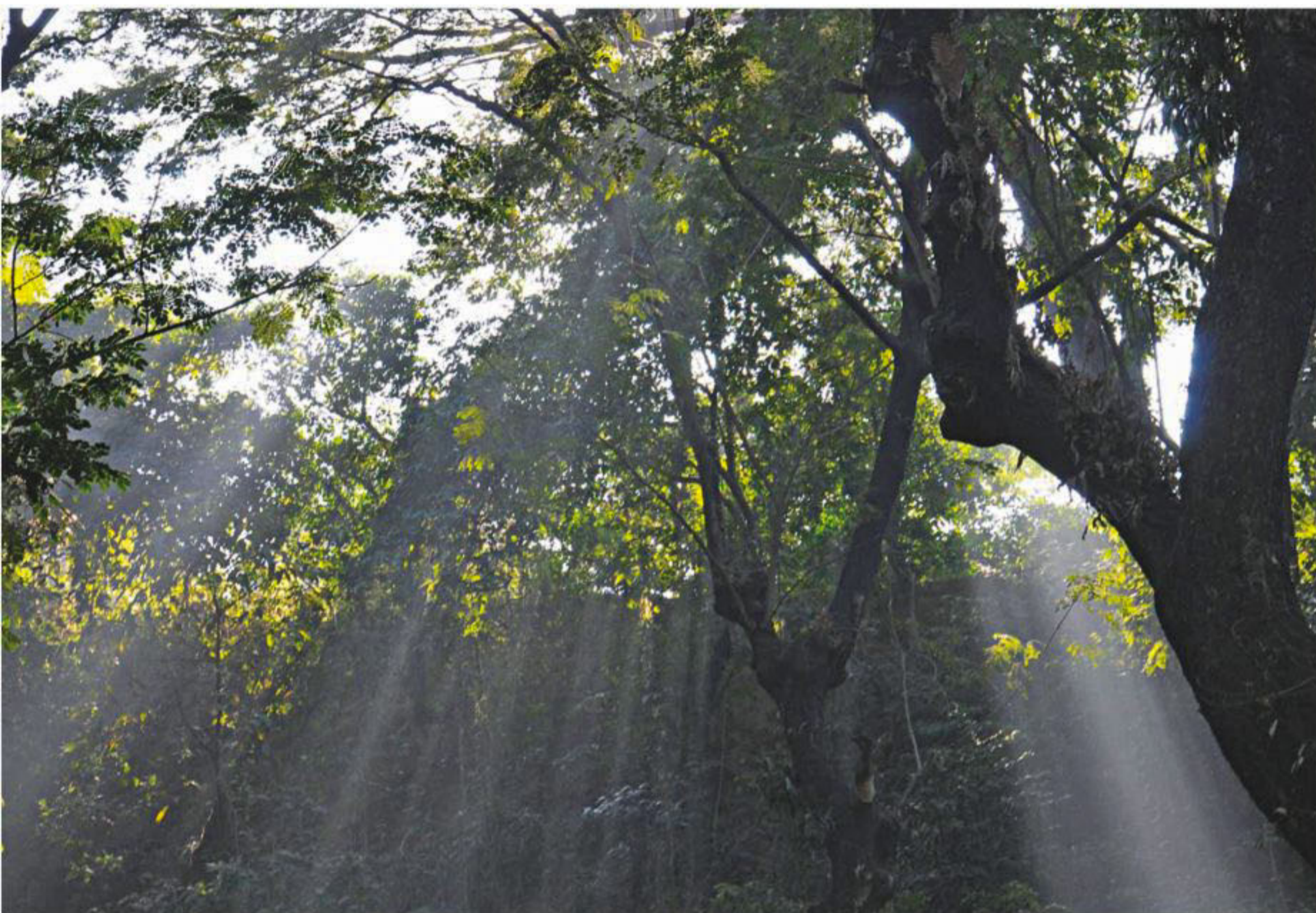
Nearly 180 sponsors have given financial support to more than 3,500 students in all districts of Bangladesh, according to the Grameen Shikha MD.

"Without the Grameen Shikha scholarship I could not have continued my study as I lost my father and mother in 2008 and 2009," said Zinnoory Begum, a student of management and information system at Dhaka University.

Zinnoory, the middle child of her parents, have been receiving Tk 4,166 every month since May 2010 for her education.

"It is difficult for my father, an auto rickshaw driver, to bear the educational expenses of his five children," said Khadiza Akter Nishat, a student of department of textile engineering at Bangladesh University of Business and Technology.

Grameen Shikha has awarded Nishat a bursary of Tk 3,000 per month. Rokia Afzal Rahman, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was also present.



Crisp winter morning rays seep in through the fog clad scenic greenery surrounding the port city's Chatteshwari road. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

**Contract renewed for
making MRPs, MRVs**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday renewed contract with a joint venture firm comprising three companies of Malaysia, Bangladesh and Poland to produce machine readable passports (MRPs) and machine readable visas (MRVs) till June 2014.

The deal was signed nearly 10 months after the expiry of the contract on March 31, 2012.

The government on April 1, 2010 signed a Tk 526 crore MRP and MRV project with Malaysian IRIS Berhad Corporation, PWPW of Poland and Dataedge Ltd of Bangladesh to introduce MRPs and MRVs in Bangladesh.

The renewed contract of Tk 133 crore will be effective from April 1, 2012 since when the joint venture has been working without any payment from the government.

Director General of Department of Immigration (DIP) and Passport Abdul Mabud and director of joint venture firm Dato Tony Lee signed the new contract at the Agargaon passport office in the capital.

M. Aminul Huque
1948-2011

It's been two years he left us all.
May ALLAH grant him peace and place him in the heavens for eternity.
We seek blessings from all.

~ Family ~
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এএসএফ হেম মিডিয়া অ্যাওয়ার্ড

প্রিয় সাংবাদিক বন্ধুরা, আপনাদের জেনে আনন্দিত হবেন যে, এসিড সারভাইভারস ফাউন্ডেশন (এএসএফ) আবারও এসিড সহিষ্ণতা বিষয়ে সাংবাদিকতায় সেরা অবদানের জন্য সাংবাদিকতার ৫টি শাখায় পুরস্কার ঘোষণা করেছে। ২০১০'র জানুয়ারি থেকে ২০১২'র ডিসেম্বর সময়ের মধ্যে করা প্রতিবেদন (ইলেকট্রনিক ও প্রিন্ট), ফিচার ও আলোকচিত্র জমা দিতে হবে। কারো একাধিক প্রতিবেদন, ফিচার বা আলোকচিত্র থাকলে অংশগ্রহণকারীর নিজেকেই সেরাটা নির্বাচন করে জমা দিতে হবে। কারণ, প্রতি শাখায় তিন বছরের জন্য একটি করে পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে। একজন ব্যক্তি একাধিক শাখায় ফাইল জমা দিতে পারবেন। প্রতি শাখায় সেরা অবদানের জন্য ৩০,০০০ (ত্রিশ হাজার) টাকার চেক, সার্টিফিকেট ও ক্রেস্ট প্রদান করা হবে।

যে সকল শাখায় পুরস্কৃত করা হবে :

- > ২০১০, ২০১১ ও ২০১২ সালের জাতীয় দৈনিক/আন্তর্জাতিক প্রকাশনায় প্রকাশিত এসিড সহিষ্ণতা বিষয়ক সেরা প্রতিবেদন
- > ২০১০, ২০১১ ও ২০১২ সালের জাতীয় দৈনিক/আন্তর্জাতিক প্রকাশনায় প্রকাশিত এসিড সহিষ্ণতা বিষয়ক সেরা ফিচার
- > ২০১০, ২০১১ ও ২০১২ সালের জাতীয়/আন্তর্জাতিক টেলিভিশনে প্রকাশিত এসিড সহিষ্ণতা বিষয়ক সেরা প্রতিবেদন
- > ২০১০, ২০১১ ও ২০১২ সালের জাতীয় দৈনিক/আন্তর্জাতিক প্রকাশনায় প্রকাশিত এসিড সহিষ্ণতা বিষয়ক সেরা আলোকচিত্র
- > ২০১০, ২০১১ ও ২০১২ সালের স্থানীয় পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত এসিড সহিষ্ণতা বিষয়ক সেরা প্রতিবেদন

যা যা জমা দিতে হবে :

- > জাতীয় ও স্থানীয় পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত (প্রতিবেদন/ফিচার/আলোকচিত্র) প্রকাশনার ২টি মূলকপি ও ৪টি ফটোকপি
- > টেলিভিশন চ্যানেলে প্রচারিত প্রতিবেদনের ২টি সিডি এবং প্রচারের তারিখ ও সময়
- > ১০" x ১২" মাপের ২ কপি আলোকচিত্র, আলোকচিত্র প্রকাশিত পত্রিকার ২টি মূলকপি ও ৪টি ফটোকপি
- > প্রতিবেদন/ফিচার/আলোকচিত্র জমাদানকারীর ছবিসহ বায়োডাটা

বি: দ্র: খামের উপর প্রতিযোগিতার শাখা উল্লেখ করে নির্বাহী পরিচালক বরাবর আগামী ৩১ জানুয়ারি, ২০১৩'র মধ্যে পাঠানোর জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

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ACID SURVIVORS FOUNDATION

Rajshahi photo journalists' assoc executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Asaduzzaman Asad and Abdullah Iqbal were made president and general secretary of Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association, Rajshahi on Monday night.

The 9-member committee was formed in the annual general meeting at the association's office in Sona Dighi area.

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