

# 10-TRUCK ARMS HAUL CASES Debate over PW statements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Prosecution and defence lawyers in the sensational 10-truck arms haul cases yesterday got involved in a heated debate over contradictions in two statements by a prosecution witness.

At one stage of the cross-examination of former metropolitan magistrate of Chittagong Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 ruled that the court would not record any question put by the defence lawyer which is against the law.

Abdus Sobhan Tarafder, defence lawyer of former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, later submitted an application to the court requesting it to record the questions he asked Mahbubur during the cross-examination. Tribunal Judge SM Mojibur Rahman said he would later issue an order on the application.

Defence lawyers of three accused Babar, former industries minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, and former director of National Security Intelligence Major (ret) Liakat Hossain cross-examined Mahbubur. The cross-examination of the prosecution witness ended yesterday.

During the cross-examination, advocate Tarafder said sergeant Md Alauddin, former officer-in-charge of Bandar Police Outpost, in his deposition as a prosecution witness before this court last year told that he was tortured by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). The lawyer asked former metropolitan magistrate Mahbubur whether Alauddin had told about such an incident in his another statement he made before Mahbubur on May 2, 2011 under Section 164.

Appearing for the state, Public Prosecutor Kamal Uddin interrupted the defence lawyer arguing that he could not ask the former magistrate about the content of Alauddin's statement since the magistrate was only the recording officer and not the maker of that statement.

Major (ret) Liakat's lawyer Kamrul Islam Sajjad asked Mahbubur whether he ascertained that sergeant Alauddin made his statement under any pressure from police. In reply, Mahbubur said according to the law he does not need to ask such a question to any witness who give statement.

On April 2, 2004, around 1,500 wooden boxes containing arms and ammunition were seized from two vessels at the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited.

Two cases were filed the next day with Karnaphuli Police Station in this connection and the trial began on November 29, 2011.



Last-minute preparations under way on Bangla Academy premises with the month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela just a day away.

PHOTO: STAR

# ADMISSION FEES AT PVT EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS HC asks for explanation on overcharging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday asked the government to explain in three weeks why it should not be directed to implement its admission policy to prevent private educational institutions from charging extra admission fees.

The court came up with the rule upon a writ petition jointly filed on January 27 by rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra, educationists Dr Muhammed Zafar Iqbal and Dr Md Ashraf Alam.

In the petition, they said as per Private School and College Students Admission Policy 2012, authorities of private educa-

tional institutions outside Dhaka cannot collect more than Tk 3,000 from a student as admission fee. But, many institutions are overcharging, they said.

The petition stated that Scholars Home, a private school at Pathantula in Sylhet, demanded Tk 7,500 from Anika Alam Promi, a student of the school and daughter of one of the petitioners Dr Alam, for her admission in class II this year. She was denied admission when her father refused to pay the amount.

The HC bench of Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice ABM Alfat Hossain also directed the authorities to admit Promi to the school.

# SC staff, journos clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of class-four employees of the Supreme Court yesterday clashed with journalists over obstructing judges from entering the court premises.

At least seven people, including four journalists, sustained minor injuries in the clash, a police official, who witnessed the incident, told The Daily Star.

Requesting anonymity, the police official said due to a mechanical problem, a car of Channel i broke down in front of a Supreme Court gate designated for judges only. The media house's car blocked some judges' cars from entering the court premises.

Rezwan Kader, Channel i reporter, Md Russel and Alal, videographers of the private TV channel, Alamgir Hossain, reporter of Bangla daily Amar Desh, Imanul Haque, assistant commissioner of Police of Ramna zone (patrol), and two SC employees were injured, he said.

SC Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam, however, claimed that at least four SC employees were assaulted in the clash but he could not say their names immediately.

# CASE AGAINST FAKHRUL Indictment hearing deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court for the sixth time yesterday deferred until March 10 the hearing on charge framing against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 28 others in a blast case.

The court passed the order after lawyers for Fakhrul and nine of the others sought adjournment through a petition.

The case was filed against the 29 for aiding and abetting bombings inside the Secretariat in April last year.

Meantime, the Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that on January 21 granted six months' bail to Fakhrul in a case filed for blasting cocktails in the city's Motijheel area during a road blockade on December 9 last year.

# Obituary

METRO DESK



Syed Abdul Matin, a former businessman and son of late Syed Abul Mozaffar, died in the capital's United Hospital on Monday at the age of 90, says a press release.

He was buried at the Banani graveyard.



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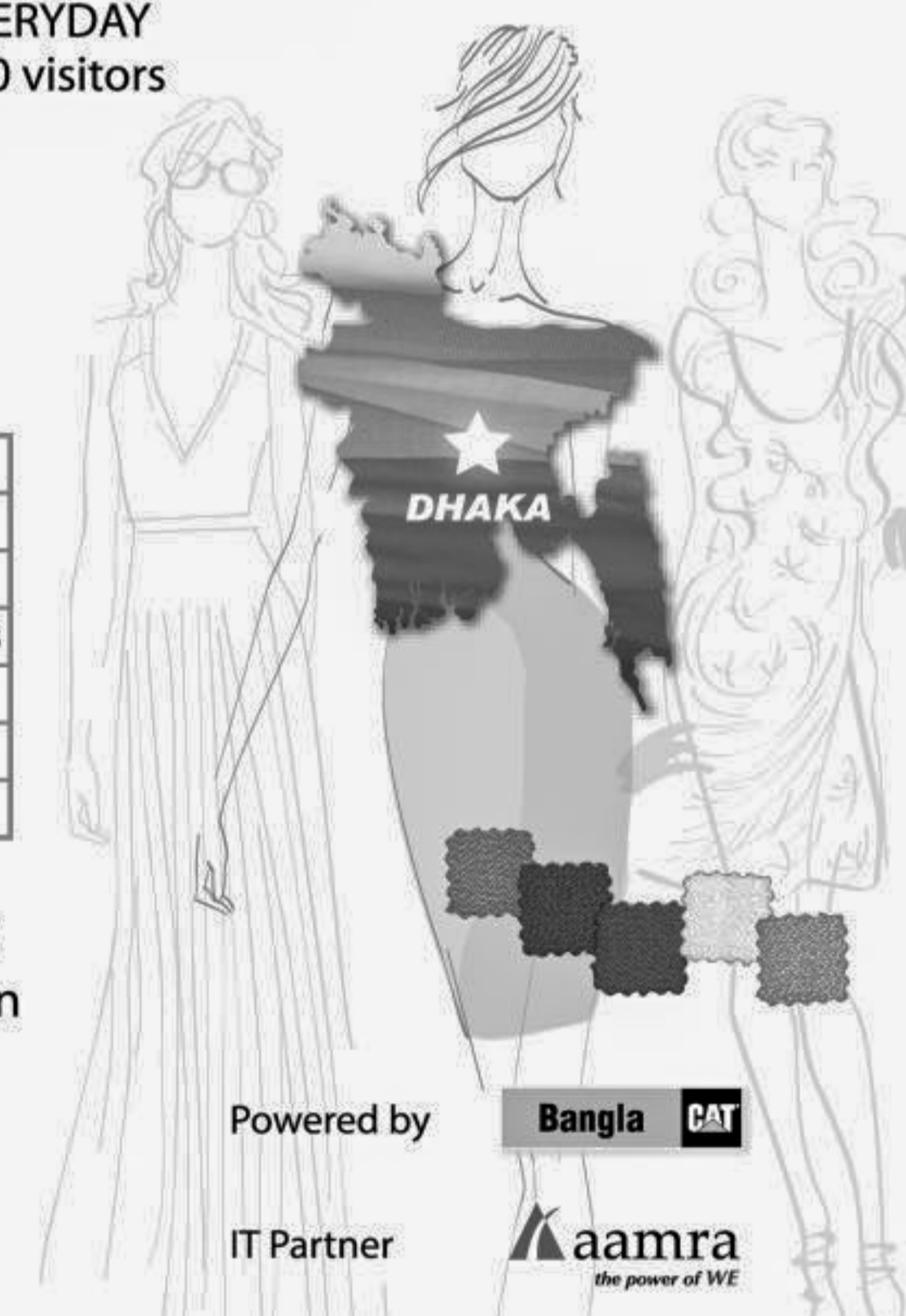
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