

**Cop jailed for embezzlement**

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**  
A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a suspended police constable to two years' rigorous imprisonment in connection with a case filed for misappropriating Tk 10 lakh of a member of lower subordinate services (MLSS) in 2010. Metropolitan Magistrate Amit Kumar Dey handed down the sentence in presence of convict Mohammad Hasanuzzaman. The court also fined him Tk 10,000, in default of which he will have to suffer one more month in jail. Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of seven prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, the then constable of Razarbagh Police Lines took Tk 10 lakh sometime between May 18 of 2009 and July 30 of 2010 from Mohammad Mojibur Rahman, a MLSS at Privatization Commission of Prime Minister's Office, on excuse that the convict would buy 12 kathas of land in Gazipur. But, he not only made any steps for buying a single piece of land, but also refused to repay the money he received from the complainant, it said. Moreover, he had threatened the complainant to kill in crossfire, said the case statement. On September 20, 2010, the complainant filed a case against constable Hasanuzzaman with Shahabgh Police Station. The investigation officer of the case pressed charge against the accused on December 13 in the same year.



**A mobile street shop selling beef rolls and fried spicy items to the crowd of Shahabgh movement. Inset, another vendor making toasts with eggs. The photos were taken recently.**

PHOTO: STAR

**Shahabgh brings boon for street food vendors**

ANJA BURRI

A man balances a huge plastic bag filled with dough shells on his head. He hardly can make it through the crowd on Projonmo Chattar. Md Shahab Uddin, a seller of bhelpuri, is waiting desperately for that man. He has run out of the shells to make the popular snack in the middle of the day. "I have never sold more bhelpuris than here," Shahab Uddin told The Daily Star recently. In spite of a huge competition, the sales are on a record high at the protest scene. Compared to ordinary days, Shahab Uddin's sales have grown from Tk 2,000-Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000-Tk 5,000 per day. The seller wants to spend some of the extra money for new food, but also for some furniture, he said. Normally, one has to go to the New Market or some particular spots in the city to get bhelpuri. But since the food salesmen have installed themselves on Projonmo Chattar, this variation of fuchka

is available next to other street food like fried lobster heads, shrimp pakora, mixed chola, guava and star fruit with mustard or puri. Every salesman approached by The Daily Star appeared happy with the business. They profit not only by the crowds on Projonmo Chattar, but also by the visitors of the ongoing one-month book fair on the nearby Bangla Academy premises. Md Nipob Hossain, a seller of spicy puffed rice, has almost doubled his sales. Normally, the light snack brings in about Tk 800 per day. But on the protest square his sales are around Tk 1,500 daily. Next to the fried, spicy and salty specialties, healthier options like beautifully carved carrots, hog plums or cucumbers are also popular. Shaheen Rassel raised his carrot sales from Tk 1,000 to Tk 2,000 per day, he said. For sweet lovers, Projonmo Chattar offers a wide range of savories--rice pudding, soan papri, candy floss or dried mango beside different types of candies.

**Man stabbed, mugged in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of muggers stabbed a sales representative of Banglalink, a mobile phone operator, and snatched away Tk 3.3 lakh from him in Jurain area of the capital yesterday. The victim identified as Noor Alam, 30, is a sales representative of NTC distribution centre of the Banglalink. At around 1:15pm, he had collected Tk 3.3 lakh from different shops providing Banglalink i-top service at Jurain Rishipara. Around five armed muggers waylaid him in an alley of the area and snatched his bag carrying the money. The criminals stabbed him in the abdomen and right hand as he tried to resist them. Later, the miscreants fled the scene after firing several blank shots, witnesses said. Local people took Noor Alam to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the afternoon. Faruk Hossain Shihab, monitoring officer of the NTC distribution centre of the cellphone operator, told The Daily Star that their representatives fell victims to mugging for eight times during the last six years in the area. The miscreants snatched over Tk 50 lakh from them during the period, he added.

DEALING WITH JUSTICE MIZANUR RAHMAN  
**Law minister waits for president, CJ's decision**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed is waiting to see what steps the president and the chief justice take against Justice Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan and will take steps based on those. Mizanur, on February 18, distributed a February 17 Inqilab news report among other judges, including the chief justice. The report is on alleged blogposts of Shahabgh movement activist Ahmed Rajib Haidar, mentioning him as a murtad (non-believer). Assailants hacked to death Rajib near his residence in the capital's Pallabi on February 15. Last Tuesday, Shafique assured lawmakers of discussing with the chief justice to form a Supreme Judicial Council for taking action against Mizanur for "misconduct". Yesterday, Shafique told The Daily Star that he had not had the discus-

sion. "The president and the chief justice can take appropriate measures against Justice Mizanur as per Article 96 of the constitution, as they are aware of the issue," Shafique said. After receiving information on allegation against any judge of gross misconduct, the president may direct the council, comprising the chief justice and the two next senior judges of the Appellate Division, to inquire into the matter and report its finding. "If, after making the inquiry, the Council reports to the President that in its opinion the Judge has ceased to be capable of properly performing the functions of his office or has been guilty of gross misconduct, the President shall, by order, remove the Judge from office," states Article 96 (6).

RAJIB MURDER  
**Dhaka court asks for DNA test of evidence**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the director of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital to conduct DNA test of hair and blood samples found at the scene where blogger Ahmed Rajib Haidar was murdered. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Bikash Kumar Saha passed the order following a petition submitted to the court in this regard. DB Inspector Mainul Islam, also an investigation officer, filed the petition seeking the court's permission for identifying the hair, which was found stuck in Rajib's palm, and the blood on his laptop. In the petition, Mainul said conducting DNA test was necessary to identify the hair and blood evidences found. Criminals hacked to death Rajib on the road near his house at Palash Nagar in the capital's Pallabi on Friday night. He was an activist of the ongoing movement at Shahabgh demanding capital punishment for the war criminals of 1971. Meanwhile, police are yet to make any headway into the investigation of Rajib's murder.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS  
**HC stays recruitment process**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the process for appointment to 2,077 posts of medical technologists for the next three months. In response to a writ petition, the court also issued a rule upon the government to explain in three weeks why its advertisement for appointment to the posts should not be declared illegal. The ad was published by the Directorate General of Health Services in the daily Jugantor on January 18. It states that only candidates completing three years' diploma from the Institute of Health Technology under the State Medical Faculty of Bangladesh can apply. Six candidates holding medical diploma under Bangladesh Technical Education Board filed the writ petition with the High Court on February 19 challenging the legality of the conditions. Petitioners' counsels -- Mahub Shafique and KM Hafizul Alam Hafiz -- told the court yesterday that the conditions were discriminatory because their clients cannot apply despite completing medical diploma under Bangladesh Technical Education Board. The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Zafar Ahmed stayed the effectiveness of the advertisement and issued the rule. Deputy Attorney General Mokhesur Rahman represented the government.

**Half of population lack access to quality toilets**  
*Knowledge dissemination programme told*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around half of the population in Bangladesh lack access to hygienic, good quality toilets, said speakers at a programme yesterday. They stressed that instead of setting up free but low quality toilets for poor people, focus should be given on promoting sanitation reform through affordable toilets that suit the local condition of the community. The knowledge dissemination programme on sanitation marketing was organised by Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP) of the World Bank at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital. Though around 96 percent of people around Bangladesh have access to toilets, less than half of them have access to good quality toilets, said speakers. "At current, free toilets are targeting the need for basic sanitation but we need to move from that to improved and comfortable sanitation facilities to ensure better health for people," said Rokeya Ahmed, water and sanitation specialist of WSP. Sanitation marketing involves private entrepreneurs to produce multiple sanitation products at affordable costs for poor people, she said. Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan, secretary of Local Government Division, said the government is planning to arrange soft loans with minimum interest rates for private entrepreneurs in the sanitation sector.

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