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The archbishop hopes to see a "truly free" Myanmar  
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## MONEY LAUNDERED BY KOKO

# Tk 8cr on way from Singapore



**KOKO**  
Siphoned over Tk 20cr to Singapore. He and an ex-BNP minister's son received the amount in bribe from Siemens and China Harbour. Jailed for 6yrs, fined Tk 38.83cr in 2011.

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A Singapore court yesterday directed the authorities to send back to Bangladesh around Tk 8 crore that was laundered by BNP Chairperson's youngest son Arafat Rahman Koko and one of his associates about nine years back.

On November 22 last year, the Anti-Corruption Commission brought back from Singapore 2.04 million Singaporean dollars (about Tk 13 crore) laundered by Koko and Ismail Hossain Saimon, son of former BNP minister Akbar Hossain, following a similar order by the same court.

On his return from Singapore, Attorney General Mabubey Alam told The Daily Star last night that the laundered money was deposited with the account of Lim Siew Cheng, a Singaporean businessman, at Singapore Overseas Bank.

Singapore's Subordinate Court-16 asked the bank to send back the money to the ACC in Bangladesh, said Alam, who flew to Singapore on Monday to attend the hearing on the money laundering case.

Koko set up a firm, Fairhill Consulting Ltd, in Singapore with the help of Cheng, who admitted to the

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Shahbagh activists led by Imran H Sarker march to the home ministry yesterday to submit a memorandum demanding arrest of daily Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman.

PHOTO: STAR

Today at 3 pm  
2013 FEBRUARY 27 WEDNESDAY  
Rally at Motijheel intersection in Dhaka

## PARLIAMENT PETITION COMMITTEE

# Inactive for 38 years

Citizen's voices never heard in JS

**RASHIDUL HASAN**

The Parliament Petition Committee, the only House body through which people can participate in the law making process, remains practically inactive since its inception 38 years ago.

Following the footsteps of many world democracies, the committee was introduced in the country in 1975 so that people can have their voices heard in parliament through

this body and seek remedies to their problems.

But, parliament experts and lawmakers say, the House committee by remaining inactive has been depriving citizens of their lawful rights. This committee remains inoperative all these years due to "insincerity" on the part of the parliament authorities.

Moreover, most people are not aware of the committee and its function, they add.

"Many issues of public importance could have been resolved had the Petition Committee worked properly," parliament expert AK Mohammad Hossain told The Daily Star.

Parliament sources say more than 1,039 bills were passed by the Jatiya Sangsad in the last 38 years. But not a single citizen participated in the law-making process through the committee.

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**Stay alert**  
Govt sends SMS to all mobiles over defaming Islam

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government is determined to put a stop to defaming of Islam and Prophet Muhammad (SM), according to an SMS sent to citizens yesterday.

The text message, sent by the information ministry, urges the people to remain alert to circulation of fictitious publications dishonouring the Prophet (SM) as well as bids to

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## Never against religion

Reaffirm Shahbagh youths, bin propaganda by extremist forces, submit memo to home ministry for arrest of Mahmudur over instigation

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Reiterating that the Gonojagoron Mancha has never denigrated any religion and will never do so, the Shahbagh protesters yesterday strongly condemned the radical forces for spreading anti-Islamic propaganda and shifting the blame onto the protesters.

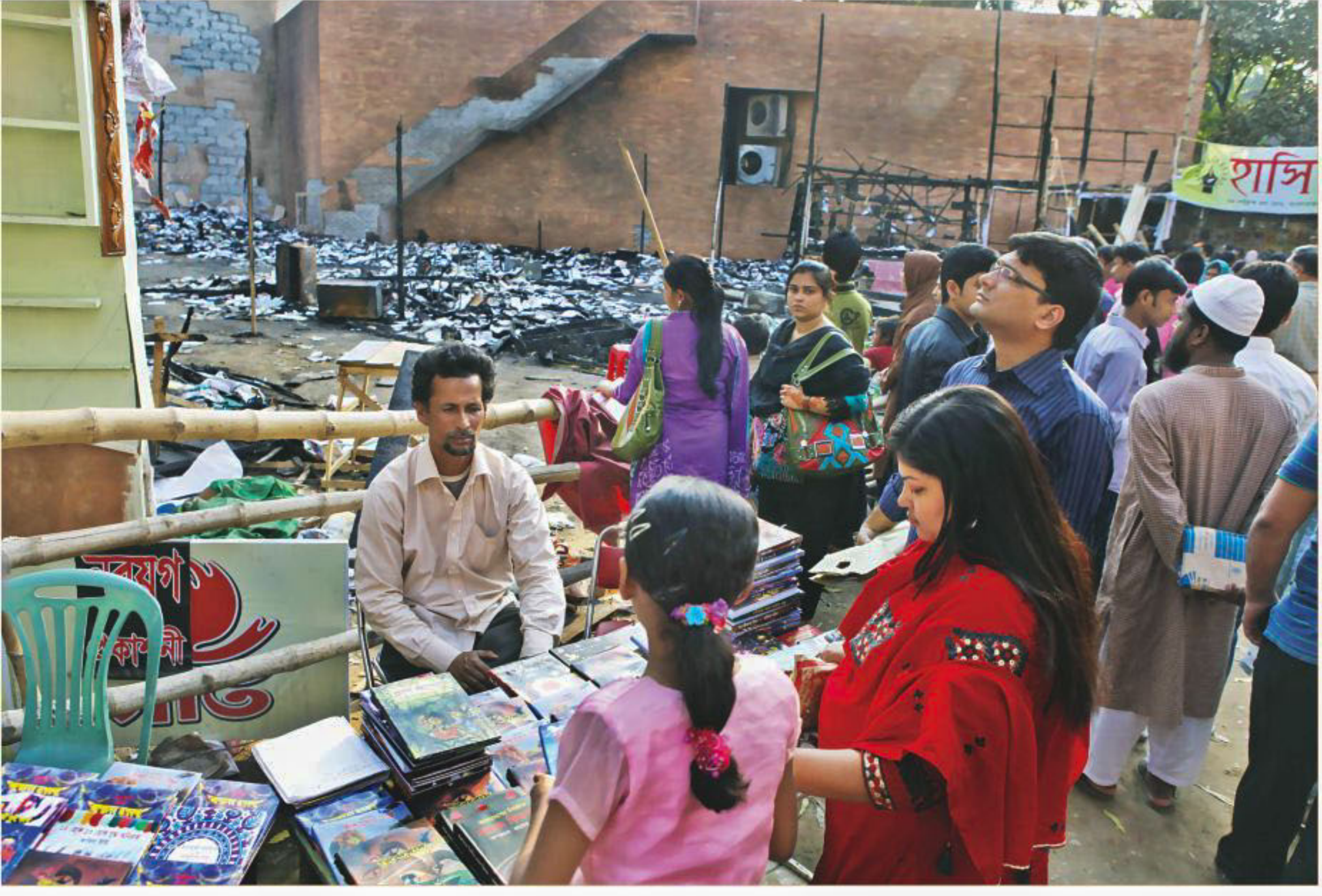
Addressing the demonstrators at the Projonmo Chattar and the nation at large, Imran H Sarker, convener of Blogger and Online Activist Network, said the anti-

liberation forces were exploiting the religious sentiments of devotees for political gains.

"Just as in 1952 attempts were made to establish Bangla as a Hindu language, the Liberation War of 1971 was termed anti-Islam. In the same way war criminals are terming anti-Islam a legitimate movement for justice," he said.

Highlighting the "ill-attempts made by Jamaat-Shibir" to confuse and mislead

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A salesman sets up a table in Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday for selling books as his stall was burned early Monday.

## BNP now ridicules Shahbagh protest

Wonders 'how blogger Rajib lived so long'; where all those food come from

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The BNP yesterday accused the Shahbagh youths and the government of dividing the nation in the name of the Projonmo Chattar movement.

It also said the Shahbagh demonstration was a "government-backed hocus-pocus" designed to divert people's attention from the Hasina administration's failures and corruption in various sectors.

The observations came at a rally in front of the BNP headquarters at Nayapaltan in the capital.

Around two weeks back, the main opposition party hailed the youths-led Shahbagh movement for capital punishment to 1971 war criminals.

Yesterday's rally was organised to protest the killing of four people in police firing in Manikganj during the February 24 hartal called by some Islamist parties.

At the gathering, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam

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## Jamaat men hurl bombs at lawmen

10 arrested

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir yesterday hurled homemade bombs at law enforcers at different points of the capital as they tried to stage demonstrations and damage vehicles.

Police picked up 10 Jamaat-Shibir men.

Around 200 Jamaat-Shibir men brought out a procession in Tikatuli around 9:00am, protesting the recent death of Shibir leader Ali Azgar Khan

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## CARGO SHIP DETAINED BY INDIA FOR 5 MONTHS

# Crew left in the lurch

Bangladeshi owner found defaulter on many counts

**TAWFIQUE ALI and M RAHMAN**

A cargo ship with 19 Bangladeshi staffs has been kept detained for five months at Visakhapatnam seaport in India, due to its lack of safety measures and the owner's dues to India and Sri Lanka.

All the 24 crew of the ship, of whom five are Pakistanis, have been passing their days without adequate food, drinking water and fuel for the

last two weeks, as the owner company's local agent has stopped the supply on the plea that the owner was not paying the dues.

Mujibur Rahman Milon, owner of Silvia Ship Management, to which the ship belongs, had snapped contact with the crew almost two months ago, said Shahnaz Rahman, wife of the ship's

Bangladeshi captain.

Milon, who is based in Singapore, has not paid the crew for seven months, she said, adding that the crew had run out of supplies and been having difficulties in communicating with their families from the outer anchorage of the port.

Shahnaz has appealed to the

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Captain Habibur

**RUSSIAN EMBASSY IN BANGLADESH AWARDS KASPERSKY LAB AND BANGLADESH DISTRIBUTOR**

Dhaka. Feb 24, 2013: Embassy of the Russian Federation in Bangladesh awards Kaspersky Lab for outstanding contribution to cyber security in the Bangladesh.

and its distributor in Bangladesh- Office extracts from the Bangladesh digital sector and promotion of Russian technology in Bangladesh.

Photo profile: H.E The Ambassador Mr. Alexander A. Nikolaeov presenting the award to Mr. Prabeer Sarker, CEO, Office extracts and Mr. Altaf Halde, Managing Director Kaspersky Lab South Asia.

**KASPERSKY**