



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

LIFE
style

TOO MANY PROJECTS

Govt mulls 1,993 ADP schemes
for the upcoming fiscal year

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UKRAINE CRISIS

Putin orders his troops to withdraw
from Ukraine border

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Exit: Expected

No reason shown for quick removal of additional attorney general; PM was unhappy at his role over HC order to arrest 3 ex-Rab officials

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and SHAKHAWAT LITON

In a sudden move, the government yesterday relieved Additional Attorney General MK Rahman of his post without showing any reason.

The government order means he may also lose the post of chief coordinator of the prosecution team at the International Crimes Tribunals.

Sources in the attorney general's office said his services were terminated as the government was annoyed with him over a number of issues.

Rahman did not make any strong arguments against the High Court order that asked the authorities to arrest three former Rab officials for their alleged involvement in the abduction and killing of seven people in Narayanganj. And the govern-



MK Rahman

ment was irked by this, added the sources, requesting anonymity.

He also had a conflict with the prosecution team at the tribunals.

Contacted, Rahman said he did not know why he had been relieved of the post. "The government is the authority to appoint anyone to this post or relieve him. I am fine. I tried my best to do my work properly."

Appointed to the post in March 2009, he performed his official duties all day yesterday until he was relieved in the afternoon. He was attending a UNDP-organised workshop for government law officers at the attorney general's office when the gazette of the termination order came, sources said.

He received the order around 5:15pm.

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Delay in approval of
project proposalsInefficiency of
executing agencies
and line ministriesSlow recruitment
of consultantsDelay in resettlement
and land acquisitionDelay in project
implementation

NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

Recipe for failure

ADB analysis finds half the time elapses before 20pc fund released

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government's project implementation is so slow that by the time it releases 20 percent of a project's fund, half the project time elapses, according to the Asian Development Bank.

An ADB portfolio review mission recently analysed 58 projects funded by the bank, and showed how slow disbursement affects

project implementation.

For example, the \$400 million Sustainable Power Sector Development Project, approved in June 2007, was scheduled to be completed by 2013. But almost 45 percent of the project time had elapsed before 20 percent of the fund was disbursed, show ADB data.

Similarly, the \$3.85 million Power Sector Development Project faced delays. Almost

89 percent of the project time elapsed before the government released 20 percent of the amount.

"The delay in the initial disbursement is mostly a result of poor project readiness," says an ADB report.

Assessing ongoing projects, the ADB says it requires about 13 months on average for approving a loan and making the first

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A man carries a basket loaded with pineapples to the shore from boats that brought them there from remote areas of Rangamati. The hilly regions of Rangamati are renowned for sweet pineapples and jackfruits which are in season now. The photo was taken at Rangamati town.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKHI

18 Rab men withdrawn

Drama over news on DMP portal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab yesterday withdrew its 18 members, including a company commander, from Rab-3 over an allegation of "embezzling money" seized during the arrest of four persons in the capital's Mugda on May 14.

They have been attached to the headquarters, according to Rab officials.

Mugda police said they found inconsistencies between an arrestee's statement and the first information report of a case filed over the

seizure of yaba pills and money from the four.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday morning uploaded on its online news portal a report that the Rab men were withdrawn over an allegation of embezzling money.

But, interestingly, the news was taken off the portal after two hours.

In a brief explanation last night, the DMP said the news was uploaded on the portal based on information from other news portals. It later withdrew the news as it didn't

go with DMP's publishing policy.

Meanwhile, the Rab headquarters blamed the DMP for publishing "false news deliberately".

In a statement last night, it said such news has not only tainted the image of Rab but also demoralised the members of the reputed law enforcement agency.

Rab, however, said some Rab-3 members were attached to the headquarters, which it said is a normal practice for

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NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM Hathurusingha new head coach

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Sri Lanka Test batsman Chandika Hathurusingha has been appointed the new head coach of the Bangladesh cricket team. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officially announced his name yesterday as the successor to Shane Jurgensen, who had suddenly resigned from the post without completing his contract, which was till 2015 World Cup.

The board has signed a two-year deal with the 45-year-old coach -- who played 26 Tests and 35 ODIs for Sri Lanka between 1991 and 1999 -- starting from July 1, 2014 but the Sri Lankan fondly known as Hathuru agreed to join the team before the three-match ODI series against India at home next month. Hathurusingha is likely to arrive in Dhaka on June 10 to guide the Tigers in the series starting on June 15.

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ABDUCTION FOR RANSOM 7-year-old boy found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A boy of seven, who was abducted about three days ago, was found dead at Puran Bogra of Bogra district town last evening.

The dead is Siam Hossain, son of CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Belal Hossain of Puran Bogra Paschim Para. He was a student of class two of Wapda Government Primary School.

Family sources said a gang kidnapped Siam on Saturday noon when he was playing with his friends beside Bogra-Shantahar rail route.

The abductors initially demanded a ransom of Tk 3 lakh from the family over mobile phone. Agreeing to the condition set by the kidnappers for a ransom payment of Tk 80,000, the family kept the money at an abandoned building at Phulbari in the town. But the abductors did not keep their word, sources said.

The abductors also threatened to kill Siam if the family informed the police, sources added.

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PM calls for saving rivers

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the ministries concerned to take strict measures to free major rivers in Dhaka and Chittagong from grabbing and pollution.

"You have to free the Buriganga, Turag, Balu, Shitalakkhya and Karnaphuli [in Chittagong] from grabbing and pollution

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Rift intensifies in war crimes prosecution

Preparations for case against Jamaat stalled

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The escalating power struggle within the prosecution team of the international crimes tribunal has now made uncertain the filing of the war crimes case against the Jamaat-e-Islami.

Since April 30, there has been a chief prosecutor and an acting chief prosecutor of the team.

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