

Apex court stays resumption of trial against BNP's Aminul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed till July 14 a High Court verdict that cleared the way for the lower court to resume the trial proceedings against former BNP posts and telecommunications minister Aminul Haque and one of his relatives in a money laundering case.

Anti Corruption Commission filed the case on June 7, 2012 in Dhaka against Aminul and Mizanur Rahman, one of Aminul's US expatriate relatives, over laundering US \$ 17.08 lakh after taking it as bribe from cellphone company Siemens Bangladesh to help it win government contracts between 2001 and 2006.

Yesterday, the chamber judge passed the order after hearing two petitions filed by Aminul and Mizanur, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star. Earlier on May 19, the HC rejected the two petitions.



President Abdul Hamid hands over an award to an injured Bangladeshi peacekeeper at a programme marking International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2016 in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday. Twenty-nine other injured and the families of six peacekeepers killed during their duties in UN peacekeeping missions also received the awards. PHOTO: PID

CELEBRATING LIFE 2016 Youth in Change this year's theme

CITY DESK



Organisers yesterday announced "Youth in Change" as the theme of this year's Celebrating Life, a nationwide competition of film, photography, and lyrics.

Celebrating Life is a joint collaboration of The Daily Star and Stand

ard Chartered Bank (SCB), which focuses on bringing out young talents in the above-mentioned areas.

Bitopi Das Chowdhury, head of Corporate Affairs at SCB, and Rafi Hossain, festival director of Celebrating Life 2016, made the announcement through a press conference at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

Submissions in the respective categories will open in June-August, says a press release. Further details are available at www.celebratinglifebd.com. This year marks the ninth edition of the programme.



Bitopi Das Chowdhury

Freedom of expression being threatened

Memorial discussion on slain RU teacher Rezaul Karim told

DU CORRESPONDENT

Academics and right activists yesterday observed that freedom of expression in the country was being threatened, leading to serial killing of teachers and free thinkers.

They also condemned the murders of free thinkers and accused the government of failing to prevent the zealots.

They made the remarks in a discussion and memorial meeting organised by ex-students of Rajshahi University at Senate Building of Dhaka University, protesting the murders of university teachers, including of AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee.

Rights activist Sultana Kamal said these brutal killings were a part of the conspiracy to annihilate the country's intellectuals, which had begun through the murder of the 1971 intellectuals. "The culture of impunity is responsible for such killings..." she added.

Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman said, "Our lives are threatened if we do not follow the fundamentalist form of religions."

Prof Salimullah Khan, Prof Sahidur Rahman and the family members of Rezaul also spoke. Candles were lit before the portraits of the teachers assassinated between 2000 and 2016.

India moves to cut visa middlemen

Launches special Eid visa camp

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In an attempt to remove sufferings of Indian tourist visa seekers, the High Commission of India (HCI) in Bangladesh is introducing SMS-based appointment and One Time Password (OTP) for the Bangladeshi Tourist Visa applicants, said an HCI press release.

Currently, the tourist visa seekers need to pay at least Tk 4,000 to the "unscrupulous agents" for getting appointment dates, mentioned the press release.

With the introduction of the OTP system, the applicants will no longer need to pay money to anyone or wait for long time to get the appointment date as they will get the appointment date outright.

Under the new system, beginning from today, appointment date for Tourist Visa applicants including One-Time Password will be sent to the applicants' cell phones through SMS.

It will be mandatory for the applicants to

show the SMS at the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) to enter and deposit the applications.

This will, however, not apply to the Tourist Visa applicants who have already received appointment dates up to June 5, 2016.

EID VISA CAMP

The high commission is also organising an "Eid Visa Camp" from June 4-16 for Bangladeshi nationals wishing to travel to India during the upcoming Eid holidays, said another press release.

Visa applicants can submit their tourist visa applications on a walk-in basis without a prior appointment date/e-token at the Eid Visa Camp to be held at the new Chancery Complex of HCI in the capital's Baridhara, which will be open from 8:00am to 2:00pm from June 4-16, except Friday. The applicants with appointment dates can submit their visa applications at any of the IVACs in Dhaka, Barisal, Mymensingh and Khulna.

IUB celebrates Kazi Nazrul's 117th birth anniversary

CITY DESK

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) yesterday organised a daylong programme to celebrate the 117th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

The Department of English and Kazi Nazrul Islam-Abbasuddin Ahmed Research and Study Centre of IUB jointly organised the programme on the Bashundhara campus of the university. Nazrul researcher Prof Rafiqul Islam; granddaughter of the poet Khilkhil Kazi; and renowned singer Mustafa Zaman Abbasi were present among others.

NEWS IN brief

Canada provides relief for cyclone Roanu victims

CITY DESK

Canada is providing relief for the victims of cyclone Roanu, said a press release yesterday.

Canadian High Commissioner HE Benoit-Pierre Laramée said Canada is providing over CAD 292,500 to the victims through Plan International and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). It will support the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene services for around 5,373 people in Bhola. This project will be implemented through South Asia Partnership Bangladesh.

Rejoinder

Mehedi Masud, the zonal commander of Bangladesh Coast Guard, Sundarbans' West Zone, at Mongla, Bagerhat, yesterday sent a rejoinder to a report titled "25 fishermen abducted from Sundarbans", published in The Daily Star on May 28.

The report quoted Mehedi Masud as saying they were not aware of the abduction. However, in the rejoinder, the Coast Guard says our reporter concerned did not communicate with him. We apologise for the mistake.

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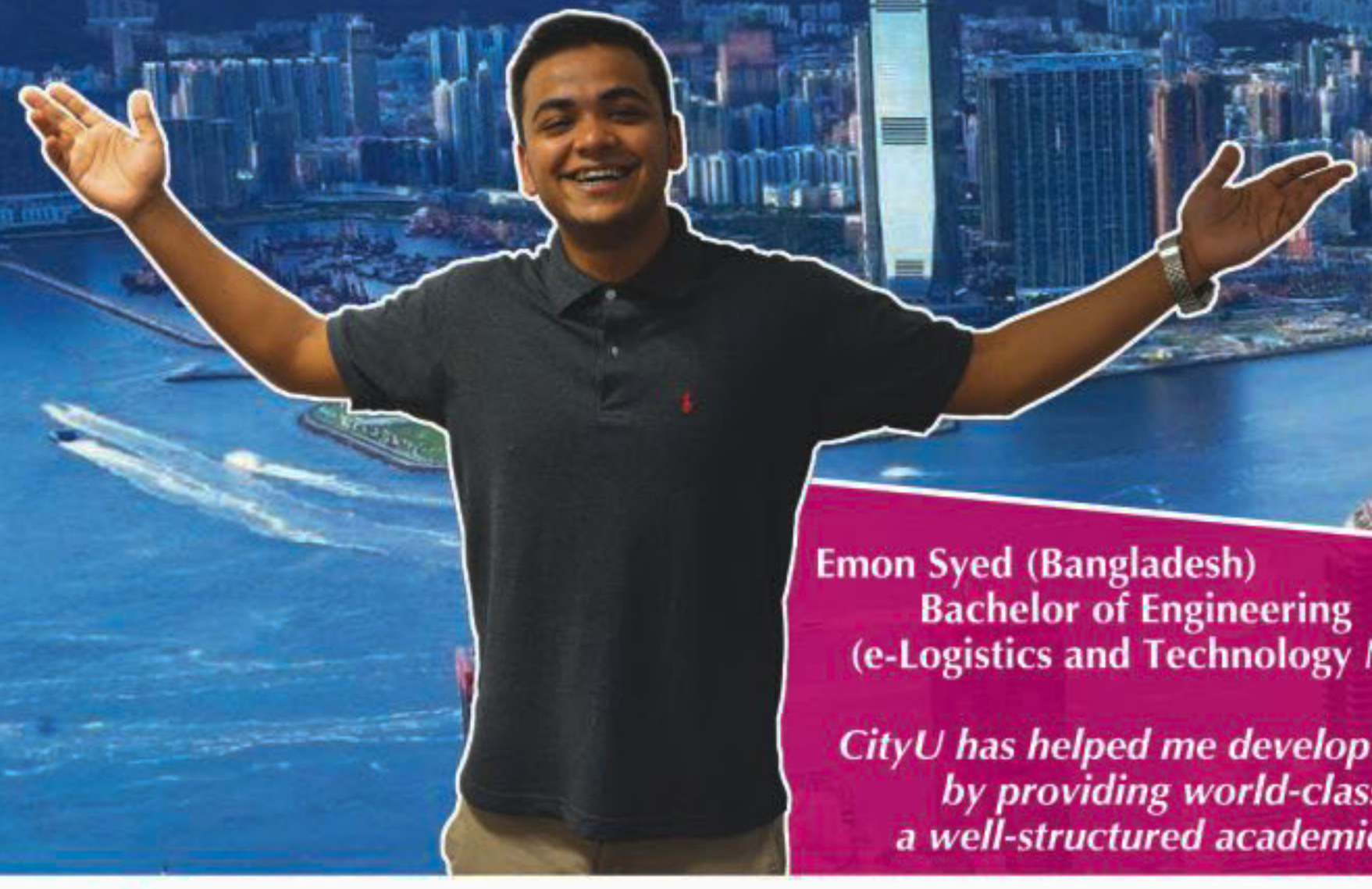
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