

FARMERS BANK SCAM Chisty's arrest on 2-day fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed former chairman of Farmers Bank Audit Committee Mahbubul Haque Chisty on a two-day fresh remand in a Tk 160 crore graft case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Fahad Bin Amin Chowdhury passed the order after Shamsul Alam, deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Commission and also the case's investigating officer, produced him before the court with a five-day fresh remand prayer.

Chisty was produced before the court yesterday on completion of his five-day remand.

On April 10, ACC filed a case with Gulshan Police Station and he was arrested the same day.

Meanwhile, the same court yesterday placed SM Nazmul Huq, chief engineer and surveyor of the Department of Shipping, on a one-day remand in a bribery case.

On April 12, ACC arrested him while he was taking bribe.



Students of Dhaka University under the banner of "Students against Repression" form a human chain demanding safety and stability on the campus. They condemned the recent wave of unrest that followed the quota reform movement. A series of violent incidents took place during the movement including vandalism on the vice-chancellor's residence, student-police clash, harassment of protesters, and torture of female students in a residential hall. Since then unease has been prevailing on the campus. The photo was taken in front of the Raju sculpture yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Pro-AL panel sweeps DU syndicate polls

DU CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League-backed "White Panel" swept the Dhaka University syndicate elections yesterday.

The panel secured 12 out of the 13 positions, while BNP and Jamaat-backed "White Panel" got one post. DU Treasurer Prof Md Kamal Uddin, the election commissioner, announced the results around 3:00pm.

Six representatives were elected to the syndicate, six to the academic council and one to the finance committee.

The syndicate members-elect are Prof Hasanuzzaman, the only member from the white panel; Prof ASM Mahmud Kamal; Prof Rahmat Ullah; Associate Prof Md Humayun Kabir, Assistant Prof Md Mizanur Rahman, and Lecturer/Annat Naima.

The academic council members-elect are associate professors Alamgir Kabir and Nepal Chandra Roy, and assistant professors Ashraf Sadek, Farzana Ahmed, Saiful Alam Chowdhury and Sanchita Gulta. The finance committee member-elect is Prof Mumtazuddin Ahmed.

A total of 1,418 teachers cast their votes.

'BNP men' attack deputy minister Arif in London

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



BNP leaders and activists in the UK allegedly attacked Deputy Minister Arif Khan Joy yesterday afternoon near the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster.

Police arrested two persons in this connection, reports Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is in London now to participate in the Commonwealth meeting.

BNP leaders and activists in London are holding protest rallies against the PM's visit yesterday. Yesterday at around 3:30 local time, the premier joined a meeting of the heads of different countries at the conference centre while BNP leaders and activists were also holding a protest rally outside the venue. Next to the protesters, Awami League leaders and activists were also chanting slogans welcoming Hasina.

Witnesses said Joy was passing by some of the BNP protesters as he was entering the conference venue. Some of them made unparliamentary comments. At one stage, he was also physically harassed.

He ran to nearby BARSIC Bank for shelter. Some of the BNP leaders tried to protect him. In a social media video, it was seen that some BNP leaders were trying to protect Arif from agitators. Someone threw water on him. Arif was later rescued by police.

Brig Gen Mohammed Saidul Islam, the UK admitted incident. He told the Bangla daily that during their protest, Awami League leaders do not usually go near their events. "I don't understand why he would do that," Malek said if they had not protected the deputy minister, the situation could have deteriorated. He said the names of the detainees are Mani and Bappi.

UK General Secretary of AL Syed Sajjadur Rahman Faruk said, "It's hard to describe the foul play staged by BNP in a foreign country."

Ban cargo vessels through Sundarbans

Urge speakers at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rivers routes in the Sundarbans should be off-limits to all types of cargo vessels carrying coal, oil, chemical, cement and hazardous materials, for preserving the world's largest mangrove forest, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They also recommended imposing a ban on such vessels conducting through the Sundarbans and planning surveys on ecology and bio-diversity after a ship capsize.

They said the authorities' negligence and mismanagement were the reasons behind the recent capsize of a vessel in the Sundarbans.

At the same time, negligence and mismanagement were also behind the recent train accidents in the country.

The speakers demanded modernisation of the railway, increase of its manpower, locomotives and continuous monitoring and maintenance of the rail lines.

"Accidents are taking place due to a lack of accountability of the government and its associate bodies. They have to be brought under accountability to stop recurrence of such accidents," said Abdus Sobhan, general secretary of Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba).

Poba along with BARSIC and WBB Trust

organised the roundtable titled, "Reasons of Rail Accident and Capsize of Ship in Sundarbans and Responsibilities", at Poba's office in the capital.

Four people died and 26 were injured in a rail accident on Sunday while a vessel sank in the Sundarbans' Pashur river with 775 tonnes of coal after it ran aground Saturday night.

Ecologist and researcher Pavel Partha, in his written speech, said over a dozen ships and launches sank in rivers inside the Sundarbans in the last three decades.

In most cases, accidents occurred due to a fault in the vessels' design and negligence of the authorities concerned, he said.

He said such frequent accidents are harming the flora and fauna and putting the entire ecosystem at stake as well as breaking the food-cycle for the lives of the world's largest mangrove forest, also the largest harbor of Irraboti Dolphin, reports UNB.

He said the eastern side of the forest has been declared a world heritage site and the frequent incidents of fire and ship capsize are hurting the heritage site in a great danger.

Partha also feared that the river routes of the Sundarbans will be busier with the start of Ramdhan power plant project's work, and the incidents of capsize might

YEAR	AREA	WHAT HAPPENED
August 1994	Banisanita, Khulna	Oil tanker sinks, affects 20km
July 1, 1998	Near Mongla	Cargo vessel leaks, spreads diesel
August 10, 1998	Mazhar Point	Two-tanker collision spreads oil
September 30, 2014	Pashur Channel	NV Nayan Shri-3 capsizes with 600MT of raw materials of cement
September 12, 2014	Pashur Channel	NV Hazera-2 sinks with 630MT of raw materials of cement
November 24, 2014	Harintana Area	Passenger launch sinks, causing Tk 50cr worth of damage to forest
December 9, 2014	Shela River, Jaimainigol	Tanker with 3.57 lakh litres of furnace oil sinks; oil spills over 45 miles
October 27, 2015	Estuary of Shela, Rangpur	Shela River sinks with 510MT of coal
April 5, 2015	Sharanikola, Pashur	MV Jalenoze sinks with 500MT of Murate of Potash
March 19, 2016	Shela River	MV Sea Horse sinks with 1,235MT of coal
January 13, 2017	Hironpoint	MV Aichgati sinks with 1,000 MT of coal
April 14, 2018	Sundarbans	MV Bilash sinks with 775MT of coal

SOURCE: UNB

also increase.

He recommended conducting proper investigations into the recent ship capsize, publishing the probe report and bringing the perpetrators to book. He also recommended forming a cell with experts, environmentalists and journalists to prevent such incidents.

Prof A hmad M k r u z z a m a n

Majumder, chairman of the environmental science department of Stamford University Bangladesh, said both the railway and river transport are pro-people, cost effective and environment-friendly.

Instead of being patronised, both the sectors remain neglected. As a result,

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Holding a child, a woman walks through the narrow space between vehicles on the busy Gulshan-1 intersection in the capital. Due to absence of a foot overbridge in the area, pedestrians risk their lives to cross this intersection every day. The photo was taken in front of Navana Tower yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

At least give them NID cards

Say stakeholders about Bangladesh expatriates at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh expatriates should immediately be given national identification (NID) cards if it is not possible to ensure that they are voting rights right now, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

In this regard, the authorities should give priority to those who have machine readable passports (MRP), they said.

Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Adviser Dr Moshir Rahman said the NID card and MRP document should work jointly to provide smart NID cards to the expatriates.

In the process of enlisting expatriates as voters, there is a problem of those having dual citizenship, he said.

Addressing the programme, BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan said NID cards are not required to cast votes. So, expatriates should be given those immediately, he added.

Ambassadors from Italy, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, among others, gave their opinions.

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda and other election commissioners were also present on the occasion.

Among them Shah Alam and Fazul, both hailing from Munshiganj, were found unconscious inside a local bus named "Supravat Paribahan" in Gulistan area, Mojibul Islam, a relative of duo, said.

The duo, who were in wood processing business in Munshiganj, were travelling in the bus with Tk 4 lakh in their possession when they fell prey to the gang, said Mojibul, who took them to the hospital.

Another victim Suman, who works at the Sena Kalyan Bhaban, was rescued from Kakrail area in unconscious state. Anwar Hossain, who took Suman to DMCH, claimed his colleague also fell prey to the doping gang.

He, however, could not specify the amount of loss.

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Four fall prey to doping gangs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four persons fell victim to doping gangs, commonly known as "Ogan Party", in three separate areas of the capital yesterday.

The incidents took place in Gulistan, Kakrail and Mohakhali areas in the capital within several hours in the afternoon.

The victims were identified as Shah Alam, 35, his brother-in-law Fazul Mia, 40, Suman, 30, and Shahidul Haque, 55.

They were all rescued and taken to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) unconscious, the hospital authorities said.

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