



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sharing a lighter moment with children at Gono Bhaban premises yesterday, after giving away textbooks among students for the new year.

Masud Bin Momen new foreign secy

UNB, Dhaka

Masud Bin Momen has been made foreign secretary of Bangladesh as his predecessor M Shahidul Haque, the country's longest-serving foreign secretary, has gone on retirement.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a notification yesterday in this regard.

Masud previously served as secretary (Asia and Pacific) at the foreign ministry, after serving as permanent representative of Bangladesh at the United Nations.

He also previously served as Bangladesh's



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Over half of narcotics cases fail to convict the accused: DNC report

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Accused in over half of the cases filed by Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) are acquitted due to flawed and incomplete investigation, improper presentation of cases at the trial court and weakness in prosecution, according to a report by the government agency.

In the annual report, five years' average data between 2014 to 2018 shows that around 52.7 percent of completed narcotics cases ended in acquittal of the accused.

The situation in the first six months of 2019 was worse than the aggregate, with only 37 percent cases seeing conviction.

However, Mohammad Jamal Uddin Ahmed -- director general (DG) of DNC -- yesterday claimed that the situation has been improving in the last two years.

Addressing a briefing at DNC headquarters, Jamal Uddin said, "I feel no hesitation in disclosing that 40 percent of drug cases filed by our officials did not see conviction."

DNC is providing capacity-building training to officials for the last two years so they do not make mistakes in filing cases, said the DG in response to a journalist's question.

Between 2014 and June 2019, some

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YEAR	DISPOSAL OF CASES				PENDING CASES (UP TO JUNE 2019)
	Conviction	Rate	Acquittal	Total	
2014	1,716	53%	973	2,689	56,173
2015	892	47.6%	981	1,873	
2016	2,356	42%	2,992	5,348	
2017	1,016	40%	1,528	2,544	
2018	592	42%	843	1,435	
2019 (June)	209	37%	362	571	

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF NARCOTICS CONTROL, ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Traffic police killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A traffic police constable was killed in a road accident while on duty near Bahadur Shah Park in Old Dhaka yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Md Hasmat Ullah (45), a traffic constable of South Division.

Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Sutrapur Police Station, said a bus ran him over around 7:30am.

He died on the spot, said the OC.

Police arrested Abul Kalam, driver of the bus, and impounded a car that was also involved in the incident.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

'No failure here'

Brushing aside reports, Quader says number of accidents decreasing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While reports of police and Buet's Accident Research Institute (ARI) show that the number road accidents and casualties is on the rise, Road Transport and Brides Minister Obaidul Quader disagrees.

He said as per a World Health Organization (WHO) report, the number of road crashes and casualties in Bangladesh has declined. The minister, however, did not give any details of the report.

Quader, also general secretary of ruling Awami League, was speaking at a press briefing at his secretariat office yesterday.

According to police report, at least 2,713 people were killed and 2,949 injured in a total of 2,629 road accidents between January and August in 2019.

At least 2,635 people were killed and 1,920 injured in 2,609 road accidents in 2018.

These numbers, mentioned in the police reports, are significantly lower than reports published by different road safety organisations.

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Why should women use husbands' address in job application: HC asks BB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of a condition imposed by Bangladesh Bank (BB) in a job circular asking married female candidates for the post of assistant director (general) to mention their husbands' residential addresses as their permanent addresses in their application forms.

The court issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in four weeks why the condition imposed by the central should not be declared without lawful authority.

Secretaries to the ministries of public administration, commerce, and finance (finance division), deputy governor and general manager of human resources department of BB have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by two

rights organisations -- Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Nari Pakkha -- challenging the legality of the condition by BB authorities.

The central bank issued the job circular on December 1, inviting applications for the posts of assistant director (general).

In clause 14 of the circular, the BB authorities asked the married female candidates to mention their husbands' residential addresses as their permanent addresses in the application form.

BLAST and Nari Pakkha submitted the writ petition to the HC on December 30, saying the circular violated articles 28 and 29 of the constitution, as article 28 contradicts any kind of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth; and article 29 guarantees equal opportunity in public employment.

Advocate Aynun Nahar Siddiqua, Advocate SM Rezaul Karim and Advocate Ayesha Aktar appeared for the petitioners.



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