

## Prof N Islam refutes allegations

National Professor Nurul Islam has refuted allegations by certain quarters that the newly set up University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC), is facing acute financial difficulties due to misappropriation of its funds by some big fish associated with it.

Talking to UNB yesterday, he said there could not be a greater travesty of the truth.

Prof Islam, who is the President of the USTC and a well-known physician, said if anyone could prove defalcation of the USTC funds, he and his colleagues involved in this ambitious project would be ready to face all consequences.

He pointed out that a reputed chartered accountancy firm had been engaged to audit a statement of accounts and expenditure of the USTC.

Prof Islam noted with deep anguish that certain persons, who felt let down due to their non-inclusion in the management of this institution, were circulating all kinds of tendentious lies about it to create an impression among the people that the USTC had no future and would die a premature death.

He asserted that the USTC was fast coming up at its designated site near the Foy's lake in Chittagong city. Two large structures, one four-storied and another three-storied, have already been built to house different departments together with their classrooms, libraries and laboratories, etc.

Last year, 74 students were admitted in the MBBS course. In January this year, 34 more have been admitted in the Department of Pharmacy.

Prof Islam noted with satisfaction that the Medical and Dental Council of Bangladesh had already accorded recognition to the USTC, which was presently running two academic sessions, February-July and August-January, to avoid any sessions jam.

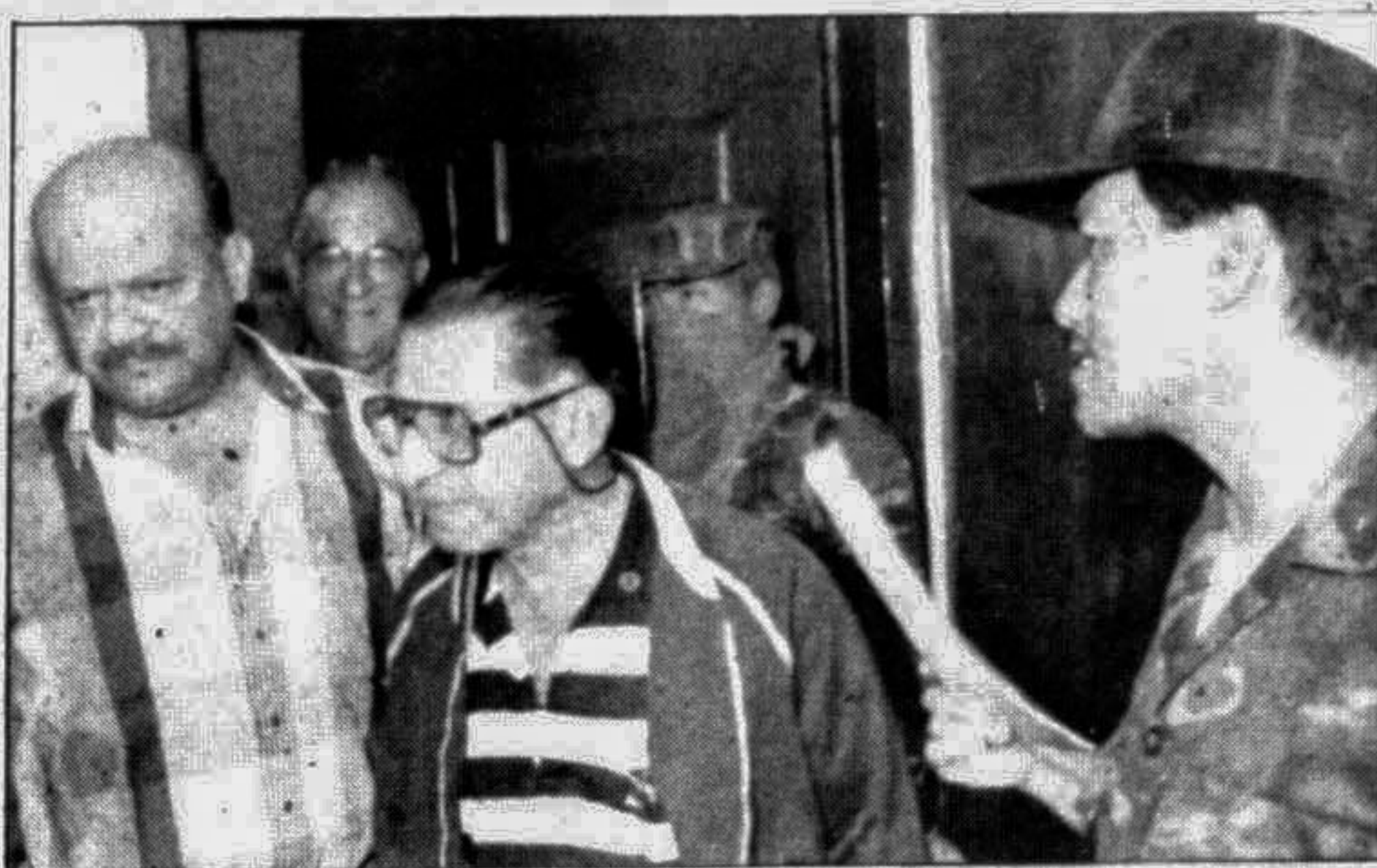
The tuition fees for 1st and 2nd year classes have been fixed at Tk 2000 a month and for 3rd and 4th year classes at Tk 2500 a month. Besides, a student is charged an admission fee of Tk one lakh 50 thousand. The exorbitant admission fee is taken as development charge.

Qualified senior teachers have been appointed to teach students admitted in the MBBS and Pharmacy courses and the laboratories so far set up are quite adequate to meet their requirement.

Prof Islam said students admitted to the MBBS course from 1989 onward under the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS) affiliated to the Chittagong University are now being asked to take their examinations under the USTC.

The IAHS had to get itself affiliated to the Chittagong University because the USTC was not there in those days. Now that the USTC has come into being, the IAHS students are being asked to get themselves transferred to the USTC, he explained.

But quarters hostile to the USTC are trying to mislead the IAHS students by saying that the USTC has no future and therefore they must not hitch their fate to the USTC. Professor Islam regretted.



Conservative lawmakers Dulio Baltodano (L) and Humberto Dona Delgado (C) leave the building Monday in Managua, Nicaragua where they have been held hostage by a group calling themselves the Dignity and Sovereignty commando. The group continues to hold 28 other hostages including Vice President Virgilio Godoy. — AFP photo

## CIS for common foreign policy

MOSCOW, Aug 24: Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), grouping most of the former Soviet republics, called for the restoration of a common foreign policy at an official meeting here today, reports AFP.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, in an opening statement, said the first goal of the joint policy would be to propose initiatives on controlling weapons of mass destruction, on environmental protection, and on anti-terrorist action, at the next UN Security Council session in September.

## JU to publish White Paper on campus crisis

By Staff Correspondent

The Jahangirnagar University Syndicate has decided to publish a White Paper on the existing crisis at the institution following an attack on teachers late last month.

The decision was adopted at a meeting of the JU Syndicate, summoned by the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof Abul Hossain Monday.

According to a Syndicate member on Tuesday, the meeting was held at the Administrative Building on the campus and continued till late in the evening.

With a single agenda — to review the JU situation — the Syndicate took a three-point resolution slating the government's 'indifference'.

Only one of the 21 students, against whom criminal charges were brought under Anti-Terrorism Act has been detained by police so far, the Syndicate observed.

The accused students were even seen at public meetings and press conferences despite the government's assurances to arrest the culprits, the Syndicate noted.

The Syndicate members obliquely hinted at the presence of one of the main accused, president of JU unit Jantiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Masud Hasan Talukdar Liton at a meeting attended by

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda at Savar on Monday.

The JU Syndicate also demanded dismissal of what it termed, 'baseless, false and fabricated cases' filed against ten teachers by Masud Hasan Talukdar.

Meanwhile, reopening of the institution seemed impossible with the JU authorities firm on their demands for the arrest of the students involved in the violent incidents of July 29.

The probe body formed by the government on August 7 is yet to start functioning. The authorities have already provided the enquiry commission three rooms to carry out its investigations. But so far the commission has not been seen on the campus, university sources said.

The three-week deadline for submitting the report, as assured by the Education Minister at a meeting with the JU teachers on August 7, ends on Saturday next. The original terms of reference (TOR) of the probe give it a three-month time-frame.

One Syndicate member, talking to The Daily Star, said 'only the government's sincerity in solving the problems can resolve the stalemate at the university.'

## 11 foreigners killed in Angolan fighting

SAO TOME, Aug 24: Eleven foreigners, five of them Portuguese, have been killed in the latest fighting in the besieged Angolan city of Cuito, Angolan state radio said, reports Reuters.

The radio, monitored in the nearby island state Sao Tome and Principe, said a Bulgarian, a Sao Tomen, two Congolese and two Zaireans were also among those killed on Monday night.

Cuito, on the eastern fringe of the central highlands, has been under siege by the rebel UNITA movement for eight months and several thousand people have been killed by fighting, famine and disease.

The UN special envoy to Angola, in Zimbabwe hoping to revive peace talks, said the situation in Angola was catastrophic, with more than 1,000 people a day dying directly or indirectly from the civil war.

The envoy, Aloune Blondin Beye, urged the international community to respond urgently to a UN appeal in June for 227 million US dollars in aid for Angola.

'Angola's humanitarian situation is catastrophic because there are 1,000 people dying every day directly or indirectly from war,' he told a news conference in Harare after talks on Angola with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe.

The Luanda government rejected an attempt by South Africa's Nelson Mandela and King Hassan of Morocco to arrange a peace summit to end the war.

The proposed summit between President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and UNITA rebel leader Joao Savimbi would be a waste of time, a presidential spokesman said.

The Foreign Office confirmed the two men have been granted visitor visas. A spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom, said 'it's up to them' to decide whether to apply for political asylum.

The Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of Iraqi opposition groups, identified the men as Hisham Al-Shawi, Iraq's ambassador to Canada, and Hamed Al-Jaburi, ambassador to Tunisia.



## Prof Farouk made BAU VC

MYMENSINGH, Aug 24: Prof Dr S M Farouk of the Department of Farm Power and Machinery has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) for a four-year term, reports UNB.

The new VC formally assumed office Monday afternoon following his appointment by the President and Chancellor of the Universities Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Born on August 19 in 1941, Dr Farouk hails from Mymensingh town. He did his Matriculation and I Sc from the Mymensingh Zilla School and Ananda Mohan College respectively and BSc Engg in Mechanical Engineering at the BUET in 1963. He earned an MS (Agri Engg) from the Texas A&M University in 1967 and PhD from the Oklahoma State University in 1979.

He joined the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Technology (AET) of the BAU in 1963 after a short period of service in the erstwhile EPWAPDA (Power Wing).

He also served as National Consultant in Agro-Industrial Training under an FAO/UNDP Project in 1985. He was also an honorary Member of the Bangladesh University Grants Commission during 1987-89.

Prof Farouk has a good number of technical reports and study papers published in national and international journals. He made extensive tours of the USA, India, China, Thailand, Australia, Germany, France and Pakistan.

He is married and has two sons.

## Decade action plan for girl child

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Welfare, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman reiterated the commitment of the present democratic government to provide health, education and nutrition requirement to the child population including the girl child.

The Finance Minister described the action plan as 'significant' in the context of attaining overall socio-economic development of the country.

Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Tariqul Islam, State Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman, State Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Women's Affairs Mrs Sarwari Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare Prof K M Fariduddin, Resident Representative of the UNICEF Ralph C Carriere and chairperson of the Bangladesh Shishu Academy Dr Quazi Anwar

Mansur also addressed the function held at the the Osmani Memorial Hall.

The Finance Minister said the implementation of the plan would help establish the constitutional rights of the girl child and at the same raise of their status in the society.

Referring to the various programmes taken up by the government for uplifting the fate of the girl population including the girl child, Rahman said top priority had been attached to the education of children.

In this connection, he mentioned the compulsory primary education programme and free female education programme upto the mid-level of high school.

The minister said a plan was also underway to introduce 'Food for Education Programme' on an experimental basis at least in one union in every thana of the country. He

harnessed with those of the non-governmental organisations.

Referring to child labour, Islam said legal and administrative measures had been taken to stop child labour. He also sought the cooperation of NGOs and voluntary organisations in this regard.

State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman said in the action plan, the situation of the girl child in the country, the national goals for the girl child, support from the Fourth Five-Year Plan (1990-95) with reference to women and children in particular had been analysed.

He said on the basis of analysis the Girl Child Decade Action Plan had been prepared with special emphasis on basic education, sanitation, health and nutrition and legal and social support.

He said the efforts of the government with regard to implementing the plan would be

## Mother Teresa improving

NEW DELHI, Aug 24: Mother Teresa told her doctors Tuesday she was feeling fine and would like to get out of hospital to go back to work — caring the poor, reports AP.

'But we had to tell her that she needs more rest,' said Bjoy Kumar Dash, spokesman of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, where the Roman Catholic nun has been treated for malaria since Friday.

He said Mother Teresa's fever had subsided and she had a restful night.

## Saudi market

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Irregular banking practices. It said in two articles published on Sunday and Monday 'The 121 billion dollars in financial reserves amassed by Saudi Arabia less than a decade ago have almost vanished, drained by expenditures for weapons, social programmes, foreign aid and the Gulf War.'

There has been no official Saudi reaction to the report.

Saudi dealers also said spot Saudi Riyal eased to 3.7505/07 to the dollar today from 3.7501/03 on Monday.

Long-dated Saudi Riyal Interbank Deposit rates climbed today on the report, trading 1/16 point higher.

## FBCCI chief

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age to labour, workers and employees should be discouraged and proper trade unionism at the plant-level should be practised.

The FBCCI chief appreciated the very important role of the Opposition in the progress of the country and thanked the leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina for meeting the business leaders.

He observed that continuation of such meetings would help in understanding and identifying national problems and finding their solutions.

## Diarrhoea

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According to the control room, the district-wide death toll since the outbreak of the disease this year are: Habiganj-81; Sylhet-5; Moulvibazar-18; Sunamganj-12; Feni-3; Brahmanbaria-3; Cox's Bazar-8; Comilla-5; Netrakona-4; and Kishoreganj-15.

The maximum number diarrhoea cases so far were reported from Habiganj with 5,488. Sylhet reported 1,622 cases, Sunamganj 997, Comilla 5,039, Cox's Bazar 1,563 and Kishoreganj 2,084 cases.

Health Department officials said contaminated drinking water was the primary cause of the diarrhoeal outbreak, mostly in the flood-hit areas of the country.

## Dr Kamal

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Some 3050 delegates, along with 2000 representatives from the districts, are expected to attend.

On the eve of the Grand Convention, the architects of the new party have been putting their best efforts to bring in more forces with them. The organisers, who are expecting a number of leading workers from the Ganatantri Party (GP), particularly at the district level, are still persuading some senior members of the GP to join the new party. The GP, in its National Council held earlier this week, decided not to join hands with Dr Kamal.

In another development, seven central leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB-reformist) including president members Ajoy Roy and Dr Wazedul Islam Khan, in a joint statement, said they would not involve themselves with the Grand Convention. These seven leaders already opposed joining the new party of Kamal at the central committee meeting of CPB (reformist) held 6 August.

Others who signed the statement were Barun Roy, Mota-haruddin, Maulana Hossain Ali, Abul Kalam Azad and Dabirul Islam, MP.

The Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of Iraqi opposition groups, identified the men as Hisham Al-Shawi, Iraq's ambassador to Canada, and Hamed Al-Jaburi, ambassador to Tunisia.

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## The Midnight File

### 20 killed in Afghan clashes

QUETTA, Aug 24: Rival Mujahideen guerrillas have fought with rockets near the Southern Afghan town of Kandahark, killing 20 people over the past three days, Mujahideen sources in neighbouring Pakistan said today. Clashes between the followers of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar began on Sunday in a dispute over the control of heavy weapons, said the sources in the northwestern Pakistani town of Quetta, reports Reuter.

### Ortega's move to resolve hostage crisis

EL ZUNIGANO (Nicaragua), Aug 24: Former President Daniel Ortega met with leftist gunmen in Managua and a Roman Catholic cardinal sought talks Tuesday with rebels in the north to try to free dozens of hostages kidnapped in the past week. Hope remained high for a negotiated and to the crisis after the two sides released five hostages Monday. That left 34 captives Tuesday, 18 held by gunmen in Managua and 16 by the rebels in northern Nicaragua, reports AP.

### Arab writer Aziz Lahbabi dies

RABAT, Aug 24: Mohamed Aziz Lahbabi, the first Arab writer to be nominated for a Nobel Prize, has died, Moroccan officials said Tuesday. Lahbabi died Monday after what was described as a long illness, a phrase often used to refer to cancer. He was more than 70, but his exact age was unclear. In 1987, he was nominated for a Nobel Prize in literature, the first Arab writer to become a candidate for the prestigious award, reports AP.

## Babangida to give up power tomorrow

LAGOS, Nigeria, Aug 24: Military dictator Gen Ibrahim Babangida will resign as president on Thursday, state radio reported, reports AP.

The general was expected to name his civilian successor later Tuesday.

Government-controlled radio gave no source for its Tuesday report.

An interim government, proposed by Babangida, is to take power Thursday instead of the winner of a June 12 election that Babangida orchestrated then annulled, claiming it was rigged.

Babangida initially promised an all-civilian interim government, then said soldiers also would take part. The decision brought charges that the plan was yet another ploy by the dictator to retain his eight-year grip on power.

The interim government is to be made up of a council of five soldiers and eight civilians that will continue to rule this country of 90 million people by military decree, according to previous statements from Babangida's vice president, Adm Augustus Aikhoma.

Pro-democracy groups have called a strike starting Wednesday to oppose the move, which they say will perpetuate military rule. The strike is also to press demands that the military honour the results of the June 12 election.

Washington said Tuesday it was considering further sanctions to force the general to announce the election results. The United States, Britain and other Western nations already have imposed limited sanctions.

Government-controlled radio said Babangida was meeting with senior army officers Tuesday to finalize details of the interim government, which would exclude the apparent winner of the June ballot, billionaire publisher and shipping magnate Moshood K O Abiola.

## Bosnian Croats

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Yugoslavia.

The food was expected to last about a week, said Lyddall Sachs, a UN spokeswoman in Sarajevo. It was unclear whether its contents were only for Muslims or whether the supplies would be shared with Croats, who have forced Muslims into areas cut off from aid.

About 55,000 Muslims have been under siege in eastern Mostar for weeks. Several thousand more Muslims live on the west bank of Mostar, controlled entirely by Croats until the Muslims established a bridgehead there last month.

UN peacekeepers who reached the Muslim area Saturday said residents were hungry, doctors were performing surgery without anesthesia and 60 per cent of buildings were uninhabitable.

Ron Redmond, a UN spokesman in Geneva, said the convoy would be escorted from Croatia by Bosnian Croat forces and then travel on to Modjurgorje, where it would hook up with a UN escort.

Croats and Muslims each made up some 42 per cent of Mostar's pre-war population of 130,000 and lived in peace. They united earlier this year to oppose Bosnian Serbs, but their alliance disintegrated a few months ago.

## Sylhet BNP council held peacefully

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 24: Businessman Ma Haq beat Advocate Abdul Gaffar, the outgoing secretary of the Sylhet District BNP, for the post of president in the local BNP committee elections held peacefully yesterday.

The elections, conducted by Works Minister and party Joint Secretary General Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, also saw Abdul Kahar Chowdhury beating Saiful Islam Babul for the post of General Secretary.

Abdur Razzak was elected organising secretary. He beat Badruddoza Badar.

The remaining posts of the 71-man committee will be filled through nominations.

The council meeting, presided over by acting president of the outgoing committee Fatema Chowdhury, MP, was attended among others by vice president of the central committee Khandker A Malik, MP and State Minister for Environment Goyeswar Roy as special guests. A total of 612 councillors voted in the elections.

There were different accounts of fighting Monday between Muslims and Croats in Mostar.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency, citing reports by Serb commanders on hills around the city, described the fighting as heavy and said many buildings were on fire.

But Lt. Col. Patricia Purves, a UN spokeswoman in Sarajevo, said Tuesday that the fighting had been light and sporadic, although there were some heavier clashes to the south.

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## Nurses

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months, suggesting necessary measures to remove the present anomalies regarding promotion and benefits of the nurses, the sources added.

Talking to The Daily Star, BDNA president Kohinoor Begum said she was happy with the outcome of the talks with the government.

The government announcement on placing the nurses' job under the Health

Ministry was 'illogical and inconsistent' because the Nursing Directorate set up in 1977, was a separate wing of the health services, she said.

Our Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) correspondent reported the nurses have joined their duties.

## 5 more navymen

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The incidents occurred when an angry mob, protesting the alleged molestation of two girls by some sailors, clashed with a section of navymen at the Bandertilla-Halishahar areas of the port city January 2 and 3.

**Dacoity**

Meanwhile, in another incident, a group of armed dacoits Monday decamped with gold ornaments and cash from a house at Ghatforhadbeg, in the heart of the city here, police said.

The armed dacoits entered the first-floor residence of one Tarun Kumar Roy at Doli Sarkar Building of Ghatforhadbeg around noon and forced his wife at gunpoint to handover the gold ornaments and cash from almirah. The dacoits blasted some cocktails while fleeing, local sources said.

A case was filed with the Kotwali PS but none has been arrested so far.

## Israel moves artillery into South Lebanon

TYRE (Lebanon), Aug 24: Israel moved artillery into its self-styled 'security zone' in south Lebanon on Tuesday, fuelling fears of renewed fighting on the only hot Arab-Israeli battlefield as Middle East peace talks are due to resume, reports AP.

Security sources and witnesses said a battery of five 155mm howitzers were deployed around Marjayoun, capital of the security zone occupied by the Israelis for eight years.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said seven 175mm howitzers were moved into the zone Sunday and Monday.

These were the first reinforcements deployed in the border enclave since an Israeli air, sea and artillery blitz July 25-31 against Palestinian and Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim guerrillas.

All told, 147 people, mainly civilians, were killed and nearly 500 were wounded. A half-million villagers were driven from their homes.

The onslaught was launched after seven Israeli soldiers were

killed in guerrilla attacks in the security zone. The bloodshed was halted by a US-brokered ceasefire.

The latest Israeli deployment followed attacks by the Shi'ite Hezbollah, or Party of God, Thursday, in which nine Israeli soldiers were killed.

That was in the highest single-day Israeli death toll since 1985.

Israel retaliated with air strikes on Hezbollah training and supply bases near the Syrian border in the Bekaa valley of eastern Lebanon.

Two guerrillas were killed and Hezbollah's al-Fajr radio station was destroyed.

Hezbollah, standard-bearer of Iran's brand of Shi'ite fundamentalism, has vowed to wreck the US-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace talks through escalated guerrilla warfare in south Lebanon.

The eleventh round of talks between Israel and its main Arab adversaries — Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians — is scheduled to open in Washington Aug 31.