

Dhaka Day by Day

A Scholar with a Social Commitment

by Rashida Ahmad

Salahuddin Ahmed began his career as a barrister and advocate in Bangladesh, and went on to lecture in law in the UK and Australia. He now not only teaches Islamic Law under the LL.M course at the University of New South Wales, but has appeared for interview before the Joint Select Committee of the Parliament of Australia on the Family Law Act, and as a distinguished scholar of Islamic Law before the

International Commission of Jurists (Australia). Ahmed has delivered papers on Islam and Islamic Law at seminars and conferences all over Australia for nearly two decades, has been interviewed by television, radio and newspapers on many occasions regarding current affairs affecting Islamic law and Muslims living in Australia, and has published numerous articles and books related to Islam and law in general.

"Law and order in Dhaka," according to Salahuddin Ahmed, "is deteriorating day by day. Few people would disagree with him on this point. Ahmed has been resident outside Bangladesh for over two decades. Because of his living for most of that time in Australia with visits to Dhaka on average every three to four years, the changes that have occurred here during that time are perhaps readily apparent to him.

Lack of security is a major symptom of this breakdown in law and order, in Salahuddin Ahmed's eyes. "Children in Dhaka today are being brought up in prisons. Look at the houses in

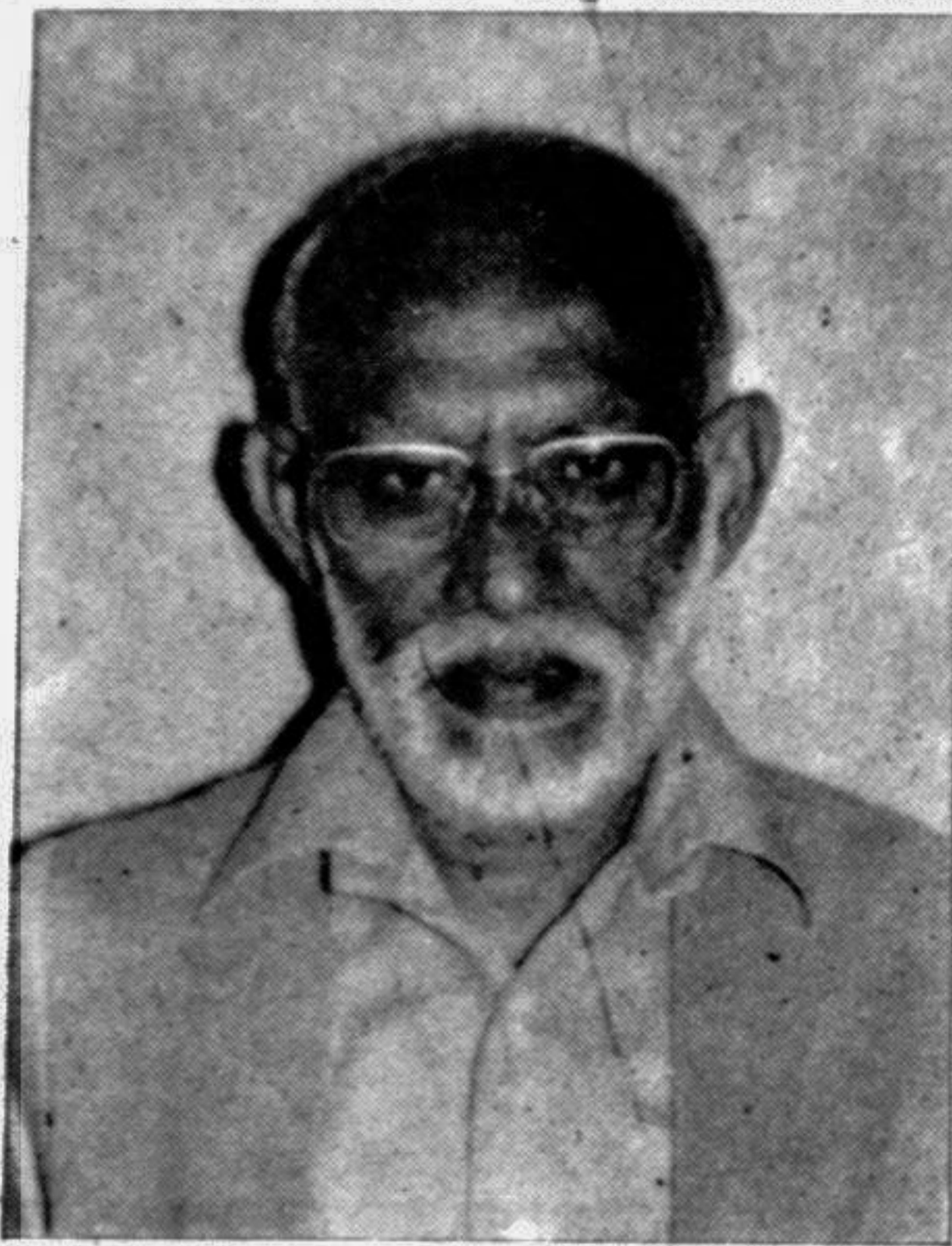
Dhanmondi, for example: secured gates, grills, bars and guards. It most certainly is not a healthy sign for society." As a distinguished scholar, teacher, writer and authority on Islamic Law, Ahmed has a somewhat unconventional view on the "Godless West versus Islamic society" issue. There is no doubt in Ahmed's mind that the Western media are quite happy to be little the Muslim world, and sensationalise

"Islamic fundamentalism."

However, at the same time, according to Ahmed, "the basic principles of the Quran are implemented and upheld in Western society in a way that we are failing to do here. We appear only to give lip-service to these fundamental values."

"The Quran teaches us that one must be able to move with freedom and safety within society. Western society has many vices, but you or I could, if we wanted, live the life of a 'Taki' in the West in relative safety and security." Whether this is true of the West, or not, it does not appear to be the case in Dhaka.

"Yet there is an extra responsibility in Bangladesh, as a nation with the majority Muslims, to make 'freedom and security' the national motto," Ahmed has recently published two books in Bangla "A Dictionary of Arabic and Persian words used in Bengali" and "Muslim Names in Arabic and Persian" (also due to be published in English), and is currently working on a book on Islamic Law.



Pickets obstructing movement of an intercity express train at the outskirts of the city, Tongi, during the countrywide road-rail-waterways barricade programme called by the mainstream opposition parties.

— Star photo

'Zia's Bangladeshi nationalism united countrymen'

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said late President Ziaur Rahman had united the nation on a strong footing by introducing Bangladeshi nationalism where every citizen irrespective of his religious and cultural identity is a Bangladeshi national, reports BSS.

He said, the production-oriented politics of president Zia, based on Bangladeshi nationalism, was more important today as conspiracies were being hatched by certain quarters against the independence, sovereignty and economic progress and prosperity of the country.

Attack on newspaper-bus condemned

CHITTAGONG, Jan 19: Leaders of the Chattogram Sangbad Patra Bahumukhi Samabay Samity and the Chattogram Sangbad Patra Hawkers' Union condemned attack on the newspaper-bus near Lalpore under Feni district today, reports BSS.

In a joint statement here they said, some miscreants pelted stones at the Chittagong-bound bus carrying newspapers from Dhaka while it was passing samity bazar near Feni police station. The panes in the window of the bus were damaged while the driver was seriously injured. The driver was admitted to the Feni hospital, it added.

Arrest of fertiliser distributors slated

The Bangladesh Fertiliser Association (BFA) yesterday slated arrest of the distributors in some places of the country, including Narshingdi, Ohorasil and Jamalpur, says a press release.

The increase in urea prices since September last in due to the shortage of supply in response to the demand, said the press release.

The association has been demanding stoppage of export and increase in supply to the domestic market since August last to ensure fair price to the farmers, read the press release.

Since the fertiliser market has been stable over the last three, to four, the recent dislocation can be connected with appropriate supply policy, suggested the association leaders.

They also demanded immediate release of those arrested.

Prof Chowdhury was speaking at a discussion on the life and activities of president Ziaur Rahman held at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy auditorium here.

Organised by BNP in observance of the 59th birth anniversary of Ziaur Rahman, the discussion was presided over by BNP secretary general and Minister for LGRD and Co-operative - Abdus Salam Talukder.

National Professor Dr M Innas Ali, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, Housing and Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, pro-Vice Chancellor of National University Prof Mahbubullah, BNP central standing committee member Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, and Shahjahan Siraj MP also participated in the discussion.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended the discussion as an audience.

The discussion was followed by cultural programme presented by Jatiyatabadi Samajik and Sanskritik Sangstha (JASAS). A documentary on the life and activities of late Zia was also screened.

Later, the prime minister visited the 3-day Zia Mela organised by JASAS. The mela was opened on Wednesday at the Shilpakala Academy premises.

Prof Chowdhury said, president Zia had established democracy in the country as a successful politician and statesman.

'Massive programmes to rev up health sector'

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Huse Yusuf yesterday said, massive programmes undertaken by the government to improve the health care has started showing results at the ground levels, reports BSS.

The minister said, Tk 1400 crore will be spent in the infrastructural development alone by the end of 1996 and other expenditures will bring the total to about 4000 crore by that time for the overall improvement of the health sector.

Presided over by Professor M Alauddin, president of the society, the inaugural function was also addressed by Professor M A Majed president of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Dr Asadul Haq Khan, general secretary of the society, Professor M N Amin and Professor A A Haroon ENT specialists from abroad are also taking part in the convention.

Electronic mail service opens in BUET

The electronic mail service, a modern communication and information technology has been introduced at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), reports UNB.

Inaugurating the service at the central library of the university yesterday Vice Chancellor of the university Prof M Shahjahan said with the introduction of the system BUET has been entered into a new era of education and research.

The electronic mail service has connected the university with the international computer network envisaging exchange of informations.

The VC said the service will help the teachers and students, specially the research fellows of post graduate level, to get latest information regarding their research as well as to improve the quality of their research work.

Presided over by Chairman of library development committee of BUET Prof Nuruddin Ahmed, the function was also addressed by Prof Md Abdul Matin and librarian Md. Zahurul Islam.

Teachers and senior officials of the university were present on the occasion.

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Officials and participants to the first Dhaka regional convention of the retarded scouts held at city's Mohammadpur Govt High School yesterday.

— Star photo

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
 গুণাবলি সোমস্বীকৃত কাজ করার জন্য প্রাক্ষরিত ও পুরস্কার করে থেকে নিম্নলিখিত পদে দায়িত্ব আবেদন করুন।
 কর্মসূচী সবেগে (পদস্থান)। শিক্ষিত যোগ্যতা কবি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে ডিগ্রি এবং বা পদস্থান হতে। বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর। বেতন ৪,০০০ টাকা।
 প্রাক্ষরিত স্বাক্ষর সহ প্রাক্ষরিত, প্রতিবেদন ফাও ৩ হস্তিগোপনের সুবিধা পাবেন। প্রাক্ষরিত পদ প্রকাশ্যে কবিরে অন্য সিদ্ধান্ত প্রকার ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে।
 নিম্নলিখিত প্রকল্পের অধীনে 'সংস্কৃত' শব্দ সঠিকভাবে ব্যবহার করতে হবে।
 আবেদন পর এক সপ্তাহের উপর আবেদনকৃত পদের নাম অংশই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
 আগামী ২৯শে জানুয়ারি ১৯৯৫-৯৬ সবে পূর্ণাঙ্গ প্রিন্টারদের মূল সভাপতির সভাপতি ও এক কপি হস্তিগে কর্মী ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ, প্রাক্ষরিত ৬৬ মহলা, ঢাকা ১২০২ এই ত্রিকার আবেদন করুন।

Body of Sangbad Pathak Samity



Aminal Haque and Rukhsana Anwar were reelected president and general secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Newscasters' Association at its annual general meeting held in the city on Friday last, says a press release yesterday.

Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
 Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh

APPOINTMENT NOTICE
 Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (Science Laboratory) invites applications from the bonafide Bangladeshi nationals for filling up the temporary posts mentioned below for supervising improved stove extension work:

Name of the posts	Numbers	Age	Salary	Service Period	Educational qualifications
District Supervisors	35 Nos. (one for each district)	35 yrs maximum	Per month Tk 4000/- (fixed)	Two years	B.Sc. degree (preferably 2nd Division)

Name of the districts may be obtained from the Institute of Fuel Research and Development (IFRD), BCSIR, Dhaka and Laboratories at Rajshahi and Chittagong. Candidates are required to appear before the Interview Board on 30-01-95 in the Office of the Director, IFRD, Dhaka with applications in white paper mentioning name, father's name, age, present and permanent address, educational qualifications, testimonials, nationality certificates, a Postal Order of Tk 10/- together with three copies of attested passport size photographs. No TA and DA are admissible. Appointment letters will be issued to the selected candidates on 1-2-95, and week-long training will commence from 2-2-95.

M Tajul Islam
 Secretary

Weather

Dry weather likely
 Weather is likely to remain dry across the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.
 The Met Office says night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.
 Country's lowest temperature 9.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimangal and the highest 28.8 degrees at Teknaf.
 The sun sets today at 5:36 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43 am.
 The minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	min	max		
	morning	evening		
Dhaka	12.4	28.0	77	50
Chittagong	14.8	26.0	72	52
Rajshahi	11.2	23.6	80	64
Khulna	10.8	25.2	82	67
Barisal	11.5	25.6	82	48
Sylhet	13.0	25.7	87	68
Cox's Bazar	19.0	27.0	77	66
Rangpur	10.2	24.3	83	65
Dinajpur	10.0	24.5	90	63

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