

## Manzur murder case Judgement on revision petition today

By SC Correspondent

The High Court judgement on the revision prayer of former president HM Ershad, challenging the proceedings of the Manzur murder case taken by the Dhaka Sessions Judge, was not announced yesterday following a government prayer.

The Court allowed the government prayer seeking further hearing on a gazette notification for setting up a 'Special Ejlash' for the trial.

The judgement is expected to be announced today following a brief hearing.

The gazette notification was published on August 28 and presented in the court yesterday. The 'Special Ejlash', however, was set up in a building opposite to the Dhaka Central Jail on Aug 16.

The chief counsel for Ershad claimed that all the proceedings taken by the Dhaka Sessions Judge before August 28 last in the Manzur murder case was illegal and void as the court itself was not legally set by an official gazette notification.

The defence counsel, Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, submitted that it tantamounts to contempt of court to publish a gazette notification on a

subjudged matter. "The gazette notification is not only illegal but also tells upon the mala fide intention of the government to obstruct the desired relief claimed by the petitioner in the court," he argued.

The division bench of the HC, comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hoque and Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam, after hearing both the parties fixed today for further hearing and order.

Barrister Maudud Ahmed, and Advocate Mansur Ali also appeared for Ershad, while Deputy Attorney General AFM Shahid represented the state.

## Rat-killing drive begins today

A month-long rat-killing drive begins today across the country to create mass awareness about the colossal destruction wrought by the small animal, reports UNB.

On the occasion, President Abdur Rahman Biswas stressed coordinated efforts to make up food deficit caused by natural calamities as well as damage by rats every year.

Every citizen has to take part in rat-killing drive. Biswas said, adding that rats not only damage foodgrains to the tune of about 5 lakh tons every year but also threaten environment.

In another message, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said the government was working hard to ensure 'dalbhaati' for all.

## JU Syndicate, Academic Council polls results

JU Correspondent

The teachers panel, led by Prof. Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman bagged 8 posts out of twelve in the Syndicate, the Academic Council and the Finance Committee of Jahangirnagar University.

The panel led by incumbent VC Prof. Amirul Islam won the remaining 4 posts.

The election of the teachers representatives to the Syndicate, the Academic Council and the Finance Committee was held yesterday.

Prof. Anwarul Islam of Zoology was elected the lone member of the finance committee from the Muztahidur Rahman group.

The three elected Syndicate members from the Muztahid group are: Dr. Sauda Akhtar (Bangla), A T M Atikur Rahman (History) and Naimul Islam (Pharmacy).

Prof. Abu Sayed Khan, (Physics), and Dr. Sawpon Kumar Dhar, Provost, Albeoni Hall, were elected from the VC's panel.

The Academic Council members are: Associate Prof. Sajed Ashraf Karim, (Geography), Dr. Abul Kashem Mazumdar (Government and Politics), Kamrul Ahsan (Philosophy) and Minhaz Uddin Mahmud (Economics) and Dr. Farhad Hossain (Statistics) and lecturer Moniruzzaman (Physics) from VC's panel.

## AL deadline

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Commenting on Hasina's instruction to her party activists to "take to the streets with coffin cloth tied in the forehead," the BNP leader said, "At least coffin cloth is now available which was not available during their regime."

Salam Talukder alleged that Awami League itself was responsible for Sunday's killing of a Juba League worker in the city. Commenting on the situation in Dinajpur he said that the authorities had taken appropriate measures to face it.

"The government has already taken punitive action against the persons responsible and further action will be taken after investigation," he said.

Meanwhile, the three major opposition parties — the AL, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — are expected to announce their next course of agitation programmes after on September 3 after the 32-hour nationwide hartal. The fresh programmes may include demonstration in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, hartals and other forms of street agitations, opposition sources said.

BNP sources said they would gear up organisational activities to face the opposition agitations.

Barrister Rafiqul Huq along with Advocate Obaidur Rahman Mostafa appeared for Eladah.

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The Awami League brought out a procession in the city yesterday marking its protest day. — Star photo

## Effective tariff protection rate still high: NBR chief

Country's top revenue official yesterday admitted that effective tariff protection in Bangladesh was still high and deserved to be brought down, reports UNB.

"Although we have significantly reduced duties in recent years, but effective protection rate is still high for many industries," said Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), at a gathering of foreign investors.

Dr Khan's observation, made at the monthly luncheon meeting of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), was an echo of the recent World Bank comment on Bangladesh's tariff protection.

Officially, however, the NBR did not agree on the Bank's contention that effective rate of protection in Bangladesh "is still high" despite recent improvements in lowering duties.

"Nominal rates of protection have been brought down a lot but now we will have to look at the effective protection," said the NBR chief who argued that trade liberalisation has no alternative at the moment.

"Protection has become irrelevant in today's world... Liberalisation is an inescapable reality," he said.

At the meeting, represen-

tatives of the foreign companies raised complaints about specific problems and anomalies they were facing with regard to tariff and tax.

Although the FICCI members appreciated recent improvements in services at the NBR, they grumbled about harassments and hindrances at the field level.

Said FICCI president Mahboob Jamil: "While we admit that the top level NBR officials are pro-business and sympathetic to real business problems, it is in the field level that officials, instead of prompt action, often resort to delaying tactics showing petty reasons."

Jamil and many of his colleagues alleged that there still remained ambiguity in the assessment of value addition, and VAT field officers

## Khandaker Mahbub joins BNP

Eminent jurist Advocate Khandaker Mahbubuddin the ruling BNP yesterday, expressing his confidence that it would safeguard and maintain the democratic process, reports UNB.

He presented a bouquet to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a simple ceremony at 30 Hare Road yesterday afternoon and expressed his allegiance to her leadership.

## Handball finals today

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For the first time in the championship they played independent of their work horse of a scorer Mohammed Zubair, who was tightly marked by Rabul. But at the end they succumbed to mounting crowd pressure and a spirited display by the local boys in the last few minutes.

Playmaker Swapan, the most acclaimed local player of the tournament, again played a pivotal role in his team's victory with his brilliant distribution skills. He also scored four goals, one of them following a magnificent run down the middle dribbling past three Pak defenders.

Captain Akul was instrumental on the left flank with six goals while right winger Rafique picked up seven, most of them from fast breaks. Palash's powerful drives earned him five conversions.

Zubair was the top scorer for Pakistan with ten goals, six of them from penalties, followed by Faraz with six.

Finals today

Bangladesh will face India in the final match to be played today. The Indians stunned a gloating Nigerian side 31-14 in the second semifinal which was also held yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh girls' team moved to the final of the ladies event when they defeated Great Britain 27-24 in their last league match yesterday. Earlier in the day, the local girls lost to India 24-16.

The girls' final will be held today at 2 pm and will be followed by the boys' final which is scheduled for 3:30 pm. The closing ceremony of the meet will commence at 5 pm today.

## Dhaka asks KL for details on deaths in camps

Bangladesh has requested Malaysia for a detailed report on the jail incident in which some Bangladeshis were reported to have been killed recently, said a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here yesterday, reports BSS.

Responding to another question, he described as "regrettable" the uncalculated police action of breaking into hotel rooms in Kuala Lumpur in which the Director General of Bangladesh Press Institute, Tauhidul Anwar, became a victim of undesirable behaviour.

"We think it's very regrettable." "We think Malaysia should regret it," he said.

## Politicians can seek SC help

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dialogue was being polluted. Panelists at the discussion held at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers in observance of the Gano Forum's founding anniversary, called for a solution based on national consensus.

If necessary this could be reached through calling a grand national convention to provide a solution to the present crisis, which the Barrister termed as 'crisis of politicians' and not a 'political crisis'.

Gano Forum president Dr Kamal Hussain, who chaired the function, urged once again the main opposition parties and the party in power to take the initiative to resume the dialogue for a solution. "Let them respond to Mr Ishtiaq Ahmed's initiative."

He said, in addition to some agreed form of a caretaker administration during the election period, there has to be a meaningful electoral code of conduct, which

has legal force, and which will effectively curb the power of arms and money to destroy the people's right to vote freely and without fear.

"We will be putting forward our concrete proposals on this subject tomorrow — and send these to all parties committed to democracy and to the Election Commission."

Educationalists Prof Khan Sarwar Murshed, Prof Anisuzaman and Journalist Ataus Samad were the three other guest speakers at the function, which was also addressed by Gano Forum leaders — Ponjok Bhattacharyya, Begum Nurjahan Murshed, Shamsuddoha, Advocate Zahurul Islam, Ziaul Haq and Mostafa Mohsin Montu.

In his deliberation, Barrister Ishtiaq came down heavily on the politicians and said, "You politicians use people as tool for grabbing power. You claim development has taken place here. If that was so 75 per cent of our peasants are landless and

## Press Notes false: AL

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman has termed the Press Notes on the killings in Dhaka and Dinajpur as false, concocted and politically motivated, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, he said the government had failed to issue Press Notes immediately after the incidents and instead came out with "all lies" two days after the killings to suppress "its heinous acts" and misled the people.

"Had the Home Minister had minimum sense of responsibility and of modesty, he should have resigned after the brutal killings in Dhaka and Dinajpur," said Zillur.

He accused the Chhatra Dal terrorists of killing Badruddin Badu of Juba League and Abdur Rahman of the Awami League under police coverage at Farm Gate on August 27 while the Awami League procession was moving towards the Election Commission.

Zillur further alleged that the BNP terrorists under the protection of police opened fire on the peaceful procession of the Awami League while crossing that so-called assembly, leaving Juba League leader Badruddin Badu and Awami League worker Abdur Rahman dead.

On the incident of Dinajpur, the Awami League leader said killing of an innocent girl under police custody sparked anger among the general people there. The situation took a serious turn after the government had failed to take prompt action against the policemen involved in the incident.

UNB adds: Left Democratic Front today lambasted the government for what it called launching an "undeclared war" on the people of Dinajpur to protect the "woman persecutor police."

In a resolution adopted at a rally in Dhaka the alliance said the horrific incidents in Dinajpur town over the last two days made it clear that the BNP government had lost moral and administrative rights to rule the country.

## 250 tolas of gold looted in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 29: A group of armed dacoits decamped with 250 tolas of gold from a jewellery shop at Didar market under Kotwali thana early today.

Police said the dacoits kept hostage three on duty police constables and an Ansar at gun-point in a nearby house during the robbery.

According to sources, the dacoits barged in to the 'Shah Jewellery' at around 5 am by cutting the front side of the shop.

One suspect was arrested.

## NGO Forum

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long-time target of its human rights campaign, and promptly denounced it for executing criminals in a cleanup of the capital.

"We have heard virtually every excuse from governments to justify human rights violations, but this is simply unbelievable to welcome the world to Beijing, must people die?" asked Pierre Sane, secretary general of the worldwide human rights organization.

## Eritrean ship sinks; 92 die

LONDON, Aug 29: At least 92 people died and 6 were missing after an Eritrean ship sank Monday off the coast of Yemen according to an Eritrean radio report monitored by the BBC, reports AFP.

The radio quoting Eritrea's Ambassador in Sanaa, said the ship was carrying 175 passengers when it sank in heavy seas off a small Yemeni island.

## RU students stage hunger strike

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 29: Several hundred students of Rajshahi University observed a day-long token hunger strike today to press the demand for immediate reopening of the university. The strike was observed at the call of the RU Sadharan Chhatra-Chhatra Parishad (A committee of general students).

Meanwhile, 25 important persons living in the surrounding areas of the university today submitted a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor, Prof Muhammad Yusuf Ali, demanding reopening of the university.

A protest rally was also held at the Talaimeary crossing. Guardians brought out a procession in the afternoon.

## Admission Rules

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Syndicate recently, the wards of teachers, officials and the employees could be admitted by simply appearing at the admission test.

The general admission committee of DU has taken the decision at a meeting on August 25 following the demand of different student fronts to repeal the rules.

The admission committee has also passed some new rules regarding the admission in the first-year honours courses in different departments.

The decisions are the following — all admission seekers have to appear at the test. The wards have to secure at least 40 per cent marks in the admission test to be qualified for admission under the quota system.

No department can admit more than two students under the quota system.

## Suspended

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pourashabha would be hampered if the suspension order goes into effect.

Nurul Absar was elected poura chairman from jail with a big margin for the third consecutive period.

UNB adds: Earlier, the Bureau of Anti-Corruption had filed four cases against the Poura Chairman.

Meanwhile, district Awami League leaders appreciated the government decision and urged the authorities concerned to form a high-level enquiry committee in this regard.

Nurul Absar, who was district Vice-President of Jatiya Party during the Ershad regime, joined Awami League after the fall of Ershad. He then joined BNP last year.

## The Midnight File

### Shevardnadze injured in blast

TBILISI, Aug 29: A powerful car bomb exploded Tuesday outside Georgia's parliament in the motorcade of leader Eduard Shevardnadze, who was cut by flying glass in what aides called an assassination attempt. They said his injuries were not serious, and he was taken to the first Republican Clinical Hospital for treatment. Russian television showed Shevardnadze sitting at the hospital in an undershirt with cuts on his face, but apparently not seriously injured, reports AP.

## Dinajpur situation

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a normal situation soon. Negotiations are going on between leaders of the community and the police. Some factions are backing off the process of negotiations.

The Deputy Commissioner said he had done his duty by putting the "policemen involved" under custody.

The situation is still very tense. Bus service has resumed only partially. Police is not operating at all.

Violent clashes between police and residents had marred the peaceful atmosphere of this northern town following the unnatural death of Yasmin Khatun, 14, a house maid in Dhaka, under police custody on August 24.

Seven protesters were killed when police opened fire on angry mobs who attacked different police outposts, after reports appeared in some local paper that Yasmin was "raped and dumped" by police who were only supposed to give her a lift.

According to witnesses, Yasmin got off a night coach at "Dash Mile" in the outskirts of the town. "She wanted to go to Ramnagar in the town but it was still dark," said a stall owner at Dash Mile. "Just then a police van came and we requested the policemen — a constable, a sub-inspector, and the driver to give her a lift," he said. "The next thing was her body was found two miles away."

Eyewitnesses saw the policemen dragging the body inside the van.

As soon as the report was published the police started

giving contradictory statements.

Thousands of residents of the town took to the streets. Police stations and outposts were attacked and burnt.

"Fortunately the youths do not have illegal weapons in this part of the country, there they used only stones, bricks and sticks," said a youngman in the town.

The cornered policemen retaliated with bullets killing seven. The Sadar Hospital's deputy surgeon general said that they had done autopsy on three men and the unfortunate girl.

## Referendum not held at Shahjalal University

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 29: The authorities of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology could not hold the "referendum" in the face of stiff resistance by the Four-party alliance today. The holding of the "referendum" has been postponed for an indefinite period.

The university was closed sine die on June 30 following a series of armed clashes between the activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir and the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). It was reopened on August 1 when the authorities banned all kinds of political activities on the campus till October 31.

## Bosnia

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of Bosnia, the spokesman said.

He said that the Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman met the US acting Secretary of State, Talbot in Washington on Friday and discussed the problems facing Bosnia.

They exchanged views on their perceptions on Bosnia, he said, adding, and some of them were common while some were not so.

## Schoolboy kidnapped in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 29: A

teen-aged boy was kidnapped from his school in the town today with a view to demanding ransom of Tk one lakh from his parents, police said, reports UNB.

However, the ill-fated boy could not be recovered till this evening.

The boy was identified as Manik Chandar Sarcar, a student of Class VII of the BL Government High School. He is the son of Anil Chandra Sarcar, a businessman of Naodasolla Bari village in Sadar.

Police raided the residence of one Anwara Khatun, 40, of Dhanbandi area in Sadar and found a written statement there demanding Tk one lakh ransom for the ward of the businessman.

## 8 US ships

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vehicles and other equipment required to sustain 16,500 marines in combat for 30 days, a US military spokesman has said.

In addition, they carry enough gear to sustain 5,000 to 7,000 US army troops, said McCreary.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said on Monday the United States had no justification in rushing troops to the Gulf region.

"There is no credibility behind the US massing military vessels in the Gulf and the Mediterranean ... under the false pretext that Iraq plans to invade Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia," Saddam said, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

"The Iraqis have shown coherence, awareness and careful reading of events and attitudes ... which will make this play yet another bubble," INA quoted Saddam as telling his cabinet in his first public comments on the recent US deployments.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti government today declared a 414 sq km coastal area north of Kuwait city a military zone and banned civilians from entering it.

A decree by Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Hamad al-Sabah published in the government gazette did not give a reason for the move or state the duration of the ban.

## 4000 win DV-'96

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sidered to have been not selected, the release said.

The recipients of notification letters should follow the instructions and return completed forms to the National Visa Centre as soon as possible, the release advised.

The National Visa Centre in the United States will begin the mailing of interview appointment letters in September and will continue to schedule appointments over the next ten months.

At the time of visa interview, the principal applicant must provide evidence that he or she meets minimum qualifications for the Diversity Visa Programme: a Higher Secondary Certificate or its equivalent or two years training or experience during the past five years in a occupation that requires two years of training.

Qualifying occupations are based on the standards of the United States Department of Labour. Applicants must also meet the other requirements for an immigrant visa under the laws of the United States.

The Diversity Lottery makes available 55,000 permanent resident visas annually to persons from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States.

This year's winners were randomly selected by computer from approximately 4.5 million entries received during February, 1995, while another 2.2 million entries were disqualified for failure to properly follow directions.

Of the total number of visas available under DV-'96 programme, 7,087 are available to residents of Asian countries excluding China, Taiwan, India, South Korea and Vietnam.

## Team to Mali

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outcome of the just concluded visit to Bangladesh of Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare, Additional Foreign Secretary Anwarul Masud said the two countries had agreed on various issues, including employment of Bangladeshi agricultural workers.

He said President Konare had offered to take workers as much as Bangladesh can provide. The modus operandi will be finalised through inter-ministerial meeting of the two countries.

Describing the visit as "highly successful," Anwarul Masud said the Malian President had stressed the need for further strengthening the relations between the two fraternal countries on the basis of Islamic solidarity.

"President Konare actually wanted to develop an action-oriented cooperation with Bangladesh," he added.