

**HC issues rule on Education Ministry, ex-president of NSU**

The High Court has issued a rule on the Ministry of Education and former president of North South University, Muslehuddin Ahmed, following a petition filed by the NSU and the chairman of its Board of Governors, reports UNB.

The education ministry, allegedly without taking any recommendation of the founders, appointed Ahmed, whose service was terminated in last April, as Vice-Chancellor of NSU by re-designating his post of the president with retrospective effect.

The University did not accept Ahmed as the VC and challenged the appointment in a writ petition, said a press release issued by the petitioner's lawyer yesterday.

The press release said the education ministry, in order to put pressure on the university authorities to accept Ahmed as the vice-chancellor, directed the university that Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqui should not be allowed to work as vice-president or pro-vice-chancellor of the university.

This created deadlock in the running of the university affecting its academic atmosphere.

The order issued by the ministry was illegal and ultra-vires of the Private Universities Act, added the release.

In this situation, the university was compelled to file the writ petition and seek relief from court.

After hearing the petitioners' lawyer Barrister Rafique-ul-Haq, the High Court Division Bench comprising Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Md Mozammel Hossain issued the order relating to the impugned order and further stayed the operation of the same.

By an interim order, Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqui has been allowed to act as vice-president or pro-vice-chancellor of the university until hearing of the rule.

**Badrul Ameen buried**

Barrister Badrul Ameen was laid to rest at Banani graveyard in the city yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was held at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque which was attended by a large number of people, including Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, former ministers Abdus Salam Talukdar, Kamal Yusuf and Abdul Matin Chowdhury, lawyers, officials and others.

Barrister Ameen died of a heart attack on Saturday.

**Khaleda condoles**

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of noted lawyer Barrister Badrul Ameen, reports UNB.

In a message, Begum Zia conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

In another message, Begum Zia condoled the death of Mohammed Syedur Rahman, father of the BNP MP Mujibur Rahman Sarwar.

**Mannan Bhuiyan protests attack on Shaheda's car**

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday protested the incident in which a car of Prof Shaheda Obaid of Titumir Govt College was damaged allegedly by Chhatra League workers on Sunday, reports UNB.

In a statement, Bhuiyan demanded the withdrawal of transfer order on Prof Shaheda Obaid, head of English department of the college, for the interest of students of the college.

He alleged that government had issued the transfer order three times in two years. This decision is aimed at taking a political revenge as Prof Shaheda Obaid is the wife of BNP leader K M Obaidur Rahman MP, Bhuiyan said.

In another statement, Bhuiyan demanded punishment to those involved in the gangrape incident at Debiganj in Panchagarh district.

**5 prisoners hurt in Dhaka jail**

By Staff Correspondent

At least five under-trial prisoners were injured when brick chips fell on them from a loosened wooden beam of the roof of an old building of Dhaka Central Jail Sunday afternoon. The injured, aged between 30 and 35 are Motahar, Arshad, Abdur Rahman, Anwar and Helaluddin, jail and hospital sources said.

A jail official said it was an accident. One end of the beam got separated from its frame, resulting in fall of brick chips and plaster on the prisoners.

However, the beam did not fall on the prisoners on the verandah of the one-storey building. It was hanging from the frame at its other end. Jail sources said that some prisoners were taking rest on the verandah at that time.

Three of the injured prisoners were treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to the jail hospital, where two others were also admitted. Two of the prisoners suffered head injuries and the others were hurt in their legs and waists.



Boat is the only mode of transport in Sirajdikhan thana of Munshiganj district now as most of the areas have been submerged by flood waters. — Star photo

**Relief distribution continues in city**

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader yesterday visited the flood-hit Kamrangirchar, Islambag New Barrage, Lalbag and Hazaribag areas in the city and distributed relief materials among the affected people, reports BSS.

The relief goods included rice, pulse, salt, biscuit and money.

While talking to the flood-affected people, Quader urged them to face the calamities with courage and fortitude. He also urged all concerned to come forward to make the post-flood rehabilitation programme a success.

**BCI**

A team led by Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) distributed relief materials among the flood-affected people at Bounia Badh and Shah Ali area in the city on Sunday.

Sharif M Afzal Hossain, president of BCI distributed the relief materials in both the places in Mirpur area. Local MP and chairman at parliamentary Standing Committee on Post, Telegraph and Telecommunication Kamal Ahmed Ma-

**Bomb threat: One arrested near US embassy remanded**

By Staff Correspondent

The man arrested from in front of the US embassy at Baridhara in the city Friday evening was placed on a one-day remand on Sunday.

Police said they picked up Abdul Kader, son of Abdur Rashid for using abusive language near the embassy premises. He was also found to be drunk.

A resident of South Badda, Kader, in his early 30s, does not have any permanent job, police said. He was wearing a black trouser and a check shirt when police picked him up.

However, police said they did not find any connection between Kader and the reported bomb threat on the embassy. Police lodged a case against him under Section 22 (Gha) of the Narcotics Control Act.

Kader was produced before the CMM's court Sunday afternoon. Later, he was taken to the Gulshan thana custody after the court granted the remand.

**3 killed in Comilla road accidents**

COMILLA, Aug 17: Three people were killed and 15 others injured in separate road accidents in the district today, reports UNB.

Two unidentified passengers died on the spot and two others critically injured when a Dhaka-bound van from Chittagong hit a stationary truck on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Police said the accident took place at about 5:30 am at Jagannath Dighirpar.

In another incident, one person was killed and 13 others were injured in a head-on-collision between a microbus and a truck on the highway near Kamalapur in Sadar thana at about 12:30 pm.



Prof A B M Siddique Hossain, Director of BUET Computer Centre, handing over certificates among the participants of a two-month 'Computer Application Course', organised by the Computer Centre, on Sunday at the university seminar room.

**Remain vigilant against conspiracy to create instability: Samad Azad**

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has called upon the people to remain vigilant against a certain quarrying to create instability through chaos and confusion, reports UNB.

"These people are spreading propaganda and concocted stories against the government as they want to dislodge an elected government through unconstitutional means," Azad told a discussion meeting held in the city on Saturday to mark the National Mourning Day.

The foreign minister said despite demands from partymen and others, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina remained firm to try in the general court the self-confessed killers and others involved in one of history's most brutal killings. He said the people now want that legal procedures be completed expeditiously and the culprits given exemplary punishment.

The foreign minister said August 15 is both a day of sorrow and shame for the entire nation. Those who killed Bangabandhu had changed the basic character of the Constitution, eliminated four national leaders in jail and erected legal hurdles to prevent trial of those who were involved in the killing, he said.

Azad said the present government has pledged to bring an end to politics of killing and conspiracy so that healthy politics develop in the country. He urged the opposition political parties to refrain from uttering or hinting at unconstitutional means of changing an elected government. They should rather take up issues in parliament and thoroughly scrutinise the activities of the party in power, he said, adding that "we would very much welcome constructive suggestions from the opposition."

**Annual confce of Bangladeshis in NY begins Sept 3**

Organisers expect as many as 10,000 people to attend the three-day annual conference in New York next month of Bangladeshis living in the US and Canada.

"This'll be the largest meeting of Bangladeshis anywhere outside Bangladesh," Akhtar Hossain, convener of the conference and President of Bangladesh association of New York, told UNB.

The conference, scheduled to be held from September 3-5 at New York's prestigious Madison Square Garden, will include panel discussions, workshops and cultural presentations.

**Saudi envoy calls on Nurul Islam**

Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdullah Omar Barry called on State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Mohammad Nurul Islam at his secretariat office yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of bilateral interest, particularly the arrangement of Hajj for the year 1999.

Discussion regarding sending Hajj pilgrims under the government management and private management also came up. It was informed that Saudi authorities discourage sending Hajj pilgrims to Makkah under private management.

Talking to him, the State Minister said he would sort out the matter with his Saudi counterpart during his next visit to Saudi Arabia.

**HERE and THERE**

**Textbook Board**  
National Curriculum and Textbook Board organised a discussion meeting at its premises in the city on Sunday on life and ideology of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in observance of the National Mourning Day, reports BSS.

Presided over by chairman of the board Professor Shawkat Ali, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Professor Tabarek Ali, Prof Faridun Nessa, Nurul Haque Khan, Muhammad Hussain, Ismail Hussain and Professor Firoza Khundaker.

Later a *milad mahfil* was held and special *munajat* was offered seeking peace for the departed soul of Bangabandhu.

**Discussion meet on Hajj**  
A discussion meeting on Hajj was held on Saturday under the auspices of Haramine Travels in its office premises in the city. Eminent religious leaders Shaikh-ul-Hadith Moulana Azizul Huq and Moulana Mohiuddin, Editor of monthly 'Medina', and Md. Nurul Absar, Executive Director of the company based in KSA, spoke on the occasion, says a press release.

**New workers' union to replace Biman's existing ones**

A decision was taken yesterday to form a new workers' union of Bangladesh Biman abolishing the existing three unions, said an official hand-out, reports BSS.

The new union will be named as 'Bangladesh Biman Sramik-Karmachari Parishad'.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the leaders of three unions with Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain in the chair.

A six-member committee will conduct the activities of the newly formed union until its executive council election is held by October 30.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary M Omar Hadi, president and general secretary of Bangladesh Biman Employees Union M A Kashem and S M Belal Hossain, president and general secretary of Bangladesh Biman Sramik Union Aminul Huq Sarker and M Solaiman and president and general secretary of Biman Sramik League M Golam Mustafa and Khondaker Shamsul Alam were present in the meeting.

**Former AL MP dies**

Dr Nurul Islam, a former Awami League MP, died of kidney failure at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the city yesterday morning. He was 80, reports BSS.

He left behind three sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

The *namaz-e-janaza* of Dr Nurul Islam will be held at 10 am today at Umriddin High School field under Milandaha thana of Jamalpur district, family sources said.

He was elected parliament member from Jamalpur-3 constituency in 1973.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep sorrow and profound grief at the death of Nurul Islam.

In a condolence message, the Prime Minister said that as a member of the first parliament of Bangladesh Nurul Islam worked hard in the reconstruction of the war-ravaged country. Recalling his glorious role in the country's war of liberation, the Prime Minister said that the death of Nurul Islam is an irreparable loss in the country's political arena.

**JS body for expansion of postal facilities in remote areas**

A meeting of the parliamentary standing committee meeting on Post and Telecommunications Ministry yesterday stressed the need for improvement of efficiency and standard of service of Postal Department to compete with the private organisations, reports UNB.

The meeting held at the Sangsad Bhavan with committee president Kamal Ahmed Majumder in the chair also discussed the overall activities, manpower, budget allocation and problems of the general post offices in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi.

The meeting also emphasised the need for expanding the postal facilities in remote areas of the country by developing the post offices and establishing new ones.

The meeting was told that Dhaka GPO transacts about Tk two crore and gives services to nearly 20,000 people daily.

Various problems relating to telecommunications also came up for discussion in the meeting.

**Nahid stands 5th in Business Studies group**

Nahid Afroze of Monipur High School secured fifth position from the Business Studies group in this year's SSC examinations. She also topped the list of successful female students of the same group across the country securing 872 marks, says a press release.

Daughter of Nishat Mohammad, a businessman, and Afroza Nishat, Nahid wants to be a teacher in future.



**Obtains PhD**

Jesmin . Rahman has recently received her PhD in Economics from the American University in Washington, DC, says a press release.

She stood 4th in the SSC Exam (1985) and 6th in the HSC Exam (1987) from science group under Dhaka Board. Afterwards, she received her BA in Economics and Government from Smith College, Massachusetts in 1992.

The only daughter of Matjur Rahman, DGM of Uttara Bank, and writer Salma Rahman, Jesmin is joining the Department of Economics of American University as an Assistant Professor this fall.

**Debiganj OC suspended Rape of eight women: Main accused held**

Police on Sunday arrested the main accused in the rape case at a village under Debiganj thana of Panchagarh, reports BSS.

Six of the eight rape victims gave their statements before the court.

A high official of the home ministry in the city said the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Rajshahi Range on Sunday suspended the officer-in-charge (OC) of Debiganj thana for his negligence of duty. Pradip Kumar, the OC of Debiganj thana, was first closed in the district police lines and suspended later.

The DIG earlier left Rajshahi for Panchagarh Saturday morning and investigated the incident of rape. He instructed the district police to arrest the alleged criminals

immediately. Police arrested Ataur Rahman, chief of the NGO Mohila Kalyan Saba Prokopa, from the area. Two of his accomplices, Anukul and Monwara Begum, remained untraced.

Police brought six of the eight victims to the court and they gave their statements before the court.

Police said Ataur Rahman, with the help of his accomplices, raped eight women while holding them hostage inside his office room in the name of training at Luxirhat under Debiganj thana on the night on August 1.

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam on Saturday instructed the DIG, to investigate the matter and take punitive measures against those responsible for the incident.

**US, Israel pressing Arafat for talks**

GAZA CITY, Aug 17: US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright telephoned PLO chief Yasser Arafat today amid reports of Israeli and US efforts to arrange a top level meeting with the Palestinian leader, reports AFP.

"Albright called President Arafat to discuss the latest developments in the peace process," said Nabil Abu Rudeina, a close advisor to the Palestinian Authority president.

He refused to give further details of the conversation, the latest in a series of telephone contacts between the two about Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations which have been stalled for more than 17 months.

The Israeli newspaper Maariv reported today that Israeli and US officials were pressing Arafat to meet with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in a bid to break the deadlock.

The newspaper quoted Israeli officials claiming that the gaps between the two sides concerning the key issue of overdue Israeli withdrawals from more of the West Bank were narrower than reported in the press and that a deal was possible.

But asked today if any meetings with the Israelis were planned, Arafat replied: "Not yet."

At a meeting with leftist Israeli lawmakers on Sunday Arafat insisted the negotiations were at a dead end and warned that Palestinians were losing patience with the stalemate.

Speaking after a meeting here today with former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, Arafat called on the broader international community to join in pressuring Israel.

"The international community must act to save the situation," he said.

**Blast in Tamil city leaves 16 injured**

COLOMBO, Aug 17: A bomb concealed on a motorbike exploded in a Tamil city in eastern Sri Lanka today, injuring 16 people and partly damaging a bank and two shops, police said, reports AP.

The bomb went off around midday in front of the privately-owned Seylan Bank at Batticaloa, a provincial capital on the east coast, said a police officer reached by telephone.

The explosives were packed in a motor cycle and it exploded with a huge bang," said the officer, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Batticaloa, 220 km east of Colombo, is in a Tamil majority long contested by Tamil rebels, but it is under government control.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but the military blamed it on Tamil Tiger rebels.

On Sunday, a suspected Tamil militant in the central town of Kandy swallowed a cyanide capsule moments before the security forces burst in and found a huge cache of high explosives. A second alleged carrier was captured alive, police said.

Police suspect the explosives have been brought from Batticaloa.

Acting on an intelligence tip, a joint team from the police and the army seized 110 kilograms (235 pounds) of explosives in the raid on a house in Kandy, said Nimal Mediwaka, the senior superintendent of police.

They arrested the second person in the house, 90 km east of Colombo.

"We are interrogating the other man and hope to know more about the intended targets," Mediwaka said. "This is a

major breakthrough and this also proves that the terrorists are trying to operate from Kandy," he said.

Suicide by consuming cyanide is a trademark of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam which is fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

Some officials said the Tigers might be targeting a new air force base recently built near Kandy.

**Pakistan faces economic hardship for its nuclear tests: Sharif**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 17: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said today Pakistan faces tremendous international pressure and economic hardships for its nuclear tests, but the crisis would ease soon because his people were willing to pay the price of the country's defence, reports AP.

"We conducted nuclear tests because we have faith in Allah," Sharif told around 10,000 of his supporters who gathered to observe the death anniversary of former military dictator General Zia ul Haq in the federal capital.

The prime minister said world powers tried to prevent Pakistan from conducting nuclear tests with threats and promises. But the government did not budge, he said.

Pakistan faces economic sanctions from major world powers including the United States and Japan for its nuclear tests in response to those of arch-enemy India in May.

**বিষয়ঃ 12 Khwarizmi International Award 1998**

Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) বিশিষ্ট বিজ্ঞানীদের 12 Khwarizmi International Award 1998 এ অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আমন্ত্রণ জানিয়েছে।

বিষয়ঃ মৌলিক বিজ্ঞান, প্রকৌশল বিজ্ঞান, কৃষি বিজ্ঞান, চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞান এবং কলা।

পুরস্কারঃ US \$ ৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) মার্কিন ডলার।

উল্লিখিত ক্ষেত্রে সাফল্যের অধিকারী বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের 12 Khwarizmi International Award 1998 এ অংশগ্রহণের আমন্ত্রণ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

উদ্যোগী সংস্থা প্রেরিত Application Form পূরণপূর্বক পূর্ণজীবন বৃত্তান্ত এবং গবেষণা কর্মের নমুনা প্রদান করতে হবে।

আগামী ২৩-২৪ আগষ্ট '৯৮ বেলা ২-৪ টার মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর থেকে যাবতীয় প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য ও Application Form সংগ্রহ করে আগামী ২৬-২৭ আগষ্ট '৯৮ এর মধ্যে সচিব, বাংলাদেশ ইউনেস্কো জাতীয় কমিশনে জমা দেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

প্রফেসর কফিল উদ্দিন আহাম্মদ সচিব

বাংলাদেশ ইউনেস্কো জাতীয় কমিশন ১ এশিয়ান মহাসড়ক, পলাশী-নীলক্ষেত

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