

## Supreme Court incident Nazmul Huda refutes ministers' allegations

By Special Correspondent

Barrister Nazmul Huda, convenor of Sammilita Ainjibi Parishad, has refuted the allegations made by the Law Minister and Home Minister that he and other lawyers had created vandalism in the Supreme Court, demanded resignation of the Chief Justice and kicked the door of his office on Thursday.

"If the government file any case on the pretexts of such allegations against the 'Sangrami' (protesting) lawyers, it will have to bear the consequences," he told newsmen at a press conference at 1-30 pm yesterday in the Supreme Court Bar Association south hall.

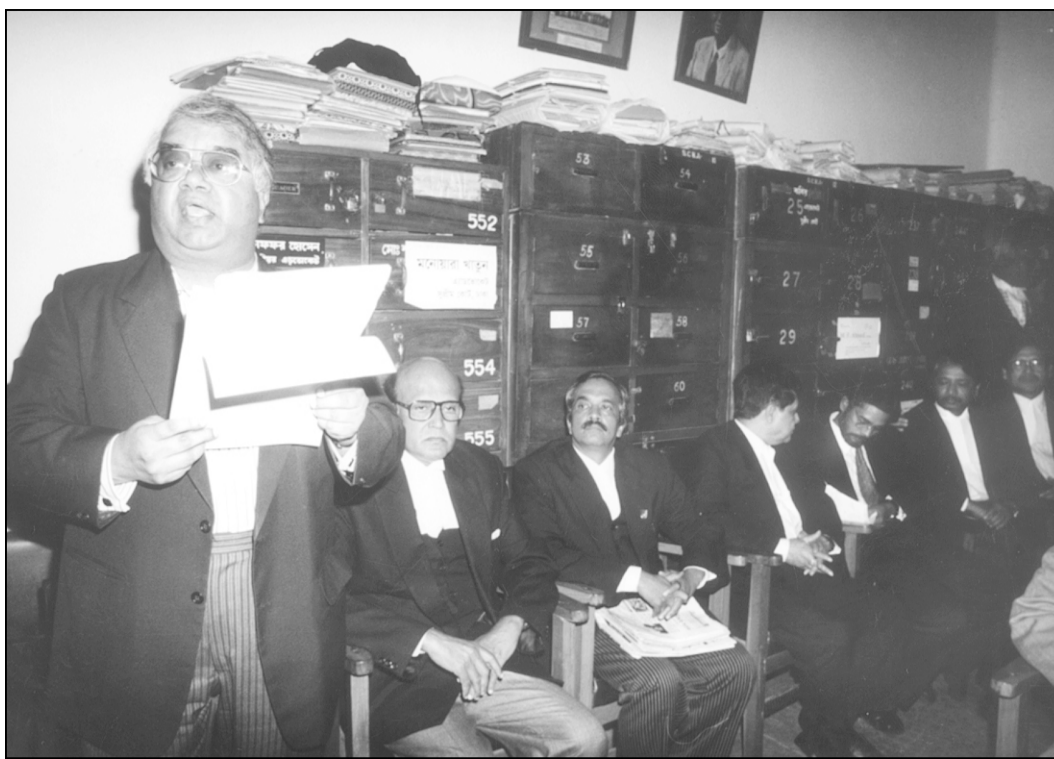
His comments came in the wake of statements by ministers, including law minister in Parliament on Monday, demanding cases be filed against the lawyers including Huda. They said they staged unprecedented demonstration against appointment of two judges to the Appellate Division by indulging in vandalism, confining the judges and disrupting the court proceedings.

threats against us, we will be compelled to file cases under Public Safety Act (PSA) against the deputy and assistant attorney generals who attacked our peaceful protest on Thursday, and created vandalism," Huda said in the press conference.

The press conference was attended by, among others, Parishad leaders Khandaker Mahub Hossain, Rafiqul Islam Mia and Zainal Abedin.

Considering "them as our colleagues, we refrained from filing cases against them," Huda said, adding that "if the government continues to attack us with canards, we will also be forced to file defamation cases against them (ministers)."

He said they have already made their stand clear on the Thursday's events at the Supreme Court, "clarifying that the government lawyers had created disorder and the protesting lawyers did not kick the door of the CJ."



Barrister Nazmul Huda, convenor of Sammilita Ainjibi Parishad, speaking at a press conference at the Supreme Court Bar Association south hall yesterday. -Star photo

## ASP of CID cross-examined

From Page 1  
Moulavibazar district with Shazneen.

Shazneen along with her sisters and others went to their Marino Tea garden in Kulaura on April 3, 1998 and her parents went to India on April 2, he said.

Maids Minu and Parvin were at the Gulshan residence of Latifur Rahman when Shazneen went to the tea garden.

Latifur Rahman along his wife returned home on April 18, 1998 and Shazneen along with her sisters and others came back on April 16.

Mojibur told the court that he investigated the murder case and scrutinised the inquest report. Sub-inspector Shamsul Haq prepared the inquest report at about 3.45 am on April 25, 1998, he said.

Minu came to the residence of Latifur Rahman two months before

the murder took place.

Mojibur said he did not know Minu's salary.

He said Parvin was brought to the house seven days before the incident to assist the killers in the planned murder. Latifur Rahman's wife had no role in appointing the servants, he said.

Special public prosecutors ABM Shafuddin Khan Mukul and Mahub Ahmed appeared for the state while Advocates Mosarrif Hossain Kajol and M A Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam appeared for the accused.

The murder case, pending with the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's court, Dhaka, was earlier stayed by an order of the Supreme Court. The order will remain valid till disposal of the rape case.

## Agri Commission report

From Page 1  
tion growth in the country.

The commission, headed by Prime Minister's Agriculture and Food Advisor AM Anisuzzaman, completed its report on May 14, 1999. However, the government extended its tenure till December 1999 on the pretext of holding several workshops on the report in different agro-ecological zones of the country to elicit view from experts and public.

The workshops were never held, nor was the report ever made public. The Daily Star, however, published a summary of the report on September 21, 1999.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said that the government had earlier circulated copies of the commission report to all ministries concerned and incorporated many of their suggestions.

"In the last cabinet meeting, when we discussed the report, the prime minister herself set forth some suggestions," said Chowdhury. "The special committee that the

cabinet has formed would now review the report and work out ways and means to implement the recommendations made by the Commission."

However, no specific timeframe was defined for the ministerial committee to complete its review, said official sources.

Finance minister, agriculture minister, industries minister, fisheries and livestock minister, and forest and environment minister and agriculture and food advisor to the prime minister are on the high-profile committee, sources added.

The Ministry of Agriculture claims that the government has already implemented the majority of recommendations on crop sector, while non-crop sectors have lagged behind.

But the experts who gave valuable inputs into the report considered that Bangladesh required a lot more to do for facing the future challenges in the agro-sector and achieving food-autarchy in a given year should leave no room for complacency.

## FM opens D-8 Commission meet

From Page 12  
and said a strong and effective private sector partnership is vitally necessary.

He said the current decade would pose a greater challenge in politics and foreign policy than in science and economics.

"In international negotiations, whether in the field of environment, in genetically modified foods or in cultural affairs, science and economics now take a back seat to politics," he said.

Azad said that in this era of globalisation, plight and sufferings of the developing countries were mounting as they face increasing marginalisation in the world economy.

He express hope that under the umbrella of D-8, the member countries would share their diverse experience and expertise for production and meaningful cooperation.

The Bangladesh foreign minister stated that the sphere of cooperation has been gradually expanding under the D-8 and the private sector is being drawn into its fold.

The foreign minister appreciated the initiative of Egypt to convene the first business forum of the D-8 group prior to the 3rd summit in Cairo and welcomed the proposal of Iran for easing of visa restrictions among the member countries.

Commerce Minister Mohammad Abdul Jalil, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami and Executive Director of D-8, Ambassador Ayhan Kamel of Turkey, and Foreign Secretary (Multilateral) Dr Toufiq Ali also spoke on the occasion.

Commerce Minister M A Jalil in his speech expressed the hope that cooperative endeavour among the D-8 countries would help overcome the common concern in global

accused in the case while contractor Hasan is the alleged mastermind.

All the accused Shahid, Hasan, Badal, Shaniram, Minu and Parvin were present at the court during the cross-examination.

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The murder case, pending with the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's court, Dhaka, was earlier stayed by an order of the Supreme Court. The order will remain valid till disposal of the rape case.

## Maj Gen (retd) Kabir joins BNP

Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia asked her party men to take all-our preparations to resist any evil design of the ruling Awami League to return to power through terrorism, reports UNB.

Her call came while Maj Gen (retd) M Anwarul Kabir Talukdar of Sarishabari, Jamalpur, joined BNP yesterday.

Kabir is the nephew of former secretary general of BNP Abdus Salam Talukdar.

Scores of BNP leaders, workers and supporters from Sarishabari were present at the function at 29 Minto Road.

Branding Awami League as terrorist, Begum Zia cautioned her workers that they could indulge in any kind of terrorism. "Thwart their evil design. Our victory is certain, Inshallah."

She asked the party activists to work unitedly to achieve the goal of victory in the next general election.

## Cassette case

From Page 1  
On behalf of Ershad, his counsel Khandaker Mahub Hossain, Barrister Mainul Hossain, President of Supreme Court Bar Association, for the Daily Ittefaq, Deputy Attorney General Bazlur Rahman Chhana and Barrister Shelly Rahman for daily Manob Jamin listened to the tape.

## Bangladesh booters

From Page 1  
tain Sasa Illic in the 18th and 34th minutes. Bangladesh fought hard to keep the marauding Yugoslavs at bay but eventually gave in during the dying minutes of the match. Both goals were scored in 78th and 87th minutes.

Bangladesh lost their opening match to Bosnia 2-0 on Friday.

## Split verdict

From Page 1  
two judges, of the Death Reference Bench, in his judgement acquitted five of the 15 accused.

The other judge, Justice ABM Khairul Huq, confirmed the death sentence of all the 15.

Four of them are in the death row at the Dhaka Central Jail. The others are absconding, most of them are believed to be out of the country.

The 15 were sentenced to death by a trial court on November 8, 1998 for murdering Bangabandhu and most of the members of his family on August 15, 1975.

## Quorum crisis

From Page 1  
Incidentally, the House saw the presence of exactly 60 lawmakers, the minimum required strength for a quorum, when the day's sitting ended at 12:40pm.

On the opening day, absence of quorum also marked the yearly address by the president.

The quorum crisis -- presence of less than 60 members in the 330-strong House -- is an old phenomenon in the present parliament, but the crisis worsened since the BNP-led opposition parties started boycotting the proceedings 18 months ago.

Nevertheless, the House continues to function these days, as the absence of quorum is not brought to the notice of the Speaker, a practice usually done by the opposition.

The Rules of Procedure allows the Chair to continue to run the House even without a quorum unless a member brings the issue to his notice.

## Rab murder

From Page 12  
Hitler named an industrialist and his younger brother, a former Mayor of KCC and some others as masterminds in the killing.

When asked, the complainant termed Hitler's statement a "cooked-up story full of lies to damage the case to saving the FIR-named persons".

When asked, former mayor Kazi Aminul Huq denied his involvement in the murder. He claimed that Hitler had demanded a huge amount of money from him in October last year and threatened him for non-compliance. "I field a General Diary (GD) with Khulna Sadar thana fearing attempt on my life by Hitler. For this, Hitler implicated me in his judicial confession," Huq said.

Complainant Mithu asserted, "None but the 13 persons named in the FIR is at all involved in the murder of my father."

## UK-based

From Page 12  
menting organisations, duplication of projects, inappropriate technology and expertise also came up in the discussion.

As a result, they said, people are suffering from confusion and are deprived of reliable result of project work as well actual scenario of arsenic problem.

The discussants demanded a national water policy and water standard specification under which guideline donor agencies and other organisations would do work.

They put forward some demands including improvement of donors' transparency and accountability, transparency in choosing consultants and culturally sensitising them before sending them to Bangladesh.

## PSA case against 17

From Page 1  
One of the accused advocate Humayun Kabir Bulbul told this correspondent over telephone last night that he went into hiding to escape arrest while another accused advocate Mahabubuddin Khokon said, "I am attending my chamber as I am not afraid of arrest."

Advocate Kazi Mohammad Izarul Haq Akhond, the complainant, in his FIR alleged that some lawyers led by Barrister Nazmul Huda created chaos in front of the court of the Chief Justice at about 9:30 am after the proceedings of the Appellate Division had started at about 9:00 am Thursday.

At one stage sitting in front of the chamber of the Chief Justice and judges' lounge, the lawyers chanted slogans and hurled abusive words to judges of Appellate Division and High Court Division. The lawyers kept all the judges of the Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice, for about three and a half hours, and kicked on the door of rooms of the judges.

## Akhtaruzzaman

From Page 1  
implicating me in this murder case, the real killers escaped police investigation and trial."

Replying to a question, he said, "I want that real culprits be arrested." Babu alleged that conspirators are still active to destroy him. He had to suffer a lot due to the murder case, he said.

"I lost almost eight years of life due to this case though I was acquitted last."

Asked about his removal from a party post in the ruling Awami League, Babu claimed that he is still a central leader of the party. "I was very much involved with Awami League, so I cannot leave this party."

He claimed that he had received offers to become minister during the rule of the then president Ershad and the BNP. "But I did not agree to those as I did not like to quit Awami League."

In the FIR the complainant alleged that he could recognise Moshed Khan among some outsider terrorists and musclemen at the court during the incident.

Meanwhile, the "pro-opposition" lawyers accused in the case last night met BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the parliament Khaleda Zia at her 29 Minto Road official residence. Khandakar Mahabubuddin Ahmed led the team.

## DUTA to expel Prof Aftab

By DU Correspondent  
Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) has decided to expel Prof Aftab Uddin Ahmed of Political Science Department for his derogatory remarks about the national anthem.

DUTA executive committee took the decision at a meeting, chaired by its acting president Prof Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury at the DU club on Sunday, said a press release.

## Singaporean ship seized

CHITTAGONG, Jan 16: Police have seized MV Samara, owned by a Singaporean company, on charge of human trafficking, reports UNB.

Upon an order of the Metropolitan Magistrate Court here Monday, police seized the ship at the outer anchorage early today.

They earlier arrested the owner of Suny Marine Shipping Line, the local agent of the Singaporean company, Captain (retd) Abdul Malek and an employee. They are now in jail.

Some 18 Bangladeshis were rescued from the ship on January 2 while they were being taken aboard in the guise of Ukrainian sailors.

## Lawyers clash

From Page 1  
assistants equipped with sticks attacked the room of ADC, resulting in a violent clash.

Police resorted to indiscriminate baton charge to bring the situation under control, but failed.

During the two-hour clash, both the groups threw bricks, chased each other, leaving 50 people including pedestrians, injured.

The injured include an ASP and eight other policemen.

Later, riot police were called out and they fired about 10 warning shots and clubbed the agitating lawyers.

Twenty-nine of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital and different clinics. Of them, condition of four lawyers and six employees was stated to be critical.

After the incident, the agitating

lawyers staged demonstration in the town.

Later, local Bar Association at a meeting held at its office blamed DC and three magistrates, including Magistrate Atiq, for the trouble and demanded their removal.

They decided to boycott courts for an indefinite period.

They also demanded judicial inquiry into the incident and exemplary punishment to those responsible.

Officers and employees of DC's office also demanded judicial probe into the incident.

In the afternoon, DC AFM Saiful Islam, arranged a press conference at his office and blamed the lawyers for the incident. "I have tried to negotiate with lawyers to resolve the dispute, but failed," said the DC.

## Mufti Hannan

From Page 12  
used for making bombs and fire-arms, the petitioner added.

The factory was shifted to Gopalganj after few months renaming it as 'Sonar Bangla Soap Factory'.

The organised gang of Mufti Hannan also includes a woman named Dolly Begum. Dolly was employed by Mufti Hannan as a messenger and carrier of bombs and firearms in the cartoons of soap.

Molla has stated in his petition that one Rafi, 30, another member of Mufti Hannan's gang was killed by Yunus Chowdhury in 1998 for breach of trust. The charge against Rafi was that he had threatened Dolly not to get herself involved in carrying arms.

## Writs: PSA case

From Page 12  
lawyers is also likely to be filed today, seeking anticipatory bail.

Filing of the case against the lawyers and Khan had reportedly upset the efforts for resolving the crisis over appointment of two judges which led to the unprecedented demonstration at the Supreme Court on Thursday by anti-government lawyers.

Barrister Nazmul Huda, Convenor of the Sarbodoliyo Ainjibi Parishad which organised the demonstration also met Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed yesterday evening to discuss the latest situation arising out of the filing of the case against the lawyers including Huda.

Ishtiaque is leading a delegation of five senior lawyers who are trying to resolve the crisis.

## Compromise formula

From Page 1  
tary standing committee was given the task of reviewing the definition and making its own proposal.

The new proposal of the committee will now be placed before the parliament as a report and the finance minister will place a bill for approval by the House.

The committee also proposed that a bank can still proceed with legal options to realise loans or advances which had been written off earlier.

"This amendment is proposed so that banks still have claims on loans which had been written off because of being bad," Finance Minister SAMS Kibria said in support of the proposed amendment.

The standing committee has also dealt with the controversy over how

to identify a person or a company to be linked with a defaulting person or firm. This controversy had become a bone of contention in recent times as a person or a company linked with a defaulting person or firm is barred from getting fresh loans.

The committee has proposed that if a defaulting person has less than 20 per cent of stake in another company, then the firm would not be dubbed as a company linked with that defaulter.

In case of a public limited company, if a defaulter is not a director of the firm or holds less than 25 per cent share in it, then the company would not be considered as one having link with that defaulter.

## Dubey pleads zero-tariff

From Page 1  
Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil and MCCI President Latifur Rahman also spoke on the occasion. Leading entrepreneurs of the country were present. Commerce Secretary Golam Rahman also attended.

On the problems and advantages Bangladesh may have after 2004, the terminal year for phasing out quota restriction on textile products, Dubey observed that Bangladesh would still be more competitive than many of its competitors including India.

"I think Bangladesh would be able to yield twice as much benefit than any other country in a quota-free world," said the former Indian high commissioner in Dhaka.

Dubey, however, said Bangladesh has to take concrete measures for structural adjustment in textile sector by phasing out old textile units and modernising the sector.

Giving a brief history of trade negotiations, GATT and WTO, he said in the last 20-30 years, duty on goods has been reduced mostly in the interest of rich nations.

Dubey said time has now come for the LDCs and developing countries to make their point for drastically bringing down the export subsidies provided by the developed countries.

Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil

## Hasina tells JS

From Page 1  
certain tasks in certain areas, the PM told the House.

To another question, Sheikh Hasina said that the service entry age for the offspring of freedom fighters has been increased from 30 to 32 to fill the 30 per cent quota reserved for the freedom fighters in government jobs.

The Public Service Commission has been asked to arrange a special BCS examination to fill more than 600 vacancies reserved under the freedom fighters' quota.

## PM to inaugurate Eco-park at Sitakunda today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate a Botanical Garden and Eco-park at Sitakunda today, reports UNB.

The Botanical Garden and Eco-park has been set up on 1,996 acres of Chandranath Hills in Sitakunda upazila at a cost of Tk 3.57 crore.

Work on the five-year project started last fiscal year (1999-2000) to be completed by 2003-2004, said an official press release.

## Japanese team

From Page 12  
Jamuna bridge and other bridges.

Khaleda said if BNP goes to power, an EPZ will be set up exclusively for Japan. "We hope Japan will not set up industries only in the EPZ. It will also set up heavy industries for the benefit of both the countries," she told Nojima.

She requested the delegation to urge Japanese investors and businessmen to set up more industries in Bangladesh.

In reply, Koji Nojima said the main objective of their visit is to study investment prospects in Bangladesh. On return home, the team will submit a report and appraise Japanese investors of the prospects in Bangladesh.

Nojima said Japan always gives due importance to Bangladesh because of its location, linking South Asia and South East Asia.

Khaleda Zia also sought Japanese technical cooperation for development of the jute sector and market-

ing the products. "Japan can assist us by popularising environment-friendly jute products in the world", she said.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and the Chairperson's advisory council members MM Rezaul Karim and Reaz Rahman were present on the occasion.

## Textbook

From Page 12  
of terrorism from educational institutions.

The BCF programmes include stage demonstration in front of the offices of DC and TNO throughout the country and Education Ministry in the city on January 30, P o e t

Shamsur Rahman, Badruddin Omar, Faizul Hakim, Dr. Abdul Hakim expressed solidarity with the programme.

## Dhanmondi Lake Project

From Page 12  
comprehensive management policy for the lake. The government has formed two committees to run the business of the Dhanmondi Lake, informed the DCC official.

The five-member executive committee, headed by the CEO of DCC, comprises chief engineer of PWD, chief engineer of DCC, additional chief engineer of LGED and an advisory engineer of Bhatti Staphi Brinda -- consultants of the project.

Huda added that responsibilities of the executive committee include leasing out 18 commercial components, operating management, conducting monthly inspection of the area, solving problems with other service agencies and also publishing a project-highlighting brochure.

Huda also said that the ten-member advisory committee of the

lake includes secretary of Local Government Division, CEO of DCC, managing director of WASA, chief engineer of LGED and four 'local' residents.

Sources informed that the three local residents of the Advisory Committee are Kafiluddin Mahmud, a retired bureaucrat, Kamrul Islam Siddiq, secretary of the works ministry and Secretary of Dhanmondi thana Awami League Fazlur Rahman Razu and Ainul Haque. Two other members of the advisory committee are a representative of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum and that of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust.

"We'll soon float a tender to lease out 18 components separately," said Huda. "We look forward to starting the commercial activities by February 21."



Two girls were injured when an abandoned bomb exploded at a college ground in Keraniganj yesterday. They are now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. - Star photo