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Syed Moazzem Ali new foreign secy

The government has appointed Syed Moazzem Ali, at present Bangladesh Ambassador to France, as foreign secretary, said an official announcement yesterday, reports UNB.

All succeeds CM Shafi Sami who has already been made secretary general for NAM Coordination, on completion of his contract job as Foreign Secretary. A career diplomat, Sami was appointed FS on January 26, 1999 after his retirement from Foreign Service.

Born in Sylhet in 1944, Moazzem Ali obtained master's degree in Science from Dhaka University securing first class. He joined the erstwhile Pakistan Foreign Service in 1968.

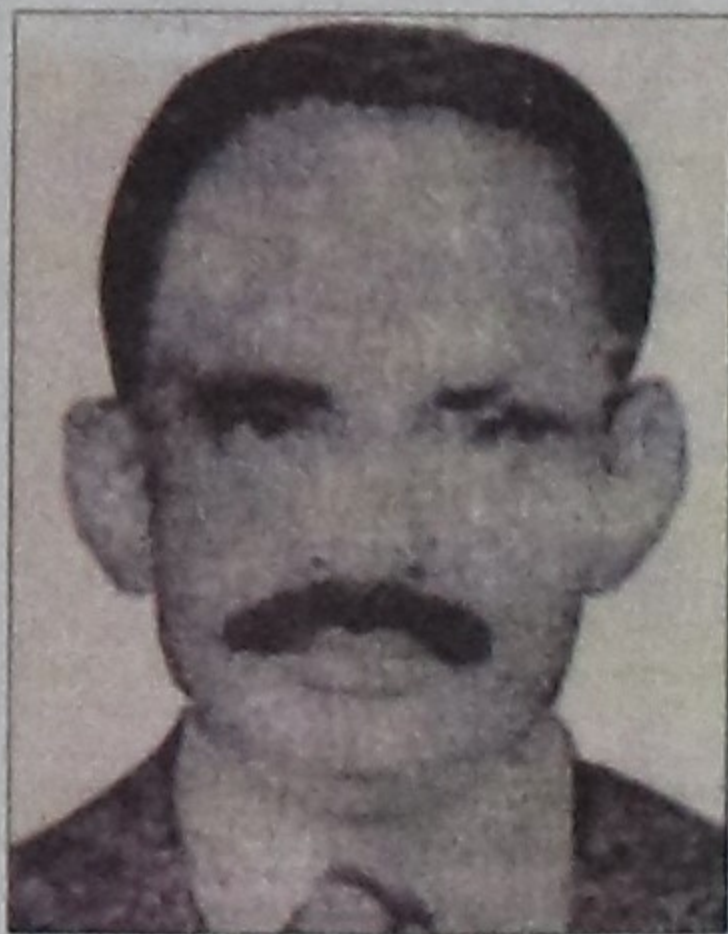
While posted in the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, DC, he declared his allegiance to the Bangladesh government-in-exile.

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HC order on DB office murder

Remove PP, ensure witnesses' presence

By Special Correspondent



Jalal Ahmed

A Division Bench of the High Court yesterday ordered removal of Public Prosecutor (PP) Quamrul Islam from the Jalal Murder Case and directed the solicitor of the Ministry of Law to appoint an additional or assistant public prosecutor for the case within seven days.

While disposing of a suo moto rule they had earlier issued, Justice Ali Asgar Khan and Justice SK Sinha directed the fifth additional Metropolitan Session's Judge of Dhaka to complete the trial without interruption unless there is any unforeseen event.

The court also directed the investigating officer in the case and the officer-in-charge of Ramna police station to ensure presence of the witnesses in the case.

Jalal Ahmed, a professional driver who worked as an informant for the Detective Branch (DB) of Police and rented his microbus to the sleuths, was battered to death and dumped into the rooftop water tank at DB's Minto Road office.

His decomposed body was recovered on March 25, 1999 by cleaners, who were looking for the source of foul odour in the office's water supply.

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CPB rally at Paltan today

By Staff Correspondent

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) is likely to announce fresh programmes at its today's rally at Paltan Maidan in the city as the government failed to arrest the 'main culprits' responsible for the bomb explosion at its January 20 rally at the same venue, party sources said.

Four persons were killed and about 50 injured at that rally.

At today's rally, the party may also announce its own findings regarding the explosion.

The rally will culminate the party's weeklong mourning programme protesting the tragic

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Cracker blasts mar JCD rally in Ctg: Pintu manhandled

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 28: A JCD rally at Muradpur in the city was marred by cracker explosions this afternoon.

The trouble began when JCD central president Nasiruddin Pintu arrived at the meeting venue.

UNB adds: over 200 JCD activists chanted slogans against Nasiruddin Pintu.

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JS adopts Nat'l Edn Policy 2000

Parliament yesterday adopted the National Education Policy 2000 and also endorsed recommendations for implementing it properly in phases, reports UNB.

Education Minister A S H K Sadique told the house that the national education policy would be implemented gradually by 2010.

"It is not possible to implement the policy immediately due to financial constraint and lack of necessary infrastructure," he said.

The parliament adopted a set of recommendations for proper implementation of the National Education Policy 2000, earlier approved by the government.

Abdul Latif Mirza of AL (Sirajgonj-4) moved a proposal for adopting the recommendations, thanking the Prime Minister for approving the education policy by the government.

It's a modern, timely and

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Jan 29		5.43 pm
Jan 30	6-41 am	

Prayer Timings

January 29

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-015	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-45
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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A model shows off a leather jacket during a fashion show, organised by Model Watch as part of the Dhaka International Leather Fair 2001, at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

-- Star photo

JS rules flouted to let minister talk

Sadique allowed to speak on a 'closed' issue

By Staff Correspondent

Overruling the deputy speaker's decision, a panel chairman yesterday allowed a minister to speak on an item, closed for discussion at the Jatiya Sangsad.

"It's a correction," said Abdul Latif Siddiqui, a member of the five-strong panel of chairmen, while reopening discussion on a thanks motion.

However, he did not explain under what arrangement he had given the floor to Education Minister ASHK Sadique, suspending a general discussion on the president's address to the parliament.

Earlier, Awami League MP Abdul Latif Mirza had moved the motion thanking Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her government's adoption of the National Education Policy.

Then in the chair, Deputy

Speaker Abdul Hamid gave the thanks motion to vote after six ruling party lawmakers had spoken on it.

As the House passed the motion, Treasury Bench Whip Abdus Shahid drew the deputy speaker's attention to the fact that the education minister did not get a chance to speak on the issue.

"There is nothing to do at this stage as the motion has already been passed," ruled Hamid, closing the chapter.

Latif Siddiqui followed Abdul Hamid to chair the day's sitting soon after the discussion on president's address had begun in the House.

"Admitting a mistake is not a shame but a gesture of nobility,"

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Fresh tremors rock Gujarat, Hyderabad

400 schoolchildren, 50 teachers died 'instantly' near Bhuj

HYDERABAD, Pakistan, Jan 28: Residents fled their homes as tremors rocked parts of southern Pakistan today, two days after a powerful earthquake killed at least 12 people in the area and thousands in the neighbouring Indian state of Gujarat, report agencies.

The tremors hit the Tharparkar and Badin districts of the southern province of Sindh for the second day running, local officials said, adding that they were surprised Pakistan had been spared the devastation of Gujarat.

A fresh tremor also shook Gujarat, India today, but no fresh damage was reported.

Gujarat has been hit by more than 250 aftershocks since Friday's devastating earthquake that killed at least 15,000 people, an official said today.

GJ Nair, head of the seismology division at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Bombay, said one aftershock, early today, registered about six on the Richter scale.

"It was a sufficiently big shock," he said.

Soldiers and police digging through the ruins of crushed buildings in Bhuj, Gujarat

today pursued the faint voices of survivors of devastating earthquake, bolstered by the rescue of five people from the rubble 36-54 hours after the disaster.

Home Minister Haren Pandya of Gujarat said 6,072 people were confirmed killed in Friday's 7.9 quake. The toll was likely to go up to at least 10,000, he said.

There are many bodies buried inside and there are many places with which we have no communications. But our projection is that the toll would be 10,000. I can't confirm the figure of 15,000-16,000," he said, referring to Indian media reports.

More than 14,500 have been injured, the national government said.

On Saturday, a unit of soldiers among the 5,000 Indian troops deployed in Gujarat, rescued two men and a girl after digging through the fallen masonry of their homes in Bhuj, Capt. Amartej Singh of the 108 Engineers unit said.

Today, a 3-year-old girl was extricated from the rubble in Anjar, 50 kilometers south-east of Bhuj, where 400 children were buried

under toppling buildings they marched in a holiday parade.

"She was chanting some Arabic verses," said a soldier who participated in the toddler's rescue. "She was totally unscathed," he said, declining to give his name.

Friday's quake India's strongest in more than 50 years struck on Republic Day, a national holiday. It shook the earth for more than 1930 kilometres and was felt in Pakistan, where 10 people were crushed in their houses, Nepal and Bangladesh.

The 400 schoolchildren and their 50 teachers were killed almost instantly when the earthquake knocked the buildings down onto them from either side, said Bangaru Lakshman, president of the Bharatiya Janata Party of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Nearby, rescuers spent five hours chipping at stones until they freed a 50-year-old man known only as Maganbhai. In shock, he was given sips of water as the workers pounded away at the rubble trapping his legs until they freed him.

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UNB correspondent sues Hazari, 14 others

By Staff Correspondent

Tipu Sultan, Feni correspondent of UNB, filed a case with Feni Sadar thana yesterday accusing ruling party lawmaker Jinal Abedin Hazari and 14 others of beating and injuring him.

The accused include executive editor of Weekly Hazarika Bidhan Majumder Suman, Union Parishad Chairman Shajahan Shaju and Kohinur, an armed cadre of Hazari.

In his FIR, Tipu alleged that Hazari and his armed cadres were threatening him death since a

UNB report on Sultana Memorial Junior School was published in various dailies on January 16.

"On the night of January 25, Hazari and his men came to a petrol pump at Feni town when I was waiting for a rickshaw. Hazari was in a red car while his associates in a white microbus and they parked the vehicles in front of me."

He further alleged that Bidhan Majumder Suman then said,

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Tipu Sultan, the Feni correspondent of UNB, grimaces in pain at the National Orthopaedic Hospital yesterday.

-- Star photo

PM's directive to apply PSA cautiously

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the police forces yesterday to apply the Public Safety Act (PSA) cautiously, reports UNB.

"... has been enacted to curb terrorism, extortion, monopolisation of tenders and new types of crimes ... some positive results have already been achieved, but apply it cautiously so that none is deprived of justice," she said inaugurating the Bangladesh Police Week 2001 at the Rajarbagh Police Lines.

The Prime Minister hoped that police would be able to free the country of terrorism by applying the law and said her government is determined to ensure rule of law.

"Act neutrally for the interest of the masses, not for any particular quarter. I again ask you to

bring the culprits to book irrespective of their party affiliation," she told the police forces.

Hasina said: "You (police) proved the neutrality of the government taking action against the accused without bias. I also hope that police will not do anything that may damage its image."

Negative activities of some policemen made the force controversial, she said and warned of action against those who are corrupt.

She, however, assured that "honest and efficient officers and other members of the police forces will be rewarded".

The Prime Minister reminded the police that all the facilities given to them come from the limited resources of the people.

"So, you are to protect their interest." She said the people want to live in a peaceful environment. "As servant of the people, you'll have

to perform your duty carefully with honesty and dignity to fulfil their aspirations. This is the people's desire," she told the

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