

Prof Nuruddin passes away

FROM PAGE 12
death of the oldest teacher of the department.

Born in Kolkata on June 15, 1935, Nuruddin started his career in 1956 as an Establishment Officer in the then Pakistan International Airways (PIA).

Later, he joined the DPID, Chittagong as a lecturer in 1960. He joined the History Department at Dhaka College in 1962.

A pioneer in journalism studies, Prof Nuruddin joined the Mass Communication and Journalism Department at DU in 1962 after completing a Diploma course in the same department. He retired in June 2000 after 36 years of service as a teacher at DU. He was also a visiting professor of Southern Illinois University in the USA.

Till his death, Prof Nuruddin represented Bangladesh in the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC). He was also a member of the Film Censor Board for long.

Prof Nuruddin was chairman of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) for three terms.

He had studied at Dhaka College and Dhaka University.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury in a message expressed deep shock at the death of Prof Nuruddin and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Teachers of the Mass Communication Department at a condolence meeting yesterday afternoon also expressed deep shock at his death. They will hold another meeting at the department today to commemorate his memory.

Different organisations in separate messages condoled his death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul. Those include the Sub-editors Forum (SF) and the Mass-line Media Centre (MMC).

Qulkhwani of Prof Nuruddin will be held at 84, Najimuddin Road in the city on May 22 after Magrib prayer.

Argentina reach base

FROM PAGE 1
of winning the Cup," said Italian Serie A side Roma defender Walter Samuel.

Argentina, one of the top favourites to win the finals, arrived at their training base in northern Japan on Thursday and were out on the practice field on Saturday.

With defender Diego Placente joining them after playing for Bayer Leverkusen of Germany in the European champions league final, the full 23 players, as well as a dozen young players spent 90 minutes warming up.

"We still have jet lag, but our mood is very good. We were drawn in a tough group in the first round

The taste of freedom

FROM PAGE 12
and happiness," said Joao Freitas, a 22-year old student.

"The rising of the flag is the symbol of a new life in East Timor," he said. "Everything will start from zero, but I am sure it will work out because we are starting with freedom."

East Timor's history of foreign occupation goes back hundreds of years. It was a Portuguese colony for almost four centuries before Indonesia invaded in 1976.

In 1999, it voted for independence from Indonesia in a UN-sponsored referendum. Afterward, Indonesian troops and anti-independence militia gangs went on a rampage that devastated the half-island territory and killed hundreds.

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, a longtime opponent

Chop on channels

FROM PAGE 1
But the decision may be reconsidered on people's demand.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, President of the Cable Operators' Association of Bangladesh (COAB) SM Anwar Parvez said the meeting's decision was immediately carried out and "we switched off all the identified channels."

He said the meeting discussed that programmes aired by these channels were not suitable for family viewing. Besides, many countries including Pakistan, Malaysia and Australia have restrictions on certain channels which go against public values and culture, he noted.

Meeting sources however said that M/S Nationwide Cable Operators and M/S Translink, distributors of Star Movies and the HBO respectively, opposed the decision of shutting down these two channels.

Meanwhile, people in the city have condemned the government's decision to ban these satellite channels.

Farhana Mirza, a housewife of Shaymoli, said, "Do they want to make Bangladesh a fundamentalist state? How do we know if they will not also shut down the remaining channels?"

Another housewife, Noushin Akter, said, "Many Islamic states have satellite channels and I don't think their religious and social

Clash over control of bus terminal at Mymensingh: 40 injured

UNB, Mymensingh

At least 40 people, including a district BNP leader, were injured in a series of clashes over control of Mashkanda bus terminal here yesterday.

Police said Manjurul Haq Manju, district (south) BNP general secretary, along with his followers captured the bus terminal controlled by district Motor Owners Association leader Shamim.

Manju, who was among the injured, attacked the terminal firing gunshots at about 11:30 am.

Shamim group later recaptured the terminal after a fierce clash with the Manju group at about 2:30 pm, leaving 40 people injured. Five buses were damaged during the clash.

Shamim group also blocked all entrances to the town when Manju group captured the terminal, disrupting traffic until 3 pm.

Additional police have been deployed at all the bus terminals in the town to fend off further trouble.

Storm kills 2

FROM PAGE 12

UNB quoting a PDB press release said, power supply in the greater Mymensingh district was disrupted following a storm yesterday.

Power connections were snapped in Shambhuganj, Fulpur, Hauaghat, Gouripur and Bhaluka of Mymensingh district and Sribardi, Bakshiganj and Nokla of Sherpur district as storm uprooted electric poles in the areas.

Power supply was also disrupted at Kular Char and Bajitpur of Kishoreganj district and Melandah, Islampur and Dewanganj areas of Jamalpur district due to the same reason.

SPA clause

FROM PAGE 12

Termed a black law since it curbs human rights, the SPA gives the government indisputable authority to detain anyone without having to put them in the dock.

Moreover, it deals with 11 types of crimes including smuggling, black marketing, hoarding, adulteration, sedition, revealing state secret, holding demonstration by disturbing public peace, trespassing and counterfeiting money and stamps.

The Law Commission report said the law ministry's proposal to incorporate the SPA clauses dealing with these 11 crimes into the penal code was "illogical" since there were provisions of tribunals and summary trial court to deal with these crimes.

Punishments for similar types of offences in the penal code are different, and if these are incorporated, the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) would have to be amended and it would complicate the situation.

The BNP in its election manifesto had pledged to scrap the SPA and it was also on the first 100-day agenda of the BNP-led coalition government. Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said after reviewing the Law Commission report the government would decide on repeal of the SPA.

An advance copy of Gusmão's inaugural speech, obtained by the Associated Press, said the difficult past "should not continue to stain our spirits of to hamper our attitudes and conduct."

Addressing Megawati herself, Gusmão says: "We warmly welcome your presence here among us, not only in your capacity as head of state of the brotherly and neighbouring country which we share common borders, but also as a symbol of the democratic yearnings of the brotherly people of Indonesia."

Apparel

FROM PAGE 12

Contrarily, China's RMG export to the US rose by 14.79 per cent in volume and 0.24 per cent in value during the same period.

On the other hand, Bangladeshi's competitor Vietnam's export to the US witnessed a dramatic increase during the period by 116.39 per cent and 159.42 per cent in volume and value terms.

Indian RMG export to the US increased by 7.35 per cent in volume but declined by 6.54 per cent in value terms.

But other Asian countries including Pakistan and Sri Lanka suffered setbacks in the US market.

According to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the country's apparel export slumped by 5.60 per cent to US\$ 2,371 million during the first nine months (July-March) of this fiscal compared to the same period of the last fiscal.

Knitwear and hosiery exports declined by 2.64 per cent to US\$ 1,052 million.

"In this context, for the first time the government has decided to slash the export target. And if policy supports are not forthcoming, there would be hardly any improvement as prices are falling drastically," Khatibuddin said.

Rashed Khan, a student of the Dhaka University, said, "There are many cinema halls in the country which show pornography. Instead of cracking down on them why the government bans the channels?"

Md Mozammel Huq, a school teacher, said, "The people in Bangladesh do not have much options for entertainment. The decision was ridiculous."

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Another raid on army camp

FROM PAGE 1

The violence and cross-border firing dominated discussions between Vajpayee and Sonia Gandhi, leader of India's main opposition Congress Party, an official said.

The talks were aimed at building political consensus on India's next steps in its dealings with rival Pakistan following a massacre in Kashmir last week.

Vajpayee's meeting with Gandhi lasted more than an hour.

The prime minister was also due last night to hold another round of talks with members of his CCS, the government's top strategy-making body.

All leading ministers including hardline Home Minister L K Advani, Defence Minister George Fernandes, Finance Minister Yashwant Singh and Foreign Minister Singh, as well as the chiefs of the Indian army, navy and air force are members of the CCS.

Analysts in New Delhi said India was once again taking graded diplomatic steps in response to the incident, only this time the options are very limited and punitive military action is not being ruled out.

"This (expulsion of the Pakistani envoy) is one of the smaller steps," said C. Raja Mohan, The Hindu newspaper's foreign editor.

"But if it doesn't work, they might

expel Pakistan's envoy in New Delhi.

Following the militant attack on the Indian parliament, in a united voice led by Gandhi, expressed its outrage and also asked the government to take "concrete" action to avenge the deaths.

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The demand was expressed by Foreign Office spokesman Aziz Ahmad Khan in a press interview yesterday.

Khan said that there should be de-escalation and lessening of tension and all disputes should be resolved through talks between the two countries.

"India is mounting the tension but we are still trying to lessen it," he added.

Meghna tragedy

FROM PAGE 12

Mohammad Afsal; Inspector Md Shafiqul Islam and Chief Inspector of the Directorate of Marine Transport Motiur Rahman.

Abdur Rab Mia, Legal Aid Coordinator of Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) filed the case.

In the complaint, Rab said the vessel was carrying over 500 passengers against a capacity of 216. It was also old and unfit for transporting passengers.

Murder at Pallabi

FROM PAGE 1

went there and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Kader owned a cluster of tin-shed houses in his compound. He and his wife lived in one of those and rented the rest. His two sons lived separately. He was alone for the last couple of days as his wife went to her parents in Munshiganj.

Quoting other tenants, police said Kader might have been killed by a couple who had rented one of the tin-sheds last month.

Police also said there was a quarrel between the couple and the landlord earlier and the couple fled the house early morning yesterday.

Kader's son Abul Kalam filed a case. Pallabi police said they are investigating the murder.

Police said yesterday's incident

is similar to an incident in the city last year in which an elderly woman and her daughter were strangled at their flat at the DCC Staff Quarter at Maniknagar, and a tenant couple fled the rented house. Valuables were also looted.

Noor Jahan Begum, 62, and her daughter Samson Nahar, 40, were strangled at their third floor flat at the

DCC Staff Quarter at about noon on May 23 last year. Their hands and legs were tied before they were strangled. Nahar was the wife of one Afzal Hossain, a supervisor at a DCC market.

One Helal and his wife had rented a room of Afzal's flat in February 2001. But they were not found after the killings.

IU clash

FROM PAGE 12

dent, was shifted to Dhaka in a critical condition.

The university authorities suspended scheduled classes and examinations following the incident.

A tense situation is prevailing on the campus and its adjoining areas.

Meanwhile, IU Vice-Chancellor Prof Mustafizur Rahman and different student organisations including Jatiyaabadi Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir condemned the incident.

The university authorities and Kushtia and Jhenidah district administrations were trying to resolve the problem.

BNP activist murdered in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A

bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court has started delivering its verdict on the much-debated cassette scam case.

The bench comprising Justice Syed Amrul Islam and Justice AKM Shafiquddin yesterday started giving its long verdict that is expected to be completed today along with directions.

Badal had been working as a butcher for last three months after his earlier job at a garment factory at BCIC, Panchobati, Narayanganj ended following the factory's shutdown.

Local people said Badal was not involved in any criminal activities but was falsely implicated in the rape and killing of a young girl Bobby. Badal's name was also not in the list of suspects of the Bobby rape and murder case.

Badal was later shown as accused in the rape and murder of a local girl and sent to Narayanganj Jail.

Sanowara also said Badal had asked her to stop his transfer from the Narayanganj Jail to the Dhaka Central Jail.

The officer-in-charge of Narayanganj DB could not be reached for his comment on the incident despite repeated attempts. Duty officer of the DB office said they would decide whether to carry out an investigation only after getting Badal's autopsy report. The officer however declined to comment on the torture on Badal in DB.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday he said he ordered the judicial inquiry in order to ensure proper investigation into the incident.

The spokesman noted that any

escalation of tension could have a

serious destabilising effect for the

whole South Asian region".

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