

Prof Nuruddin passes away

FROM PAGE 12
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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.

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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, Haluaghat, 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 Kuliar 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.

Sutrapur murder

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Mohammad Amin Miah, father of Mohsin, one of the two victims, filed a case accusing 14 people, including Rahid Hasan Sumon.

Earlier, Detective Branch (DB) of police submitted a chargesheet to the CMM's Court, Dhaka against Sumon and 14 others.

Later, the CMM's Court ordered further investigation into the case following a naraji petition submitted by Amin Miah.

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, Bangladesh'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.

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," Kutubuddin said.

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Monjurul Huq, Bangladesh Terry Towel and Linen manufacturers and Exporters Association President Anisuzzaman, BGMEA Vice-presidents Ershadullah, Qazi Moniruzzaman and Shafiqul Islam were present during the press conference.

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.

Similar talks will be held with other political leaders, Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh told reporters after the meeting.

"We shared (with Gandhi) the current position and also briefed her on the situation on both the diplomatic front and the situation on the border," Singh said.

The Congress is the largest opposition group in parliament and Gandhi has taken a leading role in shaping opposition opinion on worsening relations between India and Pakistan after the attack last Tuesday on a passenger bus and an army camp in Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital.

Thirty-five people -- many the wives and children of army men -- died in the slaughter, leading the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Saturday to decide to

expel Pakistan's envoy in New Delhi.

Following the militant attack 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.

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 Sinha 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

consider going to war. If there is one more incident of this nature, I think they will go for it," he added.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has once again called upon India to withdraw its troops from borders and resolve all disputes with Pakistan through talks.

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.

Indo-Pak tensions Dhaka calls for restraint, dialogue

UNB, Dhaka

Amidst heightening tensions between nuclear rivals India and Pakistan, Bangladesh urged both sides to exercise restraint apprehending that any slip could affect the entire region.

Dhaka called for the two neighbors to resume constructive dialogue to resolve the current crisis stemming from the pugnaucious dispute over Kashmir.

"The government of Bangladesh has consistently urged for restraint upon both India and Pakistan, specially in the present complicated scenario and called for resumption and continuation of constructive dialogue between the two sides," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday.

The spokesman noted that any escalation of tension could have a "serious destabilising effect for the whole South Asian region".

Bangladesh's call for peace came when cross-border shelling by forces of the two inveterate rivals already had left a number of casualties on both sides.

Petrobangla official said.

The authorities are importing 60,000 gas meters to ensure accountability of gas use. More meters would be imported soon although domestic users do not use gas meter. There are 8.5 lakh domestic users who consume eight per cent of the Titas gas.

A major stretch of Titas gas pipeline now needs to be replaced as it was installed 30 years ago. The authorities are considering reinstallation of these lines to reduce the technical systems loss, which is around 2 per cent now.

Clarification
Meanwhile, Secretary-in-charge of the Energy and Mineral Resources Division Khairuzzaman Chowdhury yesterday in a clarification on a May 19 report of The Daily Star headlined "Bar on Titas unions on cards", said that no cabinet minister had ever asked him not to proceed on the trade union issues.

The report said a cabinet minister had asked the energy secretary not to act and not to proceed on the issue.

Murder at Pallabi

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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 Samsun 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 Aftab Hossain, a supervisor at a DCC market.

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

IU clash

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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 Jatiyatabadi 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.

Judgement in cassette scam case begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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 Amirul Islam and Justice AKM Shafuddin yesterday started giving its long verdict that is expected to be completed today along with directives.

Following the verdict on the Janata Tower corruption case, a Bangla tabloid Dainik Manojbamin ran a report on September 2000 on a telephonic conversation between former president HM Ershad, the accused in the case, and one of the judges dealing with the case.

The High Court Division Bench later issued a contempt rule against Manabjabin for running the report on the tape-recorded conversation that had many comments against the judiciary.

The court also issued a similar rule on Justice Naimuddin Ahmad for making derogatory comments about the judiciary. Apart from Manabjabin, three other Bengali newspapers Ittefaq, Sangbad and Janakantha were also issued a contempt rule for publishing the comments of Justice Naimuddin Ahmad.

In its verdict, the court yesterday read out the arguments for and against the four newspapers and Justice Naimuddin Ahmad.

Today it is expected that the verdict would read out matters related to Ershad and issue a rule.

Depression

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showers along the southeastern coast which, however, failed to cool off the day.

But the clouds that gathered over central and eastern Bangladesh were due to the interplay of southerly moisture-laden winds with westerly ones, Met office sources said.

The clouds gathering over the capital from yesterday afternoon kindled hope of relief among the people suffering under a maximum temperature of 33 degrees Celsius amid frequent outburst and shortage of water supply.

However, there was no sign of relief from the sultry weather although rains were forecast later in the night.

The day temperature may not change unless there are heavy showers, forecast meteorologists.

BNP activist murdered in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

BNP activist Zillur Rahman Khokon, 35, was murdered at midnight on Saturday at Tetultala under Batiaghata thana of Khulna district.

Police recovered his body yesterday morning.

Son of Md Kader Howlader, Zillur used to stay out of his house at night to escape arrest as he was wanted in some criminal cases.

The alleged killers came to know about his hideout and slaughtered him to death there.

The alleged killers stabbed in several parts of his body and severed tendons of his legs, OC of Batiaghata thana said.

The murder is a sequel to political rivalry, local people said.

Victim's father filed a murder case with Batiaghata thana.

Road accident kills 3 in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Three people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident at Chhondaha in Sathia upazila on Pabna-Nagarbari road yesterday.

Police said the accident took place when a tempo called 'Nosimon' overturned at about 11 am, killing three of its passengers on the spot.

The dead were identified as cloth traders Abul Kalam, 30, Joyнал Abedin, 25, and Abdullah, 25, all hailed from Durgapur village of Sujanagar upazila.

Six of the injured were rushed to Pabna General Hospital in critical condition.

The victims were going to Shahajpur of Sirajganj district.

AL worried

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monitor six divisions of the country.

About the AL's joining the parliamentary session, Abdul Hamid said the party would go to parliament if the government improves the situation in which the AL leaders and activists are being repressed.

About formation of all-party committees on law and order, Hamid said, "We'll discuss it in the party forum once the government makes a formal proposal envisaging the concept."

Doubly disabled

FROM PAGE 12

Daily Star.

In Dhaka city, 52 per cent of the street children with disability suffer from physical impairment, 15 pc from speech and hearing impairment, 20 pc from visual impairment, nine pc from intellectual impairment and four per cent suffer from other disabilities.

These were found in a study done jointly by CSID and Radda Barnen of Sweden.

Most of them fall in the 11-15 age group and are disabled by birth. The study shows that about 43 per cent of such children have no income source. Forty-six per cent of them beg, 2.5 pc somehow work as day labourers, 0.83 pc work as domestic help and less than one per cent work as vendors.

Talking to this correspondent, Khandaker Jahurul Alam of SCID said, "There is virtually no programme for the marginalised disabled children in the country."

Most of such disabled children live in city slums where, in every ten families, there is at least one disabled person.

When contacted, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Md Mujahid could not say whether the government has any programme for the marginalised disabled children.

Argentina reach base

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of winning the Cup," said Italian Seria 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

and it's not easy to win. It is important for us to play our usual game," said goalkeeper German Burgos.

"We always target to win the Cup in every World Cup," Burgos added.

Argentina showed a strong performance throughout the South American qualifying round, finishing 12 points ahead of Ecuador, and 13 points ahead of Brazil and Paraguay.

Argentina, winners of the world Cup in 1978 and 1986, were drawn in the toughest Group F with England, Sweden and Nigeria, known as the "Group of Death."

The taste of freedom

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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

of East Timorese independence, decided to attend the celebrations despite objections from hardline lawmakers at home.

An advance copy of Gusmao'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, Gusmao 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."

Chop on channels

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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