

Maroof new envoy to Qatar

UNB, Dhaka

M Maroof Zaman, director general (West Asia, Central Asia and Africa) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed as ambassador to Qatar.

Maroof Zaman joined the BCS (foreign affairs) cadre with seniority in 1978. He held important positions in the ministry and served in the Bangladesh Missions in Bangkok, Hanoi and London in various capacities, said an official release yesterday.

Ashruf-ud-Doula

Government has also decided to appoint Ashruf-ud-Doula, currently ambassador to Vietnam, as High Commissioner to Australia.

Ashruf-ud-Doula joined the Foreign Service in 1977. He held important positions in Foreign Ministry and served in the Bangladesh Missions in Berlin, Rome, London, Singapore and Canberra in various capacities.

Workshop for district judges begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Judges cannot deviate from their responsibility as they are bound by the oath to ensure justice, said Justice Naimuddin Ahmed yesterday.

"If you (judges) are under fear of somebody, you cannot perform your duty properly," he said at the inaugural session of a workshop for the district judges.

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (Bilia) organised the six-day workshop in the city.

Referring to an allegation of political pressure on a district judge of Dhaka, he said the Supreme Court is supposed to give protection to the judges of lower court.

Iqbal Haider, a former law minister of Pakistan, said onslaught on the judiciary is nothing new in this sub-continent.

Smooth functioning of the judiciary is vital to ensuring justice, he said.

Presided over by Justice KM Sobhan, the

inaugural session was also addressed by Ambassador of the Philippines Jose Lino B Guerrero and Bilia Director and former ambassador Wali-ur-Rahman.

BTV's top news producer withdrawn

BSS, Dhaka

The Executive Producer (News) of Bangladesh Television (BTV), Kazi Mostaq Zahir has been withdrawn from the news room for negligence to his duty during the news telecast at 8 pm on Saturday.

He was attached to the head office of BTV, a handout said last night.

An inquiry into the negligence is in progress, the handout said.

One hanged at Rajshahi jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

One convict was hanged at Rajshahi Central Jail yesterday for killing his wife.

Alal Uddin of Murshidpur of Bagha upazila was hanged at 12.15am and his body was handed over to his family members at 6.00am.

Shahjahan Bhuiyan from Dhaka Central Jail carried out the execution in presence of Senior Jail Super AK Fazlul Haq, Jailor Sayeed Hossain, Civil Surgeon AKM Fazlul Haq and senior officials.

Rajshahi Women and Children Repression Prevention Court sentenced Alal to death by hanging on January 22, 2000 for killing his pregnant wife Balika Khatun on April 22, 1998.

Musical evening cancelled

The High Commission of India has cancelled a musical evening by Johar Ali Khan and his troupe, which was scheduled to be held at the National Museum auditorium today, says a press release.

Fanatics vow to lay siege to Ahmadiyya base

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Religious fanatics yesterday vowed to go ahead with their planned siege to Ahmadiyya Complex at Bakshibazar on August 27 unless the government declares the sect non-Muslims before the deadline.

"If the government declares them non-Muslim today, we will stop our movement tomorrow," said Jamal Naser Chowdhury, general secretary of Amra Dhakabasi, at a press conference in the city.

Shamsul Haq, president of the organisation, placed several demands

including installation of a new sign-board at the Ahmadiyya complex gate declaring it a place for worship instead of mosque and arrest of those who were taking stand in favour of Ahmadiyyas.

Representatives of Khatme Nabuwat Andolon Parishad, Islami Shashontantra Andalon, Bishwa Muslim Bhatri Parishad, Islami Parishad, Bangladesh and the Pir of Jainpur attended the conference.

On Friday, the religious fanatics also clashed with police and attacked the Ahmadiyya Complex in the run-up to their planned siege to the complex.