

## Headmaster shot dead

UNB, Munshiganj

Armed assailants shot dead the headmaster of Bagra High School in Sreenagar upazila of the district yesterday.

Witnesses said the assailants swooped on Shahabuddin, also former chairman of Bagra Union Parishad (UP), at about 7:45am while he was going to Bagra Bazar.

They stabbed the headmaster in the abdomen and fired several shots in the head. He died instantly.

Shahabuddin was one of the witnesses in the Monwar Ali murder case in which 16 people were sentenced to death.

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## 2 'robbers' die in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two alleged robbers were killed in "crossfire" between police and their associates in Araihaazar upazila in the early hours yesterday.

The victims, Benu, 26, and Dulu, 30, were accused of eight and four criminal charges including robberies and murders, police said.

The police said they arrested the robbers from Baniapara in Araihaazar on Sunday noon.

Following the arrestees' statements, the police took them to an abandoned textile mill to nab their accomplices and seize firearms at

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Prayer Timing		
August 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# Trade accord revision close to finalisation

Dhaka, Delhi agree to develop land ports

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The Bangladesh-India Joint Working Group meeting yesterday made progress in respect of many issues, including finalisation of the revision of the Bangladesh-India Trade Agreement, trade facilitation and elimination of non-tariff barriers.

"We are nearly close to finalise revision of the trade agreement. Some points are yet to be resolved which might be okayed tomorrow [today]," Wasiuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh commercial councillor to India, told reporters after the first day of the meeting yesterday.

The Bangladesh team

emphasised the development of different land ports on the Indian side, improvement of banking facilities and recognition of Bangladeshi laboratories by the Indian authority. The Indian team, on the other hand, argued for allowing export of yarn and sugar through land ports and resolving the payment problems.

Bangladesh requested India to develop facilities at the Benapole, Fulbari, Banglabandha, Sutarkanti and Akhaura land ports on the Indian sides in order to help bolster trade and commerce between the two countries.

Both the teams agreed on developing the land ports and decided to

hand over the responsibility to the joint working group of the customs.

"They assured us to work to develop the banking facilities in the seven northeastern states of India. Currently only 16 bank branches are active in the region for cross-border transactions which is not adequate for export and import," Elias Ahmed, head of the Bangladesh team, told newsmen.

He said the two teams have discussed some functional problems, including pre-shipment inspection, standard and testing, and product-to-product non-tariff barriers.

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## BANGLADESH ENVOY Delhi sets Aug 8 for presentation of credentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi has set August 8 as the date for presentation of credentials by the newly appointed Bangladesh High Commissioner (HC) to the Indian president, a foreign ministry source said yesterday.

The government appointed Liaquat Ali Chowdhury as the high commissioner to India on April 28 after Hemayetuddin was made foreign secretary on March 13.

An officer of 1979 batch, Chowdhury is an "A-grade" ambassador and previously served as the Bangladesh Ambassador to The Hague.

He was promoted to the rank and status of a full-fledged secretary after his appointment in New Delhi mission.

In India, delay in setting the date

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PHOTO: STAR

A mobile court seizes banned chemical essence from a bakery during a raid on Aga Sadeque Lane in Old Dhaka yesterday.

## PRESIDENTIAL PARDON AL demands JS body talks to probe Home's role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday demanded a discussion in a parliamentary standing committee on the home ministry's role in the process of granting controversial presidential pardon to a ruling BNP man sentenced to death in a double-murder case.

AL lawmakers raised the demand at a press conference held at AL's Dhanmondi office. They asked the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry to convene immediately a meeting. The parliamentary

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### LIFE AFTER BLASTS

INAM AHMED, FROM LONDON

# London braces for fresh attack threat

Young Muslims to face stop-and-search by police

Thousands of police and security men yesterday fanned out through the London's Underground network as the capital faces a third bomb threat.

A new group of British Muslims, particularly of Pakistani origin, was believed to be intent on staging

another strings of blasts yesterday. The terrorists are said to have links to the Leeds attackers who caused the 7/7 blasts.

US security sources informed the British government yesterday that this third group of would-be attackers met

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## Sudan vice president killed in plane crash

AP, Khartoum

Sudanese Vice President John Garang, a former rebel leader who is a key figure in the country's fledgling peace deal, died when the aircraft he was travelling in crashed into a southern Sudan mountain range in bad weather, Sudan's government said yesterday.

Garang's death would be a heavy blow to the January peace deal that ended a 21-year civil war between the mostly Muslim north and the Christian and animist south in which some 2 million people died.

Thirteen others aboard the craft

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