

Dhaka seeks Afghan help for release of Brac staff

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury has sought support of the Afghan authorities in securing the release of abducted Brac employee Nurul Islam.

The adviser yesterday sent a letter to his Afghan counterpart Rangin Dadfar Spanta in this regard.

In his letter, the foreign adviser stated, "Brac is a Bangladeshi NGO reputed worldwide for its social services. Nurul Islam's mission was purely of a peaceful and humanitarian nature. His family understandably is deeply distraught."

"Here, I would like to add that the people of Bangladesh have always stood by their Afghan brethren at all times under all circumstances."

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CARTOON INCIDENT Prothom Alo takes action against persons responsible

Cartoonist held, Alpin issue confiscated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement agencies yesterday arrested daily Prothom Alo cartoonist Arifur Rahman for a cartoon "hurting religious sentiments" published in the daily's satire magazine 'Aalpin' on Monday.

The government has also confiscated all copies of the Aalpin's 431st issue containing the cartoon titled "Nam" (name) on page six, a government press release said.

The press release also said Prothom Alo has already apologised and withdrawn the cartoon and dismissed an Aalpin sub-editor in this connection.

The government hopes everyone concerned with this unwarranted incident will exercise

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24 promoted as secretary

UNB, Dhaka

The caretaker government yesterday promoted 24 additional secretaries and appointed them as secretaries in various keyposts.

According to an official announcement, Foreign Secretary-in-charge Tuhid Hossain was promoted to secretary, Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management Dhiraj Malakar has been made secretary of the ministry while LGRD and Cooperatives Division Acting Secretary M Nazrul Islam made secretary of the division and Land Appeal Board Acting Chairman Dewan Jakir Hossain made chairman of the board.

Acting Secretary of the Chief Adviser's Office Kazi M Aminul Islam has been made secretary of the CA's Office while Acting Secretary of the Primary and Mass

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Delwar moves to bury differences with Hannan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain last night met Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah, an adviser to the chairperson, apparently to patch up their 'differences'.

After the meeting at Hannan's Mohakhali residence, both however strongly denied having any misunderstanding between them. They said they would soon resume the party activities on full throttle.

"We will get back into the swing of things, but there would be no council keeping the chairperson in jail," Hannan Shah told the reporters. He said leaders from each of the districts have congratulated the newly appointed secretary general and applauded the chairperson's decision.

Asked if Khaleda Zia has really appointed Hannan Shah as the party's chief coordinator, Khandaker Delwar avoided giving a direct answer. He said, "We always welcome anyone volunteering to coordinate the party activities."

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US expects extra steps to restore democracy

Gastright talks steps for elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US government expects Bangladesh to take additional steps for restoring democracy as soon as possible.

Visiting US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Gastright said this at a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday.

The US embassy in Dhaka later issued a press statement on the around one-hour talks held at the CEC's office.

"Gastright said the US government looked forward to additional steps by Bangladesh to restore democracy as soon as possible, and

the two discussed the steps underway to prepare for elections by the end of 2008," the statement said.

"He reiterated the US government's willingness to provide support to the Election Commission. Full democracy is vital to the country. Full participation in the electoral process is vital to democracy," it added.

The press statement said Gastright also welcomed the recent relaxation on internal politics and emphasised the important role that political parties, NGOs and civil society can play in the electoral process.

John Gastright had a "positive and productive" meeting with the

CEC and he congratulated the CEC on the great progress the commission has made over the last nine months in course of its preparatory work, it noted.

Emerging from the meeting, Gastright told reporters on the EC Secretariat premises that he was impressed with the EC's plans and ongoing activities for holding the next parliamentary election to move toward democracy.

"They [EC] outlined how they are going ahead with the process of preparing a voter list and also the process of working with the political parties to register those to

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GOLD SMUGGLING CASE Ershad gets acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday relieved former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad of the gold smuggling case.

The judgement of the case had been adjourned seven times before for different reasons.

Former president Ershad faced numerous charges after he was deposed in a popular uprising in 1990. In August and September last year, he was acquitted of four graft cases following his announcement of joining the BNP-led four-party alliance.

The gold smuggling case was filed 16 years ago on July 17, 1990 while president Ershad was in office. Primarily, the persons accused in the charge sheet were

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Saifur's son Naser gets 9yrs for extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday sentenced detained former BNP lawmaker M Naser Rahman to nine years in prison in an extortion case.

Three others - Roads and Highways executive engineers Shafiqul Islam and Abdul Khaleque, and district BNP leader Moulavi Wali Siddique - each were given five years' imprisonment. They have been on the run since filing of the case.

Naser, son of former finance minister Saifur Rahman, copped jail terms of seven years and two years on separate counts. He will have to serve out both the sentences concurrently.

The Third Additional District

and Sessions Judge's Court, Sylhet, however, acquitted Moulvibazar municipality Chairman and district BNP



M Naser Rahman

General Secretary Fayeazul Karim and Roads and Highways Sub-Divisional Engineer Monwar Sadique on the charges brought against them.

It did not pass any order on Sylhet city BNP chief Ariful Haque Chowdhury, another accused in the case, since a High Court (HC) bench on July 25 stayed the proceedings against him for six months.

The joint forces arrested Naser on February 4 in the beginning of the army-backed caretaker government's drive against corruption that also saw many other political and business bigwigs detained.

Contractor Nuruzzaman filed the case on February 17 this year.

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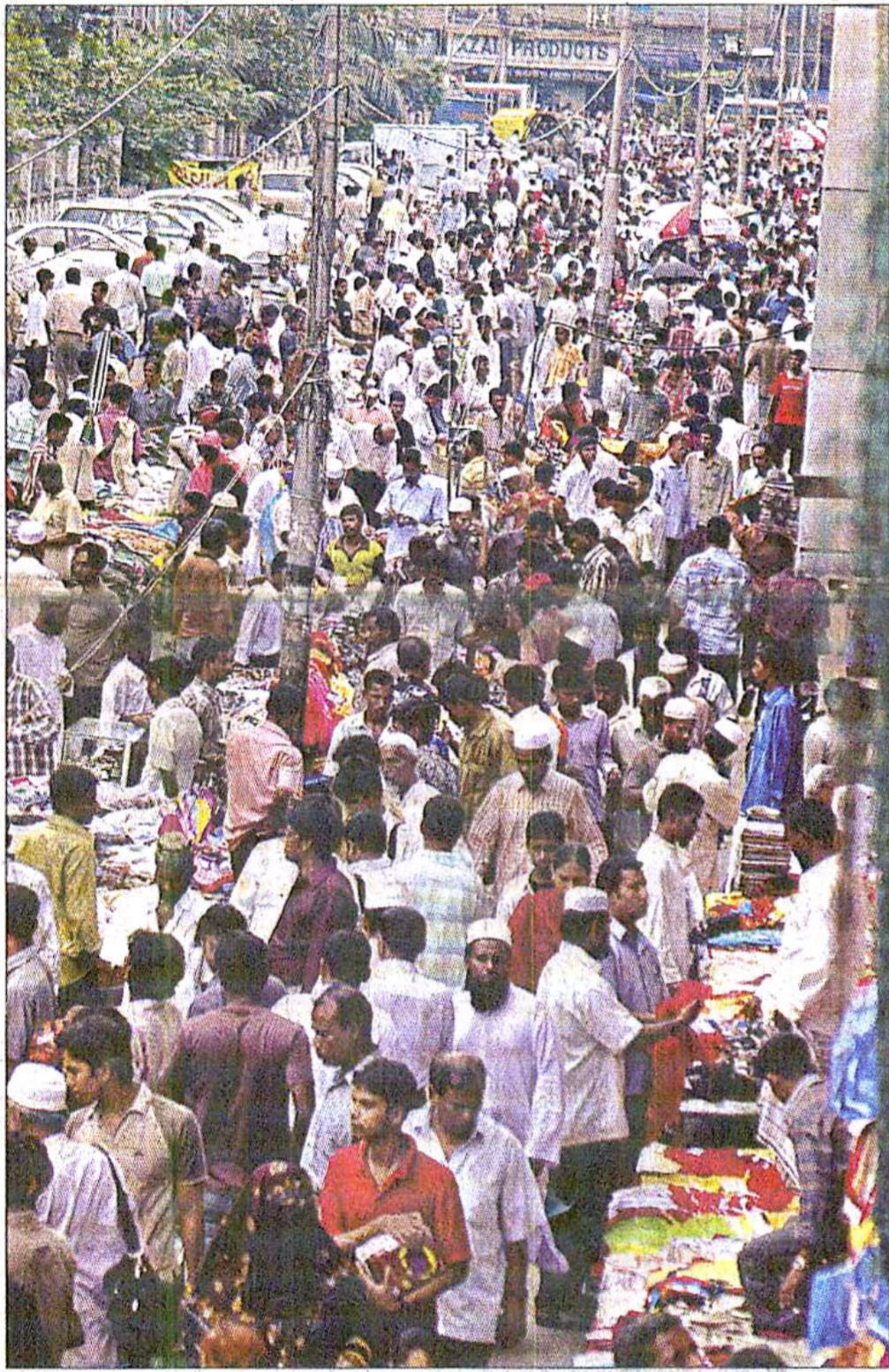


PHOTO: STAR

Low-income buyers crowd hawkers' stalls on the west side of Baitul Mukarram mosque in the capital yesterday before the Eid-shopping frenzy begins.

VOTER LISTING EC to get 4,000 laptops by Oct 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said the Election Commission (EC) will get 4,000 laptops in the next month for expediting the ongoing task of preparing a voter list with photographs.

"We have a secret plan. We will not say how we are going to get the laptops. There are many people who might try to foil the plan," CEC Huda told reporters yesterday afternoon adding, "We will get 2,000 laptops by October 10 and 2,000 more by October 25."

The CEC also claimed that procurement of all equipment for voter listing will be completed next month, but the procurement procedure adopted by the EC Secretariat seemingly does not corroborate the optimism of the CEC.

The EC Secretariat had invited a second round of tenders last month for supplying some of the required equipment while a government panel early this month asked the commission to invite fresh tenders for 8,000 laptops too, as it had found anomalies in the process of selecting a company for the job in the first round of tenders.

"Collection of equipment for voter listing will be completed in October and the field level task of preparing the voter list will begin at full throttle the same month," the CEC said.

Asked whether the EC will reinvite tenders for the 8,000 laptops in line with the government review panel's decision, the CEC seemingly avoided a direct answer by disclosing the existence of the 'secret plan'.

After receiving 2,000 laptops by

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Sri Lanka blow Tigers away

STAR SPORT MONITOR

Bangladesh crashed to a 64-run defeat against Sri Lanka in their second Super Eights match of the ICC World Twenty20 Championship at the Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday.

Chasing Sri Lanka's 147-5 in 20 overs, a modest total given the high standard set in the ball-bashing tournament, Bangladesh were bowled out for 83 in 15.5 overs mainly due to some reckless batting by the top-order.

Sri Lanka's win however ensures Pakistan's progress in the semifinal from the group. The Lankans on the other hand will take on Australia in Cape Town on Thursday and the winners will take the other spot.

With two defeats in as many games, the Tigers will now play for pride when they take on Pakistan in their final Super Eights match at Newlands in Cape Town tomorrow. Sri Lanka's progress to 147 for 5 was often tortuous and ragged, but

the value of perseverance was amply illustrated as the bowlers made short work of Bangladesh on a sluggish pitch where batsmen rarely felt at ease. While it was the slow bowlers that starred for Bangladesh, the fast men did the damage for Sri Lanka, with the new-ball duo of Chaminda Vaas and Dilhara Fernando once again were outstanding. Bangladesh were left to reflect on both some ordinary shot selection and the final phase of the Sri Lankan innings, when Jehan Mubarak and Tillakaratne Dilshan hustled the batsmen struggled in the middle overs. Their own reply started poorly, with Nazimuddin trapped leg before in Vaas's opening over. And after the spirited Aftab Ahmed clattered three fours in Fernando's opening over, the bowler exacted retribution in the best possible fashion, having Tamim Iqbal caught at third man before ripping

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CAMPUS VIOLENCE Prof Neem sent to jail on surrender

Charges framed against 2 RU teachers, 12 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Prof Neem Chandra Bhowmik, chairman of Applied Physics Department of Dhaka University (DU) and an accused in two cases filed in connection with the August violence on Dhaka University (DU) campus, was sent to jail yesterday after he surrendered before a Dhaka court.

Meanwhile, a Rajshahi court framed charges against 14 people including two Rajshahi University (RU) professors for violating the Emergency Power Rules and torching a vehicle belonging to the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) during the violence on RU campus in August.

Neem, who is sick, was given first class division in jail and the court ordered the jail authorities to ensure his proper treatment if necessary.



Prof Neem Chandra Bhowmik

Metropolitan Magistrate SM Ferdous Alam gave the order after Neem along with his lawyers appeared before the court at 10:30am in connection with the cases filed with Shahbagh Police Station in August.

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Dulu sued again for abetting militants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A fresh case was filed yesterday against former BNP deputy minister Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu and 12 others for abetting militancy and extorting Tk 30,000.

The other accused are Makbul, Helal, Bablu, Majid, Shahadat, Manju, Mamun, Rafikul, Biplob, Jarjis, Mithun and Harun.

Fatema Begum, wife of Sultan of Jagadispur Bariahati under Naldanga thana, filed the case with Natore first magistrate's court.

The court directed the officer-in-charge of Naldanga thana to investigate the matter and take necessary steps.

The plaintiff alleged that the accused attacked their house on May 19, 2005 on Dulu's instructions. The attackers badly damaged the house and beat up Sultan's father who died within a few days after the attack.

They also demanded Tk 30,000. The accused abducted the plaintiff's husband as their demand was not met. Later, he was released.

Meanwhile, another case filed earlier against Dulu for abetting

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বাংলাদেশ সিমেন্ট ম্যানুফ্যাকচারার্স এসোসিয়েশন এর ২০০৭-০৮ ও ২০০৮-০৯ সন এর নবনির্বাচিত কার্যনির্বাহী পরিষদকে আমাদের প্রাণঢালা অভিনন্দন।



মোঃ ইব্রাহিম হোসেন (মহাপরিচালক, এক্সিকিউটিভ ডিরেক্টর) এবং অবসরপ্রাপ্ত বিজ্ঞানী ডায়ালগিস্ট (বিসিএমএ)



মোস্তাফা কামাল চেয়ারম্যান ও ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক মেম্বর এবং অবসরপ্রাপ্ত বিজ্ঞানী ডায়ালগিস্ট (বিসিএমএ)



মোহাম্মদ আমিরুল হক ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, ডিরেক্টর সিমেন্ট বিপণন এবং প্রথম ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট (বিসিএমএ)



মোঃ কাইজুর রহমান ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, নওয়াপাড়া সিমেন্ট বিপণন ডি. প্রজেক্ট (বিসিএমএ)



ইব্রাহিমার মীর জব্বার হোসেন ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, মীর সিমেন্ট ডি. প্রজেক্ট (বিসিএমএ)



মোঃ আশী পাশা ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, সেন্টে সার্কেল বাংলাদেশ ডি. প্রজেক্ট (বিসিএমএ)



মোঃ আলমগীর কবীর পরিচালক, ডায়ালগিস্ট মেম্বর (বিসিএমএ)



শহীদুল আলম পরিচালক, এস. আলম সিমেন্ট ডি. প্রজেক্ট (বিসিএমএ)



রাকিবুল হোসেন পরিচালক, হাইড্রোপাওয়ার সিমেন্ট বাংলাদেশ ডি. প্রজেক্ট (বিসিএমএ)



সকল সদস্যবৃন্দ
বাংলাদেশ সিমেন্ট ম্যানুফ্যাকচারার্স এসোসিয়েশন