

Repeal fifth, eighth amendments to constitution

Demands Puja Udjapan Parishad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad yesterday placed a 35-point demand, including celebration of Durga Puja festival at state level and four-day public holiday on the occasion.

It also demanded cancellation of the fifth and eighth amendments to the constitution and restoration of the constitution of 1972.

Parishad leaders placed the demands at a view exchange meeting with reporters at the Dhakeshwari Temple in the city.

Parishad General Secretary Advocate Satyendra Chandra said equality of people of all faiths and cultures must be ensured in order to forge

national unity and build a modern democratic country.

He demanded that major public buildings, including Bangabhaban, and busy thoroughfares in the city should be illuminated with colourful lights during Durga Puja.

Other demands of the Parishad include celebration of the birth anniversary of Sri Krishna at the state level, construction of separate prayer houses at all public and educational institutes and special programmes on the media during the Puja festival.

Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta Biruttam, an adviser to the Parishad, said the number of Puja Mandaps in the country has been increasing every year, which indicates that communal harmony has

been prevailing here.

The leaders said all districts and upazila units of the Parishad yesterday submitted memorandums to the district officers and upazila nirbahi officers to press for their five-point demand including formation of a Hindu Foundation.

In September, the Parishad submitted a memorandum with the same demands to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, they added.

Parishad leaders Prof Neem Chandra Bhownik, PK Howlader, CR Majumder, Advocate Tapash Kumar Pal and Nirmal Chatterjee were present at the meeting.

Over 22,000 Puja Mandaps have been set up across the country, 165 of them in the city, this year, they said.

Husband succumbs to burn injuries, wife hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A husband, who sustained serious burn injuries while trying to rescue his wife who set fire to her body after being infuriated by his alleged extramarital affair, died in the city yesterday.

Saidul Islam Babu, a supplier of garment accessories, had 80 percent of his body burnt and died at City Hospital at around 8.00am.

With 93 percent of her body burnt, housewife Maksuda Akhter Ruby, 25, is now undergoing treatment at the same hospital in Mohammadpur.

According to family sources, the couple had a quarrel before the incident at their house at RK Mission Road at around 10.30am on Saturday when the girl called Babu at his cell phone.

Ruby got infuriated, grabbed the cell phone and smashed it out of anger, said Babu's father Abdus Salam.

"Then she went to the kitchen and set fire to herself. As my son rushed there to rescue her, he also caught fire," he added.

The relatives rushed them to Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) and later they were shifted to City Hospital at night.

Staffs at the Burn Unit who dressed Ruby said they found evidence of kerosene on her body.

While talking to The Daily Star at the hospital, Akhter Hossain, Ruby's father said, "My daughter had been complaining about his (Babu's) extramarital affairs for over one year but he was not ready to break the relation."

The couple got married about 10 years back after they fell in love.

They have three daughters Oishi, 3, Imiti, 2, and Jannat, who is only one month old.

PUJA MANDAP 100 Ansar, VDP men protest irregularities in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Over 100 members of Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) staged a demonstration in Rajshahi yesterday protesting alleged irregularities in recruiting security men for Puja Mandaps in the city.

They alleged that the authorities cancelled their appointments at Puja Mandaps only a day before the Puja without any reasonable grounds and recruited people in exchange for bribes of Tk 50 to Tk 100.

The Ansar and VDP members came from Paba and Boalia upazila to join their duty but laid a siege to the district office when they learnt that their appointments were cancelled.

They said some 265 Ansar and VDP members were appointed on September 25 for 319 Puja Mandaps in the city.

The demonstrators, however, withdrew their agitation programme after senior officials assured them of assigning duty to them in future.

When contacted, Ansar VDP District Adjutant Hira Miah said he will look into the matter. "Action will be taken if anyone was found involved in such irregularities," he added.

Ecologists fear EU diluting climate change battle plans

AFP, Brussels

European Union plans to tackle climate change reach a crucial phase on Tuesday with votes in the EU parliament, amid fears among green groups that pressure from industry is watering the proposals down.

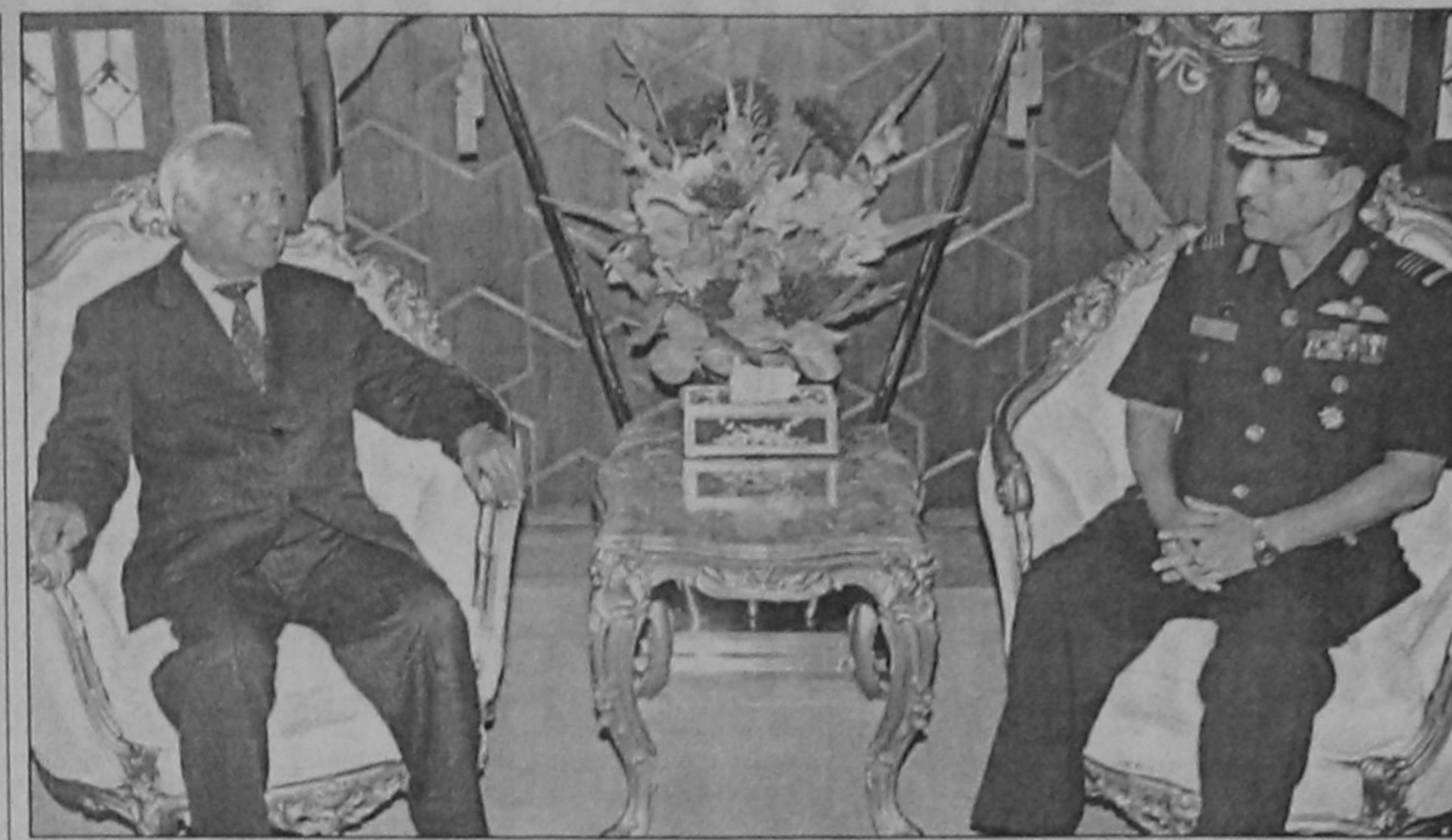
Members of the European parliament are preparing for a "Super Tuesday" with their votes on key issues of the proposals set to form the basis for the position of the chamber as a whole.

The parliament and the 27 EU member states must approve the ambitious environmental measures in order to finalise the plan by the end of the year.

The European Union deal will then be able to bed down a common position for key international climate change talks in Copenhagen at the end of next year.

In January, the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, proposed a series of measures with the overall aim of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent from 1990 levels by 2020.

Among the initiatives were bringing the level of renewable energy up to 20 percent of total consumption, setting strict rules on car emissions and boosting the use of biofuels.



Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Shah Md Ziaur Rahman calls on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PBCP chief operative arrested in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Naogaon police yesterday arrested an underground operative and chief commander of Purbanga Communist Party (PBCP/ML Red Flag), from Manda upazila.

The arrestee was identified as Motiar Rahman alias Mantu, 53.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by circle ASP Sohel Reza raided Turupbaria School field in the early hours and succeeded in arresting him when he was holding a secret meeting with cohorts.

Other operatives, however, managed to escape from the spot.

Naogaon Police Super Mofazzel Hossain at a press conference at his office said Motiar is now undergoing interrogation.

Motiar took over the post of PBCP chief for July 27 when the former chief Dr Mizanur Rahman alias Tutul was killed in a crossfire, he added.

Motiar was evading arrest since he was convicted and sentenced to death by hanging in the UP

Chairman Golam Rabbani murder case of Baghmara upazila in Rajshahi three years ago on July 25, 2005.

Police had announced a bounty of Tk 1.0 lakh for information leading to the arrest of Motiar back in 2006.

Motiar, son of Abdul Quayyum Uddin of Krishnanagar village under Raninagar upazila in Naogaon, is also accused in three other under-trial murder cases, including the killings of Manda upazila BNP leader Mansur Mridha and Atrai JCD leader Salam Hossain.

"The arrest signals that the activities of underground operatives are now under the control of police... We are now beating the menace," said the SP seeking cooperation from common people.

He further said Naogaon and its adjoining districts are heavily infested by cadres of various factions of the underground operatives who, in the name of class struggle, are engaged in hired killings and extortion.

10 senior policemen transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the latest reshuffle in the police administration, 10 senior police officials of BCS (police) cadres were transferred yesterday with new postings.

A home ministry handout yesterday said the order would be made effective soon.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Additional Police Commissioner M Abul Kashem has been made DIG of Sylhet Range while Commandant (additional DIG) of CID Dhaka Dr M Abdur Rahim has been appointed APC of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

Assistant Inspector General (AIG) of Police Headquarters M Matur Rahman Sheikh was made Police Super (SP) of Cox's Bazar while SP of Cox's Bazar Banaj

Kumar Majumder was appointed Deputy Police Commissioner (DPC) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

SP of Police Headquarters Siddique Tanjilur Rahman was transferred with the same status to Barguna.

Rezaul Karim Mollik, commander, 8th APBN Dhaka, and M Habibur Rahman, DPC of CMP, were made AIGs in Police Headquarters in Dhaka.

M Manjur Morshed Alam, commander of 5th APBN Baranubia in Rangamati, was made special SP of CID, Dhaka while M Mizanur Rahman, special SP, Dhaka, replaced him.

M Shahriar, ASP, Dhaka, was appointed SP of Highway Police in Bogra.

Villagers, cops clash in Jamalpur: 15 injured

UNB, Jamalpur

At least 15 people, including 10 policemen, were injured during a clash between police and villagers at Jhaudanga in Dewanganj upazila early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested three criminals - Osman Gani, Rafiqul Islam and Abul Kashem - from the house of Paramarampur UP Chairman Insar Ali at about 3.00am.

Police said, sentenced to life term for murder Osman remained fugitive. Rafiqul was awarded three years jail in drug case and Abul Kashem is accused in a criminal case.

Following their arrest inmates of the house raised hue and cries saying dacoits, dacoits. Villagers rushed in and attacked the police. They snatched away the criminals from the police custody that led to the clash.

Police fired three warning shots to disperse the villagers, police said.

Ten policemen, including SI Asaduzzaman Ripon and ASI Shuvra Shaha, injured in the clash were admitted to Dewanganj Upazila Health Complex.

50 injured as villagers clash in Habiganj

UNB, Habiganj

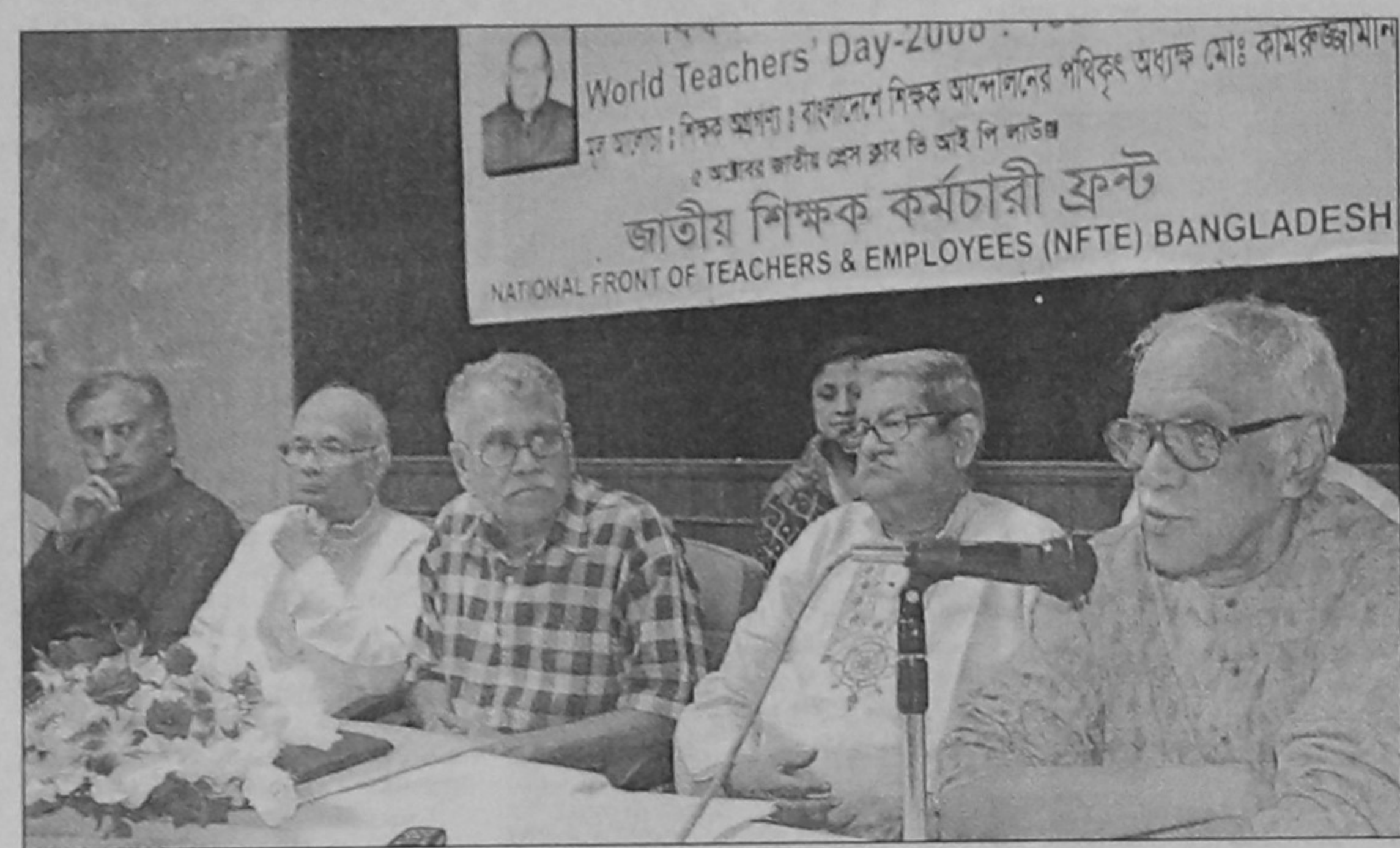
More than 50 people were injured in a fierce clash between two rival groups at Majlisurpur village in Baniachang upazila yesterday.

Police said the clash ensued between the supporters of Abdus Salam Londoni and Shahed Ali as a sequel to a previous enmity. Both the sides used lethal weapons, leaving more than 50 people injured.

On information, police rushed to the spot and fired six warning shots and used batons to bring the situation under control.

Three of the injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital in serious condition while 25 others to the upazila health complex.

Police arrested 30 people in this connection.



ABM Musa speaks at a discussion at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Prof Anisuzzaman, Kazi Faruk Ahmed, Dr Aminul Islam and Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

IGP leaves for Russia to attend Interpol meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad left the city for Russia on Saturday night to attend the 77th general assembly of the International Police Organisation (Interpol).

A police headquarters statement said the IGP is leading the two-member Bangladesh Police team to the four-day assembly beginning today in St Petersburg.

Additional IG of Special Branch Baharul Alam is accompanying the IGP to the multinational gathering.

Some 186-member countries of the Interpol would take part in the assembly where issues of further cooperation and exchange of information among the member states to curb terrorism would be discussed.

The meeting will also address the potential ways to strengthen Interpol's National Central Bureaus (NCBs).

The conference will encourage the NCBs to issue red alerts against the fugitives while yellow notices for the missing ones.

The gathering will also discuss issues tied to elections to its various organs, venue for the 79th conference in 2010 and approval of the 2007's budget.

The police boss is expected to return home on October 11.

Carry on movement to ensure rights Speakers urge teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called on teachers to carry on their movement to ensure their rights and to play a leading role in the development of education system.

They also paid tributes to the memory of Principal Mohammad Kamruzzaman, the pioneer of the teachers' movement in the country.

The National Front of Teachers & Employees (NFTE) organised the discussion at the National Press Club to observe the World Teachers' Day, with the theme 'Teachers Movement in Bangladesh and Principal Kamruzzaman, the Pioneer'.

Presenting the keynote paper, Kazi Faruk Ahmed of NFTE described the present condition of the teachers in the country.

He said many teachers did not get their salary before Eid, discrimination has increased in the education sector and the teachers are not allowed to take part in the local and national elections.

He also said Principal Kamruzzaman played key role in the movement for the rights of teachers in the last 50 years, but the government did not issue any condolence message on his death.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, said that if the right to education gets priority, other problems of the country would be resolved automatically.

Prof Anisuzzaman, journalists ABM Musa and Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Dr Aminul Islam, Md Azizul Islam, Prof Asadul Haq, Principal Mohammad Ali Chowdhury and Bilkis Zaman, daughter of Principal Kamruzzaman, also spoke.

300 gram heroin seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police recovered 300 grams of heroin worth Tk 30 lakh from near Sheikh Amanullah College in Kalaroa upazila and arrested two persons in this connection.

The arrestees are Abdul Mazid, 25, and Khalilur Rahman, 28, of village Bhadiali in Kalaroa upazila.

Tipped off, police intercepted the motorcycle by which they were going to Jessore and recovered 300 grams of heroin from their possession, police said.

2 arrested with Indian currency, phensidyl

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized Indian currency notes and phensidyl, and arrested two persons from three districts of Rajshahi region.

Rab Joypurhat unit in a drive seized 25 pieces of Indian currency note and four bottles of phensidyl from a house of one Saidul Haque at Janipur village under Gaibandha district, said a Rab press release.

None was arrested in this connection.

In other drives at Rajshahi and Joypurhat districts, the Rab members seized 375 bottles of phensidyl and arrested two persons in this connection.

The arrestees are Shohidul, 32, son of late Sadat Ullah, and Rowshan Ara, wife of late Momin, of Pastapara village under Gaibandha district.

The arrested persons and seized items were handed over to respective police stations.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal in the next 12 hours until 6.00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.2 degrees Celsius at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:41pm today and rises at 5:52am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.9	26.2	85	84
Chittagong	29.0	25.5	90	81
Rajshahi	33.5	26.0	89	97
Khulna	34.0	25.8	79	80
Barisal	33.0	25.5	79	80
Sylhet	26.8	22.5	97	94
Cox's Bazar	32.1	24.4	71	78



Two railway employees exchange Eid greetings as attendance was thin on the first day of office after the Eid holidays. The photo was taken in the CRB Bhawan in Chittagong yesterday.

One beaten dead, 40 hurt in clash over trifle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

One person was killed and at least 40 people, including some women, were injured in an attack by a group yesterday after a cow ate some plants in a paddy field at Sundha village in sadar upazila yesterday.

Sixty-year-old Jamsed Mondol was beaten dead on the spot allegedly because his cow ate plants of the paddy field owned by Mondol.

Five of the injured were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital and one of the injured men Hasmat was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College

Hospital in critical condition.

Police said the local community police called an arbitration meeting to quell the tension but the group led by Mondol refused.

All of a sudden, men belonging to Mondol group attacked the house of Jamsed in presence of community police leader Year Ali.

The attackers beat Jamsed dead. About 40 people were injured in the clash.

Local people claimed that the incident took place only 600 yards from the Sundha police camp but police did not take any step during the incident.

Withdrawal of case against Hasnat demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Awami League (AL) yesterday formed human chains at different bus stoppages and roadsides on Barisal-Dhaka Highway under the district demanding immediate withdrawal of cases against former AL chief whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah and cancellation of his convictions.

Hasnat is also Barisal district AL secretary and cousin of AL chief former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

A large number of party leaders and activists joined the programme.

Air chief meets president

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Shah Md Ziaur Rahman yesterday called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, the air chief apprised the president of different ongoing development projects taken by the Bangladesh Air Force.

Iajuddin expressed his satisfaction over the activities of Air Force personnel related to the relief works after the natural disasters in the country.

Secretary of the President's Office M Sirajul Islam, Military Secretary to the President Major General Mohammad Ruhul Amin and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were also present.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Mir Mahbub Ali, former editor of the daily Barta of Rajshahi, died of old-age complications at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Saturday at the age of 81.

Mahbub, a freedom fighter, also served the Sangbad and the now-defunct Bangladesh Times as the managing editor during his 40 years of journalism career.

He left behind his wife Khaleida Mahbub, a leader of Bangladesh Mahila Samity, four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Advocate Abu Abdullah METRO DESK

Advocate Abu Abdullah, a lawyer of the Supreme Court, passed away due to cancer at his Wari residence in the city on October 1 at the age of 60, says a press release.

Advocate Abdullah, also a freedom fighter, left behind his wife, one son, two daughters, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He hailed from Begumganj in Noakhali. He was a vice-president of Dhaka Bar Association in 1999-2000.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard with state honour.

Aziz Uddin Ahmed

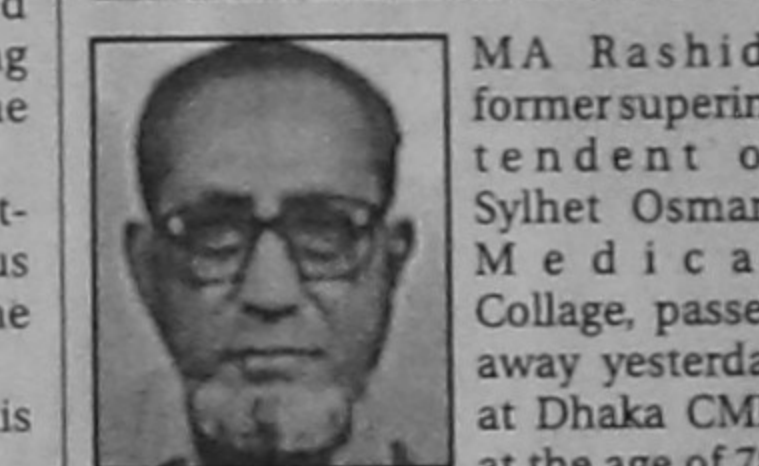
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aziz Uddin Ahmed, former president of Bangladesh Technical Education Directorate and Employees Association (BTEDEA), passed away on Saturday at the age of 68, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

In a condolence message, BTEDEA President Amin Ullah and Vice President Abdul Hye Sardar condoled the death of Aziz and expressed deep sympathy to his bereaved family members.

MA Rashid METRO DESK



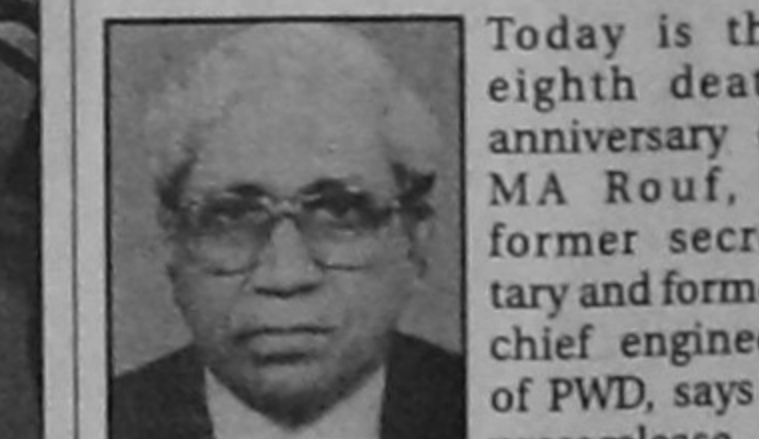
says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

His qulhwani will be held at Old DOHS Mosque in the city tomorrow. Family friends and relatives have been requested to attend the programme and pray for the departed soul.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the eighth death anniversary of MA Rouf, a former secretary and former chief engineer of PWD, says a press release.

He was also a chairman of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Qulhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulhwani of Hazi Md Sohrab Hossain, president of Rupali and Sharif Markets at Sadarghat in the city, will be held at his residence at Gendaria today, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulhwani and pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Haji Sohrab passed away at Lab Aid Hospital in the city on October 2 at the age of 62.

He left behind his wife, one son, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.