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# Education boss steps in to end Buet crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid sits with the "just resigned" deans and department heads of Buet today to discuss a possible solution to the ongoing crisis at the university.

He has also invited two former vice-chancellors and five ex-students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology for the meeting to be held at the ministry's conference room at 12 noon.

Teachers, students and employees of Buet began a sit-in at the administrative building on Wednesday to press home their demands, which include the resignation of the vice-chancellor and his deputy. The heads of all faculties, institutes and departments of Buet resigned en masse the same day.

The VC is yet to initiate any talks with the demonstrators despite the prime minister's call for a dialogue.

The agitating teachers said they had no objection to going for talks with the minister, but there would be no compromise on their main demand -- the resignation of the two top administration bosses.

Yesterday, as the sit-in stepped into a fifth straight day, over a thousand anti-VC protesters marched in a silent procession towards Bangabhaban, the official residence of the president, around 11:00am to submit a memorandum SEEKING removal of the vice-chancellor and the pro-VC.

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Anti-VC agitators of Buet at the gate of Dhaka University central playground yesterday vow to continue their movement until their demands are met.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## CHEMICALS IN FOOD HC spurs govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain in two weeks why it should not be directed to take steps to prevent shops of all food items, and cloth factories from mixing poisonous chemicals with commodities.

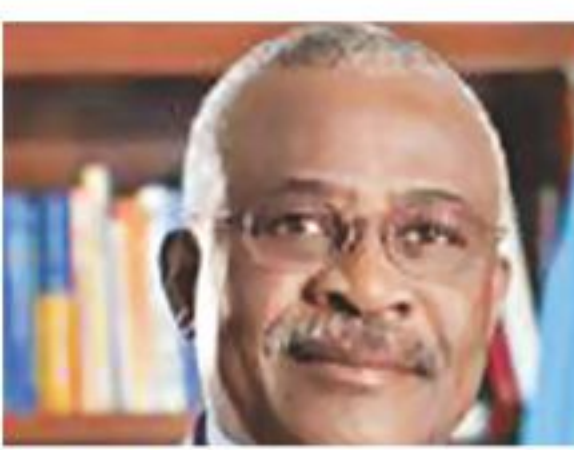
It also asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to make provision in the law for giving exemplary punishment to those found guilty for using toxic chemicals in commodities.

The HC bench of Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice Zafar Ahmed issued the rule

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PRAYER TIMING		July 16
Fajr	Azhan	Jamaat
4-15	4-50	
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



## IFAD chief due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Kanayo F Nwanze will arrive here today to discuss with top government leaders the organization's investments and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## Yaba trader jailed for 79 years

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced 79 years' rigorous imprisonment to businessman Amin Huda and his partner Ahsanul Haque Hasan in connection with the biggest haul of Yaba tablets in October, 2007.

It is the highest ever sentence given by a court for the seizure of Yaba tablets.

The duo has been sentenced to 79 years' rigorous imprisonment on different charges. Since the punishment will



Amin Huda

run concurrently, they will have to suffer a total of 14 years, the court said.

Judge Mohammad Motahar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal also fined Tk 7.55 crore to each of them. In default of which, they will have to serve six more years in jail.

Amin, nephew of businessman Aziz Mohammad Bhai, and Ahsanul were present in the dock when the judge pronounced the verdict.

The court sentenced them in two cases,

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## I'm against character assassination

Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the government does not believe in character assassination, when asked if the World Bank reports on the Padma bridge graft would be made public.

"All my life I have been against character assassination," he told The Daily Star on the sidelines of a conference at a hotel in

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## PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT KL hopes to get contract

Wants to start work by Oct next

UNB, Kuala Lumpur

When the government has chalked out an ambitious plan to construct Padma bridge with local funds, Malaysia is optimistic in implementing the mega project and wants to start the preliminary work by October this year.

"We've studied the project...we've also taken notes of some engineering factors. With all these, I think it'll take off by October...we propose to start the preliminary work," Malaysian Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Infrastructure to India and South Asia Dato S Samy Vellu

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## Possible but at a cost

Japan envoy on Padma bridge with own funds

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Japanese ambassador in Dhaka yesterday said self-financing of the proposed Padma bridge was

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



A section of students of all the educational institutions at Char Fasson in Bhola who queued up along the road and their teachers went to attend a meeting of the local elite with Home Minister Shahara Khatun, suspending classes and examinations yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Forget school, greet Shahara

Students of a Bhola upazila made to queue up on roadside to welcome home minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The students of all the 85 educational institutions in Charfasson upazila of Bhola had to queue up on roadsides to greet Home Minister Shahara Khatun, and the teachers had to attend a meeting with her when she was on a visit to the upazila on Saturday.

Classes at all these institutions and examinations scheduled for the day at many of those were suspended, reports from Bhola quoting students, their guardians and teachers said.

The institutions included 43 primary, junior and secondary schools, 32

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## IDB to fund 2 power plants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Islamic Development Bank will give Bangladesh \$380 million in loan for two power projects.

The IDB and Bangladesh government signed two agreements to that effect at the IDB Headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday.

According to the agreements, the IDB will give \$200 million for the "Ashuganj Power Station Efficiency

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## Drunk prompts bomb alert at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Panic gripped Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and passengers on an Emirates flight when a drunk passenger threatened to blow up the plane and the airport last night.

The passenger, Sultan Miah, was returning to

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## INTL MATH OLYMPIAD Bangladesh wins silver medal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has won a silver medal for the first time at the 53rd International Math Olympiad (IMO). Dhananjay Biswas of the five-member Bangladesh National Mathematical Team won the medal, securing 25 marks.

Sourav Das and Nur Muhammad Shafulullah -- two other members of the Bangladesh team --

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## Thousands killed in Chupnagar

War crimes trial witnesses tell of Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Pakistan army killed several thousand people in Chupnagar during the Liberation War, said Mahub Uddin Ahmad Bir Bikram, sub-divisional police officer of Jhenidah in 1971, in his deposition before International Crimes Tribunal-1.

Meanwhile, the first prosecution witness against Jamaat leader Kamaruzzaman testified before

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday. Kamaruzzaman has submitted a list of 1,357 defence witnesses in his case.

The second prosecution witness against war crimes accused Ghulam Azam at Tribunal-1 yesterday said he had heard such massacres were also carried out throughout the country.

During the nine-month-long war, the auxiliary forces (Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams) accompanied the Pakistani army

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The Daily Star  
**Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL**  
Do you agree with Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the government is deceiving people by collecting money for the next election campaign in the name of raising funds for the Padma bridge?  
Yes (80.1%)  
No (16.7%)  
No Comments! (3.1%)  
TOTAL VOTES: 418  
**TODAY'S POLL**  
Do you think Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's allegation that the BNP-led opposition is hatching conspiracies to destroy democracy is justified?  
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)  
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://facebook.com/dailystarnews)

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