

## Ansari sworn in as 14th VP of India

PTI, New Delhi

Hamid Ansari was sworn in as the vice-president of the country for the second consecutive term by President Pranab Mukherjee yesterday.

Ansari, 75, was administered the oath by the President at a grand ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

He had defeated NDA candidate Jaswant Singh with a comfortable margin earlier this week for his re-election as vice-president.

Ansari had polled 490 first preference votes out of 728 valid votes cast in the election held on August. Jaswant Singh polled 238 votes.

Ansari got more votes than he had secured in the 2007 election. He had the backing of the Congress and its allies in the UPA, including the Nationalist Congress Party, DMK and the National



PHOTO: AFP

Vehicles set on fire by demonstrators burn outside the Azad Maidan ground area in Mumbai, India yesterday. Two people were killed and 14 others injured when a protest against the riots in Assam and attacks on a minority community in Myanmar turned violent.

## ASSAM RIOTS Protest in Mumbai turns violent; 2 killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Two persons were killed and 14 injured yesterday when a protest in Mumbai against ethnic riots in northeastern state of Assam turned violent with demonstrators torching vehicles, leading the police to fire in the air and use batons to disperse the mob.

Hundreds of people turned up at Azad Maidan Ground, a popular protest venue, in south Mumbai this afternoon on a call given by a city-based outfit, Raza Academy, to denounce the riots in Assam and also alleged attacks on a minority community in Myanmar.

They suddenly turned unruly and torched vehicles, damaged buses and pelted stones. Police opened fire in the air and resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the mob and restore order, said a policeman deployed at the Azad Maidan.

At least 16 persons were injured and two of them later succumbed in a hospital.

Police said they were trying to ascertain the victims' identity. Security has been stepped up at religious places across Mumbai.

The situation has been brought under control, police said, adding the cause of the violence was being probed.

Three media vans and a police vehicle were set on fire. A bus, two four-wheelers and five two-wheelers were damaged in the stone pelting, police said.

## Assam govt for judicial probe into riots

PTI, Guwahati

A judicial inquiry will be held to go into the Bodo-minority violence in lower Assam even as CBI has taken up seven cases related to the clashes that have claimed 77 lives so far.

"We have decided on a judicial inquiry. This will be done at a much larger scale and cover the entire gamut of issues, including lapses by administration and recommendations for preventing such incidents in future," Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi told reporters in Guwahati yesterday.

His announcement came a few hours after the state police said CBI will investigate seven cases related to the violence, which started on July 19-20 and have displaced over four lakh people. However, the details of the judicial inquiry were not divulged.

Gogoi said no fresh incidents have been reported from any place since the past 24 hours.

"We have formed peace committees in the violence hit areas to ensure that confidence return to the people," he said adding and an all party meeting would be organised soon to coordinate relief and rehabilitation work.

The chief minister said 1.6 lakh people displaced in the conflict have returned to their homes from refugee camps. "We have already closed down 101 camps. Our effort is to send back the rest of the camp inmates back to their respective homes."

Gogoi denied allegations by some parties that formation of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) had led to mistrust and enmity among Bodos and non-Bodos in the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD).

## Man lands in jail for questioning Mamata

IANs, Kolkata

A man, who had publicly questioned West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee about her government policies towards farmers, was arrested yesterday for "disrupting a public rally and assaulting police officers", police said.

Hewaslaterremandedto14days'judicialcustodybyacourt.

"Shiladitya Chowdhury was arrested Saturday morning and booked for disrupting a public rally, entering into a high security zone and assaulting police personnel," Superintendent of Police, Jhargram, Bharati Ghosh told IANS.

Banerjee, on a visit to the Maoist-affected Belpahari area in the district Wednesday, was addressing a public rally when Chowdhury stood up and asked her: "Farmers are dying because they have no money. Empty promises are not enough. What are you doing for farmers?"

Stunned by the question, an angry Banerjee immediately branded him a "Maoist" following which Chowdhury was detained and taken for interrogation by the police.

He was, however, allowed to go that day but was arrested yesterday morning.

On May 19 this year, the chief minister had accused a student on a TV talk show of being a Maoist when he questioned her about what she was doing about the security of women in the wake of rape of an Anglo-Indian woman.

Besides, a professor of Jadavpur University was arrested for posting a cartoon of Mamata and her close aide Mukul Roy, India's Railway Minister, on the Facebook.

## Gold eludes Brazil again

FROM PAGE 1

the Manchester United right-back Rafael was caught in possession by Javier Aquino and the ball broke for Peralta to send an emphatic finish inside Gabriel's near post. It was the fastest goal in Olympic history and the fastest ever in the final of a FIFA tournament.

The second goal after 75 minutes, saw the Brazilians leave Peralta inexplicably unmarked from a set-piece to place a header into the bottom corner of the net.

By then though, they game was almost over.

Brazil, looking uncharacteristically uninspired had struggled to employ any measure of control on the game throughout. They were not helped by the head-scratching tactic of Menezes of employing the defensive minded Alex Sandro in place of Hulk in the starting line-

up. It seemed neither Menezes nor Sandro was sure of what the latter's role in the line-up was as he was consistently shuffled either left or right after Menezes finally corrected his error following a painful half-hour in which Brazil failed to muster a single effort on goal.

The newly-introduced Hulk soon remedied that statistic with a pile-driver from range that the Mexico goalkeeper Jose Corona did well to keep out. But that was the one bright spot in an insipid Brazil display in the first half.

The South Americans showed signs of life early in the second half but despite some good probing by Oscar and Neymar, there really was no finishing quality to the approach play. The Santos star missed the most presentable opportunity when he side-footed over the bar

after the ball had broken to him inside the box.

Mexico though, were always threatening on the break and were unlucky not to grab a goal when Marco Fabian only managed to hit the bar after being set clean through on goal from another defensive lapse. But Mexico need not have worried because moments later and from a soft free-kick Peralta made sure that the El Tri would crown an emerging nation of talented footballers with the gold.

For Brazil, Hulk's goal at the end and the silver medal will provide scant consolation for a performance lacking in vigour, belief or fantasy; three of many qualities that had made them such a name to be reckoned with in the past.

The serial champions of Brazil have not won a title in three years, and even that was the Confederations Cup.

## Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 1

Last month, the foreign ministry asked the deputy commissioners, especially of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban, to take steps to ensure that no Rohingya got a Bangladeshi passport.

"Earlier, many Rohingyas had managed voter IDs and Bangladeshi passports. They went abroad and created huge problems in Saudi Arabia. So we have asked the local administration for a double-check," Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes told journalists on July 11.

But the dubious attempts continue.

The authorities and this correspondent found such incidents at Shahjalal International Airport recently.

One of the seven arrested yesterday, Ayesha Begum, 30, managed an MRP issued on June 27.

Police arrested her at the airport along with her two daughters Ruksana Khatun, 10, and Irmana Khatun, 8.

A 16-year-old youth named Zaber also was sneaking into the airport posing as Ayesha's son. They were arrested around 7:30am soon after entering the departure lounge.

Their wanted to fly to Saudi Arabia via Kuwait on a Kuwait Airways flight, APBn Assistant Commissioner Monirul Islam told The Daily Star.

In a separate drive, the APBn arrested three other Rohingyas -- Md Bashar, 18, Md Selim, 18 and Azizul Haq, 19 -- with three Bangladeshi nationals.

The Rohingyas came from Ukhaia of Cox's Bazar and were supposed to board a Cambodia-bound flight. It could not be known if they were registered refugees.

Police said the Rohingyas along with two Bangladeshis -- Md Sujan Mia, 19 and Md Alamgir Hossain, 35 and their broker Md Kaiser, 20 -- arrived at the airport on a microbus around 12:30am.

On suspicion, the APBn

searched them and found the fake passports.

The Rohingyas told police that Kaiser had managed the passports by using fake names, photos and addresses. The broker and his associates took Tk 2 lakh to Tk 3 lakh from each of them for sending them abroad.

The broker had asked them to come to the airport at 1:00am with the passports. He instructed them to tell the names and addresses put on the passports if security personnel interrogated them.

Sujan and Alamgir were supposed to fly to Kuwait.

Separate cases were filed against them with the Airport Police Station.

On September 11 last year, police at the airport arrested six Rohingyas along with a Bangladeshi trying to board a flight to Saudi Arabia. The group was carrying forged Bangladeshi passports.

Detectives on August 2 this year raided a residential hotel at Fakirapool in the capital and arrested nine Rohingyas for their illegal stay and efforts to manage Bangladeshi passports for flying to the Middle East.

Meanwhile, the Saudi Arabian authorities have arrested around 700 Rohingyas, who already made their way to the country with Bangladeshi documents, and kept them in a deportation centre in Jeddah, according to officials.

The Saudis are now pressing Bangladesh to take them back.

This trend of Rohingyas going abroad is also threatening the country's labour market overseas.

There are around 30,000 registered Rohingya refugees at two camps in Teknaf in Cox's Bazar.

But roughly about half a million Rohingyas unofficially live in Cox's Bazar and other areas of the Chittagong region.

## Shafaat Jamil

FROM PAGE 1

1975. There were, of course, all the moments of glory he lived through during the War of Liberation. The war and its conclusion were for Jamil and his fellow freedom fighters that particular dawn when the people of Bangladesh truly repudiated a sordid past as part of a communal dispensation and embraced a political philosophy that was as idealistic as it was secular.

Post-1971, it was a dream of a democratic order that sustained Jamil and his fellow officers in the new nation's military structure.

But the crude assault on the state, through murder and mayhem on August 15, 1975, left an entire nation shaken to the core. The assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the bloody overthrow of his

government were in essence a demonisation of politics in Bangladesh. The tragedy of the day came to be more pronounced because men like Jamil, taken by rude surprise by the action of the assassin-majors and colonels, were unable to strike back. For Jamil, it was a moment of humiliation, one that would stretch itself to early November of the year.

That the illegitimate regime of Khondokar Moshtaque needed to be evicted from the Bangabhaban, that the army needed to have its chain of command restored were thoughts that guided Brigadier Khaled Musharraf. Jamil, Shamsul Huda and Haider, all brilliant officers and brave freedom fighters, were only too willing to link up with the cerebral Musharraf in the cause of the

republic.

Jamil, like his colleagues, was eminently qualified to do the job. Having joined the Pakistan army as a second lieutenant in 1964, he rose rather rapidly in rank and by March 1971 (and that was the moment for Bangalee nationalism to pave the path to freedom) he was holding the rank of a major in the Pakistan army. Before the month was out, Jamil was to become a rebel, part of the structure that would become the Mukti Bahini, and wage war against the Pakistan army in the defence of a free Bangladesh. He was wounded in the war but survived to fight newer battles.

Independent Bangladesh did not ignore his contribution. Awarded the Bir Bikram for gallantry in the war, Jamil rose to the ranks of lieutenant

colonel and colonel, in that order, to head the 46 Infantry Brigade of the Bangladesh army at Dhaka cantonment. It was while he held that position that the assassin officers moved out of the cantonment and towards Bangabandhu's residence and the homes of other political figures in the pre-dawn hours of August 15, 1975.

For Jamil, the moment of decision arrived on November 3, 1975. He burst into a cabinet meeting being presided over by Moshtaque, demanding that the usurper and all his ministers resign. Moshtaque did and so did his ministers. The killer officers were thrown out of the Bangabhaban, where they had remained ensconced since Bangabandhu's murder, and put on a flight out of

the country. Neither Jamil nor Khaled Musharraf knew, at that point, that the assassins had only hours earlier killed the four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansoor Ali and AHM Quamruzzaman -- in Dhaka central jail.

In the four days between November 3 and November 7, Musharraf, Huda, Haider and Jamil went to work restoring legitimacy in the corridors of power. Musharraf, having placed army chief Ziaur Rahman under detention, took charge of the army, his rank rising to major general. On November 6, Chief Justice Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem was sworn in as Bangladesh's new president, his job specifically being one of organising fresh elections and restoring democracy.

But for Jamil and his fellow officers, the triumph was to be short-lived. Tragedy struck, in the form of a violent, ugly counter-coup at dawn on November 7. Musharraf, Haider and Huda were murdered brutally by soldiers loyal to Zia. Jamil was taken into custody by the new men in authority. He eventually emerged free, only to lapse into calculated oblivion. Cashiered from the army, he went into business.

One of Jamil's more invaluable contributions to history remains the account he leaves behind on the 1971 war and the tragic events of 1975. He called it '71 Independence War, Bloody Mid-August and November Conspiracy.

Let the bugles sound for a true hero of Bangladesh. In life, he was an authentic patriot. In death, he

## Meter means nothing

FROM PAGE 1

came to Dhaka from Natore to supply goods to a chain store, had to pay Tk 300 to go to Indira Road from near Gabtoli.

"I tried a number of CNGs [auto rickshaws are usually called CNGs] for about half an hour, but they declined to take us. The one that agreed to take us asked for so much that it was almost equal to the bus fare from Natore to Dhaka," she told The Daily Star.

One can find thousands of people telling stories of a similar nature or even worse in the capital.

However, drivers say they cannot afford to follow the meter and charge more from the passengers because the owners of their vehicles charge them Tk 800 to Tk 1,150 a day. The government-fixed charge is Tk 600 a day.

Vehicle owners, however, claim that as prices of lubricants, spares and other materials required to smoothly run three-wheelers go high, charging drivers Tk 600 a day is not feasible. It is difficult for both drivers and owners of three-wheelers to go by the rates fixed in the meters by the government.

The rates of the meters were fixed in January last year.

To know about the reality on the ground, The Daily Star correspondent spoke to 10 drivers in the first week of July. Eight of them said the owners charged Tk 800 a day from them. The remaining two said the owners charged Tk 1,150 from two drivers driving the vehicle on two shifts a day.

"My vehicle owner, who

started his business with only two auto rickshaws ten years ago, is now a multi-millionaire," claimed a driver without giving his name. "They make huge profits, and its burden is passed on the passengers," he said, adding that rise in the cost of operation was not an issue.

Nazmul Hasan, General Secretary of Dhaka Metropolitan CNG Auto-Rickshaw Owners' Association, however, said the owners charged Tk 700, not Tk 600.

When pointed out that it was still Tk 100 more than the fixed rate, he told The Daily Star, "It is because prices of all essentials and even spares have gone up."

There are some 13,000 three-wheelers in the capital now but in 2003 there were

more than 25,000 two-stroke baby taxis here (auto rickshaws which have been taken off the streets), he said, citing the shortage of auto rickshaws a reason for drivers taking advantage of the situation and charging high and being reluctant to take passengers where they want to go.

Ayubur Rahman, chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), said BRTA regularly uses its mobile courts to check these kinds of irregularities on the streets of the capital. He claimed that passengers often lie to the court about whether they were going to pay according to the meter.

"Please write in your paper and ask passengers to speak the truth so that we can take action against drivers who are not follow-

ing the rules," he pleaded.

Zyma Islam, a university student, said she was without a ride very early in the morning after she had told police that the driver was not charging her by the meter.

"I had a lot of luggage with me as I had reached Dhaka from Chittagong that morning. On my way to Dhanmondi from the bus stop in Malibagh around 7:00am, police stopped the three-wheeler and asked if the driver was charging me by the meter. As I said no, police fined the driver which caused delays. There was an altercation between the policemen and the driver. I eventually had to find other means to get to Dhanmondi," she said.

Asked about owners' charging drivers more than

the fixed Tk 600 a day, Ayubursaid it was true.

On drivers' and owners' demand for re-fixing the meters with new rates, he said the government has been considering everything.

As per the fare structure, effective since January 16 last year, city dwellers are to pay Tk 25 for the first two kilometres (km). The charge for each subsequent km is Tk 7 and the waiting charge per minute is Tk 1.25.

Meanwhile, Sharifuzzaman Sharif, general secretary of Citizens' Solidarity, said increasing the number of public transport, reducing cars and strong enforcement of traffic rules were necessary to discipline the transport system in the capital.