



Vietnamese envoy joins office

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The newly appointed Ambassador of Vietnam to Bangladesh Nguyen Quang Thuc has begun his diplomatic assignment in Bangladesh.

Succeeding Nguyen Van That, the new ambassador presented his credentials to President Zillur Rahman on August 27.

Born on November 27 in Ha Noi, 55-year-old Ambassador Nguyen did his MA in International Relations from the University of Diplomacy in Vietnam in 1980 and joined the Foreign Service in the same year.

Starting his career as a desk officer at the Foreign Ministry of Vietnam, Nguyen held various important positions in the ministry.

During his diplomatic career, he served from the position of attaché to first secretary at the Vietnam embassy in Indonesia from 1992 to 1999. He also discharged duties as Minister Counsellor and Charge d' Affaires of Vietnam embassy in Pakistan.

He then discharged his diplomatic assignments as Ambassador to Pakistan and Afghanistan from 2006-2010.

Prior to his appointment as Vietnam's Ambassador to Bangladesh, Nguyen was deputy director general for Southeast, South Asia and South Pacific Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam.



It is quite difficult to believe that boats used to ply this canal, Zia Sarani Khal, in the capital's Shanir Akhra years ago. It has almost lost its identity as a water body due to ruthless encroachment and erection of bamboo structures under the sponsorship of local influentials, while the authorities are playing a silent role. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

AUG 17 BOMB BLASTS Four testify against JMB men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A special tribunal in Habiganj yesterday recorded deposition of four prosecution witnesses in three cases over the 2005 synchronised bomb attacks.

The accused, including outlawed JMB chief Moulana Saidur Rahman, his son and a section chief AHM Shamim, operatives Azizul Islam Gazi, Hafez Hujaira, Md Belal Hossain, Salah Uddin, and Shafiqul Islam, were present in court.

Muhammad Mahtab Hossain, acting judge of the Special Tribunal-II, recorded the deposition of Shahjahan Miah, Mihir Dass, Mintu Lal and Kodor Ali. The judge fixed October 31 for recording deposition of the other witnesses.

On August 17, 2005, the banned outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh simultaneously blast time bombs in 63 out of 64 districts of the country. The bombs hit five spots in Habiganj.

Habiganj police filed five cases in this connection.

NEW MOORING CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATION Submission of tender ends today amid controversy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Amid controversy and opposition from different corners, Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is all set to collect tender documents regarding appointment of private operators for its New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT).

Six previously qualified local and international firms have to submit the documents by 2:30pm today as today is the scheduled last date for submitting the documents.

Earlier on Tuesday, Awami League Chittagong city unit President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at a press conference demanded that CPA postpones the date of submitting the tender documents raising allegation of irregularities in the process.

A review panel formed by Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) in a notice issued on Tuesday to CPA chairman and shipping ministry secretary told them to refrain from further progress regarding the tender of NCT till disposal of a review appeal made by one of the six pre-qualified firms.

In the notice, the CPTU also directed the ministry's secretary, CPA chairman, project director of NCT project and the petitioner to attend a hearing on September 2 in respect of the tender for the appointment of operators.

The CPTU issued the notice following the review appeal made by Jose Manuel M De Jesus, vice-president of International Container Terminal

Services, a Manila-based container operator firm which was selected as pre-qualified firm by an evaluation committee on February 12 in 2009 to operate the NCT.

Contacted, Captain Nazmul Alam, director of the NCT project, said they would collect the tender documents on the scheduled date as per rules.

According to Public Procurement Act 2008 no treaty could be signed till disposal of the review appeal but tender submission and evaluation could be done, he said.

During the tenure of caretaker government on March 12 in 2007, the shipping ministry decided to run the 1000-metre long terminal under Supply, Operate and Transfer (SOT) basis.

Jamaat, Shibir men clash with cops in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three law enforcers were injured when activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir clashed with police in the capital's Malibagh yesterday.

The injured are Sub-Inspector Ibrahim Khalil, 40, and constables--Motiur Rahman, 45, and Abdul Motalleb, 45.

The clash ensued after about 200 activists of Jamaat and Shibir tried to blockade a busy road in Chowdhurypara of Malibagh, demanding release of all detained leaders and activists of Jammat.

The activists hurled brick chips at police when the law enforcers foiled their attempt to block the road, said Delowar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station.

Minister stand releases two railway officials in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday stand released two Bangladesh Railway (West Zone) officials and ordered a show cause notice to another for their involvement in some irregularities including land related concerns in Rajshahi.

The minister, in a surprise visit to Rajshahi, pointed out that illegal grabbers have grabbed around 5,000 acres of railway lands and ordered formation of a three-member team to recover those lands.

Visiting Rajshahi Rail Bhaban, Quader enquired about persons responsible for illegally leasing out a piece of land in the city's Bhadra. He said he had prior information regarding the matter.

He ordered a show cause notice to be served to Kiron Chandra Roy, Rajshahi divisional estate officer, for abetting land grabbers in grabbing railway lands and illegally leasing out a piece of land.

The minister stand released officer

Kanungo Ziaul Haque for the same reason.

He visited Rajshahi Railway Station and stand released Golam Mostafa, station superintendent, for allegations of misbehaving with passengers.

The minister found that some employees at the ticket counter and security sections of the station have been working there for more than five years. He ordered identification of those who have been working for more than a year and transferring them as per rules.

Quader saw that a flexiload service provider was running the enquiry section of the railway station.

He rebuked the railway officials and ordered replacement of the service provider with an appropriate railway employee.

He said the government will import 40 shuttle trains next year to ease irregular train schedules.

The minister said railway fares will increase by 50 percent in phases. He explained that the fares have never increased since independence but once by 16 percent.



Students of Dhaka University yesterday take part in a protest rally at Shahbag intersection in the capital demanding trial of the bus driver whose reckless driving killed Towhid Zaman, a second-year student of international relations department of the university, on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR



It has been a month since a giant slab caved in on the capital's No 9 Purba Goran road, turning the busy street quite unsafe. Every night, accidents have been a commonplace on the road having no street lamps. Local people alleged that they informed the city corporation of the situation one month ago, but the authorities were pretty nonchalant. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

8 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Eight people were killed and 17 others including six Rab personnel injured in road accidents in Chittagong, Khagrachhari, Narsingdi, Dhaka, Narail, Rangpur, and Chapainawabganj on Tuesday and yesterday.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports, two people were killed and four others injured in road accidents Chittagong city on Tuesday and early yesterday.

In an incident, bus passenger Siddiqur Rahaman, 45, was killed and four others were injured as the bus overturned after its driver lost control over the wheel in Oxygen Public School area in Chittagong city around 1:00am yesterday.

In another incident, motorcyclist Md Sekander, 30, was killed as he fell off the motorbike after losing control over it in Agrabad area in the port city around 11:00pm on Tuesday.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reports, a motorcyclist was killed and three others were injured as two motorcycles collided head-on in College Gate

area in Manikchhari upazila of Khagrachhari yesterday.

Police said the accident took place around 10:30am, killing Mohammad Babu, 25, and injuring Ukyaching Marma, 25, Nur Nahar, 23, and Imam Hossain.

Our Narsingdi correspondent reports, two siblings were killed and three of their family members were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Kandail area Narsingdi sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Ismail, 9, and Ibrahim, 6, while the injured were Saiful Islam, 36, his wife Minara Begum, 26, and their young son Israfil, 2.

Locals said the accident took place when a bus collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw killing the siblings on the spot around 8:30am.

Agitated locals put barricade on the highway for an hour.

Our staff correspondent reports, six members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-4) were injured when a patrol pick-up van of the elite force collided with a covered van at Amin Bazar on the

outskirts of the capital yesterday.

Rab sources said three of the injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Our Narail correspondent, a woman was killed as a motorbike hit her near Narail municipality Bhabon around 11:00am yesterday.

Critically injured Aklima Khatun, 50, was rushed to Narail Sadar Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

Our Rangpur correspondent reports, Rejaul Islam, 35, was crushed under a bus on Rangpur-Dhaka highway in Mithapukur upazila in Rangpur yesterday.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reports, a motorcyclist was killed and another injured as a truck hit the motorcycle killing Mohammad Alkas, 55, on the spot and injuring Ujir Ali, 35, on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid highway in Roshiknagar area in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj on Tuesday night.

After the incident, agitated locals put blockade on the highway for about an hour.

Mozena meets Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a surprise move, US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena met BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan residence in the capital and held a one-and-a-half-hour discussion.

Neither the US embassy nor the BNP chairperson's office had informed the media about the meeting, starting around 8:30pm. The discussion matter could not be known as none in BNP agreed to comment.

The chairperson's office sources claimed that the chairperson's advisory council member, Sabihuddin Ahmed, accompanied her during the meeting.

Talking to The Daily Star over phone, Sabihuddin, a former ambassador, said he was not present at the "one-to-one" meeting. However, he added, "They discussed on bilateral issues related to mutual interest."

Another high-level party source claimed that the discussions were over issues, including the election process, Padma bridge project and Grameen Bank.

The chairperson also cleared the party's stance for a non-party caretaker government system to ensure a free and fair election, the source added.

BANSHKHALI CARNAGE Plaintiff's cross examination deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday deferred cross-examination date of the plaintiff of the Banskhalhi carnage case to September 16.

The cross-examination of Bimal Kanti Shil was not held yesterday since accused in the case Nurul Islam was absent due to his sister's death, said court sources.

On November 18, 2003, attackers set the house of Tejendra Shil at Shilpara in Banskhalhi on fire killing 11 members of his family.