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Students of Agriculture Diploma Institute demonstrating in front of the National Press Club yesterday to press their seven-point demands. — Star photo

Use modern technology in farming: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday underlined the use of modern technology in farming for boosting grain production to achieve food autonomy, reports UNB.

"I think joint-cultivation system can be launched by merging fragmented agricultural lands," she said, adding this would help further growth in the overall production.

Addressing the members of BCS (Agriculture) Cadre Association at the International Conference Centre in the afternoon, the prime minister said improved technology is necessary to bring about a "revolutionary" change in the farming pattern in Bangladesh.

She also called for bringing fallow land under cultivation through mobilising the people.

President of the association SKM Tasruddin Siddiqui and general secretary Salekur Rahman Masum also spoke on the occasion.

The association leaders praised the government thrust on agriculture, saying Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had given utmost importance to this sector, considering country's need for food after independence.

They highly appreciated present government's several other measures, including the Rules of Business.

The prime minister said role of agriculturists is very important for the country's agro-based economy. But, she regretted, the traditional pattern of farming is not helping increase food production.

She said many neighbouring countries were progressing fast in growing various food items, including fruit and vegetables, by the use of modern technology while Bangladesh was lagging behind.

She asked them to divert their attention towards growing traditional fruits and their preservation, both for home consumption and export.

There has been an ample research in new variety of fruit in neighbouring countries, but there is seldom any such in Bangladesh, the land of six seasons.

The prime minister asked the members of the association to take steps towards ensuring more production by using high-yielding seeds.

Hasina also laid stress on planting large number of trees, including fruit-bearing, and said this could contribute significantly to country's overall development.

Diploma foresters to wear black badges from Oct 26

Seven hundred members of the Bangladesh Diploma Foresters' Council have decided to wear black badges for an indefinite period from October 26 to press home their six-point charter of demands, said a press release yesterday.

The demands include upgrading the position of the diploma foresters to the grade of diploma engineers and abolition of the post of deputy rangers replacing it by the post of forest ranger.

The decision to wear black badges came at the council's central executive committee meeting held at the Ban Bhaban in the city on Saturday. President of the Bangladesh Diploma Foresters' Council Mohammad Noor Ali presided over the meeting.

Alleged rape of Sima Medical Board to submit report today

CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: The medical board today completed the check-up of Sima Rani Chowdhury who was allegedly raped by four policemen in Raozan thana custody.

According to an official source, the board will submit its report to the court tomorrow.

Sima was now staying in Chittagong jail.

The probe committee formed to investigate the incident submitted its preliminary report to the administration.

Meanwhile, a rally was held at Raozan by BNP today protesting the rape of Sima.

PM: Pvt sector driving force

From Page 1

setting up another EPZ at Gazipur, besides allowing EPZ in the private sector. She said the government has plans to establish two more EPZs in Khulna and Chittagong in near future.

Addressing the industrialists, exporters and manufacturers, Hasina said, Dhaka Inland Container Depot (ICD) will be extended up to Narayanganj. "The government will patronise setting up of ICD in the private sector," she said.

UNB adds: The Board of Investment has been reorganised to attract local and foreign investment while the EPB has also been reactivated and reinforced, she said. "All these steps will help increase production and create dynamism in exports," she added.

"All industrial sectors have been kept open for private entrepreneurs," she said.

The Prime Minister said successes were being achieved in diversifying production, maintaining quality of products and expanding export markets. "With all these, we are steadily marching towards economic progress."

"We have created a liberalised and open investment climate in the country," she said that government was taking some important steps to ensure people's participation in export activities. Steps have been taken for human resources development for growth of export, Hasina said.

She added: "We're already getting positive results... during my China and Hong Kong trip, many investors had shown interest to invest in the country."

The prime minister said the governments of last 21 years did not give any patronisation to the industrialists. The entrepreneurs of the country were denied equal opportunities because of a 'coterie outlook' under these governments.

"Our government is deter-

Panthopath: No streetlights for over a year

By Staff Correspondent

More than half of the Panthopath, one of the major link roads in the city without streetlights for over one year due to bureaucratic tangles, according to source concerned.

The stretch of Panthopath from Green Road to the Mirpur Road intersection plunges into darkness as RAJUK (Rajdhani Unnayan Katripakha) is yet to hand over the responsibility of maintaining streetlights there to the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), officials in DCC said.

The DCC has a separate section for maintenance of streetlights in the city.

"After RAJUK installs the streetlights, they hand over the responsibility to us mentioning the number of posts, their installation costs etc.," said a DCC official.

"Those lights must be operative at the time of hand over," he said hinting at a possible refusal by the DCC to take over the responsibility of Panthopath lights as those are at present out of order.

It was learnt that RAJUK installs streetlights through private contractors.

When asked an official in the Engineering Section of RAJUK said his office had been trying to hand over the responsibility of maintenance of the lights to the DCC.

"We tried in the past but failed. We are still trying," he said without elaborating.

When asked whether contractors give any guarantee of lights after installation, the official declined to reply.

Residents and shopowners along the Panthopath said that they have been living in constant fear of mugging and accident at night for more than a year and repeated complaints to the DCC did nothing.

It was learnt from another RAJUK source that it is yet to hand over responsibility of streetlights to DCC in sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Uttara and "some other parts" of the city.

N'ganj police SI suspended

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 13: Sub-Inspector of Police, Azim Howlader, earlier closed for immoral activities in a rest house at Sonargaon, has now been suspended.

The additional SP of Narayanganj suspended him following an investigation report, according to which the SI committed immoral activities with a woman named Misti in the Aminpur Tourist Home at Sonargaon last Friday night.

Azim Howlader was caught in the act by villagers who later handed him over to the police.

Dumping of garbage: DCC fines 13

The mobile court of Dhaka City Corporation yesterday re-issued Taka 2,950 as fines from 13 people for dumping garbage indiscriminately and beyond the schedule time at Azimpur, Palashi and Dhakeswari. The mobile court was conducted by metropolitan Magistrate Awlad Hossain.

BUET Syndicate members refuse to attend meet chaired by VC

By Staff Correspondent

Two deans and Syndicate members of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) yesterday refused to attend the Syndicate meeting with Vice Chancellor Mohammad Shahjahan in the chair yesterday.

In separate letters addressed to the Registrar and Syndicate Secretary of BUET, dean of the Architecture Department Prof Golam Rahman and dean of the Faculty of Engineering Abdul Kader said that they would not attend the meeting in solidarity with the decision of the BUET Teachers Association not to attend any meeting chaired by the VC Mohammad Shahjahan.

The BUET teachers association in a meeting on October 7 observed that it was essential to remove the VC in order to uphold the fame, tradition and academic atmosphere of BUET. It suggested that a senior professor should be immediately appointed as the VC of the university.

N'ganj bus owners call off strike

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 13: The Narayanganj Bus Malik Samity has decided to call off the bus strike from tomorrow morning.

The Samity leaders today said, they took the decision as their demand has been accepted during an hour-long meeting with the DC Traffic of Dhaka.

The meeting agreed that the buses on the Narayanganj route would use Kamalapur as a temporary bus station till October 30 after which the station would be transferred back to Gulistan.

The bus owners began the strike yesterday protesting the authority's decision to move the Dhaka-Narayanganj bus stand in Gulistan to Kamalapur.

Lone woman among 69

By Staff Correspondent

Aklima Begum was the only woman entrepreneur among the 69 who received the National Export Trophy from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the city yesterday.

The audience clapped at the Osmanki Smitri Auditorium while Aklima received the trophy from the Prime Minister.

Talking to The Daily Star later Aklima, widow of Nur Ahmed a renowned businessman of Chittagong, said, "I am quite delighted and so glad to get the honour from the Prime Minister."

Aklima said her husband died of heart attack in 1993 and she was running the business since then. "My husband also received this award in 1993," she said.

Surprise visit

From Page 1

entered the dining room and on being invited by the jawans she joined them in the lunch.

She talked to the soldiers and enquired about the quality of food being served daily.

The Prime Minister, also went round the barracks of the troops to see for herself their living condition.

Before her departure, Sheikh Hasina signed the visitors' book of the unit.

Shahabuddin

From Page 1

The President said terrorism must be stopped by all possible means and sought suggestion from the Front as to how this problem of terrorism, particularly at Dhaka University, could be solved.

"A broad-based agreement is a must between the main political parties to tackle the situation," he said.

President Ahmed opined that both the government and the opposition should delink themselves from their respective student wings and the political parties must be sincere in the matter of tackling this problem.

Rashed Khan Mennon, Shahidullah Chowdhury, Hasanul Haq Inu, Nirmal Sen, AFM Mahbubul Haq and Nayeem Jahangir were among others on the delegation, led by LDF convener Dilip Barua.

Habiganj-2

From Page 1

tres as very trouble prone and 36 as less vulnerable while the remaining 38 centres have been termed as normal, according to an EC handout.

The handout said that a Magistrate would be stationed at every high risk centre while one Magistrate would be assigned for two less violence prone and normal centres.

Moreover, police, BDR, Ansars and mobile army teams would be deployed at every centre of the constituency to maintain law and order during the polling.

A total of 115 presiding officers, 350 assistant presiding officers and 700 polling officers would be conducting the polls in the constituency.

Fida: Paintings

From Page 1

apologize," Pramod Navalkar, Maharashtra's culture minister, has reportedly asked the police to charge Husain with offending other people's religious sentiments. If convicted Husain could be sentenced to 3 years in prison.

According to a well-known Bombay daily, said local police had already registered a case against Husain, but there were no plans to arrest the painter.

But Husain has tendered apology.

"If any of my paintings have hurt the sentiments of some, which is not deliberate or intentional, I feel sorry and apologize," Husain said in a statement.

"All my paintings convey great respect to the subject and I have done it with faith and conviction," said the statement.

Dozens of artists across India condemned the attack on Husain's works. Many painters in New Delhi prepared to hold a protest against what they called an act of vandalism and to take a stand on communalism.

When Husain returns from London, India's secular charter will be put to an acid test.



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Construction of judges' quarters comes to a halt

By Staff Correspondent

Construction work of judges' quarters on a chunk of green space beside the Dhanmondi Lake has come to a halt after residents raised objection, according to some residents and a representative of the construction firm at the site.

The Ministry of Works took up a programme in May last to build two five storied buildings with five units each on more than one bigha of land there.

The construction work stopped more than a month ago as police were called in by an influential resident of the area," said a representative of the construction firm at the site.

It was alleged by the residents that a part of the lake was being illegally filled up by the firm during the construction which was a deviation from the original plan.

It was reported that the decision to build housing units for officials of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs was taken at a high level meeting which was attended by advisers of the then Caretaker Government.

The decision had sparked resentment among the local residents and different organisations.

At the site now, construction materials lie scattered amid two deep ditches which are filled with rainwater. A tinshed makeshift abode houses the guards employed by the construction firm.

Police SI shot dead in Bandarban

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: Unidentified gunmen shot dead a Sub-Inspector of Police in Bandarban hill district this morning.

According to security sources, three local tribal terrorists stopped Shaiful Islam in Katapahar area while he in plain-cloths was coming from Roangchhari thana to Bandarban by a motorcycle accompanied by a constable, Abdur Rahim.

This led to an altercation between the two sides and at one stage, the terrorists fired on the police official.

After the killing the terrorists fled the scene.

The constable escaped unhurt.

BCL-Shibir clash in city: 8 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least eight persons were injured in a clash between two student groups at the Tejaon Islamic Mission Madrassah in the city yesterday.

According to police and witnesses, the clash between Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) started when complaints were made to the authorities against some students by their rivals.

The clash that started at around 11:00 am lasted for about an hour. Police from Tejaon thana rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Babul murder: One more held

By Staff Correspondent

The Criminal Investigation Department, yesterday arrested Al Amin, 27, in connection with the murder of Obaidul Huq Babul, an industrialist and Awami League leader of Bhola.

According to a CID press release, Al Amin, who is also an absconder in the Kishu murder in Motijheel area, was arrested from Pallabi in the city yesterday. Police also recovered one revolver and 40 rounds of cartridges from his possession.

Obaidul Huq Babul, 50, was shot while waiting for his car in the ground floor of Ajanta Plaza under Pallabi thana in the city on October 10.

Babul succumbed to the bullet injuries the same night at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Left wrist of young man chopped off

By Staff Correspondent

The left wrist of a young man was chopped off by a group of people in the city Sunday night, according to police and medical sources.

Police said, Khokan, 25, son of one Habibur Rahman, a resident of 329, Kazipara under Mirpur thana was taken out of his house by some people at around 10 pm.

Khokan was later admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), with his left wrist chopped off and marks of injury all over the body, said police quoting the complaint registered by the victim's brother, Farouk.

Sources at the hospital said the tendons of the right hand and the legs of the victim were also cut.

Killing of 2 BNP activists in Jhenidah: 2 held

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 13: Police last night arrested two persons on charge of killing two BNP workers of Harinakundu thana.

The arrested — Joyntal Abedin and Soleman Biswas — hail from village Bhaina in Harinakundu thana, police said.

According to police, Mujibar Rahman Khan alias Maznu Khan, 55, and Hetal Uddin were shot dead at Joardah bazar in Harinakundu thana on the night of October 11.

CSE trading

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clined to Tk 8202.3 crore today from previous day's Tk 8962.02 crore. The price index also came down to 796.64 points from previous day's 870.42 marking a decrease of 73.78 points.

A senior CSE official talking to The Daily Star said, "our today's performance set a new record of declining trend here in share trading as we imposed the circuit breaker system".

Today's turnover was recorded at Tk 3,10,49,035, down from the previous day's turnover of Tk 3,63,03,710.

Market sources also said that the sharp fall of all market indicators as the Dhaka Stock Exchange had a negative impact on the CSE trading.

During the last one week a bullish trend persisted in the bourse while turnover rose to around Tk 14 crore on Wednesday, the highest since the inception of CSE, which completed its one year of operation on October 10.

Train derail

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that the derailment had occurred due to removal of fish plates from the rail tracks.

Of the injured, train driver Abdul Berek, assistant driver Ambar Ali and passenger Abdul Hye, 40, of village Payari in Magura district were admitted to Railway Hospital.

Three others — railway police constable Mahbubur Rahman, and passengers Jalaluddin, 65, of village Taluachandpur of Noakhali district and Farida Begum, 28, of Kochua thana of Chandpur district — were given first aid at Narsingdi railway station.

Train services in Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Sylhet, Dhaka-Noakhali routes were suspended for more than 10 hours and resumed at 1.30 pm after the salvage operation.

Divisional Railway Manager Saleh Ahmed supervised the salvage operation by two relief trains. Deputy Commissioner and police super of the district visited the spot.

BNP units

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MP, Fazlur Rahman Patal MP, Goyeshwar Roy, Najimuddin Alam MP, Maj (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman MP, Joyntal Abedin Faruk MP, Sajju Kamal, Shahiduddin Choudhury Anny, Sirajul Islam Selim and Wasimul Bari Rajib.

The next meeting of the committee will be held at 11 am on October 16 at the same venue.

PM's directive to Planning Commission

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Annual Development Programme (ADP) should be aimed at alleviating rural poverty and overall rural development, reports UNB.

She directed the authorities concerned to prune the projects of questionable merit and take steps to attract private investment.

Sheikh Hasina was presiding over an extended meeting of the Planning Commission at her Tejaon office in the evening.

The meeting reviewed the ADP projects of all sectors and evaluated their implementation status.

The Prime Minister gave guidelines to take immediate steps to remove the bottlenecks in the implementation of ADP projects so that the benefits from public resources expenditure is maximised.

She directed the Planning Commission and concerned agencies to draw up specific programmes and projects for boosting rural economy.

The Prime Minister also directed authorities concerned to create environment to attract private investment to play a more important role in development activities.

DSE index

From Page 1

overall situation and decided to ask the Securities and Exchange Commission to take steps to restore the investors' confidence shattered by its warning and the application of the circuit breaker.

"We will ask the SEC to launch another campaign so that the confidence of the investors is restored as it has issued the warning and ordered application of the circuit breaker," the DSE chief said after the meeting.

He said the DSE council would meet the SEC authorities as soon as possible, and if necessary, would hold meeting with the finance minister to hammer out ways for reshaping the stock market.

The SEC, the regulator of the capital market, Wednesday issued a notification warning the investors of possible risks in trading securities on rumours or without verifying the economic fundamentals of companies.

Broadcast on television and published in newspapers, the SEC notice also mentioned that "purchase or sale of securities at places other than the stock exchange is illegal".

The warning followed a bullish market that witnessed galloping prices of securities of many companies without sound fundamentals and mushroom growth of operators in the kerb market — the market outside the stock exchange.

But, after the warning of the SEC, they key DSE All Share Price Index started declining from Wednesday amid a sales-pressure by the retail investors, most of whom are new in the stock market, according to market sources.

The DSE chairman said the small investors had become disturbed after the SEC warning that has been followed by its order to apply a circuit breaker, not allowing any bid in excess of plus/minus 10 per cent of previous day's rate.

Husain, however, noted that the market would bounce back to the bullish trend when the big portfolio and institutional investors would start buying after some correction in the prices.

"It's a question of few days," the DSE chief said, hoping that the market will again witness a bull run after Durga Puja.

Changes in CU exams schedule

CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: Examination of second paper of MSS final year (1993) of the Department of Public Administration, Chittagong University which is scheduled to be held on October 17, has been postponed, a university press release said here today, reports BSS.

A new date for the examination will be announced later on.

The viva-voce of the students of the Thesis group for the MSc final (inorganic chemistry branch) examination 1992 will be held on November 4 next. MA final year examination-1993 of the Department of Bengali, which is scheduled to be held from November 5, has been postponed. Fresh date of the said examination will be announced later on.

The terminal examination of MA final year (1993) of the Department of Philosophy will be held on October 16.

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