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## UNHCR urges govt to ensure voluntary repatriation

From A Monayem Khan  
COX'S BAZAR, July 25: Government officials and representatives of the UNHCR met here tonight as Rohingya refugees opposed to repatriation continued to demonstrate in the camps.

The 90-minute meeting was held at the Rohingya Refugee and Repatriation Office here with Refugee and Repatriation Commissioner (RRC) A Q M Qamrul Huda representing the government side. UNHCR mission chief in Bangladesh Arun Salanagram, UNHCR mission chief in Myanmar Thang Guay Sang and officials of UNHCR at its Cox's Bazar office attended the meeting.

UNHCR requested the Bangladesh government to ensure voluntary repatriation of Rohingya refugees residing in two camps at Nayapara and See Page 12 Col 6

## \$120m ADB loan for 2 projects

The government and the Asian Development Bank have signed two loan agreements for a total of 119.7 million US dollars to implement two projects in the education and livestock sectors, reports UNB.

Both the agreements were signed at the ADB headquarters in Manila yesterday, according to a message received in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the Philippines Rezaul Hossain and ADB President Mitsuo Sato signed the loan agreements on behalf of their respective sides.

The loans for the Second Primary Education Sector Project and the Participatory Livestock Development Project come from the Asian Development Fund, the ADB's soft loan window.

The interest-free loans are repayable in 40 years, including a 10-year grace period, and carry a service charge of one per cent per annum.

Under one agreement, the ADB will provide 100 million US dollars for the Second Primary Education Sector Project involving a total cost of 160 million US dollars.

The multilateral donor agency will co-finance the Participatory Livestock Development Project giving 19.7 million US dollars out of the total See Page 12 Col 6

## Dhaka-Sylhet road link restored

HABIGANJ, July 25: The road communication between Dhaka and Sylhet was restored temporarily after completing a pontoon bridge over river Khowai today, 12 days after the disruption, reports UNB.

Movement of vehicles began at noon over the 250-foot pontoon bridge, constructed 250 metres upstream of the river allowing the highest five ton capacity vehicles to pass.

Another pontoon bridge was also built for the pedestrians. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad formally inaugurated the two bridges in the morning.

Communication Minister Anwar Hossain, Whip Abdus Shahid, Chief of Army Staff Lt General M Mahubur Rahman, GOC of Comilla, MPs and local leaders were present on the occasion.

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## Religious Minister keeps off Clashes near Baitul Mukarram Mosque : 10 hurt, 4 held

By Staff Correspondent

At least 10 people were injured in clashes between activists of Islami Oikkya Jote (IOJ) and supporters of ruling Awami League near the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Juma prayers yesterday. Police lobbed five tear gas shells to disperse the groups and picked up four persons from the spot.

Police had earlier clamped Section 144, banning rallies and demonstrations around the mosque to prevent possible violence. Tension was prevailing in the area for the last few days following disturbances at a July 17 Eid-e-Miladun Nabi function at the premises of the mosque in presence of President Shahabuddin Ahmed. The President had left the function without addressing it due to the disturbances.

Khatib of the mosque, Moulana Obaidul Huq, was later served with a show cause notice by the governing body of the Islamic Foundation, charging him with inciting the disturbances.

Some AL leaders and State Minister for Religious Affairs

Moulana Nurul Islam had earlier urged 'peace-loving Muslims' to join yesterday's Juma prayers at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque. Moulana Nurul Islam, however, offered his Juma prayers at the Kakrail Mosque yesterday. When contacted, the state minister told The Daily Star that he opted for not joining the prayers at Baitul Mukarram following advice from senior colleagues.

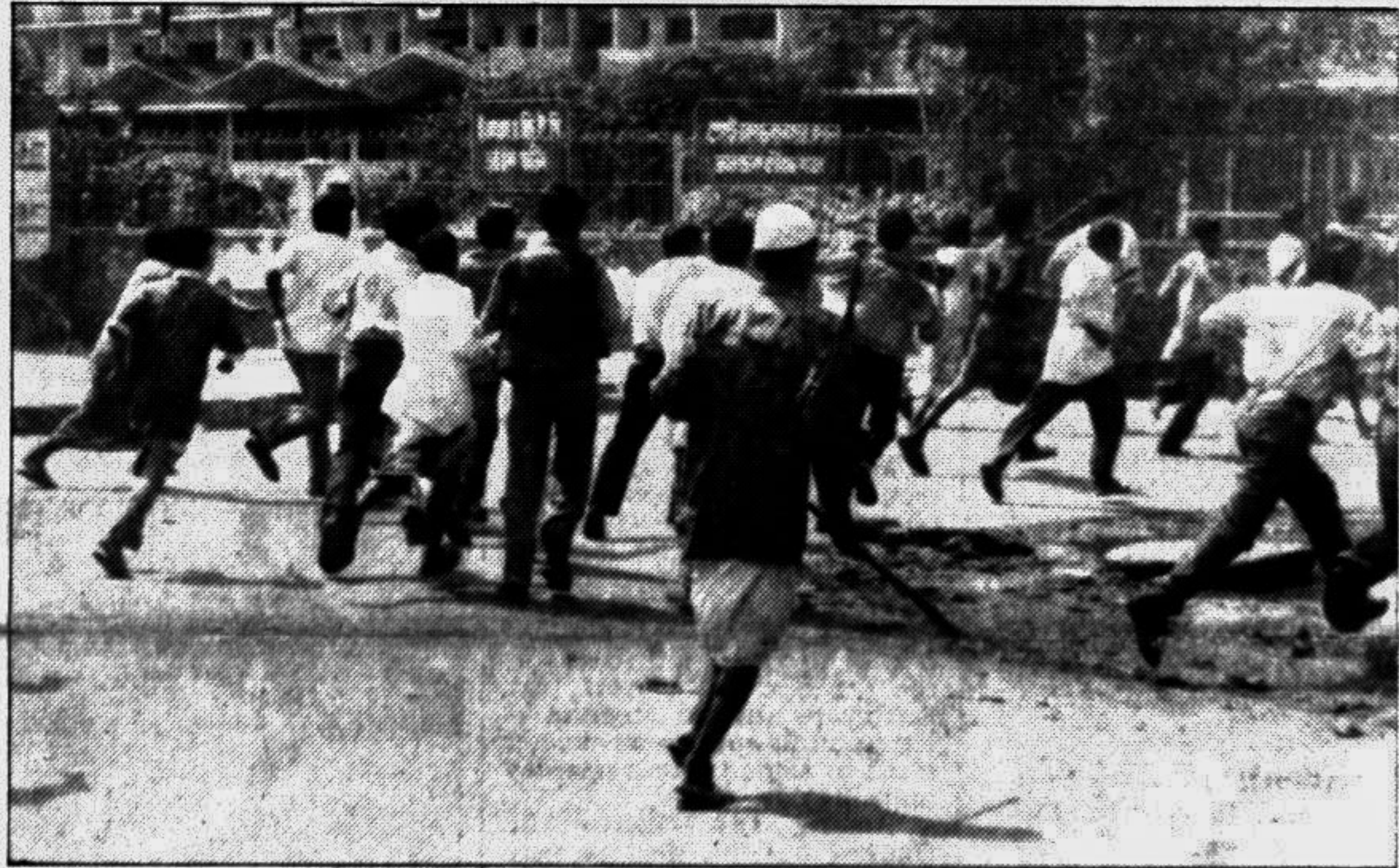
The Juma prayers at the Baitul Mukarram was held peacefully and Moulana Obaidul Huq led the prayer as usual. A good number of supporters of the Islamic Oikkya Jote (IOJ) and Awami League attended the prayers.

After the munazat, a big group of IOJ activists marched down through the South Gate of the mosque chanting 'La Ilaha Illallah' slogan and beat a 'Mujib coat'-wearing Rickshaw Sramik League worker, Nuru Mia, just outside the mosque premises. The Rickshaw Sramik League is a front organisation of Awami League.

As the IOJ supporters ad- See Page 12 Col 4



A Rickshaw Sramik League worker injured during the yesterday's clash.



A scene during clashes near Baitul Mukarram mosque yesterday.

— Star photo

## Laloo quits, his wife sworn in as CM

PATNA, July 25: A state political leader with great influence over India's central government resigned today after his arrest on corruption charges was ordered, and named his wife his successor, reports AP.

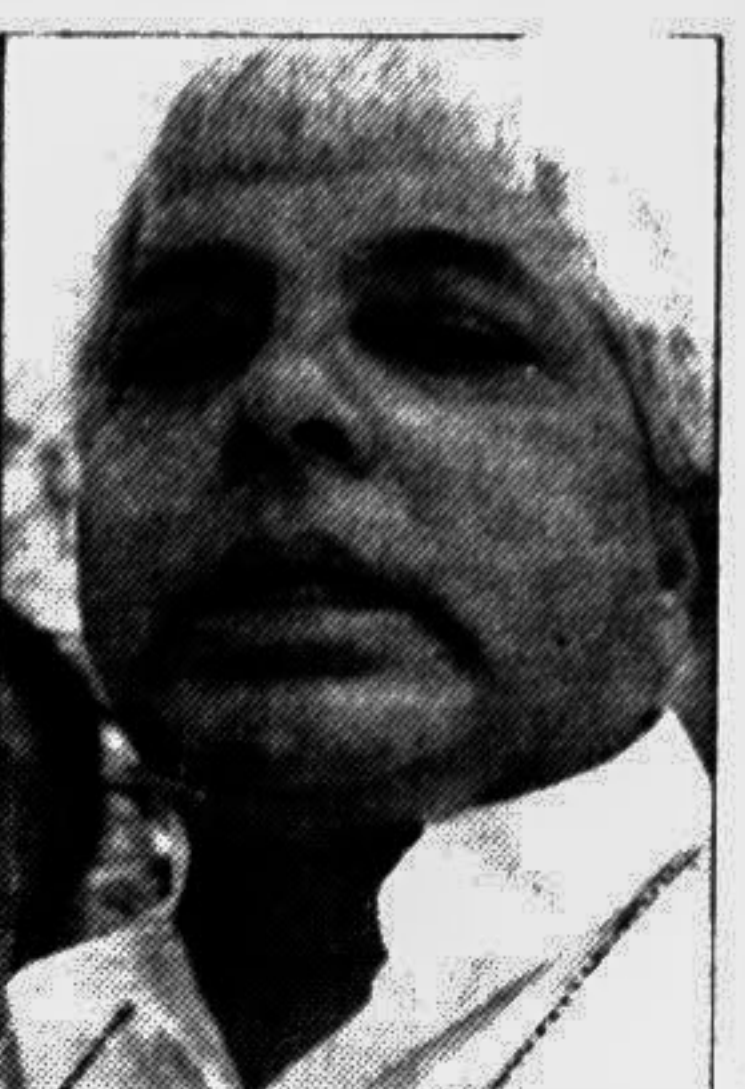
Bihar state parliamentary affairs minister Raghunath Jha said Laloo Prasad Yadav handed his resignation as Bihar state's top elected official to the state governor. Yadav's wife, Rabri Devi, was named to fill out his term at a meeting of lawmakers belonging to his party.

Governor AR Kidwai administered the oath of office to Devi, who is not a member of the state assembly. Fourteen other ministers also were sworn in at the ceremony.

"I quit because I wanted to avoid unnecessary criticism," Yadav told reporters. "There were all these cases and the campaign against me by politicians."

Yadav's departure will take pressure off Prime Minister IK Gujral, who has made it clear he wanted him to step down as Bihar chief minister.

Shortly before Yadav resigned, Judge SK Lal had issued See Page 12 Col 3



Laloo Prasad Yadav

warrants for the arrest of the chief minister and two of his state cabinet ministers.

The order came a day after the Patna High Court rejected Yadav's petition seeking 'anticipatory bail', or protection against arrest by federal investigators.

Within hours after the war- See Page 12 Col 3

## Virus in genetic system causes diabetes?

GENEVA, July 25: A newly-discovered virus hidden in the human genetic system could be responsible for diabetes by prompting an attack by the body's natural defences on the cells that produce insulin, Swiss researchers have found, reports AFP.

The team led by Bernard Conrad and Bernard Mach of Geneva, aided by colleagues from Zurich and Turin in Italy, say the discovery has important implications for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of the disease.

Their discovery is reported in the latest issue of the US scientific journal Cell.

According to the Swiss team, a so-called retrovirus which exists in the human genome can produce a molecule dubbed 'superantigen', which over-stimulates lymphocytes, key cells in the immune system.

The lymphocytes attack the cells in the pancreas which See Page 12 Col 5

## No progress in talks between DU VC and student leaders

By DU Correspondent  
Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) is determined to go with its programme of indefinite strike from tomorrow at the Dhaka University as 'no settlement' could be reached till yesterday despite several rounds of talks between the Vice Chancellor and the leaders of JCD and BCL, JCD sources said.

The strike was called Thursday as Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) captured Surya Sen Hall of the university Wednesday following an inflight of the JCD. The hall was one of the strongholds of JCD.

Residents of Surya Sen Hall as well as of the adjacent Jasimuddin Hall, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall and Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall were in panic, fearing fresh trouble.

The central and university unit leaders of JCD and BCL had several rounds of talks with Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury following Wednesday's incident to reach a peaceful solution.

It was initially decided that only resident students of Surya Sen Hall would be allowed to stay in the hall after checking their identity cards.

As per the decision, leaders of both the organisations went to the hall yesterday evening with the VC, Proctor and the See Page 12 Col 2

## India, Lanka clash for Asia Cup today

COLOMBO, July 25: Reigning one-day masters Sri Lanka clash with India in the Asia Cup final here tomorrow confident of adding another title to their growing list, reports AFP.

Arjuna Ranatunga's World Cup champions appear invincible in Asian conditions having won four of the last five one-day tournaments held in the region.

Their 5-1 record against India over the last two seasons makes the home team clear favourites to avenge the defeat in the last Asia Cup final at Sharjah in 1995.

But Ranatunga was wary of taking victory for granted against Sachin Tendulkar's Indians, against whom he scored See Page 12 Col 8

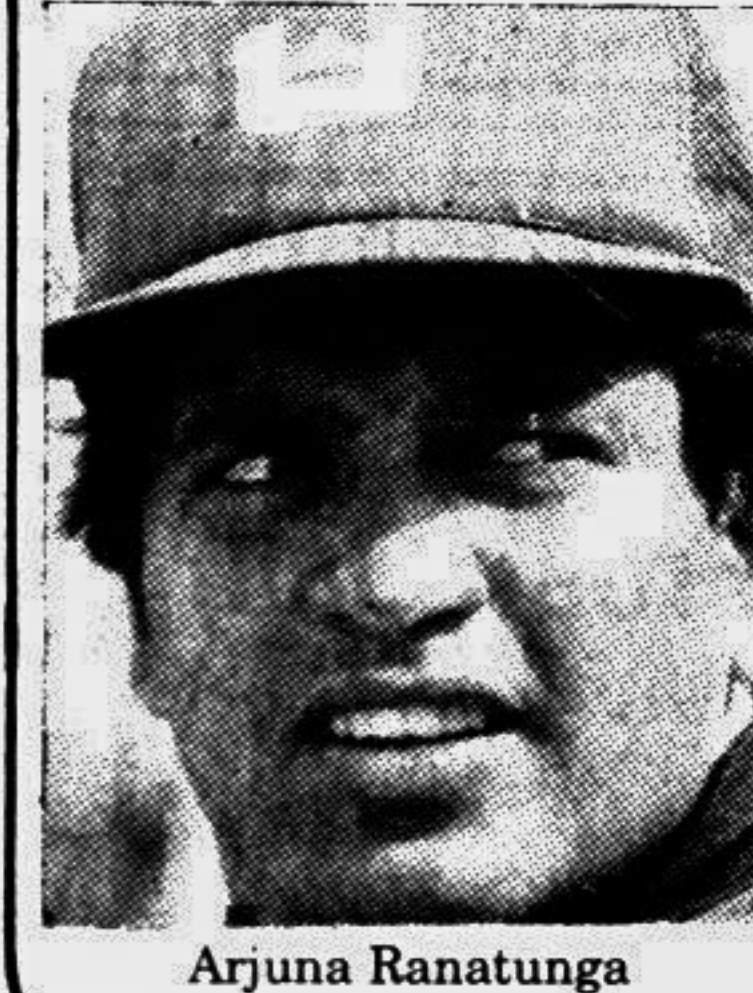
an unbeaten century in the league during a six-wicket romp.

"But that does not count," the portly Sri Lankan captain said. "I have seen enough surprises in one-day cricket not to take anything for granted."

"But I am confident we will do well. We want to win as many tournaments as we can."

The Sri Lankans showed their prowess by winning all their three matches in the preliminary league also featuring Pakistan and ICC champions Bangladesh.

The Indians had their match against Pakistan washed out af- See Page 12 Col 8



Arjuna Ranatunga



Sachin Tendulkar

## Planting trees on road dividers criticised

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Corporation's Tk 1.2 crore project to build dividers on different city roads and planting trees on them has come under severe criticism by traffic officials and road users.

Officials at the traffic division of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and road users said trees in the middle of the roads not only fail to give shade to the pedestrians but also create hazard by marring visibility. As the trees spread their branches, they become virtual death traps for fast-moving vehicles. Moreover, they said, during storm these trees fall on to the roads creating further hazard.

There is too little space in the road dividers to plant such big trees. At many parts of the city, the roots of trees cracked the dividers damaging the See Page 12 Col 2

## Step to check 'white spot' virus Imported shrimp fries to be kept in 'quarantine'

By Govinda Shil

The government has decided that imported shrimp fries be kept in 'quarantine' for some time by the importers to be sure that those are not diseased, according to officials of the Fisheries Department.

But no deadline has been fixed to enforce the decision, they said.

"We are trying to implement the decision as soon as possible, but we don't have a definite time-frame," said a senior official of Fisheries Department.

Shrimp cultivators lost Tk 501.77 crore in last two years because of infection by an incurable 'white spot' virus, which kills shrimps within 24 hours. It is thought that the virus was See Page 12 Col 1

carried into the country by imported shrimp fries.

The virus usually attacks areas of intensive shrimp cultivation but, in 1996, it infected 56 per cent of the traditionally cultivated shrimp farms. However, this has now come down to about 22 per cent after some government-initiated remedial measures and the Fisheries Department hopes to bring the situation under control by 1998.

A government probe committee had sent infected shrimp samples to Sterling University in Britain for investigation, which said, "the virus was responsible for contamination of water of over 30,000 hectares."

See Page 12 Col 1

## BUET experts now to oversee DSE computerisation

By Rafiq Hasan

The computer department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) has been entrusted with the responsibility of supervising installation of automation system in share trading in Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

The responsibility was given to BUET computer experts after a DSE review committee detected 'irregularities and weaknesses' in the installation work, being done by a Singapore-based US company, Tandem International.

The BUET experts will now supervise the whole work. They will submit preliminary report on the progress of work within six weeks, DSE Chairman M A Haq Howlader told The Daily Star.

The BUET was given the responsibility on Wednesday after discussion at the DSE council meeting, he said. Further installation work will begin after getting green signal from the BUET experts, he said.

The review committee questioned the 'viability and amount of the contract' with the See Page 12 Col 5

US company.

The contract was signed on January 16. As per the contract, the company is to install the system in nine months.

The review committee in its reports alleged that the company has now resorted to dilly-dally tactics regarding shipment of the 'main computer system', demanding some amendments to the agreement.

The DSE has already paid 25 per cent of the total cost of the project amounting to 1.76 million US dollars, but received nothing tangible from the contractor," the report said.

The report expressed doubt whether Tandem will at all deliver the computer system and carry out the work as per contract.

It further alleged that the DSE management signed the contract with Tandem against the initial for investment of the DSE. The company earlier installed automation system in Stock Exchange in Chittagong, Calcutta and Madras at less than half the amount contracted with the DSE, it alleged.

As per the contract, Tandem will receive 90 per cent of the contracted amount before automated trading system becomes operational. Therefore, the total financial liability for the success or failure of the system will fall on the DSE, the report mentioned. See Page 12 Col 7

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## Insecticide needed for medicated mosquito nets not available

By Naimul Haq

The WHO-recommended programme for use of medicated mosquito nets by people living in the 'endemic or malaria prone zone' could not be introduced this year as the insecticide — Synthetic pyrethroid — was not available due to a government ban on its import.

According to sources in the Health Directorate, the ban was imposed by the Commerce Ministry in April last year saying that it was too harmful for fresh water creatures. Chemical tests showed that the insecticide also widely used in agriculture sector, had bad effects on living beings. It is sprayed in paddy fields which ultimately contaminates nearby water bodies, threatening the existence of aquatic life. The ban came into effect as test results proved it.

Representatives from the

Health Directorate, at a meeting of Pesticide Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC), asked for continued use of the insecticide but got a negative response. WHO regional director from Delhi had come to Dhaka soon after the ban to hold talks with the authorities concerned on the matter. He, however, could not convince the authorities to lift the ban.

The ban was partially lifted on March 8 this year allowing use of the insecticide in public health sector. The lifting of the ban, however, did not benefit the programme for control of the vector borne disease specially in the malaria-prone Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), because it was still not available, the sources pointed out.

"It will take at least three months before the first consignment of the imported insecticide arrives in the country. At present there is hardly any stock of the medicine with the Health Directorate to continue the programme. It has to wait till the next season before the programme can be restarted," a Health Directorate official said.

The drug treated mosquito nets were first tested in the country in 1986 in a number of areas in Sylhet and Chittagong divisions. The test was successful. The authorities then used the medicated bed nets to control malaria which spread in epidemic form in Thaperpur of Sunamganj district and Kalmakanda of Netrokona district. About 30,000 people in the areas were affected by the deadly disease in 1994.

"The medicated mosquito nets proved to be a very effective tool for control of malaria," See Page 12 Col 7

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"The medicated mosquito nets proved to be a very effective tool for control of malaria," See Page 12 Col 7

## Wedding of Col Rashid's daughter

Wedding of Mehnaz Rashid, daughter of Col (ret'd) Abdur Rashid Khandaker, an absconding accused in the Bangabandhu murder case, took place in the city on Thursday, reports UNB.

A small number of close relatives were present at the simple ceremony at the bride's residence at Gulshan, said a press release issued by the groom's father yesterday.

The bridegroom Shakeeb Ahmed Juned, an MBA from Bangkok University and son of a former director of Bangladesh Shell Juned A Chowdhury, is a senior executive in Banque Indosuez in Dhaka.

The release said Mehnaz's mother and Shakeeb's parents have expressed regrets for the inconvenience caused to the invitees due to cancellation of the wedding and wedding receptions for reasons beyond their control.

The marriage ceremony and See Page 12 Col 4

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**FALL SEMESTER ADMISSION GOING ON**

## No accord yet on using Ctg port for transit, Lok Sabha told

NEW DELHI, July 25: The Bangladesh government has so far not agreed to provide facilities for using Chittagong Port for transit of Indian goods, Minister of State for Commerce, Dr BB Ramaiah, told the Lok Sabha today, reports BSS.

Replying to a question in Parliament he said the Indian government had taken several steps to improve trade with Bangladesh.

Ramaiah said the India-Bangladesh trade agreement provides most favoured nation (MFN) status to each other and added that under the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAFTA) agreement, India had so far provided tariff concessions on 572 tariff lines to Bangladesh, which included automobile batteries, cosmetics and toiletries, dyes, paints. See Page 12 Col 1

## Eden College Some students didn't vacate hostel

By Staff Correspondent

Despite an order from the college authorities to vacate the hostel, a number of students of Eden University College did not leave their rooms till yesterday.

"A number of students were still occupying the old dormitory rooms disobeying authorities' order," the principal of the college told The Daily Star. "I assume, there are about 60 students inside the dormitory defying the order," she added.

Police was deployed around the hostel building. There was no report of any untoward incident inside the dormitory. The students had locked the main entrance of the dormitory.

The principal said the situation on the campus was 'normal'. See Page 12 Col 4

## Housewife held for torturing 7-yr-old maid

Police have arrested a housewife in the city allegedly for torturing a seven-year-old maid, reports UNB.

Mahmuda Akhter was arrested from her house at Khilgaon Tilpapa Thursday night in absence of her husband Emran Khan. Advocate, said a press release of the Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR).

The arrest followed filing of a general diary with Sabujbagh thana by the BSEHR.

It said Emran brought Sohana, daughter of one Abdul Latif of village Chandaia in Comilla district, to Dhaka taking the responsibility of her study.

But, Emran engaged the minor girl in household works and he and his wife unleashed torture on her. Even they tortured her by pouring water mixed with chilli powder in her eyes, Mahmuda confessed to police. See Page 12 Col 5

## Five hurt in Ctg gunfight

CHITTAGONG, July 25: At least five people were injured in a gunfight between two rival groups of 'mastans' in Panchaish thana in the town today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash began between the two groups at Rahaman Nagar at about 3:15 pm over establishing supremacy in the area. They exchanged some 20 rounds of shots and exploded several crackers during the 15-minute fight.

Of the injured, Abul Kalam Shahin was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. See Page 12 Col 7