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Leasing out of link road  
Persons responsible  
to face legal  
action: Minister

By Morshed Ali Khan

The Ministry of Land will issue a show cause notice on the Land Reforms Board as to why a public road was leased out in Motijheel area, said State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharaf.

"We will take legal action against those involved in leasing out the road," he said while talking to The Daily Star at his Secretariat office yesterday.

He added that the public established its right by using the site as a link road for a long time. "No one has the right to take that right away."

The state minister said he had visited the site on Monday and ordered the ministry to start procedure to cancel the lease immediately.

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Mustafiz new Foreign Secy

AM Mustafizur Rahman, Bangladesh ambassador to China, has been appointed as foreign secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reports BSS.

He will replace incumbent Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, said an official announcement yesterday.

Mustafiz, who joined the erstwhile Pakistan Foreign Service in 1964, served in a number of missions abroad, including New Delhi, Kathmandu, London and Washington DC. He also served as Director General and Chief of Protocol in the Foreign Ministry.

As Ambassador of Bangladesh, Mustafiz has been posted to Beijing since December 31, 1993. He also served as ambassador to the former Soviet Union and then to the Russian Federation with concurrent accreditation to Finland and Mongolia from December 1990 to December 1991.

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Edn Ministry's classified file stolen

By Staff Correspondent

A classified file containing a draft report on formulation of a national policy for Bengal and English medium non-government schools was stolen from the Ministry of Education at the Secretariat on August 31, ministerial sources confirmed yesterday.

Following the theft, the Ministry conducted an investigation and punished two of its employees by 'transferring them elsewhere'.

The draft report, prepared by an 11-member committee over three months, focused on establishment, recognition and running of English and Bengali medium nursery, preparatory, kindergarten, secondary and O-level schools.

Star Magazine

Read all about Mother Teresa in this week's Star Weekend Magazine



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Inside Today

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Is the Turkish Welfare Party facing closure?

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Photo shows Diana's driver blinded by camera flash'

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EASF hangs in balance due to govt-IMF dispute

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# The Daily Star

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## BNP out to take revenge on people for their verdict : PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the major opposition BNP is out to take revenge on the people for their verdict in the last general elections by obstructing her government's efforts for the well-being of the people.

"They want to take revenge against the people who pulled them down from power and rejected them in the polls for stealing votes and plundering national wealth. That's why we will resign when election comes... Why are they giving empty threats for ouster and creating fake issues for the purpose?"

In this regard, she advised BNP to recall what it had achieved during the first 14 months of its rule and said people forced the party to step down for its 'misdeeds'.

"We haven't yet done anything like them," she said.

Continuing, the Prime Min-

ister said, "The person now extending such threats, had also sent to jail the plunderers in the autocratic government, also toppled by the people. But we did not send to jail anybody of her government after it was ousted though they plundered public wealth on a large scale."

She explained, "We wished to work together for building up the country and boost its economy. We hoped they would reciprocate our good gesture at least to wipe out their sins."

It will be a great mistake on their part if they 'misinterpret our tolerance and liberal attitude as our weakness,' commented Hasina, also chief of Awami League.

Referring to corruption cases filed against some of those in

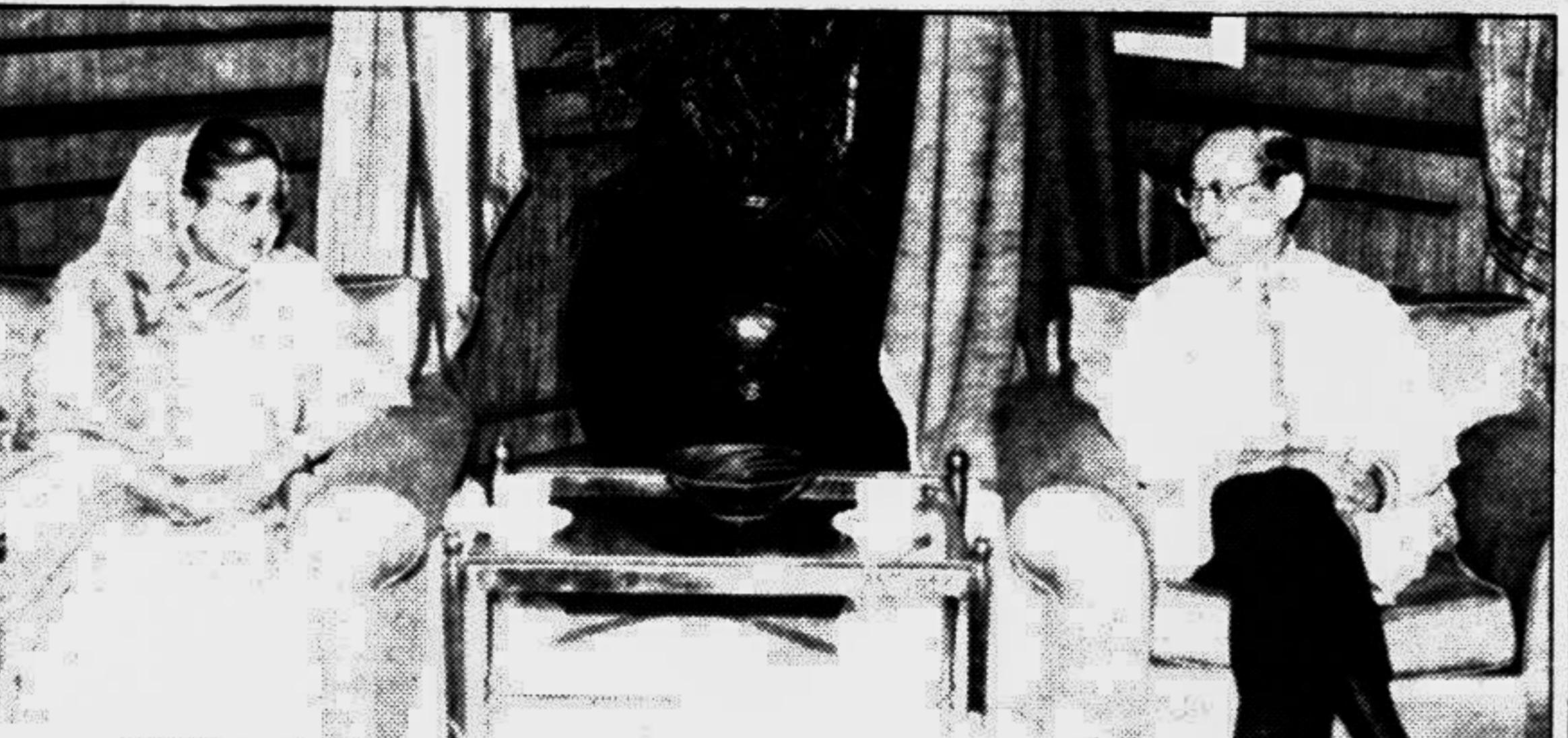
the previous BNP government, she warned, "Legal steps will be taken (against them) and law will take its own course."

Hasina expressed her confidence that her government would overcome all problems and make the country self-reliant.

Reacting to the Opposition leader's terming her government a liar Hasina challenged her to prove the charge. "Such allegation does not fit in the mouth of one who cheats the people by speaking lies on a silly issue like her birthday."

The Prime Minister and Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad also said that she (leader of the Opposition Begum Zia) never attended the Business Advisory

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with Philippine President Fidel Ramos who made a farewell call on her at her hotel suite in Manila yesterday.

— PID photo

### Fraud alleged by Bangladesh Bank

## Showcause notices on IFIC Board, Sohel, Salman & MD

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi and Inam Ahmed

A Bangladesh Bank inquiry has found alleged evidences of fraud and gross violation of banking rules by business tycoons Salman Rahman and Sohel Rahman and the International Finance and Investment Company (IFIC) Bank Ltd in rescheduling loans of a company in which Beximco has an interest.

The Rahman brothers have already been asked by the central bank to say why they should not be removed from the IFIC Board and be prosecuted to safeguard the interest of the depositors, according to IFIC Bank sources.

The IFIC Board has also been asked to reply why legal actions should not be taken against it to stop activities of the bank that go against the interest of the depositors and to ensure proper management of the bank.

Sohel Rahman as chairman of IFIC received a similar notice with accusing fingers at the Board, which has to explain why legal action would be taken against it.

In another notice, managing director of IFIC Abbas Uddin Ahmed has been told to explain why he would not be removed from his job and face legal action. In another letter addressed to the managing director, he has

been asked to take punitive action against the IFIC executives involved, failing which he would be held responsible.

The notices dated September 2, gave them 15 days to respond, the sources said.

The scam has been brought to the notice of the Prime Minister, sources at her office said. Her reaction could not be known.

The IFIC managing director wouldn't say anything about it, calling it "a matter of secrecy".

The IFIC Board of Directors meanwhile met yesterday to discuss the issue.

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IFIC Board meets to discuss show cause notices

Star Report

An emergency board meeting of the IFIC Bank yesterday discussed the show cause notices served on its Chairman SAF Rahman, MD Abbasuddin Ahmed and the board by the Bangladesh Bank.

The meeting decided that the bank would seek another 15 days time to reply to the notices, according to bank sources.

Earlier, the BB had served

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JCD calls hartal today

Women's college closed sine die in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Sept 10: Government Muminunnisa Women's College here was closed for an indefinite period after a clash between rival groups of students today, reports UNB.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) called a half-day hartal in the district town tomorrow protesting the incident.

Witnesses said the clash be-

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## Bangladeshi boys cherish meeting Mother Teresa hours before she died

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: Four Bangladeshi students on a world bicycle tour will cherish for the rest of their lives the memory of their meeting with Mother Teresa in Calcutta hours before she died, reports India Abroad News Service.

"It was a dream come true. It was as if a light was glowing in her and all our problems vanished from our minds the moment we saw her," Bangladeshi student Abu Sufian was quoted as saying by the daily The Statesman.

"I could not believe it. We met here barely 10 hours before her death," said Sufian.

"It was always my dream to meet Mother Teresa and with great hopes, we went to meet her on that fateful day," said his partner Jahangir Alam.

The four students had reached the Mother House at about 9.30 a.m. but were not allowed to meet the Mother as she was unwell. It was only when they said they had come from Bangladesh and were on a world tour to promote peace that they were given permission.

"She asked about our plans to propagate our motto," said Abu Sufian. "She also said that she will visit Bangladesh next year, but now this will never happen," he lamented.

The foursome spent more than half an hour with the Mother and filmed the entire meeting on their video recorder, the Statesman reported.

"My life is made. This is a possession that I am going to keep all through my life. Her voice, her pictures, are going to be there for me whenever I need for solace," said Zaman.

"She asked about our plans to propagate our motto," said Abu Sufian. "She also said that she will visit Bangladesh next year, but now this will never happen," he lamented.

The paper quoted unoffical sources, said that a large number of women and children are also trafficked to India and Pakistan.

The country paper said Bangladesh government is concerned at the growing phenomenon of trafficking in women and children.

It said statistics compiled from eight newspapers were also seen improbably lower. In

1996, media reports showed that 45 women and 84 children were recovered and 70 traffickers arrested.

On the other hand, newspaper scanning from January-June period of this year shows that 257 people were trafficked to 104 people arrested for trafficking.

The reports also show that 32 trafficking cases were filed and two GAs were lodged during the period. Police was generally informed in 24 other cases.

The paper said the government is well aware of the situation and enacted a number of laws to combat trafficking.

It said woman groups are active against trafficking in the field of creating public awareness and advocacy, providing

## HSC results today

Results of the HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) examinations of 1997 under five education boards will be published today, reports UNB.

An official handout on Tuesday said the results will be available at the examination centres after 4 pm. Examinees have been asked to have their results from their respective colleges or centres.

The results will not be available at the Education Board offices. Education Ministry or newspaper offices, the handout added.

## Sit-in in front of Rajshahi Edn Board

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 10: Several student organisations today sat-in in front of the Rajshahi Education Board to protest the decision of cancelling the examinations of several thousand HSC examinees.

They announced to continue sit-in programme until the decision was withdrawn.

The officials and employees of the board could not enter the office due to sit-in starting from early morning.

## Board Committee to meet Monday to decide fate of 6,686 examinees

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 10: The 11-member Rajshahi Education Board Committee will meet on September 15 to decide the fate of about 6,686 HSC examinees whose examinations were to be cancelled due to alleged irregularities.

A member of the committee told this correspondent that the committee's decision is likely to go in favour of the students.

Another member informed this correspondent that the results of 6,230 examinees is likely to be published as per the order of Senior Assistant Judge.

These retained students allegedly appeared in the examinations changing their colleges without legal transfer certificate.

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## 40 hurt as boiler pipe bursts at garments factory

By Staff Correspondent

At least 40 workers were injured when a boiler pipe burst at a garments factory at Uttara in the city yesterday.

Many of the injured workers, mostly women, fainted as steam leaked through the pipe and engulfed the fifth floor factory of Palma Garments Ltd at Bally Complex in Uttara Sector-3.

Police said the boiler pipe at Laksma Fashion Ltd on the second, third and fourth floors of the same building burst at about 11am, at point close to the Palma Garments.

More than 200 workers were

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## Ershad asks Manju to quit cabinet

Former President and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad asked his party secretary general and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju to quit the Cabinet.

He told UNB over telephone that he had asked Anwar Hossain Manju to relinquish the ministerial post and work full time to reactivate the party.

The JP Chairman said his party workers and supporters frequently questioned him about the dual position of JP as the party secretary general is a minister of the government.

Yesterday, Ershad and Manju had an exclusive meeting at the party's Baridhara office in the morning. The issue of Manju's resignation from the Cabinet of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina figured prominently during the one-to-one meeting that lasted for about 90

minutes.

"I asked him to quit ministerial work and work full time for Jatiya Party. I advised him to think over the matter as I badly need him as full-time secretary general for the interest of the party," Ershad said.

Praising Manju for his sacrifice and contribution to the Jatiya Party as well as his organisational capacity, Ershad said he is a very conscientious man and would certainly understand the present need.

During his September 1 meeting with the Prime Minister at the Sangsab Bhaban, Ershad said, he had also told Anwar Hoss