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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presenting certificate to a student at the convocation of Islamic Institute of Technology in Gazipur yesterday. — PID photo

PM at IIT convocation

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reputed international institution, she added.

The Prime Minister said the member states have nominated a large number of qualified students for the IIT, but due to limited seats it could only take a small number of eligible candidates.

She appealed to all the member states for contributing to the budget of the IIT.

The Institute has submitted a proposal to IDB for the development of facilities, which include a second academic building and a second dormitory.

On completion of the project, IIT will be able to accommodate at least 960 students and introduce new and rare technologies like information and computer-aided design, she said.

The Prime Minister assured all government support for the development of the institute and requested the IDB president to see that this project gets early approval and is quickly implemented for the benefit of the Muslims in Bangladesh.

Secretary General of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Dr Azzeddine Laraki stressed the need for co-operation of the Muslims in the

filed of culture, science and knowledge.

He said cooperation and coordination in the fields of economy and development, culture and education, will no doubt be a key factor in promoting rapprochement and harmony among Islamic states and peoples.

IDB president Dr Ahmed Mohammad Ali said the Bank is providing US dollar 770 million to Bangladesh in the sectors of education, agriculture, health, communication, rural development and other development sectors.

The Bank has great interest in the Islamic Institute of Technology, he said, adding that it will continue its assistance and support for the improvement of the institute.

Earlier, the Prime Minister led the academic procession and distributed diploma certificates to the successful students.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, State Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan, vice chancellors of different universities, and diplomats attended the function.

Bangabandhu Murder Case

 From Page 1
instructions of my commanding officer. I had the idea that the tanks were brought out for an operation," the PW-14 said.

Answering a question from Khan Saifur Rahman, lawyer of accused in custody Lt Col (dismissed) Farook Rahman. He also told the court that there were 32 tanks under the Unit at that time.

"Under the orders of the tank commander, we took over the control of Radio Station," he said answering questions from Abdul Wahed, lawyer of absconding Lt Col (relieved) Shariful Haq Dalim. When asked how the armed sentries at the Radio Station were dismissed, he said, "I do not know."

"Khandaker Mushtaque came to the Radio Station accompanied by Maj Khandaker Abdul Rashid in an army jeep," he said replying to a question from Gazi Zillur Rahman, lawyer of absconding Lt Col (dismissed) Khandaker Abdul Rahid.

"I was in the Headquarter Squadron of the First Bengal Lancer Unit," the PW-14 said replying to a question of the lawyer of absconding Lt Col (relieved) Ahmed Shariful Hossain.

"The Headquarter Squadron generally maintained two tanks, one for the commanding officer and the other for the second-in-command and the rest were distributed among the remaining three other squadrons in the unit," he said replying to another question from the lawyer.

The lawyer of absconding Lt Col (relieved) A K M Mohiuddin asked him why they did not take shells for the tank. The PW-14 said, "There were no shells for tanks in the Regiment."

"It takes almost an hour to prepare a tank before taking it out for exercise," he said replying to a question from the lawyer of accused Farook.

The tanks which were brought out on that night were prepared by the forces of the three squadrons.

"Heavy Machine Gun, Medium Machine Gun and Radio Communication System have to be installed in a tank before they are brought out for an exercise."

The tanks brought out on that night were T-54s. Communication on board a tank is

conducted through intercom system while the 'netting' among tanks is done through radiocom.

"During movement, 'call signal number' is given for every tank which is used to locate any tank."

"I had noticed eight or ten tanks near the Farmgate. One of those followed us."

Answering another question, the PW-14 said that the destination of his tank was fixed but he was not aware whether the destinations for others were fixed or not.

The petition of Farook's lawyer which was kept pending on Tuesday for disposal yesterday was rejected and kept on record. The judge observed that the petition was rejected since it was in continuation of an earlier petition filed under Section 526(8) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The prayer was rejected.

In the petition filed on Monday, the lawyer had prayed for adjournment of the hearing, alleging that the judge had met a diplomat who came to observe the hearing. The lawyer had cited newspaper reports in support of his prayer. The judge denied the reports and rejected the petition.

5 Iranians

 From Page 1
his injuries were not serious. In Iran, deputy foreign minister Mohsen Aminzadeh called for swift arrest and punishment of the killers.

In a meeting with Pakistan's ambassador in Tehran, Khalid Mehmood, Aminzadeh also called for an official account of the attack from the Pakistani government, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Pakistan's interior minister, Shujaat Hussain, said he was confident the killings would not affect relations with Iran.

"They were our guests from a brotherly Muslim country and we are sorry for their killings," he said.

German envoy

 From Page 1
thought all to be Ukrainians, said a senior Western diplomat, insisting on anonymity.

The senior Western diplomat said that Wagner was one of five people from Westendort's office on board the helicopter.

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Director apprehends Vested quarters instigating nurses at PG

The Director of the Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR) yesterday expressed his concern that vested quarters might be active in creating a deadlock in the PG Hospital, reports UNB.

Director Prof Mohammad Tahir told a press conference at the hospital conference room that there is no reason to continue the nurses' strike following the government assurance that their jobs will not be at stake after the IPGMR is turned into a university.

He said the deadlock has been prevailing in the PG Hospital since the government announced on July 31 that the institute would be turned into "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University."

The IPGMR Director said the nurses along with class three and four employees went on a strike on August 12 apprehending that they might lose their jobs once the institute became a university.

He said the authorities held meetings with the striking nurses and employees several times, but failed to break the deadlock.

Prof Tahir said the health and family welfare minister, the health secretary and he held a long discussion with the nurses and employees and gave the assurance that their jobs would not be affected.

Despite all assurances, a section of nurses continued non-stop strike, which is morally illegal, he said.

40 thatched houses gutted in city

Firefighters saved a metal industry from a fire that broke out at a slum in Tejgaon industrial area gutting some 40 thatched houses yesterday, reports UNB.

The blaze, originating from a candle, broke out at Rahim Metal Slum adjacent to the Rahim Metal Industry at about 8:45 pm and raged through the kucha houses during power failure in the area.

On information, firefighters from Tejgaon station rushed to the spot and brought the flame under control after half an hour of hectic efforts.

Bus service

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of the injured union workers were admitted into Puthia Thana Health Complex.

The clash erupted following a quarrel between an Awami League leader and workers of a Bogra-bound minibus, the witnesses added.

Mahfuzul Haq, ADC (General) Mahfuzul Haq and superintendent of police Abul Hashem, along with a few Awami League leaders, today visited Puthia to resolve the problem. But they could not make any headway due to resistance by Awami League supporters, sources said.

Armed workers of both groups chased and counter-chased one another this noon. A tense situation was prevailing in the area till the writing of this report.

Naga rebel

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shaw at around 6:30 pm today at Station Road.

During interrogation he informed police that he had come here for treatment at Sitakundu T B Hospital.

He also informed police that he had arrived in the city today from Alikadam under Banderban hill district where he came three days ago.

Police said a photograph of Nagatu carrying arms was found with him.

IDB to provide \$ 25m in project aid, \$100m for import financing

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), pledging more assistance to Bangladesh in coming years, will provide a total of 25 million US dollars under three loan agreements signed here yesterday, reports UNB.

IDB President Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali, who arrived in the city on an official visit, informed Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria that his agency would lend another 100 million dollars as import trade financing.

In all, the financial institution of the Muslim world is giving Bangladesh a total of 110 million dollars as import balance financing. Of the amount, the accord for the first installment of 10 million dollars was signed yesterday.

The Bank has already sent message to the government to disburse another amount of 27 million dollars in the second phase under the credit line and agreement to this effect is expected shortly, Kibria said.

The first phase amount would be utilised as commodity aid for import of petroleum products by the state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).

The other two agreements included 5 million dollars for

IDB to provide \$13.50m for 2nd wafk bldg in Ctg

President of Islamic Development Bank Dr Ahmed Mohammad Ali called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

The IDB President agreed in principle to provide 13.50 million US dollars for constructing the second wafk building in Chittagong.

He expressed happiness seeing the development of Islamic Institute of Technology which was visited by the Prime Minister twice.

"The Institute is playing a very important role in consolidating the Islamic Ummah," Dr Ali said.

Mandatory contribution of some member states remained outstanding, the Prime Minister said and assured that the necessary government support would continue in this regard.

Referring to the government steps undertaken for the welfare of the elderly poor, Hasina said the government has introduced pension for the elderly people.

Glorious past

 From Page 1
Union, who was killed while leading an anti-terrorism procession near the TSC on March 13, 1993.

The sculpture depicting a procession was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury. Presided over by the VC, the ceremony was also addressed by, among others, Raju's mother Khodeja Begum, Dr Harun-ur Rashid of DU, Alauddin Khan, who provided funds for building the sculpture and Shyamol Chowdhury.

The former chief adviser said everybody has the right to do politics. But if people do politics for their personal interests, if student leaders do not uphold lofty ideals and the next generation follows them, student politics will be jeopardised soon, he said.

"Paying tribute to Moin Hossain Raju," he said, "Raju had sacrificed his life to fight against terrorism and for bringing peace on the campus."

Khodeja Begum urged the students to be united against terrorists for establishing a congenial academic atmosphere on the campus. The campus is for the students and not for terrorists, she added.

The students should understand that they are being misguided by a few 'godfathers' for their own interests and they should identify these elements, she said.

The inaugural ceremony was rounded off with a cultural function.

The security forces camps will be reactivated three days after departure of the PCJSS high command and their security personnel from the Shantibahini.

The talks that ended yesterday were the sixth round in the current series of negotiations since the Awami League-led government reconstituted the NCCHT in October last year and invited the PCJSS for resumption of talks.

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the Greater Khulna Poverty Alleviation project and the 10 million dollars for the Rural Electrification project in Gopalganj and Rajbari districts.

Kibria and Dr Ali initialled the accords on behalf of their respective sides. BPC Chairman M Fazul Hoq and Bangladesh Bank General Manager MAM Kazem signed the agreements on behalf of their respective organisations.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Lutfar Rahman Sarkar, Additional Secretary at the Economic Relations Division Suhel Ahmed Chowdhury and senior officials were present at the signing ceremony at the NEC Bhaban.

At present, a total of 13 projects in different sectors are being implemented with IDB assistance. The Bank's lending to these projects amounted to 83.50 million dollars.

The IDB, whose lending to Bangladesh totalled 800 million dollar, equivalent to about Tk 3,600 crore, also indicated its willingness to channel more economic assistance to Bangladesh.

During talks with the finance minister earlier yesterday, the IDB chief praised the government's performance in economic management and said IDB's assistance would mark rise with proper utilisation of the aid.

Dr Ali expressed his keen interest to strengthen bilateral relations between the IDB and the Bangladesh government.

In response, Kibria informed him about the economic situation in the country and said the economy is performing well with foreign exchange reserve level remained stable.

The IDB president, who came to Bangladesh in connection with the Convocation of Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), is due to leave the city tonight (Wednesday night).

AL govt's

 From Page 1
unconstitutional and undemocratic acts in the future.

Criticising the government for using the police in anti-people acts, the BNP leader viewed such practices would damage the image of the police.

Prof Chowdhury accused the government of retorting to repression on all sections of people just to cling to power. "As a doctor, I understand the condition of the government is not good and that's why it is now giving the last bite."

Saying that the present government is worse than an autocratic regime, the BNP leader alleged that the '72-75 character of the AL had been exposed again.

He claimed that all sections of the society including the women folk had lost their confidence in the government and called upon all to rise against its tyranny.

Sramik Dal president Abdullah Al Noman and other leaders of the organisation including Nazrul Islam Khan, Zafurul Hasan and Abul Quasem also addressed the rally.

Later, a procession was brought out and the police followed it in its march to and from the Jatiya Press Club.

Meanwhile, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, in a statement strongly condemned felling of the Sramik Dal rally and the police attack on its procession.

Mannan Bhuiyan warned the government of the consequences for denying the democratic rights of its opponents.

"We're prepared and capable of resisting any blow on our democratic rights," he said, asking the government to refrain from such practices in the future. "Don't dream of ruling the country in the BKSAL-style..."

People did not forgive you, the BNP leader noted. Besides, other front organisations of the BNP also issued similar statements condemning the police action.

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Dhaka elected chairman of UN Fifth Committee

Permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations ambassador Anwarul Karim was elected chairman of the administrative and budgetary committee of the General Assembly on Tuesday, reports BSS.

With the election of Anwarul Karim, the important UN committee, popularly known as the Fifth Committee, will be chaired for the first time by a representative of South Asia and South East Asia regions. During the last 52 years of the General Assembly sessions, Asia had chaired the Fifth Committee only on four occasions — twice by Japan and Iran and Syria for one occasion each, said a message received from New York.

The Fifth Committee has been playing a high profile role in the operations of the whole UN system. This year it will perform a crucial role in view of the wide-ranging reform proposals submitted by Secretary General Kofi Annan as well as the 1998-99 biennium budget for the world body and the US proposal for reduction of its share of contribution in the new UN scale of assessments.

BR, Grameen Phone sign lease accord

A 20-year agreement between Bangladesh Railway and Grameen Phone Ltd was signed yesterday for commercial leasing of Railway's optical fibre telecommunication network, reports UNB.

The Grameen Phone Ltd will use the optical fibre of Railway to set up its GSM cellular network for extending telephone connection to urban and rural areas.

Bangladesh Railway Director General M A Munaf and Grameen Phone Managing Director Inga Skor signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

Under the agreement, Grameen Phone Limited has already paid Tk 12 crore to the Railway as up front payment. It will pay Tk two crore as rent for the first year.

It will bear the maintenance cost, and all other related expenditures of the Railway's telecommunication network, said a press release yesterday.

5 BCL activists arrested at IU

JHENIDAH, Sept 17: Police arrested five activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in the last two days in a bid to restore peaceful atmosphere on the Islamic University campus, reports UNB.

Official sources said with the reopening of the varsity after the unscheduled 73-day closure, the peaceful campus situation was being disrupted following the factional clashes of BCL.

Police said they arrested the five activists on Monday and Tuesday at the directives of the varsity authorities.

A case was filed with the police against them.

She said that talks with the 'Shantibahini' had been conducted in secrecy. "This is not a good sign and does not reflect transparency of the government. People have the right to know what had been discussed. Keeping them in total darkness, any agreement that does not serve their interest will not help anyone. I am warning everyone to remember that," she added.

She said that talks with the 'Shantibahini' had been conducted in secrecy. "This is not a good sign and does not reflect transparency of the government. People have the right to know what had been discussed. Keeping them in total darkness, any agreement that does not serve their interest will not help anyone. I am warning everyone to remember that," she added.

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Chinese communists for crucial economic reforms

BEIJING, Sept 17: Delegates to a major Chinese Communist Party congress are uniting behind crucial economic reforms and ideological changes underpinning the policies, the official Xinhua News Agency said today, reports AP.

The communist faithful are enthused by proposed capitalist-style reforms for sluggish state industries and plans to enshrine economic pragmatism as party doctrine, Xinhua said.

Their consensus has constituted the most important achievement of the congress, the news agency said.

Xinhua's account of unanimity comes the day before the weeklong congress ends. Delegates — more than 2,000 senior leaders, revolutionary elders, provincial power-brokers and a few model workers — are expected tomorrow to approve General Secretary Jiang Zemin's platform and choose a new policy-setting Central Committee.

The presidium, 217 of the congress' most influential members, met today and, with a show of hands, approved a list of candidates for the Central Committee and other posts, Xinhua said in a separate report.

The list was drawn up after 'comprehensive discussions' by delegations to the congress, Xinhua added.

Central Committee members will meet Friday to select a Politburo, some two dozen of the most powerful party members, and its standing committee, the elite of the elite.

Party sources, diplomats and the Hong Kong media have said divisions remain among key groups over filling crucial posts. Jiang is under fire for trying to pack the leadership with allies from Shanghai, his power base.

Jiang's performance at the congress is seen as a gauge of his power. The meeting, held every five years, is his first without his mentor, Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader and pioneer of China's market reforms who died in February.

Trying to claim Deng's mantle, Jiang has proposed inserting the elder's pragmatic approach to economic reform in the party constitution. Deng's concept that China is in the 'primary stage of socialism' — a phrase justifying capitalist policies in a communist country — is a prominent part of Jiang's platform.
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