

Press Note

No plan to complete SSC exams in 7 days

There is no plan to complete the forthcoming SSC examinations in seven days, said an official announcement dispelling confusion about it, reports UNB.

The date and time-table for the examinations are yet to be finalised, said the announcement through a government Press Note issued yesterday.

"Holding all examinations in seven days is not only impossible but also a figment of imagination far from reality. The government is not thinking to do so," the Press Note categorically said.

It, however, says the government thinks that it will be wise to cut short, as far as possible, the long and time-consuming examination schedule.

The Education Boards will soon announce the date and time-table for the SSC examinations, it said and assured that there was no decision to

See Page 12 Col 3

SSC students in city, Habiganj go on rampage

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested five school students on charge of damaging a number of vehicles in Shatrapur area in the city yesterday.

Police said a section of SSC students went on rampage — following a rumour that their examinations would be held in February instead of March — on Tipu Sultan and Narinda Roads at about 1:30 pm and damaged at least seven vehicles.

Police rushed to the spot and picked up five of them.

Meanwhile, the 45 students of different city schools, who were arrested from Ramma and Kotwali area in connection with the similar incident on the same issue on Monday, were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday.

In Habiganj, nine SSC examinees, protesting the alleged move to hold the SSC examination in one week-schedule, were arrested for damaging cars of

See Page 12 Col 3

Gas well explosion

Drilling of relief well begins

By Staff Correspondent

Occidental has finally begun drilling from Monday night a relief well to seal permanently the Magurjhara gas well that exploded on June 14 last, according to official sources here yesterday.

A team of engineers and experts from Occidental Bangladesh Limited started drilling the relief well at a point 620 metres west of the original well which has now become a crater.

Meanwhile, Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan at a meeting with Petrobangla Chairman M Mosharaf Hossain yesterday instructed him to "closely" monitor the drilling work and take necessary steps so that Occidental can begin fresh exploration there as soon as possible. They discussed the overall

See Page 12 Col 3

The Daily Star
on the internet
<http://www.dailystarnews.com>

Inside Today

Article

No Sir, All is Not Wrong with Privatisation

Column :
Crosscurrents
by CAF Dowla
Page 4

Business

Kibria rules out impact of SEA currency crisis: Taka won't lose value

DSE index rises on higher volume
Pages 6,7

Supplement

One-page supplement on International Natural Disaster Reduction Day '97
Page 8

Dhaka preparing for 3-nation summit

Gujral, Sharif may hold exclusive talks Nov 23

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Primarily designed to boost business though, the three-nation Dhaka summit will go deeper by offering India and Pakistan a chance to have a face-to-face meeting of their top political leaders when their armies are fighting at the frontiers.

Officials here are excited about the fact that the meeting will be taking place in Bangladesh.

Heavy artillery shelling has been the order of the day, the latest being the last week's cross-border firings along the Jammu border which killed scores of civilians. Against this backdrop, Prime Minister India's Kumar Gujral and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif will meet each other on November 23 when they arrive here for the one-day summit.

Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman told The Daily

Star yesterday that the two prime ministers had given formal consent to the summit, aimed to bolster economic cooperation among the three nations.

"Peace and tranquillity are pre-requisites to any economic activity," Rahman said, hinting at the hidden agenda. The proposed programmes will offer the two prime ministers to have an exclusive meeting, may be with two or three top aides, he said.

The foreign secretary said Bangladesh was not trying to mediate in the dispute, but would definitely like to see "good-neighbourly relations" develop, for which, as one source put it, "a subtle attempt" would be made by Dhaka.

The foreign secretary, responding to queries, said the summit had nothing to do with SAARC or SAPTA. "This is

purely an initiative from our prime minister, and we got very encouraging response from both India and Pakistan."

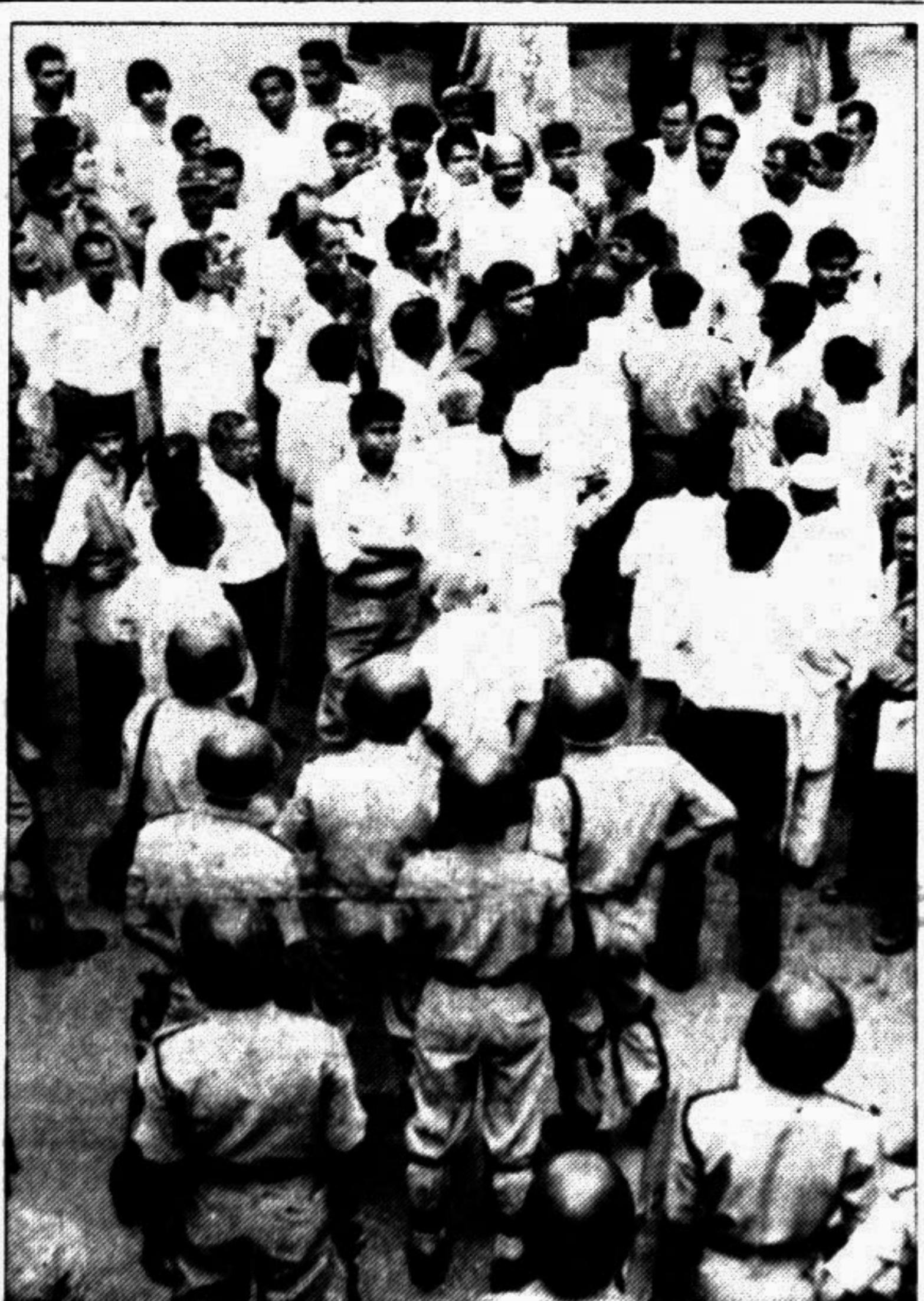
The summit will try to find ways to remove the bottlenecks in trade and investment," he said, outlining the formal agenda of the summit, which would give "chambers a very important role to play."

Another key question for the government and business leaders would be "how to face the rest of the world in terms of protecting our interests in areas we have advantage."

The officials are busy chalking out programmes for the high-profile event, which will also bring together top businessmen from the three countries and the trade and finance ministers as participants.

They plan a two-hour formal opening ceremony, with the

See Page 12 Col 1



A section of employees inside the Secretariat protesting the new pay scale yesterday.

—Star photo

Refixation of minimum pay at Tk 2500 demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Police prevented rival groups of employees from facing each other and staging protests inside the Secretariat yesterday against the just announced pay scales and benefits for government employees and officials.

Low paid employees in separate meetings and statements demanded refixation of the minimum pay at Tk 2500 to Tk 300 and enhancement of the Tk 100 tiffin allowance.

Riot police in full gear was deployed there earlier in apprehension of trouble as the rivals had decided to hold rallies to express their reaction on the new pay scales and benefits to be paid in phases.

The Bangladesh Sachibalya Karmachari Samity, led by Zafar Ahmed held a meeting at the office of the Home Ministry Employees Welfare Association at the tin-end beside the ministry at 10 am reviewing the new pay scales and benefits.

They came out in a procession raising different slogan, expressing their anger against the pay scales which they said failed to meet their expectations.

See Page 12 Col 1

PW-20 discloses during deposition Col Jamil was shot dead as he rushed to save Bangabandhu

his Ganobhaban force.

Jamil's reply was: "This is not a warfield. Civilians will be affected if we go in attack now." At that time Jamil was near Sobhanbagh Mosque and his force were waiting on Dhanmondi road 27.

Earlier, the witness said, Col Jamil had asked his Ganobhaban force to march towards Bangabandhu's residence with arms and ammunition and he himself rushed to save the life of country's founding President.

Almuddin said he saw some army personnel marching to the parked car and shooting Col Jamil dead.

The court will resume at 10 am today.

Beginning his deposition, Almuddin Mollah, who was posted at Bangabandhu on August 17 as a driver, said he had told Col Jamil, who was the chief security officer of the then President, to attack the attackers by

the PW-20 mentioned the names of absconding Major Dalim, Major Pasha and Major Noor and arrested Major Farooq and Major Shahriar who were on dock during the deposition.

The witness was also cross-examined by the state defence counsels for the fugitives and defence lawyers for the arrested accused.

Earlier, the cross examination of PW-19 Dafadar (retd) Shahidur Rahman was completed at the court of Judge Kazi Golam Rasul.

The court will resume at 10 am today.

Beginning his deposition, Almuddin Mollah, who hails from Magura Sadar thana, told the court that he joined the then

See Page 12 Col 4

See Page 12 Col 3



—Star photo

Monkey, deer on sale at Dhaka Zoo



Spotted deer at the Dhaka Zoo are on sale.

— Star photo

By Morshed Ali Khan and Masud Arif

The Dhaka Zoo authorities are selling off some of its animals to public due to their over population and lack of space in the zoo, official sources said.

The spotted and the barking deer and monkeys were now being sold to anyone interested in buying them. Price of a spotted deer has been fixed at Tk 24,000 while a barking deer or maya horeen costs Tk 10,000. A monkey less than two years old costs Tk 500 and the one above two years of age is sold for Tk 300, zoo officials said. There are nearly two hundred deers in the zoo.

In the recent past, six spotted deer were sold. Two others will be delivered within the next few days. Curator of the zoo Mohammad Afsar Ali said one of the pre-conditions for the sale is that the prospective owner of the animal must have it as a pet and he must have proper space to keep it.

Besides, the tiger, lion and hippopotamus population in the zoo soared over the last two years creating problem for the

See Page 12 Col 8

Kibria on new national pay scale

AL met pre-poll pledge despite heavy pressure on exchequer

of inflation above 5 per cent. We have to be careful about that," Kibria said.

The minister identified three salient features of the pay increase which made a difference between the new pay scale and other pay structures given by the past governments for the officials and employees.

Firstly, the real increase in case of the lowest pay, including tiffin allowance, was 42 per cent above the inflation while

the minister identified the pay increase is being implemented in phases considering the government's financial capacity, its impact on the inflation situation and to maintain the fiscal discipline.

We're increasing the salaries within the financial discipline," he told newsmen. He said the welfare of both the employees and the country was considered before the pay hike at the current level.

He said the general rate of inflation was 3 per cent in August. But the point-to-point inflation rate is a little bit more.

He expected that the inflation rate would be limited below 5 per cent at the end of the year despite the pay hike.

We should not allow the rate

to go above 5 per cent," he said.

Asked about the financial implication, the minister said the inflation could be compensated. But the lowest pay is Tk 575 more than that of the inflation level.

Secondly, 86.48 per cent of the original recommendations of the National Pay Commission has been implemented compared to 75 per cent during the 3rd and 4th Pay Commission.

And finally, he said, the ratio of the lowest and highest pay has been reduced to 1:9.37 from 1:11.11. "We have narrowed the disparity," he remarked.

Asked about the financial implication, the minister said an amount of Tk 854 crore would be needed to pay 60 per cent of the enhanced salaries only for the revenue side in the first year.

Together with the development projects, he said, the total increase will stand at Tk 938 crore in the first year.

From the second year, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

the second year begins, the

minister said, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

the second year begins, the

minister said, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

the second year begins, the

minister said, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

the second year begins, the

minister said, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

the second year begins, the

minister said, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

the second year begins, the

minister said, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

the second year begins, the

minister said, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

the second year begins, the

minister said, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

the second year begins, the

minister said, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

the second year begins, the

minister said, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

the second year begins, the

minister said, the government will need additional resources of Tk 1,300 crore to implement the rest of the enhanced pay. When

<p