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Imam training to be held at Hajj Camp Complex

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government is actively considering the conversion of the Imam Training Academy into a National Academy, report agencies.

She announced that the headquarters of the Imam Training Academy would be set up at the Hajj Camp complex, which is nearing completion at a cost of Tk 40 crore.

The Prime Minister was addressing the National Conference of Trained Imam and prize distribution ceremony at the Osmani Memorial Hall in the city.

She said with a view to making optimum utilisation of the Hajj Camp, which remains idle after the Hajj month, the decision of shifting the training academy was taken. The government would also make efforts to expand the areas of activities of the Islamic Foundation, she added.

The Prime Minister called upon the Imams to play an effective role in building a pros-

perous country by removing injustice, criminal tendency, hunger and poverty from the society.

"The Imams of the country can contribute a lot by imparting lessons of morality to the frustrated, derailed youths and turn them into worthy citizens."

She said besides providing religious leadership, the Imams can also play a pioneering role in income generating activities and in removing illiteracy.

The Prime Minister told the Imams to get involved in pisciculture, dairy and poultry farming, afforestation, mass education, family welfare, and primary healthcare programmes.

"You can uproot prejudice and superstition from society... and also protect the people from being misled by misinterpretation of Islam by vested quarters," she said.

Hasina particularly mentioned the role of Imams in giving proper interpretation of the holy Quran and Hadith.

Refixation of scale

From Page 1

As police managed to shove them back, some of them scrambled out when they saw their rivals, belonging to Syed Mohiuddin-led Secretariat Administrative Officers' Association, trying to gather near the lift of the first nine-storied building.

But police moved in swiftly and kept them apart. They again tried to rush towards the first gate of the Secretariat when they received information that Syed Mohiuddin had arrived there.

Police again pushed them away and did not allow Syed Mohiuddin, who works at the Bangabhaban, to get inside.

Abu Alam Khan Shahid, a director at the PMO's office had talked to Zafar Ahmed and some other leaders of the Sachibabala Karmachari Samity. They told him that they would like to meet the Prime Minister and explain their grievances. The officials are likely to meet them at 6 pm today, employees sources said.

In a press release the Karmachari Samity later said that the employees held the meeting and staged protests to register their resentment against the new pay scales which 'failed to reflect the expectations of all sections of employees' and Tk 100 tiffin allowance.

Another meeting was held in front of the Cabinet, Establishment and Health Ministry building. A similar meeting was held at the Planning Commission premises to protest the new pay scales, the press release said.

The meetings decided to appeal to the Prime Minister to fix the minimum pay at Tk 3000, increase tiffin allowance, change the office hours, fix Tk

Police raid JCD leader Pintu's house

By Staff Correspondent

Lalbagh police raided the residence of Nasiruddin Pintu, a Jatyatadadi Chhatra Dal leader on Moneswar Road in the city yesterday afternoon.

Police seized a private car from the house at about 3 pm. Pintu was not at home at the time.

Police said Pintu is an accused in a case filed with Lalbagh thana a couple of days ago.

Gujral-Sharif talks

From Page 1

three prime ministers delivering cheer-up speeches to the businessmen who will then go into formal sessions to talk 'serious business'. The heads of national chambers will also speak at the inauguration.

The foreign, finance and commerce ministers will then add further substance to their deliberations with statements promising a better policy climate.

The inauguration will be followed by two working sessions with the chamber leaders and the trade and finance ministers attending, according to preliminary plans by Dhaka officials. A closing ceremony has also been planned, but the officials are not yet sure whether the heads of government will be present.

A declaration is also likely to come with the summit achievements and promises for the future, the foreign secretary said and added, "It's very important to coordinate our policies

to have frequent exchange of ideas."

The prime ministers of India and Pakistan recently met in New York, and are expected to meet again in Edinburgh during a meeting of Commonwealth heads of government later this month. As their armed forces exchanged shells, the two also talked to each other on phone at least twice in the last one week.

"But the Dhaka summit will give them a different context," a former Bangladesh diplomat said, "when their business leaders will ask for a business-friendly atmosphere."

The two prime ministers are likely to fly into Dhaka on November 23 morning and then drive straight to the conference venue.

The Pakistan leaders will stay on for a two-day bilateral visit, starting the next day. The Indian prime minister will depart after the summit. His presence in Dhaka may not even be for 24 hours, one official said.

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Strike continues

Move to declare Mongla Port an Exclusion Zone?

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Oct 7: Onloading of three fertilizer ships and one foodgrain ship at Mongla Port remained suspended from Saturday last as dock workers went on strike demanding booking for casual workers.

Meanwhile, an official source confirmed that major shipowners have already given a proposal to the Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Club of UK for declaring Mongla Port an Exclusion Zone because of alleged problems they have been facing.

They have made allegations of harassment, corruption and unnecessary delay in handling cargo, frequent labour unrest, pilferage of foodgrains, armed pirates, misconduct of a section of port and customs officials and stevedores and detention of ships without any valid ground, the source said.

They also alleged that official formalities regarding unloading of ships are made complicated intentionally at the cost of shipowners.

The P & I Club which looks after welfare of shipowners is reported to have requested all the agencies and associations concerned to take measures in this regard.

Wall collapse

From Page 1

be known immediately. However, police sources said they were preparing to file a case against the contractor concerned on charges of using sub-standard construction materials and for carelessness in constructing the wall.

Shabujbagh police said a portion, about 30 feet, of the 10-feet high under construction boundary wall of ICD fell on the labourers while they were working in the south-east corner of Kamalapur railway station.

SSC students

From Page 1

three senior government officials yesterday, according to UNB.

Police said several hundred SSC candidates in processions gathered in front of the DC office at noon to submit a memorandum to the DC.

As police blocked their way, the students went on rampage and damaged the cars of an ADC and of TNOs of Baniachang and Sadar thanas.

Relief well

From Page 1

progress in the drilling work there.

The team drilled 21 metre till last night and expects to complete the task within 30 days, the sources said.

It will now drill the well up to a depth of 844 metres and "seal the affected well from its root". Occidental had reached a depth of 840 metres when the explosion took place due to "unforeseen" high pressure.

Train communication to that area remained snapped. Heavy motor vehicles and cranes of the Roads and Highways Department remained deployed in the area.

Occidental had begun drilling in that spot on June 2. This is the first drilling by this US company which is operating in the Surma valley under a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed on January 11, 1995.

Earlier, an investigation committee probed the explosion and found negligence in Occidental's operations. The government had repeatedly said that whoever was found responsible for the explosion, would have to compensate.

Press Note

From Page 1

hold examinations of two papers in a day.

"Such decision will not be taken," said the Press Note issued in the wake of violent student protests.

It observed that an evil attempt was made earlier to create anarchy by misleading the students and guardians through a rumour about holding SSC examinations in the month of February.

"It is understood that attempts are on to create chaos by spreading rumour in a pre-planned way," the Press Note said.

The Press Note said according to the traditional routine of SSC and HSC examinations, it usually takes one-and-a-half to two months to complete the examinations of all the papers.

Lakhs of examinees of the country reside in mufassil areas and they along with their guardians have to stay near examination centres far from their schools, for long.

"This causes an extra economic pressure on the middle-class and lower middle-class families," the Press Note said.

The note made it clear that the demand for reconsidering the examination schedule was raised by the guardians, students and newspapers on different occasions.

Deadline expires tomorrow No decision yet on 6,230 RB HSC examinees

From M A Ali

RAJSHAHI, Oct 7: The withheld results of 6,230 HSC examinees of Rajshahi Education Board is unlikely to be published within October 9, the last day of 30-day deadline given by the Senior Assistant Judge Court, Rajshahi in early September.

When contacted, Secretary of the Board Prof Shamsul Alam, who is also the acting Chairman and Controller of examinations, told The Daily Star that the board committee is yet to decide about the withheld results due to some 'technical' reasons.

He also said that the board committee would sit to decide about the results after the three-member investigation committee formed by the board submits its report.

According to sources, the probe committee is at the end of its investigation. The committee has talked with principals of about 100 colleges and officials and workers of the board.

However, Deputy Controller (HSC) Azizur Rahman, Deputy Controller (SSC) Fazlur Rahman and Assistant Controller Nurul Islam refused to sit with the committee.

The source also informed that the probe committee will submit their report within one week.

The Legal Advisor to the Board, Advocate Mohammad Ali, told this correspondent that prayer for extension of the period to publish the withheld results will be submitted before the court on October 9.

Earlier on September 9, Senior Assistant Judge Shamsur Rahman ordered the board to publish the results of 6,230 HSC examinees whose examinations were to be cancelled due to alleged irregularities.

On the other hand, non-government College Teachers' Sangram Parishad at a meeting held at Shah Makhdom College today threatened the Board authorities of tough agitation if their demand to publish the withheld results within October 9 is not met.

As soon as all the fuss dies down I intend to study as hard as I can," she calmly told reporters awaiting her arrival at the prestigious university in central England.

Sufiah is the second youngest student to win a place at Oxford. Maths prodigy Ruth Lawrence was just 12 when she arrived in 1982, and graduated with a first-class honours degree at the end of her course.

Sufiah was taught at home by her Pakistan-born maths researcher father Farooq and mother Halima, both 40, since the age of five.

Her brothers Isaac, 16, and Iskander, 11, and sisters Aisha, 15, and Zulkia, three, share her mathematical talent. The three eldest children are also on course to arrive at Oxford next year.

Sufiah's parents and four brothers and sisters have moved from nearby Northampton to the city of Oxford to offer support and advice. She will return to their home each evening after classes.



Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain receives The Nishan-i-Imtiaz Award, Pakistan's highest civil award, from Pakistan President Feroz Khan Noon yesterday at the Presidential Palace in Islamabad. The Queen is on an official visit to Pakistan as the country celebrates its 50th anniversary of Independence from the British colonial rule. -AP/UNB photo

Bangabandhu Murder Case

From Page 1

Pakistan Army in 1958 and retired from Bangladesh Army in 1974.

He was a driver during his army life and later joined the government transport pool also as a driver. Ainuddin, a resident of Motijheel AGB Colony, is now on LPR.

The witness said Col Jamil was to join his new workplace, the DGFI, on August 16, 1975.

"Jamil shahab called me at 3 pm on August 14 and said he is joining the ISI (DGFI) on Saturday. He also told me that my new job would be with the DC of Narayanganj."

After taking supper, he slept at his room at the house of Col Jamil at Ganobhaban. "The calling bell of my room rang at about 5 am on the following morning (Aug 15)," he said.

Ainuddin said he was performing ablution to say prayer when Col Jamil from upstairs asked him to prepare the car and inform the force at Ganobhaban to go to the house of Bangabandhu with arms and ammunition within five minutes.

The witness carried the message to the army troops at Ganobhaban and returned to the house of Col Jamil.

"As I wanted to take a government car, Jamil shahab asked me to bring his private car," Ainuddin said, adding Col Jamil boarded the car and they started towards Bangabandhu's house.

They found army troops coming from Ganobhaban in front of the gate of the Govern-

ment Boys' School at Dhanmondi road number 27 and Col Jamil asked them to stay there.

"But, we were coming from the south with whizzing sound when we reached near Sobhanbagh Mosque," the PW-20 said, adding Col Jamil asked him to stop the car.

After halting the car, driver Ainuddin told Col Jamil to attack the attackers by his force.

But, the witness said, "Shahab told me: This is not a warfield. Civilians will be affected if we go in attack now." He said he was asked to know the position of the attackers.

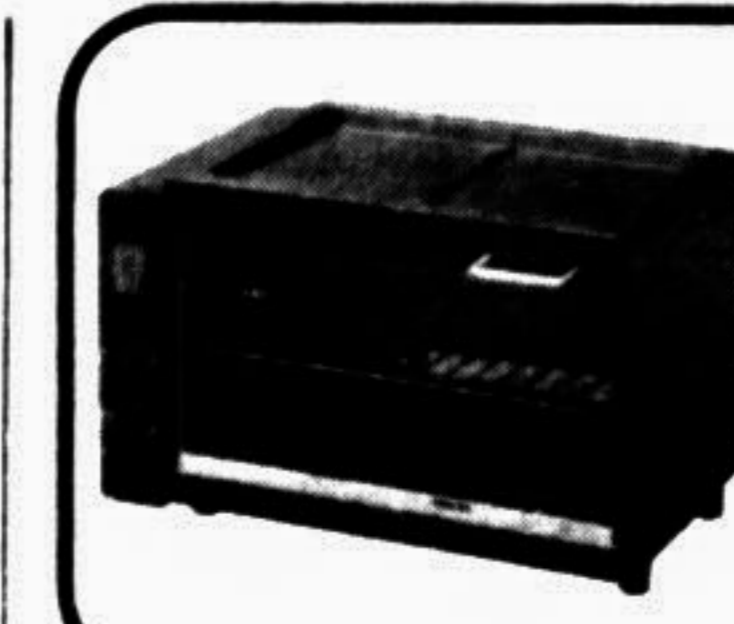
"I kept the car there and started proceeding towards the residence of Bangabandhu touching the wayside walls," he said, adding he saw five to six uniformed military personnel with arms running towards the car of Jamil from the south.

Witnessing a bad situation, Ainuddin said he waved his hands and gestured to Col Jamil to go back. He said he also called "sir, sir" several times, but Jamil did not hear him.

"At that stage, the army personnel reached the car and I saw Jamil shahab was telling or trying to make them understand something by moving his two hands. But they fired shots at him and Jamil shahab fell down on the ground," the witness said.

Being frightened, Ainuddin said, he later took refuge at a nearby Mosque and heard the army personnel shouting 'where is the driver?'

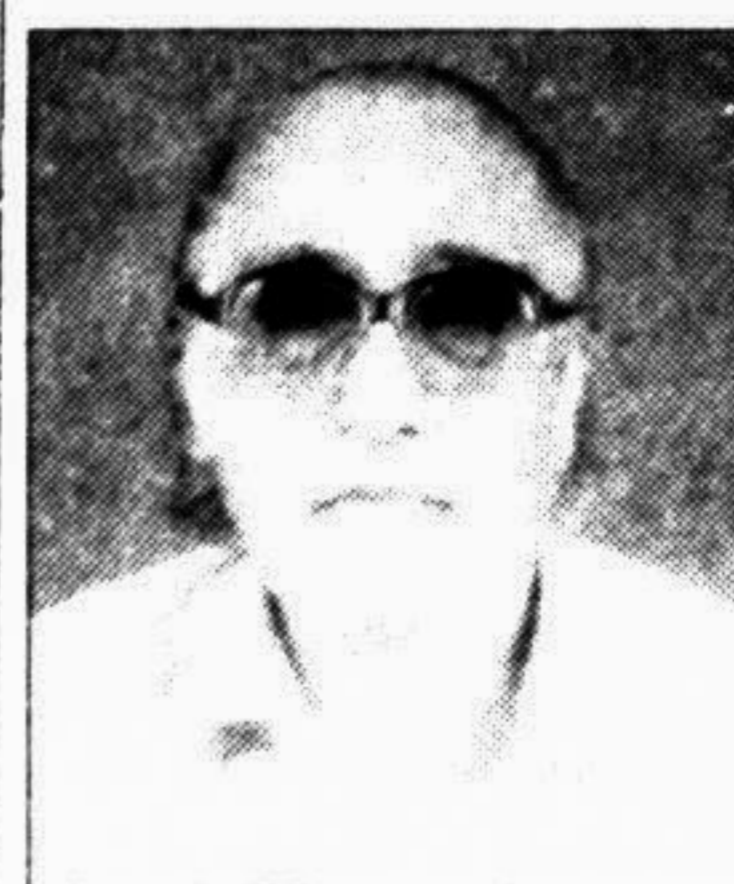
"The musallis also did not allow me to stay at the Mosque and I went to Mohammadpur



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Dr SD Chowdhury Dead

Eminent scientist Dr SD Chowdhury died of a heart attack at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the city yesterday. He was 80, reports BSS.

He left behind two sons, five daughters, grandsons and granddaughters and a large number of relations and admirers.

The eldest son of late Khan Bahadur Mohammad Chowdhury of Sylhet, Dr SD Chowdhury was the first Muslim PhD degree holder in Assam.

He was also the former vice-chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University, member of the Planning Commission, president of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and president of the Dhaka-based Jalalabad Association.

He will be buried at his village home at Ranakeli under Golapganj thana of Sylhet district today after *Johr* prayer.

President shocked

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday expressed his deep shock and profound grief at the death of Dr SD Chowdhury.

In a condolence message, the President recalled the valuable contribution of Dr Chowdhury in the field of science and agricultural development in the country.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof Muhammad Hossain yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of eminent scientist and former VC of the university Dr SD Chowdhury.

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AI: Review Section 54

From Page 1

to jail under the pretext of 'safe custody'.

The AI report said, "No one in the jail administration has been held to account for alleged negligence after Shima died in safe custody in mysterious circumstances on February, 1997. Two inquiries into her death, instituted by the government and by parliament, have been disappointing."

A series of failures by different organs and institutions of the state have led to the custodial rape and death of Shima Chowdhury and the acquittal of her alleged rapists. The Home Ministry, the police, the court, the jail administration and hospital authorities should all acknowledge their responsibility for failure to protect Shima's human rights.

"Amnesty International is urging the Government of Bangladesh to investigate these failures seriously and without delay with a view to bringing to justice not only those who raped her but also those whose alleged negligence has caused her death."

Human rights investigators have been told by police at Raon police station that there exist no records of Shima's arrest and detention before the transfer to safe custody in Chittagong jail.

Shima and Abdul Hafiz, after their arrest on October 8, were transferred to Raon thana where they were held in separate rooms. Abdul Hafiz was sent to a cell and Shima was detained in the office of the officer-in-charge of the police

station. Shima later recalled how the policemen on the night of October 9, forced her to drink a glass of muddy water. She became dizzy and in that state the four policemen raped her.

A medical board was set up after Shima disclosed that she had been raped. The board carried out tests at the forensic department of the Chittagong Medical College and concluded on October 15 that on the basis of the evidence they had examined, Shima had been raped.

The court, on a plea from the police, sent her to 'safe custody' at the Chittagong jail on October 15.

Ctg BNP leaders blast Nasiruddin for speaking of 'armed struggle'

CHITTAGONG, Oct 7: Seventy-eight leaders of district BNP today blasted party's city unit convenor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin for speaking of armed struggle, reports UNB.

They blasted Mir Nasir for trying to destroy the ongoing anti-government movement by declaring an 'armed struggle' against the regime if it does not allow peaceful agitation.

The BNP city convenor, at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club on Monday, reportedly said if needed, his party would go in line with an armed movement to oust the government.

Among the protesters are Prof Arif Moinuddin, Rozi Kabir, AM Nazimuddin MA Sabur, Advocate Abdus Sattar, Kazi Akbar and Mohammad Nazimuddin.

Armed clash over land in Sylhet: 10 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 7: Agitated villagers put up a barricade on the Sylhet-Sunamganj road at Madina Market area for four hours till 12 pm last night after an armed clash between two groups over possession of a plot of land at Subid Bazar area.

At least ten persons sustained bullet wounds as both the groups traded gunfire during the one hour clash.

Witnesses said, a group of about 20 to 25 armed people led by Jagadish Dass, a commissioner of Sylhet Pourashava, came to take possession of a disputed fallow land of 31 decimal in favour of one Abdul Gani at Subid Bazar yesterday morning.

Dhaka Zoo

From Page 1

authorities to provide them with proper accommodation, the Curator said.

"The hippo pond cannot be cleaned because we do not have an alternative pond to keep them during the cleaning," he added. "These ferocious and male cannot be sold because law forbids us to do so," the Chief Veterinarian of the zoo said.

Dhaka zoo has had an extremely successful record of breeding different animals in captivity. The Royal Bengal Tiger population now stands at 17 from its original number of two. At present there are 19 lions. The number was only two few years ago. The number of Kenyan hippos has now risen to eight from two only three years ago.

"If proper space can be given the tiger population can be equal to that of the Sunderbans," said Asfar Ali.

Officials present at the zoo said the government can even take up programmes to breed tigers in captivity and then release them in the Sunderbans.

"Our tiger breeding process was severely disrupted when two of the best tigresses were poisoned to death last year," another tigress which survived the poisoning has now developed uterus ailment and as a result, it had a miscarriage recently, he said.

When asked about exchange programmes with zoos in other countries, Asfar Ali said he had written to the ministry concerned to take up the matter through our embassies abroad more than a year ago but no response has been received yet.

Dhaka zoo is now seeking bids from suppliers for procuring a number of new species from abroad. An international tender has been floated inviting bids for supply of white tiger, white lion, Orang Utan, Zebra, Ostrich and Chimpanzee.

Meanwhile, the captured dolphin brought to the zoo on September 18 from Saver died on Saturday as a result of starvation. Zoo officials said after it stopped eating for three days, they released it into the lake on Saturday. "It jumped for three or four times then went silent," said the Chief Vet. of the zoo.

The Curator said if any such animal is captured by fishermen or recovered from somewhere, they will release it where it usually lives in natural condition.

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