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The World On Time

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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 Osmany 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

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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 Sachibalaya 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

41 BNP MPs

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terrorism by the identified AL rioters", they said.

They also accused the government of spreading falsehood against Ilia and Ratan through Radio and Television by concealing the fact that the revolver recovered from Ratan was licensed. They said the authorities' claim of finding bullets from Ilia's pocket is "ridiculous".

They also alleged that the arrested persons were subjected to inhuman torture to force them make confessional statements as desired by the government.

The canards against Ilia and Ratan are parts of government tactic to suppress people's outrage against it", the BNP lawmakers commented.

Signatories to the statement include: Barququllah Bhulu, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Amanullah Aman, Ehsanul Haq Milon, Mashirul Haq, Ziaul Haq Zia, Joynal Abedin Faruk, Salauddin Ahmed, Prof. Shahidul Islam, Najimuddin Alam, Giasuddin Kader Choudhury, AYM Khalilur Rahman, Kairul Enam, Gazi Md Shahjahan, Rafiqul Islam Bakul, Mozahar Hossain, Abdul Hye, Ehteshamul Haq, Nasim Biswas, Prof Rezaul Karim and Khalequzzaman.

Police raid JCD leader Pintu's house

By Staff Correspondent

Lalbagh police raided the residence of Nasiruddin Pintu, a Jatiyatabadi 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

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

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 irregularities.

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

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

Government giving arms to party terrorists to foil movement: Mannan Bhuiyan

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday voiced his concern that the hard-earned democracy might be jeopardised due to "autocratic and fascist" behaviour of this government, reports UNB.

This government does not have minimum respect for and faith in democracy. The signs of jeopardising democracy are rife due to fascist behaviour of the government," he said.

He alleged that the government had created a destructive obstacle to the democratic struggle of the opposition.

Bhuiyan was addressing the leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations of Shibir thana who called on him at the party central office in the city.

The BNP secretary general alleged that the government was forcing the police force to resort to repression on opposition activists and giving arms to party and hired "terrorists" to foil opposition programmes.

SSC students

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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

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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

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hold examinations of two papers 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.

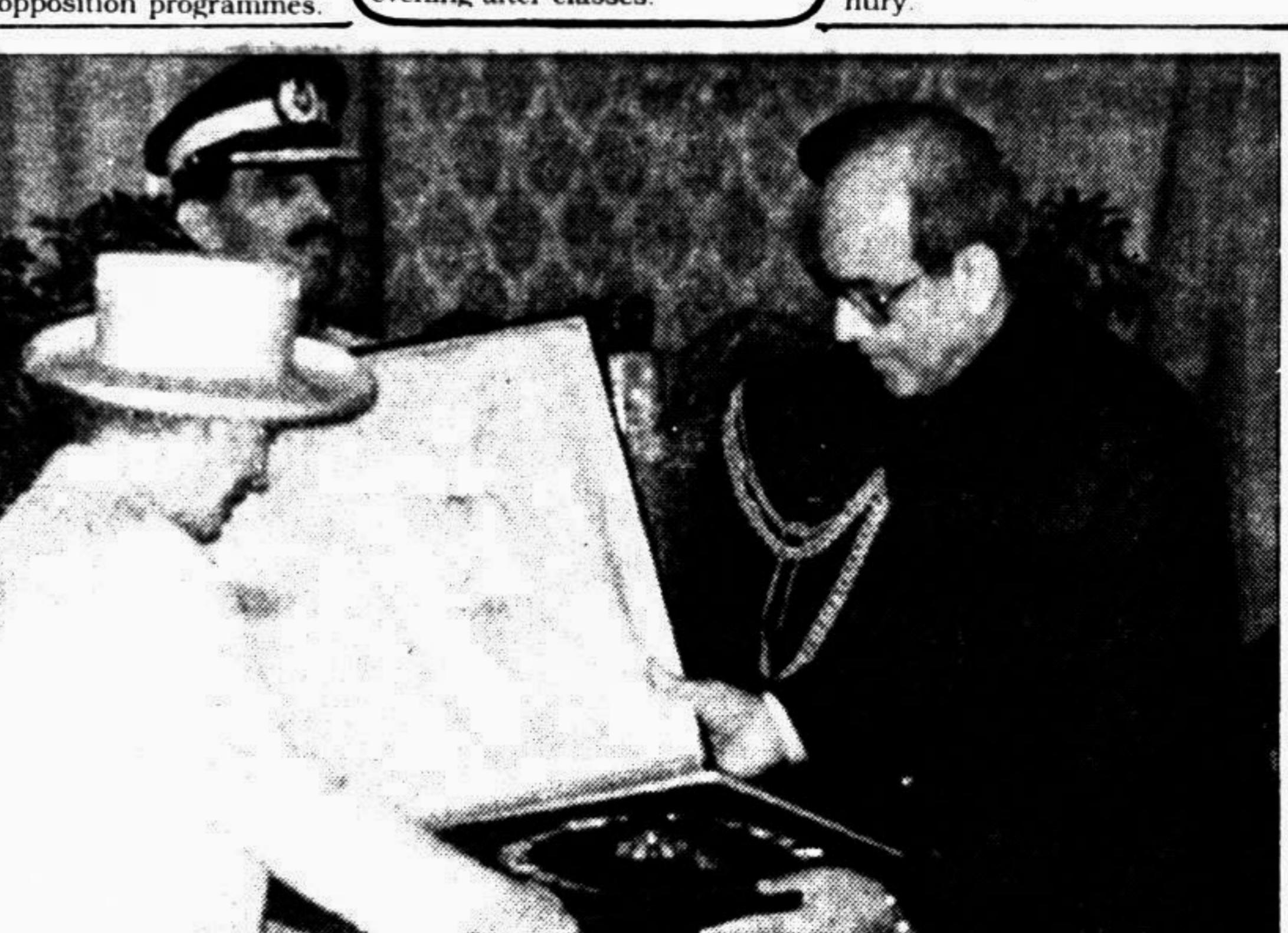
"It is understood that attempts are on to create chaos by spreading rumour in a pre-planned way," the Press Note said.

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 mafasil 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 guardians, students and newspapers on different occasions.



Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain receives The Nishan-i-Imtiaz Award, Pakistan's highest civil award, from Pakistan President Farooq Ahmed Leghari 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 LFRP.

The witness said Col Jamil was to join his new workplace, the DGFJ, 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 pray 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.

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 this 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.

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

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

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

"Bullets were coming from the south with whizzing sound when we reached near Sobhannbagh 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 this 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?"

"We are not expecting any criticism from any quarter," he said.

The minister hoped that with the implementation of the new pay scale, the efficiency of the army personnel would be enhanced while the trend of corruption would reduce.

Cabinet Secretary Ataul Haq, Principal Secretary Dr SA Samad, Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan and ERD Secretary Dr AKM Masirul Rahman were, among others, present at the press conference held at the Finance Ministry.

