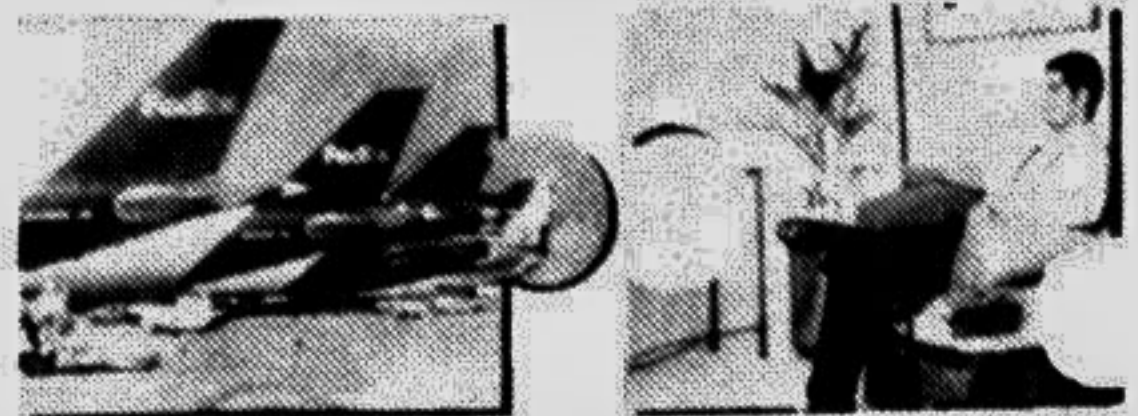


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PHILIPS

Spl Immigration Appeals Commission set up in UK

The Special Immigration Appeals Commission came into being in Britain on August 3, reports UNB.

The Commission has been established by the government in response to criticism made by the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Karamjit Singh Chahal, said a press release of the British High Commission yesterday.

There has, in the past, been no right of appeal to an independent tribunal in these cases.

The criteria against which appeals will be considered are very similar to those which apply in appeals heard under the Immigration Act 1971 or the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993.

However, the Commission will be able to consider sensitive information which does not have to be fully disclosed to the appellant.

The interests of the appellant will be safeguarded by a Special Advocate, appointed by the Attorney General, who will have access to all the materials relied upon by the Home Secretary.

According to British High Commission sources, the Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act 1997 (SIAC) does not give a right of appeal to all people who have been excluded from UK on the personal direction of the Home Secretary.

For the most part, those will have a right of appeal against exclusion to whom certain European law considerations apply.

The SIAC Act 1997 received Royal Assent on December 17, 1997.

Rubel's house

From Page 1 increase of strangers stalking the Shiddeswari lane, shadowing the people who had witnessed public torture of Rubel by the plainclothes men on July 23, local residents said.

Unidentified people have launched a propaganda campaign to defend the police torture of suspects and eulogise the prime suspect AC Akram Hossain of the Detective Branch as a hero.

They distributed expensive four-colour posters and hung banners in different parts of the city on Thursday.

Meanwhile, a vernacular daily in its yesterday's edition claimed that investigation by two separate agencies revealed that there was an affair between the daughter of AC Akram and Rubel.

The report further said that Rubel was arrested under the orders of AC Akram.

The two agencies sent a report to the Prime Minister's office and another to the home ministry, the newspaper claimed.

When contacted, the daughter of AC Akram denied involvement with any one named Rubel. She also said that she was studying at the Eden's Girls College and not at North South University as reported in the newspaper.

Her mother said nobody from the newspaper contacted the family. "It's such a shame they could not even write her name and the institution she attends correctly," she said.

When contacted, secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs said "I am not aware whether any such report was submitted to the ministry. I think the information is not correct. This case is under investigation by the CID and there is no scope for others to investigate it".

PM: Flood

From Page 1 flood victims.

She first went to Sujannagar and after addressing a mass gathering there proceeded to Satbaria to show respect to late MP Ahmed Tafazzul who died on June 28.

At Satbaria, she visited the residence of the late MP who was a school teacher. She stayed with his family members for some time and then went to Satbaria College ground to address a meeting.

From the meeting, she went to the local graveyard where Tafazzul was laid to rest and offered fatiha there.

From Satbaria, the Prime Minister went to Kazirhat and addressed a meeting. She distributed relief materials at all the places she visited.

Addressing the meetings, the Prime Minister said that her government is also taking all measures to provide food, shelter and medicine to the people affected by the disastrous flood.

Food import

From Page 1

A meeting of Food Planning and Preservation Committee yesterday decided to import three lakh MT of rice and two lakh MT of wheat on an emergency basis to increase the stock of foodgrains.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria and Deputy Minister for Food Dharendra Devnath Shambhu attended the meeting with Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury in the chair.

Critics say that Unocal aims

at controlling Asia's gas to a large extent in the next century.

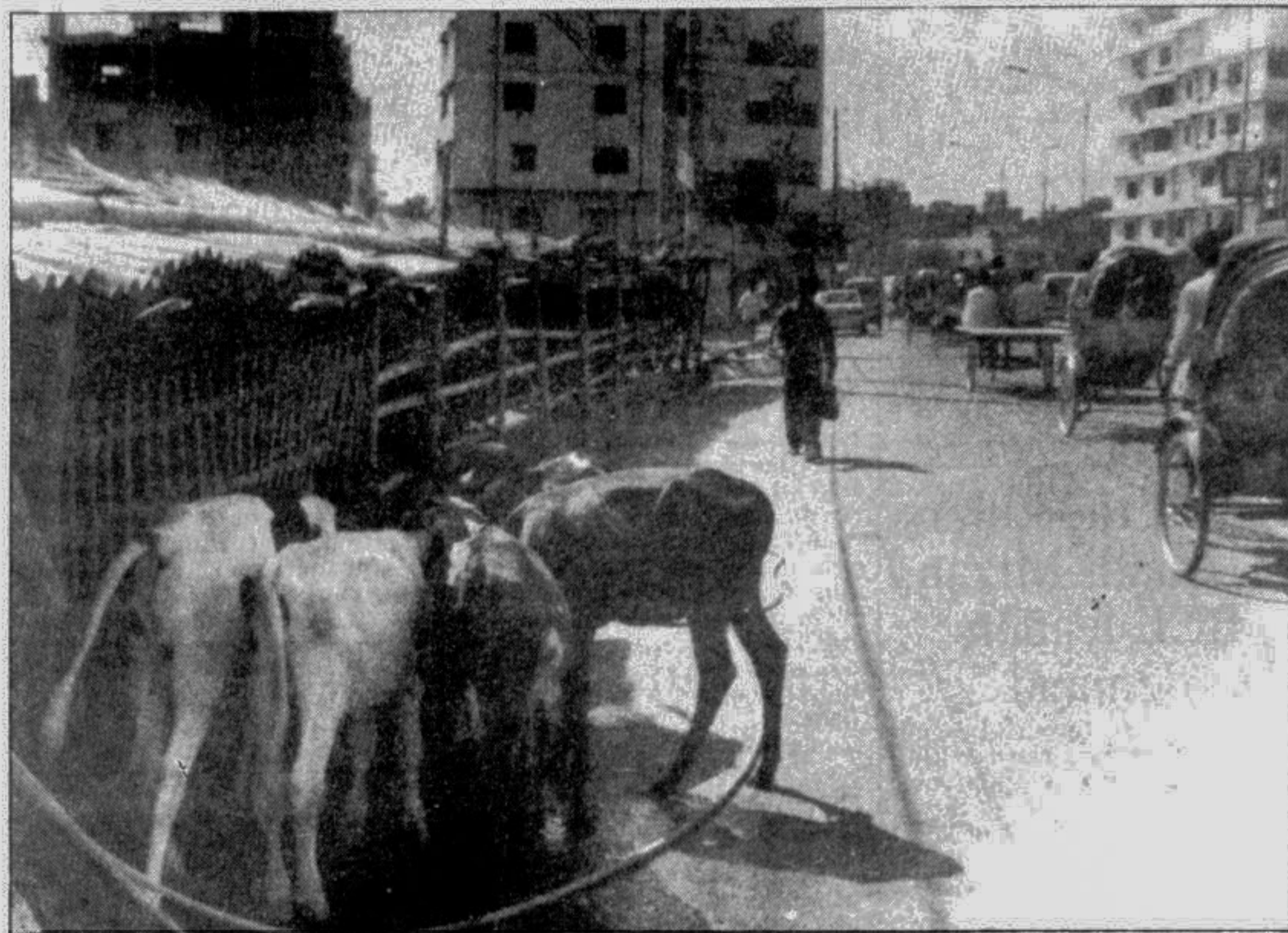
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But other sources said that Cairn-Shell would play the last card by submitting a 'startling proposal' for Block-10.

However, such a proposal might not be effective, a source said, adding that a startling proposal given by Chevron-Texaco for Block-9, in a bid to win the block by themselves discarding Tullow Oil, was ignored.

"It is obvious, national gain gets the lowest priority in the Second Round bidding," observed some experts.



A dairy farm has firmly established its business on the pavement at Panthapath on the plea of flood, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and disrupting vehicular movement on a busy road. — Star photo

Prisoner escapes from jail

From Our Correspondent

JHENAIDAH, Aug 6: A prisoner, convicted for 10 years in a dacoity case, escaped from the District Prison early this morning.

The prisoner, Anis Mokah, hails from village Mandartala under Sripur thana of Magura district, prison sources said.

Anis, when taken to an office room of the prison along with 12 other inmates, sought to use the toilet. He then fled the toilet breaking open the window rods.

Fazlur Rahman, DIG Prison, visited the prison today and three jail policemen — Abdur Rashid Fakir, Afzal Hossain and Raja Mia — were suspended for negligence of duty.

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"It is obvious, national gain gets the lowest priority in the Second Round bidding," observed some experts.

One jailed for eloping with underage girl

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Aug 6: A special court today sentenced one person to 10 years rigorous imprisonment for eloping with an under-aged girl.

The convict, Abdul Awal, of village Bora Gharamara in Homna thana, under the district was also fined Tk 1000. In case of failure to pay the fine, he will suffer rigorous imprisonment for another six months, the court said.

Abdul Awal, eloped with Salma Akter on February 14 last year and married her next month showing her as 'major'. The marriage was registered in a kabinnama.

The victims' father, Abu Musa, lodged a case with Homna thana following the incident. Abdul Awal was arrested and Salma Akter was taken into judicial custody subsequently.

A medical examination of Salma Akter was conducted on August 6 last year to determine her age. The medical board said that the victim was aged between 14-15 years.

BIMSTEC commerce ministers meet in Bangkok today

Bangladesh will place some specific and action-oriented projects to reap early benefits by mobilising resources among the five member countries of the BIMSTEC sub-regional grouping, reports UNB.

The proposals are expected to be placed when commerce ministers of the grouping — Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand for Economic Cooperation — meet in Bangkok today.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed left Dhaka yesterday afternoon for the Thai capital.

Khulna PDB rejects furnace oil alleging adulteration

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 6: The local PDB office has refused to take delivery of over 12 lakh litres of furnace oil sent from the Eastern Refinery in Chittagong, saying that it was adulterated.

The furnace oil was sent recently for use at the Khulna Power Station.

When contacted, Chief Engineer of Goalpara Power Station Mohammad Golam Mostafa said that the furnace oil was found to be adulterated after laboratory tests.

The furnace oil, carried by MT Madina, anchored at the Goalpara Power Station jetty on July 25.

The PDB authorities alleged that excessive water has been mixed with furnace oil which is dangerous for use in power generation. The use of adulterated fuel causes serious damage to the power generating units, a PDB source said.

Homna MP

From Page 1 minister and a state minister went to the area, distributed eight pieces of saree and returned after their action was photographed.

Quoting local people, the BNP leader said, "Only one ton of foodgrain has reached the affected area whereas the prime minister has claimed that adequate relief items have been sent to the flood-hit areas."

Termining the PM's statement untrue, Anwar alleged that ruling party and the government had not only failed to supply relief materials but were also obstructing the relief operation by opposition parties including the BNP.

In this regard, he named a "neo-Awami League", Jalil, a UP chairman in Sreebodi village, accusing him of leading a terrorists' group creating such obstruction.

Anwar also claimed to have visited each and every homestead in eight out of 14 unions in Homna thana and distributed relief there.

He demanded immediate supply of relief at Homna and its adjoining thanas — Banchhampur and Arahajar.

Gen Salam

From Page 1 ing up everyday while trade and business are on the verge of ruination.

The opposition leader said time has come to launch united movement to put an end to the 'misrule' of the government.

Seeking cooperation from pro-democracy and nationalist forces, Begum Zia said only nationalist forces under BNP leadership can ensure people's economic development.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Col (ret) Oli Ahmed, Moudud Ahmed, M K Anwar, Lt Gen (ret) Mir Shawkat Ali, A S M Hannan Shah, Abdullah Al Noman, Mirza Abbas, Dr Moin Khan MP, Abul Kalam Azad MP and A Y Kamal were present on the occasion.

Police Commission report

From Page 1

"There are whispers, rumours and even anonymous letters saying that huge amounts of bribes have to be paid to secure appointment, position and promotion in the various ranks of police," it said.

The leaders of the ruling party are alleged to indulge in not only interfering with the police functioning but also vicinising some of the police officials who failed to oblige them, the report mentioned.

"Not only transfers, even proceedings on fabricated charges were initiated by such powerful quarters."

There were many instances of transfers of police officials which even the head of the police organisation was not aware of, it added.

Boy murdered in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 6: A schoolboy was strangled allegedly by a neighbour at Sonadanga thana late Wednesday night.

Police recovered the body of Ripon, 9, a student of Islamabad Primary School in the city, from the rented house of his father Nani Gopal Das at Basupara.

The body was found in a sack with both eyes gouged out. Nani Gopal, a washerman by profession, has filed a case naming the house owner as the only accused.

The owner of the house, Abdul Khaleque, has been absconding since the brutal murder.

Satkhira incident

Probe body starts functioning

SATKHIRA, Aug 6: The one-member Judicial Inquiry Commission headed by Khulna District and Sessions Judge Khandaker Musa Khaled to investigate the July 27 incident at Satkhira over leasing out of shrimp gheras started its work today, reports UNB.

The Commission has requested those who are interested to give written or verbal witness to submit their names with address at the temporary office of the Commission, Satkhira Circuit House, by August 12.

Import ban

From Page 1

An official press release said import restrictions for items restricted on non-BOP grounds as well as canalisation would continue.

As per the notification, green tea in packets not exceeding 25 gm, green tea in packets upto 20 kg, green tea in bulk, green tea waste, black tea upto 20 kg, black tea in bulk, tea bags, black tea waste and instant tea would be allowed freely.

However, these imports are likely to be subjected to import duties as only restrictions on quantities of import has been lifted.

Similarly, import restrictions on all varieties of Arabic and Robusta coffee, cotton and onion have been removed.

In such process, the chain of command in the police has been substantially destroyed, seriously affecting discipline, morale and effectiveness of the police, the report pointed out.

According to the findings of the commission only 38 per cent of the total force was actually involved in duties like prevention, detection and investigation of crimes, prosecution of criminals and maintenance of law and order which concern the common man.

The rest of the force is engaged in various other duties like protection of the VVIPs, VIPs and other dignitaries, key point installations (KPI), escort and other miscellaneous functions, the report said.

The causes of ineffectiveness of the police identified by the commission include: corruption in the police; political interference in discharging their duties; lack of discipline and effective supervision; monitoring and control; unsatisfactory investigation of offences and prosecution of the offenders; non-recording of crimes and fake crime statistics; defective recruitment policy, discretionary promotion and transfer procedure; lack of confidence and trust from people, shortage of transport facilities, equipment, arms and ammunition; insufficient manpower and disorder in organisational set-up.

Teenage boy

From Page 1

hospital and was shifted to the DMCH, according to the official.

Meanwhile, Savar police told The Daily Star over telephone that Alamgir did not suffer any injury when he was in their custody.

Alamgir was produced before the district court in Dhaka on July 4. The court sent him to Dhaka Central Jail, the OC of Savar thana said.

Lalbagh police said they recorded an unnatural death case in connection with the prisoner's death.

Demra

From Page 1

favour of him.

Vice-president Khalilur Rahman Khalil has been given the charge of acting president of the unit at the meeting. Nabuliah told the news agency last night.

Computer

From Page 1

Binte Rejak as jointly topping the merit list among girls in the Science group.

She also jointly secured the seventh position in the combined merit list.

Among the other 24, 16 were placed in the first division including five with star marks.

Daughter of Brigadier Rejaul Haider, Commandant, School of Infantry and Tactics, Jalalabad Cantonment, Ajmeri got 908 marks in total including letter marks in seven subjects.

She said she is not fully satisfied with the results while talking to the journalists yesterday.

Unocal: Block-10

From Page 1

country had earlier demanded withdrawal of blocks 9, 10 and 11 from the Second Round Bidding for national level exploration in the future.

The results also hardly surprised any bidder as it was known to them since January-February. Excepting the decision to keep Block 10 out of the bidding, the results were decided about seven months ago.

Sources further said that a political lobby was 'designing' Unocal's actions in the Second Round Bidding. Unocal was interested in Block-10 because it had initiated a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) on Shahbazpur Gasfield.

The Shahbazpur gasfield is located in the same block and it was kept away from the Second Round Bidding for Unocal. Again, the PSC for Shahbazpur with Unocal was initiated last year by violating the government's policy of leasing out blocks or gas wells.

Unocal is also involved in blocks 12, 13 and 14 with Occidental as a partner. It has ambitious plans to set up international gas pipeline in Asia in the next century and stresses importance on Bangladesh as the 'hub' of the pipeline system which would start from central Asia and end in the ASEAN countries.

Unocal has already set up an international pipeline in Myanmar for gas export to Thailand and has plans to set up a costly pipeline system in Bangladesh at Kushtia-end and at Sylhet-end for gas export.

Critics say that Unocal aims

at controlling Asia's gas to a large extent in the next century.

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However, such a proposal might not be effective, a source said, adding that a startling proposal given by Chevron-Texaco for Block-9, in a bid to win the block by themselves discarding Tullow Oil, was ignored.

"It is obvious, national gain gets the lowest priority in the Second Round bidding," observed some experts.

Advertisement for 'Dietary Supplement' (ডিটারজেন্ট চান?) featuring a large question mark and a box of the product. Text includes 'শুধু আমাদের জানান' and 'কেনম পরিকার চাই?'.