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Shikkha Bhaban incident: 4 DU students expelled

By Staff Correspondent
Dhaka University authorities yesterday expelled four students temporarily for their involvement in June 26 violence at Shikkha Bhaban in the city, said a DU press release last night.

The expelled students are: Md Shafiqul Islam of Arabic Department, Ishtaq Ahmed Shimul of Marketing Department, Md Ali Ashraf Bhuiyan of Arabic Department and Md Mizanur Rahman. The press release did not mention the name of the subject that Mizanur Rahman, Shafiq, Shimul and Ashraf are residents of Mohsin Hall while Mizan resides at Sir A F Rahman Hall.

The four were caught by Shikkha Bhaban employees on June 26 when they attacked the employees, injuring six, three with bullets.

The expulsion will be effective immediately. It was decided at a meeting of the fact finding

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Finance Bill 2000 passed

Jatiya Sangsad passed the Finance Bill, 2000 with 65 amendments yesterday, reports BSS.

Finance Minister Shah A S M Kibria who piloted the bill requested the Chair to adopt the amendments moved by whip Abdus Shahid.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury took the bill for immediate approval as there was no notice for eliciting public opinion in favour of it.

The finance minister in a brief statement said he explained the imperatives of the proposed amendments in his budget winding up speech.

The Finance Bill contained certain amendments to some specified laws including The Stamp Act, Customs Act, the Income Tax Ordinance, the VAT Act and the Motor Vehicle Tax Act.

Cover Story



This week's cover story of the Star Magazine focuses on the practical applications of the remarkable principles of Shri Ramkrishna through his humanitarian organisation.

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Prayer Timings

June 29

Fajr 4:15 4:45

Zohr 1:00 1:20

Asr 5:00 5:15

Maghrib 6:50 6:55

Esha 8:15 8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Bangabandhu Murder Case

Hearing of death ref and appeals begins

By Staff Correspondent

Hearing of the death reference along with appeals in the Bangabandhu murder case began in the High Court yesterday with the defence objecting to appointment of Special Public Prosecutor and 'incomplete' paper book.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice M Ruhul Amin and Justice Khairul Haq started hearing the case at 10:35 am and continued till 4:15 pm.

Police were deployed near the crowded courtroom and journalists were required to collect special pass to cover the hearing.

Attorney General Mahmudul

Islam submitted before the court that state-appointed Special PP Advocate Serajul Haq would conduct the case.

Khan Saifur Rahman, counsel for condemned prisoner Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farook Rahman raised objection saying, "When the attorney general and other law officers are here, why the government insisted on appointing a special public prosecutor in the case?"

The Bench passed an order saying that objection on appointment of Special PP has to be made in writing.

The court will hear an 11-paragraph petition today, sub-

mitted by the defence on behalf of four of the 15 condemned prisoners, described instances of breach of serial in connection with this particular case and the requirement of further references in this regard.

The defence lawyers yesterday placed the paper book before the court and read out 62 pages out of the 1096 pages. They would again read out the paper book today.

The petition by the defence mentioned that the paper book was prepared in an unusual haste and it met the requirement of references and did not

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Start preparing right now for WC victory: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for keeping up the good spirit and braving all odds to win the cricket World Cup, promising her government's all possible supports to see the dream come true.

"And, the preparations should start right now," she told a public gathering at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday to celebrate Bangladesh's gaining Test status. "Enjoy yourselves everywhere in the country," said a happy Hasina.

She said her government had made many an achievement, "but the biggest one has been in the field of cricket."

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) organised the show a day after the International Cricket Council elevated Bangladesh as the tenth Test-playing nation.

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Holding the future: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents the national flag to captain of under-13 cricket team Nader Choudhury at a public gathering at Paltan Maidan yesterday in celebration of Bangladesh's attaining the Test tag. — Star photo

Canadian HC shares experience on gas export

Identify own interests, advantages while dealing with 'big brothers'

By Staff Correspondent

Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka David Preston, sharing Canada's experience in exporting gas to its neighbour USA, has said success in dealing with the 'big brothers' depends on identifying one's own interests and comparative advantages.

Preston was speaking at an International Conference on Gas and Development— Learning From Experience in the city yesterday. Participants at the seminar shared Argentina's experience in energy sector and discussed the prospects and problems of Bangladesh's energy market.

"Whether Bangladesh would export gas to India is of course Bangladesh's decision," the High Commissioner said, adding that success in this regard depends on identifying one's own interest and comparative advantages.

He went on, "Broaden (regional) participation. A better deal is to be had by all if there are more partners." Every one gains from mutually agreed market opening which serves their own national interests.

The two-day conference organised by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), USA and

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) began at Sonargaon Hotel. Different sessions of the seminar were attended by State Minister for Planning, Mottuhammad Khan Alamgir, former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, renowned economist Prof Rehman Sobhan, US Ambassador John C Holzman, Dr A Atiq Rahman of BCAS and Director of South Asia, CSIS, Ambassador Teresita C Schaffer.

The others who attended included Energy Secretary Dr Toufique Elahi Chaudhury, former foreign secretary

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5-yr tax holiday: No cut in interest rates on saving instruments

Kibria makes major changes in budget's fiscal measures

Making major changes in the new budget's fiscal measures, Finance Minister Shah A S M Kibria yesterday proposed to extend tax holiday for five years and restore interest rates on saving instruments, reports UNB.

Complying with the general demand from the industries sector, he proposed that the current provision of tax holiday be extended up to June 30, 2005 in place of June 30, 2002 as proposed earlier in the budget for the coming financial year.

The present provision of granting tax holiday to new industrial undertakings ends on June 30, 2000 and in the Finance Bill placed on June 8 it

was proposed that this provision be extended up to June 30, 2002.

In his wrap-up budget speech in the Jatiya Sangsad, the Finance Minister also conceded withdrawal of earlier proposal for reducing interest on saving instruments, in the interest of the small savers.

"As a result, the interest rate on saving instruments prevailing before June 8, 2000 will be restored and existing provision regarding deduction of income tax from interest on saving instruments will continue," he told the House, while placing the revised budget proposals.

Cuts in duties on some more basic raw materials for rubber,

plastic, melamine and ceramic industries were proposed while the Finance Minister advocated for enhancing duty on some materials to protect and promote local production.

Considering the proposal of the taxicab owners, he also proposed to include taxicabs in the simplified income tax assessment procedure, now enjoyed by road transport sector.

Tax rate for taxicabs is proposed to be Tk 3500 per annum for air-conditioned cabs and Tk 2500 for non-AC ones.

A day before passing the new budget, Kibria also proposed revised customs duties, VAT and supplementary duties on a number of basic raw materials,

responding to proposals of FBCCI and other trade associations for cutbacks.

Revised proposals include reduction of duty on anti-knock and anti-oxidant chemicals for rubber tires to 5 per cent, steel and aluminium pre-fabricated buildings to 15 per cent, various zinc and aluminium-coated steel plates to 5 per cent.

In the interest of fast-growing plastic industry, Finance Minister proposed to lower duties on various polyethylene compounds (HDPE, LDPE and LLDPE) from 37.5 per cent and 25 per cent to 15 per cent.

However, duty on Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) polymers

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Communists fail to win Calcutta municipal polls

CALCUTTA, June 28: The communist government that has governed Calcutta for 16 years suffered a setback today when it was unable to win the municipal elections indicating its declining sway ahead of state legislature polls, reports AP.

A coalition of four communist parties was unable to get a

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Increase JS seats to 450 with 150 for women: Mahila Parishad

By Staff Reporter

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has proposed a legislation seeking increase in the number of parliament seats to 450 and reserved seats for women to 150 to be elected directly by the people.

The parliament now has 330 seats with 30 of those reserved for women, who are elected by

the lawmakers voted by the people.

"Parliament shall consist of 450 seats out of which 300 seats shall be known as general seats and 150 seats shall be known as reserved seats for women," says a bill drafted by the Parishad, a leading women's organisation in the country.

"150 members from reserved seats are to be directly elected", the draft bill said, adding that the constituency for each reserved seat would be formed by amalgamating and combining two contiguous constituencies from the general seats.

The draft, presented by the

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Encroacher secretly allotted land in Gulshan lake!

Several bighas of land recovered on second day of drive

By Staff Correspondent

Top Rajuk and PWD officials were taken aback when they found yesterday that an encroacher was secretly allotted the public land in Gulshan lake area last month.

The officials expressed their dismay at other irregularities about ownership of land and approval of building plans on disputed plots.

However, Rajuk and PWD recovered several bighas of land that were encroached upon by influential lakeside residents yesterday, the second day of the month-long drive to recover public land.

Rajuk and PWD kanungo arrived in front of plot-37 on road 118 at around 10:30 a.m. to re-

cover 2.12 kathas of encroached land. A representative of Rashida Begum, the owner of the house, showed Rajuk officials a document that stated that the encroached land had already been allotted. The document was signed on 2 May, 2000 by Rajuk's Estate Department Surveyor Shah Alam, Engineering Division Surveyor Abdul Kalam Azad and Rajuk kanungo Mizanur Rahman.

Rajuk has been serving notices on the offenders since February 1999 to clear out of the encroached land. The officials said they had no idea of the allotment and suspected foul play by the surveyors and the kanungo.

The team was sent back from the gate at plot-36a on road-118 as the encroacher produced a court order barring them from entering the premises. The official document showed that 2.75

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Stevedores on indefinite strike

Cargo handling at Ctg port halted again

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 28: Cargo handling at Chittagong Port was suspended again from 8 pm today as the stevedores began strike for an indefinite period, port sources said.

They stopped gang-booking of dock workers from 4 pm today.

Stevedores began the strike demanding withdrawal of the bill in the new budget for forcing them to take licence from customs authorities, port and stevedores sources said.

Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA) earlier threatened to go on strike from 8 tonight if the bill was not scrapped.

Chittagong Port Authority held meetings today with the

leaders of BMSA to reach an understanding for averting the deadlock, but the meetings ended inconclusively, port sources said.

Talking to this correspondent, chairman of BMSA Monjur Alam said "we don't need to take licence from customs authorities as we are working under Chittagong Port Authority which already issued us licence."

"Stevedores are always required to take licence from the port authority, not from customs authorities," Alam said.

He urged for withdrawal of the bill through an amendment in tomorrow's parliament session.

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OIC FMs still divided on choosing secy-gen

KUALA LUMPUR, June 28: Islamic foreign ministers stressed unity to face economic and political challenges but remained divided today on a candidate to lead the 56-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), reports AFP.

The secretary-general's post is traditionally filled by consensus although the OIC charter allows a vote, said Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar who is chairing a four-day meeting of foreign minis-

ters here. "Currently we have not achieved consensus. I am still in the process of consulting member states, heads of delegation and talking to them. There is no final decision yet on how we should go about it," he told a press conference.

"The tradition is that we try to achieve consensus. It is not the practice that we put the matter to a vote."

Candidates from Bangla-

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