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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, Iftiqaq 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 Mizan studies. Shafiq, Shimul and Ashraf are residents of Mohsin Hall while Mizan resides at Sir A F Rahman Hall.

The four were caught by Shikkha Bhavan 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 M Kibria who piloted the bill requested the Chair to adopt the amendments moved by whip Abus 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 Sri Ramakrishna through his humanitarian organisation.

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June	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
29		6:50pm
30	5:15 am	

Prayer Timings

June 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
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

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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 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

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 M S Kibria yesterday proposed to extend tax holiday for five years and restore interest rates on saving instruments, reports BSS.

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 rates 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.

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.

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"As a result, the interest rates 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.

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

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.

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

However, duty on Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) polymers

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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 bighas 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 Abul 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.

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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 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

ters here. "Currently we have not achieved consensus. I am still in the process of consulting member states, heads of delegations 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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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

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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