

DU green space

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The university authorities had earlier planned construction of the centre at the Mokarram Bhaban near the Doel Chattar. Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani also laid the foundation stone of the centre there during his visit in 1995. Later, the authorities constructed another building at the site.

An open space behind the Modern Language Institute was allocated when a team of Iranian engineers visited the university in 1998. But it was later rejected as the space was 'too small for the centre'.

Finally, the university authorities selected the open space between the central library and DUCSU Building. Constructors have marked the allocated land and also identified as many as 19 trees to be chopped down.

There are about 60 coconut, mango, rain-tree, guava and other trees in the open space. Some more trees will also be affected during the construction work.

Meantime, different student organisations have been demonstrating on the campus since Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Sayed Kamal Kharaji laid another foundation stone for the centre on February 15. The angry students also demolished the foundation plaque.

The university authorities however are very determined to construct the centre in the open space.

The demonstrators alleged that they were facing threats from different quarters to stop the movement.

The demonstrating students will submit a memorandum to Vice-chancellor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury Thursday. Despite repeated attempts yesterday, the VC could not be contacted for comments.

Pak troops open fire on intruding Indian plane

AP, Islamabad

Pakistani troops fired on an Indian plane that strayed into Pakistan's airspace, a government spokesman said yesterday.

The plane returned to Indian airspace after the incident, Maj. Gen. Rashid Qureshi said without giving the location or the date. An aide to Qureshi said the incident took place two weeks ago.

Qureshi said the plane included an unidentified senior officer and was monitoring Pakistani positions along the boundary between Indian and Pakistani-controlled parts of Kashmir.

In New Delhi, the Indian Defence Ministry said it was investigating an incident where an Indian air force transport aircraft was fired at near Kargil on Feb 19.

The aircraft was damaged but flew to the nearby Leh airfield in the northern Himalayas.

Rocca: Major reforms

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was working on a three-point plan on the gas issue before considering export. The plan includes assessment of the reserves, the consumption requirements and the surplus.

Reforms programme

The US side at the talks said it was closely monitoring the process of economic reforms in regard to further investment in Bangladesh.

Sources said the visiting US assistant secretary of state stressed that Dhaka has to undertake some major reforms programme to attract investment.

Carrying out required economic reforms programme and completing the process of disinvestment are some of the steps that could be done in this regard.

Both sides moved forward regarding the signing of a proposed agreement on avoidance of double taxation.

The US side appreciated

Bahauddin Nasim

FROM PAGE 1
two stamps of Tk 100 and 50, a money bag, and a book of 45 pages on, "How to Contact Spy Shop USA" from Nasim.

The CID also seized eight verbatim CD-R and 12 MB CD-R from him.

The complainant also alleged that he found the incidents of murder, torture and ransacking in Dhaka University and different parts of the country caused by the four-party alliance when the video cassettes were screened.

The video cassettes contained torture of Purnima in Sirajgonj, attacks on minority Hindu community after the general election on October 1, last year, ransacking of puja altars, obstruction to celebrate puja of Hindu community.

There were stories of torture of people in Bangladesh in the books seized from Nasim, the complainant claimed.

"Such activities might destroy the communal harmony and worsen the country's law and order," the complainant observed.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday fixed March 20 for hear-

The chief engineer of the DU said a land behind the Modern Language Institute was proposed for the centre. But the Iranian engineers did not accept it and chose the present site.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of general students strongly criticised the university for the unplanned construction.

"It is like defacing our institution," lamented a student.

Foreigners must show income tax certificate before leaving

UNB, Dhaka

Submission of income tax clearance or exemption certificates has been made mandatory for foreign nationals working in industries and businesses at the time of leaving the country.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) will soon issue guidelines to the immigration authority for implementing the decision, an NBR release said here yesterday.

According to the Income Tax Ordinance 1984, working foreign nationals, barring some exceptions, are to show income tax clearance certificates to immigration authorities before leaving the country.

In light of the provision, NBR decided that foreign nationals would have to submit their income tax clearance certificates or income tax exemption certificates to immigration authority before they leave the country.

In the meeting with Khorshed Alam, DPHE Superintending Engineer, as the convenor. Within two months, the committee will suggest the protocol which will include the heavy metals to be tested and frequency of tests.

The committee will also submit a report on strengthening the existing laboratories of DPHE for the new tests, and annual budget for this.

BAPEX

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The BAPEX earlier began to shift equipment and data tapes from its store to its new Shahjalal Tower office at Malibagh. However, a section of officials put a stop to the relocation process, sources alleged.

They also said that BAPEX activities might come to a halt following the tug of war between two sections of officials over relocation of the data centre.

The data centre comprises a collection of data on the sector for 42 years since its inception in 1962. The BAPEX spent about Taka 425 crore for collection of these data.

"If the data centre is relocated to Petrocentre then BAPEX officials would lose the right to access these data and research-oriented activities of the company might come to a halt," one official said.

He said it would also frustrate BAPEX officials mostly engaged in the field of research and the company would lose ground in further exploration work.

Geologists, geophysicists, petroleum engineers and drilling engineers mainly use the data centre for research.

Kamal murder

FROM PAGE 12

disease. So, they prayed for adjournment of the hearing.

The prosecution side opposed the petition as three prosecution witnesses appeared in the court to give deposition.

The prosecution side also alleged that the witnesses would not appear in the court again to face cross-examination due to obstruction of the terrorists patronised by Adel and his sons.

After hearing both sides, the court granted the time petition.

Kamal Hossain, 30, senior vice-president of ward no 67 unit of Awami League, was shot dead on August 16, 2000 as he protested hoisting of a Pakistani national flag by Zobayed, Tareq and others atop the residence of Jahangir Mohammad Adel on August 14, Independence Day of Pakistan.

Adel's son Zobayed Adel and Pappu were present in the court during the hearing.

Adel's another son Tareq and Nitya Sarker have been absconding since the incident.

Additional PP Golam Mostafa Khan, Advocate Abdullah Abu and Abdur Rahman Howlader appeared for the state while Advocate T M Akbar and Mahbub Ahmed for the accused.

Rocca described Bangladesh as a role model of moderate Muslim democracy.

The current South Asia tour of the US assistant secretary of state will also land her in the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

The US side appreciated

the role of moderate Muslim democracy.

The court also directed the authorities concerned to produce Nasim before the court during the hearing on the issue.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa passed the order following a criminal appeal for bail by the defence lawyers.

Advocate Sahara Khatun, Abdullah Abu, Abdur Rahman Howlader and Montazuddin Ahmed Mehedi filed the appeal yesterday, seeking bail from the Judge's Court after the rejection order of the CMM's Court, Dhaka.

The CMM's Court rejected Thursday the bail petition of Nasim in connection with the smuggling case.

Nasim was arrested from ZIA on February 27 when he went there to fly for America for treatment of his heart disease. Later he was shown arrested in separate cases – one in Airport thana and the other filed with Madaripur thana -- on charge of firing gunshots on Khaleda Zia's motorcade.

Such activities might destroy the communal harmony and worsen the country's law and order," the complainant observed.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday fixed March 20 for hear-



Visiting Sri Lankan Minister for Enterprises Development called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.



US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca met opposition leader and AL chief Sheikh Hasina at Sudha Sadan in the city yesterday.

Water samples

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International Development) of UK, S M Ihtisham Hug from DPHE, Dr Han Heinen from WHO, Colin Davis and Roger Boom from Unicef and Dr Ishtia Takaku from JICA Japan International Cooperation (Agency) attended the meeting.

A committee was formed at the meeting with Khorshed Alam, DPHE Superintending Engineer, as the convenor. Within two months, the committee will suggest the protocol which will include the heavy metals to be tested and frequency of tests.

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Vajpayee

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vehicles. All the Muslims of the village have fled," Soni told Reuters by phone from Baroda City.

Soni said he feared the mob would burn down the 60 to 70 Muslim houses that were unharmed in Sunday's violence if police did not step up security.

More than 700 people have died in Gujarat, the country's second-most industrialised state, since a train carrying Hindu devotees from the northern town of Ayodhya was set ablaze by a Muslim mob last month.

Ayodhya is the site of a 16th century mosque razed a decade ago where hardline Hindus are demanding the construction of a temple.

The train attack sparked massive reprisals against Muslims, who make up about 12 per cent of India's one-billion population.

Both houses of parliament were due to discuss the Gujarat crisis yesterday amid anger that Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party-led government failed to prevent reprisals against Muslims.

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Referring to the present trade volume of 10 million US dollars between the two countries, the Sri Lankan Minister said there was scope for boosting the turnover.

The fourth session of Bangladesh-Sri Lanka joint commission, which will be held in Dhaka soon, will discuss further expansion of trade, economic cooperation and other related issues.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Neville Piyadigama and Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui were present during the meeting.

Arafat: Travel ban

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against the Palestinian people," said Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo.

Israel widened its military offensive against the Palestinians yesterday, just hours after a Palestinian gunman opened fire on a banquet hall in the Israeli port city of Ashdod where a bar mitzvah celebration -- a Jewish coming-of-age rite -- was underway. The assailant's M-16 assault rifle jammed and he was arrested after wounding a 13-year-old boy in the head.

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