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JMJB firm on attacks to herald revolution

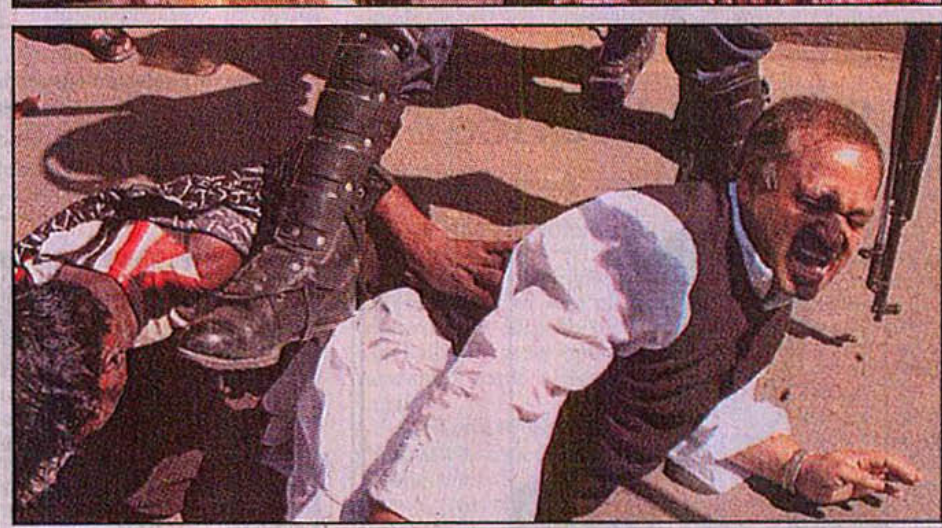
Arrested activist confesses to magistrate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Valentine's Day party at Dhaka University was carried out by JMJB. The JMJB operative, Shafiqullah, arrested with explosives in a fellow operative's house on January 16, in his statement given to First Class Magistrate Mostafizur Rahman Mridha also revealed details about a Rajshahi University (RU) teacher, who he said is leading JMJB.

"Dr Asadullah Al Galib, a teacher at the Arabic department of RU, is involved with JMJB and is leading it towards an Islamic revolution," said Shafiqullah, also a member of the JMJB bomb squad.

Dr Galib earlier had denied a similar allegation made by Jama'atul Mujahidin operatives arrested in



Ruling coalition supporters manhandle an AL woman activist at Shyamoli, top, while police beat and beat former AL MP Hazi Selim at Azimpur, bottom, when they took out pro-hartal processions in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Tifa draft finalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Washington through a two-day negotiation ending yesterday finalised the draft of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (Tifa) paving the way further for creating a platform to talk bilateral trade issues.

The draft now requires approval of the two governments before formal signing of the agreement aimed at promoting bilateral trade and investment.

Emerging from the four-hour talks in the boardroom at commerce ministry yesterday, leader of the US side Betsee E Steelman said, "We've made good progress in the last two days' discussions. We've no dispute now. I now need to go back and talk to the government on development in Dhaka for the final agreement."

She declined to give any details of the final draft, saying, "As we're still in the negotiation process, we don't like to disclose the contents of the draft."

Steelman, a senior US trade policy advisor for Asia and the Pacific, who is on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, was unable to say when the agreement would be signed.

Emerging from the meeting, commerce ministry Joint Secretary

UK offers to help fight terrorism

British strategist reveals UNB, Dhaka

The United Kingdom (UK) has offered Bangladesh to work out a mechanism to effectively combat terrorism, a problem being faced by the countries across the world.

"We're very keen to work out with

Trade deficit widens on costly imports

REIAUL KARIM BYRON

As the prices of petroleum products, rice and scrap vessels shot up in the international market, Bangladesh's trade deficit has widened further, pushing the current account bal-

Hartal ends with stray incidents

Cops beat up Hazi Selim; BNP men manhandle AL women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 36-hour hartal enforced by the Awami League-led 14-party opposition line-up ended yesterday with stray incidents of violence in Dhaka and a few other places in the country.

Pro-hartal processions were brought out in different areas of the capital while ruling coalition activists staged anti-hartal demonstrations.

Police charged batons to dis-

SAARC Summit Postponement won't hurt ties with India: Morshed

UNB, Dhaka

Although there has been certain undercurrent of uneasy feelings over the postponement of the Saarc summit, Foreign Minister Morshed Khan yesterday said it would not affect the bilateral relations between Dhaka and New Delhi.

"The postponement (of the summit) will not come in the way of our bilateral relations," he told reporters, responding to a query as

Anti-Delhi moves to make Saarc limping

Says Indian foreign secretary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran has said Saarc would continue to lack substance and energy if the thrust of initiatives of some of the member countries was seen to be patently hostile to India or motivated by a desire to contain India in some way.

"Some members actively seek association with countries outside the region or with regional or international organisations in a barely

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আমেরিকান দুধাবাস ও গ্রামফোনের শেরটন হোটেলে অনুষ্ঠিত
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১.০ টন	৪৮,০০০.০০ টাকা	৩৬,০০০.০০ টাকা
১.৫ টন	৫৪,০০০.০০ টাকা	৪৫,০০০.০০ টাকা
২.০ টন	৬৮,০০০.০০ টাকা	৬০,০০০.০০ টাকা
২.৫ টন	৮৫,০০০.০০ টাকা	৭৭,০০০.০০ টাকা
৩.০ টন	১,১৫,০০০.০০ টাকা	১,০০,০০০.০০ টাকা
৪.০ টন	১,৫০,০০০.০০ টাকা	১,৩৫,০০০.০০ টাকা
৫.০ টন	১,৬৫,০০০.০০ টাকা	১,৫০,০০০.০০ টাকা

উইন্ডো টাইপ

	পূর্বের মূল্য	মেলা উপলক্ষে মূল্য
১.০ টন	২৬,০০০.০০ টাকা	২১,০০০.০০ টাকা
১.৫ টন	৩৪,০০০.০০ টাকা	২৫,০০০.০০ টাকা
২.০ টন	৪০,০০০.০০ টাকা	৩০,০০০.০০ টাকা

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MAGURCHHARA BLOWOUT

Dhaka to go to int'l court for compensation

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will go to the international court seeking compensation for the damage caused by fire in the Magurchhara gas field.

The 1997 fire damaged gas worth Tk 3,900 crore, State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain said in parliament yesterday, replying to a question by a Jamaat lawmaker.

Unocal had given Tk 38 crore only as compensation to the government in 1997, the minister informed the House.

Under a deal signed with the government in 1998, Unocal is supposed to give the government five percent additional quantum of gas the company would extract, he said, adding that the company was, however, claiming that it had already compensated the loss as per the 1998 deal with the government.

"Under this situation, the government has initiated necessary process to go to the international court for realising the compensation," the minister said.

Student strikes called

JCD, BCL blame each other for Valentine's Day blasts

DU CORRESPONDENT

Six opposition-backed student organisations yesterday called a student strike at Dhaka University (DU) today and all educational institutions in the country tomorrow demanding immediate investigation and punishment of the culprits involved in Monday's bomb blasts at a Valentine's Day crowd on DU campus.

Led by the Awami League's (AL) student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student bodies also threatened to go on an indefinite strike at all the educational institutions if the 'real culprits' are not arrested in the next two days.

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