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Aga Khan for quality edn to end confusions over Islam

UNB, Dhaka

Prince Karim Aga Khan yesterday stressed the need for acquiring quality education by young students to fight out the clash of ignorance about the Muslim ummah, which is wrongly perceived as clash of civilisation.

"It's not clash of civilisation, it's clash of ignorance," he remarked during a roundtable with some editors and senior journalists at Sonargaon Hotel to wrap up his four-day state visit to Bangladesh.

Prince Karim, Imam of Shia Ismaili Muslims, who laid the foundation stone of the Aga Khan Academy here, said one should think of Islam on sound

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EC for constitutional review commission

Seeks amendments to ensure strong parliamentary democracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will ask the government to form a constitution review commission to recommend amendments critical to ensuring a strong parliamentary democracy.

Talking to reporters at his office yesterday, Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain said a number of issues need to be addressed through constitutional amendments.

Those include allowing lawmakers to play due role in parliament,

increasing the number of parliamentary seats, introducing bi-cameral parliament and proportional representation, raising the number of reserved seats for women through direct election and restructuring power between the highest constitutional posts.

"Our recommendation to form the review commission will be among the suggestions to be sent immediately to the government along with the outcome of EC's electoral reforms talks with political parties.

He added that the review com-

mission to be comprised of legal experts can come up with a set of recommendations outlining how to bring necessary changes to the constitution.

Replying to a query, he said: "It's true the present government cannot amend the constitution in absence of parliament. However, it can at least begin the work to help the next parliament take decisions on the issues."

Sohul also said the EC would ask the government to identify the war criminals and ensure their trial so

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Child infected with bird flu virus cured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday said a child was infected with the deadly H5N1, the strain of bird flu that infects people, in January this year and was cured before diagnosis.

The DGHS, as part of its routine surveillance, sent a swab with samples from naso-pharyngeal of the 16-month-old boy to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta which confirmed the H5N1 infection Wednesday.

"When the child came to us it was diagnosed with strain A positive but the H5 was found negative. However, one and a half months later when we sent the sample to Atlanta, as part of our routine surveillance, it was confirmed after culturing the virus that it was H5

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Desa engineer owns 500 kathas of land

Also possesses duplex, five-storey building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A diploma engineer of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) resides in a palatial house on a 45-katha land worth Tk 15 crore in the city's posh Banasree area.

Majibur Rahman, a sub-divisional engineer of the Sales and Supply Department at the Sattar Road branch of Desa, also owns over 500 kathas of land in and outside the city and a five-storey building on a 10-katha land worth Tk 6 crore at North Goran.

Sources alleged that Majibur has amassed wealth—land properties, assets and money—worth over Tk 100 crore through fake vouch-

ers, forgery through fake billing and illegal electricity connections.

Hailing from Homna upazila of Comilla, Majibur is one of the corruption suspects listed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). The ACC gave information about him to the task force, which is investigating corruption of Desa staffers.

Sources said during his 29-year service Majibur made the huge wealth that includes the duplex building at South Banasree and the five-storey building at North Goran, a 12-katha plot at Khilgaon and 950 decimals of land in his village Homna. He also bought a large piece of land with a pond and

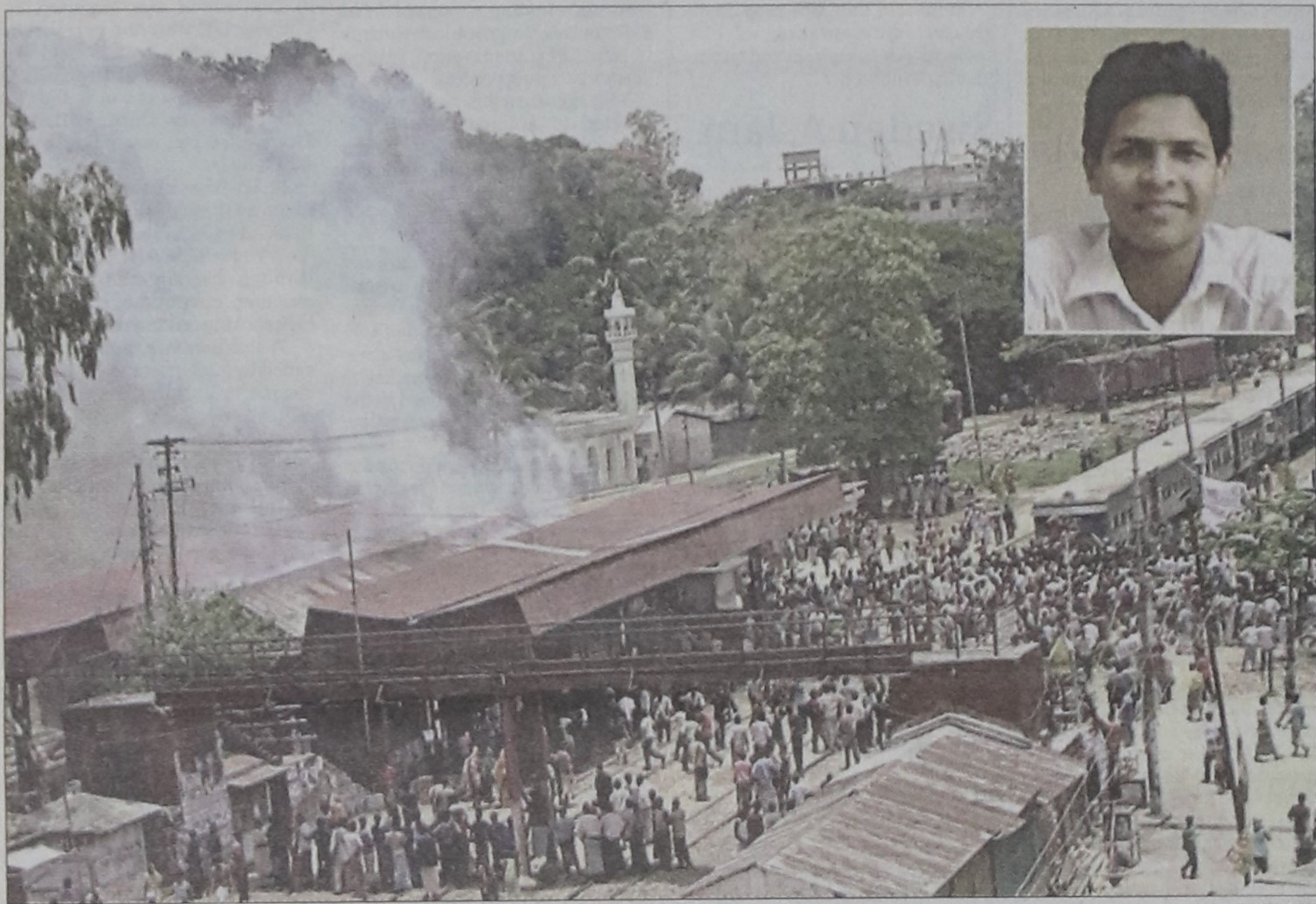
a garden and farmland worth over Tk 5 crore at Homna.

Besides the land properties, the Desa official has share certificates of different companies and deposits and bank balances with different banks worth several crore taka.

When contacted, however, Majibur denied his ownership of most of the land properties and said, "A few people have provided the task force with false information about my land properties intentionally."

According to the sources, most of his properties are purchased in the name of his wife, three sons and two daughters.

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Students of Chittagong University torch furniture and rooms of Sholoshahar station after Mamun, inset, was crushed under a train at the station yesterday.

Sweden Aslam gets 17yrs in arms case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced top listed criminal Sweden Aslam and two of his accomplices to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment in a case filed against them in 1997 for possessing illegal firearm and ammunition.

Earlier on November 5 of 2003, Aslam was given life in jail for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition in another case.

Fourteen other criminal cases remain pending against Aslam in different courts in the city, sources say.

The other convicts, Shariful Islam and AKM Wahiduzzaman, were absent during the judgement delivery and their punishment would be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender, the court said.

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BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader on Jhabari border under Roumari upazila of the district early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Kafiluddin, 35, son of Kasheduddin of village Bepari Para under the upazila.

BDR and local sources said the BSF personnel of Kakribari outpost opened fire on Kafiluddin when he was crossing the border at around

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Death of CU student sparks violence

Railway station, train vandalised; road blocked

CU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Chittagong University (CU) died yesterday crushed by the wheels of the university shuttle train after he attempted to jump from a foot over-bridge onto the roof of the moving train at Sholoshahar Railway Station in Chittagong.

The ill-fated was identified as Mahmudul Hasan Mamun, a third year student of the accounting department.

In reaction to his premature death, students of the university barricaded the station and torched its furniture, stationmaster's office, police rooms and two compartments of the train. They virtually closed down the station for six hours.

The blockade resulted in massive traffic jams across the port city.

Sources and witnesses said Mamun, around 9:50am jumped from a foot over-bridge on to the roof of the 5th compartment of the CU-bound train as it was leaving the station. He failed to maintain balance and fell through the gap between two compartments on to the rail line.

The train dragged him around 60 feet before stopping and he died there, said witness Faruk Reza, a student of public administration department.

He said the train stopped after students on board the train screamed at the driver to stop.

A number of students alleged that the train rushed out of the station as it was around 10 minutes late and took off without getting the whistle signal.

Sources said the driver and others staffs of the train left the scene immediately after the incident.

The students went on a rampage in a bid to press home their six-point demand.

Their demands included compensation of Tk 30 lakh to Mamun's family, removal of Vice-chancellor Prof M Badiul Alam and Proctor Prof Jasim Uddin, more compartments added to the shuttle train and exemplary punishment for the "guilty" railway employees.

The VC and Syndicate members with Rapid Action Battalion escorting them went to the station around 2:00pm.

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No more funds for unnecessary bridges under construction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Adviser ABM Azizul Islam yesterday said no more money would be spent for the under construction bridges across the country that have already been identified as unnecessary.

He, however, said that the works of the bridges, which are found to be required, would be finished.

The adviser was talking to the

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3 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were killed and two critically injured in separate incidents in the city over the last 36 hours.

Two youths were beaten to death and another critically injured at a residential hotel in the Mohakhali area in Gulshan in the early hours yesterday.

In Paltan, Jewel, 30, was found shot dead in the afternoon and another received bullet wounds at city's Rampura at noon.

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2 Huji men shown held in CPB rally blast case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday showed two operatives of the banned militant organisation Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) arrested in the CPB rally bomb attack case and filed a petition with a Dhaka court seeking a 10-day remand.

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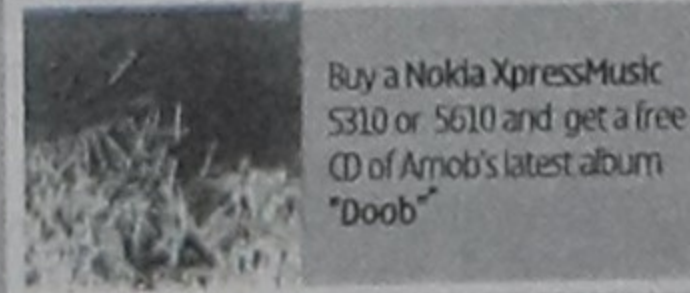
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