



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gives away a crest to an Imam at the National Imam Conference 2011 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Illegal project

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the drive in Bhuingarh area of Fatullah.

Munir Chowdhury said that in 2009, the company had taken permission for constructing a nine-storey building at the place but it built 28 eight-storey buildings on four acres. Some 50 families are living in the buildings which have no environmental clearance.

The project has no Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) and Water Treatment Plant (WTP) facilities despite the DoE directives.

Since the DoE came to know about the matter, the team held the operation and fined the firm, he added.

The DoE also ordered the company to set up an STP and a WTP in the project area within the next six months. In default, legal measures will be taken against the firm after the establishments are seized and gas and electricity connections are snapped.

Munir Chowdhury also said the officials of the firm confessed to the wrongdoing and promised to follow the Bangladesh Environment Protection Act 1995 (amended 2010).

MATHS CONFCE BEGINS AT JU More mathematical research, education stressed

JU CORRESPONDENT

A three-day international mathematics conference began at Jahangirnagar University yesterday, with the theme "mathematics as a key to scientific innovation".

Scholars from home and abroad would present a total of 194 papers on different branches of mathematics during the conference, organisers said.

University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury, who inaugurated the programme as the chief guest, said, "Such conference will create enormous scope for the mathematicians of Bangladesh to interact in an attractive environment and to pursue mathematical research for solving current real world scientific problems".

In recent years, the demand for university-industry collaborative research has increased manifolds and mathematics as has appeared as a key to interpret and analyse such collaborative research activities, he said.

JU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Shariff Enamul Kabir said that in order to meet the demands of the job market related to mathematics, it is necessary to emphasise modern mathematical research and education in Bangladesh.

The 17th International Mathematics Conference, which will end Saturday, has been organised by the Department of Mathematics of JU in Zahir Raihan auditorium in collaboration with Bangladesh Mathematical Society (BMS).

Local and foreign mathematicians presented their papers at different sessions yesterday while BMS president Prof Dr Md Abdus Sattar, conference secretary Prof Dr Laek Sazzad Andallah, and guests from the USA, the UK, Germany, Sweden, Canada, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Brunei were present.

Agri officer, 2 others held, drug seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An agriculture extension officer and two other youths were arrested allegedly along with 100 bottles of phensidyl at East Goran of Khilgaon in the city yesterday.

Acting on secret information, police arrested the trio, including Masud Hassan, an agriculture extension officer of Hatia upazila of Noakhali, Mohammad Ripon, 33, and Sajid Uddin, 34, around 10:30am. Masud and Ripon from Meherpur district while illegal drug trader Sajid Uddin is a resident of Goran area.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Sirajul Islam of Khilgaon Police Station claimed that agriculture officer Masud and Ripon received the 100 bottles of phensidyl at Abdullapur in the city where the bottles were carried from Meherpur by a bus of Shyamoli Paribahan.

He added that police made the arrest when Masud and Ripon carried the contraband drug to East Goran for handing over to drug trader Sajid.

Iraq attacks kill 67

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Parliament called an urgent meeting of political leaders for Friday, the Muslim day of prayer and rest.

Meanwhile, US army chief of staff General Ray Odierno, former head of US forces in Iraq, met with Maliki for talks on military cooperation, a statement from the premier's office said, without elaborating.

More than a dozen Baghdad attacks, the deadliest in more than four months, mostly targeted Shiite neighbourhoods and coincided with the morning rush hour. Health ministry spokesman Ziad Tariq put the toll at 60 dead and 183 wounded,

while an interior ministry official said 63 people were killed and 194 wounded.

The deadliest single attack involved a car bomb driven by a suicide attacker which blew up at the offices of the anti-corruption agency, killing 23 people, including five senior investigators, the interior ministry official said.

Twin roadside bombs and a car bomb, struck construction workers in the Allawi neighbourhood, central Baghdad, killing 16.

And separate evening attacks at a market and a cafe killed three, Tariq said.

Helicopters could be heard hovering overhead at many of the blast sites and

emergency response vehicles rushed to the scene of attacks, while tightened security at checkpoints worsened Baghdad's already choking traffic.

"They didn't target any vital institutions or security positions," Baghdad security spokesman Major General Qassim Atta told AFP. "They targeted children's schools, day workers, the anti-corruption agency."

Atta, who said there had been a dozen attacks across the city, said it was "too early to say" who was behind the violence.

The attacks struck in the Allawi, Bab al-Muatham and Karrada districts of central

Baghdad; Adhamiyah, Shuala and Shaab in the north, Jadriyah in the east, Ghazaliyah in the west and Al-Amil and Dura in the south, officials said.

A family of five -- parents, their two daughters and a son -- were gunned down by insurgents in a suburb of the Diyala provincial capital Baquba, north of Baghdad, early yesterday, medical and security officials said.

The father and son were both members of the anti-Qaqa tribal militia known as the Sahwa which sided with the US military from late-2006, helping to turn the tide of the insurgency.

JP, JSD propose

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enactment of a law in line with the EC's proposals, but it is yet to make any such move.

On expiry of the tenure of the present EC in early February, the president, on advice of the prime minister, will have to appoint a chief election commissioner and other election commissioners to form the new EC.

Against this backdrop, the president started the talks with political parties yesterday, seeking their opinion on the matter.

"Political parties' well-thought opinion will play an important role to constituting the new election commission," a government press release quoted the president as saying after the first day's talks at the Bangabhaban.

The dialogue with JP was held first, followed by that with JSD, both components of the Awami League-led ruling alliance.

Talking to journalists after the talks, JP Chairman HM Ershad said, "We have proposed a search committee. But we did not suggest any specific name for constituting a new Election Commission."

Heads of different constitutional entities such as the chief justice, chairman of the Public Service Commission and auditor general might be included in the search committee, said Ershad, who led a

16-member delegation.

JP will later propose some names for the post of chief election commissioner and commissioners, Ershad said. "We will send a letter along with our proposals to the president within two or three days."

Asked about the main opposition BNP's reluctance to join the dialogue, he replied, "Whoever joins or not, the country will not wait for anyone."

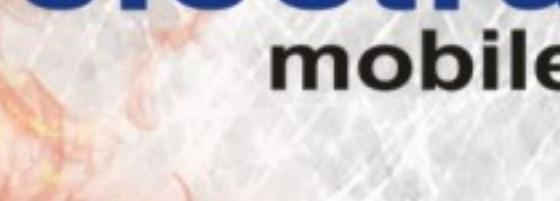
JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu, who led an 11-member delegation at the dialogue, said they suggested formation of a committee, which could consist of 10 members and styled as nomination committee.

The main task of this committee will be to choose the eligible persons and send their names to an all-party parliamentary selection committee for scrutiny. The House committee will then send those to the president for the formation of a new EC, he told journalists.

Replying to a question, Inu said they will send a list of names within a day or two.

About BNP's stance over this issue, he said, "The party is hatching a conspiracy instead of practising democracy."

On Monday, the president will hold talks with workers Party of Bangladesh and Jatiya Party (Manju).





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Educate people on war trial

Prime minister urges Imams

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to remain alert against anti-development and anti-people activities in the country as she said a vested quarter was out to foil the trial of war criminals.

"The war criminals are the enemies of the country, nation and humanity, and their trial must be held in this land. No conspiracy can foil this demand of the people of Bangladesh," she said.

The prime minister made the remarks while addressing the National Imam Conference 2011 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

She also sought the cooperation of religious leaders in freeing the country from the image tainted by a section of people in the name of Islam.

"We won't allow any quarter to earn the country a bad reputation in the name of Islam. No one will be allowed to taint us as a militant and terrorist nation," she added.

Holding those involved in the crimes against humanity in 1971 responsible for financing militancy and terrorism in the country, the prime minister said the war criminals should be tried so that they cannot indulge in

any such crimes in the future.

"Others might get involved in such heinous acts in the future if the war criminals go unpunished," she added.

The prime minister lauded the role of Imams in supporting the government initiative in containing terrorism and militancy, and urged the Imams to make people aware of the trial of war criminals.

Urging the trained Imams to apply their acquired knowledge for the development of society and make them self-reliant, Sheikh Hasina said, "Prophet Muhammad (SM) taught us to be self-reliant economically and build our characters based on moral values and humanity."

She hoped that this training would bring dynamism into the activities of six lakh Imams and muajjins across the country.

During her previous tenure, Hasina said, Imam-Muajjin Welfare Trust was formed from which they have been receiving assistance.

She also said emphasis was also being given on madrasah education in the new education policy to make it time befitting.

The prime minister distributed crests, certificates and cheques among the best Imams of the country.