

WTC to be set up at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar

Star Report

The government has finally decided to set up the World Trade Centre (WTC) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar for which 5.5 acres of land on the south of Bijoy Sharani will be allotted to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

The decision has already been approved by the cabinet. The construction of the planned centre will cost about 190 crore taka and the design of the project has also been made by the authorities concerned.

The plan to set up the World Trade Centre in Dhaka was taken by the government in 1978 and 2.19 acres at the corner of Minto Road and Mymensingh Road, opposite to Sheraton Hotel was allotted to the EPB.

In 1987, the then government changed the plan and decided to shift the site of the Centre to a place south of the Bijoy Sharani.

The changed plan incorporates a permanent industrial Exhibition-cum-World Trade Centre to meet the needs of both the ministries of Industry and Commerce. The Ministry of Industries has been authorised to implement the plan.

But after the political changes in 1990, the new government had initially revoked that idea and decided on July 27, 1991 to locate the Centre at the original Minto-Road-Mymensingh Road corner site.

However, in January this year, the Ministry of Industries once again put forward a proposal for setting up the WTC on the Bijoy Sharani, but the cabinet rejected it.

Meanwhile, the limitation of space and other related problems like traffic arrangements at the centre's original location opposite Hotel Sheraton were reviewed by the higher authorities. Eventually, the government decided after considering all the pros and cons, to construct the centre at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The planned centre will include an auditorium and a conference hall of international standard while the centre's premises can be used for organising trade fairs.

Truce in Lebanon

TYRE (Lebanon), July 31: The United States brokered a cease-fire Saturday to halt Israel's week-long air, sea and artillery blitz against guerrillas in southern Lebanon, diplomatic sources said, reports AP.

The cease-fire went into effect at 6 pm (1500 GMT) after Iranian-backed guerrillas agreed to stop firing rockets into Israel, said a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Israel had said the offensive would continue until guerrilla rockets stopped hitting its northern towns.

The cease-fire was worked out by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher in telephone contacts with Israeli, Syrian and Iranian leaders, said diplomatic sources speaking on condition of anonymity.

A half-hour before the cease-fire deadline, Israeli jets and warships blasted a guerrilla base in hills overlooking the coastal town of Naameh, 11 miles (18 kilometers) south of Beirut, police said.

There was no immediate report of casualties, but the target was engulfed in flames and smoke.

There was no confirmation that the truce plan had the backing of the pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim militia, Hezbollah, which has retaliated with rocket barrages on northern Israel.

Three Katyusha rockets slammed into a northern Israeli town Saturday afternoon, and two more hit Israel's self-styled "security zone," reporters in the

Six of same family get life-term for killing one

A court here yesterday sentenced six people to life imprisonment for killing a man. The court also fined them Tk. 10,000 each, or in default to suffer another six months RI, reports UNB.

The convicted persons are members of the same family.

They are Hafizur Rahman (60), Altaf Hossain (26), Ruma (24), Sultan (22), Keru (16) and Kader (20) — all of village Balia in Dharmaj PS under Dhaka district.

The prosecution story in brief was that of March 27, 1991 the convicted persons attacked with deadly weapons Haider Ali (25) of the same village over a land dispute and killed him.

Homage paid to Ratan Sen in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 31: The first death anniversary of Comrade Ratan Sen was observed here today.

The meeting, presided over by Manfuzur Rahman, was addressed among others by Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Talukdar Abdul Khaleq, MP, Sardar Rahim Hussain Prince and Shah Alam Khan.

Leaders of different political parties placed wreaths at the site where Ratan Sen was slain.

Comrade Ratan Sen, an elderly leader of the CPB, was killed by some assailants near the Khulna Collectorate on this day last year.

Out of the eighteen accused of the murder, fourteen have been granted bail, while two are in police custody and one still absconding.

AMSAM Amin to be made ambassador

By Staff Correspondent

The services of Major General AMSAM Amin, psc, ndc, GOC, 66 Infantry Division, Rangpur have been placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for being posted as an ambassador, a source in the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Defence Secretary M A Malek is expected to take up his new assignment as the country's ambassador to Singapore in the third week of August.

Mar Fazlur Rahman, Director General of the West Asia Desk at the Foreign Ministry, is also expected to leave for Seoul in the latter part of August to become the country's ambassador to South Korea.

A few more ambassadorial appointments are expected to be announced shortly, a ranking source informed.

Editor : S. M. Ali
Executive Editor : Mahfuz Anam



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia discussing with the leaders of the seven bar associations of the country at her Sugandha office yesterday. Environment and Forest and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah al-Noman and Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar are on her left while president of the Supreme Court Bar Association Kazi Ghulam Mahbub is seen on her right. — PID photo

PM donates Tk 11.5 lakh to 7 bar assoc

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday distributed cheques totalling Tk 11.5 lakh for the libraries of the Supreme Court Bar Association, five divisional Bar Associations and the Dhaka Taxes Bar Association from her discretionary fund, reports UNB.

Libraries of Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and the Dhaka Taxes Bar Association received Tk one lakh each while the Supreme Court Bar Association received Tk 4 lakh and the Dhaka District Bar Association Tk 2.5 lakh to procure books.

The Prime Minister hoped that the fund would enrich the libraries and the lawyers would utilise the opportunity to enhance their professional skills to ensure welfare of commonman.

Senate confirms Mondale as US envoy to Japan

WASHINGTON, July 31: The Senate on Friday approved former Vice President Walter Mondale to be US Ambassador to Japan, reports AP.

By voice vote, the Senate confirmed Mondale and more than a dozen others for senior diplomatic posts.

Prof. Latifur Reza reportedly



Sharif hopes to be a computer engineer

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, July 31: Md Shariful Islam stood third with six letters and a total of 891 marks in the combined list. He is a student of the Comilla Cadet College.

Sharif, who wants to be a computer engineer, said that he studied only during the hours specified in the Cadet College schedule.

His hobbies are reading, listening to music and participating in sports.

Students asked to maintain peace on campus

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the students to maintain congenial academic atmosphere in all educational institutions to make government's education programme a success, reports UNB.

Begum Zia was addressing the newly-elected members of Kaliganj Sramik College Students' Union and Jamalpur College Students' Union at Sugandha yesterday evening.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, State Minister for Religious Affairs Abdul Mannan, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP, JCD President Fazlul Huq Milon, Organising Secretary Abul Khair Bhuiyan, Publicity Secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, local leaders of Kaliganj BNP and JCD, and the student union leaders of the two colleges also spoke on the occasion.

Whip Abdul Karim, State Minister for Shipping Harun-ur Rashid and BNP's Student Affairs Secretary Advocate Mujibur Rahman were present.

The Prime Minister called upon the students to stay on guard against the forces who were trying to create indiscipline in national life and educational institutions.

BIDS crisis lingers

By Staff Correspondent

The crisis in the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) continues with the organisation's researchers still reluctant to resume work.

The BIDS staff members went on strike June 1 protesting the 'controversial' appointment of the organisation's new Director General (DG). The appointment of Professor Latifur Reza as the new DG was announced by Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan, chairman of the 15-member board of trustees of the BIDS, on May 27.

Meanwhile, the board of trustees, in a meeting held on the 12th of July, assigned four of its members to discuss and try to mediate the problem with both the protesting researchers and the newly-appointed DG to resolve the impasse.

This informal committee was supposed to report, following discussions with the conflicting parties, to the minister as soon as possible.

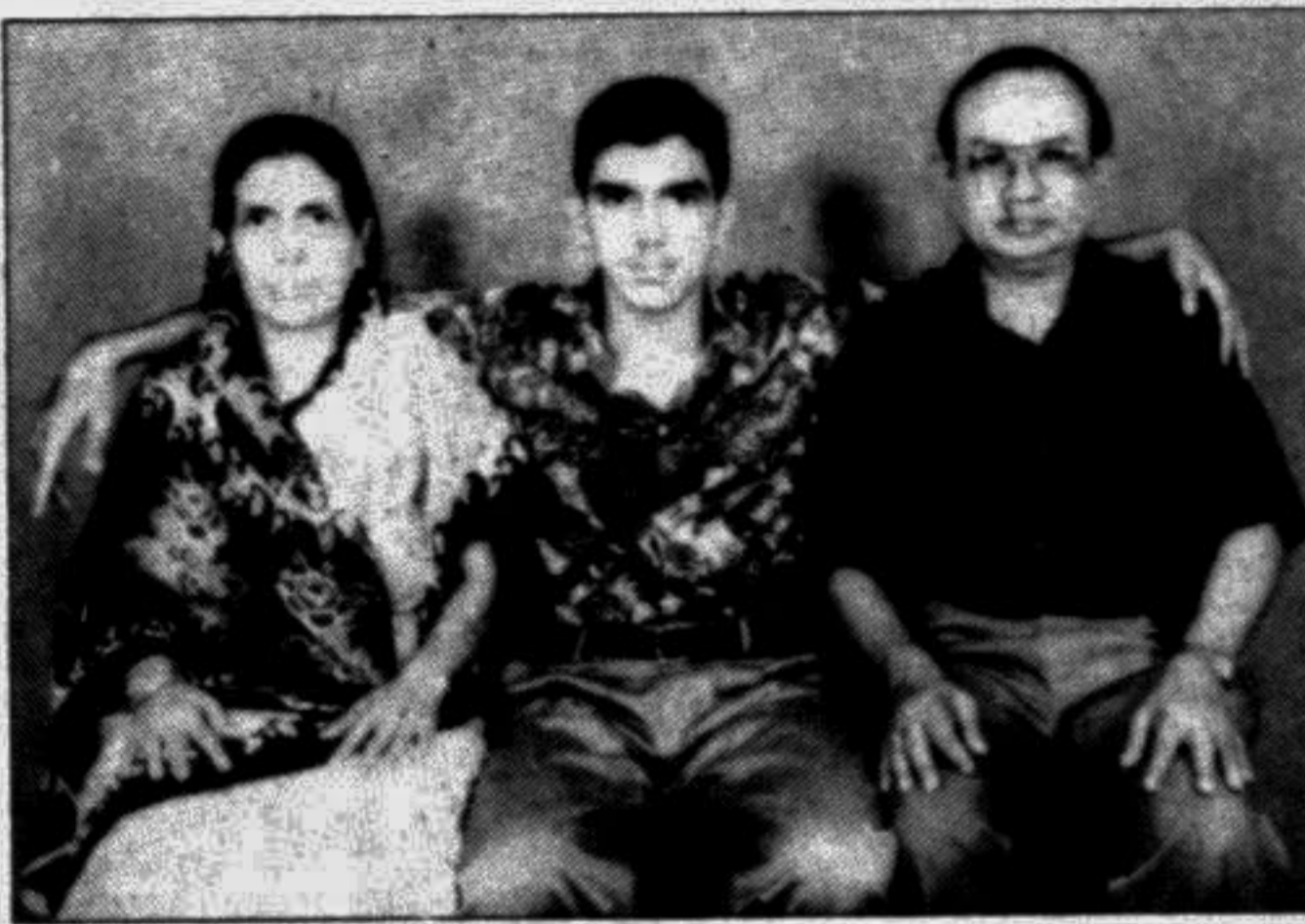
According to sources, the committee had separate talks with the new DG and the demonstrating staff on July 15.

A committee member yesterday told The Daily Star, on condition of anonymity, that the committee had found both parties reluctant to shift from their original positions.

Prof. Latifur Reza reportedly



Mohammad Shamim Ferdous, first in combined merit list, is flanked by his parents. — Star photo



Mohammad Enayet Karim Russel, second in combined merit list, with his parents. — Star photo

Combined merit list

Md Shamim Ferdous, Comilla Cadet College (897 marks) — first.

Md Enayet Karim Russel, Sylhet Cadet College (893) — second.

Md Shariful Islam, Comilla Cadet College (891) — third.

Md Mashur Rahman, Japahat Public School (888) and Selina Alam, Chittagong Govt Girls High School (888) — joint fourth.

Kazi Ehsanul Huq, Sylhet Cadet College and Nirmal Kumar Das, MC Academy, Golapganj, Sylhet (887) — joint fifth.

Farzana Noor Khan, Nawab Faizunnessa Govt Girls' High School, Comilla Muhammad Abdul Ghalib, Sylhet Cadet College and Mamunur Rashid Sikder, the BARD Res. Model High School (886) — joint sixth.

Ghulam Muhammad Khandaker, Sylhet Cadet College (885) — seventh.

Shariful Haider, Sylhet Cadet College and Md Abu Yusuf, Sylhet Cadet College (884) — joint eighth.

Humayra Afireen,

WB-Jamuna

From Page 1 Col 4

pire on January 26, 1994. Bids for Contracts 3 and 4, opened in January 1993, will remain valid until December 30 this year.

The government apprehends that if approval of the Jamuna Bridge Project by the World Bank is delayed beyond the bid validity dates the contractors will seek higher prices which may make it impossible to proceed with the project.

The World Bank, however, is insisting that appraisal of the project cannot commence before the last week of August, 1993.

Even if the project goes through the various processing stages very quickly and smoothly, formal approval of the project by the World Bank will not be obtained before the third week of January next.

Woman with AIDS found in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 31: A patient carrying the Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus was detected in the city recently, a senior Health Department official confirmed today.

The patient, a pregnant mother of three, was detected to be HIV-positive — the Human Immunodeficiency Virus which causes AIDS — after her return from a Middle Eastern country recently, the official said.

The Health Department official declined to provide further details about the patient fearing adverse public reaction. However, he added "She was infected with the deadly AIDS virus through a blood transfusion during the delivery of her last child at a hospital in a Middle Eastern country." He also did not name the country.

IFRCS assistance for welfare projects assured

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will assist Bangladesh in different welfare programmes like poverty alleviation, flood and disaster preparedness programmes, community development programmes, cyclone shelter construction, reports UNB.

The assurance came from the visiting acting Secretary General of the Organisation, George Waber, when he called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday afternoon.

The Prime Minister informed the IFRCS executive that her government was doing all possible to mitigate the sufferings of commonman.

Some 24,000 volunteers work for cyclone preparedness in the coastal areas of the country, she said.

Begum Zia sought cooperation of IFRCS in Bangladesh's efforts for checking flood and other calamities.

Nepali air crash

KATHMANDU, July 31: A propeller aircraft on a commercial flight with 18 people crashed in the sub-Himalayan mountains near Kathmandu on Saturday. The fate of the passengers and crew was not immediately known, an airport official said, reports AP.

Top boy Ferdous hopes to become a pilot

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, July 31: Md. Shamim Ferdous wants to be an Air Force pilot.

A student of Comilla Cadet College, Ferdous topped the combined merit list in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations of the Comilla Education Board by securing 897 marks with letter marks in six subjects.

A student of the General Science group, Shamim Ferdous used to study five to eight hours a day.

His father Nur Muhammad is a supervisor in the Fisheries and Livestock Centre in Laxmipur district.

Russel wants to be a computer scientist

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 31: Md Enayet Karim Russel, who stood second in the combined merit list of the SSC Examinations from Comilla Board, wants to be a computer scientist.

A student of the Sylhet Cadet College, Russel secured 893 marks with seven letters.

Russel is the third among the two sons and two daughters of his parents Abdul Karim and Ashrafunnessa Khanam of Naorupul area of Sylhet. Abdul Karim is a businessman.

Russel is happy with his brilliant result. He is grateful to his parents and teachers for helping him to succeed. He used to study six to seven hours a day.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is his favourite personality.

He is a fan of the Dhaka Mohammedan Club while Humayun Ahmed is his favourite author.

All the brothers and sisters of Russel are meritorious students. His elder Enamul Karim Pavel secured eighth and sixteenth positions in his SSC and HSC examinations.

IEG team arrives today

A high-level delegation of International Energy Group (IEG), a world famous company of America, headed by its president Stephen V. Roy arrives here today on a two-day visit to Bangladesh, Ministry of Energy press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The Midnight File

Nigerian held with heroin at Karachi airport

KARACHI, July 31: Pakistani customs arrested a Nigerian today on drugs charges after finding 123 kg (270 lb) of heroin in his baggage at Karachi airport, a customs spokesman said. He said customs officials detained John Chibuzo Opara after they found brown heroin powder in his bags at Karachi airport before he boarded a flight to Cairo, reports Reuter.

Bombs disrupt rail line in Spain

MADRID, July 31: Two bombs damaged the rail line between Madrid and Valencia Saturday but caused no injuries, news reports said. An anonymous caller to a Basque newspaper said the bombs were set by ETA, the Basque separatist group fighting for the independence of the Basque region in northern Spain. The explosions occurred just after noon about 100 kilometers (62 miles) west of Valencia, disrupting rail traffic for more than three hours, reports AP.

Dr Kamal for JS move

From page 1 col 7

institutions.

"We must demand immediate action by Parliament, the government, and unanimous demand based on a national consensus by all conscious sections of our people — the teachers, guardians, students and professionals and others — must be made to all concerned as above," Dr Kamal said.

The Forum gave the authorities until October 11 to implement its demands and recommendations, failing which it, together with all 'concerned citizens,' would 'move' to implement a comprehensive national programme.

"We cannot destroy our universities and educational institutions, for that would tantamount to destroying our future and denying our younger generations their fundamental right to proper higher education in an acceptable environment," Dr Kamal told the news conference.

Narrating the experiences of the Forum's 'Special Committee on Terrorism and Education', comprising two former vice-chancellors — Prof Fazlul Halim Chowdhury and Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui — Dr Kamal said it exposed gross irresponsibility that no effective law-enforcing action was taken in the Rajshahi University, the Rajshahi Medical College and the Islamic University.

In an oblique reference to the Jamaat-Shibir, Dr Kamal said, "It is shameful for us that anti-liberation forces have taken shelter in the Zoha Hall of Rajshahi University." Dr Shamsuzzoha was martyred in 1971.

The committee will submit its report to the government within three months.

Probe body on JU incident

The government has set up a one member Judicial Enquiry Committee with Justice Abdul Matin Chowdhury to probe Thursday's violent incident on the Jahangirnagar University campus. It was officially announced here yesterday night, reports BSS.

The committee will submit its report to the government within three months.

Office peon found dead

By Staff Correspondent

An office peon was found dead inside a locked office at Purana Paltan in the city Saturday morning, police and witnesses said.

There was a towel tied to the neck of the victim Ali Ahmed, lying on the floor of the Health and Hygiene office at 55 Purana Paltan, witnesses added.

Police also found the iron vault of the office broken.

The office authorities claimed that an amount of Tk 1.75 lakh was missing.

Motijheel police sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. A case has been lodged with Motijheel police.

Tongi Govt College

From Page 1 Col 8

Hossain (18), was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition with stab injuries in the abdomen.

Mujibur Rahman, Biplob and Abdul Quddus, a teacher of the college, who suffered head injury, were admitted to the Tongi Hospital. All the injured students were said to be supporters of the Shaarifat group.

Later, the Arif group activists stormed the hospital and indiscriminately beat up the patients. A pregnant woman, Rahima Begum, who was in the hospital bed, got serious injuries as she was clubbed on the head.

The militants also damaged furniture and windowpanes of the hospital during the rampage.

Protesting the attack, doctors and employees of the hospital announced a day-long strike tomorrow.

Tension mounted in the industrial township.

PM : Education

From page 1 col 7

While appreciating the "remarkable" growth in literacy rate in the last two years, Begum Zia warned there was no scope for complacency over the achievement. "Majority of our people are still illiterate. To bring all segments of population under the literacy programme, we have to take further initiatives."

The Prime Minister said motivational campaign for "education for all" needs to be transformed into a strong "social movement".

The Prime Minister mentioned different steps taken by her government for raising the literacy rate, including the "Food for Education" programme.

Tajik opposition leader asked to leave Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, July 31: Tajik opposition leader Mohammad Sharif Himmatzoda has been asked to leave Pakistan after making public statements about the conflict in his country, Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar said today, reports AFP.

Sattar said Pakistan should not be used as a base for interfering in the affairs of any other country.

Israel may deport Demjanjuk to Ukraine today

JERUSALEM, July 31: John Demjanjuk will be deported from Israel to his native Ukraine on Sunday unless the Israeli High Court of Justice or the attorney general finds reason to keep him here, police said Saturday, reports AP.

Demjanjuk, a retired auto-worker from Cleveland, Ohio, was acquitted by Israel's Supreme Court on Thursday

Law reform

From page 1 col 7

The report noted that Bangladesh lacks a permanent mechanism which could consider and recommend reform of commercial legislation, and to help ensure that such legislations keep pace with the demands of the economy.

"In order to establish priorities and provide continuity and commentary, a permanent law reform commission should be established," the report said, "and its task should be the formidable one of recommending changes in existing legislation where appropriate and suggesting new legislation where necessary."

Most commonwealth countries have such a commission, including India, Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

Law Minister Mirza Hafiz, during the final days of the last budget session of Parliament, said that the law reform commission would be set up within a matter of weeks.