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Punitive action against DU teacher for concealing his background

By DU Correspondent

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. A. K. Azad Chowdhury has directed the authorities concerned to take punitive action against a newly-appointed teacher of the university for concealing information at the time of his appointment.

Hafez Muhammad Jalaluddin was appointed a lecturer in the Department of Islamic History and Culture by the DU Syndicate on May 10.

Jalaluddin had concealed that he was expelled from the university for adopting unfair means in BA subsidiary (political science paper-III) examination of 1988, held in February 1990.

He was expelled for four years for the offence. But subsequently the university authorities reduced the expulsion period to one year.

A four-member committee headed by Syndicate member Prof. A. T. M. Zahurul Haq was

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JCD walks out of Paribesh Parishad meet

By DU Correspondent

Police check posts will be set up at some strategic points of the Dhaka University to strengthen the existing security arrangements on the campus.

This was decided at a Paribesh Parishad meeting held yesterday with the Vice Chancellor Prof. A. K. Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

The Parishad comprises representatives from different student organisations, provosts of residential halls, pro-vice chancellor, proctor and assistant proctors.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a conglomerate of some left leaning student organisations.

Representatives of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the BNP, walked out of the meeting saying they could not join any meeting attended by the proctor or the university. Dr Nur-Un-Nabi JCD is demanding resignation of the proctor.

At the meeting, BCL de-

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Session was lively, says B Chowdhury

Deputy leader of the Opposition in Parliament Professor A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said despite being a short session to comply with the constitutional obligation, the Sangsad was lively this time, reports BSS.

Making a statement before the prorogation of the session, Prof Chowdhury thanked the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for smoothly conducting the current session and hoped they would ensure equal facilities to both the Treasury and the Opposition benches in all the coming sessions.

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Transit, sub-regional cooperation AL says essential, BNP demands referendum

The ruling party argued in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that transit and sub-regional cooperation were essential for the country's economic progress while the opposition BNP denounced the initiatives and called for holding referendum on the issues.

The divergent views were expressed during a 150-minute general discussion on 'transit and sub-regional cooperation', initiated by Foreign Minister Abusamad Azad.

Five ministers were among 20 MPs belonging to Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami who took part in the lively discussion.

The foreign minister said that the just-concluded SAARC summit in Male had endorsed the concept of sub-regional cooperation, which he noted, was

permissible under the SAARC Charter.

"Sub-regional cooperation among four nations within the SAARC will complement and supplement the existing regional cooperation as well," he added.

Later, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury also quoted Article

JS session prorogued

The fourth session of the seventh parliament was prorogued last night after consecutive six sitting days, reports UNB.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury read out the prorogation order of President Shahabuddin Ahmed at 11:57 pm.

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Ah! never mind the quality: Street children quenching their thirst and cooling themselves, using an opportunity when workers left the hose at a work site at the inland container depot at Kamalapur station yesterday. Temperature soared to 36.2 degree Celsius in Dhaka on the day.

AL pleasing its masters forgetting pre-polls pledges: Khaleda

From Our Correspondent

and the water in the Padma have simultaneously dried up."

The BNP chairperson also blamed the government for unleashing a reign of terror through detaining and suppressing the opposition workers, according to UNB.

Earlier, Begum Zia arrived at Rajshahi Airport at 6 pm when thousands of workers and

supporters of BNP and its front organisations, led by City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, gave her a hearty reception. All BNP MPs elected from the district and party leaders were present.

The BNP leader's motorcade on the 12-km path from airport to Circuit House through historic Grand Trunk Road was escorted by more than 50 microbuses and several thousand motorbikes. People lining both sides of the road welcomed her with petals.

Members of Begum Zia's entourage include Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain MP, former minister Tariqul Islam, BNP leaders Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Begum Khurshid Jahan Huq MP, Farida Hassan, Amanullah Aman MP, Nazrul Islam Khan, Gayeswar Chandra Roy and Ehsanul Kabir, JCD president Shahiuddin Chowdhury Annie and general secretary Habib-un-Nabi Sohel, Qamruzzaman Ratan and Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan.

Depression over Bay

A well-marked low over southeast Bay and adjoining Andaman Sea concentrated into a depression and was centred about 1660 kms south-southwest of Chittagong port at 6 pm yesterday, reports UNB.

It is likely to intensify further and move initially towards north-northwest, said a special weather bulletin.

Maximum sustained wind within 44 kms of the depression centre is about 40 kph, rising to

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27 pc work on Madhyapara Hard Rock Project completed

By Govinda Shil

Bangladesh Water Development Board and other government agencies were the principal users of rocks in the country.

The Planning Ministry official said significant traces of gold, silver and diamond was also found while conducting survey for rock and coal deposits around Madhyapara of Dinajpur district.

Bangladesh currently imports rocks from India and Indonesia at between US\$ 35 and 52 a ton, while MHRMP's rock will be as cheap as US\$ 23 a ton. The production cost will be a mere US\$ 11 a ton.

General Manager of Madhyapara Hardrock Mining Project Md Maqbul-E-Elahi said, "I am being confronted with questions on the viability of the project though 27 per cent of the physical work has already been completed."

"If we close the project now, we will still have to pay another Tk 400 crore to the 'NAM NAM' company in accordance with the agreement we signed in 1994," he pointed out.

Petrobangla Chairman Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star that the MHRMP was a 'very good' project and it should be completed in time.

He said, marketing of rock was not a problem at all. "We need it for river training, constructing railway slippers and good roads," he added.

Korean mining engineers are currently constructing the 'cage-shaft' used to transport equipment and miners underground. They have already excavated 55 metres of the shaft, which will eventually be 314 metres deep and 10 metres in diameter.

Shaft-sinking is considered to be the most vital and costly work in any underground mining project, as it needs an uninterrupted supply of power.

While sinking the shaft, the surrounding water table is frozen solid using liquid nitrogen. The frozen rock and mud is then excavated with a large drill. Once the 'cage-shaft' is completed, they will begin work

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SAGQ to ensure growth: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the proposed sub-regional grouping, South Asian Growth Quadrangle, aimed at ensuring economic development of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

In her winding up speech in parliament last night, she said the SAARC leaders at Male had reached consensus on the concept of growth quadrangle within the ambit of the seven-nation forum.

The Prime Minister said more discussion would take place at the ministerial and official levels to make effective the proposed bloc of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan.

Referring to the Male declaration of SAARC, she said the association adopted a number of decisions to extend economic cooperation among the states, improve communication system, stop drug and women trafficking and terrorism.

Refuting the opposition allegation against the government of selling out country's independence, the Prime Minister

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Govt-PCJSS accord likely by June 30

By Special Correspondent

The government is preparing to sign an accord with the Parbatyia Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) before the expiry of the ceasefire on June 30 and tenure of the three hill district councils on July 5, according to sources concerned.

Earlier, a consensus was reached on all issues on Wednesday between the two sides to bring peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The three councils elected on June 25, 1989 had repeated extension of tenure. But the government wants those to be more effective under elected leadership, having wide powers and enjoying special status with a tribal person heading each and non-tribals also having adequate representation.

The sources said the other main issues both sides agreed on are: The security forces would stay in CHT in cantonments, police and border guards would do their jobs, settlers are to vacate occupied lands belonging to tribal people, they will be resettled on khas land, insur-

gents are to lay down their arms and the government will arrange their resettlement under a package programme.

The PCJSS leaders left Dhaka yesterday for their makeshift headquarters at Dudukchhara in Khagrachhari by a military helicopter, ending four and a half days of negotiations resulting in a consensus with the National Committee on CHT (NCCHT) to sign a peace agreement.

"We would be back in the city again to initial the peace deal," PCJSS Chief Jyotindriyo Bodhipriyo Lama alias Shantu Lama told newsmen before leaving for the BAF base Bashari for the helicopter ride back to Dudukchhara, near the border.

"We would meet the Prime Minister as and when needed," he said. NCCHT Chairman Abul Hasnat Abdullah, who was standing nearby, however, remained silent.

Hundreds of cheering tribespeople received Shantu Lama and his three companions

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Discord in PCJSS leadership

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, May 15: An internal conflict has reportedly gripped the Shantibahini leadership as both moderates and hardliners took opposite stands on the question of ongoing peace talks.

According to reports received here from across the border, the moderates favour

PCJSS chief Shantu Lama's desire to resolve the staggering CHT issue through talks. But the hardliners support chief of the Shantibahini military wing Ushatan Talukder's stand for continuing the armed struggle to establish 'Jummaland'.

The hardliners reportedly attempted during the last congress of the PCJSS on December, 1996 to elect Ushatan Talukder, also known as Maj Moloy or Maj Samiran as party president.

The hardline faction led by Maj Samiran had been creating trouble in CHT by indulging in gunfights in violation of the truce, sources concerned said.

On the other hand, Pankajini Chakma, wife of Manobendra Lama, founder president of PCJSS, is reportedly not in good terms with her husband's younger brother Shantu Lama who took over the helm of party after his death.

Pankajini wanted to be the president of PCJSS after the

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Delhi, Dhaka mutually shared water shortage this year: Gujral

NEW DELHI, May 15: Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said here today that the major achievement in the Indo-Bangladesh relations was the creation of mutual confidence between the two countries, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the Indo-Bangladesh Parliamentarians Forum he underscored the need for cooperation among the South Asian nations to their mutual benefit. He said the relations between New Delhi and Dhaka have strengthened due to mutual trust and confidence.

Lok Sabha Speaker Purno S Sangma, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Dr Najma Heptulla, Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi C M Shafi Sami, chairman of the forum Monoranjan Bhakta and Dr B D Datta, Rajya Sabha member spoke at the function.

The Indo-Bangladesh Parliamentarians Forum was established on March 13 by 70 MPs.

The forum has about 100 members from both the houses of parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) ... The aim of the forum is to strengthen closer bonds, increased cooperation in all fields and also increased cultural exchanges, Bhakta said.

The prime minister strongly defended the recent water-sharing treaty between India and Bangladesh and wondered why the agreement was not reached in the last many years.

Gujral said the two countries in the past were 'divided, separated and worked up' on the issue of sharing waters.

He said that though there was shortage of water in the current year, it did not lead to any accusations from either side but the shortage was shared mutually.

Gujral said when the issue of water shortage was brought to his notice by officials he had asked them to show complete

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\$1351m trade deficit in eight months

Bangladesh suffered a trade deficit to the tune of 319.72 million US dollars only in two months - January and February - of the current year for a slowdown in export, reports UNB.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed gave the figure in Parliament yesterday in reply to a question from Mohammad Shahjahan of the BNP.

Tofael said as per the compiled figure, the country imported goods worth 995.87 million US dollars while its exports amounted to 676.15 million dollars during the two months.

He told Panna Kaiser of the Awami League that Bangladesh's imports totaled 4213.56 million dollars till February this fiscal and its exports amounted to 2862.68 million dollars.

It shows a trade deficit of 1350.88 million US dollars in the eight-month period of the current 1996-97 fiscal year.

In 1995-96 fiscal, country's import bill was 6881 million US dollars against its income of

3883 million dollars through exports, Tofael replied to Syed Ashrafur Islam of the Awami League.

Replying to Mohammad Fazlul Azim, he said the government had fixed an export target of 4380 million dollars for the current fiscal year which is 12 per cent higher than that of last year.

Till March, exports totaled 3248.59 million US dollars, equivalent to Tk 1,377,178 crore. This shows a rise of 14 per cent in terms of dollar and 11.5 per cent in taka over the last year's income, he said.

The minister acknowledged that some of the export items, including readymade garments and leather and leather products, were facing problem in world market for various reasons.

The garment sector, which enjoyed generalised system of preference (GSP) in European markets, is presently not getting the facility due to 'faulty' GSP certificates issued during the past regime, he told the House.

Trade marks & merchandise acts may be replaced

By Staff Correspondent

A comprehensive new law replacing the Trade Marks Act, 1940 and Merchandise Marks Act, 1889 is under active consideration of the government.

Law Commission sources said that the Commission was preparing a report for a single comprehensive act regarding trade marks, which will incorporate the scattered provisions into the act besides making new provisions for meeting the needs of the day.

The Trade Marks Act is essential not only to protect the proprietors' rights of registered trade marks but also to safeguard the interests of consumers and people in general against deception.

Trade marks in Bangladesh are now governed by the Mer-

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AL leaders start organisational tour in June

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her party leaders and workers to serve the people and work with them for a poverty-free 'sonar Bangla', reports UNB.

She made the call at the first meeting of the newly elected central working committee of the Awami League at Ganobhaban in the morning.

Presiding over the meeting, the party president asked the leaders to apprise the people of successes achieved in different sectors during the last 10 months of the present Awami League government.

Terming the just-concluded ninth SAARC summit in Male very 'successful and fruitful', Hasina put up various positive aspects of the meet before the working committee.

The meeting decided that central leaders would go for organisational tour across the country in the first week of

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PM to visit Spain from Monday

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will pay a three-day visit to Spain from Monday with the aim to bolster Dhaka-Madrid ties, it was officially announced in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The visit is taking place at the invitation of Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar Lopez. The two leaders assumed offices of the Prime Minister almost at the same time last year.

Sheikh Hasina's entourage will include Education Minister A S H K Sadique, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and representatives of industrialists and businessmen.

This will be the first ever high-level visit from Bangladesh to Spain, an active member of European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The leaders of the two countries will discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as international issues of common concern.

In Madrid, the Bangladeshi Prime Minister will have an audience with King Juan Carlos.

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Sylhet BNP announces agitation programme

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, May 15: The Sylhet district unit of BNP has announced a month-long agitation programme to realise its 9-point demand. M A Haque and Ariful Haque Chowdhury, district BNP president and general secretary respectively declared the programme at a press conference at the Sylhet press club this afternoon.

The programme including meetings, processions and demonstrations will begin on May 21 and conclude through a dawn-to-dusk hartal on June 22.

The demands include immediate release of the party leaders and workers, resolving loadshedding and developing Sylhet Osmani Airport as an international airport.

Goods train derails near Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, May 15: A Kulara-bound goods train derailed at Kalumukh here this evening disrupting rail communication for nearly four hours, according to railway sources.

Two wagons of the train jumped off the track at around 5:55 pm at Kalumukh, 10 km from Sylhet.

The communication was restored at around 9:45 pm after the track was cleared, sources said.