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Demolition of Shahnawaz Bhaban Teachers, students to be consulted, assures VC

By Aminul Islam

The Shahnawaz Bhaban will not be demolished without consultation with the teachers and students of the Fine Arts Institute. Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University AK Azad Chowdhury told The Daily Star. The students of the Fine Arts Institute started an agitation programme from Monday as the VC recently ordered the demolishing of the residential hall of the institute for building multi-storied supermarket in its place.

The four-day agitation programme includes class boycott, wearing black badges, procession and rallies, cartoon exhibition on July 8, street drama on July 9 and painting on the street halting traffic movement on July 10.

The VC said that the multi-storied building will not be a complete market. There will be a modern art gallery at the top of the building. There will also be a modern library for the students of the Fine Arts Institute.

There will be a sophisticated shopping centre in the first, second and third floors of the building. The teachers and employees will also be offered apartments, the VC said.

The VC said that fund for the multi-storied building will be collected from banks as loans.

The students of the Fine Arts Institute have been opposing the initiative from the very beginning.

They demanded building of a

residential hall for the students of the institute at the same place.

The VC said that the site was not suitable for a residential hall as it is situated beside the New Market. "Moreover we cannot collect funds from Bank for constructing a residential hall."

The students of the Fine Arts Institute will be rehabilitated in the proposed 500-seat dormitory, the VC said. The university authorities have already undertaken the project of constructing two new residential halls — one for male and another for female students.

The VC said that the funds generated from the shopping centre will be used for the development of the Fine Arts Institute.

"I will not do anything which will go against the interest of the university and the students," the VC said.

The present capacity of the Shahnawaz Bhaban is 120. The hall came under the university authority in 1984 with the Fine Arts Institute. The hall is now an extension of the AF Rahman hall of the university.

The building was named Shahnawaz Bhaban after Shahnawaz, a student of the Fine Arts Institute killed during the Liberation War.

The proposed multi-storied building and the gallery will also be named after Shahnawaz.

JCD, BCL clash at DU: Eight injured

At least eight students of Dhaka University were injured yesterday in a clash between BNP's student front Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL), reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash started at around 11 am on the DU campus when some supporters of Chhatra League hurled abuse at a procession brought out by some students under the banner of 'Inqilab Readers Forum'.

The Forum, formed by JCD supporters recently, brought out the procession to protest the decision of the university authorities banning advertisement to the Daily Inqilab.

Three of the injured — Habibullah Mizan, Rafiqul Islam Liton and Atiar Rahman — were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with head injury. Rest of them were given first aid.

The BCL activists allegedly damaged the mike and microphone the Forum brought in for holding a rally.

During the half-an-hour clash, JCD supporters reportedly damaged some windowpanes of Mass Communication and Journalism Department, Department of History and some classrooms of the Arts Faculty.

These vehicles of teachers were also damaged during the clash.

SSC exam results

From page 1

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Saddam Hussein Malik of AK High School, secured the first position under the board in the Social Science combined merit list securing 896 marks. Malik was followed by Mohammad Jobayed Hossain of Balla Coronation High School securing 883 marks while the third position was secured by Mohammad Shaoket Hossain of Ideal School and College with 879 marks.

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Mahdee wants to be army officer

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, July 8: Mohammad Mahdee Mahmood from Barisal Cadet College stood first in Social Science group under the Jessore Board securing 871 marks.

Mahmood is the youngest son of Md Shamsul Haq of Mirpur, Dhaka. His hobby is stamp collection. He wants to be an army officer.

Pass percentage

From page 1

cent students came out successful this year which is 14 percentage points higher than that of last year. The percentage was 47.02 last year.

The pass percentage increased by 2 percentage points in the Rajshahi Board. This year the percentage is 49.16 compared to 47.02 per cent of the last year.

In Jessore Board, the percentage was 43.99 last year. The percentage has increased to 47.45 this year.

In Chittagong board, the pass percentage this year is 61.37 compared to the 44.20 per cent of the last year.

The overall pass percentage is still far less than that of the 1994 and 1995 despite an increase of ten per cent this year. In 1995, when the objective system was first introduced with question bank, the average pass percentage was 71.46. The percentage was 73.20 in 1995.

But the pass percentage recorded a sharp fall in 1996 as the system of question bank was abolished.

Foundation

From page 1

gallery and national music and dance centre will be built at the Shilpakala Academy premises.

The project plan includes an Independence Monument at the Suhrawardy Udyan, sculpture garden and open stage at Ramna Park, and modern art gallery, music and dance centre and national theatre with spacious auditorium at the Shilpakala Academy premises.

Two artistic overbridges will be constructed to link Suhrawardy Udyan with the Ramna Park — the focal point of the cultural complex.

Mentioning the steps of her government to ensure cultural freedom, Hasina said within one year, it has repealed the century-old Drama Performance Act. "This is an historic step towards ensuring cultural freedom," she added.

She said the government also has a plan for infrastructural development of the Shilpakala Academy at the district and thana levels to create a dynamism in the cultural arena across the country.

The foundation laying function at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium was also addressed by eminent musician Kalim Sharafi, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, acting secretary of the Cultural Affairs Ministry Syed Yusuf Hossain and Shilpakala Academy director general Shamsuzzaman Khan.

Ministers, MPs and noted cultural activists were present.

PM: Zia rewarded

From page 1

Sheikh Hasina, however, added that there was nothing wrong in appointing one's relative to a post as long as the person concerned possessed the required qualification. "He is a career diplomat and served the country in various capacities in UN, ILO, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone," she said.

"I am the daughter of Bangabandhu," said Hasina and added, "I treat all people of the country as my relations."

Reminding her family's sacrifice for the cause of democracy and people's rights, Sheikh Hasina said, "Are we only for shedding blood? Aren't we entitled to get a job even if we possess the qualification required?"

In reply to a question from AL lawmaker Mirza Azam the Prime Minister informed the House that to ease traffic-jam in Dhaka city, the government has planned to construct three fly-overs at Sonargaon, Jatra-bari and Mahakkhal. The Communications Ministry is studying the project in cooperation with the Dhaka City Corporation, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and Dhaka Metropolitan Police, she added.

A consultant has been appointed with financing from the World Bank (WB) for designing, assessment and preparation of tender documents for construction of the fly-overs.

Replying to a supplementary

question by BNP deputy Shamsul Alam Pramanik, the Prime Minister said there are plans for introducing 'mono-rail' in the city and constructing a ring-road around it. Introducing tube-rail will be costly but the government is thinking over it, she said.

Replying to a supplementary from AL lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder, Sheikh Hasina said, irregularities regarding issuance of driving licence has been in practice for a long. She said her government is trying to streamline it and has a plan to introduce computerised driving testing system.

Another Treasury Bench deputy, Kazi Sekander Ali, wanted to know about the fate of a plan for office, private secretary, personal assistant, typist and peon for each MP in his constituency. The Prime Minister replied that the government was actively considering to provide those facilities.

In this regard she referred to a project titled 'Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy', co-financed by the government and the UNDP, and said a project document was signed on March 19 last.

Answering another question from BNP legislator Prof Shahidul Islam, she informed the House that Tk 58,79,18,858 remained unpaid as compensation to owners for acquisition of their lands.

ALCWC meet July 11

From page 1

An emergency meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held in the city at 7 pm on July 11.

Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting to be held at Gonabhaban, says a party press release.

Sayem dead

From page 1

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Chief Justice ATM Afzal, his former colleagues and well wishers rushed to his residence to pay their last respects. They consoled the members of the bereaved family.

Sayem is survived by his wife and only daughter.

The name-e-janaza was attended by, among others President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Chief Justice ATM Afzal, former Chief Adviser Justice Badrul Haider Choudhury, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Judges, former vice-president Maudud Ahmed, Mainul Hossain, and Ziaur Rahman Khan, MP.

Justice Sayem succeeded Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed as President on November 6, 1975 following a coup that toppled Mshatque's government.

Justice Sayem had remained President and Chief Martial Law Administrator until November 29, 1976. When he was succeeded by then deputy chief martial law administrator and army chief Major general Ziaur Rahman.

In a message condoling the death of ASM Sayem, President Shahabuddin Ahmed recalled with gratitude the contribution of the late justice as Chief Justice and President of the country. He said, the country has lost a worthy son at the death of Sayem.

"Shahabuddin prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family, said an official handout.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed profound shock at the death of former President Sayem.

In a message of condolence she recalled his contribution.

Begum Zia said the late President had helped to restore stability and lead the country towards democracy by playing an important role during the transitional period.

33 killed

From page 1

roof of the coach were blown up, he said.

"I heard a deafening explosion and within seconds the coach was engulfed in fire and nauseating smoke," said Beera Kaur, who escaped with minor injuries, but lost her husband, Lakshman Chari. The family was traveling to the Hindu holy town of Hardwar on the Ganges river to perform the last rites of a dead relative.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Punjab was the scene of a 10-year separatist revolt by Sikh militants who wanted to carve out an independent homeland. The rebellion was crushed in the early 1990s, but sporadic violence continues.

Twenty-seven of today's train bombing victims died at the scene, and six people, including three children died later at Bhatinda District Hospital, according to Avtar Singh Shekhan, a doctor at the hospital. He said 67 people were admitted with injuries.

The blast was the fourth in Punjab this year.

Mithi wants to become an administrator

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 8: Jannatul Ferdous Mithi of Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College stood first in combined merit list of Social Science group under Rajshahi Board. She secured 845 marks with five fifters.

She wants to become an administrator.

She is the daughter of Shah Anisuzzaman, Editor of local Daily Ranga Probnat.

Determination is most important, says Saddam

From page 1

Saddam Hussain Malik of AK High School has secured the first position in the combined merit list of the Social Science group of SSC examination under Dhaka Board. He obtained 896 marks.

"I was expecting such a result," said a happy Malik while talking to The Daily Star yesterday. "I believe that determination of a student is the most important factor for such a good result," Malik added.

His mother, Sehyeh Nasrin, a housewife, who had a lot of contribution to his success, said, "My son was very serious about studies. On an average he studied 12 hours a day. He did not have any tutor but he consulted his school teachers from time to time."

Malik's father, Md Shariful Islam Malik, an engineer, said, "I had enough confidence in my son."

Malik wants to be a teacher. His hobbies are reading books and collecting stamps.

Commentary: Don't go at it alone

From page 1

debates it is clear that there is tremendous public interest about what our representatives do in the parliament. This again is new.

However more to the point about the parliamentary committees, the decision by Sheikh Hasina that ruling party ministers will NOT head the parliamentary committees meant to oversee the work of various ministries is one of historic importance or we would have growth of our committee system and for the watch-dog role of our legislature over the executive.

But all these good decisions may come to nothing if the committees are formed without the opposition. In fact instead of seeing any qualitative improvement in the functioning of the parliament, we may see a drastic deterioration of it, if the ruling party goes it alone in this matter. For we see the growth of Sheikh Hasina that she make the mistake that Khaleda Zia did during her days in power. Don't be inflexible in running the parliament if it does not go against the fundamentals of our State and of democracy. It is our view that it was some fatal flaws of the BNP chief, especially her stubbornness and inflexibility about not accepting the opposition demand that led to her fall. She could have accepted the demand for a neutral and caretaker government in exchange for which the opposition would not stage, was willing to guarantee her undisturbed tenure for five years. But instead she kept on herping that it was not in the Constitution and as such it

4 BNP activists detained in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 8: Four BNP and JCD activists of Barisal have been given one month's detention under the Special Powers Act of 1974. They are, Majbar Rahman Nantu, Sheikh Md Abdul Malek, Sarafuddin Babu and Mainul Islam Pulak.

Their bail petitions were rejected. They were arrested during the hartal on July 3 allegedly for assaulting the police.

In the combined Social Science Group, Mohammad Mahdee Mahmood of Barisal Cadet College topped the merit list. He secured 871 marks. Syed Waid Reza of Jinnah Cadet College and Rumman Mahmud of Barisal Cadet College secured second and third positions securing 870 marks and 869 marks respectively.

A total of 62,315 students appeared in the exams under Chittagong Board, of whom, 38,242 came out successful. The pass percentage is 61.37. Of them, 12,754 obtained first division, 24,202 second division and 1286 third division.

Bhassanul Haque Emon of Chittagong Public School and College occupied the first position in the Chittagong Board with 921 marks. Three students jointly secured the second position. They are Abdullah Al Muhit of Nasirabad Govt High School and Farhana Khanam and Md Mohsin Kabir of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser School and College. They got 919 marks each.

Aparajita had no tutor

From page 1

Aparajita Goswami of Viharunessa Noon School topped the merit list of female students and got the third position in the combined merit list of the Science group under Dhaka Board.

She got 947 marks with letter marks in six subjects.

Aparajita, daughter of C R Goswami and Chhabi Goswami, wants to become a bio-chemist.

Aparajita did not have any tutor at her house but took coaching in batches.

Her hobbies are reading novels and singing songs.

Arson attack

From page 1

headquarters of the US fifth fleet which patrols the oil-rich Gulf region.

An official said today a restaurant was destroyed in an apparent arson attack the previous day. No one was injured.

Talking to The Daily Star, Touhid said, "I was expecting better results than this. My mother's contribution was the most behind my success."

Touhid studied about four hours a day.

His mother, Khurshid Jahid Khushi, a school teacher, said, "I am very happy and proud today."

Touhid's father is an assistant general manager in a bank.

Touhid, who wants to be a chartered accountant, said, "I believe seriousness is a major factor behind such successful result."

Touhid supports student politics.

PM's question hour may be extended

From page 1

the FIR at the instance of the government.

Mahitul denied the charge. He told the court that he wrote the FIR at his residence, typed it at his office and filed it with the Dhanmondi thana in the evening of October 2 last year.

He denied that the contents of his FIR were provided by the CID.

He also informed the court that relatives of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did not ask him anything about the FIR.

Mahitul told the court that he never met Sheikh Hasina.

Replying to questions from the lawyers he also said he did not know that the Indemnity Ordinance was a barrier in filing the case.

"The CID had instructed the DGF to provide relevant information," he said.

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Bangabandhu murder

From page 1

formation regarding these army officials," Razzak Khan said quoting Lt Col Mohabbat Hossain, the then DGP who also recorded his statement under Section 161, as a witness in this case.

"I do not know," Mahitul replied.

"Was the day of the incident the last day of the BKSL government?" asked Khan Saifur Rahman.

"I do not know whether the next government continued with that or not."

When the judge ordered for giving division in jail to the five accused, lawyers of the prosecution side objected to it.

The judge said, "I order the division for them, so that they may remain in good health to face the trial."

"Capt Emdad, an accused in the Manzoor murder case, was already enjoying division in the jail."

The prosecution also raised objection to the supply of food to the accused by their relatives during the recess. The court observed that it will consider the matter.

PM's remarks

From page 1

official one," he claimed, saying she went there on her own.

There she created an "embarrassing" situation in Bangladesh-Japan relations since the Awami League after assuming power had voted in the UN Security Council in favour of India against Japan, violating a Bangladesh commitment given to Japan earlier, Bhuiyan cited.

He refuted the Prime Minister's allegation that "Japan-Bangladesh relations severely deteriorated in last two years of BNP regime and Bangladesh lost Japan's confidence. It is a blatant lie..." he said.

In essence, Bhuiyan continued, Japan's confidence, belief and friendship with Bangladesh remained in tact during the said period like any other era.

He said the prime minister's deliberation misquoting BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia was tantamount to spreading malice in the Army and ignoring rules and disciplines of the institution.

He alleged the Army was about to be destroyed during Awami League rule whereas Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman built it as a strong, disciplined and modern one.

The changes which were brought about during Begum Zia's 1991-96 tenure were nothing contrary to rules and regulations of the Army, he pointed out.

About BNP-enforced hartal, the opposition lawmaker said it is really astonishing to make such a remark about a peaceful agitation for the cause of country's independence and sovereignty, by the Awami League chief who sponsored "about 170 days of hostile" shutdown.

JS snippets

From page 1

Sheikh Hasina said, "Yes, he is my relative on many counts. He is my father's cousin, my grandfather married in his family and my daughter has been married to his son..."

Without naming the High Commissioner designate, Hasina explained that he had been chosen not because of being her relation but for his career as a qualified diplomat. "Finally, I would like to disclose, he has been selected by the foreign minister, not by me," she noted.

JS bodies

From page 1

sion". He, however, said that if a consensus could be reached by a couple of days, the committees would be formed during the current session of Parliament.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru also told this correspondent last night that the ruling party had "no intention" to unilaterally announce the JS bodies. "For a more functional and more effective parliament, the Treasury and Opposition benches need to work together — on the basis of consensus," the minister said.

BNP leader and Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandaker Delwar Hossain told this correspondent at this parliament chamber last evening that the BNP had consistently been demanding formation of the committees. "With the committees not being formed, the government is eventually going unaccountable to Parliament," the Opposition Chief Whip said, posing a question: "Why should the BNP be deprived of due share of membership on the parliamentary bodies?"

Replying to another question, the Opposition leader said that it was a legal obligation of the Leader of the House to take consent of the legislators concerned before announcing their names as members of a committee. "There is no scope for the Prime Minister to unilaterally announce the name of any BNP legislator without the member's consent," he added.

Meanwhile, back-stage parleys were on between the ruling party and the opposition to resolve the crisis. Sources in both the camps admitted that Mohammad Nasim and Khandaker Delwar Hossain had a meeting exclusively on this contending issue last night.

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File complaints within 30 days

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Saidee's case sent to Chief Justice

From page 1

"A senior judge of the High Court, Justice Kazi Shafuluddin Ahmed, sent Delwar Hossain Saidee's case to the Chief Justice as the second judge of a two-member bench felt embarrassed in hearing the case yesterday, reports UNB.

"Since the second judge of bench feels embarrassment to hear the case, the case is being sent to Chief Justice to get it heard by any of the division benches," he said in passing the order.

Justice Gour Gopal Saha, second judge of the bench, felt embarrassed to hear the Jamaat leader's case. The reason was not disclosed.

Earlier, an appeal was filed against the judgment of Pirojpur district election tribunal which declared Saidee's election as MP void.