

Preservation of Ctg court bldg demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Bar Council has urged the government to preserve the court building in Chittagong as an archaeological site.

Issuing a statement on behalf of the Bar Council yesterday, its vice-chairman Barrister M Amir-ul Islam said that built over a century ago, the Chittagong court building is a major architectural monument and should be preserved.

The Council's view came following news that government would construct a new building on the premises after demolishing the existing structures of court building in the port city.

Bangabandhu Award giving ceremony today

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangabandhu Award, (1999-2000) giving ceremony will be held in the city today.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed will distribute the awards for outstanding contribution in agriculture at 4 pm at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

Official sources said last night that some 30 individuals and organisations will get the prestigious award.

In addition to gold and silver medals, the government is also introducing bronze medals this year.

The award recipients are, among others, successful farmers, breeders and scientists.

PM urges teachers to join literacy campaign

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the teachers to join the literacy campaign initiated by her government to drive out poverty from the country, reports UNB.

"We will have to launch a war against illiteracy to establish a poverty-free Bangladesh," she said while distributing cheques among retired teachers and employees from Non-Government Teacher-Employees' Welfare Trust at her Parliament office this afternoon.

This is for the first time that 25 non-government teachers and employees have received financial benefit from the Welfare Trust.

The Prime Minister called for spreading education to remove the curse of poverty for a better life. "There is no alternative to education... We'll have to wage an all out war against illiteracy and poverty."

Describing the teachers as architects of an educated nation, Hasina urged all to maintain proper academic environment in educational institutions so quality education is imparted to the students.

Literacy rate, she said, has already increased to 60 per cent. "We need to eradicate illiteracy from the country."

Referring to various problems facing the teaching community, Hasina said her government is sincere to resolve their problems. In this context, she mentioned enhanced pay scale and other financial bene-

fit for non-government teachers and employees given by her government.

About the reconstruction of the Welfare Trust, which started functioning from May 1997, the Prime Minister said it would help the teachers and employees after their retirement or to face any hardship in case of a mishap or serious illness during their service.

Education Minister A H S K Sadeq, Education Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin who is also the president of the Trust and its secretary Kazi Faruque also spoke on the occasion.

An amount of Tk 93 crore has been accumulated in the Trust fund. So far 5,143 retired teachers and employees of non-government schools, colleges and madrasahs have applied for financial benefit and 25 of them received the cheques. Others would be given in phases.

BFUJ, DUJ condemn attack on reporter

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday strongly condemned the attack on Ahmed Abid Rumi, a reporter of Banglar Bani, by fundamentalists in Sylhet on Monday, reports BSS.

Abul Kalam Azad and Akhtar Ahmed Khan, President and Secretary General respectively of BFUJ, and Altaf Mahmud and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, President and General Secretary respectively of DUJ, in a joint statement, said the attack on Rumi, who was performing his professional duties, was tantamount to attack on freedom of the Press.

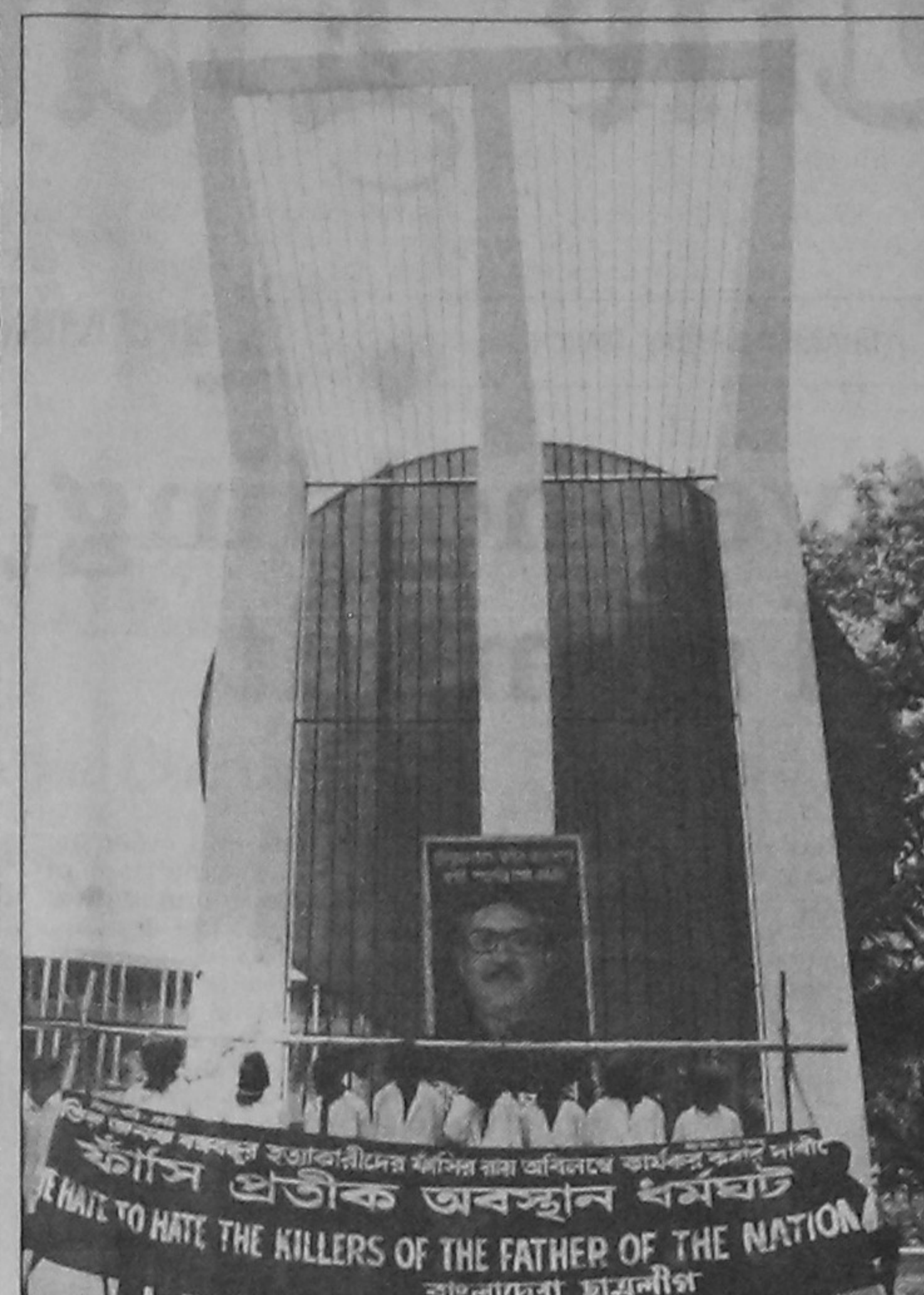
Rotary News

Weekly meeting

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhanmondi will be held today at 5:30 pm at the Dhaka Club Upstairs Family Lounge, says a press release. All members have been requested to attend on time.

Chehlum

The chehlum of Mahfuza Begum Nishat will be held at her 3/10, Naya Paltan residence tomorrow, says a press release.



The activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) observed a token sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to press for execution of court verdict against the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

— Star photo

Fifth Five-yr Plan

Tk 335 cr allocated for women affairs ministry

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina informed the house yesterday that her government has allocated Tk 335.80 crore for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs under the Fifth Five-year Plan, reports BSS.

Replying to a question, Sheikh Hasina said the allocation during the Fourth Five-year Plan was only Tk 55 crore.

Listing the various measures for the development of women, she said 3,200 women in 50 districts and 5,280 women in 176 thanas were imparted self-employment training.

She said that a revolving loan of Tk 3.77 crore were provided to 11,500 distressed

women in 64 districts in 1997-98 from the prime minister's relief fund for their rehabilitation.

The Prime Minister pointed out that another project for the distressed women is in the pipeline. Under the project, Tk 18.43 crore would be given as loan to 1,551,000 women.

UNB adds: Replying to another question, Sheikh Hasina said "Asrayan," a project for providing shelter to homeless poor, has been introduced in all the districts of the country, except Khagrachhari hill district.

Nearly 16,000 families are living in 1,591 barracks built across the country under the Asrayan project.

JU 1st yr Honours '98-'99 session classes yet to begin

By JU Correspondent

The classes of the first year honours course under the academic session 1998-99 of Jahangirnagar University (JU) are yet to begin.

The delay in beginning classes has been attributed to complexities in admission procedure and to provide each student with a seat at the students' dormitories.

The process was further delayed by the JU students movement last year demanding withdrawal of hiked admission fees for admission into first year classes. Students had to wait for near about two months after their admission test was held to complete admission formalities.

The other major delay was caused by shortage of seats at the dormitories. The authorities can only begin classes after accommodating all first year students in the student halls.

For this reason they have to wait till the outgoing students leave their seats in the halls.

The university, for the last few years, have started first year honours classes after an average lapse of about 18 months after completion of HSC exams.

Further complexities arose in beginning classes of the 1998-99 session as the outgoing 23rd batch is yet to complete the masters degree examinations. The first year students of 1998-99 session have been admitted to the university against the seats which will be made available by departure of the outgoing 23rd batch.

An official of the university when contacted said, "we have faced this difficulty as masters degree examinations of only seven departments out of twenty have so far been completed."

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