

Bridge over River Padma will destroy environment Committee suggests tunnel at Mawa point instead

The 'Committee for Implementation of Padma Tunnel at Mawa point' in an open letter yesterday suggested construction of a tunnel instead of a bridge at the Mawa point of the river Padma in view of some objective situations on environmental issues, reports BSS.

Prof Md Nurul Amin Bepari of the Department of Political Science, Dhaka University, on behalf of the committee congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her government's decision to construct a bridge over the river Padma. He also thanked Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia for requesting the Japanese ambassador in this regard.

He said a tunnel would be more beneficial to link the country's 22 south-western districts with the rest of Bangladesh since a bridge over the river Padma will cast an adverse effect upon the environment in the region.

River training and diversion of its course for constructing a bridge over the river Padma will in fact damage crop lands and enhance further erosion leading to sharp fall in water flow on the eastern zone during the dry season. Besides, saline water from the sea will enter into parts of Chandpur and Shariatpur to destroy vast resources there, he said in the letter.

Prof Bepari pointed out that a tunnel under the river Padma would greatly reduce the distance between Dhaka and the 22 south-western districts and ease movement of vehicular traffic along with establishment of gas and train lines between the two sides. This will also help Dhaka city expand southward with reduction in air pollution, he observed.

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FF's grand rally Apr 22

A grand rally of freedom fighters and people will be held at Paltan Maidan on April 22, reports BSS.

Combined Mukti Juddha Front will organise the rally to commemorate the historic Mujib Nagar Day of April 17.

Mujib Nagar Government was formed on April 17, 1971 in the mango grove of Meherpur. All freedom fighters and the people have been asked to attend the rally and take a vow to establish the spirit and values of the Liberation War by eradicating the anti-independence, undemocratic, fundamentalist and reactionary forces.

DU Population Sciences admission results out

By DU Correspondent
The results of viva voce for admission in to MSS professional degree programme in Population Sciences of the Dhaka University was announced yesterday.

The candidates bearing following admit numbers have been selected for the admission, said a press release:
0035, 0055, 0070, 0137, 0144, 0157, 0247, 0281, 0294, 0330, 0402, 0417, 0432, 0442, 0473, 0504, 0529, 0535, 0540, 0559, 0580, 0619, 0637, 0641 and 0660.

The successful candidates have been asked to contact the office of Chairman, Department of Population Sciences (3rd floor) Arts Building to complete admission procedures by April 8.

The candidates have been asked to bring all original certificates, mark certificates and the admit card of the admission test.

The candidates bearing the following numbers are in the waiting list, the release added: 0068, 0196, 0389, 0520 and 0613.

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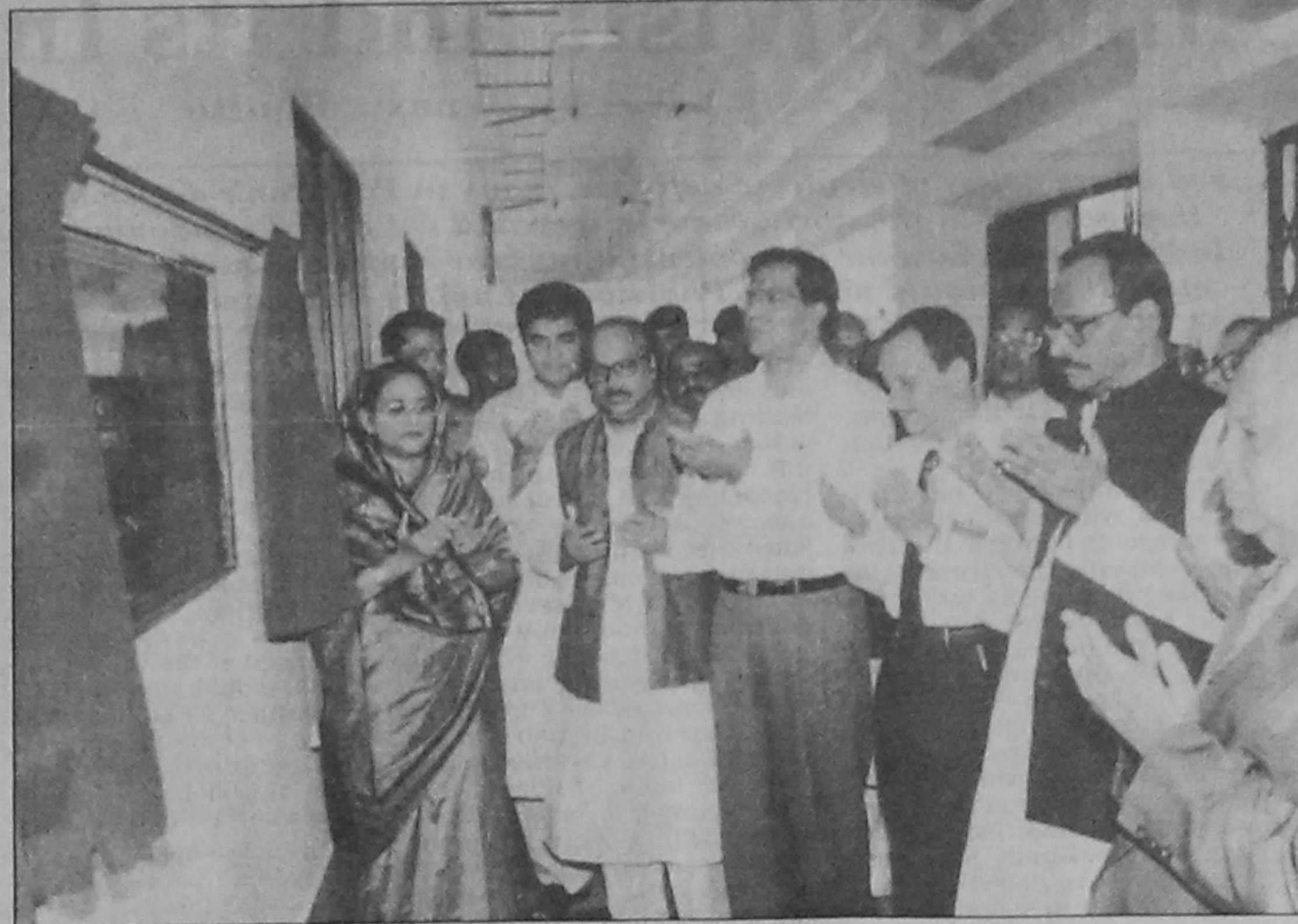
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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offering *munajat* after inaugurating the new digital telephone exchange bhaban at Ramna Telephone Bhaban in the city yesterday. Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, City Mayor Mohammad Hanif and Minister of State for Post and Telecommunications Abdur Rauf Chowdhury were present on the occasion. — PID photo

Hasina vows to build self-reliant economy

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday vowed to build a self-reliant economy free from foreign dependence and sought cooperation from all irrespective of party affiliation, reports UNB.

There is no scope of self-complacency, counting how much aims we receive each year. We must become self-reliant to present a dignified nation for our future," she said in inaugurating a new digital telephone exchange at Ramna Telephone Bhaban.

Hasina said she inherited her chair in a chaotic situation and with the economy in shambles, but had put back the economy on the right track by 'efficient governance' in the last three and nine months.

The Prime Minister said since assuming power she had to face natural calamities like drought, cyclone and flood on

one hand, and hostile attitude and so-called movement by her opponents on the other hand.

Besides, she said, there was the perennial practice of procrastination in implementing development works. The opposition began threats of pulling down her government within three months of coming to power, Hasina said.

Weathering all these natural and man-made obstructions, she said, the new governance had helped the country gain economic growth by more than 5 per cent, per capita income of US\$ 386 and bring down poverty to 44 per cent from 47 per cent.

The prime minister said that 40 per cent of ADP is now being spent in social development sector to improve the condition

New BPMI Bhaban opens at Mirpur

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday opened the newly-constructed Bhaban of Bangladesh Project Management Institute (BPMI), an organisation of professionals in the private sector, at Janata Housing in Mirpur, reports BSS.

Built at the initiative of over 400 members of the institute, the Bhaban will provide training facilities to the personnel engaged in the management of different projects.

Condolence meet held

A condolence meeting was held in memory of Moqbulur Rahman, a businessman who died recently, says a press release.

Moqbulur Rahman was the Chairman of Moqbulur Rahman Jute Mills Ltd, Rubi Plywood Ltd, Ctg Tea Garden among many other establishments.

He is survived by his wife, a son, daughters and a number of grandchildren.

of the poor. "What we've done is formulated sound policies on national issues, transparency and accountability. We have also improved the service sector for the benefit of the people," she told the function.

Hasina sought active cooperation from all to fight poverty and build a developed nation by 2020.

Post and Telecommunications and Home Affairs Minister Mohammad Nasim, Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, State Minister for Telecommunications Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Kamal Ahmed Majumdar MP and HBM Iqbal MP also spoke at the function.

Sumayyah Happy Birthday & Best Wishes
Abbu, Ammu & Bhaiya

Call for more research on War of Liberation

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for conducting more research on the country's War of Liberation aimed at projecting the true facts of the independence struggle to the new generation, reports BSS.

"Our new generation is still in the dark about the historical facts of our War of Liberation as the previous governments had projected the distorted history to them," they opined.

They were speaking at the first publication ceremony of a Research Journal on 'Freedom Struggle and Bangladesh' published by Freedom Struggle, Bangabandhu and Bangladesh Research Institute of National University at the National Museum in the city.

Presided over by National Professor and member of the editors' council of the Journal Kabir Chowdhury, Researcher Sharfar Kabir, Professor Muntasir Mamun, and Prof Sharifuddin Ahmed took part in the discussion.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury said the freedom struggle of the country was not a sudden incident. It came after a long time struggle against the oppressors

of the Bengali nation. "It was not achieved after the announcement of a certain leader on a drum. It was the outcome of a long struggle led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," he said.

Chowdhury said the research journal would help the teachers and students of the educational institutions specially the university students to conduct their research on the country's War of Liberation.

Professor Muntasir Mamun said the new generation of our

country is confused about the facts of the War of Liberation as the distorted and a part of the history were ditched out to them through various ways including the text books. "It is very much needed to project the real history to the new generation through different journals and text books," he added.

Referring to various difficulties for conducting research on the country's freedom struggle, he said it is so because of lack of institutional patronization in this regard.

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