

Students urged to take part in dev activities

BSS, Saitur
State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury has called upon the student community to keep up their patriotic feelings and take part in development activities at the end of their academic career for economic emancipation of the country.
He said this while speaking as chief guest at a function organised by the Tangail Zila Kalyan Samity of Jahangirnagar University (JU), held at the seminar room of the university's central auditorium on Saturday.
The state minister appreciated the achievements of the university made within the short span of time since it was founded, and also thanked its Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Bays for his continued efforts to maintain and upgrade the overall development of the univer-

sity.
In his speech as special guest, Prof Bays reiterated his commitment to eliminate terrorism and session-jam from the university saying that in the past one or two years, the university has not remained closed for a single day due to any untoward incidents on its campus.
APS to the prime minister, IU senator and Chief patron of the JU-Tangail Zila Kalyan Samity Md Ibrahim Hossain Khan among others also spoke on the occasion.
Earlier, the state minister greeted the freshers at the university and the outgoing students from Tangail, and handed over stipend of Tk 2000 each among 25 students from the samity fund.
Later Ibrahim Hossain Khan handed over a cheque of Tk 4.5 lakh to the Samity President Md Ayub Khan.



The city's Motijheel area wore a deserted look yesterday noon on the first day of a 60-hour hartal called by the opposition alliance. PHOTO STAR

Milosevic arrested

FROM PAGE 1
Slobodan Milosevic told police he would rather die than surrender, and Serbian Interior Minister Dusan Mihajlovic said that at one point the former president, brandishing a pistol he always carried with him, threatened to kill himself, his wife and daughter. Branislav Ivkovic, a close aide to Milosevic, said he surrendered voluntarily "to include himself in the legal process."
Mihajlovic said Milosevic's 32-year-old daughter, Marija, fired four or five pistol shots moments before her father was whisked away. A police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said she was apparently aiming at a government representative trying to negotiate her father's surrender.
Mihajlovic said she "was in a state of distress" and there were no injuries.
The scene yesterday morning at the Milosevic residence reflected some of the mayhem of the previous hours. Police investigating the site walked over shattered glass. The trampled grass in front of the entrance was covered with soda cans, bottles, crumpled paper and other trash left by Milosevic supporters.
Milosevic's wife and daughter remained inside, said police officials.
Under Yugoslav law, Milosevic will be interrogated by an investigative judge, who determines whether the evidence merits a trial. The judge can either dismiss the charges, release the defendant pending trial or jail him pending completion of an investigation.
His lawyer, Toma Fila, who accompanied Milosevic to the gloomy Central Prison building, said, "certain agreements were reached," but added he saw "no chance" of bail for his client.
Members of his party managed to persuade Milosevic to surrender after the negotiators noted that the arrest had nothing to do with the Haque indictment.
Mihajlovic also insisted the arrest was not intended to turn Milosevic over to the tribunal, "but to hand him over to an investigative judge under domestic laws." Many Serbs consider the Haque tribunal a political instrument of American foreign policy.

Hartal: One killed, 200 hurt

FROM PAGE 1
48 people in connection with the incidents in the city.
According to police and hospital sources, 20-year-old garment worker Parveen from Kamrangir Char was injured when an ambulance off near Science Laboratory at Elephant Road at about 5.30 am. She was injured in the face.
Another bomb was exploded at Purana Paltan crossing at about 12.45 pm, injuring a minor boy named Sajal from Demra.
Mohammad Halim of Mirhajiribagh was injured in hands, legs and in the back in another explosion at Dholarparh at about 10.30 am.
Auto-rickshaw driver Saidul Islam from South Mugga was seriously injured as a petrol station stopped his vehicle and set it on fire at Sabujbagh at around 5.30 am.
Rickshawpuller Abdus Samad and tempo helper Mukhtar Hossain were injured in two explosions near Dhaka Central Jail and at Mirpur Section 1.
A tempo caught fire and its driver was severely injured as a petrol bomb was hurled on it at about 5.30 am on the Airport Road at Jatsahara.
Most of the injured were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.
At about 9.30 am, police recovered five bombs from Gabrial terminal ticket counter of a transport company owned by BNP leader SA Khaleque. Seventeen people were arrested in this connection.
Police also recovered a bomb from near Iqbal Centre at Banani at 9.30 am. On the night before, a group of youths in three private cars hurled several bombs at the Centre. None was injured.
Two bombs were exploded near

Peace talks with Kashmir militants soon: Advani

AFP, New Delhi
Home Minister L.K Advani said in a television interview that the government would hold peace talks with separatist leaders in Kashmir but ruled out a dialogue with Pakistan.
Speaking on the British Broadcasting Corp's "Hardtalk" programme, to be broadcast on Wednesday, Advani said New Delhi would hold talks "very soon" with separatist leaders in Kashmir, perhaps even as early as May.
"We have already decided who will hold talks and how to proceed with it. But peace talks would be with groups in India."
"We do not propose at the moment to hold talks with Pakistan," Advani said.
The home minister said he may not be heading the Indian dialogue process but would pay close attention to the progress of the talks.
"I would certainly be monitoring the course of the talks being the home minister. But the actual talks may be conducted by others," said Advani.
"The government will pursue the peace process in Kashmir. This has already been decided."
On March 29, Kashmir's main separatist alliance said it would not enter into any dialogue with New Delhi, until their leaders were allowed to visit Pakistan.
The statement by the All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) -- which comprises two dozen different groups -- was a reaction to a news item that a senior Indian government official was being nominated for talks with the alliance.
The Hurriyat had nominated a five-member team in December last year for a visit to Pakistan in order to hold talks with militant leaders and government officials in the country.
New Delhi has not opposed such a visit, but insists the Hurriyat team should not include hardline separatist leader Syed Ali Geelani who has opposed India's ceasefire in Kashmir.
Following a directive from Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, Indian security forces had called off counter-insurgency operations in Kashmir in November.
Muslim-majority Kashmir was divided between India and Pakistan in 1947 but remains claimed by both. A Muslim separatist rebellion on the Indian side has claimed more than 34,000 lives since 1989.
India has refused to resume direct talks until Pakistan stops sponsoring "cross-border terrorism" -- a charge Islamabad denies.
India alleges that since the November ceasefire, Pakistan has "claimed" to withdraw some border troops, but continued to ferment unrest in Indian Kashmir.

21st BCS viva voce June 6

UNB, Dhaka
The viva voce of 21st BCS examinees scheduled for April 3 (Tuesday) has been postponed and will now be held on June 6 at the same venue and time.
No further letter will be issued to the candidates concerned, said an official handout yesterday.

BNP urges govt

FROM PAGE 1
By spontaneously observing the hartal. "The government will be ousted through hartal," he said.
About dialogue with the government, Bhuiyan said they are not opposed to discussion with Awami League after the government steps down. "We are ready for discussion with Awami League only after the resignation of the government".
The BNP leader said they would go to the negotiating table with the President, the caretaker government, the Election Commission and other political parties, including Awami League, for paving the way for a free, fair and impartial general election.
He maintained that discussion with the Awami League government would be a meaningless exercise as such dialogue would not help resolve issues like recovery of illegal arms, politicised administration and other related matters.

Female condom

FROM PAGE 12
Drug and Food Administration and the European Union have approved the product, Director of FHC's International Programmes Mitchell Warren told The Daily Star through an e-mail on Sunday.
"Since 1996, FCH and UNAIDS have been in partnership to make condom for women more widely available in developing countries," Warren said.
The condom is safe, strong and durable because of the polyurethane used to make it, according to UNAIDS/WHO documents.
Research confirms that the condom has no serious side effects, according to studies on its use in US and Europe.
The studies have shown that the condom is an effective barrier to microorganisms including HIV virus and bacteriophage, smaller than hepatitis B, known to cause sexually transmitted infection (STI).
A UNFPA official when contacted through e-mail said use of such condom will be a step forward towards women's empowerment in developing countries, where HIV prevalence is highest (about 20-30 per cent in women).
"Lack of power and autonomy is the root cause of women's vulnerability. The thing that prevents STI and unwanted pregnancies must be made available to women," he said.
In his recent address to the UN General Assembly, Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for greater accessibility to the condom for women.

'Opposition trying to capture power thru' undemocratic way'

UNB, Dhaka
Ruling party general secretary and Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman accused the opposition of trying to capture power through undemocratic way bypassing the election.
"Begum Zia does not believe in people's power that is exercised in election which the only way to go to power," he said inaugurating a training course for municipal chairman in the city.
Some 48 municipal chairmen of the country's southwestern region took part in the course on "administration appraisal" at the National Institute of Local Government (NILG) auditorium at Agargaon.
The Awami League leader made the observations as the four-party opposition alliance led by Begum Zia embarked on a three-day hartal from yesterday in a bid to pull down the government.
Zillur narrated various government steps taken to strengthen local government system and to ensure higher participation of women in the development process.
He stressed the need for increasing institutional capability of the municipalities in implementing development programmes.
Local Government Secretary Amiyangshu Sen, NILG director general BMM Mozammel Huq and course director M Afsar Uddin also spoke at the inaugural session.

Arms seized in Kushtia

FROM PAGE 12
brandishing sophisticated arms. They traded more than 100 rounds of gunshots and exploded numerous bombs during the hour-long battle," says awitnes.
The clash left at least 20 injured, including five by bullets. Bheramara College JCD president Bakul, general secretary Firoze and upazila Chhatra League president Anisuzzaman Khokon were among the injured.
The clash, which erupted on the main road of the small upazila town, soon spread to other streets and lanes, turning the entire town into a battlefield and terrifying people.
Tension was prevailing as people kept indoors and opposition activists went into hiding after the violent orgy.
Locals said the clash was a sequel to Saturday's clash between the AL and BNP activists and both the parties were well prepared with arms to face each other.

Anti-fundamentalist

FROM PAGE 12
1971 veteran Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Bir Protik, was present at the function as the chief guest, while leading artist and Abridy Parishad President Asaduzzaman Nur, Nirmul Committee's acting president journalist Shahriar Kabir, playwright Mannan Hira, Nirmul committee general secretary Kazi Mukul and Abridy Parishad secretary Hassan Arif, among others, spoke.
Earlier, Mahbubuddin opened a "Muktijuddher Shahid Smriti Pathagar" under the auspices of Nirmul Committee with the hoisting of the flag, used during the Liberation War.
Selina, who was a BNP MP from Kushtia in the reserved women's seat in 1991, said there was none in their residence, except a caretaker. "The caretaker got frightened and left the house seeing police and Chhatra League cadres entering the house," she said.

Adel gets bail

FROM PAGE 1
Adel was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail when he surrendered before the CMM's Court, Dhaka on March 14.
Kamal Hossain, 30, senior vice president of Awami League of Kotwalia thana was gunned down by a gang of assassins on August 15, last year when he protested the hoisting of Pakistan national flag atop the residence of Adel on August 14, the Independence Day of Pakistan.
Rival political groups in the district reportedly kidnapped two persons yesterday, police said.
Khorshed Alam, an Awami League activist, was kidnapped allegedly by BNP rivals from his Zamiratali village residence in Charashahi union.
At least seven houses were set ablaze after the kidnapping of Alam.
A Jatiyatadabi Jubo Dal activist, Mustafiz, remained missing since yesterday evening.

Khaleda: Confrontation

FROM PAGE 1
through her 'deceptive' speeches at various times walked away from her commitments time and again thus earned the reputation for AL as 'fraud and traitor'.
She said the inept government became unnerved by the mass movement and chose the path of repression and harassment and arrest of opposition activists and people in a fascist way in a bid to foil the current anti-government agitation.
She said the government has let loose a reign of terror at different parts of the country, including Dhaka, Sirajganj, Bhola, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Netrokona through firings, arrests and filing of

Langalbandh

FROM PAGE 12
Sangha, Anukul Sat Sangha and Ram Thakur Sangha set up camps to receive the pilgrims and for their rest.
A large number of police, ansars and volunteers were deployed for maintaining order during the ritual of purification.
Hindu priests and holy men from faraway places of the country, clad in orange robes and turbans, crowded Rajhat, Mahatma Gandhi Ghat, Shasanghat, Joykali Ghat, Rakha Kalighat, Premtoli and Annapurna Ghat and prayed with folded hands and then had their ritual pre-dawn dip, which they believe can wash away their sins.
The Narayanjanj district administration set up 100 kutcha latrines, ensured electricity and supply of drinking water for the devotees.
According to Hindu mythology, Parshuram, a saint, killed his mother with an axe at the order of his father.
The axe clung to his hand as a mark of sin. At the order of divinity, he bathed in the river Brahmaputra on this day of lunar month and freed himself from sin.

764 murdered

FROM PAGE 12
Of them, 217 were leaders and workers of BNP and its student front JCD, 189 belonged to Awami League and its student wing BCL, 137 to Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir, 182 to Jatiya Party, 1121 of different fundamentalist groups.
Two officials, 17 lawyers, 27 police and army personnel, one MP and one UP chairman, three hoodlums and 103 persons whose identity were not mentioned were also accused in the cases.
Section 144 was imposed 11 times in Dhaka Division, three times in Chittagong Division, and six times each in Rajshahi and Barisal divisions.

Pro-Ershad JP

FROM PAGE 1
(Union Parishad) Bill and the Member of the Public Service Commission (Terms and Conditions of the Service) Bill, parliament sources said.
Besides, Standing Committee reports on a number of bills would be placed in the House and it would also deal with notice of public importance.

30 factories

FROM PAGE 1
quarters at Gulistan doused the fire in about four hours. The incident created panic in the area but none was injured.
Fire Brigade sources estimated the loss of property at about Tk 50 lakh.
Police cordoned the area when fire fighters were extinguishing the fire.

Road accidents

FROM PAGE 12
injured were admitted to the local health complex and clinics.
Our Khagrachhari correspondent reports: A Matiranga-bound jeep (Chander Garj) fell into a ditch, killing two on the spot at Amtil under Matiranga upazila at 9 a.m. yesterday, as the driver lost control, said police sources.
The dead were identified as Mainul, 55, and Nuru Mia, 39.
The injured were admitted to the Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital and the Matiranga Health Complex.

JP factions clash

FROM PAGE 1
The procession of Nazimur Rahman was led by JP Presidium member Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, its city unit president Saitur Rahman and secretary Toiyabur Rahman. The activists chanted slogans against Ershad, calling him a "government agent".
Juba Sanghati President Syed Abu Hossain Babla and Khalekuzzaman Chowdhury led the procession of Ershad faction.
Maidul Islam, a leader of JP (Nazimur), later talking to this correspondent claimed that activists of the rival faction attacked their procession as per a design of the ruling party.
This was denied by a leader of the Ershad faction. "They attacked us first, raising anti-Ershad slogans," said its Presidium member Ruhul

Amin Howladar. "They retreated as they were few in number."
He was asked to comment on BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's statement that Ershad was a "government agent". Howladar said, "We are saddened by such a statement. Today Ershad is in jail because of the four party alliance. We are in the alliance and will remain in the alliance in future."
He claimed that Nazimur was staying at a minister's residence. "Yet he is claiming to be with the Opposition. Mannan Bhuiyan is echoing what Nazimur is saying. We hope Khaleda Zia will soon realise the situation."
Maidul said, by conducting political activities from prison cell, Ershad has proved to be a "puppet" of the government.

Hartal called with ulterior motives

FROM PAGE 1
League to continue the current development drive.
She said Khaleda Zia first demanded early election and she agreed to give it by June 12 on completion of five years of general elections, since June 12, 1996.
"I had declared that I would give election and asked them for taking preparation for the polls. I had also declared that I would hand over power after April 17 and requested the opposition not to call hartal. But, Khaleda rejected the election offer and issued ultimatum and called hartal."
What use calling hartal, she questioned.
"Khaleda wants to destroy the country as destruction is her motto," Hasina said, highlighting her government's policy and programmes aimed at development and welfare of the commoners.
On her 30-kilometer way to Comapaniganj from Sylhet, the Prime Minister inaugurated Shalukorand Katakhal bridges.
The 218-metre-long Shalukor bridge has been constructed at a cost of Tk 9.98 crore and 155-metre-long Katakhal bridge at a cost of Tk 9.30 crore.
With the completion of these two bridges Bholaganj, a centre for boulder business, and Comapaniganj business town have been connected directly with Sylhet.
Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, Dewan Farid Gazi MP, AL joint secretary Azizur Rahman, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Sultan Md Mansur Ahmed MP, Jebunnessa Huq MP, Sylhet AL President Abu Nasor and Secretary Shafiqul Huq also addressed the meeting.
The Prime Minister said with the opening of two bridges longstanding demand of the people was fulfilled, so also another commitment of the government.
She urged the cheering crowd to vote for Awami League in the next election for the continuity of the development process.
Meanwhile, the Prime Minister said that the armed forces would no more fall victims to any untoward incident and the chain of command that had been restored would be continued.

Hartal thoughts for Khaleda Zia

FROM PAGE 1
served hartal is no reflection of public opinion. The nearly empty streets, the closed shops, the sparsely attended offices and less than optimally functioning factories are no indication of support for the cause of the hartal-caller. By now, it has been proven over and over again that it is out of a combination of fear of loss of property and physical insecurity people stay away from work on hartal days. A fact that BNP should remember more than anybody else is that after three years of hartals and a successful movement of bringing about the caretaker amendment to our Constitution and forcing the BNP government to relinquish power (after the February election) still Awami League could win only 37 per cent of popular vote as against 34 per cent for the BNP.
We are saying all this to prove that hartals did not work for Awami League in the 1994-96 period and it will not work for BNP now. In fact, a far stronger undercurrent of anti-hartal sentiment permeates among the general public now than it did at that time. So, we would like to argue that the opposition must reconsider its hartal option and think of something else. Our view is that more hartals will make the people more distanced from the opposition. The business community, a significant portion of which supports the BNP, will be the first to feel the crunch and react.
To the question as to why hartals, the answer is that the opposition wants early elections. How far is the election? Under normal timeframe it will be early October 2001. So, it is little more than six months away. When will the elections be held if the opposition is able to have its way? Earliest by early July 2001. A little more than three months away. What is the difference between early July and early October? Three months, Suppose it could even be four months. So the question that the opposition must ask is how does a difference of three or four months look to the ordinary voters who are being kept a prisoner in their own houses for 60 hours? It looks like the opposition is being extremely impatient.
There is another argument that the opposition must consider about its hartal strategy. A 60-hour hartal is not an end in itself. It has to be followed by more hartals and for longer duration, which in turn will be followed by longer and longer ones. What will be a voter's feelings at the end of the whole ordeal? How will the business community, the professionals, the traders, the workers, the shopkeepers and the day labourers feel? Everyone except perhaps the salaried class will feel angry, disgusted and ventgel. The best way to find out whether our assessment is correct or not is to recall how people felt about the AL at the end of the hartal nightmare that it had imposed on the nation in the 1994-96 period. At least at that time there was an issue - that of the caretaker government. What is the issue now, except elections which, as we said, are just more than six months away.
As we stay 'imprisoned' in our houses, as our shops, offices and factories are forced to remain closed, as our garment industry falters, as our vegetables rot in the field, as our day labourers and slum dwellers pass their days either half-fed or hungry and as the sick die or deteriorate because of absence of medical facilities what will our reaction be to a party or an alliance that made us suffer so much because it could not wait three additional months for an election. Thus we end our hartal thoughts for the leader of the opposition.

people felt about the AL at the end of the hartal nightmare that it had imposed on the nation in the 1994-96 period. At least at that time there was an issue - that of the caretaker government. What is the issue now, except elections which, as we said, are just more than six months away.
As we stay 'imprisoned' in our houses, as our shops, offices and factories are forced to remain closed, as our garment industry falters, as our vegetables rot in the field, as our day labourers and slum dwellers pass their days either half-fed or hungry and as the sick die or deteriorate because of absence of medical facilities what will our reaction be to a party or an alliance that made us suffer so much because it could not wait three additional months for an election. Thus we end our hartal thoughts for the leader of the opposition.

DCC abandons

FROM PAGE 1
ing and open spaces, roads and footpaths into markets without any legal authority whatsoever.
Several cases in connection with conversion of parks, footpaths and open spaces into markets are now pending with courts.