## The Baily Star

# Hasina discusses Housewife political situation with Hillary, **NDI** chief

### UNB. Dhaka

Awami League President and opposition leader Sheikh Hasina had meetings with Senator Hillary Clinton and NDI President Ken Wollack here Wednesday and discussed ways of making Bangladesh parliament effective.

She said the opposition should be given space and opportunity to put forward alternative viewpoints as well as make constructive criticisms of government's failings and shortcomings for effective running of parliament. During the meeting with the

President of National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) at its Washington headquarters, Hasina also pointed out the deteriorating law and order and discussed human rights and demo-

cratic situation in Bangladesh. The NDI chief referred to the value NDI attaches to its relationship with Sheikh Hasina and her role as a leader of Bangladesh and champion of democracy as well as NDI's relationship with the Awami

League as a political party. Referring to the last election, Hasina said it is now time to look and move forward and evaluate the October 2001 parliament elections as well as subsequent voting held under the present ruling coalition.

"Now it is the time to determine how future elections can be conducted in a manner that will allow the will and choice of the people to be accurately reflected," said the ex-PM, whose party was handed a stunning defeat at the last general election

Wollack said he very much looked forward to a deepening and strengthening of this association between NDI and Hasina and the Awami League to further the democratic process and cause in Bangladesh.

The Awami League chief drew his attention to the central focus and priority of charting out a path of its fall.

## Flood

FROM PAGE 12 to swell. As a result, the flood situation in Rajbari, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Dhaka remained unchanged

The flood situation in Narayanganj is likely to aggravate further as water level in the Lakhya river recorded further rise during the period, the FFWC bulletin said. Out of the 46 monitoring stations,

21 recorded rise. 21 fall and 4 no change. Rivers at 14 points were flowing above the red marks in 24 hours ending at 9am.

In the Meghna basin, the Surma

night. economic growth and prosperity for Bangladesh and consolidating on arrested yesterday.

the gains and advances of past five years under Awami League. She emphasised "rebuilding democratic institutions, respect for human rights and ensuring rule of law as well as security of common man in view of the ever deteriorating

law-and-order situation" in the country. Peter Manikas, Director, Asia Programs, NDI, also attended the meeting. She also attended a luncheon hosted by Ken Wollack and attended by NDI Board members Harriett Babbit and Nicholas Rey. Also present were officials and representatives from US Department of State, Human Rights and other institutions. In the afternoon, Sheikh Hasina

met with former US first lady Senator Hillary Clinton at her Senate office and discussed regional issues as well as the current situation in Bangladesh.

Senator Clinton acknowledged the substantial advances Bangladesh made under Sheikh Hasina's government in the field of poverty alleviation, empowerment of women, self-sufficiency in flood production and economic growth.

Senator Hillary Clinton, wife of former President Bill Clinton, emphasised the need to build on these tremendous achievements. But she expressed concern over reported "human rights violations" and "violence on women and religious minorities" in Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain

Chowdhury and her son Sajeeb Wazed accompanied and assisted her in the discussions. Hasına

### FROM PAGE 12 Hasina said the alliance government has created a reign of terror in the country by unleashing torture,

killing, repression, rape and extortion, and these will only accelerate She appreciated the students,

teachers, officials and staff of Dhaka University for compelling the subservient VC and the proctor to step down through a tough student movement backed by the teachers. employees as well as the people in general

"By overthrowing the VC and the proctor, the DU students have achieved a partial victory and their total victory will come through the acceptance of their 7-point demand." Hasina said demanding immediate withdrawal of the cases filed against the students and teach-

The Awami League chief anded immediate reopening ( the university ensuring congenial academic atmosphere on the cam-

Govt to offer legal gangraped aid to poor at Natore convicts for quick STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Natore A young housewife who was staying disposal of cases at a residential hotel here was raped allegedly by the hotel owner's son and two employees on Wednesday

NEWS

#### The alleged rapists were BSS. Dhaka

The victim was identified as The government has taken some Kulsum Begum (not her actual important decisions for quick disname) of Indirkali areas in Pirozpur. posal of cases of the convicted The young housewife came to accused in jail custody. Natore with her two children

hotel at Nichabazar in the town.

Hossain Munnu; manager of the

hotel Shamim Reza Khokon and

Dulal, an emplyee, forcibly entered

her room at the dead of night and

son and a five-year-old daughter-

Her children-a seven-year-old

hotel owner Monwar

Asleep at the time.

Acting VC

and research on the campus.

juice to end the hunger strike.

of the Institute of Social Welfare has

FROM PAGE 1

different halls.

raped her.

The decisions include offering Wednesday afternoon for some legal assistance through lawyers to private purpose and rented a room the prisoners who cannot afford the at Natore Boarding, a residential expenditure of appointing lawyers in the High Court and fixing two According to the case filed by the benches on the same day of a week victim with the Sadar Police Station for hearing on the appeal cases. yesterday, Tuhin, 27, son of the

The managing council of the national committee of government's legal aid organisation took the decisions at a meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

Hearing on the jail appeal cases would be held in two separate benches every Wednesday. Lawyers of the government's legal aid organisation would be imparted training and a 28-member lawyers panel has already been formed in this regard.

Presided over by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed, the meeting was attended, among others, by Awami League lawmaker Mostafizur Rahman, eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, Law Secretary Afzal Hossain Ahmed, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Modabbir Hossain, Inspector General of Prisons Brigadier General Zillur Rahman. Jativa Ain Sahayata Sangstha Director Nasrin

### Khulna BL hunger strikes. He offered them fruit college students Meanwhile, Prof. Atiqur Rahman go on rampage been appointed as the acting proc-STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Students of Government BL College put up a barricade on Khulna-

Jessore road at Daulatpur yesterday morning to press for upgrading the college to a full-fledged university.

They also damaged six trucks and two passenger buses during the road barricade programme that continued for more than two hours from 10 am.

At one stage, some unruly students pelted brick chips at police. Police clubbed the unruly students and brought the situation under control.

nymity Four students, identified as Liton, The university regulations stipu-Shamima Akhter, Tapash and late that the Senate of the university Rafizar, were injured in police elect a three-member panel for the appointment of VC within the short possible time and send it to the president, also the chancellor of the

university, for choosing one as the Shazneen case The acting VC will run the office in the meantime. On June 16, the Senate elected a three-member

the other member

BCL leader shot dead at Boalkhali in Ctg STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal allegedly gunned down a BCL leader in front of his father at Boalkhali upazila yesterday (Thursday) noon.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Azim, 28, vice president of the Popadia union unit of BCL and son of Md. Abu Mian.

Sources said. Azim and his father were returning home from Chittagong when a gang of 10 to 12 JCD men wavlaid them. They roughed up Azim at Baiggyertek area of Popadia union at around 1.00pm. They also beat up Abu Mia as he tried to rescue his son and repeatedly pleaded the JCD activists to spare his son's life.

The father's plea fell into deaf ears and the cadres suddenly fired twice that killed Azim on the spot. The killers, then, left the scene, sources said. No case was filed in this connec-

tion till filing of this report late last niaht.

#### national legal aid organisation as an Graft case institution. Financial assistance for

the legal aid has been assured by FROM PAGE 1 the World Bank and the UNDP, the As per Rajuk rules, one cannot apply for another plot if he or she Emerging from the meeting, Dr already owns one. Kamal Hossain said that the number

While applying for a second plot. Saieda submitted an affidavit claiming that she had no plot. The BAC has filed around 30

cases against AL ministers and leaders after the BNP came to power through the October 1 general elections last year.

### AL programme FROM PAGE 12 ised on the occasion.

Addressing the programme, Samad Azad said, "Those who want Science faculty were the most to protect the killers of Bangabandhu who were condemned to death are the state terrorists and collaborators of the killers. are widely being tipped to become

Awami League presidium members Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak MP, Matia Chowdhury, M Rahmat Ali MP, Abdul Mannan, BKL general secretary Harun-ar-Rashid Hawlader and vice-president Motahar Hossain Mollah also spoke on the occasion.

## Hunger strike FROM PAGE 1

Prof. Yusuf Haider sympathised with his colleagues and assured them of immediate reopening of the university. "I know my students have suffered a great loss with the closure of the university." he commented.

FROM PAGE 12 He criticised the police attack on waterways safe. Prof. Anwar Hossain, chairman of the department of Biochemistry and whether the vessels follow the on other teachers. He was also keen to meet other demands of the teachers

Earlier, addressing a rally of the ordinance. striking teachers, speakers demanded resumption of academic activities and opening of residential

# **Malaysia arrests** 135 illegal immigrants

## AFP. Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian police yesterday arrested 135 illegal immigrants seeking asylum outside the UN refugee agency here in a bid to escape iailing and whipping under tough new laws, and warned of najor sweeps ahead.

The immigrants, including women and children, were picked up outside the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) centre in Kuala Lumpur after the expiry of a Wednesday midnight amnesty deadline, a police spokesman told AFP.

"They are mostly Rohingyas from Myanmar, Acehnese and other Indonesians. All of them have no legal documents and will be handed over to the immigration department," he said.

It was up to the department to decide if the detainees would face the harsh new immigration laws, he said, adding that more arrests were expected.

Under the new laws, both illegal immigrants and their employers face a mandatory six months in jail and possibly up to six strokes of the cane.

Thousands of desperate illegal immigrants flooded Malaysia's ports this week in a panicked rush to return home ahead of the expiry of the amnesty, and a police spokesman said they would now begin nabbing illegal immigrants who have made no effort to flee.

"We are going to launch major sweeps on certain areas with large communities of illegal workers," he told AFP.

Immigration Director General Mohammad Jamal Kamdi was quoted by The Star newspaper as saying that some 300,000 illegal immigrants had left under the fourmonth amnesty which began March 22.

He has said that illegal immigrants who could prove they were willing to leave the country would be granted a one-month grace period before being arrested

But the Bangkok-based International Organisation for Migration said Malaysia's policies

The mobile courts would check

# Dist admin asked

and the coast guard would monitor overloading and life saving measures in vessels operating in the sea and the coastal belt.

Inland Shipping Ordinance, 1976 Besides, the master and the and various rules, regulations and driver of each vessel have to display aovernment orders issued under the their certificates at a certain place. On the other hand, three commit-

The letter sent to the DCs said tees formed to check the design and the BIWTA and the Department of Shipping alone cannot implement all structure of vessels operating or various routes have already started the rules and regulations. The district administrations should work. monitor whether those are properly The government also decided that licence and route permit of followed in their respective districts. The country has more than 6,000 passenger vessels would be kilometres of water ways during cancelled if the inquiry committees monsoon and 4,000 kilometres

lextile perks FROM PAGE 1 signboards. The team also collected some 'false' documents of foreign import-

tor of the university.

ers located in Hong Kong and Dubai from the possession of the factory owners The team also found that the

bank accounts of the factories did not have any money deposited against the claimed exports. President of the Bangladesh

Specialised Textile and Power Loom Mills Association (BSTPLMA) Mohammad Shahiada Mian categorically denied involvement of any of his members in misappropriation of government fund.

He said the alleged factories are not registered with the association. He alleged that a section of corrupt government officials are

FROM PAGE 1 accusing Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, a domestic help at his

action.

Bangla where members of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association were observing token

of different faculties and provosts of After taking the office, the new VC urged the students, teachers, officers and staff to help restore congenial atmosphere for education Later, he went to the Aparajeo

of the university's treasurer, deans

Begum and leaders of Nationa

pending in the High Court for long

have been prepared for hearing.

The hearing would begin soon, he

have also been asked to make a list

of the accused who are not getting

As it is not possible for the gov-

ernment to give legal assistance to

all at first stage, the government has

initially selected women, adoles-

cents and elderly people to offer

taken different steps to develop the

of false cases is increasing gradu-

ally. Legal action is needed against

those who harass others by filing

law, in addition to stopping false

cases, the government should take

prospective candidates for the post

Asaduzzaman and Prof. SMA Fayez

The names of Prof.

Prof. Fayez had earlier served as

provost of Mohsin Hall and chairman

of the Public Service Commission

ernment also would have a look at

the performance of acting VC Prof.

AFM Yusuf Haider. "He could be

appointed the VC if his performance

Meanwhile, the Awami League

backed Blue Panel teachers are yet

to decide 'whether or not to fight for

the VC panel' in a meeting soon, said

an influential teacher of the Blue

Panel yesterday, requesting ano-

Panel. Among them, the immediate

past vice-chancellor, Prof.

Anwarullah Chowdhury, badged the

highest number of votes, while Prof

Asaduzzaman stood second. Acting

DU VC Prof. AFM Yusuf Haider was

Anwarullah Chowdhury vice-

teachers under the Blue Panel

staved off the election. Earlier, the

BNP-led coalition government on its

takeover after the last general elec-

tion removed Prof. AK Azad

Chowdhury from the post of VC and

appointed Prof. Anwarullah

Chowdhury of the Department of

Anthropology on November 12

British rule was applied for the first

The act formulated during the

under the University Act of 1897

participate in development work

chancellor for a four-vear term.

The president appointed Prof.

The Awami League-backed

is up to the mark," one source said.

The sources also said the gov

care that nobody faces any hin-

He said to establish the rule of

He said the government has

legal aid, Barrister Moudud said.

money, the minister said.

The district and sessions judges

facilities due to want of

The law minister said 136 cases

Women Lawyers' Association.

added.

legal

minister said.

false cases

drance to file a case.

FROM PAGE 1

the next VC.

of VC

(PSC).

VC hunt on

## were not aligned to its manpower needs and called for a review of its migration management. "Meting out punishment like caning on illegals is not going to resolve the problem because there

is a need for them, there are employers willing to hire them," chief of mission Farooq Azam told the news agency.

Employers also warned the hasty move could paralyse the country's export-driven economy amid severe shortages in the construction and plantation sectors.

The Malaysian Employers Federation executive director, Shamsuddin Bardan, said some 80 per cent of construction workers were foreigners, of whom 70 per cent were illegals mainly from Indonesia.

## JBWG submits final repor to foreign ministry UNB, Dhaka

### The Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG), formed to address the unresolved issues between India and Bangladesh, submitted its final report to the Foreign Ministry yester-

day. The JBWG was formed after talks between the foreign secretaries of Bangladesh and India in New Delhi Dec 13-14, 2000 to deal with the unresolved issues pertaining to

the 1974 Muiib-Indira Agreement. The JBWG was mandated to

address issues like finalisation of undemarcated 6.5 kms boundary at Muhuri in Belonia sector. Lathitila in Moulvibazar and Daikatha in Panchagarh, exchange of enclaves. land in adverse possession and construction of boarder pillars in

areas already demarcated. The JBWG has completed its job through three meetings the first of which was held in New Delhi June 11-14, 2001, the second in Dhaka

Ministry press release.

July 2-4, 2001 and the third in India March 26-27, 2002, said a Foreign

at Kanaighat, the Kushiara at Amalshid and Sheola, and Meghna at Bhairab Bazar were flowing above their respective danger levels.

The rivers in the southeastern hill basin were flowing below their respective danger marks as the water continued to recede.

Meanwhile, UNB from Tangail reports that the overall flood situation in the district aggravated further with the collapse of the town protection embankment although the Jamuna and Dhaleswari remained steady.

An over 100-feet portion of the town protection embankment collapsed at Birnahali point through which water was entering, flooding fresh areas of Nagarpur, Delduar, Bhuapur, Gopalpur, Kalihati and Sadar upazilas.

Locals feared Tangail town might movement." the former prime minisgot under water if the flow of water aushing through the breach could ter said not be checked.

## Tale of torment

#### FROM PAGE 1

The 24 students, including 18 of those arrested, went back to the temporary office of the commission. The commissioner started taking statements at about 2:30pm, which lasted for about three hours.

The arrested 18 students submitted a joint statement to the commission giving a detailed account of the police excesses on the female students in the small hours of July 24, and arrest of and harassment on them in the police custody. Justice Tafazzal read out the

statement before all the 18 students and wanted to know whether any of them differed with it. The students said the statement was all right

Justice Tafazzal then told them that he would record their statement one by one.

One of the students, who was called in first, said the JCD outsiders kept threatening the students of the hall well before July 24 and situation in the hall was tense since then.

At 12:00 on July 24, policemen, most of them male, broke open the lock of the main entrance to the hall and let loose a volley of expletives. In the second phase at 3:00am, they started beating up the students indiscriminately, and dragged and pulled them out of bed and rooms, she said. The policemen bundled

She also called for withdrawing the conspiratorial cases filed against 16 student leaders of Awami League-backed Chhatra League, including its acting president Saifuzzaman Shikhor, Baloram Poddar, Delwar Hossain and Hemavet Hossain Himu.

Referring to the police atrocities in Shamsunnahar Hall, the opposition leader said such heinous incidents didn't take place in the 80 years' history of the university.

"By building up a strong resistance against injustice, repression and harassment, the students have once again proved that the student community is the conscience of a nation. They have alorified the image of students through this

Mian regretted that many textile factories were on the brink of closure due to nonpayment of cash

volved in the practice.

incentives in the last few months. President of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporter Association (BGMEA) Kutubuddin Ahmed also demanded extensive investigation into the scam and exemplary punishment to the guilty.

He also denied involvement of any garment factories in such fraudulent practices.

The investigation report further observed that a big gang is involved in siphoning off money in the name of cash incentives by showing fake mills and false exports.

The eight mills are Anwara Weaving Factory, Ayesha Fabrics, LK Fabrics, Nipa Garments and Textile Industries, Morium Textile, Silvi Textile and Rajdhani Fabrics.

## BTTB

## FROM PAGE 12

each new connection in the Rajshahi region. But Sharfuddin the severely roughed up students declined to go along with unionists, into the police van. Apart from the which reportedly caused his police, the JCD outsiders also beat removal from the office.

Meantime, such actions have led The commission decided to to widespread discontent among record the statements of the other the honest BTTB officials.

"It will be impossible to run the telecom network if the government openly pampers the identified criminals," said a BTTB official. "If the government fails to control these elements, the BTTB would soon become another Adamjee."

ance of 'restraining' the secretary.

repeated attempts.

house in Fatulla: Officials blame the telecom secretary for the growing arrogance

UNB, Narayanganj

on BNP leader's

up the students, she added.

Armed attack

students sometime later

5 injured

Five people were injured, two with bullets, in an armed attack on a local BNP leader's house in Farazikanda area of Fatulla Wednesday.

Police said a gang of miscreants of Baburail area attacked the house of BNP leader Salahuddin at noon. The reason behind the attack could not be known

Two of the injured -- Shahid, 20, and Zakir, 25, -- were admitted to hospital with bullet injuries. On information, police rushed to

the spot and arrested one of the hoodlums, Masum, along with a revolver. A case was filed with Fatulla thana.

esidence, on April 24, 1998.

Mojibur Rahman, additional superintendent of police of the CID, Dhaka, filed a rape case with the same police station, accusing seven people including Shahid after six months of investigation into the Shazneen murder case.

Accused Shahid, Hasan, Badal, Shani Ram, Minu and Parvin were present in the court yesterday.

Special public prosecutors Arfan Uddin Khan, ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and Mahbub Ahmed and advocates Saima Khanam. Mohammad Ali Hossain and Anisur Rahman appeared in the court on behalf of the complainant.

The Shazneen murder case, pending with the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, was earlier stayed by the High Court (HC). The HC order will remain valid till disposal of the rape case.

time at the university in removing and appointing a VC. Trial of the rape case began at the special court on July 9, 2000.

# Stipend for HSC

#### FROM PAGE 12

female students of colleges and madrassahs of Manikganj, Narsingdi, Savar, Keraniganj, Dohar and Gazinur

For the 1st-year students, cheque for Tk 740 was given to each as stipend for six months from January to June 2002 at the rate of Tk 65 per month and book allowance Tk 350. The amount was Tk 790 for a 2nd-year student.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia distributed the cheques among 17 students. Education Minister Dr Osman Farugue, State Minister for Education Ehsanul Hug Milon and Deputy Minister Abdus Salam Pintu gave out of the BTTB's labour union. On May the stipend among the rest. 29, the secretary convened a meet-

The total project cost is Tk 20.79 ing of the BTTB officials. Violating crore for the January-June period. The the official decorum, the secretary second phase of the project started also invited some union leaders to from July. the meeting. In their presence, the

Criteria for receiving the stipend secretary allegedly accused all are: The student will have to be a BTTB officials of corruption and regular student of Higher Secondary highly praised the union's activities. or Alim class, secure at least second The telecom secretary also division (45% of the total marks) or GPA 2.5 in the SSC examination, have allegedly verbally abused the BTTB officials. Later, the BTTB officials at least 75 per cent college/school attendance, remain unmarried till HSC complained to the telecom minister or Alim examination and a girl of class about the incident. The minister 12 will have to secure 45% of the total ended his duty just by giving assurmarks in the class 11 annual examina-

These allegations were faxed to Addressing the function, the prime the secretary for his comments, but minister said the country would not he did not reply. The telecom minisadvance without providing opportunity ter could not be contacted despite to the womenfolk, who constitute half of the country's total population, to

panel for appointment of vice- chanhalls to students cellor. All were teachers of the White

They also demanded withdrawal of cases filed against the teachers and students, and removal of BDR and police forces from the campus. Deploring the police atrocities at

Shamsunnahar Hall and the consequent events that unleashed a reign of terror on campus, the teachers demanded punitive actions against those involved.

They also maintained that the law enforcing agencies must take prior permission from concerned university authorities before entering any students' dormitory.

Presided over by Prof. Abul Khaer, the rally was addressed by former vice chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof. Mezbah Kamal and Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan.

## Security siege

FROM PAGE 1 Students will bring out a victory procession on the day of the university's reopening, marking the resignation by the former VC and the proctor.

Meanwhile, hundreds of DU students flocked to the Central Shaheed Minar in the afternoon to join a rally organised by general students, dodging the police lookout. They burst into a triumphal jubilation over the resignation by the former VC and the proctor.

Speakers at the rally demanded immediate reopening of the university and pullout of law enforcers from the campus.

Abdul Matin, a language movement hero, Prof. Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof. Anu Muhammad and Noor Mohammad, guardian of a student, addressed the rally.

It was also addressed by Lucky, a student of the Shamsunnahar Hall, who was harassed and arrested by police in the early hours of July 24.

The police and the BDR were on quard at five points of entry to the campus, student halls, residence of the vice-chancellor, the Central Shaheed Minar and the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC).

The campus was off-limits to people yesterday. No vehicles except ambulance were allowed to enter the campus.

and under comprehensive planning. Armed security personnel had The design and location of the restricted the entry of students to the bridges must be based on studies of campus and put up barbed-wire the water flow, traffic movement, barricades at the DU-Shahbagh, road alignment and population Nilkhet, Palashi, Chankharpool and density. Rajuk however took up the the High Court Gate intersections.

find their design and structure during winter as the water level in defective. rivers rises or falls depending on The BIWTA officials would also warn people through microphones The government took a number at major launch terminals about the of short term and long term meadanger of journey by defective sures to ensure safety in waterways vessels. Safety guidelines for water following two major launch acciways would be displayed at these dents in May this year. The letter terminals. The on-duty Ansars in issued by shipping secretary Golam launche and steamers would also Rahman mentioned some of the create awareness about safety

government decisions in this regard. These are: Every launch or steamer has to mention passenger capacity on a red board and display a list of life saving equipment on a separate board. The district administrations must check the vessels in their respective areas while the navy

seasons

FROM PAGE 12

ministry.

through microphones. It was also decided that there would a special box at each major launch terminal to preserve names and addresses of passengers so that the government can know it if a vessel faces a disaster.

# Rajuk lags

A source said Rajuk is delaying the

launching of the project because it is

waiting to hand over more plots just

before the project starts. Rajuk

cannot find the plots at present as

"This is an obvious trick by some

Rajuk officials who are waiting to

strike the final blow on the lake by

guickly extracting plots from the

lake." said a source in the housing

Meanwhile, Rajuk has not been

sitting idle. In a strange move, its

officials started processing a project

component of constructing six

bridges, which was originally cate-

gorised as third priority in the pro-

ject's concept paper. The construc-

tion of six bridges at different points

of the lake will cost nearly Tk 37

crores. Rajuk sources said a sepa-

rate project concept paper is now

awaiting the Planning

The Daily Star on conditions of

anonymity that the construction of

six bridges must be completed in

accordance with the master plan

An expert on urban planning told

Commission's approval.

the banks are submerged

project in a hurry and brushed aside such technical requirements

Sources concerned said they could not understand how the construction work of this bridge could be hastened.

"Right now they need to conduct a survey and demarcate the lake on an urgent basis, and to do so Rajuk must declare the lake a project area," said a source.

Raiuk's Chief Engineer Saidur Rahman claimed that the bridges would prevent encroachment on the water body. He said the actual development project had received top priority and that the file was under process and lying with the chairman. The bridges will be constructed under a comprehensive plan, he added.

Insiders however said construction work of these six bridges was taken up to 'satisfy' a few contractors who are now pursuing the matter with top Rajuk officials.

## Camel kids

### FROM PAGE 1

citizens in the Middle Eastern countries to be used as camel jockeys every year.

Scores of children were rescued and brought back home earlier from the grip of such wealthy persons.

tion."

plied to 42.72 lakh.

been given since 1994 amounting to Tk 1427.15 crore, she told the func-

Referring to her party's election commitment in this regard, the prime minister said, "We don't believe in words, but in deeds. An awakening has been created in the country in the field of women education. There is no sorry scenario now, as in the past."

much the rate of admission of girls at secondary and higher-secondary levels. The rate of female student dropouts is now much lower and pass-percentage higher," Khaleda

dignified and self-reliant nation. "To us education means development. Women empowerment is also possible through spreading educa-Recalling the inauguration of

national stipend programme for secondary-level girl students in 1994 during her first term, Khaleda said the number of recipients of stipend at SSC-level across the country was 8.89 lakh at that time and now it multi-Over 2.02 crore stipends have

"We have been able to increase

national progress Reaffirming her government's policy, the PM said education is an important tool for poverty alleviation, employment generation, production and development and for building a

She made it clear that confining

women to the house won't help