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## Inside Today

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#### Right-wing Presidential Contender Can't be Ignored

Patric Buchanan, vying to replace US president Bush as representative of the Republican Party, has been called a racist. But his popularity means he can't be dismissed lightly. **Page 4**

### International



Marion Country Court releases photo of Desire Washington who accused boxer Mike Tyson of raping her.



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Banking and Development Finding human development. **Page 8**

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Dhaka Day by Day



Of love and fire. **Page 3**

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Girl killed in road mishap

GAZIPUR, Feb 14: A minor girl died on the spot when she was hit by a speeding truck on the Kaliahokr-Nabinagar road here today. Witnesses said the accident occurred at Borolpara bus stand, about 17 kilometres from here when the truck hit rag-picker Selma Akhter (8) from behind at about 12 noon. The truck driver along with his vehicle managed to flee, reports UNB.

#### UNO office ransacked

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 14: Office of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Kazipur was ransacked today allegedly by the activists of a political party. Official sources said a group of people belonging to the local unit of BNP attacked the UNO office in the morning as their leader was not invited at a canal digging programme, reports UNB.

#### Satyajit's condition improving

CALCUTTA, Feb 14: Indian film director and honorary Oscar award winner, Satyajit Ray, hospitalised with heart and kidney problems, is responding well to treatment, the cardiologist treating him said here today, reports AFP.

## Dhaka may seek world help to tackle refugee problem Myanmar FM's visit uncertain

By Farid Hossain

Myanmar Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw's planned visit to Bangladesh has become uncertain, a Foreign Office source said on Friday. Gyaw was scheduled to travel to Bangladesh first week of this month to discuss the influx of Rohingya refugees and the border tensions between the two countries. "We don't have any new schedule for the visit," the source said. The invitation to Gyaw was extended during Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman's visit to Myanmar (Burma) last November. In his Jan 15 parliamentary

statement Rahman said his Myanmar counterpart was expected to visit Bangladesh first week of February. The source said Myanmar has made no further contact with Bangladesh about Gyaw's planned visit which was expected to ease the border tension. Meanwhile, Bangladesh plans to seek international help for an estimated one lakh Rohingya Muslim refugees who have streamed into the country to escape alleged ill-treatment by Myanmar's military government. "We are moving to that direction," the source said when

asked if Bangladesh would seek international relief for the refugees. He said the refugee situation had reached such a point that it might not be possible for Bangladesh to tackle it alone. According to him international organizations like United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) want to help the refugees. "We are still trying to solve the problem bilaterally. But we are deeply concerned by the increased flow of refugees," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mustafizur Rahman, now in London at the start of his eight-nation tour of Britain, Italy, Belgium, Germany, France, Oman, Bahrain and UAE, will raise the Rohingya issue with the leaders of these countries. Diplomatic sources say a number of Western, Asian and Middle Eastern countries are ready to start relief work for the refugees. "So are some foreign NGOs. Diplomats from these countries have already visited Teknaf and Cox's Bazar to assess the situation and determine how best they can help." See Page 12 Col 3

## Accord to finalise Tinbigha transfer modalities

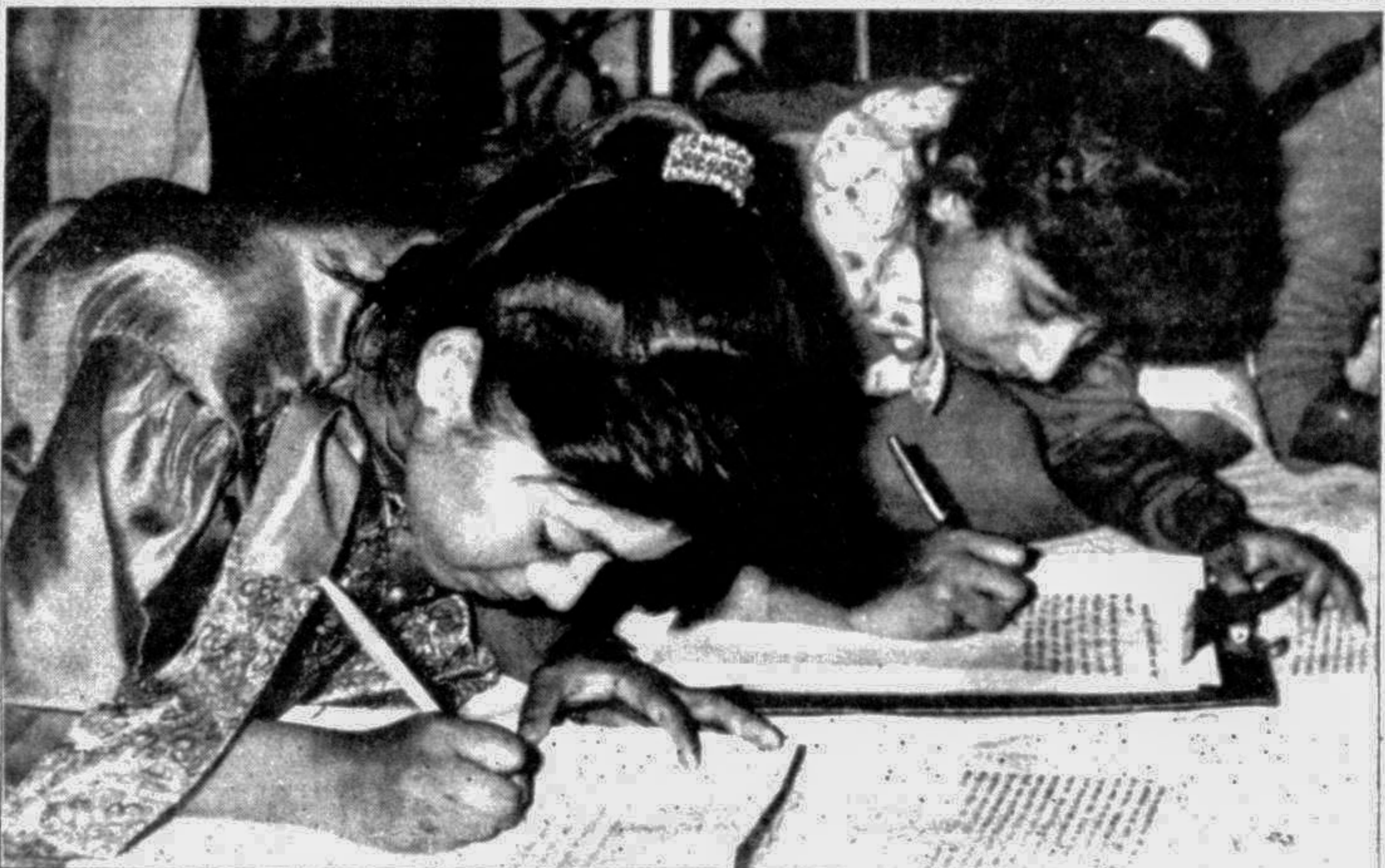
Dhaka and New Delhi have agreed to finalise modalities of transferring the Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh at a meeting in the Indian capital as soon as possible, reports UNB. Officials said the agreement was reached at the three-day official level talks between the two countries that ended in Dhaka Friday. India is to hand over the corridor to Bangladesh under Border Demarcation Agreement of 1974 allowing Bangladesh transit to its Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves. Special Secretary of the

Ministry of Home Affairs of India PP Srivastava and Additional Foreign Secretary AH Mahmood Ali led the sides to their respective countries at the talks held in a "friendly and cordial atmosphere". The talks which began Wednesday discussed modalities of the transferring of the corridor in pursuance of agreements of 1974 and 1982 between the two countries. The Indian delegation, during its stay in Dhaka, called on Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman.

## Countdown to Shaheed Day

Star Report

The Jubo (youth) League's journey towards its historic role in the Language Movement of 1952 began at Jinnah Bazaar on March 27-28, 1951. In an effort to foil the youth conference organised for those two days, the Muslim League government, according to Badruddin Umar's three-volume "East Bengal's Language Movement," extended Section 144 inside the hall of the Bar Association Library in Dhaka, where the meeting was scheduled to take place. The conference, with 250 delegates, was then shifted to the other side of the river Buriganga, where several thousand members of the general See Page 12 Col 6



WORKING ON BASICS: Children at a handwriting contest organised by National Museum Friday as part of its Ekushey programme. Story on Metropolitan Page. —Star photo

## BNP has violated its poll pledges: Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina Friday accused the BNP government of actively protecting interests of the rich and the looters in society, disregarding the common man's acute economic hardships, reports UNB. Top brass in the government are allowing in luxury when the poor and limited income groups, battered by price-hike, are struggling for their livelihood," she said addressing an extended meeting of the city unit of Awami League at its Nawabpur office. Referring to the socio-economic situation, Hasina who is also the Leader of Opposition in Parliament said that unrest prevails in every sector of national life. "Law and order has deteriorated, soaring prices of essentials have aggravated people's misery and the non-government teachers are on indefinite strike, she added, but the government has totally failed to tackle the situation. The Awami League chief accused BNP leadership of violat-

ing the joint declaration of the three alliances and its own election commitment. "The ruling party is also trying to politicise the state machinery to consolidate its power and run the country in an autocratic style." Hasina called for building up resistance against that she said all autocratic and whimsical policies and steps of the BNP government to save the nation from an "unwarranted" situation. She further alleged that the government was hatching new conspiracy to distort the history of 1971 liberation war and to rehabilitate "war criminal" Prof Golam Azam of Jamaat-e-Islami. The Awami League leader also called for repealing the indemnity ordinance to "stop the politics of coup and killing once for all and clear the way for holding trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman." Recalling the Awami League's history of struggle, See Page 12 Col 8

## Body to cure sick industries likely

By Sohel Manzur

The government plans to float an institution like that of India's Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to take curative measures for the sick industries, a source said. The matter is, however, at the primary stage the source said adding that the high-powered body on sick industries would remain active till the floating of such an institution. The committee for revival and rehabilitation of the sick industries at a recent meeting presided over by Industry Secretary Ekram Hossain observed that a permanent system should have to be developed to take both curative and preventive measures to overcome the situations. The meeting also observed that the actual number of sick industries would be more than that had already applied for rehabilitation to the body and decided to accept more applications from the entrepreneurs of the sick industries, the source added. The body reviewed the overall situation, prevailing in the industrial sector of the country and stressed the need for sending delegate to the countries abroad to gather experiences in retrieving sick units. India enacted an act titled 'Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act' in 1985 to salvage the sick industries under which the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) was founded. The body has reportedly achieved remarkable success.

## Khulna — a city in limbo

Waheedul Haque

Khulna is a city in limbo. It has been so ever since independence. Right from Noapara to the city, a stretch of 30 kilometres presents proofs galore of an aborted megalopolis. Khulna is not an island. A vast region was superactive socially, economically and culturally only decades hence and Khulna was the hub of that. Khulna's stagnation signifies the stagnation of that whole region. The present state of the region as well as the city can any moment slide into a free-fall state of all-round decay. Technically called the western zone, the plummeting of the socio-economic situation there would have unmistakable and irreparable damaging impact on what is properly called North Bengal. The East-West Inter-connector has only postponed the execution and prolonged its stay in the death row. The sentence however hangs on and the Jamuna Bridge alone will fail to prove a bridge. For, Khulna is ill-fated for completely different reasons coming from quite other directions. The clue can be found in the Pakistani colonial administration's wanting it to develop into an industrial supercity bigger even than Chittagong. Mongla was at the heart of the high hope. It was a natural harbour, more natural than

Chittagong. Chittagong was not the entrepot or gateway to all of Bangladesh. It allowed access to sea only for only the Chittagong and Dhaka Divisions. The Khulna and Rajshahi Divisions, separated from the other two by two of the mightiest rivers in the world, had no way to sea. Mongla came as a messiah for them. And if Mongla served them, as Chittagong did the other two districts, Khulna was going to become a megalopolis at a breakneck speed. And the beginnings of that were begun in right earnest. By employing a very good parallel one could say this initiative by the Pakistani colonialists so closely resembled the East India Company's haste in developing ports and laying rail tracks. Be that as it may, the industrial units set up before '71, some of them as big as the KNM, were assured viability through a proper development of the Mongla port. The port didn't develop on the projected lines after independence. This happened in spite of the fact that Mongla hadn't ever suffered from a tidal bore of the November '70 magnitude or a tropical storm of the force of the April 29, '91 one. And is physically situated out of such dangers. There is a widespread perception in Khulna that Chittagong and Dhaka-based vested business interests, spe-

cially water-borne carrier owners, were at the root of the virtual scuttling of the Mongla port as the second and equal entrepot for Bangladesh. The stake may be considerably more and more powerful quarters may be involved in the act of sabotaging Mongla. One measure of minimising the importance of the Mongla port and its significance in the development of the whole western-northern greater half of the nation lies concretely in the failure of the successive governments to throw up a bridge over the Rupsa river. The great East-West Inter-connector would still be greater if it were built to carry the gas pipelines as well. That would have meant a sure fillip to industrialisation of the western zone making it imperative to build Mongla to somewhere around the size of Chittagong at least in handling capacity. That hasn't come to be. And the vision of a Khulna industrial megalopolis is receding faster than a mirage — and the beginnings made in the sixties have by now started rotting. Together with that is dying a very good way of reviving the life and economy in the desertifying Barind — the whole of the aridising North. Khulna has no water hydrants and is drier than Barisal or Faridpur. It has one of the most ungrainly roads situation in this country of bad See Page 12 Col 8

## ORBIS arrives today

By Staff Correspondent

ORBIS, the roving eye hospital on an aircraft, arrives in the capital today on a three week visit. According to Dr Mustafizur Rahman, chairman of the organising committee for the visit, the ORBIS faculty physicians and other specialists will conduct daily eye-clinics and will also provide hands-on training to local doctors and nurses during their stay here. Established in the early-80s as a non-profit voluntary organisation, the New York-based ORBIS regularly travels to developing countries around the world on a DC-8 aircraft to provide eye-care to the needy and impart training on local doctors and nurses. Equipped with modern state-of-the-art ophthalmological appliances, ORBIS is coming here at the invitation of the Ministry of Health and the Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh. This is the third such visit of the flying eye hospital to the country following similar visits in 1985 and 1989. Members of the ORBIS team also came in 1990, without the plane, to update the training course for nurses in Dhaka. Director of the Islamiya Eye Hospital Dr Rahman, who is See Page 12 Col 6

## Three republics opt out of CIS military command

MINSK (Belarus), Feb 14: Three republics refused Friday to participate in a united Commonwealth armed force, while the other eight drafted plans for a "unified command" to remain in place for two years, reports AP. A Belarusian government spokesman said Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan opted out of any military role in the Commonwealth of Independent States. The remaining eight republics appointed a working group to draft an agreement for a transitional "unified command," said the spokesman, Stanislav Ogurtsov. The dispute over the armed forces threatens the future of young Commonwealth of 11 nations that arose from the disintegrated Soviet Union nine weeks ago. Ogurtsov had no other details on the latest development, and it was not immediately clear whether the majority of Commonwealth leaders had adopted a compromise proposal by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. Nazarbayev, seeking to end the military dispute, had proposed that former Soviet republics be allowed to form their own conventional armies, and then decide whether to join a unified force. Nazarbayev's press spokesman, Seithazy Matayev, told reporters the Kazakh president proposed a transition

period, under which republics would be given jurisdiction over former Soviet forces on their territories. Each republic could then decide whether it wanted to create its own independent armed forces, and whether it eventually wanted to join a unified force, Matayev said. Republics could belong to the Commonwealth's political and economic structure, but not its armed forces, he quoted Nazarbayev as proposing. "Let's have a transition period to decide all military questions," Matayev told reporters during a recess at the third summit of Commonwealth leaders. "Those Commonwealth states that want to unite their armed forces would conclude an agreement and those who don't want to, would create their own armed forces." Nazarbayev's proposal only appeared to encompass conventional forces, and would not apply to the strategic nuclear weapons housed in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Those weapons now are under central control, and the nuclear republics have repeatedly said they are committed to such a system. AFP adds: Leaders adjourned the summit today to consider a compromise formula put forward by Kazakhstan President. [Earlier story on Page 5]

## JKLF calls general strike today to protest killings

MUZAFFARABAD, Feb 14: Kashmiri leader Amanullah Khan, speaking at the funeral of an activist from his party killed in clashes on the Indian border, called today for a state-wide general strike to begin this weekend, reports AFP. Sajjad Ahmed, 19, a nephew of Khan's deputy, Raja Muzaffar, was buried in a city graveyard to the firing of Kalashnikov rifles. He was killed in clashes at the border with India on Wednesday when security forces prevented activists from the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) from crossing the ceasefire line separating the Indian and Pakistani armies in Kashmir. Khan also informed the

In a brief speech at the funeral, Khan called for a general strike beginning Saturday, but directed members of his men to remain disciplined and not to damage public or private property. Sources here said around 4,000 people, including many wailing women, attended the funeral. Banners were raised protesting against state Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum for using force against the marchers. Khan said that before Sajjad died he left a message saying he was leaving the movement in the hands of others who should carry on the Kashmiri freedom movement. Khan also informed the

mourners that another person injured Wednesday and taken to a military hospital in Rawalpindi had died today. Confusion remains on Wednesday's exact casualty figures. According to the humanitarian group Edhi Trust, 16 people were killed, the state government has said only four died, and Pakistani Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Friday put the toll at six. Speaking at a news conference in Islamabad, Ahmed also said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government considered it had a "religious and constitutional responsibility to support Muslims in the Indian occupied territory." "The government will stand

by the Kashmiris at all cost and it was ready to pay any price," Ahmed said, while stressing that diplomatic and political pressures would be renewed on India to implement the 1948 UN resolution on Kashmir's right to self-determination. Muzaffarabad remained peaceful today, with many shops closed and thir traffic. And police, though on alert, maintained a low profile during the funeral. A five-party opposition alliance separate from the JKLF also issued a call for a protest strike Sunday. Announcing the decision at a press conference, Mumtaz Rathore, the leader of the

Kashmir chapter of Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party, demanded the removal of the Qayyum state administration. Blaming Qayyum for the killings at the border, Rathore called for the replacement of his administration with a consensus government formed from all of Kashmir's parties. Meanwhile, three ministers in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir accused Khan of being an "Indian tool" for fomenting trouble on the Pakistani side of the border. The freedom struggle had received a setback because of the JKLF leader's "irresponsible action," and it would take time to make up this

loss, ministers Raja Zulfikar-nah, Raja Qayyum and Ali Chughal said in a joint statement. The JKLF leaders are sowing seeds of dissensions among the Kashmiris at the behest of their foreign masters, they said. PTI from Srinagar adds: Curfew was clamped on more areas in south and north Kashmir valley today as two persons including a militant were killed in militancy-related violence, three arrested and six laid down arms in Kashmir valley since last night. The supporters of militant outfits defied curfew and staged demonstration at several places in the city.

## DSE warns dormant members of legal action

In a move to streamline the drooping Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) authorities have warned its dormant members of legal action, stock market sources said, reports UNB. The Controller of Capital Issues has recently served show cause notice on members who were found irregular on the floor or who failed to submit up-to-date audited balance sheet by the deadline as sought by the authorities last month. DSE members, served with show cause, have been asked to reply by February 25. If the answer fails to satisfy the authorities, their membership might be suspended immediately or even be cancelled. The measure is said to have been taken following allega- See Page 12 Col 3