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আগন্তুর আর কর্তৃ দিব্য কর্ম কর্ম হত থেকে আমাদের বাঁ

Students of a city school and their guardians brought out a procession yesterday demanding eradication of mosquito from the city.

— Star photo

## Deng passes away

From Page 1

revolutionary, statesman, military strategist and diplomat, and a long-tested communist fighter, the chief architect of China's socialist reforms, opening up and modernisation drive, and the founder of the theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Comrade Deng Xiaoping was among the earliest CPC members and activists. During the First Civil Revolutionary War he was first in charge of political work in the revolutionary army in northwest China. Later, he went to Wuhan, where he participated in the urgent meeting of the CPC Central Committee, i.e. the Zunyi meeting, which is of great significance as a turning point in the party history.

During the war of resistance against Japanese aggression, together with comrade Liu Bocheng, he led troops in founding the Shanxi-Hebei-Henan Revolutionary Base and other revolutionary base, and served as the Political Commissar of the 129th division and the secretary of the Taihang sub-bureau of the north China Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

Later, he served as the Acting Secretary of the North China Bureau and took charge of the work of the headquarters of the Eighth Route Army, shouldering the heavy task of leading the anti-Japanese base areas behind the enemy lines in North China. He was elected a member of the CPC Central Committee at the party's Seventh National Congress.

## Rule Nisi

From Page 1

Section one of the 11-point code of conduct prohibited construction of any stall in front of the Atomic Energy Commission, the Nutrition Institution and the mazar area.

But the BCL activists built the stalls and sold them for 2000 to 4000 per unit, sources alleged.

Talking to this correspondent, some of the buyers of such unauthorised stalls said they paid Tk 2000 for every single unit and Tk three to four thousand for double unit stalls.

**Businessman**

From Page 1  
Demra road disrupting traffic movement on the busy road for about four hours from 7 am.

Local MP A K M Shamim Osman assured the protesters that the killers would be brought to book. Later, the angry people withdrew the road barricade.

The body of Azizur Rahman was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy. His younger brother, Abdul Huq, filed a case with Shiddhinganj thana accusing 14 persons.

None was arrested till midnight, police said.

## Severe punishment

From Page 1  
ers. Jahanara Khan, Mahmuda Shawgar, Tahura Ali, Jamnall Ferdous, Hosne Ara Wahid and Syeda Jebunnesa — all MPs — Dr Kamal Hossain, Maleka Begam, Salma Sobhan and Sultan Kamal.

The suggested amendment redefined the meaning of court saying a court would mean a special tribunal formed under this act or a sessions judge's court. This broadens provisions for carrying out trials which are, under the current act, carried out only under special tribunal.

It proposed some choices for the judges for punishing the guilty under this act. Section 6 (2) of the present law only provides for death sentence to the guilty for killing of women and children during or after rape. The proposed amendment now adds a choice — life imprisonment.

"If the judge is given more than one choice (for the verdict), he would be less hesitant in completing the trial," noted Amirul Islam.

The Nari Samaj draft further adds that if a person incites or helps somebody in committing crimes punishable under this act, he would be given 10 years' imprisonment.

It also allows under-trial accused to get bail. The current act does not allow the accused to get bail during the prescribed period for the investigation into the case.

"Denying a bail deprives the accused of human rights," noted Amirul Islam.

The proposed amendment says that a special tribunal should be consisted of a judge and a sessions judge having at least two years of experience.

## Kibria tells JS Provision of capital transfer approved by previous govt

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria told the Jatiya Sangsads yesterday that capital transfer by investors from the share markets is a normal phenomenon.

Replies to a question of Jatiya Party MP Fazle Rabbi, the Finance Minister said, provision of capital transfer was approved by the previous government and any portfolio investors can take away the profit from the share market.

He said, taking away profit from the capital market cannot be dubbed as siphoning off money.

Fazle Rabbi had earlier drawn the minister's attention to alleged siphoning off of taka from the Dhaka bourse and expressed his concern whether the same would happen in the case of the National Stock Exchange.

## Ekushey '97

## Newspapers played significant role in all democratic movements'

By Staff Correspondent

The newspapers of the country have played a very significant role in our democratic movements, said Prof Shakhawat Ali Khan in the city yesterday.

He was presenting the keynote paper at a lecture session on "Panchish Bachar Bachar Bangladesher Sangbadikata" on February 17 and 18. The tour was organised by the Japanese Embassy.

"Interference from the bureaucracy which earlier used to delay the decision making process has now been reduced. But, the decisions at times are taken drastically," he added.

He, however, said, "visible changes in the implementation of the projects are yet to be noticed."

Takashahi said Japan is ready to provide more assistance to Bangladesh if it can utilise those. "Japan considers that it has obligations to the people of Bangladesh."

He appreciated decision-making process of the present government and cited the Chittagong airport project as an example. "We could not make it

under the previous regime but the present regime is sympathetic towards the project."

He said that the present government is giving due importance to the meetings with representatives of various donor agencies. In the past, sometimes meetings were cancelled even after fixing the schedule, he added.

The ECNEC meeting is now being presided over by the Prime Minister herself which was never done earlier," he added.

The ECNEC, during the previous government's rule, also rejected some of the Japanese aided projects for which Bangladesh had earlier sent formal requests to the government of Japan, Takashahi said.

Representative of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECEF) of Japan Odajima, representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Motimasa Kanamaru, second secretary of the Embassy of Japan Yoichi Yamauchi and Information Attaché, Mayu Higawara were also present during the briefing.

Japan is the biggest donor to Bangladesh.

## Leaders of GF, left groups join AL

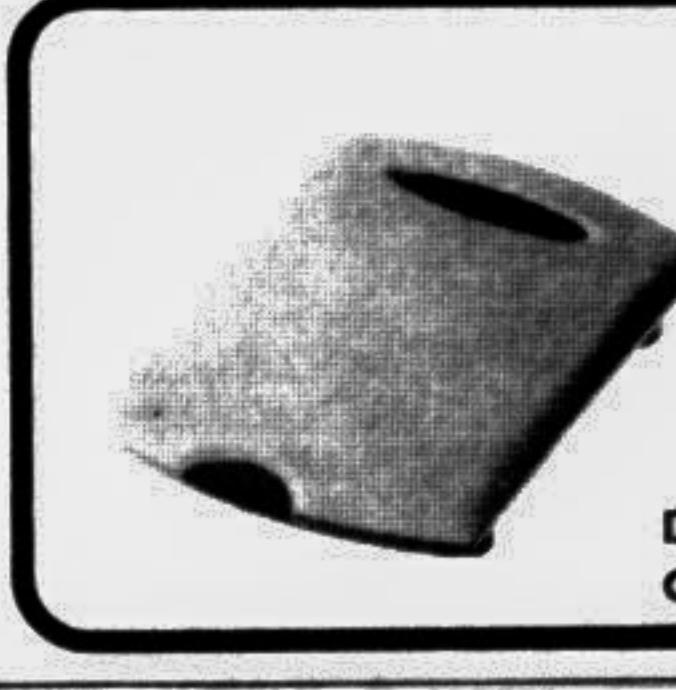
Forum and Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) from across the country attended the function to express their allegiance to the Awami League.

Hasina cautioned that vested quarters were hatching conspiracy so that the country could not make economic progress and the people could not raise their head with dignity and honour.

Welcoming the newcomers to the party, the Awami League President said: "You have come to the right track. Now you will get the real scope to join the struggle for economic development of the people, the struggle for building the nation."

Former Gano Forum leaders Shamsuddoha, Shekhar Dutta, Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin, Kamal Haider, advocate Mahbub-e-Alam, Dr Kazi Rabul Huq, Mukul Chowdhury and Shamsunnahar Bhuiyan, former MP Muhammad Shahidullah, labour leader Muhibullah, railway trade union leader Mohammad Nawab Ali, youth leader B A Rashid and student leader Pathik Saha joined the party at the function.

Leaders and workers of Gano



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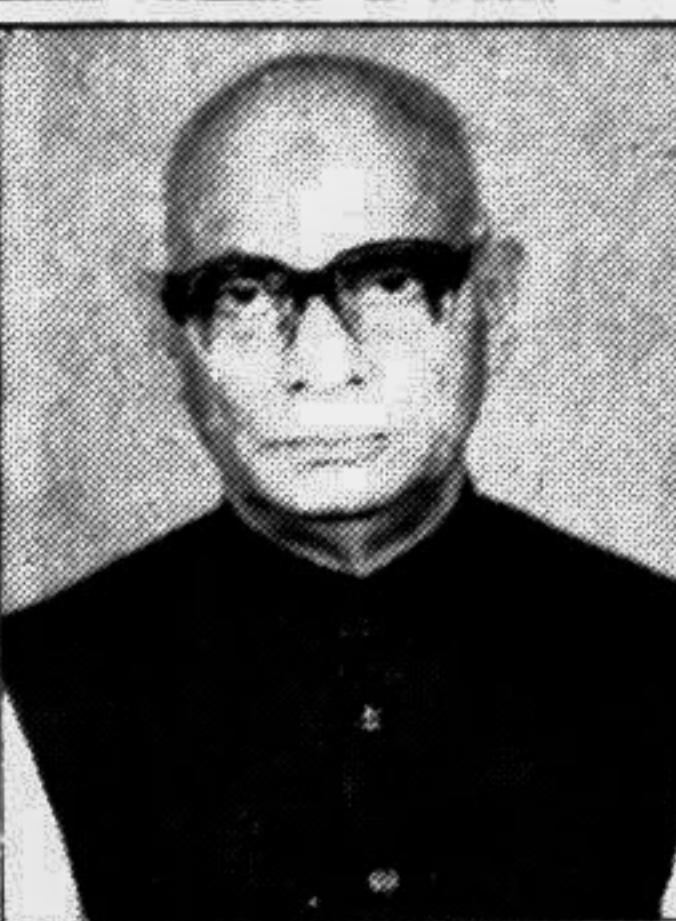
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**PHILIPS**

## Ravi Sankar arrives Feb 24

Renowned sitarist Pundit Ravi Sankar will arrive in Dhaka on February 24 on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, an official handout said yesterday.

He will perform sitar recitals in the Osmani Memorial Hall and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 26 and 27 respectively.

## Decision on projects now quicker

## Bureaucratic interference has reduced: Japan

The present government takes quick decision on projects financed with Japanese assistance compared to its predecessor, Shushei Takashahi, a minister at the Japanese Embassy.

Takashahi was briefing a press team which visited some Japanese aided projects in Dhaka and Chittagong on February 17 and 18. The tour was organised by the Japanese Embassy.

"Interference from the bureaucracy which earlier used to delay the decision making process has now been reduced. But, the decisions at times are taken drastically," he said.

The ECNEC meeting is now being presided over by the Prime Minister herself which was never done earlier," he added.

The ECNEC, during the previous government's rule, also rejected some of the Japanese aided projects for which Bangladesh had earlier sent formal requests to the government of Japan, Takashahi said.

While replying to the Opposition criticism that some of his wrong steps contributed to the recent crash of the country's share market, Kibria, a technocrat minister of Sheikh Hasina's cabinet remarked, "How many persons are there in this House who can match my level of knowledge about economics and experience?"

In this regard Kibria informed the House that he secured first class first positions while doing his graduation and masters in Economics and stood first in the Central Civil Service examination in the then Pakistan.

Quoting newspaper reports, M K Anwar said that the Finance Minister himself had admitted that he did not understand the capital market.

On the said newspaper reports, Kibria said that some reporters had misquoted him. "I only said that I do not understand the mode of operation of the share market in which a share certificate worth Taka one hundred is being sold or bought by Taka twenty thousand," the minister claimed.

In reply, M K Anwar of BNP said that whatever the Finance Minister had said in the House about his past success, was true. "But the minister should accept the reality of life, which perhaps all of us know, that success in one field may not help bringing in success in another field."

## Regional cooperation

From Page 1

generated enthusiasm for sub-regional cooperation.

The minister described Bangladesh and northeastern parts of India as poorer parts of the region and said there was tremendous scope for mutual cooperation.

Kibria, who formerly served as executive director of ESCAP, said the organisation had promoted the ideas of developing regional cooperation in different areas, including the Asian Highway and Asian Railway.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury said that the proposed sub-regional cooperation would bolster cooperation between Bangladesh and the bordering Indian states to attain a sustainable economic development and it would in no way harm the SAARC spirit.

Dr Paula Banerjee of Calcutta University called for setting up 'binational institutions'. Binational groups could cut across unwarranted apprehensions that characterise South Asian politics and could explore issues like transit facilities which were essential in terms of economic interests of both countries," she observed.

Dr Paula said, "Suspicion makes it problematic to grant transit facilities through Bangladesh territory or from the port of Chittagong to northeastern states of India."

Prof Barun De and Dr Ranbir Samaddar of Maulana Abul Kalam Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta, in their paper on "An Overview of Bangladesh-India Relations" by Dr Shaukat Hassan of the Institute of Development, Environment and Strategic Studies, North South University, Dhaka.

Shaukat felt that common strategic requirements of Bangladesh and India led to the signing of the 25-year Friendship Treaty. He also said that the then Awami League government which advocated establishing socialism and secularism could not effectively es-

ecially the linkage and failed to market the ideals.

"We now have another opportunity to re-shape the relations with India after a gap of several years," he said.

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