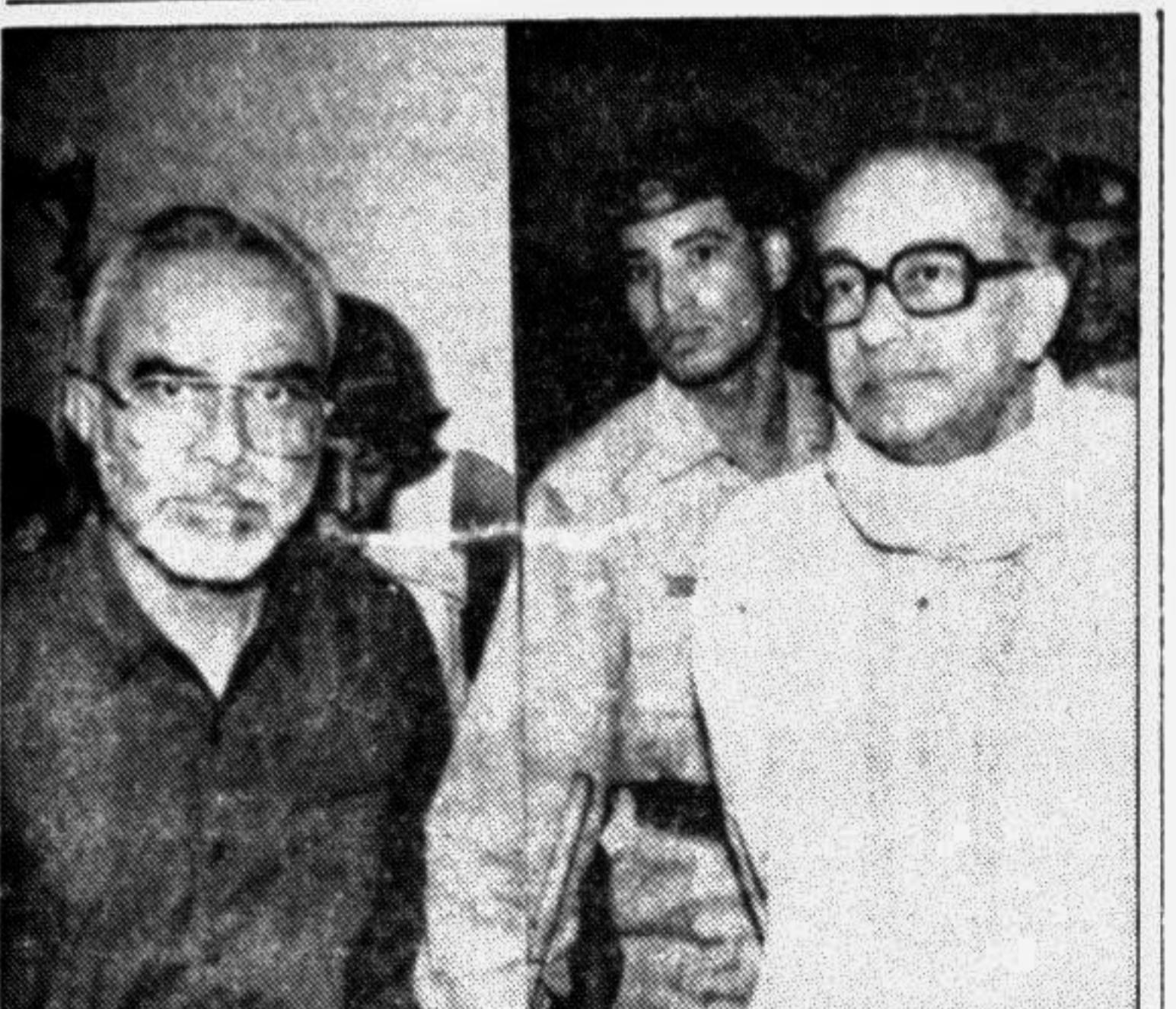


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Col (Rtd) Farooq (L) and Taheruddin Thakur (C), accused in the Bangabandhu murder case, were produced in the court, yesterday.

— Star photo

Bangabandhu murder

From Page 1

lawyers of both the sides were seen locked in exchange of words at least on four occasions.

A short while after the accused were taken to the dock, a newsman was seen approaching them. At this the prosecution shouting at the top of their voices started demanding ouster of the newsman from the court room.

At that time, the defence lawyers also shouted to point out that there was a demonstration outside the court. The proceedings of the court were interrupted as both the sides exchanged words. Some of them were seen folding the sleeves of their shirts.

One of the defence lawyers, Mahbubur Rahman, a BNP MP and a former minister in Ershad regime, opened the argument pleading for his client Zobaida Rashid. At one stage during the argument, he uttered the world 'revolution' while referring to the incidents of August 15, 1975. At this, a section of lawyers present at the court raised a hue and cry for the third time.

Lastly, when Zobaida Rashid, one of the six accused, made an attempt to show the marks of injuries on her hands, the lawyers uttered abusive words which led to another chaotic situation inside the court room.

At this stage Additional CMM of court number 2, adjourned the proceedings for 10 minutes during which the accused were escorted out of the court.

The court upon scrutiny of the retraction statement of Begum Zobaida Rashid, passed an order receiving the same in the court of the Bangabandhu murder case.

Zobaida, one of the accused in the Bangabandhu murder case and wife of Col (dismissed) Khandaker Abdur Rashid, an accused absconder charged in the case, yesterday submitted an application before the court for retraction of her confessional statement allegedly taken through coercion and false assurance.

Sherpur farmers get fertiliser distribution cards

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Feb 20: Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury inaugurated a new system for fertiliser distribution in four thanas of the district today.

She handed over fertiliser distribution cards among the farmers at Bhatkhala of Sadar thana, at Kalibari of Jhinaigati, in the High School premises of Nakla thana and at Nalitabari. She told the farmers that fertiliser would be gradually distributed throughout the country to ensure its availability to the farmers.

Local MPs, Attur Rahman Atif and Abdul Bari, were present.

Talking to The Daily Star, the Agriculture Minister said, some one and a half lakh farmers of the district would be benefited from the cards distributed under the 'Sherpur Model' scheme. 'We will introduce the card system of fertiliser distribution in other districts she said.

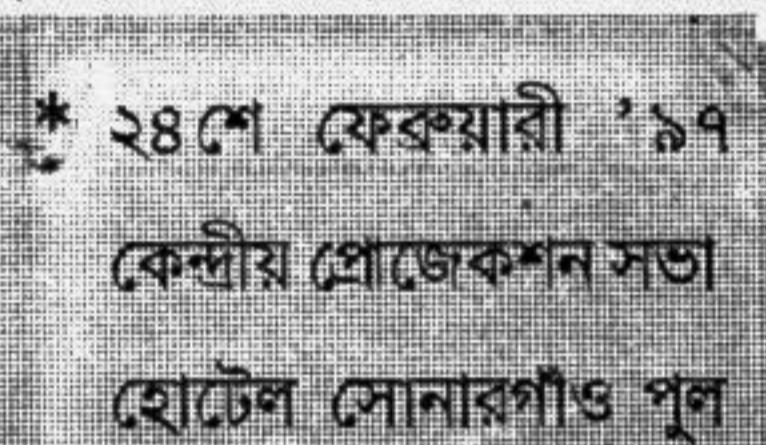
শ্রোতৃ কে শন মিটি

বিসমিলাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

সম্মিলিত পরিষদ প্যানেল পরিচিতি



নব নেতা : মোহাম্মদ শহুর
বাবুল হাতোক, ড্রাম প্র



* ২৪শে ফেব্রুয়ারী '৯৭ জোন-
১ ও মোহাম্মদপুর জোনের সভা
হোটেল সোনারগাঁও বলরমে
বিকেলে চোট।



নূরুল হক সিকার
বাবুল হাতোক, প্রদল প্র



জিয়াত আলী মিয়া
বাবুল হাতোক, প্রদল প্র



কে. এম. আমিন (মোহাম্মদ)
বাবুল হাতোক, আম মার্টিস প্র



বাবুল রায়
বাবুল হাতোক, আম মার্টিস প্র



মো. নূরুল ইসলাম
বাবুল হাতোক, প্রদল প্র



মো. নূরুল ইসলাম
বাবুল হাতোক, প্রদল প্র



মো. নাহিম উচ্চী
বাবুল হাতোক, প্রদল প্র



মাহিম আলী
বাবুল হাতোক, প্রদল প্র

সকল সম্মিলিত পোষাক পিল মালিকবুদ্দের দোয়ারার্থী।

শান্তিশালী ও গতিশীল বিজিএমইএ গঠনে সহায়তা করুন

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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No foreign leaders invited

Six-day mourning for Deng, funeral Tuesday

BEIJING, Feb 20: Ten thousand people will be invited to the funeral of Deng Xiaoping on Tuesday in China's Great Hall of the People, and his eyes will be donated for transplant and his organs for research, reports AP.

Deng's family, in keeping with his wishes, requested that there be no solemn bowing before his corpse. His ashes will be scattered rather than saved, and foreign leaders will not attend his funeral, the high-level Communist Party committee overseeing the arrangements said today.

Deng, one of the last leaders of the Communist revolution, died Wednesday night of a lung infection and Parkinson's disease. He was 92. Increasingly frail, he was last seen in public three years ago.

The first test of Deng's legacy will be whether his handpicked successors, party General Secre-

tary Jiang Zemin and the other, younger technocrats installed in the 1990s, will withstand the political maneuvering sure to follow his death.

The 459-member funeral committee headed by Jiang declared a six-day period of mourning. It said a 'memorial meeting,' attended by 10,000 people, would be held Tuesday

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at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, the cavernous building where all major state functions are held.

At the start of the ceremony, at 10 am (0200 GMT) Tuesday, sirens will sound throughout the nation for three minutes.

The memorial will be broadcast live, and party offices around the country are to make arrangements so that all Chinese may watch or listen, the committee said.

Remove difficulties

From Page 1
trol of Delhi over the north-eastern states.

Dr Shahiduzzaman commented that the South Asian countries were very harsh in dealing with migrants who leave their countries out of sheer desperation.

During Wednesday's working session on 'Overview & Perspectives of Interactions across the Border', Anirban Chattopadhyay of Ananda Bazar Patrika in his paper 'On some aspects of Development Regionalism' said that Eastern India and Bangladesh are relatively backward in South Asia and 'one must take into account this inequality'. One geographical region that has immense scope of development by joint efforts of Bangladesh and West Bengal, he said, is the Sunderbans. 'The prospect of the Sunderbans is, at one level, the prospect of the economies of large scale. The partition (of 1947) undermined these economies,' he stated.

Participating in the discussions, NGO activists observed that sub-regional co-operation was already existing at the level of smugglers and questioned why it could not be institutionalised to bring revenue to the national exchequer.

Dr Shahiduzzaman of Dhaka University said that China could not benefit from supporting insurrections in the north-eastern region and felt that China should not mind the development of economic relations between Bangladesh and India. He said may be China can be included in the sub-regional court.

The plain-clothes police will take stern measures against eve-teasing and stealing of books from the stalls.

Abdul Kader Mollah favoured the inclusion of China in sub-regional cooperation.

Sabbir Bhowmick, BBC's Eastern India Correspondent, said China's sponsorship of insurgency in north eastern states was a result of India's backing of Tibetan rebels.

Economist and columnist Kabir U Ahmed strongly opposed the concept of subregional cooperation and said that Bangladesh should not depend on slow growing regional sub market but look for fast growing international market.

Group Capt (retd) Dastagir also argued against sub-regional cooperation if it diminished the sovereign status of the country.

Moderator of the session Prof Muzaffar Ahmed of Dhaka University called for change of the old mindset of the people of the region for greater sub-regional cooperation.

A paper on 'cross-border Smaller Rivers' was presented by Prof Alunur Nishat of BUET, and another on 'Cross-border Environmental Issues.'

Plain-clothes police at Book Fair from today

Bangla Academy has arranged to deploy plain-clothes police at the Ekushey Boi Mela' (Book Fair) from today to maintain order, a press release of the Academy said last night.

The plain-clothes police will take stern measures against eve-teasing and stealing of books from the stalls.

Padak : Prof Shahjahan

From Page 1
of recipients.

'I was so stunned. I could not believe it at first,' the former BUET VC told The Daily Star. 'So I asked one of the secretaries sitting there what was going on. He looked pale and could not give me an answer. I asked him again whether I was dropped from the list of recipients and he looked away.'

'So I told him (the secretary) that the authorities should have had a minimum sense of courtesy to inform me beforehand that a decision was taken to drop my name from the list,' he added. 'But none of them apologised so far for this incident,' Dr Shahjahan said.

According to him, the Cul-

tural Affairs Ministry had sent him a letter on October 12, 1996 informing him that he was selected as a recipient of the Ekushey Padak for his contribution in the field of education.

The letter also sought his approval for publication of his biography in the Ekushey Padak souvenir and requested him to send three passport size photos.

Dr Shahjahan said that on February 16 last, the Cultural Affairs Ministry sent another letter to him asking him, among other things, whether he would send a representative to receive the award or he would go there himself. He had replied that he would go himself, would receive the award and that he would be accompanied by his wife, said.

'I even contacted the Cultural Affairs Ministry yesterday, but nobody said anything about dropping of my name from the list,' he added.

The former BUET VC went to the Osmany Auditorium at 10:30 am and took his seat with other recipients of the award.

He was first informed of the awkward situation by Hasnat Abdul Hai, one of the six recipients. Then Dr Shahjahan inquired with the secretary and left the place.

'On my return home, I checked the printed list again,' Dr Shahjahan said. 'It seemed that there was a seventh name in the list which was Ershad with white ink.'

Despite repeated attempts, neither the State Minister for Cultural Affairs nor the secretary of the cultural affairs ministry could not be contacted for comment.

Women in custody

From Page 1
court within 24 hours after the arrest," he said.

Maleka Begum, a proponent of women's rights, emphasised the need for looking into the role of doctors in conducting medical checkups in rape cases. 'There is a printed form with the doctor where two things are stated — may be raped and harassed. After examining the victim, the doctor simply ticks the one he thinks appropriate but the words "may be raped" give the rapist a good chance to go unpunished in the court,' she said.

Dr Taslima Mansoor, Assistant Professor of Law at the Dhaka University, said the 'national curriculum for judges should include women and law issues'.

Another participant, Advocate Fazlul Haq, pointed out that there are thanas where the name of an arrested woman is not officially recorded so that she can be kept there for a few days. 'The law says that a person must be produced before a

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Shahabuddin is our pride: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated a 12-day painting exhibition of internationally reputed artist Shahabuddin at the Shilpkala Academy gallery, reports UNB.

'Shahabuddin has glorified the image of Bangladesh and the nation in the international arena through his exceptional works of art,' she told a function at the Academy auditorium before formally declaring the exhibition open.

Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy organised the solo exhibition on the eve of 'Amar Ekushey', commemorating the great Language Movement.

The Prime Minister said: 'Shahabuddin, an artist and also a freedom fighter, is our pride. At the call of Bangabandhu, he left his brush and colour during the Liberation War and took up arms to fight for the liberation of the country.'

Shahabuddin explaining one of his works to some visitors at an exhibition of his paintings at the Shilpkala Academy yesterday.

— Star photo

Shahabuddin explaining one of his works to some visitors at an exhibition of his paintings at the Shilpkala Academy yesterday.

From Page 1
Bangladesh.

But, the President regretted, the unity achieved during our struggle for liberation 'is now absent in every sphere.'

The President paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the language movement and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon all irrespective of party to take a fresh vow to build a hunger, poverty and illiteracy-free society imbued with Ekushey spirit.

'If we can build a poverty and exploitation-free society, that will be the best tribute to the martyrs of language movement,' she said in a message on yesterday.

Parties will build rich tributes to the martyrs of great language movement. Hasina called for soulsearching. 'Let's ask ourselves how much we wanted, how much we got and how much to attain.'

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia made a call for the countrymen to prepare for a movement for protecting country's independence and democracy at any cost.

In her message she also urged all nationalist forces to forge unity, being imbued with spirit of Amar Ekushey, and resist 'the conspiracy to kill democracy