



Father Klaus Beurle, Prof. Kabir Chowdhury and Asim Saha seen with the members of ANANDO cultural team after a reception hosted recently on the occasion of the informal introduction of the organisation in the city recently.

New Dutch envoy presents credentials to President

Bangladesh is determined to improve the quality of life of its people, eradicate poverty and achieve rapid economic growth through market economy and foreign direct investment, reports UNB.

This was stated by President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed talking to newly appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Bangladesh DCB Den Haas when the latter presented his credentials to him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Welcoming the envoy, President Shahabuddin said Bangladesh attaches great importance to its relation with the Netherlands.

He appreciated Dutch assistance to Bangladesh, saying: 'It has contributed significantly to our economic development.'

The President observed that bilateral trade between the two countries had grown in recent years, which, he hoped, would be widened in future.

He mentioned both the countries share similar views on major international issues and worked together in international fora.

President Shahabuddin hoped that the existing bonds of friendship, understanding and cooperation between the two countries would further strengthen in the years ahead.

Ambassador Haas said cooperations between the two countries could be enhanced in respect of water management, land reclamation, human resource development and family welfare, exploration of natural resources.



Newly appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Bangladesh DCB Den Haas presented his credentials to President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

Fire at Rayerbazar Govt distributes relief among victims

Disaster Management and Relief Ministry yesterday distributed some relief materials among the victims of Sunday's fire at Rayerbazar in the city, reports UNB.

Those included 125 tins of biscuits, 100 pieces of lungis, 100 pieces of sarees and four metric tons of rice.

The ministry has also decided to donate Tk 3,000 in cash to each of the victims' families, said an official handout.

It added that the quantity of relief will be increased after measuring overall damage in the fire.

UNAB seminar on Disarmament Week held

In observance of UN Declared Disarmament Week — a seminar organised by the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) was held Saturday at Hotel Purbani, says a press release.

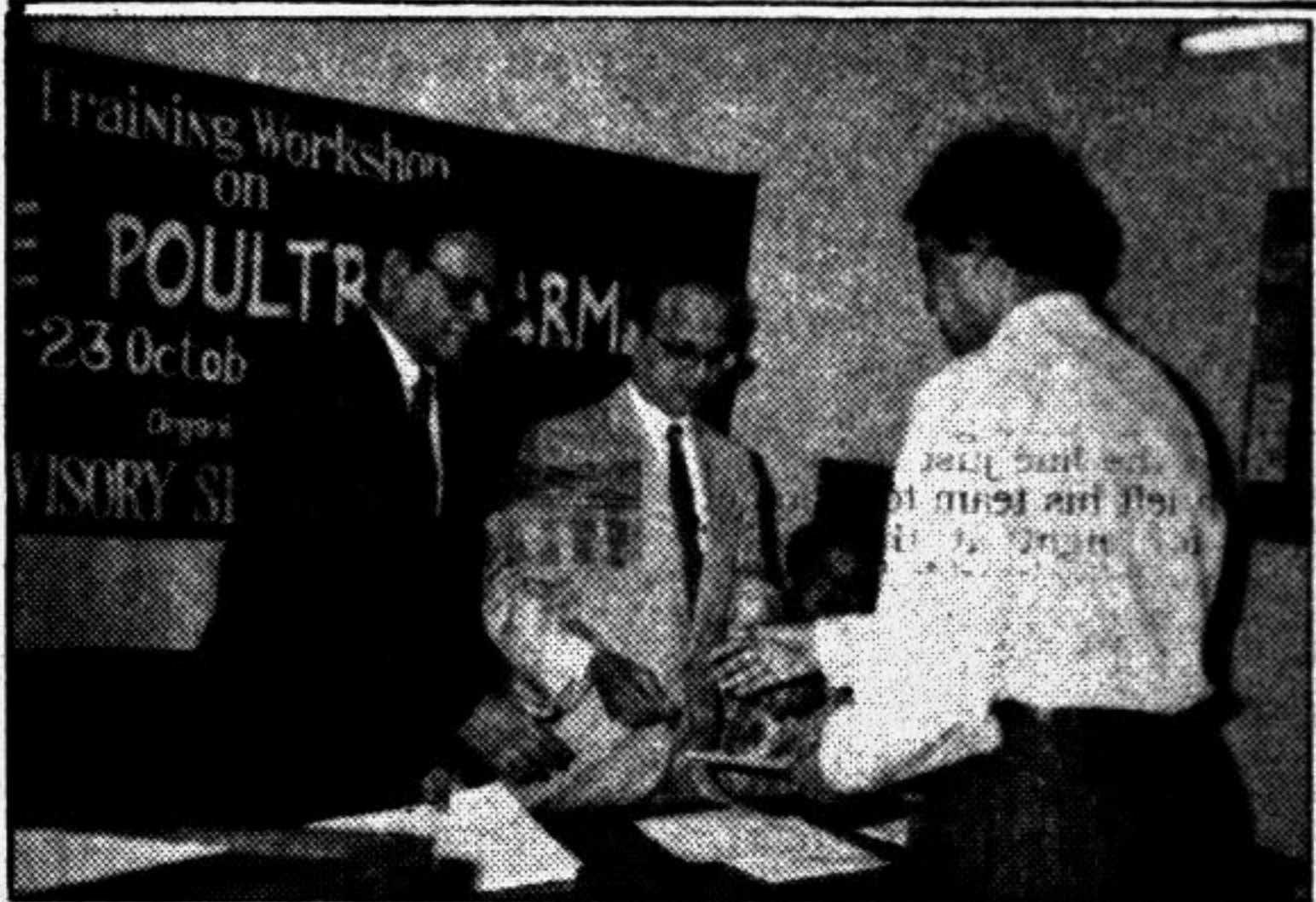
The UNAB seminar in observance of UN Declared Disarmament Week was presided by eminent historian Professor Salahuddin Ahmed, Chairman, UNAB.

Advocate Syed Ahmad Hossain, Secretary-General United Nations Association of Bangladesh, senior Scientist Professor Mohammad Abu Bakar, Dr Syed Mohammad Shahed, Associate Professor, Dhaka University, Advocate Mollah Moqbul Hossain, Afia Khatun a leading social worker and member of 'Women for Women', Professor Raisuddin Ahmed, and Advocate Syed Shah Alam took part in the seminar.

In his introductory speech Advocate Syed Ahmad Hossain, Secretary-General, UNAB emphasised the importance of the observance of UN Declared Disarmament Week and called upon the United Nations to work for total and complete disarmament throughout the world.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 96cr seized in 2 yrs

Anti-smuggling authorities seized smuggled goods worth about Taka forty three crore and Taka fifty three crore from different border areas of Khulna division during the years of 1996 and 1997, respectively, reports BSS.



Alauddin A. Majid, Managing Director, Bank of Small Industries and Commerce Bangladesh Ltd., distributed certificates among the participants of the training workshop on 'Profitable Poultry Farming', organised by Business Advisory Services Centre recently.

Tributes paid to Sir JC Bose

Speakers at a function yesterday paid tributes to the memory of eminent scientist Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, reports BSS.

The speakers were addressing the annual stipend distribution ceremony, organised by Sir JC Bose Foundation at Rarikkhal school and college under Srinagar thana in Munsiganj district, says a press release.

Professor Humayun Azad of Dhaka University was present as the chief guest at the function.

The speakers stressed the need for preservation of the memories of the world famous scientist.

Presided over by the Foundation President Mahmudul Haq, it was addressed, among others, by school Managing Committee Chairman Mir Mozammel Ali, senior journalist Nurul Huda, Foundation office-bearers Syed Mosaddiq Hossain Jahangir, engineer Abul Kashem, Advocate Mosharrif Hossain and Abul Kashem Khan.

Construction works on youth training centre in progress

Construction works on youth training centre in Savar, costing Tk 8 crore, are going on in full swing, reports UNB.

The construction works of three buildings, including the administrative building, a dormitory for trainees and another for women, were started in mid-October last year which is expected to be completed by next month.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader visited the site on Saturday, said an official handout.

The state minister also inspected the renovation work of the hockey and cricket field of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Parishad and met with the national hockey player, who are scheduled to visit India. Air Force chief and President of Bangladesh Hockey Federation Air Vice Marshall Jamal Uddin Ahmad was also present.

JCD says AL planning to destroy BNP

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday accused the Awami League government of hatching conspiracy to efface BNP and its front organisations, reports UNB.

'Awami League has taken up a plan to destroy the opposition parties as it did in 1971-75', JCD president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie told a rally at Aporghya Bangla of Dhaka University. Referring to the offloading of Syed Iskander, younger brother of Begum Khaleda Zia, from a Biman aircraft, he said the government was harassing the family members of the former Prime Minister to tarnish their image.

The JCD president further alleged that the present government of Sheikh Hasina was conspiring to sell out the country to India and warned as long as the BNP and JCD members exist no evil forces would be able to implement their blueprint.

He urged the government to refrain from such anti-democratic activities, or else, to get ready to face the people's wrath.

JCD general secretary, Habib-un-Nabi Sohel, Abdul Khaleq, Moshrraf Hossain, Monwar Hossain Rana, Monir Hossain, Monzur Elahi, Shahabuddin Laltu, Nasruddin Osim, Selimuzzaman Selim and Nurul Haq Zita also addressed the rally.

3 get Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka award

Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka has awarded three worthy citizens of the country for their remarkable services in their respective profession, reports UNB.

They are additional Deputy Commissioner of DMP Deputi Haque Nuruzzaman for his successful operation in apprehending mustangs, Sharif Ullah, Head Master of Obaed Ullah Memorial High school of Sudharampur in Noakhali, as the best teacher of 1997 and Sr Medical Officer of BIRDEM Shahidul Islam for his quality pathological tests.

The awards were given at a function in the city yesterday, said a press release.

Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Engineer MA Quaiyum attended the programme as chief guest while Additional ICP M Nurul Huda was present as special guest.

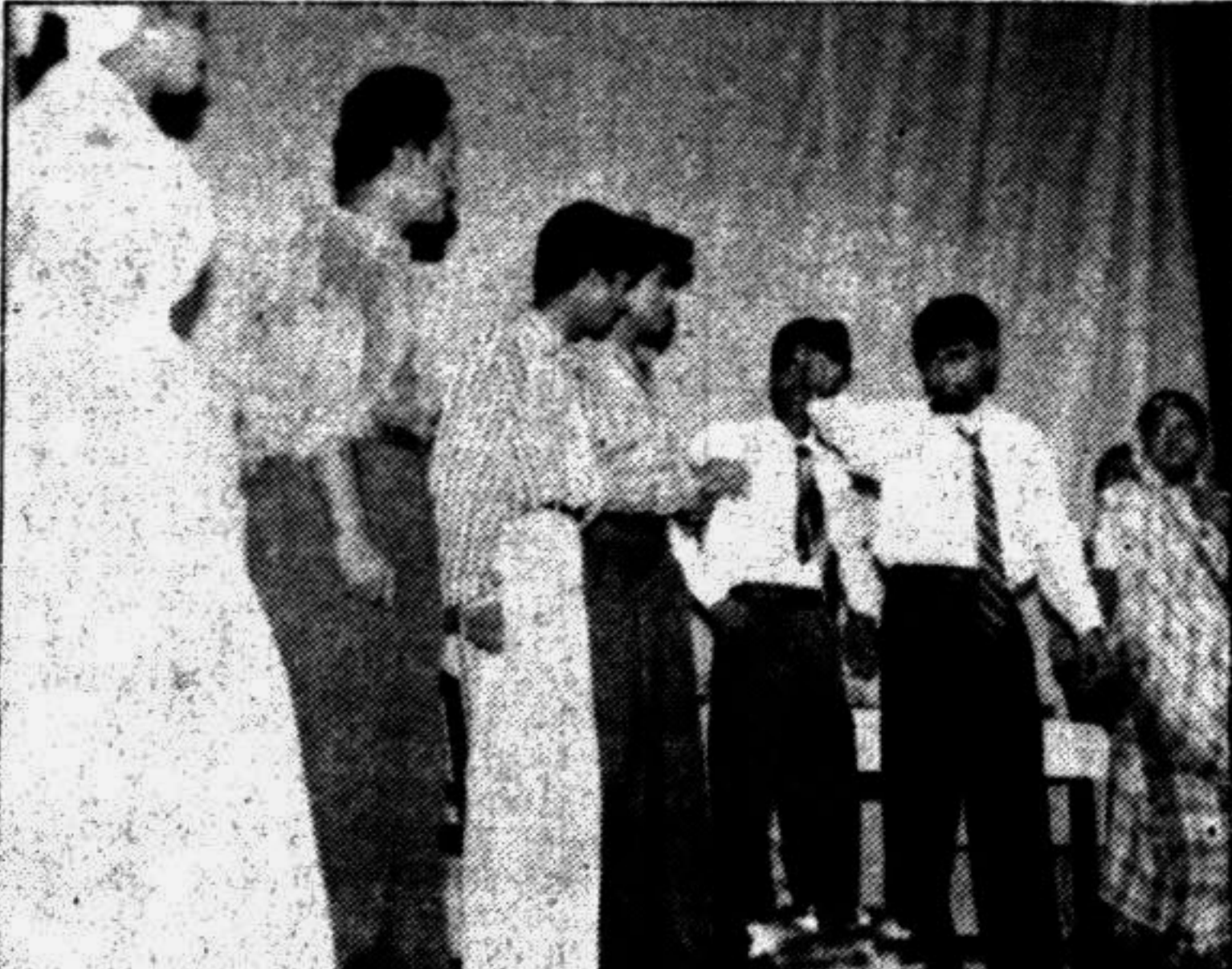
Rotary Governors, Rotary leaders and members of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Metropolitan were also present.



JCD procession in the city yesterday protesting harassment on the family of the opposition leader and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia. — Star photo



A team of local bankers, comprising senior executives from nationalised and private commercial banks, leaves for Hong Kong today on a 3-day visit to Standard Chartered Bank (SCB)'s Hong Kong operations. During the visit, the team is expected to observe the treasury, cash management and trade services (ISO 9002 awarded) and institutional banking operations of Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong.



A comedy drama was organised by the Devdoot Theater in Kochikacha Auditorium in the city on Monday.

Health Minister attends opening of AIDS exhibits in Manila

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf attended the opening of exhibits in Manila on Saturday, reports UNB.

The function is a part of the opening ceremonies of the 4th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific. It was presided over by the First Lady of the Philippines Amelita M Ramos.

Body of drowned teenage boy recovered

A teenage boy drowned in Turagh river at city's Mirpur area yesterday afternoon. Fire brigade sources said the dead was identified as Khokon, 12, son of Md Ilias, a resident of Ahmednagar. He drowned while playing with some of his friends beside the river at about 3:15 pm.

Divers after searching for about two hours recovered the body from under water. The body was handed over to Khokon's parents.

Dr M Amanullah leaves for Edinburgh

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah left here Saturday night for Edinburgh to attend at the Commonwealth function on cultural diversity as the special guest, reports BSS.

He will also meet health minister of Britain, India, Pakistan and Malaysia in the Scottish capital, an official handout said.

The state minister, who will also have a discussion with leaders of commonwealth chamber of commerce, is expected to return home on October 3, the handout said.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Nazma Rahman, wife of Commodore Mohammad Ataur Rahman (Retd), Chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, will be held today at 4:00 pm at her Dhanmondi Residence, House No 75 A, Road No. 8 A after Asr prayers, says a press release. All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the Qulkhwani and pray for salvation of her departed soul.

Speakers say at seminar on environment 'Bangladesh has potential to provide healthy environment'

Environment Division Chief of the United Nations Escap Dr Rezaul Karim yesterday said Bangladesh is richly endowed with renewable natural resources and has the great potential to provide its citizens with clean and healthy environment, reports BSS.

He emphasised the need for formulating environmentally sound and sustainable economic planning which could provide a framework for sustainable development by balancing economic and environmental needs. Dr Karim was making the opening statement at the inaugural session of a five-day national workshop on 'Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Economic Planning', organised jointly by Escap and Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC).

BPATC Rector Dr Ekram Husain and Director Dr Mir Obaidur Rahman also spoke. Underlining the need for raising awareness among policy planners and development administrators about environmental issues and how to deal with them to achieve sustainable development, Dr Karim said planning practices

and policies in Bangladesh can be improved further with the introduction of the new concept and environmentally sound economic planning, valuation of natural resources and natural resources accounting.

Referring to the interdependence of economic and environmental systems for sustainable development, he said, the environmental resource degradation like air, water and land pollution slows down the production system.

Dr Karim said the quantitative understanding of environmental degradation and its impact on human health by environment-cum-economic modelling would help clear the concept on the interaction between environment and development, as well as help in setting policy objectives and goals of sustainable development.

Dr Ekram said development as a process needs to be sustained for future generation. He said smooth and sustainable development process can be ensured only when the nation can manage its stock of depletable resources by maintaining congenial environment for development.

LGED building 3 roads in Narsingdi

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under its second Rural Road and Market Improvement and Maintenance Project (RRMIMP-2) has been constructing three roads in Narsingdi district at a cost of Taka 38.71 million, reports BSS.

An LGRD source said the roads are 6.95 kilometres long Balaboo-Puradia road, under Balaboo thana, 2.10 kilometres long Chaitanya-Jessore road under Shibpur thana and 5.70 kilometre long Chalakehar-Barachapa road under Monohardi thana. The project, financed by the World Bank, will be completed by June next.

Actor Goutom Ghosh to visit Bangladesh

Reputed film director of West Bengal, India, Goutom Ghosh is expected to come to Thakurgaon for the location-shooting of a film, reports BSS.

It was learnt from Santanu Kaiser, a novelist, columnist and journalist of Bangladesh who came to Thakurgaon a few weeks back to locate the shooting spots.

It was also learnt from him that Goutom Ghosh is making a film based on a Bengali novel 'Sheela' written by Shirshendu Mukhopadhyaya. Some scenes of this film will be filmed in various locations of Thakurgaon.

DU exams to be held as per schedule today

All the examinations of Dhaka University under course system scheduled for today at Curzon Hall will be held as per the previous programme, reports UNB.

According to a DU press release, no change has been made in the examination schedule.

Death anniversary of Maulana Moniruzzaman observed

CHITTAGONG, Oct 26: The 47th death anniversary of Maulana Moniruzzaman Islamabadi was observed here on Friday, reports BSS.

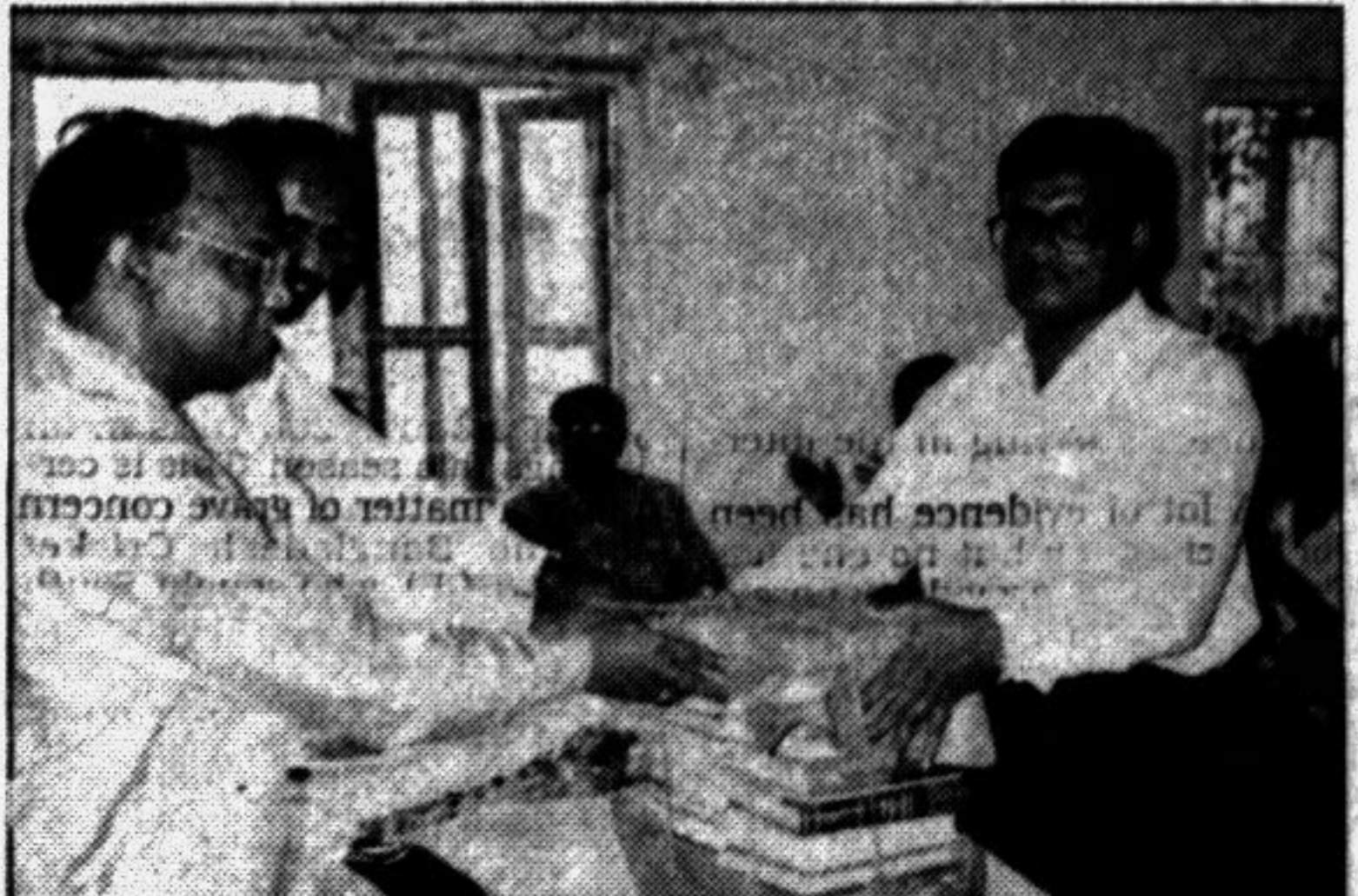
Maulana Islamabadi was a leader of anti-British movement and founder of Kadam Mobararak Muslim Etimkhana. The Management Committee of Kadam Mobararak Muslim Etimkhana arranged a discussion at its premises.

Chittagong City Mayor Alhaj A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury attended the meeting as the chief guest.

Editor of The Daily Azadi Prof Mohammad Khaled, and Chairman of United Commercial Bank Limited Alhaj Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury were present as special guests.

The speakers termed the educationalist Islamabadi as a pioneer of Muslim awareness against the British rule.

They recalled his contributions to society in different ways Islamabadi established a number of educational institutes and the Etimkhana at Chittagong town.



Rtn M Jamaluddin, governor, Rotary District 3280, distributed books for students of Alhaj Abdul Hakim College at Ghorasal, donated by Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka recently.

41st Annual World Press Photo contest

The World Press Photo Foundation Netherlands, invites press photographers and photojournalists throughout the world to participate in the 41st Annual World Press Photo contest.

This competition accepts press photographs taken during 1997 and intended for publication. Photographers will compete in the following categories: Spot News, General News, People in the News, Daily Life, Portraits, Sports, the Arts, Science and Technology & Nature and the Environment, says a press release.

Entries for this year's contest, accompanied by a completed entry form must be sent to the foundation's office in Amsterdam. The deadline for arrival of entries is 23 January, 1998.

Police action on LDF procession condemned

The Workers' Party has condemned the 'police action' on an LDF procession at the High Court crossing in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

In a statement, the party's politburo alleged that police intercepted the procession of Left Democratic Front and at one stage, 'police took aggressive stand against the procession.'

The statement strongly condemned 'such undemocratic role of the government and the police' despite official clarification through a press note that there is no ban on processions.

'We think, the statement of the press note and the real situation reflected the deceiving character of the government,' the Workers' Party politburo said.



Syed Alamgir Farouk Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, speaking at the regular monthly luncheon meeting of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) yesterday at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. On his left are: President of the Chamber, Mahubul Alam and Chamber Secretary, Jahangir Bin Alam respectively and Committee Member John Noal seen on his right.



Girl students of a BRAC-run non-formal primary school at Nasirabad, Chittagong perform a dance sequence in honour of a visiting delegation of American community development workers. More than a million children of disadvantaged sections of the society now study in these schools throughout the country, for which USAID provided 600 million Taka through the Bangladesh government for the three financial years beginning '96-97. The Bangladesh delegation visited the USAID sponsored program, 'Lessons Without Borders' to learn from Bangladesh's experience in development activities. — USIS photo