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Tolerance must to solidify democracy: President

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday stressed the need for institutionalising the hard earned democracy, re-

In independent Bangladesh,

Thereafter, the system was President told a seminar on "Institutionalising Democracy

tionalised. "Both the government and the opposition shall have to adhere to the principle that the country comes first and fore-

the seminar was presided over by the Society chairman, Prof

Dhaka

Several MPs from both the ruling and opposition parties also attended the inaugural ses-

Turning to institutionalising democracy, the President said parliamentary democracy pre-supposes political parties which formulate policies, mobilise public opinion and keep their party, when in power, on

Therefore, practising democracy within the political parties itself must be ensured.

he said adding that party office bearers should be elected at regular intervals and this power of election not be abdicated in favour of any big person or leader.

To institutionalise democracy, he said, cooperation between the government and the opposition is very essential as this two are the two segments of the same circle.

"No cooperation is possible if they embitter their relation by hurling abuses at each other for acts or omissions in the past or imaginary wrongs in the future," the President said.

Formation of a shadow cabinet is very necessary to get into details in the administration, which, he said, would make the opposition responsible.

President Shahabuddin noted that collective responsibility was the sheet-anchor of a Cabinet System of government It means all ministers, including the Prime Minister, are collectively responsible to parliament for anything done in any

He suggested that all important matters should be discussed threadbare without any fear or favour in the cabinet to help institutionalise democ-

The President said that the prime minister who is the pivot of the administration should not arrogate to himself all the authority to take decision or gag the voice of dissent of his colleagues.

"Free and fair election not dominated by money, muscle power, terrorism, extortion is the main pillar of democratic edifice," he said.

"A free press is another prerequirement for working of the system. Electronic media which wields enormous power of publicity shall be run by man of character and integrity who shall not just echo the master's

President Shahabuddin further suggested that members of the political parties should acquire knowledge about the working of the governmental machinery. Otherwise, they'll blindly interfere with the day to day administration, which is carried out by the members of the civil services.

He said civil servants should

murder of

UP chairman

From Our Correspondent

members of parliament from

Rajshahi, Natore and Cha-

painawabganj in a joint state-

ment today condemned the

murder of Bipro Belghoria

Union Parishad chairman and

Juba Dal leader Zahid Hossain

Mukul and demanded immedi-

ate arrest and punishment of

workers responsible for the

killing and alleged that it was

part of an evil design to gain

supremacy in the coming union

Awami League was out to estab-

lish a reign of terror by killing

and oppressing BNP leaders and

workers to foil the anti-gov-

are Advocate Kabir Hossain,

Fazlur Rahman Patal, Alamgir

Kabir, Nadim Mostafa, Abu

Hena, Dr Alauddin, Barrister

Aminul Huque, Ruhul Quddus

Talukder, Prof Qazi Golam

Morshed, Dr Ahmed Siddiqui,

Alhaj Shamsuddin, Shamsul

Alam, Shamsuzzoha and Dr M

Signatories to the statement

They also alleged that the

The MPs held Awami League

the killers.

parishad election.

ernment agitation.

Salek Chowdhury.

RAJSHAHI, Oct 31: Fourteen

ernment's policies and actions by pointing out defects and offering constructive suggestions must not be curtailed, he said. "Utmost tolerance of each other's views is indispensably President Shahabuddin said

parliament must look into the working of the ministries and directorates and that should be done through the parliamentary committees.

not be influenced on political

consideration, in administra-

tive measures. One of the rea-

sons for success of the British

system of parliamentary gov-

ernment is the dedicated work

of the permanent civil service

Civil servants, he said,

should not seek favour with

their political heads for gaining

temporary benefits such as

promotion, extension of service

a parliamentary system of gov-

ernment is based on the funda-

mental principle of "right of the

majority to rule and right of the

concede to the 'majority rule'

and their right to criticise gov-

Minority must ungrudgingly

The President reminded that

which is highly efficient.

and foreign assignment.

minority to criticise.

He said ministers shall not be scared of scrutiny of their actions by the committees, for report of a committee has no binding effect, it is to be submitted to the main body, Parlia-

"A wise minister is he who invites such criticism by including expert members from the opposition side."

About a much debated issue, the President said: The question of proportional representation on the committees is not much important; it is the knowledge, experience and propriety of the members of a committee that are more important.

David R Bowen of US House of Representatives said Bangladesh should find out its own path for institutionalising democracy and stressed the need for effective communication between the government and the opposition.

British MP Andrew Bennett said election is not a major part of democracy, it is merely a mechanism.

Six killed, 13 hurt in road accidents

Six persons were killed and 13 others injured in separate road accidents in Rajshahi, Tangail Faridpur and Comilla

yesterday, reports UNB. A man was killed and another one injured when a speeding bus ran over them on Raishahi-Chapainawabganj road at Balia yesterday.

Police and hospital sources said the Chapainawabganjbound bus knocked down a cycle from behind at Balia under Rajbari Metropolitan at about

8.30 am injuring two. Of them, Shabdul of village Ratu of thana Durgapur succumbed to his injury at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. The condition of another injured, Abdur Rahim, 28, was stated critical.

The body was sent for au-

In Tangail the driver and a helper of a bus were killed in a road accident at Govindadashi bus stand in Bhuapur thana of

the district yesterday. Witnesses said that driver Abdul Khaleque, 35, and helper Jahangir Hossain, 25, who were engaged in repairing their bus. died instantly when another bus knocked their vehicle from behind at about 7 am.

A case was filed with Bhuapur thana.

An old man was killed and nine people, including two women and three children, were

AL programme on Jail Killing Day

Awami League will observe the Jail Killing Day on November 3 in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

On this day in 1975, four national leaders - Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Capt Mansur Ali and AHM Kamruzzaman — were brutally killed in the Dhaka central jail

The programmes of the day was finalised at a joint meeting of Awami League and its front organisations at the party central office yesterday with presidium member Amir Hossain Amu in the chair.

The ruling party will organise a public meeting at Osmany Uddyan at 2 pm on Monday. Party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the

National and party flags will be hoisted half-mast and black flag flown atop Bangabandhu Bhaban and party offices across the country at 6 am. Party leaders and workers

wearing black badges will gather at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 8 am and place wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Na-

They will also place wreaths and offer fateha at the graves of the martyrs of 15th August and the national leaders at Banani

injured in two separate road accidents in Faridpur yesterday.

Police said a 60-year-old unidentified man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck when he fell from the rooftop of the same truck near Faridpur bus terminal at 11.30 am. The truck fled towards

Pranab Sarker, a sub-assistant engineer of LGED, and eight other people, including his wife and two children, were seriously injured when their microbus coming from Shibchar to Rajbari met with an accident at 11 am.

The microbus, which fell into a roadside ditch near Munshirbazar on the Faridpur-Barisal highway, was badly damaged.

All the injured, including the microbus driver, were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

In Comilla two minors were killed and their mother sustain critical injure when a Dhakabound bus ran over them at Nimshar under Burichang thana on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway, eyewitnesses said.

Beauty, 5, and her brother Emon, 4, was killed on the spot while their mother Jahera Khatun, 32, was critically in-

Jahera Khatun was admitted to the Chandina hospital.

Albright to visit Dhaka shortly

US Ambassador to Bangladesh John C Holzman handed over a letter of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad when he called on the latter at the state guest house Meghna yesterday, reports BSS.

The US Secretary of State in her letter thanked the Foreign Minister for his warm invitation and expressed her desire to visit Bangladesh shortly. Azad earlier sent a letter to Albright requesting him to visit Bangladesh, an official handout

Dhaka elected IFAD chairman

The Prime Minister said in the city yesterday that Bangladesh has been unanimously elected chairman of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), reports

Addressing, a press conference after her return from Commonwealth Summit in Edinburgh, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina further said that Bangladesh had also been elected member of World Food Council (WFC) and chairman of the fifth committee of the United Nations.

14 MPs condemn Our weekly feature 'Down to Earth' could not be pub. Jalil specialised in forging any road transport paper

By Morshed Ali Khan For Abdul Jalil and his as-

sociates, any document related to road transport in the country, was no problem at all.

They could produce any paper- driving licence, blue book, registration receipt, post office receipt, insurance certificate. vehicle fitness certificate, route permit, owner transfer certificate and tax token _ provided you were ready to pay a fixed rate for each paper.

Jalil and his associates, believed to be one of the largest organised gangs engaged in the forgery business in road transport sector, have been active for years. Police detectives believe they have 'issued' thousands of such fake papers and thousands of professional drivers are driving vehicles in the country with fake licences and fake fitness, registration, and other papers.

It was only on October 23 last that a group of detectives, posing as customers, arrived at 197 Alambagh, Zurain under Demra thana. They did not need to go further. Jalil was found sitting on the floor of his house and carefully giving final touches to piles of driving licences beside him. Within minutes, the detectives found

bagsfull of all kinds of fake documents and equipment used for forgery. Jalil confessed to the detec-

tives that he had long been in the 'business' and named some of his associates, Abu Ali, Abu Kalam, Habib, Budda and oth-One detective who took part

in the operation said, "These people used to target hundreds of innocent unemployed people. A section of car traders in the city also maintained a link with them for different problems which they solved on contract basis.

"They were running an office parallel to that of the BRTA," he said adding," Now we are working to land on some inside people who used to benefit from such deals."

The detective, a smartly dressed young man in his early twenties, quickly asserted, "We know, like Jalil's gang, there are at least half a dozen, operating in the city. Rest assured, we are after them. Jalil and his associates were

charged under sections 420/467/468/471 and 473 of the Penal Code.

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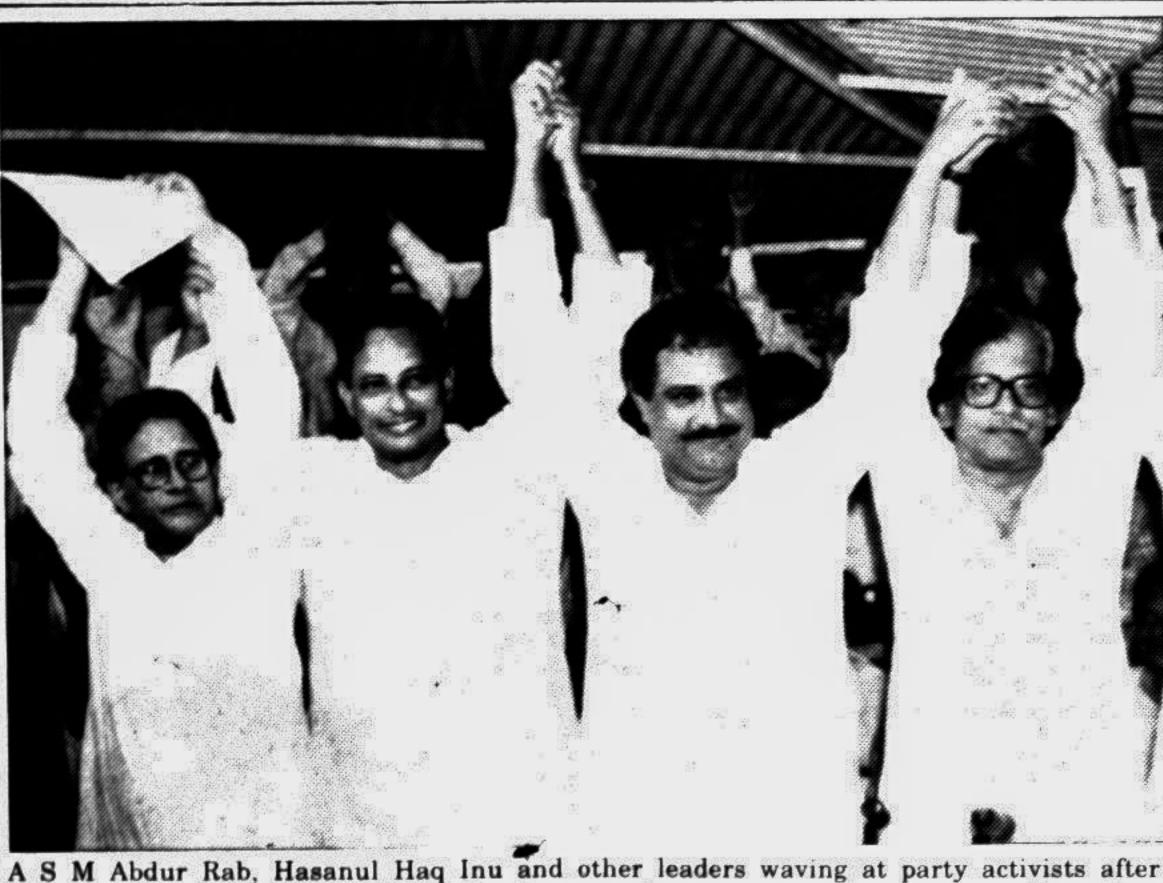
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reunification of two JSD factions in the city yesterday.

JSD factions

From Page 1 A seven member JSD Reconstitution Committee, with ASM Rob and Hasanul Huq Inu as President and General secretary respectively was also announced at the press conference. Other members of the committee are Noor Alam Ziku, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Sharif Nurul Ambia, Syed Zafar Sajjad and Moinuddin Khan Badal.

Badal, however, returned to JSD from the Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) led AFM Mahbubul Huq.

Addressing the press conference. Rob. a minister in the government of Sheikh Hasina, said that his party was 'very much in the Opposition'.

Fresh commitment

From Page 1

it said while the government continued structural reforms, a cautious stance was adopted with respect to both fiscal and monetary policies. But much of the imbalances

were shifted to the monetary overhang and low external reserves generated by the expansionary policy followed since

"Very high rates of growth of domestic credit during 1995 and 1996 — which had roots in expansionary conditions as far back as 1994 — led to unprecedented foreign reserve loss," the document said. High rates of growth of do-

mestic credit - the highest in the decade — had been associated with a loss of more than one billion dollars in foreign exchange reserve, it added.

Pointing out that the government was able to reduce fiscal pressure on the economy in spite of a difficult situation, the document said the overall budget deficit fell to 5.3 per cent in FY97, compared with a trend deficit of 6.3 per cent of GDP over FY 92 to FY 96 and 5.3 per cent in the previous year.

The domestic financing of the deficit declined to 1.9 per cent of GDP in FY97 compared with 2.2 per cent the previous

"This was achieved by sale of saving certificates and by borrowing from the banking system which remained at the previous year's level," the document said. It claimed that the govern-

ment was able to limit reliance on the banking system financing by facilitating approval and implementation of aid-financed projects and improving the incentives for the purchase of savings certificates.

Sharif agrees to appoint five SC judges ISLAMABAD, Oct 31: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif late today announced

his decision to accept Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah's demand to appoint five more judges to the Supreme Court, reports AFP. Sharif made the announce-

ment in a nationally-televised address to the National Assem-

In the larger interest of the country, he said the ruling JS session

From Page 1

To discuss matters relating to smooth functioning of the session, the Business Advisory Committee headed by Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury will meet today at 4 pm at the cabinet room of Sangsad Bhaban. The fixation of the duration of the session will also be Meanwhile, the Speaker has

convened a meeting of the leaders of the ruling and Opposition parties today to discuss the issues relating to making the session meaningful and effective.

A meeting of the Parliamen tary Party of the ruling Awami League will also be held tomorrow at 3 pm at the Sangsad Bhaban. The main opposition BNP

which had been abstaining from attending the House since the opening day of the last session on August 30 to press home its 14-point demand, is yet to decide about their return to the House, it was learnt. A meeting of the BNP Par-

liamentary Party which was adjourned on October 30 will resume tomorrow to take decision regarding its return to the party and its allies had agreed to appoint five more judges to the Supreme Court bringing to 17 the number of top judicial authorities.

The Chief Justice had been in a political standoff with the premier over the appointments. An earlier report said, President Farooq Ahmed Leghari was today caught in the middle of a raging dispute between the premier and the chief justice, as both sides appealed to him for

chief Justice Shah asked Leghari during a meeting to implement a Supreme Court order to appoint five judges to the top court, while Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif wrote to the President urging him to stay the nominations.

The top court issued the directive Thursday under a constitutional clause that binds 'all executive and judicial authorities' to act in aid of the Supreme Court.

Youth festival From Page 1

Home Minister Major (retd) Rafiqul Islam, will start from the National Museum premises tomorrow.

Post. Telecommunications and Housing Minister Mohammad Nasim will inaugurate the week-long (Nov 2-8) jubo mela at the Dhnamondi Club ground at 3 pm tomorrow.

A day-long seminar, split into two sessions, will be held at the BIAM in Eskaton on November 4.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman will be the chief guest at the closing ceremony on November 8 at 11 am.

suspended for not discharging

the responsibilities they have

been entrusted with. But no

such action has yet been taken

against the teachers involved in

versity Order, 1973, a teacher is

primarily responsible to the

chairman of his department,

the chairman is responsible to

the dean of the faculty and the

some departments, talking to

The Daily Star, said that in

most cases the deans and

chairmen were not sincere to

their duties. They think that

they are relived of their re-

sponsibilities as teachers be-

cause of their administrative

positions and the other teach-

ers simply follow them, the stu-

Meanwhile, reports of the

But number of students of

dean to the Vice Chancellor.

According the Dhaka Uni-

such activities.

DU teachers' reluctance

From Page 1 to the Vice Chancellor directly.

The deans of the faculties have been asked to review the academic performance with chairmen of the departments concerned. They were also urged to take necessary steps so that the courses could be completed and examinations conducted as per schedule.

The deans of faculties wil submit reports to the Vice Chancelior once every two months describing the academic developments.

The chairmen and the directors have also been asked to give reports to the Registrar. containing list of the teachers. number of teachers on leave and the grounds they have

showed for their leave. They have also been asked to give a report to the Registrar informing whether any teacher of the departments or the insti-

tutes are in service anywhere other than in the university Sources in the university said services of teachers could

be terminated or they could be

University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Public Service Commission (PSC) last year pointed out that the standard of education in the universities was going down day by day.

dents alleged.

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US envoy meets Khaleda alise BNP's demands and in this From Page 1 Zia whether BNP will attend the

Earlier, the DG also visited

spokesman said.

liament in the past and similar things were happening now. of the Opposition attend the parliament ession and speaks of her party's issues at the floor of the House. He also said that it

the parliament effective. The BNP chairperson said that her party MPs were not being allowed to speak in the House. "Microphone is frequently switched off and we were not even allowed to speak on issues of national impor-

Begum Zia told the US envoy that her party's parliamentary party meeting was adjourned and the decision on whether it would join the parliament session would be taken after taking into account the opinions of all party MPs.

Ambassador Holzman also wanted to know from Begum

a front page editorial announcing end of its publication after 33 years. The Bichitra also made a

Thursday. PDB personnel also came to disconnect power supply on Thursday but they went back, the journalists said. It was, however, not known

hadur Shrestha called on Begum Khaleda Zia at her 29 Minto Road official residence

said the BNP chief and the Nepalese envoy also discussed nation Growth Quadrangle.

November 12.

sition to attend as chief guest the concluding session of the two-day Investment Forum beginning in Dhaka on November

National Revolution and Solidarity Day which is a very sig-Meanwhile, Nepalese Ambassador in Dhaka Lok Ba-

ambassador M M Rezaul Karim

BNP delegation to attend its 3day council session beginning Begum Zia said her party

way all discussions become fun due to insincerity of the government. The US ambassador re-

She said though she was

Briefing newsmen, former

matters concerning SAARC. sub-regional grouping and four-Shrestha handed over a letter from ruling Rashtriya Projatantra Party (RRP) of Nepal to the BNP chairperson, inviting a

quested the Leader of the Oppo-

willing to attend the programme, but November 7 is the nificant day for the nation.

RRP council meeting.

in future," she added. meeting convened by the The BNP chairperson ap-Speaker today. prised the US envoy of political Begum Zia said her party suppression and repression on had always responded to the her party leaders and workers

across the country, the Ambassador John C'Holzman said the US government had witnessed the opposition parties abstaining from par-

He suggested that the Leader is the duty of both government and opposition parties to make

tance."

Speaker's invitation to a meeting. She mentioned that a fourpoint agreement was signed between the ruling and opposition parties with the negotiation of the Speaker, but not a single part of the accord has yet been implemented by the government. She said the government is

yet to take any initiative to re-Times-Bangla

From Page 1

ued their work yesterday. The

Dainik Bangla, however, wrote

cover story on the 'retirement' of the weekly. The official BSS news agency had cut off its wire services to the newspapers on

whether the publications would be available today.

yesterday evening.

will send a delegation to the

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Khaleda Zia saying that though various issues of national imments." portance came up for discussion in the House as per the suggestions of the Opposition, "she did not take part in a single one."

stored in 1991 after many years of struggle, reports UNB. parliamentary system worked for three years from January 11, 1972 to January 25, 1975, he

replaced by one-party rule under a presidential form of government for about eight months, followed by Martial Law and autocratic regimes, the

in Bangladesh." Inaugurating the two-day seminar at the BIISS auditorium in the city yesterday morning, President Shahabuddin said the democracy, restored through 12th Amendment of the Constitution in 1991, is continuing, but the question is if it can be institu-

most; all other things come next, and that an institution stands above all individual or parties," he said. Organised by the Commonwealth Society of Bangladesh

Mozaffar Ahmed. The inaugural session was also addressed by Andrew Bennett MP of British House of Commons, David R Bowen of the US House of Representa-Saber Hossain Chowd hury MP, Tanvir Nawaz Khan, and a representative from British High Commission in

the right track.

Terry Fox From Page 1 Terry Fox, a Canadian student and cancer victim. The run was

later named "Marathon of

Terry Fox, who lost his right

leg six inches above knee due to

Hope.

bone cancer in 1977, ran across Canada for 145 days— every day 23 miles — to collect funds to support cancer research. He collected one US dollar from each Canadian till he be-

came critically ill in 1980. He

Fox, who flew in here from

Vancouver on Wednesday,

opened the run and participated

Betty Fox, mother of Terry

died in June 1981.

in it. She wished all success of the event to help fulfil the objective of the country's cancer research and elsewhere around

the world. BNP won't join From Page 1 proportionate representation

in the JS standing committees

and withdrawal of 'false' cases against BNP leaders and work-Mannan Bhuiyan said, "In January last, a 4-point agreement was reached between the ruling party and BNP at a Speaker-brokered dialogue.

But, no progress has been made

so far". Draft CHT treaty From Page 1

position party, BNP. BNP is abstaining from attending the JS session since August 30 last. The Prime Minister also criticized the Leader of the Opposition in the House Begum

She also refuted allegation of torture on Opposition leaders and workers and said, "Not we, they set record of torture while they were in power." Talking on the recent agita-

tion by a section of government

employees over the new national pay scale, the Prime Minister said, "If there is any problem, we can discuss and resolve. But, I suspect instigation from certain quarters. Why should there be agitation? If they refuse to accept the new scale, we will not mind rescinding the Pay Commission Award and then they would have to launch movement afresh for constituting a new pay commis-

sion."

Turning to the coming Jatiya Sangsad session, Sheikh Hasina said a minister and the Chief Whip were assigned to keep contact with the major op-

> Asked about inclusion of some of her close relations in her entourage, the Prime Minister said, "My son and daughter joined me from America, my sister and her son joined me from London. But, there is nothing wrong as, you know, other leaders as well had few of their relatives accompanying them." She added that she cut budget of the trip by not availing services like hair-dressing

Replying to a query about the coming Aid Club meeting in Dhaka, Sheikh Hasina said, "It bears immense significance for us, as, for the first time, the venue of the annual meet has been shifted from Paris to Dhaka." At this stage, she invited Finance Minister SAMS Kibria to elaborate, further. Kibria said, "We expect the donors will appreciate policies taken by the government and see for themselves the develop-

and beauty parlours. Among others, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, LGRD and Cooperatives Minis-

ter Zillur Rahman, Minister of

State for Foreign Affairs Abul

Hossain Chowdhury, Minister

of State for Information Prof

Abu Sayeed and Awami League

leaders Amir Hossain Amu and

Abdul Jalil were present at the

press conference.

to Earth' could not be published today due to space constraints. Inconvenience to the readers is regretted.

raising programmes By Staff Correspondent The Zonta Club Dhaka-IV organised different progra-

mmes highlighting the theme of

'The Winds of Change' to mark

its annual luncheon at a city

Zonta's fund

hotel yesterday. The programmes included a competition on the 'changing relationship between motherin-law and daughter-in-law'. Besides, a unique type of fashion parade was staged where mother-in-law also par-

ticipated in the catwalk to dis-

play various dresses designed

by the Zonta Club members.

victims.

Club officials said, all the programmes were arranged to raise funds for helping the underprivileged women and children, specially the acid-burnt

Normalcy From Page 1 after Juma prayers. Director General of BDR Maj Gen Azizur Rahman attended the janaja The body was flown to the village home of Hatem Ali. The

BDR DG also accompanied the

body, the Sector Commander,

Sylhet said tonight.

them too.

the Sripur stone quarry area. Tokais From Page 1 and abused physically. The children's fear about these two are universal as both treat them badly. Sometimes, the mas-

taans force them to peddle

drugs, carry guns and throw

bombs during hartals and rob

They want to live with dignity, having shelters and vocational training. The survey shows that there are about 100,000 street children, living rough in the metropolis. The Chinnamul Shishu-Kishore Sangstha provides shelters to about 500 such children at its five centres located in Sadarghat, Kamalapur, Bijoynagar, New Market and Kawranbazar. They are provided with subsidized food and vocational training. The Sangstha also helps them to get jobs.

tions are going on for more. The ADB is taking up a feasibility survey to find out the possibility of providing shelter to street children on the roofs of markets in the city. Barrister Lutfar Rahman Shahajahan of the

Sangstha said.

The European Union pro-

vided some help and negotia-