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## Forged notes of taka, US dollar seized: 5 held

By Staff Correspondent

CID police arrested five persons, including a so-called fortune-teller, and seized a large number of forged notes of taka and the US dollar from his chamber at a shopping centre in the city yesterday.

Police raided Shankat Mukti Kendra on the sixth floor of Eastern Plaza and arrested Mannan, who claimed himself to be a palmist, along with his aides Forkan Sheikh, Ali Akbar and Mizanur.

The CID team, led by ASP Khalequzzaman, found a secret room behind Mannan's chamber and recovered 50 forged 100-dollar notes and 200 forged 500-taka notes, besides a computer, some equipment and materials used in preparing those.

On the basis of their confession, the CID team arrested one Abdul Salam Jahangir, an alleged partner of Mannan, from an office at Gopibagh at about 1 pm. Police recovered 65 fake 500-taka notes from Jahangir.

A CID official said the arrested persons were the members of a gang engaged in producing forged notes. A case was lodged with Dhanmondi thana in this connection.

## 2 commemorative coins from tomorrow

Bangladesh Bank will issue two commemorative coins marking the Silver Jubilee of the country's independence and of the central bank, reports UNB.

Each of the two coins with nominal value of Tk 10 will be made available in the market from tomorrow with a sale price of Tk 1,200.

## Prokrichi

From page 1  
Coordination Committee Engr Ruhul Matin, Secretary general of Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordination Council Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzak were among others present at the press conference.

The Council will hold rallies at the Institution of Engineers and the Krishibid Institution at Farm Gate in the city tomorrow. After the rallies they will bring out a procession and submit a memorandum to Prime Minister.

The other programmes announced yesterday include protest rallies at all department, organisations and district and divisional headquarters till January 6.

## Pvt hospitals

From page 1

there will be real foreign investment in the sector. BMA feels foreign investors will not come to invest in this country because there are many problems in the health sector in the country. About sixty per cent patients go abroad to buy life for this reason."

"Why should the big investors like Mount Elizabeth Hospital come and establish hospital here?" He noted. "If they do, it will be a charity. Though the existing healthcare system is fragile we are still proud of possessing one of the best infrastructure facilities in the world. So, there is no need for establishment of new hospitals. Frankly speaking, the government should opt for utilising the existing ones."

He said, "What we suspect is that local agents will operate and make business by appointing third grade consultants who, in turn, will refer patients to hospitals abroad. We also suspect involvement of a third party in designing the whole idea."

"Is the government taking the health sector to business by taking such a decision? Any type of investment means making profit. They will certainly be looking for profit, publicity and promotion. Doctors can not be involved in those."

"Ultimately, people will not benefit from this because we have a very weak monitoring system."

He said that the BMA had suggested transfer of technology in the government hospitals which would benefit the people most.

## Industrial policy

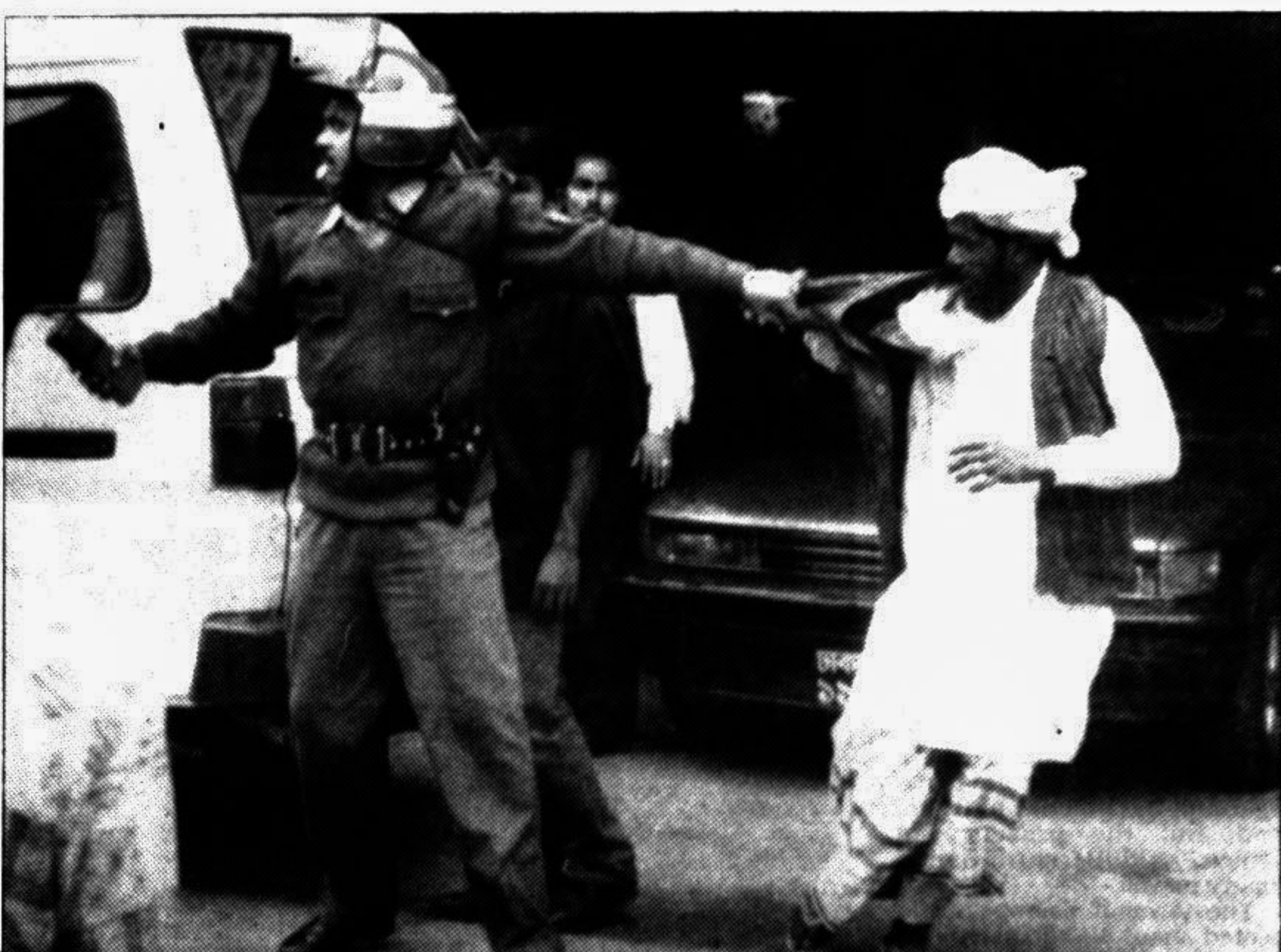
From page 1

Bank Governor Lutfar Rahman Sarkar, MCC President Samson H Chowdhury, BCI President Sharif M Afzal Hossain, economist Dr Debapriya Bhat-tacharya, BOI Executive Chairman Farooq Sobhan, Commerce Secretary Sayed Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury, Industries Secretary Kij Ejazul Huq, labour leader Abdul Basher and industrialist Anisur Rahman Sinha were present in the meeting.

## DU library

From page 1

students. The budget has not been increased from Tk 72 lakh in last ten years. Of this amount, we spend Tk 50 lakh for buying journals, and the rest for buying new books, he said.



A policeman trying to pick up one of the activists of Islami Oikya Jote when they gathered at Purana Paltan in the city yesterday for joining a long march against the CHT accord.

— Star photo

## Sangskritik Jote press confce BNP, Jamaat hatching conspiracy against CHT peace accord

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote leader Shahriar Kabir has said that Jamaat-e-Islami along with the main opposition BNP is hatching conspiracy in the three hill districts to motivate people against the CHT peace accord, reports UNB.

"Illicit trading of arms and drugs, and training camps for the political arms cadres of Jamaat will become inoperative there (CHT). As a result, they are campaigning against the accord," he said at a press conference yesterday.

The press conference, held at BMA Bhaban at Tophkhana road in the afternoon, was a follow-up of the three-day 'peace and amity expedition' of the Jote leaders in the three hill districts.

The team, which returned to the capital in the morning, included Syed Hasan Imam, Ali Zaker, Asaduzzaman Noor, Mamunur Rashid, Shahriar Kabir, Khaled Khan, Hasan Arif and Afzal Hossain. All of them except Hasan Imam were present at the press conference.

Jote general secretary Golam Quddus coordinated the expedition of the Jote leaders who visited Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati districts on December 25-27 to expedite peace and amity among the tribals and Bangladeshes in the region.

During the visit, the Jote leaders organised three separate rallies coupled with cultural programmes in the three hill districts and exchanged views with the tribal and non-tribal people.

Reading out a written statement at the press conference, Jote general secretary Golam

## IOJ activists batoncharged: 30 hurt, 13 held

Police used batons and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the marchers of the Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said some 30 people were injured and 13 arrested as police went into action at about 10:30 am when the IOJ activists tried to gather in Purana Paltan area ignoring the restriction on holding street rallies.

The IOJ planned the long march from the capital to Ranggarh in Khagrachhari hill district to press for repealing the peace agreement on the CHT.

Police lobbed several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the marchers who pelted bricks towards the law enforcers.

The chase and counter-chase between police and the IOJ activists continued till 2 pm. The 13 arrested activists were sent to Motijheel thana custody.

Despite police action, some IOJ activists left the city for Ranggarh by bus.

Dhaka City BNP convenor Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP condemned the police action on the IOJ leaders and workers. In a statement, he said people's democratic movement cannot be suppressed by repressive measures.

Addressing a press conference, IOJ leaders strongly condemned the police action on the procession.

Dhaka City BNP convenor Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP also condemned the police action on the IOJ leaders and workers. In a statement, he said people's democratic movement cannot be suppressed by repressive measures.

## Recognise talents of youths

From page 1

cooperation with the British Council. Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam moderated the discussion with a large number of participants sprawling around in a circle at the British council auditorium.

The young professionals and entrepreneurs felt that they could change their own lives, make their professions and vocations more meaningful and improve the image of Bangladesh through greater shared efforts and networking in every sphere. They also felt that the government should engage young professionals in the process of decision making and infuse a philosophy that could usher in dynamism and progress for more involvement for the sake of development.

The speakers also expressed their tremendous disappointment at the political leadership's 'backward outlook and lack of initiative' to recognise the talent of young professionals and their 'failure' to engage them in the development process.

Enthusiastic youths spoke out their mind to say that radical thinking has to be introduced into policy making process and for this education needs to be fundamentally overhauled and replaced by creative learning process.

The participants from diverse professional groups focused on one common aspect — that the government should confine itself to infrastructure building and social sectors like education and health while the rest should be kept open for private entrepreneurs to take over.

They expressed the overwhelming feeling that a work-friendly atmosphere needs to be created where the younger and talented new generation no longer remains dependent on government, rather, they themselves be instrumental in bringing changes in the society.

Bangladesh policy planners, they felt, needs to radically change their thinking process as well as the process of prioritisation and implementation if the country really wants to be ready to take the challenges of 21st century.

Responding to the young professionals and entrepreneurs' general demand for continuing such process of holding young peoples' conference, Mahfuz Anam said that separate 'think-tanks' for each professional group would be formed to increase competitiveness and professional standards. He assured that The Daily Star would make arrangements for periodic follow-up meetings, both interdisciplinary and mono-disciplinary. He further hoped that The Daily Star would in future be able to invite policy makers to face each of these core groups to facilitate exchange of views on problems encountered by each profession.

One participant said he would like to see a change in mundane programme of releasing fish fries on the Youth Day. Another urged the political leadership to listen to what the young generation got to tell them while a third speaker blasted the bureaucracy for always being non-responsive to reform measures.

They also spoke in a loud voice against social injustice, political chaos and corrupt practices in various sectors in the society. From the issue of law reforms to graphic designing — yesterday's conference touched on every vital subject and the highly inspired participants spoke of their dreams. They said that after 26 years of independence, Bangladesh has got no other choice but to prosper rapidly so that it does not miss the hi-tech train of 21st century.

The conference, split into two sessions, first heard the comments and ideas from a

number of designated speakers from various professions and later the floor was declared open for anyone from the audience to speak. The designated speakers included, among others, entrepreneur Sadaf Saaz Siddique, Barrister Zia, architect Mamunur Morshed Chowdhury, Doctor Reaz Mobarak, University teacher Qazi Mahmud Ahmad, graphic designer Anela Haque, lawyer A H Manzurul Kabir Kallal, vocalist Maqsoodul Haq and journalist Shah Muhammad.

During the open floor discussions, those who spoke included Kazi Golam Tausif, Rezwana Bin Farooq, Samudra Huq, Farah Kabir, Rezaur Rahim, Md Rafiq Azam, Dr Dipu Moni, Shakaul Islam, Rafi Hasan, Omar Sadat, Naim Maktab, Tasmiya, Syed Farhad Ahmed, Mohammad Hussain, Hasanul Alam, Faisal, Farhan Chowdhury and Zakaria Swapan.

Sadaf presented a dismal picture of women's status in the country. She regretted that although 80 per cent of labour force in RMG (readymade garments) sector are women, there were hardly any representation of women in entrepreneurship.

Dr Reaz Mobarak said that many problems could be solved in the society by bridging generation gap and stressed the need for interactions between the elderly people and the younger generation.

Anela Haque said the hidden talent of the bright young people in the country needs to be flourished and the youths themselves have to take the challenge of using their talent in nation building.

Band singer Maqsood perhaps best echoed the optimism of the young professionals present at the conference when he said, "Bangladesh as a country has got only one way to go — that is to go forward."

## Defence forces to have guideline on the basis of nat'l requirements

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government wants to involve the well-disciplined and skilled armed forces in development activities, reports UNB.

"We strongly believe that the members of the armed forces will always remain ready for any sacrifice for the cause of the nation," she said.

Delivering a lecture on "Bangladesh in the 21st Century" at Defence Services Command and Staff College at Mirpur, Hasina said her government wants to formulate future guideline for the armed forces on the basis of national requirements.

She said her government has plans to build such national defence forces by 2005, imbued with the national spirit, which would be balanced in size, but very fast and dynamic, and equally efficient in modern warfare.

"Our armed forces will be most disciplined, skilled and professional."

To face the challenges of the next century, she said, the army will be reformed with the enrichment of its combatting power and logistic backup.

She said the navy will be developed with a strength to resist any aggression through the seas. This force will be developed further to protect the marine resources, contain sea smuggling and arms trafficking and face the natural calamities. "We have plans to open an air branch in the navy."

The Prime Minister said the government has undertaken steps to develop the air force as modern one. "Despite our resource constraints, we have given permission to procure the latest MIG-29. F-7 aircrafts will also be bought for smooth transition."

Regarding the national development programmes,

Hasina said the main challenge of the 21st century will be the emancipation of the people from poverty and hunger, socio-economic development and free democratisation.

"Our government is determined to ensure national progress, political stability and free the nation from the curse of hunger, disease and illiteracy," she said.

The Prime Minister said a vast prospect for economic development has been created for the nation and a huge number of foreign entrepreneurs are coming to the country with a mission to invest on large scale in the energy sector.

"We have huge reserve of natural gas and we will be able to attain the economic progress by utilising this resource," she said, adding that the government has formulated proper policies to use this resources only for the national development activities.

## Polling cancelled in six centres due to violence

By Staff Correspondent

Polling in at least six centres were cancelled due to electoral violence yesterday, the 20th day of ongoing Union Parishad elections, sources in the Election Commission said.

Elections were held at a total of 473 centres in 52 unions under six thanas of six districts. Elections to 4,031 union parishes out of a total 4,298 have been completed till Saturday Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena said.

This brings to completion of nearly 94 per cent of the UP elections while the rest will be covered by December 31, he said.

All the six centres where polling was cancelled yesterday are in Chararhata union of sadar thana under Sherpur district, EC sources said.

Deputy Commissioner of Sherpur Mohammad Noael Miah told The Daily Star last night over telephone that polling in the six centres were

cancelled as supporters of certain candidates snatched away ballot boxes.

According to the DC, police fired nine blank shots in two centres to control the situation. None was injured.

UNB adds: Supporters of a defeated chairman candidate of Char Muchauria union ransacked the TNO office in sadar thana of Sherpur.

Several hundred supporters of Mokhesur Rahman alias Amba earlier gheraoed the TNO office. They brought out a procession in the town demanding cancellation of the UP election result, the agency said quoting witnesses.

Clashes between the supporters of rival chairman candidates at Daulatpur Union in Belkuchi thana of Sirajganj yesterday left at least 20 people injured and two missing.

Five of the injured were rushed to the local hospital and clinic.

Witnesses said the clash ensued between the supporters of chairman candidates — Abdul Khaleque Tota and Asha Biswas, the wife of local MP — at about 4 pm when two rival processionists came face to face on Daulatpur road.

Two supporters of Abdul Khaleque were reportedly missing.

## Woman murdered at Matuail

By Staff Correspondent

A woman was allegedly murdered at Matuail under Demra thana in the city.

Police identified the dead as Helena Akhtar, 52, wife of Late Moniruzzaman of Khurepara. Helena's son Nazimul Islam found her dead in the bedroom at about 5:30 am yesterday. The body bore marks of injury on her forehead caused by sharp weapons, police said.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately and none was arrested till the filing of this report last night.

The woman lived in the house with her son and daughter-in-law.

The body was sent to DMCH for autopsy.

## Ghatail TNO, PIO assaulted

TANGAIL, Dec 28: Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) and Project Implementation Officer (PIO) of Ghatail thana were assaulted by a group of political activists today, reports UNB.

When contacted over phone, TNO Mesbah Uddin said a gang of about 20 youths, led by Shahidul Islam, General Secretary of Tangail district Awami League, attacked him and PIO Belayet Hossain when they were working in their offices in the evening.

## Cabin crew

From page 1

was grounded a day before Monday's accident. One ATP, skidding off the runway at Chittagong airport in June, is awaiting insurance surveyors' final settlement on Biman's claim.

The airline's management board failed to decide on purchasing new aircraft for its domestic sector service, keeping on hold a decision on which aircraft to buy.

They are facing pressure from two powerful lobbies, representing Bombardier of Canada and an European consortium, both offering their planes.

The Biman is awaiting a reply from the National Airlines of Australia on its query for taking lease of a short-haul aircraft.

Meanwhile, a surveyor from the F-28's insurer, the Lloyds, could not visit the spot of crash-landing in Sylhet yesterday. The surveyor was indisposed, Biman sources said adding that he would be flying there today.

Another surveyor from London is also expected today, the sources added.

Biman operated two flights to Sylhet, one each to Rajshahi and Chittagong yesterday.

Four flights will be operated today, two each to Sylhet and Chittagong and one to Jessore. There will be one flight available for Syedpur on Tuesday, the sources added.

## Kamal Uddin new Ctg Chamber president

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 28: Kamal Uddin Ahmed, an industrialist, has been elected president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry unopposed for one year term, a chamber press release said.

Besides, two other industrialists — Saifuzzaman Chowdhury and Belal Ahmed — have been elected as senior vice president and vice president respectively.

The election was held at an emergency meeting of the board of directors of the Chittagong Chamber today with MA Malek in the chair, the release added.

## RUTA polls

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polls. Professor M Azhar Ali of the Chemistry Department and Professor M Asrafuzzaman of Social Work Department are contesting for the posts of President and General Secretary respectively from Moderate Group while Professor M A Razzak of Statistics Department and Professor Muzzafar Husain of Applied Physics are contesting for the same posts from the joint panel of pro-Awami League and pro-Nationalist.

Some 598 teachers are expected to cast their votes.

## DSCSC annual meet held

The 10th annual meeting of the Governing Body of Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) was held yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, reports UNB.

Matters relating to the development of training programmes and other activities of the college were discussed at the meeting held at the college at Mirpur in the city.

Addressing the meeting, the Prime Minister said the armed forces, built by father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, have turned into a well-disciplined, organised and skilled force.

The armed forces have shown a remarkable performance in important national activities as well as in UN peace-keeping missions, she said, praising the role of the Defence Services Command and Staff College in improving the standard of the forces.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Mustafizur Rahman, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam, Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Defence Secretary Sayed Yusuf Hossain, Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan, and Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman attended the meeting.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, National University VC Prof Aminul Islam, Commandant of the College Maj Gen AM Mansur Ahmed and Member-secretary of the Governing Body of DSCSC Colonel QM Muhibur Rahman were also present.

## JMB

From page 1

contracts of the bridge project. It also approved the recommended architectural proposal for the construction of JMB main building and extended the time-limit upto March 31 for constructing the approach road on eastern side.


## Export

From page 1

stood at Tk 333 crore against its target of Tk 383 crore approximately during the first five months.

The country's total merchandise exports were recorded at Tk 9,555 crore during the first five months (July-November) of the current fiscal year against its projection of about Tk 9,373.50 crore. It means a 20 per cent increase in earning over that in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

**We mourn the Passing away of**



**Ejabuddin Ahmed**  
the honourable Chairman of Sreepur Textile Mills Limited who breathed his last at Gulshan residence at 5.20 a.m. on 28 December '97 by heart failure (Innalillahi..... ....Rajeun). He was 78.

*We all are shocked at the sudden demise of our beloved and respected Chairman.*

*We pray to Allah, the almighty for the salvation of the soul of the deceased and also pray to give strength to his bereaved family members to sustain the shock.*

**Directors, Officers, Employees & Workers**

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**Editor : Mahfuz Anam**

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-963035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> and Email address: [dstar@bangla.net](mailto:dstar@bangla.net)