

### Discussion on 'Corruption-free administration'

**From a correspondent**  
**BARISAL, Feb 2:** An open discussion on 'Corruption-free administration and social perspective' was held at Caritas auditorium in the town today. Speakers at the discussion underscored the need for reforms in the public administration for improvement of the social system.

The discussion was jointly organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Public Administration Reform Commission (PARC).

Chairman of the Reform Commission A.T.M Shamsul Haq, Trustee of the TIB Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, DIGP, and other high government officials were present at the meeting.

They stressed the need for raising the standard of education by training the teachers and increasing their salary.

Besides, misuse of laws by police, irregularities and corruption in procurement of medicines by the health ministry, lack of cooperation by doctors, intervention of politicians in the administration, and nepotism were also highlighted.

They also called for creating awareness among people for building a resistance against various corruption and social injustice.

### Country-made liquor seized

The Narcotics Control Department arrested three persons including a woman from a slum at Banani under Gulshan thana and seized 30 litres country-made liquor and 129 bottles of Indian phenidyl syrup from their possession on Monday, reports BSS.

### Govt urged to monitor activities of Madrassahs

**By DU Correspondent**  
 Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday demanded a ban on the use of religion in politics to improve the quality of democracy and create peaceful atmosphere in the country.

They also urged the government to monitor the activities of Madrassahs throughout the country as there is allegation that religious extremists are being trained in some of these institutions.

Held at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city, the meeting was organised by Sammillite Sangskritik Jote in protest against the attempt on the life of poet Shamsur Rahman.

The speakers alleged that the religious extremists were hatching conspiracy to grab power through creating anarchy in the country and called for launching a massive movement against them.

"The attempt on the life of poet Shamsur Rahman by the religious radicals is not an isolated incident, it is rather a part of their blueprint to create an unrest in the country," they said.

The discussants also demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the attack on the poet.

The discussion was addressed by Ramendu Majumder, Abul Khan, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Golam Quddus, Fakir Alamgir, Rehana Chowdhury, Hafizur Rahman, Kamal Pasha Chowdhury and Ajay Kar Khokan.

### BRDB disburses Tk 165 cr as micro credit

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) disbursed Taka 165 crore as micro credit so far against the target of Taka 400 crore for the current fiscal year (1998-99), reports BSS.

Director General of BRDB Azizur Rahman said this when a high-level delegation from Sri Lanka headed by Minister for Plan Implementation and Parliamentary Affairs, Jeyaraj Fernando visited the office of BRDB on Monday.

Deputy Minister of LGRD and Cooperatives Saber Hossain Chowdhury received the delegation.

Azizur Rahman said that as the largest organisation of the government the BRDB disbursed a total of Taka 1165 crore as micro credit so far which covered 40 lakh poor families. He also briefed the delegation on the genesis and structure of BRDB and its contribution towards development of Bangladesh.

The Sri Lankan delegation lauded the role of BRDB especially its contribution to the alleviation of poverty.

The other members of the delegations included Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Lands Salinda Dissanayake MP and Plan Implementation and Parliament Secretary S L Sevaridne.

### UGC approves AIUB's MBA programme

AMA International University Bangladesh (AIUB), a private university has been given permission by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to offer Masters of Business Administration programme, says a press release.

The MBA programme will be coordinated by Prof Dr Anwar Hossain, Advisor, School of Business.

The programme comprises of 60 credit hours of study with a professional approach to cater to the needs of the corporates and the business community at home and abroad.

Renowned faculties from home and abroad will instruct courses for the MBA programme. Excellence of the MBA programme at AIUB is in the assortment of cases, field studies, seminars, symposiums, workshops, etc. Classes for MBA programme are scheduled to start from March 1.

### 3 policemen suspended in Bhola

**BHOLA, Feb 2:** Three policemen were suspended for dereliction of duty after an under-trial prisoner fled from custody in the court building here on Monday, reports APB.

The suspended police constables are: Paul Gayen, Shamsul Haq and Shahjahan.

Official sources said one Murad, 22, an accused in an extortion case, escaped from police custody after the Magistrate's Court rejected his bail prayer.

Police could not yet track down the absconding accused. Earlier, he was arrested from Lalmoan Sadar on January 14 on charges of extortion.

### New HR body floated

Human Rights Watch-Bangladesh (HRWB), a new human rights organisation, was formed by a group of young university students in the city recently, says a press release.

The organisation, floated at DUCSU Cafeteria on the Dhaka University campus on Friday, also elected Md Abdul Muid Khan Mamun and Md Akhtar Hossain as its first president and general secretary respectively.

### Qulqhwani

Qulqhwani of Mohammad Sadeque Hossain, Managing Director and Chairman of Sadeque Paper and Board Mills, will be held today at his residence at 34/A, Hazi Osman Ghani Road in the city, says a press release.

### Theatre's week-long festival begins tomorrow

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Theatre, a leading theatre group in the country, has organised a week-long festival beginning tomorrow to celebrate the completion of the group's thousand performances.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed will inaugurate the festival while State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Kader and Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, will attend the inaugural session as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Three leading drama groups from West Bengal of India - Theatrewala, Samakalin Shilpida, and Shilpuri Rittik Natyasangstha - will participate in the festival. Aranyak and Dhaka University Theatre will also perform.

Theatre will have its own production in the festival.

A seminar entitled 'Our Drama: Perspectives on Stage and Audience' will also be organised. Poet Shamsur Rahman will attend the seminar as chief guest.

The Theatre will also organise an exhibition of drama-related books and other publications on the occasion.

### Fire service units at all thana HQs to be set up in phases: Rafiq

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam Bir Uttam yesterday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that fire service stations will be established at all thana headquarters of the country in phases, reports BSS.

Replying to an urgent call attention notice brought by Shamsul Alam Pramanik of BNP from Naoagaon, he said the present government would take up projects on availability of stations at thana headquarters, where fire service stations were yet to be established.

Referring to the BNP legislator's appeal for a fire service station at Manda thana of Naoagaon district, the minister said this particular thana would be given priority during taking up project in this regard.

### Int'l psychological confce begins Feb 6

An international psychological conference on violence against women and children will be held in the city from February 6 to 8. The conference is being jointly organised by the Department of Psychology, University of Dhaka and the British Council, Dhaka and is sponsored by DFID, says a press conference.

Researchers, academics, psychiatrists and psychologists dealing with mental health from about eight countries have been invited to participate in the three-day conference. Delegates from Canada, Philippines, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, India, America, Egypt, and South Africa have confirmed their participation. They will deliver papers in a scientific session and workshops to present their findings from research and experiences and discuss possibilities for intervention.

State Minister of Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan will inaugurate the conference. The inaugural session will be presided over by the chairperson of the Department of Psychology Dr Sheikh Md Shahidullah of Dhaka University. Chairperson of Shishu Academy, Taherunnisa Abudul Wahab will be the chief guest at the concluding session and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, Professor A K Azad will preside over the same.

### Nat'l Immunisation Day observed in Khulna

**KHULNA, Feb 2:** The second round of the fifth National Immunisation Day (NID) was observed here today in order to free the country from the polio disease by the year 2000, reports BSS.

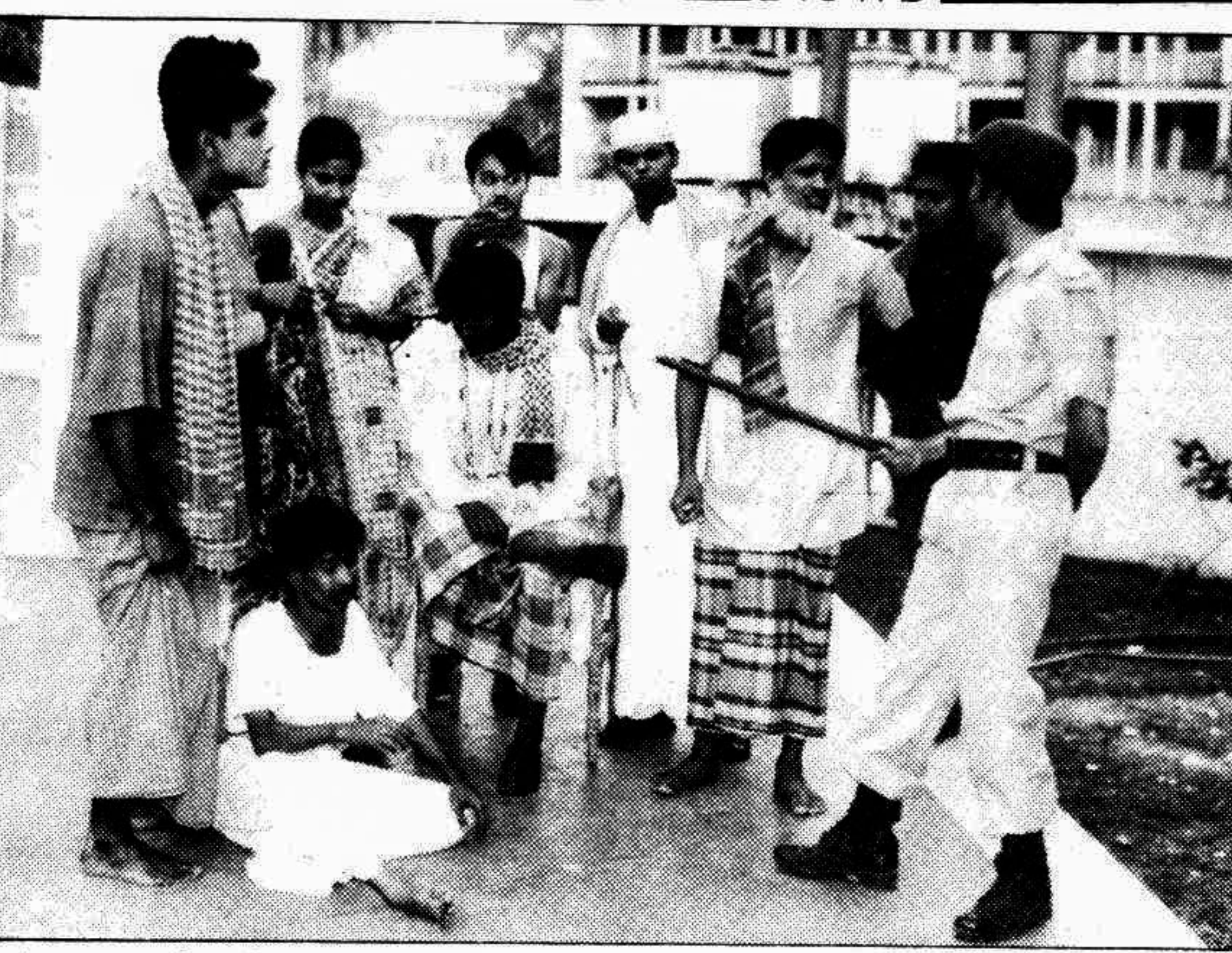
Mayor of Khulna Sheikh Tayebur Rahman formally inaugurated the NID today at Khulna City Corporation Ward Number 10 at Nayabati in Khalishpur.

A total of 370 vaccination centres were opened in the city corporation area. About 90,000 children of 5-year-old age group were given anti-polio vaccine. One thousand eight hundred volunteers were engaged from different government and non-government organisations to make the programme a success.

### US envoy meets Khasru

US Ambassador in Dhaka John C Holzman yesterday met Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru at his office and discussed various issues, including the government initiative to set up the office of Ombudsman, reports UNB.

During the discussion, the US envoy praised various steps of the government to promote and uphold human rights in Bangladesh, said an official handout.



A sequence from 'Brittva' staged by the Shattik Nattya Sampradaya marking the 12th National Street Drama Festival at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### SAARC commerce ministers call on Hasina

SAARC commerce ministers yesterday made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Hotel Sonargaon, reports BSS.

The ministers, Lyonpo Khando Wangchuk of Bhutan, Purna Bahadur Khadka of Nepal, Mohammad Ishaq Bar of Pakistan, Kingsley T Wickramaratne of Sri Lanka and Abdullah Yameen of the Maldives are now in the capital to attend the two-day third meeting of the SAARC commerce ministers that began here yesterday morning.

SAARC secretary general Nihal Rodrigo, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr S A Samad, Commerce Secretary Syed Alamgir Farouque Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

### 5 lakh children given polio vaccine in Ctg

**CHITTAGONG, Feb 2:** Around three lakh children in the city under the age of five were given oral polio vaccine in the second round of National Immunization Day (NID) here today, reports BSS.

Acting Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Alhaj Mohammad Abu Jafar inaugurated the NID programmes administering a dose of polio to a child at Memon Hospital here.

Speaking on the occasion, acting mayor Jafar underlined the importance of creating massive awareness among the guardians to make the country polio free by the year 2000.

Ward Commissioner M A Naser presided over the function. Later, acting mayor visited different vaccination centres in the city.

### Case against 31 BNP leaders, workers filed

**JHALAKATI, Feb 2:** A case has been filed against 31 leaders and workers of BNP, Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal in connection with an alleged armed attack on Jalal Hossain, president of Rajapur thana Chhatra League, reports APB.

Police said they have arrested one of the accused so far.

Amena Khatun, mother of Jalal and widow of martyred freedom fighter Hossain Ali Howladar, filed the case with Rajapur police on January 26.

According to the FIR, the accused persons attacked Jalal with sharp weapons and injured him on the night of January 25 near the local Audit Office. Jalal was admitted to Rajapur Thana Health Complex and then shifted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barisal, in a critical condition, the FIR said.

The accused BNP men include Advocate Aminur Rahman and Abul Kalam Azad, president and general secretary respectively of the thana BNP. Masum Billah and Nasim Akan, president and general secretary respectively of Jubo Dal, and Sirajul Islam Dulal and Moniruzzaman Khan, president and general secretary of the thana Chhatra Dal Union.

The police arrested Khalilur Rahman Channu, joint secretary of the Thana BNP on January 27 and sent him to jail *hajot*.

### Tk 26.48 cr water supply project for southern dists

**BARISAL, Feb 2:** The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) in collaboration with the Unicef and the government of Bangladesh has been sinking as many as 4,110 shallow, 5,390 deep tube-wells and 777 tara pumps in eleven southern districts under Barisal circle involving Tk 26.48 crore in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The districts are: Barisal, Jhalakathi, Bhola, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Bargana, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Rajbari and Shariatpur.

While implemented, people in the rural areas of the districts will get pure drinking water from the tube-wells and the tara pumps, the sources added.

According to an official source, of the total, 1,890 shallow, 1030 deep tube-wells and 278 tara pumps are being installed in the circle under post-flood rehabilitation programme of the government; and 2,220 shallow, 4,360 deep tube-wells and 499 tara pumps will be installed in this circle under Rural Water Supply Development Special Project (RWSDSP).

Work on sinking of these tube-wells and tara pumps has been going on satisfactorily and is expected to be completed this year.

Meanwhile, 83 shallow, 904 deep tube-wells and 70 tara pumps were installed in the project sites of the districts under this circle, the source added.

Work order of the projects has already been given to the relevant contractors for setting up of the tube-wells at the project site.

### Statue recovered, 2 arrested

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Police arrested two people and recovered a statue made of black stone from near the Jokali Mandir under Sutrapur thana in the city yesterday.

The arrested were identified as Selim Reza, son of late Shorab Ali, and Sayed Hasan, son of Golam Hossain both resident of 64/5 R K Mission Road, under Sutrapur thana.

Acting on a tip-off police challenged a rickshaw in front of Osmani Hotel at Jokali Mandir while it was coming from Gulistan. Police searched its two passengers and recovered a statue weighing about 870 grams made of black stone from their possession at the early hours of yesterday.

The arrested were carrying the statue to smuggle it to India, police said. A case has been lodged with Sutrapur thana in this connection.

### Old man found dead

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 An elderly man was found dead at his residence at Abdullahpur under Uttara thana in the city on Monday night.

The dead was identified as Mostafa Miah, 65, of Abdullahpur.

DMCH source said the body bears several wounds at his knee, forehead and left hand. Son-in-law of Mostafa claimed that he was killed.

Uttara police said they were informed of the incident in the evening and recovered the body and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Uttara Thana in this connection.

### Attack on BCL leader Case against 31 BNP leaders, workers filed

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday laid emphasis on having a pool of well-trained foreign service cadre to protect and promote the legitimate interests of Bangladesh in its relations with foreign countries, reports BSS.

"Diplomacy is a highly specialised mechanism for the conduct of inter-state relations," the Foreign Minister said while inaugurating the fourth specialised course for the BCS Foreign Cadre Officers at the Foreign Service Academy in the city.

He said proper training is essential for the diplomats whose task is to implement the foreign policy objectives of an independent and sovereign state.

The function was also addressed by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Acting Foreign Secretary Mohiuddin Ahmed and Acting Principal of the Academy Md Touhid Hossain.

The Foreign Minister said the diplomats, who are entrusted with the task of maintaining inter-state relations and implementation of foreign policy objectives, need to be professionally competent and committed and for that specialised training in the academy and in the ministry and also at missions abroad are of special importance for diplomats. Azad observed.

### Well-trained diplomats a must to protect nat'l interest : FM

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### Corrigendum

In the advertisement '50 Years Partnership in Aviation Fuel Service' published on February 1, the designation of Mr Monimur Rahman was mentioned as 'Aviation Officer.' It should be noted that he is the 'Aviation Manager' of Padma Oil Company Limited. Asiatic deeply regrets the error.

### Etihas parishad confce begins

**By DU Correspondent**  
 The two-day-long 'Third Biennial Conference and Annual General Meeting' of the Bangladesh Etihas Parishad began in the city yesterday.

Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, was present as chief guest at the inaugural session held at the children auditorium of the National Museum.

Presided over by Parishad President National Professor Sufia Ahmed, the programme was also addressed by National Professor Dr Nurul Islam, Dr Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin, Prof Mohammad Imam-Ul-Haq, Prof Habiba Khatun and Dr Nazma Khan Majlish.

Eminent historians and researchers will present different papers in the conference.

### Seminar on democracy tomorrow

The Japan Study Center and the Embassy of Japan have jointly organised a seminar on 'Democracy and Development: Perspectives on Japan and Bangladesh' to be held tomorrow at the IBA auditorium in the city, says a press release.

Shigeharu Maruyama, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Japan, and Dr Hideo Otake, Professor of Political Science, Kyoto University and visiting professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Dhaka, will present key-note papers.

John Kincannon, Director, USIS, Dhaka will be guest of honour.

Dr Ataur Rahman, Professor of political Science, DU, and chairman, Japan Study Center will preside.

### Accidents leave 3 dead in Gazipur

**GAZIPUR, Feb 2:** Three people, including two devotees of just concluded Biswa Itjema was killed in separate road accidents here today and yesterday, reports UNB.

Police said Abdul Khaleque, 60, of Kaladi village in Ruppang thana of Narayanganj district was crushed under the wheels of a speedy truck while he was crossing the road near Monno Textile Mills area here this morning.

In another accident, an unidentified devotee of the Itjema was seriously injured on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near the Itjema ground on Monday and rushed to Tongi Thana Health Complex where he died.

A bus helper, Abdul Barez, died in yet another road accident at Chandna here on Monday. He died on the spot after being hit by a truck overtaking the bus. He hailed from Char Kalibari area in Mymensingh town.

All the bodies were sent to sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

### MMC students stage sit-in

**MYMENSINGH, Feb 2:** General students of Mymensingh Medical College staged a sit-in in front of local press club today as part of their ongoing movement to withdraw the decision of the Dhaka University Authorities, reports UNB.

DU authorities cancelled examination centre of the college for alleged adoption of unfair means by the examinees.

The students under the banner of 'General Students Parishad' gathered on the press club premises in a procession from the campus at 11 am and stayed there till 3 pm blocking the road.

Later, they withdrew the sit-in programme following assurance from Poursava Chairman Dewlar Hossain Khan and Awami League leader Prof Amir Ahmed Chowdhury that they would hold discussion with the authorities concerned on the issue.

### JUTA elections 49 submit nomination papers

**SAVAR, Feb 2:** A total of 49 candidates submitted nomination papers on the last day today for contesting the elections of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA), reports UNB.

Four nomination papers were submitted for President post, three for Vice-President, three for General Secretary, two for Joint Secretary, two for Treasury and 25 for the 10 posts of executive members.

Two panels are expected to contest the election scheduled for February 9.

Dr Abu Sayeed Khan of Physics Department, Prof Mohammad Ismail Hossain of Economics, Prof Naima Siddique of Philosophy and Prof Nurul Alam of Physics Department are vying for the President post.

Dr Farhad Hossain, Dr Abdus Salam and Prof Nurul Alam submitted nominations for Vice President post while Dr Farhad Hossain, Gamrul Ahsan and Dr Rafiquzzaman for General Secretary post.

### Trade fair

From page 12  
 investment, the prime minister added.

She expressed the hope that the fair would further brighten the image of the country and help bring about dynamism in economic activities.

Addressing the function, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria said, "We do not have any internal conflict as well as any external conflict. With economic reforms, Bangladesh has a stable financial sector now".

The Taka (Bangladesh currency) is also in a stable condition, he said.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said because of the dynamic economic and trade policies of the government, the country will be able to achieve the export target of 580 crore US Dollars this financial year despite the century's worst flood.

"We are proud of our homogeneity for which so many foreign companies are coming to invest in Bangladesh. But we need more investment because we have some established markets for export and we are sincere to exploit this opportunity," he said.

He expressed his optimism that the entrepreneurs and businessmen of the participating countries including host Bangladesh will have fruitful interactions during the fair to expand markets for their products.

EBCCI President Abdul Awal Minto said the country's export earnings increased by 17 per cent in fiscal 1997-98 over the previous years.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the colourful fair by releasing multicolour balloons.

Commerce Ministers of SAARC countries, members of the Cabinet, MPs, diplomats, high officials, business leaders and representatives of local and foreign participates were also present at the function.

### JS: Hasina

From Page 1  
 Hasina said Begum Khaleda Zia, now Leader of the Opposition in the House, had once branded Ershad as killer of her husband. "The two have ganged up now to give support to the killers", Hasina said.

At this point, Gazi Md Shahjahan, from the Opposition Bench wanted to know what steps her government had taken against Awami Leaguers who were allegedly linked with the killings in August 15, 1975. Hasina, also president of Awami League, said, "Those (Awami Leaguers) who were linked directly or indirectly later deserted the party out of guilty feelings".

Hasina told the parliament that efforts were on to bring back the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu from abroad. One of them, Bazul Huda, has already been brought back home from Thailand, she added.

Replying to another question on Humanitarian Assistance Needs Assessment (HANA), the Prime Minister said no agreement called HANA has been signed between Bangladesh and the US. Rather, a 10-member US defence delegation carried out HANA activities in August last year to explore fields of co-operation during natural disaster.

She ruled out an Opposition lawmaker's fear that HANA would put country's independence at stake. The HANA report will be placed before US defence and foreign offices sometime this year, she said.

Hasina claimed that during the 1991 cyclone, thousands of people died as the then BNP government failed to take enough precautionary measures. She also recalled that the then government could not say anything specific regarding the 'Operation Sea Angel', carried out by US Army after the 1991 cyclone.

Replying to another question, the Prime Minister said increased grants for non-government primary school teachers would be effective from July 1 this year. She said the government is also examining the possibility of providing non-government primary teachers with retirement benefit and formation of a welfare trust for them is under process.

While replying to a query on the second summit of D-8 (developing eighth) Dhaka billed for March 1-2, the Prime Minister gave a resume of measures taken so far to make it a success.

She told another questioner that a meeting of the Cabinet would be convened at a convenient time in future.

### Part of Ctg city plunges into darkness

**CHITTAGONG, Feb 2:** Two units of the Rauzan Thermal Power Plant became inoperable early today for mechanical fault, worsening the nagging electricity shortages, reports APB.

The engineers were striving to repair the faults as early as possible as part of the port city plunged into darkness.

Official sources said a total of 420-megawatt power is generated from the two units while the demand for electricity of the district is 360 MW.

### Jubo Dal leader arrested at Jhalakathi

**JHALAKATHI, Feb 2:** Police yesterday arrested a leader of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal on charge of stabbing, reports APB.

Shameem, a former VP of Rajapur Degree College students union, was arrested from Naikhati bazar and later sent to the jail.

Police said the Shameem stabbed Rajapur BCL president Jalal Hossain with sharp weapons on January 25, injuring him critically.

The victim's mother filed a case against 31 members of BNP and its front organisation the following day.

Another accused, Khalilur Rahman Channu, a joint secretary of thana BNP, was arrested on January 27.

### 6 absconding accused held in Rangamati

**RANGAMATI, Feb 2:** Police arrested six absconding accused in several cases from different parts of the hill districts and seized a firearm on Monday and Tuesday, reports APB.

Of the six, two of them were arrested by Kotwali thana police, one each by Naniarchar and Kaptai police and the rest two by Baghaichhari thana police.



BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP speaking at a discussion on 'Great Language Movement', organised by JASAS, marking the inauguration of the 21-day programme on the occasion of Shaheed Dibash on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. — Star photo