



Pakistan Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at a city hotel on Friday. — PID photo

Justice system needs reforms to meet demands of time: Khasru

The justice system of Bangladesh needs reforms to meet the demands of the time. The government is fully committed to this reform and this is the high time for people to speak out about the inadequacies of the system, said Abdul Matin Khasru, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, while addressing a workshop on proposed legal and judicial reforms in Khulna yesterday, says a press release.

This was the second of a series of workshops organised by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in collaboration with the World Bank for people's participation in the preparation of the forthcoming Legal and Judiciary Capacity Building Project.

The day-long workshop was presided by Aminullah, Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

The Minister said, "The laws and the justice system are for the people, but they are the worst sufferers of the malpractices that result from the present system. We must crush the system that perpetrates injustice to people and put in place a pure justice system," the Minister said that reforming the legal and judicial system is not a partisan issue, everybody needs it.

Regarding the forthcoming Project, Khasru said jurists, lawyers and legal experts of international renown from all over the world worked for about a year and a half to identify the inadequacies of the legal and judicial system of Bangladesh. He said that this project might well become a world model.

Some 140 participants representing the Ministry of Law, the Supreme Court, the Law Commission, judges, lawyers, administrators, academics, chamber of commerce leaders, women's organisations, NGOs, media, poor and disadvantaged litigants and members of the civil society took part in the workshop.

Mohsin Alikhan, Professor Syed Mynuddin, Dr Khurshid Alam and Dr Subrata S Dhar from the World Bank were present.

After a day-long intensive and lively discussion, the participants came up with pragmatic sets of recommendations, which will be taken into account in finalising the strategy paper. From this paper, the first phase of the project will be identified and implemented by the Government of Bangladesh with assistance of the World Bank and the donor community.

Indonesian FM meets Samad Azad

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at the latter's hotel suite yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

The two foreign ministers discussed matters of mutual interests with special emphasis on D-8's proposed sector of co-operation.

Alatas is in city to take part in the Council of Ministers (Foreign Ministers) meeting of D-8 prior to the summit which will be held on March 1.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Indonesia Afsarul Quader was present during the meeting.

Pakistani, Egyptian FM's visit Nat'l Museum

Amre M Moussa and Sartaj Aziz, the Foreign Ministers of Egypt and Pakistan respectively, visited the National Museum at Shahbagh yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

The two foreign ministers spent some time at the museum and showed interest in the exhibits put there.

The two are in the capital in connection with holding of the second D-8 summit.

Speakers stress need for promoting leadership qualities at all levels

The need for developing leadership qualities in political, social, business and other critical areas of national life was brought into sharp focus at the opening session of a seminar titled 'Leadership development' in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The speakers stressed that different countries — the developing ones in particular — face a big challenge in providing the necessary leadership in various segments of life which is essential for a happy and healthy society and hence the task for promoting leadership qualities assumes far greater importance than simply being attached to the issue.

Education Minister A S H K Sadique was the chief guest at the seminar jointly organised by the East West University, American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) and Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) along with Dr Mohammad Farashuddin, founder Vice-Chancellor of the East West University and present Governor of the Bangladesh Bank. The inaugural session of the

seminar was also addressed by US Ambassador John C Holzman as special guest, Dr James Richard Bean, Associate Professor of Organisational Behaviour and Dr Zakir Hossain, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Sociology — both from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, USA, Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, chairman of the CDRB, Dr Mohammad Musa, acting Vice Chancellor of the East West University and Enayet Karim, Director of the CDRB.

The Education Minister said developing leadership qualities entails tremendous significance since leadership is an on-going process covering a wide spectrum. He said the government is not a machine but decisions by individuals that always warrant embellishment and invigoration.

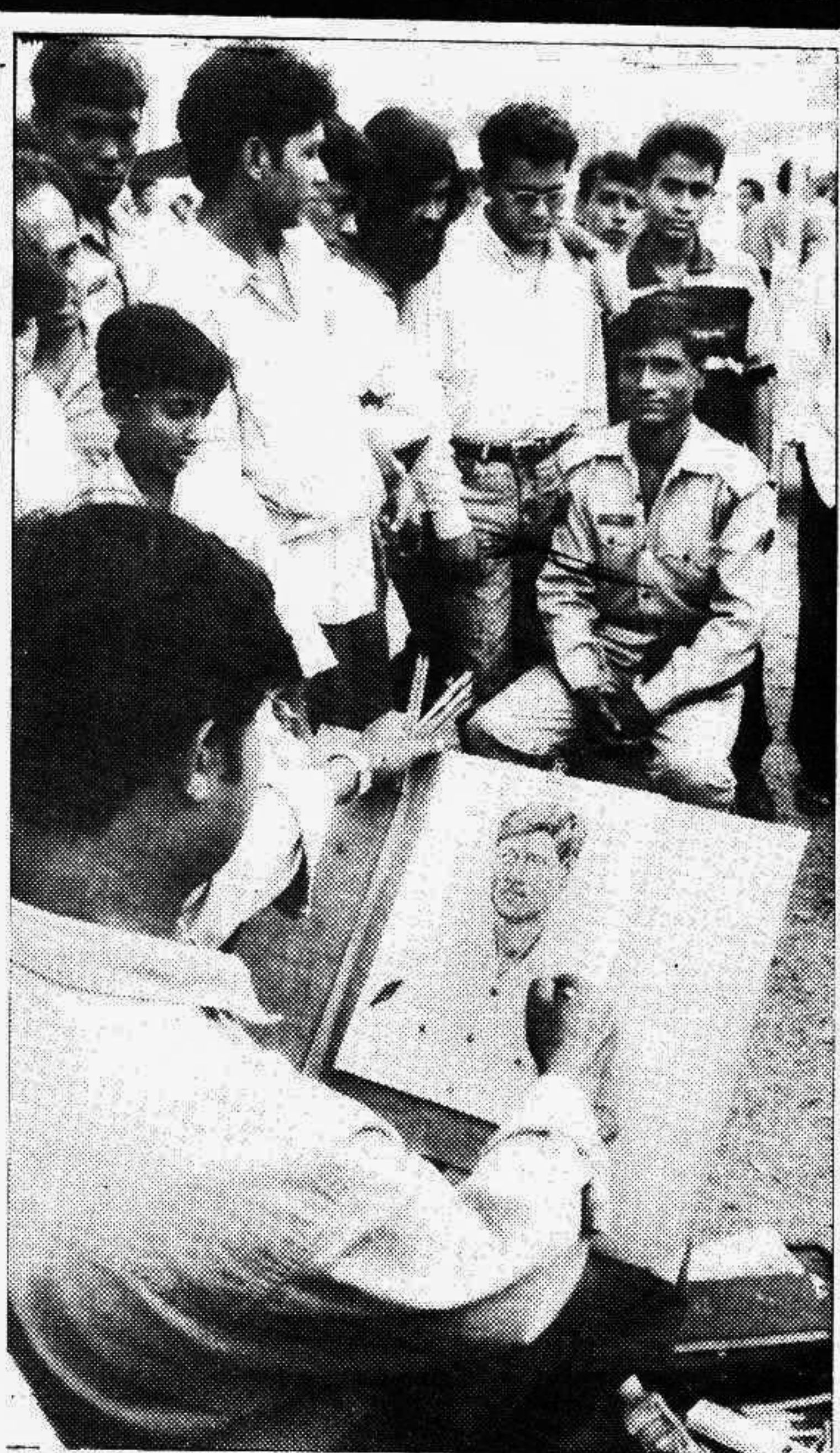
Sadique said values at different areas are on the wane causing worrisome gaps at various levels. He said it is necessary to arrest this decline so that things could improve in the areas that are crucially important for the country.

The minister said democratic policy helps develop values and cited examples that in 1954 elections the ruling circles were routed as they finished with the win of only nine seats but later period saw military rulers organising referendums in which it was shown that the turnout was close to cent per cent and the persons involved bagged 97 or 98 per cent of the votes cast. "Where is the rationale?" he asked and emphasised that transparency and fairness is not only required in the political arena but all basic parameters of national life.

Holzman in his speech said the American government favours helping in all possible way impart of knowledge and added that the world is faced with great challenges in developing the human resources.

Dr Shelley said strengthening of modern ideas towards leadership development is one of the basic objectives of the seminar that is taking place.

Dr Mohammad Farashuddin said education can be considered as an "working capital" of invaluable significance that can deliver the benefits in many ways including developing leaders in different sectors.



Students of Dhaka University have been raising funds for underprivileged students by sketching portraits of visitors at the month-long Ekushey Book Fair. — Star photo

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 36 degree Celsius at Chittagong and the lowest 16.1 degrees at Rangpur.

The sun sets today at 6.01 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.21 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.6	23.4	50	45
Chittagong	36.0	20.4	55	55
Rajshahi	32.0	19.8	63	55
Khulna	32.8	21.6	71	60
Barisal	32.2	21.9	79	52
Sylhet	34.3	21.0	61	63
Cox's Bazar	35.4	21.2	63	64

Hanif visits Agargaon slum fire victims

Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif yesterday visited the fire-affected Agargaon slum areas to see the extent of damage, a City Corporation press release said, reports BSS.

The Mayor expressed his deep sympathy for the members of the families of those who were killed in the fire incident. He assured of all possible cooperation for the people affected in the incident.

The Mayor directed the concerned officials to immediately distribute 1,600 kgs of rice from the corporation's relief godown among the fire victims of the slum. The Mayor was accompanied by Al Haj Maqbul Hossain MP and all commissioners of Mohunadpur thana and high officials of DCC.

Exhibition on Oskar Messter begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The Goethe-Institut Dhaka has organised a two-day exhibition on the life and work of leading German film pioneer Oskar Messter in association with the Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies.

Renowned film maker Abdus Samad will inaugurate the exhibition at 5.30 pm today.

The documentary exhibition will also include screening of his films, some of which were made more than 100 years ago.

The exhibition will remain open from 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm till March 4. The films will be screened only today and tomorrow at 6.30 pm.

RU (Hons) 1st year admission test begins today

RAJSHAHI, Feb 27: The Honours first year admission test for the session 1998-99 of the Rajshahi University begins from tomorrow, reports UNB.

Varsity sources said, a total of 1.76 lakh students will appear at the admission test of six faculties this year.

There are a total 865 seats in Arts faculty while the number of applicants is 31,707. Some 43,614 students applied for 650 seats in Science faculty, 29,685 for 430 seats in Social Science faculty, 69 for one seat in Business Studies faculty and 58 for one seat in Biology and Geology faculty and 10,860 for 100 seats in Law faculty.

It has been calculated that 109 applicants are to contest for one seat in Law faculty, 37 for one seat in Arts faculty, 67 for one seat in Science faculty, 65 for one seat in Social Science faculty, 69 for one seat in Business Studies faculty and 58 for one seat in Biology and Geology faculty.

Postal charges increased

The government has increased the rate of postage and fees for outgoing international letters and other postal items, reports APB.

The enhanced postal charges will be effective from March 1, said a handout yesterday.

What's on today

Workshop: A workshop on 'national women development policy' will be held. Organiser: National Solidarity. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Time: 9:45 am-1:30 pm.

Prize-distribution: Prizes will be distributed among the winners of a children's handwriting competition, organised by Bangladesh National Museum marking Amar Ekushey. Venue: Museum auditorium. Time: 5 pm.

Painting show: A solo painting exhibition by Javed Jahl will begin. Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery. Time: 5:30 pm. Till March 10.

Prize-giving ceremony: The prize-giving and closing ceremony of a 3-day science fair, organised by Viqarunnissa Noon Science Club, will be held. Venue: Viqarunnissa Noon College auditorium. Time: 3:30 pm.

Diabetes Day: Bangladesh Diabetic Samity has organised a programme marking Diabetes Awareness Day. Venue: BIRDEM auditorium, 3rd floor. Time: 4:30 pm. Model diabetic patients will be awarded certificates on the occasion.

Theatre: The touring repertory of Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) is going to stage Bunohans, an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's 'Wild Duck'. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm.

Ershad says Economy on verge of collapse

Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad yesterday said the country's economy is on the verge of collapse due to inefficiency and incompetence of the governments in the last eight years, reports UNB.

"It will be very difficult to pull the country out of the worst situation it reached over the period," he said welcoming new entrants to the party at a function at the JP chairman's Baridhara office in the morning.

Several people, including businessmen and ex-army personnel, of Pallabi area in Mirpur joined the Jatiya Party yesterday, said a press release.

He said criminal activities, including terrorism, extortion and murder, have become a day-to-day affair. "There is no security to public life and property. People want freedom from such a situation," Ershad said.

The JP chairman urged the party leaders and workers to strengthen the party by gearing up organisational activities.

Meanwhile, Ershad will go to Rangpur on March 2 on a four-day visit, according to a revised schedule.

He will address a public meeting at Pirganj on Tuesday at 3 pm. The JP chairman will also address public meetings at Taraganj and Gangachara on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon respectively.

Body of young man found in city

By Staff Correspondent

The body of a young man was found near a school at Zia Sarani, Sanir Akhra, in the city Friday evening.

The unidentified body bore several stab marks, with both the hands chopped off and the right eye gouged out.

Police said they recovered the body after receiving a telephone call from an anonymous telephone call at about 8:30 pm.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The decision came from an inter-ministerial meeting, held at the Ministry of Communications on Tuesday, said an official handout.

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Foreign Minister of Egypt Amre Moussa was warmly welcomed by Sun Amalan, General Manager, and K Shafiqul Alam, Executive Assistant Manager, of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel where the distinguished guests of D-8 Summit are staying. Rashida Muhiuddin, Director Public Relations, presented a bouquet to the Egyptian Foreign Minister.

Workshop on creating dev synergies begins tomorrow

A two-day workshop on "Creating Development Synergies", organised by the European Commission-NGO Dialogue Project, begins at IDB Bhawan tomorrow, reports UNB.

The project's team leader Dr Berthold Kuhn told a press conference here today that the workshop would bring together different development actors — government, NGOs and business community — and explore opportunities for better partnership.

More than 120 participants, including European Commission officials from Belgium and India, and the DG of NGO Affairs Bureau of Bangladesh, are expected to attend the workshop.

The European Commission currently provides more than Tk 500 crore to NGOs and Tk 2,000 crore to the Bangladesh government for ongoing development projects, mainly in the field of education, health, micro-finance, rights awareness, food security and rehabilitation.

JSP appeal to HM Ershad

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Shwechchasebak Party (JSP) in a statement yesterday urged Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman H M Ershad to come out of what they said the "clutches of anti liberation forces".

"Ershad will have to face dire consequences if he does not come out of this vicious circle," the JSP statement said. JP workers want to live as pro-liberation and patriotic political activists, it said.

Among others, JSP convener Munshi Abdul Latif, member secretary Abu Sayeed Khan, joint convenors Ezaz Ahmed Mukta, Abdul Ali, Badal Chowdhury and Akram Hossain Khan issued the statement.

Call to uphold spirit of Language Movement

Speakers at a function in the city on Friday urged the people to uphold the spirit of the Language Movement and be cautious against aggression of alien culture, reports BSS.

They were speaking at the function organised jointly by Nari Adhikar Andolon and Bangladesh Lekhika Sangsad to observe the Amar Ekushey.

Presided over by Andolon president and a language activist Professor Chamon Ara, the function was also addressed by Nasim Hamida Banu, Rasheda Amin and Dr Tawhida Ahsan.

Dr Tawhida Ahsan, a daughter of language hero late principal Abul Quasem said Principal Quasem was a man of discipline and spent all his life in valuable work. He was a man of high stature and that is why he could write books, establish Bangla College and become a great hero of the language movement.

Salma Rahman, Lulu Akhtar Banu Sagundhi, Najma Mustafa, Tamjida Tabbasum and Nur-e-Patema presented self composed poems and stories at the function.

PCJSS leaders hail peaceful holding of pourashava polls

KHAGRACHHARI, Feb 27: Parbatyia Chattagram Janashanghati Samity greeted the local administration and people for peaceful holding of the election to Khagrachhari municipality on February 25, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, the PCJSS leaders said people have taken part in the election with much enthusiasm in a fair and peaceful manner, said a press release.

The leaders hoped that the elected chairman and commissioners would work hard for the betterment of the people of the poura area.

Licences to be issued to sawmills for preservation of forest resources

The Ministry of Environment and Forest will conduct a survey of the sawmills and issue licence to these for preserving the country's forest resources, reports UNB.

This was informed yesterday at a meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry at the Sangsad Bhawan with its Chairman Alhaj M Tabbar Rahman Sarder in the chair.

The Committee was further informed that the timber processing industry would be brought under proper regulations as a controlled industrial sector, said a press release.

It also discussed various steps to be taken to maintain the Sundarbans as a World Heritage Site.

The overall situation in the country's rubber sector, including the existing problems and their solution, rubber production, marketing and development, came up for discussion.

Committee members Bangabir Quader Siddiqui, Habibur Rahman Molla, Golam Sarwar (Hiru) and Mojibur Rahman (Monju Miah) attended the meeting.

Environment and Forest Secretary Syed Margub Moshed and concerned high officials were also present at the meeting.

RUCSU polls on April 22

RAJSHAHI, Feb 27: Election to the Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU) will be held on April 22 after a gap of 8 years, reports UNB.

RUCSU President and Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof Abdul Khaleq disclosed this recently.

Treasurer of the University and Associate Prof of Psychology Department Muhammad Nurullah will conduct the election as returning officer.



Sigma Huda of the Institute for Law and Development exchanging views with the visiting African women delegation at the institute office in the city on Feb 20. The 12-member delegation visited Bangladesh from February 14-21 on a study tour supported by the British Government.



The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury distributing certificates as chief guest at a function at TSC yesterday among the students of BA (Hons) examination of English Department who came out successful in the years '93, '94, '95 & '96. — Star photo

SCF, BCU councils at CU to be held next month

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 27: The council of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), Chittagong University unit, will be held on March 4.

Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan, general secretary of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) will be present at the council as chief guest, while Khakon Das, president of SCF CU Unit, will preside.

Meanwhile, the council of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Chittagong University unit, will be held on March 15.

Mozahedul Islam Selim, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), will be the chief guest while Nurul Absar, president of BCU CU unit, will preside.

Torch procession by stranded Pakistanis

A torch-light procession was brought out by the "Stranded Pakistanis Youth Repatriation Movement (SPYRM) on Saturday under the joint leadership of Md Iqbal, senior vice president, and Md Naushad, organising secretary of the organisation, says a press release.

The procession marched from the main gate of Ramna Park towards Zero Point and terminated at the National Press Club with short speeches by SPYRM leaders.

The leaders urged the governments of Pakistan and Bangladesh to accept their demand for declaration of specific date and time for repatriation. They threatened that five leaders and workers will go for self-immolation from a "Suicidal Stage", set up in front of the SPYRM office, tomorrow at noon.

DU English Dept awarding ceremony

The graduation ceremony of the Department of English of Dhaka University was held yesterday at TSC auditorium, reports UNB.

Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury gave away the certificates among the students graduated from the department in 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996.

Presided over by the Chairman of the department Dr Niaz Zaman, the programme was addressed, among others, by former student Atiqul Huq and Syed Anwarul Haq, a teacher.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Chowdhury said that congenial academic atmosphere has been prevailing in the university and classes and examinations are being held on schedule.

There is no violence or terrorism at present, he said.

With the improvement of atmosphere, both the quality of research and the standard of education of the university marked significant improvement, he observed.

No Pak visa to be issued March 1-3

Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka will not issue any visa March 1 to 3 as its visa section will remain closed in view of the D-8 summit, said a High Commission press release yesterday, reports UNB.

4 houses gutted in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Feb 27: Four houses were gutted in a fire at Chandganj Farida Para last night, reports BSS.

Fire service sources said today that the fire originated from electric short circuit in a house and it engulfed the nearby area. Firemen brought the fire under control within an hour.