Rally and discussion: Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) has organised a rally and discussion meeting to mark the International Women's Day.
The rally will start from the Institution of Engineers,
Bangladesh at 8 am and will be concluded at the Central Shaheed Minar where a discussion on 12 issues of Beijing Platform of Action will be held. Time: 10 am to 1 pm.

Photo exhibition: A photo exhibition on survivors of acid violence by Kiron of MAP Photo Agency will be held on the occasion of International Women's Day. Venue: Shishu

UNAB symposium: United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) has organised a symposium in observance of International Women's Day. Key-note speaker: Rasheda K Chowdhury, Executive Director, CAMPE. Venue: Conference Hall of Hotel Razmoni Isha Khan, Kakrail. Time: 5 pm. Chief guest: David E Lockwood, Resident Representative of UNDP and

'Khyatir Birambana' will be staged on the 5th day of the National Child-Juvenile Drama Festival. Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in collaboration with the People's Theatre Association. Venue: Central Public Library auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 4:30 pm, 6 pm and 7.30 pm respectively.

Seminar: Commonwealth Society of Bangladesh has organised a seminar on 'The Commonwealth for Cooperation and Development' on the occasion of Commonwealth Day. Chief guest: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. Venue: Hotel

Film show: 'A Mother's Lament: The Rape and Death of Shima Choudhury' by Yasmin Kabir will be screened on the occasion of International Women's Day. Venue: Goethe Institut,

a discussion meeting and cultural programme to mark the International Women's Day. Chief guest: Poet Shamsur

Concluding ceremony: The closing ceremony of the 43rd convention of Engineers' Institution, Bangladesh will be held. Chief guest: Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia. Venue: IEB Headquarter premises, Ramna. Time: 4:30 pm.

Seminar: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) has recently completed a study on 'Towards Industrial Competitiveness in Bangladesh: Addressing the Technological Factor'. The findings of the study will be presented at the 2-day seminar on 'Bangladesh Industries: Export competitiveness and Technological capabilities.' Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed will inaugurate the seminar. Venue: BIDS conference room, Agargaon. Time: 3 pm.

Conference: The third international plant tissue culture conference will be held. Venue: Auditorium of Botany Department, Dhaka University. Time: 9:30 am.

Discussion: Commonwealth Student and Youth Organisation has taken up various programmes to mark the Silver Jubilee of Commonwealth Day. A colourful procession will be brought out at 9:30 am. A discussion meeting will also be held on the occasion. Venue: Office premises, 43, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm.

Certificate giving ceremony: The certificate giving ceremony of the training course on "Lending Risk Analysis" will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs premises, House # 22, Road # 7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:30 pm. Barrister Moinul Hosein, Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Daily Ittefaq, will be the chief guest.

Audio-Visual presentation: Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit (RMMRU) has organised an audio-visual presentation on 'Travels Along the Tsanppo-Brahmaputra: From Tibet to the Bay of Bengal' by Sanjoy Hazarika of Centre for Policy Research. India. Venue: Lecture Theatre Building (3rd floor). Dhaka University campus. Time :

Workshop: A five-day regional workshop on Institutional Management in Higher Education will be inaugurated. Venue: Hotel Abakash, Mohakhali. Time: 9 am.

Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNUC) Ministry of Education in collaboration with the International Institute of Educational Planning, UNESCO, Paris, France has

photo exhibition on 'Creation of Women in Bangladesh' by Azizul Rahim to mark the International Women's Day. Venue : WVA auditorium. House No: 20, Road No: 27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 1 pm to 5:30 pm.

Discussion: Sanjukta Mohila Parishad has organised a discussion meeting to mark the International Women's Day. Chief guest: Bangladesh Sanjukta Sramik Federation president Mokhlesur Rahman. Venue: Central office, House No: 69

Dhaka North will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 6 pm. Dr Motiar Rahman, FRCS (Glasgow), Professor of Surgery, National Medical College and Hospital will speak on "Laproscopic Surgery" and Audio Visual Presentation as the guest speaker.

Shahjalal begins

SYLHET, Mar 7: The threeday holy urs mubarak of renowned Muslim saint and preacher of Islam in the subcontinent Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) began here today at the dargha premises on the occasion of his 679 death anniversary, reports BSS.

The programmes of the three-day urs include khatame-Quran, waz mahfil, placing gilaf on the mazar, zikir azkar, milad mahfil, akheri munajat and distribution of shirni.

Thousands of followers of the great saint in the country and abroad have already assembled at the venue of the holy

strike on the campus from 11 Many stalls of arts and crafts and handicrafts have been set up adjacent to the premises of the mazar on the

am to 1 pm everyday, demanding withdrawal of the decision. occasion of the holy urs.

Japanese Boy Scouts team leaves

A 21-member Boy Scouts of Nippon (Japan) Rover contingent left Dhaka yesterday. Led by Tomomichi Goke, the team came here on a visit under Bangladesh-Japan joint ORT Project, says a press release.

The Rovers actively took part in a work camp with the local 144 Scouts and Rovers including 48 Girl-in-Scout members in six villages under Kazipur Thana and Sirajganj Sadar Thana of Sirajganj District to promote Oral Rehydration Therapy for the prevention of diarrhoea including primary

health care. The evaluation meeting of the project was held at the National Scouts Bhaban on Saturday. The meeting was addressed by Manzoor Ul Karim, Chief National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts, Dr Tomomichi Goke, and Hisain Sikder, executive secretary.

President, PM greet new

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday congratulated the new Amir of Bahrain and expressed their firm convictions that the relations between Bangladesh and Bahrain would be strengthened and consolidated in the years to come, reports BSS.

Khalifa, President Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recalled the excellent relations between the two countries which are based on common religion, history and culture.

Shaikh Hamad, took over as the new Amir of the tiny sheikdom Bahrain on Saturday after his father Shaikh Issa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa died of a heart attack in Manama, the capital.

The Bangladesh leaders also wished good health and happiness of the new ruler of Bahrain and peace, progress and prosperity of its people.

Commonwealth countries must

Hasina has said that the Commonwealth countries must remain committed to the goals of their vast majority of peoples, reports APB.

This should be done through eradicating poverty and illiteracy and undertaking social development programmes includyouth, she said in a message yesterday on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth.

as a model organisation of cooperation among peoples of diverse culture, Hasina said that over the past 50 years it has grown in size and collectively comprises a quarter of the world population.

"Today, as we stand on the doorsteps of the 21st century, our resolve must be to infuse a more vigorous type of cooperation to enrich our societies.

derlined the need for institutionalising democracy and upholding human rights.

Indian cultural programmes begin today

The High Commission of India, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and India Trade Promotion Organisation in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs have organised the event that will coincide with the on-going Indian Trade exhibition being held at

The artistes will perform at the Osmani Memorial Hall and the National Museum auditorium at 7 pm everyday. Free passes for the programmes are available at the Indian High Commission.

Dance exponent Pratibha Prahlad will present Bharatnattyam Kuchipudi at Osmani Memorial Hall today while theatre personality Ratan Thiyam's group will perform a

perform during the nine-day programme are Padma Talwalkar, Sangeeta Das, Kumudini Lakhia (Kathak) and Kohinoor Langa Manganiyar.

BPUP central body formed

The central committee of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad (BPUP) was formed on March 5 at its council with Prof Lalit Mohan Nath as president and Kajaldebnath as general secretary, reports BSS.

Announcement of the committee was made at the council of the parishad held in the Dhakeshwari National Temple premises at Lalbagh in the city.

Other office bearers of the committee are: Prafullya Kumar Hawlader, Anil Chandra Nath, Chittaranjan Mazumder, Bimal Roy Chowdhury, Santosh Kumar Saha, Ranjit Dey, Direndranath Dutt, Radhika Mohan Goshwami (vice presidents), Nirmal Kumar Dey, Joyanta Sen Dipu, Dijendranath Saha (joint secretary). Biresh Chandra Saha, Gapinath Das, Shymal Halder, Priyaranjan Dutt, Santipada Dutt, Santash Mukherjee (divisional joint secretary), Joyanta Kumar Dev

(treasurer). Ershad leaves for Saudi Arabia

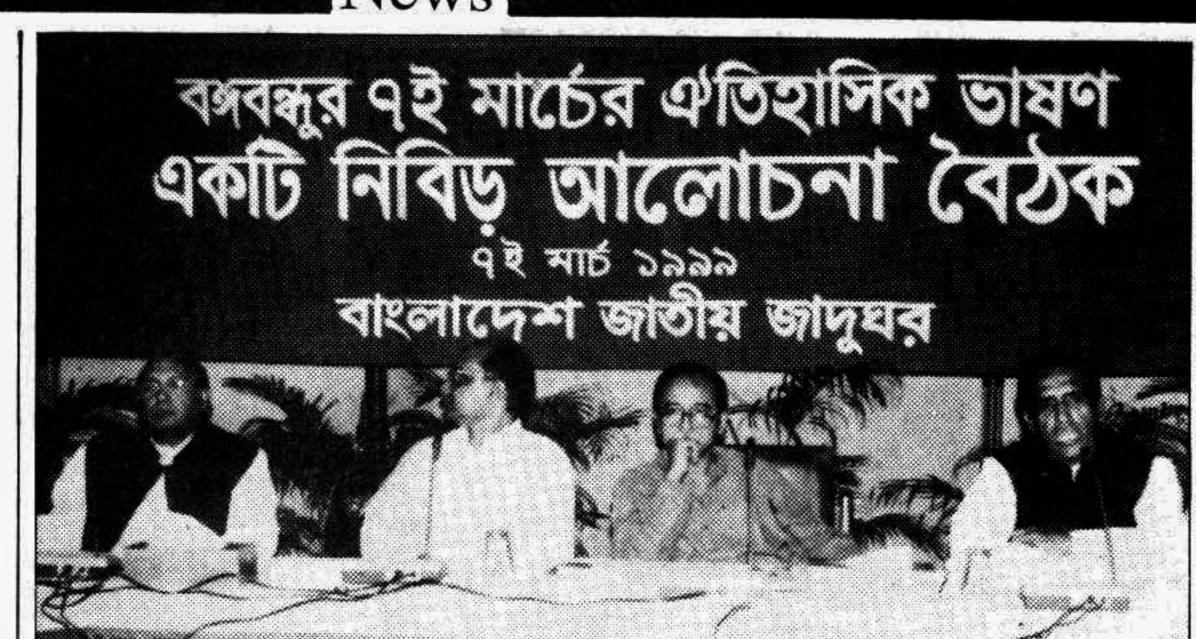
today Jatiya party chairman H M Ershad leaves for Saudi Arabia today for medical check-up, reports UNB.

The JP chief will undergo medical check-up at the King Faysal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre in Riyadh. There is a speculation in the political arena that the former President would meet BNP

chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia before his departure for Saudi Arabia. Apart from check-up, Er-shad will perform Umrah and offer munajat at the Rouja Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat

He will be accompanied by party leaders Kazi Shah Mofazzel Hossain Kaikobad MP, Golam Mosih and Maj (retd) Mohammad Khaled Akhter.

Muhammad (SM) in Madina.



A discussion meeting on the historic speech of Bangabandhu was held at the National Museum in the city yesterday. Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries, Abdur Razzak, Minister for Water Resources, Prof Muntasir Mamun of Dhaka University, Shamsuzzaman Khan, DG, National Museum, seen.

'Govt giving equal treatment to develop all areas of country'

Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Zillur Rahman yesterday said the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is giving equal treatment to develop all areas of the country. reports BSS.

Replying to questions and supplementaries in the Jatiya Sangsad, he said the government is implementing a broadbased rehabilitation programme all over the country to redress the damage caused by the country's worst floods.

Responding to a question from Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi of BNP from Kushtia, the minister said Taka nearly five crore was sanctioned for repair and rehabilitation of roads and other infrastructures which were damaged by the last year's flood in the district. Besides, he said Taka about 28 lakh was sanctioned for the district administration for the same pur-

On supplementaries raised by Syed Mahibur Rahman Manik of Awami League, Alamgir Md Mahfuzullah Farid of BNP and Kamrunnahar Putul of Awami League, Zillur Rahman said the government has already taken measures in their respective areas for the repair of damaged roads, bridges and

Replying to another question from Alhaj Dr Mohammad Ali of BNP from Netrakona, the LGRD Minister said the rest of the work of Dhobaura-Purakandulia road under Mymensingh district would start during the current fiscal year.

Replying to another question from Mustafizur Rahman of Awami League from Chittagong, the minister said five roads in Sandwip would be carpeted by the Local Government Engineering Department.

'Govt to take all steps to make Ctg commercial capital'

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said in the Parliament vesterday that the government was determined to take all necessary steps to make Chittagong the commercial capital of the country, reports UNB.

Replying to a call attention of Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan (BNP-Chittagong), the minister listed the steps taken so far, including transforming the Chittagong airport as international one by the year 2000 and setting up of a container terminal.

Referring to a feasibility study to transform Chittagong as an economic zone, he said a lot of steps have been taken in this regard.

Tofail Ahmed informed that the government has taken up a 100 million US dollar project to modernise the Chittagong Port and to establish another as a deep-sea port.

He said the Tourism Ministry has taken steps to establish a 5-star hotel in Chittagong by transforming the Parjatan

Steps have also been taken to establish a World Trade Centre while work is underway to establish a private Export Processing Zone with foreign investment, the minister added.

2 boys injured in bomb blast By Staff Correspondent

Two boys sustained bomb injuries in separate incidents in the city yesterday. Eight-year-old Sajib lost his

two fingers when a bomb exploded in his hand in the morning. He found the bomb at the Tejgaon truck stand.

The other victim, Zafar, 7, son of Rajab Ali, sustained injuries in his legs when a homemade bomb exploded in Kalyanpur Shahi Mosque area yesterday morning. Both the victims were admit

ted to the Dhaka Medical Col lege Hospital.

Shops gutted in Jhalakati

gutted some shops and an engineering workshop at Nalchhiti thana headquarters yesterday,

The shop owners claimed that property worth over Tk fifteen lakh have been gutted by the fire originating from the

the blaze before Fire Brigade teams came from Jhalakati and Barisal. There is no Fire Brigade sta-

tion at Nalchhiti.



Children performing at a function of the annual cultural week of Oxford International School in the city recently. Poet Shamsur Rahman was the chief guest at the programme.

British MP in Sylhet

SYLHET, Mar 7: British Parliament Member Una King, who arrived here this morning, has said she would try for relaxation of her country's immigration policy so that more Bangladeshi citizens can enter Britain without any hassle, reports APB.

She was speaking before a cross section of local people at the Press Club here today.

The British MP, who represents Bethnal Green Constituency in Tower Hamlet where Bangladeshis are in majority, also called for ensuring rights for children and women in Bangladesh.

"Sylhet is my favourite place," said Una King who came here as a member of the Select Committee of British House of Commons. President of local Press Club Muktabis Un Nur was in the

chair.

Four shops gutted, 10 injured in Magura MAGURA, Mar 7: A devastat-

ing fire gutted four shops and injured 10 people at Chawlia bus stand in Sadar thana today, reports UNB.

The losses from the fire were estimated about Tk 10 lakh. The fire reportedly originated from a grocery shop at about 11 am when its owner, Batu, was allegedly selling petrol illegally.

area and gutted three more adjoining shops. Fire fighters from Magura and Jhenidah rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control with the help of local

people.

The flame soon spread in the

Ten people received burn injuries while trying to extinguish the fire. Five of them, identified as Kalam, 35, Abu Zafar, 25, Milan, 20, Sujon, 28 and Siddique, were admitted to Sadar Hospi-

tal with critical burn injuries.

Mar 7 observed in Rajshahi RAJSHAHI, Mar 7: Historic

March 7 was observed in a befitting manner here today with renewed call to make Bangladesh a real Sonar Bangla as dreamt of by the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS.

Rajshahi City Awami League chalked out an elaborate programme in observance of the day. National and party flags were hoisted in the morning at Gonokpara party office to mark the occasion. Leaders and workers of

Awami League garlanded the portrait of the father of the nation and held a discussion at local party office. Bangladesh Chhatra League,

Rajshahi Medical College branch, brought out a colourful procession in the city which paraded different city streets chanting various slogans.

Later, a discussion was held with Sheikh Shahidullah, president of Chhatra League, Rajshahi Medical College branch in the chair.

Khulna

The historic March seven was observed in Khulna in a befitting manner.

Various organisations and political parties observed the day through separate pro-Awami League and its front

organisation chalked out a daylong programme in observance of the day which included hoisting of national and party flag atop the Awami League office here in the morning. Floral wreaths were placed at the portrait of Bangabandhu.

A discussion meeting was held in the evening at the Awami League office. Presided over by the president of Khulna district Awami League and former whip of the Jativa Sangsad Shaikh Harunor Rashid. The discussion meeting was addressed, among others, by Sabbir Ahmed Kamruzzaman Jamal, Monowara Begum, Sarder Mizanur Rahman, Moniruzzaman Khokon, Mallik Abid Hossain Kabir, Wahidur Rahman Jinnah, Prof Fakir Abu Hossain, Prof Hosneara Runu, AFM Maksudur Rahman and Chisti Sohrab Hossain Sikder.

Khulna station of Bangladesh Betar held an open air programme on the Khulna Betar Bhaban premises highlighting the significance of the

ActionAid official in city

Gonzalo Crespi, founder and President of Ayuda en Accion, ActionAid's Spanish partner, and member of ActionAid's Board of Trustees is now in Dhaka on a two-day visit, says a press release.

During his stay, Gonzalo will visit some of ActionAid Bangladesh's partners and will talk to the communities that these partners work with. He will also exchange his views with the journalists and BRAC's Founder Executive Director Fazle Hasan Abed.

Ayuda en Accion in the past provided relief support to victims of the cold wave arising due to the 'el nino' in 1997 and to victims of the 1998 flood. Gonzalo will go to Nari Maitree, a partner NGO of ActionAid Bangladesh conducting programmes for adolescents, and talk to some of the members of the community in Goran who received assistance during the flood. He will also discuss details

cents at Nari Maitree. Ayuda en Accion is providing funding to ActionAid Bangladesh's Adolescent programme. In Lalbag, Mr Gonzalo will briefly stop over at Bangladesh

of the programme for adoles-

Council for Child Welfare (BCCW) where a novel programme of 'peer sensitisation' has been initiated.

Mohiuddin Alamgir to attend ADB workshop in Manila

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir left for Manila Saturday night to attend a two-day ADB workshop on the 'Study of Rural Asia' beginning there tomorrow (Monday). Experts at the workshop will

review a report, drawn up in the light of transformation of the rural areas of the region over the last 20 years, to work out a sustainable policy for socioeconomic development. Dr Alamgir is attending the

meet in the Philippines capital at the invitation of the ADB. said an official handout today

3 rescued, 40 feared dead

Two boats carrying illegal immigrants into US sink

MIAMI, Mar 7: Two boats men's bodies sink below the carrying as many as 43 surface. Haitians in an apparent bid to "It's a lot of people," Coast smuggle them into the United Guard spokesman Lt. Ron States sank off the South Labrec said. "We will keep

searching until all hope to find people alive is exhausted." A helicopter located the first survivor at 5 am and took him to a medical centre in West Palm Beach, where he was in stable condition hours later. Two other men were rescued at 8:30 am., clinging to a barrel They were taken to the Border Patrol office in West Palm Beach, Bullock said.

None of the men was wearing life jackets and it was believed they were trying to sneak into the country, officials said.

"Generally that many people don't get on a boat to cross in the middle of the night," petty officer Jeff Hall said. "From what we've seen in the past, they generally leave from the west end of the Bahamas and come across into West Palm Beach."

The Coast Guard was search ing for the others in the waters between Florida and the Bahamas with boats, two heli copters and a Falcon jet.

The two vessels that sank, a A Coast Guard cutter recov- 5-metre boat and a 6-metre boat, apparently casted off from the Bahamas.

Tributes paid to emir of Bahrain

Florida coast, and rescuers

found only three survivors, re-

Saturday in the choppy Atlantic waters off West Palm

Beach told US Border Patrol of-

ficers that one boat — carrying 18 Haitians — broke down and

that the other boat - carrying

between 18 to 25 more people — approached it to help. Both

boats then went under, sur-

drowned," said Art Bullock, a

border patrol officer in West

continue its search for sur-

vivors until midnight, at which

time the situation was to be re-

about 2 am when crew members

on a passing freighter reported hearing screams from the water

about 48 kilometers east of West

ered the bodies of two men and

crew members saw two other

The sinkings became known

"Forty are presumed dead or

The Coast Guard planned to

The three men rescued

ports AP.

vivors said.

Palm Beach.

evaluated.

Palm Beach.

DUBAI, Mar 7: Tributes to Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al-Khalifa, who died suddenly on Saturday, poured in from around the region and a number of Arab countries declared periods of mourning in his honour, reports AFP.

The United Arab Emirates and Kuwait have ordered 40 days. Jordan - itself still in mourning for the death King Hussein last month - seven, while Egypt, Qatar, Oman, Yemen, the Palestinian autonomous territories, Lebanon. Libya and Syria will mourn for three days.

Kuwait's Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, and Saudi Crown Prince Abdallah Ibn Abdel Aziz went to Manama and offered their condolences to the Emir's son and successor, Sheikh Hamad Ibn Issa Al-Khalifa, as did a high-ranking delegation from the Emirates.

Amla reduces cholesterol levels

NEW DELHI, Mar 7: Fruits of the Indian gooseberry, popularly known as amla, can repluce cholesterol levels by more than two-thirds, studies on animals indicate, reports PTI.

Students in Rajasthan have

shown that amla or emblica officianalis fruit pulp extract when fed to rabbits with high fat levels, had beneficial effect The blood cholesterol levels declined by 67.5 per cent and

low density liporprotein (LD) which is linked to the serious arterial disease atherosclerosis. by 75.3 per cent. the liver decreased significantly after two months of ad-

Cholesterol and fat levels in ministration of the extract, a joint report by Ritu Mathur and Arti Sharma from MDS University at Ajmer and VP Dixit from R R Government College at Alwar, said.

India, Pakistan agree to release prisoners in three weeks

ISLAMABAD, Mar 7: Pak istan and India agreed Saturday to release non-political prisoners in the next three weeks, in the latest attempt by the uneasy neighbours to improve relag tions, reports AP. Pakistan will free 18 Indian

while India will release 43 Pakistanis, a statement by Pakistan's Interior Ministry said. The agreement was reached during talks in Pakistan which concluded on Saturday.

The prisoner release follows

nationals currently in its jails,

last month's bus trip to Pakistan by Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. International pressure is on both Pakistan and India to improve relation following last year's unuerground nuclear ex

plosions. The two countries have fought three wars since gaining their independence from Britain in 1947.

Pakistan blasts US HR report

ISLAMABAD, Mar 7: Pakistan Saturday strongly criticised an annual human rights report issued by the US State Department, saying it is "replete with conjecture, factual inaccuracy and exaggeration," reports Xinhua.

A spokesman for the Pakistani foreign office said the country report on human rights in Pakistan for 1998 issued by the US "is based on unsubstantiated and incorrect information as evident from the fact."

He pointed out that most of the sensational claims are preceded by such words as "it is widely believed. The report has been com-

piled mostly from tabloids, hearsay and so-called "off the record" conversations, said the spokesman.

The minister said Gulf secu-

"I suggest an international

rity was the concern of all

members of the international

conference should be held under:

the auspices of the UN or any

other world body to discuss the

issue of Gulf security and

US jets strike

sites in S Iraq

Iraq's southern no-fly zone on

Saturday and five Iraqi anti-

US jets struck three sites in

In the south, two Iraqi com-

munications facilities and a

surface-to-air missile site were

strengthen it," he added.

Qatar urges Iraq not to threaten its neighbours

Emirates.

community.

DOHA, Mar 7: Qatar urged Iraq on Saturday not to threaten its Gulf Arab neighbours and called for an international conference to discuss ways of ensuring security in the Gulf, reports Reuters.

"Any threat to a member of

the Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC) is tantamount to a threat

to all GCC member states," Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani "Iraq must desist from threatening any member of the GCC and implement all UN Security Council resolutions on elimination of weapons of mass

destruction and Gulf security," he told a news conference. Baghdad in February warned it could retaliate against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for allowing the United States and Britain to use their military bases to

launch air raids on Iraq. Both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as well as Qatar are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, a Gulf Arab alliance that also includes Oman. Bahrain and the United Arab

aircraft sites in the northern no-fly zone after coalition aircraft were threatened by Iraqi weapons, the US military said in Washington.

struck by US aircraft at around 1 am (0600 GMT). The attacks were launched after coalition aircraft, which include US and British planes,

were targeted by Iraqi missile guidance radar.

AMMAN, Mar 7: King Abdullah reshuffled his court aides Saturday, bringing in advisors known for their loyalty to his late father, King Hussein, reports AP.

The shuffle comes two days after Abdullah swore in a cabinet of technocrats and liberals, urging it to pursue reform and better ties with the United States, Israel and Gulf Arabs.

The changes appear to be aimed at ridding the hierarchy of loyalists to Abdullah's uncle, Prince Hassan, who was deposed as crown prince in a January shakeup. King Hussein had accused Hassan of power grab-

But palace sources say the changes were planned before Hussein's death on Feb 7 and were intended to bring in new

blood In a royal decree carried by the official Petra news agency, Abdullah named his cousin, Prince Talal, as his National Security Council advisor. Abdullah Touqan was named as scientific advisor and

rity council, Petra reported: Tougan was a member of the Jordanian delegation that negotiated the peace treaty with Israel in 1994. Faisal Fayez, a palace protocol officer for the past nine

assistant to Talal at the secu-

years, was promoted to chief of protocol. The palace sources, insisting on anonymity, said Abdullah also designated two other aides,

whose appointments would be announced soon. Adnan Abu-Odeh is to become the king's political advi-

sor — a job he held for more than two decades under Hussein. Nabil Ammari, who was planning minister in the outgoing Cabinet, will become economic advisor.

What's on today

Academy premises. Time: 11 am to 5 pm.

Resident Coordinator, UN System in Bangladesh. Drama Festival: 'Advhut Vhut', 'A Kaman Raja' and

La Vinci, 54, Kawran Bazar. Time: 4:30 pm.

Road No: 9, House No: 10, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm. Discussion: Bangladesh Mohila Parishad has organised

Rahman. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 3 pm.

Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, will inaugurate the conference as the chief guest.

12 noon.

organised the workshop. Photo exhibition: British Council has organised a

(Ground floor), Road No: 9/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 3 pm. Club meet: The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of

Urs of Hazrat Bid to improve situation MMC holds meet

with guardians MYMENSINGH, Mar 7: The Academic Council of Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) today held meeting to exchange views with its students and their guardians to improve campus situation, re-

ports UNB.

centre. Dhaka University authorities cancelled the centre as well as its January 24 MBBS professional examinations following complaints of irregularities. Since then the MMC students have been observing token

A stalemate was created on

the MMC campus following the

cancellation of its examination

formed an eight-member guardian forum to discuss the matter with the Dhaka University authorities. Bhutanese foreign secy condoles

The MMC authorities today

Mustafiz's death The Foreign Secretary of Bhutan, Ugyen Tshering, has expressed his profound shock at the demise of his Bangladesh counterpart Mustafizur Rahman, who died in Singapore recently, reports APB.

In a message of condolence

to Acting Foreign Secretary

Mohiuddin Ahmed on Sunday,

Ugyen Tshering said, "During

our association with Rahman

we have been deeply impressed by his outstanding qualities as a diplomat as well as a gentle-The Bhutanese Foreign Secretary also observed, "his death is not only a great loss for Bangladesh, but also for the en-

He conveyed his deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed

tire region."

Amir of Bahrain

In separate messages sent to Shaikh Hamad Bin Isa Al-

remain committed to goals: PM Prime Minister Sheikh

raising the quality of life of ing development of women and

Terming the Commonwealth

The Prime Minister also un-

By Staff Correspondent Noted Indian artistes including Pundit Shiv Kumar Sharma will perform in a nine-day cultural programme beginning in the city today, says a press re-

the Osmani Memorial Hall.

play, Chakravyuha tomorrow. The other artistes who will

JHALAKATI, Mar 7: A fire

kitchen of a nearby house. Local people extinguished

