

## Benson & Hedges concert cancelled

The Benson & Hedges "Twist & Shout" concert scheduled to be held on March 12 at Gulshan park has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

This was announced yesterday by sponsors British American Tobacco Bangladesh through a press release on behalf of the organisers Sandhani National Eye Donation Society and Theatre Society.

Those who have bought tickets have been requested to get full refund by handing over their tickets at the place of purchase.

## Prominent Housing contradicts report

The general manager of Prominent Housing sent a letter protesting the news item published on the front page of The Daily Star on Saturday under the headline "Flat owners attacked by hired goons" where he claimed that there was no such attack and the involvement of Major (ret'd) Monzur Kader in the incident does not arise as he was outside Dhaka.

Our report was based on an FIR lodged with the Mohar-madpur thana on March 6, and a press release signed by the president of Prominent Welfare Society the same day.

## ADB seminar on use of consulting services begins today

A three-day seminar on the "Use of consulting services" organised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will begin today at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, says a press release.

It will be attended by about forty participants from different ministries and executive agencies implementing ADB-funded projects. The main purpose of this seminar is to help the participants improve project quality through timely recruitment and effective use of consulting services when implementing current and future ADB financed projects.

The seminar will be conducted by Benny Kosinda, Senior Consulting Services Specialist of the bank central operation services office.

## AGM of CUJA held

From CU Correspondent. CHITTAGONG, Mar 8: The Annual General Meeting of the Chittagong University Journalist Association (CUJA) was held at the association office on Sunday.

The meeting was presided over by Ahmed Karim, President of the association. Among others, Tawhid Chowdhury, Oful Hassanat Ruhin, Jastim Uddin Khan, Hamidullah, Ataul Gani Sumon, Fahad Fardus and Satyajit Datta took part in the discussion in the meeting.

## Workshop on potato seeds at BARI from today

A "Regional workshop on Informal/formal potato seed system" will begin under close collaboration of International Potato Centre (CIP) Lima, Peru and the Tuber Crops Research Centre (TCRC) of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) Joydebpur, Gazipur from today, says a press release.

Dr MM Rashid Director General of BARI will inaugurate the workshop at 10:00 AM today as the chief guest. Dr. Sarath Ilan-gantleke, Regional Representative of CIP South West Asia Region, New Delhi, India will attend the workshop as guest of honour and Dr. MA Razaque, Director (Research), BARI as special guest. The workshop will be presided by the Director TCRC DRABM Salahuddin. It will be held in the seminar room of BARI.

45 participants including nine foreign delegates from Pakistan, India, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka and the Philippines will attend the workshop. It will provide an opportunity to policymakers, scientists and extension workers of the government and non-government agencies working in potato research and development for an open discussion to formulate a guideline for overall improvement of the potato seed system in this south west Asia region.

The 3-day workshop will end on Thursday.

## Obituary

Mostafa Kamal, a senior assistant secretary of the Jatiya Sangsad secretariat died of a heart attack at Suhrawardy Hospital yesterday. He was 36, reports BSS.

He was taken to the hospital after he complained of pain in the chest. Attending doctors declared him dead on arrival.

He left behind his elderly parents, wife and a host of admirer and relatives to mourn his death.

Rehana Begum, wife of former sub-assistant director of BDR and freedom fighter Md Ishak Bhuiyan died of a cardiac arrest at 10:30 am on Saturday at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH). She was 65, says a press release.

Rehana left behind her husband, six sons and daughters and relatives to mourn her death.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held at Baitul Mukarram Mosque and she was later buried in her family graveyard in village.

Her kulkhwani will be held at her residence at Uttar Badha tomorrow after Asr prayers.

# Police asked to ensure law & order

## Negligence and irregularities won't be tolerated: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the police forces to discharge their duties with honesty and dedication and warned that no negligence and irregularities in performing their duties will be tolerated, reports UNB.

"You have to be more active to maintain law and order and take measures against the foul activities that create unrest in public life," she said while inaugurating the Police Meet '99 at the Rajarbag Police Lines in the morning.

The Prime Minister inspected the parade and took salute from a smartly turned out police contingent.

Hasina mentioned that stability is needed for economic development of the country told the police forces to perform their duties with utmost sincerity to ensure law and order in the country.

"People want to see the country's development and that can only be ensured in an im-

proved law and order situation," she said.

The Prime Minister said after assuming power, her government took sincere steps for curbing crimes and improving the law and order. To achieve the objective, police forces is being modernised.

She said during the last two years and eight months, several new thanas were set up, including six in the Dhaka metropolitan area, and 5,655 police personnel were recruited while recruitment of another 8,000 members is under process.

She said the government has undertaken a project to modernise the seven police hospitals, including the Rajarbag Police Hospital in the city. Tk 30 crore has been earmarked to improve the health facilities of the police forces.

She said: "Without any demand from you, we have raised" the family ration quota to 40 per cent from 20 per cent for the

lower level members of the police forces."

Compensation has been doubled for policemen killed or injured in any incident while performing their duty, she added.

Hasina said the Finance Ministry has been asked to allocate money in the next budget for providing "risk allowance" to those police personnel who are engaged in hazardous task.

She recalled the glorious contribution of police during the liberation war, responding to the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Home Minister Major (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam and Inspector General of Police AYBI Siddiqui were, among others, present at the function.

Later, the Prime Minister pinned the Bangladesh Police Medal (BPM) and the President's Police Medal (PPM) to 32 members of the police forces of different ranks.

## What's on today . . .

**Drama festival:** 'Jhala Pala', 'Jago Sundor Chiro Kishore' and 'Porikha Pasher Montra' will be staged on the 6th day of the National Child-Juvenile Drama Festival. Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in cooperation with People's Theatre Association. Venue: Central Public Library auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 4:30 pm, 6 pm and 7:30 pm respectively.

**Discussion:** Department of Political Science, Dhaka University has organised a discussion meeting and cultural programme as part of its 2-day programme on freshers, reception and farewell ceremony. Venue: TSC auditorium, DU campus. Time: 9:30 am.

**Club meet:** The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Romna will be held. Rtn ABA Sirajuddowah will speak on "Oil and gas exploration" as guest speaker. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Club meet:** The Rotary Club of Dhaka New City will hold its weekly meeting. Venue: Vintage Restaurant, Road No: 28, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:45 pm.

**Club meet:** The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Rtn Hasan Maniruzzaman, DGN 2000-2001 will be the guest speaker. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

## JU Bangla Dept holds freshers' reception

By JU Correspondent

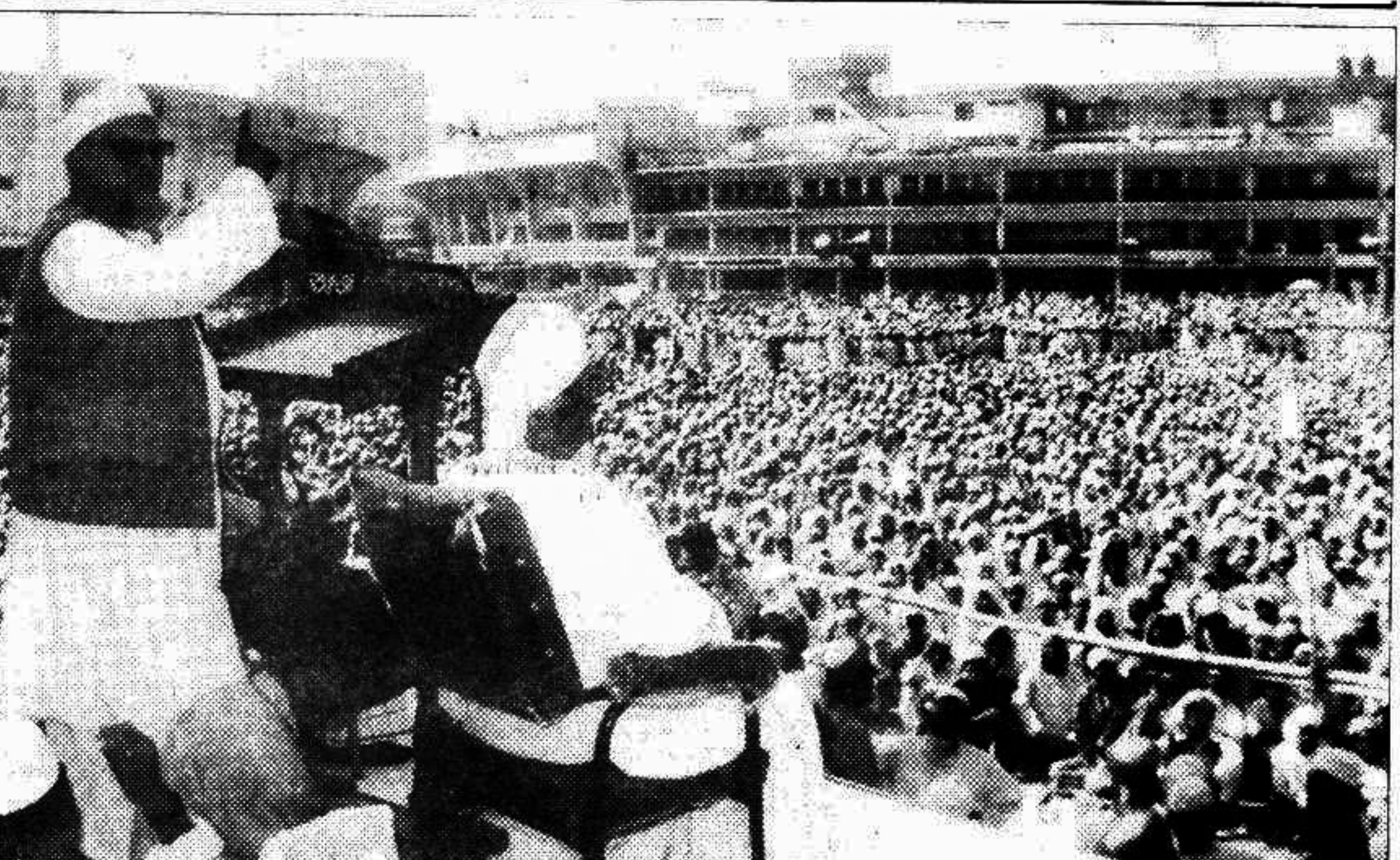
A freshers' reception to welcome the newly admitted students of the Department of Bangla of Jahangirnagar University (JU) was held yesterday at the 'Akashmoni Chatter' of the university.

Organised by Department of Bangla, the reception was presided over by Dr Rabeya Moin, chairperson of the department. She introduced the students with the teachers of the department.

Among others present were Prof Idris Ali, Dr Souda Akhtar and Prof Danial Haq.

Later a discussion was held at the chatter.

The discussion was followed by a cultural function performed by the students.



Different Islamic organisations held rally protesting the 'conspiracy' against Madrasah education at Paltan Maidan yesterday.

## Govt has no plan to curb Madrasah edn, JS told

The government yesterday categorically said in Parliament it has no plan whatsoever to close down Madrasah education, reports UNB.

Responding to a supplementary question of Jaijal Abedin Farooq (BNP), Commerce and Industries Minister, Tofael Ahmed quoted the prime minister's public announcement Sunday that the government will never squeeze Madrasah education.

"Rather, increased budgetary allocation was made under the present government to develop the education system in Madrasah," said Tofael who replied on behalf of the Education Minister in the House. He noted that the allocation to Tk 295 crore Madrasah education during the current fiscal year from Tk 206 crore in 1995-96.

He urged Madrasah teachers not to be used for dishonest political purpose and remain alert against evil political design.

He also said that a Madrasah Teachers Training Institute has been established and computers introduced to publish results of Madrasah examinations.

The Minister said some 5969 Madrasah were incorporated in the MPO list till June 1998

## Scouts observe birth anniversary of Lord Powell

The 142nd birth anniversary of Robert Stephenson Smith, Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell, best known as BP was observed Sunday by Bangladesh Scouts at the National Scout Bhawan, says a press release.

An art competition of the cub children and a discussion meeting was held on the occasion.

Mohammad Abu Hena, Chief Election Commissioner, attended the ceremony as chief guest, while Manzoor Ul Karim, Chief National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts, presided.

## UK to provide more money for tiger protection

British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said the United Kingdom will become the first non-tiger range state to join the Global Tiger Forum, reports BSS.

Speaking at the Millennium Tiger Conference in New Delhi on March 5, Prescott announced that UK to provide more money for Tiger Protection Projects, said a press release of the British High Commission issued in the city yesterday.

He said, "the UK government has been associated from the outset with the efforts of the Global Tiger Forum to mesh together initiatives in individual range and consumer states to find practical solutions to enforcement and conservation problems."

Prescott said, "We feel that the time is right to show our support for the work of those countries committed to protecting their tiger populations by joining the Global Tiger Forum. We are the first non-range state to do so."

The British deputy prime minister said, "We cannot sit and watch another species heading for extinction. The plight of the tiger is of just as much concern to people in Hull as it is to those here in Delhi."

Prescott said, "In the last few years we have contributed 150,000 pounds in direct sup-



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inspecting guard of honour at the Annual Police Rally '99 at Razarbagh in the city yesterday.

— PID photo

## Jessore killing condemned

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday strongly condemned the incident in which eight people were killed in bomb blasts at Jessore.

They blamed religious fanatics for the killing and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the persons responsible.

The powerful explosions at a cultural function of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi also wounded more than 100 others in the early hours of Sunday. The Sammilito Sangskritik Jote expressed grave concern.

The speakers said that it was pre-planned and executed very efficiently.

The incident at Jessore is not isolated from the incidents of recent killing of political leader Kazi Aref and attack on poet Shamsur Rahman, they said.

They also vowed to resist the communal forces and demanded a ban on all religion-based political parties including Jamaat-e-Islami, Nezame-Islami, and Harkatul Jihad.

Majumder, president of the Jote, the rally was also addressed by Syed Hasan Imam, Kamal Lohani, Ataur Rahman, Shahriar Kabir, A F M Mah-bubul Haq, Asaduzzaman Noor, Nasir Uddin Yusuf Bachchu, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Monjurul Ahshan Khan, Golam Qud-dus, Mohammad Samad and Towhid Reza Noor.

Also yesterday, more socio-cultural and political organisations condemned the incident at Jessore and demanded punishment of the persons responsible.

The cultural programme was inaugurated by State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader and Indian Commerce Minister Ramkrishna Hegda at Osmani Memorial Hall.

Renowned dance artiste Protiva performed Bharat Natyam at the inaugural function.

The cultural show will remain open from 7 in the evening everyday till March 16 at the Osmani Memorial Hall and the National Museum.

## Student bodies condemn bomb blasts at Udichi confce

By Staff Correspondent

Different student organisations brought out separate processions and held rallies on Dhaka University campus on Monday condemning the bomb attack at Udichi conference in Jessore on Sunday, reports APB.

Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally at the foot of Aparajevo Bangla.

Chaired by BCL central president Bahadur Bepari, the rally was addressed, among others, by Ajoy Kar Khokon, Prasanto Barua, Anjam Masud and Sajjad Hossain.

Leaders at the rally blamed the right wing extremists for the gruesome murder and said a vested quarter was conspiring to retard the onward march of democracy. The brutal incident was a part of that plot, they maintained.

Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) held a separate rally in front of DUCSU building, demanding the removal of the Police Super of Jessore, the GCO leaders blamed the extremist groups for the explosions and said the country's law and order situation has totally collapsed due to inefficiency of the government.

Our JU Correspondent adds: Different student bodies also brought out separate processions and held rallies on the

Jahangirnagar University campus protesting the bomb attack.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), a left-leaning student organisation, brought out a procession and chanted slogans against the fundamentalists blaming them for the attack.

Later, the BCU held a rally at the Arts Faculty premises which was addressed by general secretary Monishankar Das Gupta and organising secretary Aniruddha Das Anjan.

Condemning the attack the leaders demanded immediate resignation of Home Minister for his failure to tackle the situation.

'Sammilita Sanskriti Jote' (SSJ) of JU also brought out a silent procession at the evening protesting the attack.

SSJ will observe Wednesday as the mourning day to pay tribute to the eight persons killed in the bomb attack.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) brought out another procession on the campus condemning the attack and demanded immediate action against the persons involved.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) student wing of the ruling party and Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal also brought separate procession and held rallies on the campus condemning the attack.

## Indian cultural programme begins

A nine-day Indian cultural function started in the capital yesterday on the occasion of that country's trade fair beginning here today, reports UNB.

The cultural programme was inaugurated by State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader and Indian Commerce Minister Ramkrishna Hegda at Osmani Memorial Hall.

Renowned dance artiste Protiva performed Bharat Natyam at the inaugural function.

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## Int'l seminar on Mar 13-16

The Public Administrative Reforms Commission (PARC) will hold a 3-day international seminar in the city on March 14-16 to hammer out concrete and consensus recommendations for much-needed administrative restructuring, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the seminar at Sonargaon Hotel on March 14.

Sponsored by UNDP, and assisted by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) and Centre for Policy Dialogue, the seminar, titled "Administrative Reforms for Development of Bangladesh," will be divided into 11 sessions.

## Workshop on 'Practising People's Participation' Integrated approach to water resource management stressed

Experts at a workshop in the city yesterday called for an integrated approach to water resource management with a strong bias towards community participation, reports APB.

This view was expressed at a day-long workshop on "Practising People's Participation," organised by LGED's Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project (SSWRDSP).

Addressing the opening session, Resident Representative of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Phiphit Suphaphiphat said poor sustainability has been a long-debated issue of water control operations in Bangladesh.

He said the government of Bangladesh and the ADB designed the programme as one of a new generation water management project which took into consideration the innovative concept on the development of the sector.

Lack of beneficiary participation and sustainability of water control system has often resulted in the failure of such projects in the past, the ADB Resident Representative observed.

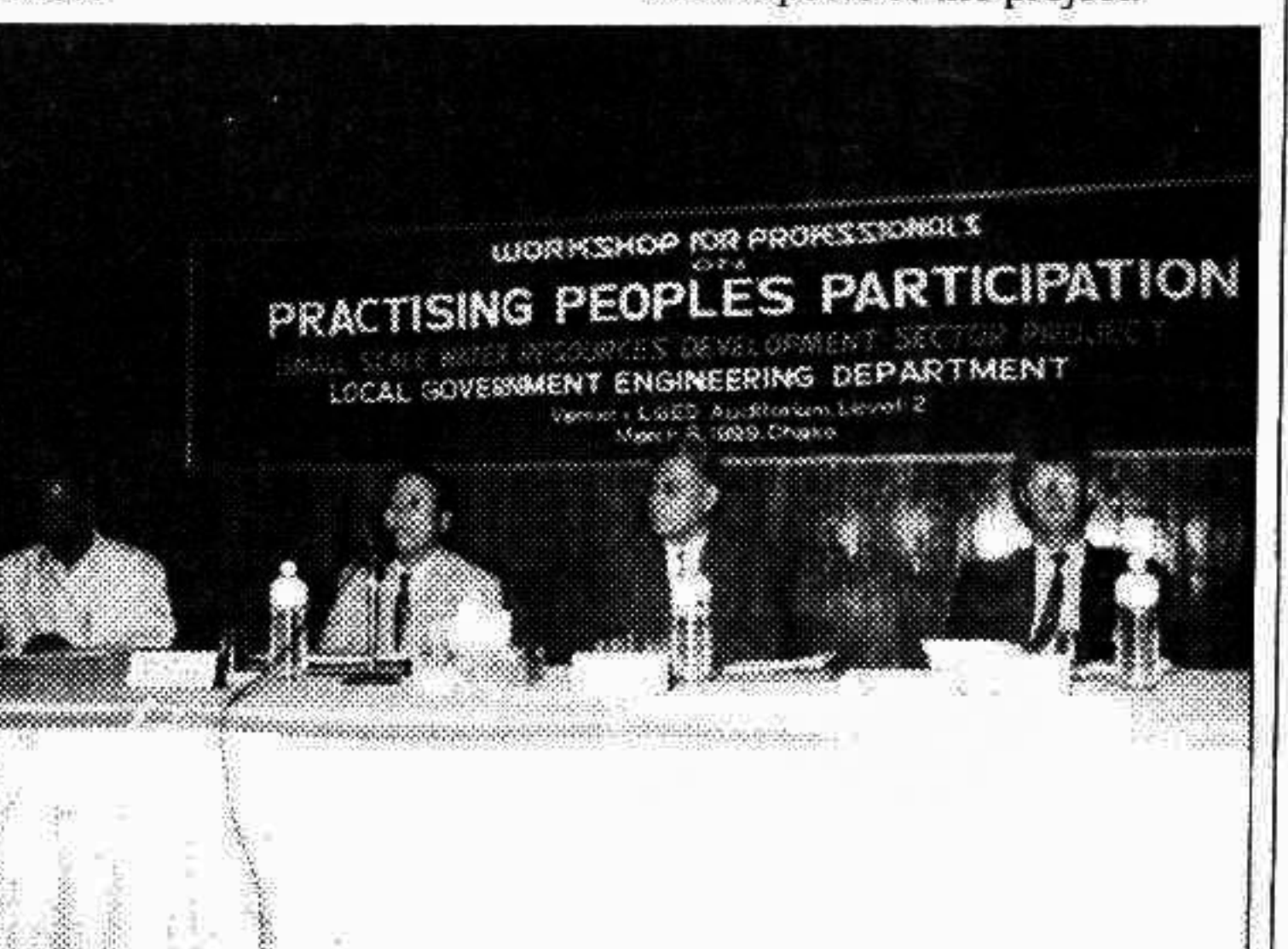
Through supervision missions, the ADB has closely monitored the development that took place during the implementation of the project, he said.

The ADB Resident Representative said, in implementing the project the LGED took concrete measures to ensure close interaction between the process of physical infrastructure and management institutions of local communities.

LGED Chief Engineer Quamrul Islam Siddiqui inaugurated the workshop at its auditorium.

Among others, First Secretary of the Royal Netherlands Embassy Peter de Vires, project director of SSWRDSP Md Nurul Islam, Md Yusuf of Agrani Irrigation Project, Chhainawabganj and Ayub Hossain of Maheshwar Chandra village in Kaliganj, Jhenaidah participated in the workshop.

Noted water expert and Country Director of IUCN, the World Conservation Union, Prof Inun Nishat analysed and made recommendations on various aspects of the project.



A workshop on Practising People's Participation under LGED's Small Scale Water Resources Development Sector Project was held in the city yesterday. Sitting from left Md Nurul Islam, Project Director, SSWRDSP, LGED; Dr Phiphit Suphaphiphat, Resident Representative, ADB; Quamrul Islam Siddiqui, Chief Engineer, LGED and chairperson of the workshop and Peter de Vires of the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

## Banks facing liquidity crisis, Khaleda tells British MP

By Staff Correspondent

British parliamentarian Ona King yesterday met Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at her official residence and discussed the latest political and economic situation in Bangladesh.

The BNP chairperson apprised her of the situation and problems relating to the democratic process, a BNP press release said.

The former prime minister said her BNP government had taken various liberal measures to attract foreign investment and got massive response, but the investors have now become frustrated due to "wrong doing of the government and lack of facilities".

The government has even failed to ensure adequate supply of gas, electricity, water and other facilities for the industries. Moreover, the commercial banks are facing a liquidity crisis as the government continued to borrow to meet administrative expenditure. Consequently, the banks have become unable to provide capital to the investors, she said.

Khaleda also told the British MP about "rigging" in the recent Pabna-2 by-election, the four-point demand of the opposition, "incompetence" of the Election Commission and "unilateral" holding of municipal polls.

King told the BNP chief that she would brief the British government on the overall situation in Bangladesh.

BNP leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Dr Abdul Moayen Khan and MM Rezaul Karim were present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, the opposition leader in a statement strongly condemned attack on JCD activists during a demonstration on Dhaka University campus on Sunday. She alleged that a good number of activists, including female workers, were injured in joint attacks of police and Chhatra League men.

## Ershad discusses party situation

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad discussed latest situation of his party with party MPs at his Baridhara office yesterday.

Twelve MPs attended the meeting, party sources added. Ershad left for Saudi Arabia for medical check-up after the meeting. He will stay there for three days.

The JP Chairman at the meeting entrusted Dr T I M Farze Rabbi to act as acting Parliamentary Party Leader in his absence.

Meeting sources said Ershad advised the party's acting leader to keep in contact with the opposition Chief Whip during his trip to Saudi Arabia.

## HC: Hartal

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fence, the government said. "Hence no exception can be taken to a hartal which urges the people (but not compels the people) to observe hartal," said the affidavit.

The government opined that use of force or threat to use of force to disperse people from carrying on their normal pursuits is a criminal act under the penal laws of the land and the same infringes the fundamental rights of the citizens guaranteed by the Constitution.

The government has a legal and constitutional obligation to maintain law and order in the country and to fulfil the guarantee of fundamental rights given in the Constitution and the government cannot sit idle as an onlooker, said the affidavit.

"The government's measure to prevent the people from being coerced is being met with illegal force by the organisers of hartals and the government's effort in this regard cannot be termed as illegal by calling it as anti-hartal activities," the government said.

Even in case people bring procession in opposition to hartal their activities cannot be termed as criminal acts so long those activities were directed against the criminal activities of pro-hartal activists and do not exceed the right of private defence of person and property, the affidavit argued.

"In fact, if use or threat to use of force by the pro-hartal activists can be prevented and the people are rendered free to choose between hartal and no-hartal, there will be no question of resorting to the use or threat to use of force by the pro-hartal activists and there will be no question of taking cognizance of criminal activity of anti-hartal activists," the government said.

It was also stated in the affidavit that the law enforcing agency has registered criminal case in respect of offences which has come to its notice and it will be an incorrect statement to say that the government is not taking any action against the criminal acts done under the cover of hartal and during the period of hartal.

During the hearing Barrister Shaikat Ali Khan and Barrister Jamiruddin Sirer who were appointed as amicus curiae by the court, were present in the court.

The Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Golam Rabbani and Justice Md Latifur Rahman on February 15, 1999 issued the suo moto rule on the government, AL and BNP to show cause as to why pro-hartal and anti-hartal activities should not be declared cognizable offence and the Criminal Courts and the police shall not be directed to take action accordingly.



Platform to Resist Violence Against Women in association with Manobik Shahajiya Sangstha organised relief distribution programme yesterday among the female victims of the recent fire at the Agargaon slum as part of their International Women's Day programme. Leading organisations at the country participated in the programme.

## Weather

### Dry weather forecast

Dry weather is likely to prevail across the country with partly cloudy sky over Chittagong and Barisal divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature at 37 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Chuadanga, and the lowest 17.4 degrees at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:05 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:13 am.

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

| City/Town   | Temperature in Celsius |      | Humidity in Percentage |         |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
|             | Max                    | Min  | Morning                | Evening |
| Dhaka       | 36.7                   | 21.2 | 49                     | 39      |
| Chittagong  | 32.4                   | 21.4 | 88                     | 86      |
| Rajshahi    | 37.0                   | 18.0 | 55                     | 30      |
| Khulna      | 36.7                   | 18.4 | 58                     | 37      |
| Barisal     | 35.8                   | 22.0 | 63                     | 43      |
| Sylhet      | 34.4                   | 21.0 | 65                     | 53      |
| Cox's Bazar | -                      | 22.0 | 82                     | -       |