

## Programmes on birthday of Bangabandhu

A grateful nation will observe the 79th birthday of its founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman tomorrow with great enthusiasm and deep respects, reports BSS.

The legendary leader of the Bangalee, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was born in the respectable Sheikh family of Tungipara, Gopalganj, on this day in 1920.

The day will be a public holiday. It has been also declared the National Children's Day.

Awami League, its front organisations and various socio-cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day in the capital, at the mazar of the Bangabandhu at Tungipara and all over the country.

Programmes of the day will begin with laying wreaths by the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Bhawan at Dhanmondi. It will also include *milad* and *doa mahfil* at the mazar of Bangabandhu and discussion, cultural function and children and juvenile rally across the country.

As part of the observance of the day Awami League will hoist the national and party flags at party offices early in the morning, place wreaths by the portrait of Bangabandhu and hold a gathering at Bangabandhu Bhawan. The party leaders will leave for Tungipara from there.

They will also participate the day-long programmes taken up by the government to mark the birthday of father of the nation.

The programmes at Tungipara include placing wreaths at the mazar of the father of the

nation, *milad mahfil*, offering *fateha* and *munajat* and discussion at the mazar premises.

The countrywide programme of the party will include hoisting the national and party flags, placing wreaths at the portraits of Bangabandhu, holding discussions and rallies, playing the recorded speeches of Bangabandhu and *doa* and *milad mahfil* seeking divine peace for all martyrs including the martyred family members of Bangabandhu.

Bangla Academy, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh National Museum, Nazrul Institute and Jatiya Grantha Kendra will jointly hold a discussion and cultural function organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs at the Ramna Batamul on the day. As part of the two-day programme of the organisations in front of Bangabandhu Bhawan at Dhanmondi, a discussion will be held at the academy auditorium today at 11 am. The academy will hold *milad mahfil* and *Quran khwan* on March 17.

Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote has held an art competition for child and juvenile at Shishu Academy on March 12.

Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television will present special programmes highlighting the significance of the day. National dailies will bring out special supplements on the life and works of the great leader.

Bangladesh Betar will broadcast live *'antare chitrodin'*, a programme for the children and juvenile, from Jatiya Betar Bhawan auditorium today.

## Ershad greets newly-elected CBA leaders of AJM

Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad yesterday congratulated the newly-elected CBA leaders of Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM), report UNB.

In a message from Saudi Arabia, he also hailed workers of the largest jute mills in Asia for electing his party supported panel.

He said the election verdict proved that workers and people of the country didn't forget Jatiya Party's role while it was in power.

## Jessore killing condemned

By DU Correspondent

Teertha Sarathy, an educational, cultural and social welfare organisation yesterday condemned the killing of cultural activists of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi in Jessore on March 7.

The organisation brought out a silent procession on the Dhaka University campus and held a rally at the Aparajo Bangla in the morning.

At the rally the speakers said that the attack on the Udichi activists is nothing but an attempt to assault the Bangalee culture.

## Weather

### Dry weather likely

Weather may remain mainly dry across the country with temporary partly cloudy sky over Khulna, Chittagong and Barisal divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged throughout the country during the period.

The country's highest temperature 36 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 12 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.08 pm and rises on Wednesday at 6.06 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	34.3	16.5	24	30
Chittagong	34.0	19.0	51	40
Rajshahi	33.4	13.7	42	41
Khulna	35.3	17.2	75	39
Barisal	33.6	16.5	61	56
Sylhet	33.1	16.4	44	33
Cox's Bazar	36.0	22.0	50	42

## 5 lawyers' call to keep bar assoc polls above politics

By Staff Correspondent

Five leading legal practitioners in a statement yesterday urged the lawyers to keep all the elections to Bar Associations above party politics.

"The greater interest of the lawyer community is faced with uncertainty today as a section of lawyers have been divided in the line of political parties. The division is clearly evident as candidates are being nominated by the political parties ahead of Bar Association elections," the statement said.

"The elections to the Bar Associations should be kept above party interests if we want to forge a unity among the lawyers and clear up the allegations of mismanagement and corruption raised against the legal arena," it added.

The statement further said, "a united and strong leadership for the lawyer community is badly needed today when the society is dogged by terrorism, conflicts and corruption."

The statement was signed by S R Pal, Serajul Haq, Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain and Mohammad Amirul Islam.

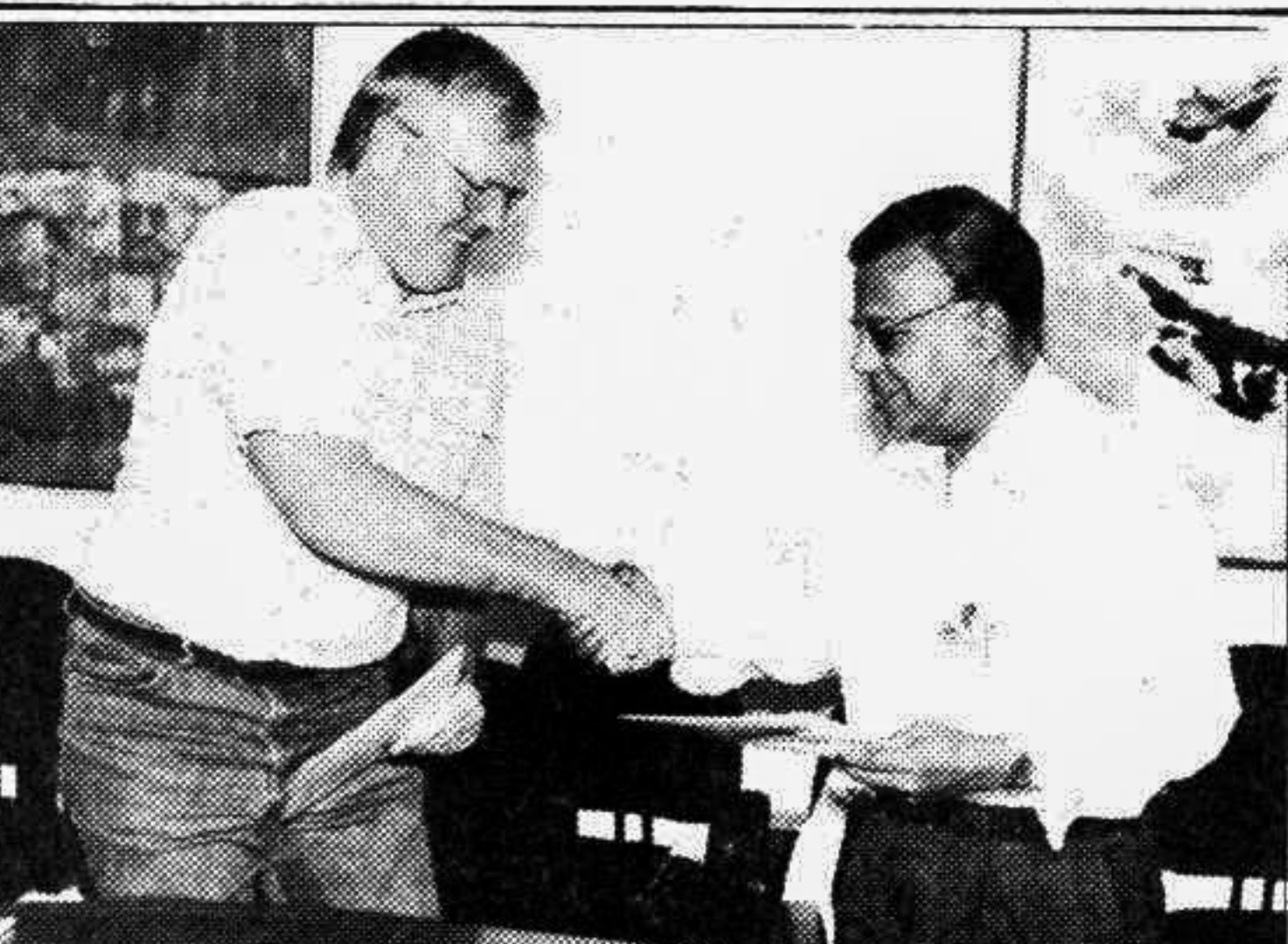
## Maize seeds production BRAC signs accord with Australian company

An agreement between BRAC and Pacific Seeds of Australia was signed in the city yesterday for production of hybrid maize seeds in Bangladesh, says a press release.

Under the agreement, the Australian company will provide BRAC with modern technology for multiplication and production of new high breed maize in the country. M Aminul Alam, Deputy Executive Director, BRAC and Norman Daivy, Director, Pacific Seeds signed the agreement at BRAC Centre, Fazle Hasan Abed, Executive Director of BRAC was present.

BRAC has been involved for more than a decade in seed production programme with the members of its village organisations for the benefit of farmers, consumers and the environment. It has set up two seed processing plants and five production farms with over 200 agronomists.

BRAC has now undertaken a programme to increase maize production in the country which is an important component in poultry feed. The demand for maize is increasing due to rapid expansion of poultry farms in the country.



An agreement was signed between BRAC and Pacific Seeds of Australia for production of hybrid maize seeds in Bangladesh. M Aminul Alam, DU Executive Director of BRAC (right) and Norman Daivy, Director of Pacific Seeds, signed the agreement at BRAC Centre, yesterday.



Timber traders demonstrating in the city yesterday to protest the killing of a trader in Keraniganj.

## 20 cultural bodies form Gano Sangskriti Front

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty progressive cultural organisations formed Gano Sangskriti Front Sunday with Mohsin Shastrapani and Quamruddin Alsar as its convener and general secretary respectively.

The Front was formed after a one-day concerted programme of the organisations in a bid to intensify cultural movement. The Front will hold a National Cultural Convention within the next six months.

Other members of the seven member committee are Haider Anwar Khan Juno, M Nurunnabi, Moinuddin Ahmed, Mofizur Rahman Laitu and Shamim Ara.

The organisations are Srijan, Suchana, Addhyayan Chakra, Poet Sukanta Sangsad, Samaj Chetona, Bibartan Sangskritik Kendra, Atto Prokriti, Matridhara, Gano Shilpi Sangstha, Shaheed Smriti Sangsad, Shaheed Asad Parishad, Apekkhik, Charon, Prottaya Sangskritik Andolan, Ganochhaya, Dhaboman, Leli-han Sahitya Sangskriti Goshthi, Progtati Sangskriti Sangsad, Gano Sangskriti Parishad, Bangladesh Lekhok Shilpi and Unnesh Sahitya Sangskriti Sangsad.

## Goods worth Tk 25 lakh gutted

MYMENSINGH, Mar 15: A devastating fire gutted goods worth of Tk 25 lakh of eight shops at a market adjacent to the bus terminal at Fulbaria thana here today, reports UNB.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from short circuit and soon engulfed three workshops, two furniture shops, two hotels and one motorcycle spare parts shop.

Firemen from the town rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after two hours of frantic effort.

## Udichi condemns propaganda against Syed Hasan Imam

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi has criticised a section of the press and political leaders, saying that they were trying to protect the persons responsible for the Jessore bomb blast incident by diverting people's attention through malicious propaganda involving its president Syed Hasan Imam.

In a statement yesterday, Udichi condemned the move of a section of the press and political leaders who raised the question why the Udichi president hurriedly left Jessore conference at around 9 pm.

"We express hatred against this sort of propaganda launched by fanatics and neo-fanatics," the statement said describing it as "a blueprint to tarnish the image of Syed Hasan Imam".

Denouncing the distorted versions, the statement said "four buses were kept ready to leave for Dhaka at 12 midnight, but finally it left Jessore at 12:35 am."

"Following the attack on Poet Shamsur Rahman and killing of Kazi Aref Ahmed, we were concerned about the security of Syed Hasan Imam. The concern was conveyed to local police administration. But getting no response from them, we communicated the security issue to the higher authority of police," the statement said.

Udichi urged the particular newspapers and political leaders to refrain from doing politics with the people's suffering.

## Urs

The urs *mubarak* of Hazrat Moulana Shah Suhi Mohammad Abdul Karim, Rahmatullahi Alaihi, the author of the first Bengali basic, comprehensive and documentary Tasauf book "Ershade Khalekta" or "Khoda Prapti Tatta," will be observed on Friday after Fajr prayers at Kharki Darbar Sharif in Jessore town, says a press release.

## Muggers snatch gun

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers snatched a licensed double barrel gun from a rickshaw passenger in the city's Khilgaon area yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Syed Aziz who returned from Chittagong by an inter-city bus in the early morning. The incident occurred when he was going to Taltola residence of a police official from Malibagh Rail Crossing at about 6:30 am.

The gang of about four muggers intercepted Aziz's rickshaw near the Khilgaon Community Centre and snatched the gun, a wrist watch, money and official papers from him. Later, they disappeared into a nearby slum.

None, however, was arrested in this regard till filing of the report last night.

## DU English Dept freshers' reception

By DU Correspondent

The Department of English of Dhaka University will host a freshers' reception for the students of first year (1997-98) and a farewell ceremony for MA students of the sessions of 1995-96 and 1996-97 at IBA auditorium on Thursday afternoon.

Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university Prof M Sahadat Ali will attend the function as chief guest, said a press release.

## Jamaat demands solution to water, power crises

Dhaka city executive committee of the Jamaat-e-Islami demanded of the government to solve the water, power crises and ensure security of people in the face of deteriorating law and order situation, reports UNB.

Presided over by Dhaka city Ameer ATM Azharul Islam the meeting also called upon all concerned to make the March 22 rally at Muktangan a success.

## Voters' ID cards Photograph taking programmes on

The photograph taking programme for issuance of voters ID card across the country by the Election Commission (EC) is going on in full swing, reports BSS.

As part of the programme, the photograph of voters of the ward-number 79 in Sutrapura thana of Dhaka City Corporation will be taken from March 16 to 18.

The photograph of the voters of Hemendra Das Road and Munshi Rohimoham Das Lane will be taken at Akrampur Govt. Girls Primary School premises, voters of Purnachandra Benarji, Patla, Khan Lane, Shamaprasad Chowdhury Lane, Northbrook Hall Road, and KG Gupta Lane areas at Govt. Muslim High School premises, voters of Pratap Das Road, Suklal Das Lane, Pearla Das Lane and Farashgonj Road areas at Farashgonj community centre.

Besides, voters of Modan Saha Lane, Ananda Mohan Das Lane, Farashgonj Lane, Mohini Mohan Das Lane areas at Farashgonj Govt. Primary School, voters of Sri Das Lane, Harish Chandra Basu Street, Debendra Nath Das Lane, Malakar Tola Lane, Joychandra Ghosh Lane, Golap Saha Lane, Ruplal Das and Rupchand Das Lane areas at KL Jubilee School and College premises will be taken.

Photographs will be taken from 3 pm to 10 pm everyday.

The Election Commission has requested the voters of the respective areas to cooperate in taking photographs.

## SCF submits memorandum to Nasim

By DU Correspondent

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), a left leaning student organisation yesterday submitted a memorandum to Home Minister Mohammad Nasim demanding immediate arrest and trial of those responsible for the attack on SCF workers at the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) on March 11.

To press home their demands, SCF brought out a procession from the Dhaka University campus in the morning and marched towards the Home Ministry.

Police intercepted the SCF activists near the High Court. Later, a delegation of SCF went to the Home Ministry and submitted the memorandum.

Besides, Ganoatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a platform of some left leaning student organisations protested the attack incident on SCF at BAU campus.

GCO brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the DUCSU building demanding arrest and exemplary punishment of those responsible.

GCO leaders also urged the BAU authorities to create a congenial campus by rehabilitating the ousted SCF workers to their respective halls.

## Dr Razee's death anniversary observed

The death anniversary of Dr Aleem Al Razee, a posthumous eye donor, was observed in a befitting manner yesterday, reports UNB.

On the occasion Sandhani National Eye Donation Association arranged a *milad mahfil* and discussion meeting at the residence of UNB chairman Amanullah Khan, said a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, UNB chairman said Dr Razee had donated his eyes posthumously, enabling two working people to see the beauty of this world and urged all to donate eyes posthumously imbued with the ideals of late Aleem Al Razee.

He said there is no religious barrier in donating eyes posthumously and described eye donation as a great gift to humanity.

The discussion was also addressed by secretary general of Sandhani National Eye Donation Association Dr Manirul Islam and Dr Zahurul Islam Bayezid.

## Bangla-Kuwait Friendship Hospital opens

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad inaugurated the Bangladesh-Kuwait Friendship Hospital at Uttara in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The 200-bed hospital was built with the financial assistance from Kuwait.

Speaking on the occasion, the foreign minister recalled that friendship with Kuwait was established during the tenure of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf, Housing and Civil Aviation Minister Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, local parliament member A K M Rahmatullah, Kuwaiti ambassador to Bangladesh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Muhaiteb, Dr Ahmed Maher Sabik of Kuwait Joint Development Committee and Chairman of Rajuk Aminul Haq spoke also at the function. Secretary of Housing and Public Works Jagannath Dey presided.

The construction of the hospital which began in 1993 at the instruction of the Amir of Kuwait was completed in 1997. Built on an area of 261.19 square meter, the hospital will be run as a social welfare institution of the Health Ministry.

## 'Govt planning action against illegal slums'

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim told the Parliament yesterday, if the illegal slums can be cleared from the city the law and order situation will improve substantially and incidents of fire will be reduced, report agencies.

Replying to a supplementary question from Ziaul Huq Zia (BNP-Laxmipur), he said the authorities are thinking of taking action against illegal occupation of lands, unauthorised slums and electricity connections.

In his supplementary, Ziaul Huq Zia referred to the recent fire incidents in some of the city slums, including one near the Sangsad Bhawan and another in Mohammadpur. He alleged that a vested quarter was engaged in such incidents of arson to destroy the slums and occupy the land.

The BNP lawmaker said the fire incidents also killed some slum dwellers and requested the Minister to take legal action against the culprits and to protect the life and property of the slum people.

In reply to another question from Joyanal Abedin Faruk (BNP-Noakhali), the Home Minister said the government has a plan to provide motor-cycle to the police sub-inspector (SIs) and assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs), stationed in rural thanas.

He told AK Fazlul Huq (AL-Sathkhal) that the government has a plan to set up Fire Brigade

and Civil Defence stations in all thanas. Under four projects, 155 fire stations will be established, the minister said.

Nasim said the present government was sincerely working towards freeing the national politics from terrorism and violent conflicts to protect the national interests.

Replying to questions and supplementaries in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, he sought cooperation of all members of parliament and other concerned persons to bring an end to the violent hartals and said this would help establish peace in all spheres of national life.

The minister said the government despitely limited resources was providing all facilities to thanas so that police could maintain law and order throughout the country.

On a question from Sarwar Jamal Nizam of BNP and a supplementary from AK Fazlul Huq of Awami League, Mohammad Nasim said the government provided 354 pick-up vans to different thanas over the last two and a half years including 113 during the last fiscal year.

"We will continue to supply more pick-up vans and other facilities required for different thanas," he said, adding that the government was also looking after the welfare of the police personnel side by side with other sections of the people in the country.

## CMP recover arms, arrest 1

CHITTAGONG, Mar 15: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) today recovered three foreign guns, one revolver, one local gun and 84 cartridges from different parts of the city, reports BSS.

The police also arrested one person in this connection.

According to CMP sources, three foreign double barrel guns and 80 cartridges were recovered by the detectives from a room at Girja Boarding at west Lalidighi.

Sensing police presence, two boarders of the room fled away.

Police suspected the arms and ammunition were brought there for selling those to criminal groups.

Double Mooring Police arrested one Harun-or-Rashid (25) with one homemade revolver and three cartridges from Moulavi para near Karnafuli Market.

Kotwali police also recovered one local gun with one cartridge from the hill side of general hospital.

## Concern over presence of Myanmar refugees

By DU Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar expressed grave concern over the continued presence of Myanmar refugees in the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, India, Laos and Thailand. They also called for an immediate and unconditional transition of power to the elected representatives of the Myanmar people to help create an atmosphere for repatriation of refugees.

The seminar on the 'Current Situation of the Burmese Refugees,' organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit (RMMRU), was held on Sunday on the Dhaka University campus.

Chris Lewa, a researcher from Thailand stated that the 'Burmanisation policy' pursued by Myanmar's successive military regimes has been the principal factor in the creation of migration problems. The Myanmar junta's continued practice of forced labour and population relocation programmes have worsened the situation.

Dr C R Abrar, Co-ordinator of the RMMRU, in his concluding remarks stressed the need for extending support to the democratic forces in Myanmar. He also underscored that the international community had a moral obligation to continue support to the countries hosting the refugees. He warned that withdrawal of such support may result in forced repatriation without considering their safety.

A good number of students participated in the discussion.

## Ustad Raja Ali Khan performs today

By Cultural Correspondent

Ustad Raja Ali Khan, the grandson of one of the greatest Indian classical musicians of the century and scion of the Patiala Gharana Khansabade Badshah Ali Khan, is in the city now.

He has presented his music in Dhaka and Chittagong over the past week and will render one concert today before a select number of music lovers in the city.

## Joypurhat AL, JP activists join BNP

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the world has now become aware of the present fascist government's repression on opposition political activists, reports UNB.

"The world community is now reluctant to provide assistance to this government. And without its fall, there is no future for the nation," he said welcoming the new entrants to BNP at a function at the party central office in the evening.

More than 200 leaders and workers of Jatiya Party and Awami League from Joypurhat district joined BNP yesterday, led by former JP Member of Parliament Kazi Rabbiul Hassan Momen and Principal of Joypurhat Shahid Zia College Mohammad Shamsul Haq.

Terming the present government as liar, Bhuiyan said none at home and abroad trust them because of their recourse to frequent falsehood.

## Formation of new committee of Projonmo '71 deplored

By Staff Correspondent

Anwarul Kabir (Milo), president and Hedayet Hussain, general secretary of the Central Executive Committee of Projonmo '71, an organisation of the children of the martyrs of Liberation War, yesterday deplored the formation of a new committee headed by Shaheen Rezanur and Farzana Chowdhury Nepa using the name of Projonmo '71.

In a press statement, they observed that it was an abortive attempt by the quarter to divert the attention of the people.

"Rather, the allegation made against us by them is totally a travesty of truth. It is well known to all concerned that this coterie particularly enjoyed all the privileges and benefits from all the governments, including the past BNP government," it added.



Major (Retd) A Sobhan of Midship Builders yesterday handed over the keys of "Jibon Tori," the first floating hospital of the country to Safat Ahmed Chowdhury, President of the United Kingdom Impact Foundation (UKIF), at a simple ceremony at Farashgonj Balurmath dockyard in the city. The ship is owned by the UKIF. Dr. Mozammel Hossain, State Minister for Social Welfare, attended the function as chief guest while Jeffery Martin, Trustee of the UKIF, Endru Vegen, Advisor of the UKIF and Saiful Islam, Advisor of the hospital, were also present on the occasion. First of its kind in South Asia, the floating hospital will cater to the poor people in remote areas of the country. It has 14 beds and other modern facilities including an operation theatre.

## State minister tells JS ADP to be further expanded next year

State Minister for Planning Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday said the Annual Development Programme (ADP) would be further expanded next year keeping in view the aims and objectives of the fifth five-year plan (FFYP), reports BSS.

"Despite the worst floods this year, we did not reduce the size of the ADP but we are planning to expand it to carry out more development works side by side to redress the damage of floods during the next fiscal year," he said while replying to questions and supplementaries in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The state minister said the current fiscal's ADP amounting to Taka 13,600 crore was 10 per cent more than the amount of the last fiscal.

Earlier, replying to two questions from Kazi Sirajul Islam of Awami League from Faridpur and Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury of JP from Nilphamari, the minister said 31 projects in Faridpur district and 23 projects in Nilphamari district were implemented during the last fiscal year under the ADP.

He said 239 projects are being implemented in Faridpur district during the current fiscal year.

Replying to question from Mohammad Fazlul Azim of BNP from Noakhali, Dr Mohiuddin said the government has undertaken a plan to conduct the fourth population census in March, 2001.

The supplementaries were raised by Prof Panna Kaiser of AL, Syed Wahidul Alam of BNP, Ruhul Quddus Talukder of BNP, Indulul Huq of AL, Segufa Yasmeen of AL, Mashur Rahman of BNP and Sheikh Mohammad Nurul Huq of AL.

## Kuwait-Bangladesh Brotherhood Assoc

By Staff Correspondent

Kuwait-Bangladesh Brotherhood Association has formed a new committee with Maulana Shah AFM Wahid, Pir Saheb of Kasernabad Darbar Sharif, and Maulana Mufti Abdul Kader Buiyan as its president and secretary general respectively, said a press release.

Moazzem Hossain, an industrialist, was made the senior vice-president of the committee. The committee was formed in a council meeting at the Darbar Sharif on March 13.

According to the constitution of the association, Ambassador of Kuwait in Dhaka is the chief patron of the committee.

## Z A Khan made BNP advisor