

Weather

Temp likely to rise

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and one or two places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports AP.

Met office said day temperature is expected to rise by 2-3 degree Celsius during the period over the country.

Weather might improve gradually in the subsequent two days. In an extended outlook for another five days, weathermen forecast no appreciable change.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 36.0 degree Celsius at Rangamati while the lowest 18.0 degrees at Barisal.

The sun sets today at 6:19 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:40 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	33.8	21.3	56	62
Chittagong	33.5	20.7	62	76
Rajshahi	32.9	20.3	72	68
Khulna	33.8	18.5	76	76
Barisal	34.0	18.0	70	68
Sylhet	32.3	21.3	77	76
Cox's Bazar	34.5	21.5	69	54

Jibon Tori inaugurated in Munshiganj

MAWA, Munshiganj, Apr 10: Jibon Tori, a floating hospital, was inaugurated here on the Padma river today, reports APB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad inaugurated the 14-bed hospital.

Besides health care services to the "poorest of the poor", particularly the disabled, the floating hospital that will move from place to place, will also have facilities for ENT and orthopaedic operation and a post-operative unit.

It will also provide mother and child healthcare services (MCH) including immunisation, reproductive health education and services, and create awareness to prevent disability.

The 40-metre long and 10-metre wide double-decker hospital was built by a local ship-builder.

Impact Foundation of UK, an international NGO, financed the project and the hospital will be run by its Bangladesh unit.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdus Samad Azad said that the floating hospital will be a unique project for prevention and cure of disability.

About 10 per cent of the country's population is disabled.

The government has launched new initiatives to deal with this problem, he said. A SAARC Fund for the Disabled has been created for the welfare of the disabled in the region, he mentioned.

The function was also addressed by, among others, British High Commissioner David C Walker, Resident Co-ordinator of the UN System in Bangladesh David B Lockwood, Chief Executive of UK Impact Foundation Claire E Hicks, Head of Global Impact Programme Sir John Wilson, Chairman of Impact Foundation, Bangladesh, Shaif Ahmed Chowdhury and its Director Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury.

IUB to open Chittagong campus in June

CHITTAGONG, Apr 10: The Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) will open its Chittagong campus next June, reports UNB.

The IUB campus will be the first non-government university campus in the port city.

The IUB management hired for floors of a five-storey building on Jamal Khan road in the city.

Amir Khashru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP, one of the organisers of the Chittagong branch of IUB, disclosed this at an opinion exchange meeting at his Mehediabad residence today (Saturday).

He said thirty organisers will finance the Chittagong IUB until it acquires self-sufficiency. Once it becomes self-sufficient, the surplus money will be utilised for its development, he said.

He said "IUB will be totally politics-free institution and the organisers would have no interference in running the university."

Mahmud said, IUB will start its summer session on June. It will have five foundation courses in the beginning.

These courses are: Basic Computer Skills, Remedial English, English Reading Skills, Remedial Mathematics and Basic University Mathematics.

Body formed to probe shooting incident at ZH Hall

By DU Correspondent

A three-member probe body was formed yesterday to investigate into the Thursday's firing incident between a terrorist and police at Zahurul Haq Hall of Dhaka University.

Headed by the hall provost Prof A M A Mannan, other members of the committee are DU Proctor Dr A K M Noor-un-Nabi and University Registrar Mohammad Selim. The committee has been asked to submit its report within the next 10 days.

On Thursday night a team of detective police launched a move to the dormitory to nab a non-student terrorist known as 'Toka' Mizan. But Mizan, an activist of ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) managed to escape after firing at the DB men.

At least 10 bullets were fired during the incident.

Soon after the incident, Mizan along with his group leader Shamim Ahmed forced the on-duty police at the hall to leave. Police forces were later reinstated at the hall.

Election, AGM of DUJ Sangbad unit held

Farhad Mahmud and Jaharal Chandra Das were unanimously elected unit chief and deputy unit chief of Sangbad Unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at the annual election of the unit yesterday, reports BSS.

Held at the Sangbad news room, the election was conducted by noted journalist Santosh Gupta.

Earlier, the annual general meeting of the unit held with unit chief Kartik Chatterjee in the chair called upon the Sangbad management to regularise the payment of salary, annual increments and enhance other facilities. The meeting demanded withdrawal of termination letters on two unit members, stop employment of journalists on consolidated salary and create healthy working atmosphere.

Outgoing unit chief Kartik Chatterjee placed the annual report which was unanimously adopted by the unit members.

The meeting expressed deep condolences at the death of Sangbad journalists including Abdullah-Al-Muti Sharfuddin, Syed Atiqullah, Ronesh Das Gupta and Monazatuddin.

Among others, BFUJ vice-president GM Yakub, DUJ general secretary Azizul Islam Bhuiyan and unit members Washiluddin, Golam Mohammad Edu, Ahmed Iqbal, Monir Hossain Liton, Dilip Das Dewan and Jaharal Chandra Das spoke on the occasion.

Rajshahi city AL condemns killing of Murshed

RAJSHAHI, Apr 10: Rajshahi city Awami League today strongly condemned the brutal killing of local student leader Golam Murshed and demanded exemplary punishment of those who were involved in the incident, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Public Library Hall, the Awami League leaders made it clear that "party leaders do not believe in terrorism and they have no relations whatsoever with the killers of Murshed." They said that "Our viewpoint is that the trial of killer Murshed must be held as we do not believe in terrorism and toll collection and we also do not give such terrorists shelter in our fold."

Refuting allegations published in a section of newspapers, the AL leaders said that "we have no conflict, amity and division in the rank and file in the Rajshahi city Awami League, we believe in the rule of law." They added:

Mahbub-uz-Zaman Bhulu and A H M Khairuzzaman Liton, president and general secretary respectively of Rajshahi city Awami League, advocate Muzaffar Hossain, former president, Rajshahi city Awami League, Masudul Haq Dulu, senior vice president, Rajshahi city Awami League, public secretary, Rajshahi city Awami League and other leaders of the party were present.

Work for welfare of the nation, edn minister tells students

RUPSHA, Khulna: Education Minister A S H K Sadiq today called upon the students to devote themselves to the welfare of the country keeping above politics, reports BSS.

He said the politics of conflicts disrupt the country's development. He was addressing a function at the Bangladesh University College at Belfulia under Rupsha thana here.

The minister said the present century-old education system cannot fulfill the needs of the time. So the government has given importance to the spirit of the War of Liberation, democracy and tolerance to the others views and science-based education in the present education policy.

He stressed the need for a production-based education. An education system which only breeds unemployment should be discouraged, he said.

Whip of Jatiya Sangsad S M Mostafa Rashidi Shuja, Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University Prof S M Nazrul Islam and Principal of the college Sardar Fazlul Hamid also spoke on the occasion. It was presided over by deputy commissioner of Khulna and chairman of the college governing committee Mohammad Azhar Ali Talukdar.

The minister earlier, unveiled the plaque of Bir Srestha Shahid Ruhul Amin Academic Bhavan of the college.



The Indian bus from Calcutta on trial-run left the city yesterday for their journey back home. Commercial bus services on the Dhaka-Calcutta route is set to begin in a few weeks time. —Star photo

1.35 lakh community clinics to be set up

CHITTAGONG, April 10: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf said here yesterday that the government had taken some important steps, including formulation of new health policy, enactment of laws to control private clinics and mal-practices in health services in order to streamline the overall health services of the up essential package programmes in the health and population sector to prevent contagious and children's diseases as well as to ensure prompt health services for rural people, reports BSS.

The minister said this while inaugurating Omar-Sultan Dental Centre at Bangabandhu Memorial Hospital of the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) here.

The dental centre has been constructed at an expenditure of Tk 22 lakh donated by Omar-Sultan foundation.

On the occasion the minister received medicines and medical equipment for the leukemia block donated by Children Leukemia Assistance and Support Services (CLASS).

National Professor Dr. Nurul Islam and CLASS chairman and journalist Osman Gani Mansur were present at the function.

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Former Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed addressing a round-table discussion on "Bangladesh's Independence: Hopes and Realities" organised by the newly-floated Centre for Strategic and Peace Studies (CSFS) at CIRDAP auditorium yesterday. Seen in the picture are from left Major Gen (Retd) K M Shafiqullah, MP, Commodore (Retd) Ataur Rahman and CSFS Executive Director Major Gen (Retd) Muhammad Ibrahim. —Star photo

Universal code of conduct on 'right to food' demanded

Speakers at a seminar yesterday demanded a universal code of conduct on "right to food" for every human being in the world saying it is an inseparable part of the basic human rights, reports BSS.

The German human rights activist said forced evictions, destruction of food resources, fishing grounds, land grab by big landlords and failure of agrarian reform programmes are obstacles of the food rights.

Barrister Omar Sadat, contact person of FIAN in Bangladesh, conducted the seminar, which was also attended by cardiologist Prof Hasina Banoo, social workers Faizur Rahman and Omar Faruque.

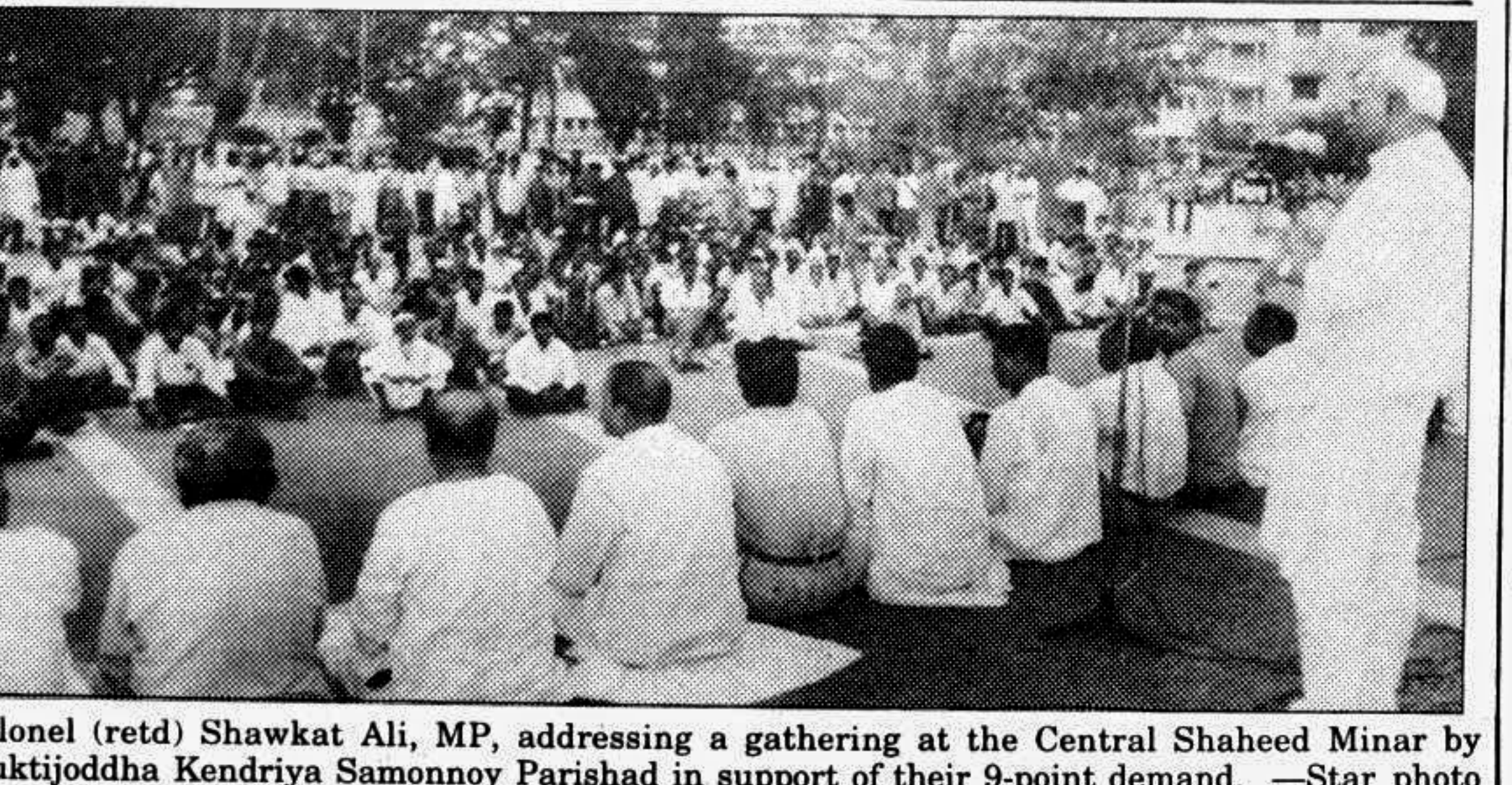
Post of DU treasurer lying vacant

By DU Correspondent

Teachers, especially supporters of pro-Awami League Blue Panel in the Dhaka University has begun lobbying for the post of Treasurer of the university, sources said.

The post fell vacant following the resignation of Treasurer Prof M Shamsul Haq on April 7 after competing his 4-year tenure.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Shahadat Ali has been given the additional charge of the Treasurer until a new Treasurer is appointed.



Colonel (ret) Shawkat Ali, MP, addressing a gathering at the Central Shaheed Minar by Muktijoddha Kendriya Samonny Parishad in support of their 9-point demand. —Star photo

Police officials asked to discharge duties with honesty

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday asked the senior police officials to discharge their duties with sincerity and honesty, reports BSS.

The minister said this while exchanging views with the senior officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) at the police headquarters in the city.

The minister said the present police force is the able successors of those members of the law-enforcing agency who made supreme sacrifices in the War of Liberation.

Underlining the importance of taking measures to stop the recurrence of incidents that has dented the image of the police, the minister said, the law and order had to be kept under control at any cost.

The home minister directed the police commissioner to strengthen the police patrol to check mugging and extortion in the capital.

Special workplan taken to develop madrasha edn

CHITTAGONG, Apr 10: Minister for Labour and Employment M A Mannan today said that the present government had undertaken special workplan for development of madrasa education alongside the general education, reports BSS.

Addressing the foundation laying ceremony of Ahmudia Karimia Sunnia Fazil Madrasa at East Bakalia here as chief guest, the minister said that the government has made the highest allocation for the education sector.

Presided over by founder of the madrasa Sona Mia Sawdagar, the foundation laying ceremony was attended by city Awami League leaders and local elite.

Listing various projects undertaken by the government of Sheikh Hasina in education, health and communication sectors and infrastructure development in Chittagong, the labour minister said, no government after 1975 had initiated such development programmes in the region.

The minister also said that as many as 7,000 development projects have been implemented in Chittagong during the last two and a half years.

Earlier, the minister inaugurated the new building of Bakalia High School-financed by the Wage Earners Welfare Fund and later laid the foundation stone of East Bakalia Girls High School.

Symposium on hypertension

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf has urged the entrepreneurs to come up with large investment in setting up modern hospitals in the country, reports APB.

He said that government alone could not take the whole burden to ensure health services to such large population of the country.

The minister said this while addressing a symposium on hypertension organised by Novartis (Bangladesh) at a local hotel yesterday.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Dr M Amanullah and Managing Director of Novartis Gerhard Doerge also addressed the symposium.

Salahuddin said the government had taken many "pragmatic" steps for expansion of medical facilities and provide improved healthcare to the poor.

Prof Amanullah underlined the need for developing new strategies to overcome the weaknesses in the management of hypertension.

Medical specialists from home and abroad, including Dr Gordon T Melnes from UK presented papers on different aspects of hypertension at the working session of the symposium.

WARBE urges Malaysian govt to free Irene

By Staff Correspondent

Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (WARBE) at an emergency meeting recently condemned the trial of Irene Fernandez, a Malaysian human rights activist who fights for the cause of migrant workers, says a press release.

On its April 5 meeting in the city, WARBE resolved that the trial of Irene, Director of the Tenaganita (Women Force), raised many concerns about the fundamental right to freedom of expression and it requested the Malaysian government to withdraw the case against Irene unconditionally.

Irene was arrested on March 18, 1996 on charges under the Printing Presses and Publications Act of Malaysia 1984 following her much publicised report on "Abuse, Torture and Dehumanised Treatment of Migrant Workers at Detention Camps." This report, first published in 1995, drew world attention on conditions of migrants in Malaysia.

The report was based on testimonies of about 300 former detainees including Bangladeshi migrant workers.

Security stepped up in Ukhaia for UP polls

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 10: Unprecedented security measures have been taken to hold the election to Rajapalung Union Parishad of Ukhaia thana tomorrow, reports UNB.

Officials said 11 magistrates will be posted to 10 polling centres of the union with 20,400 eligible voters.

Two additional police commissioners, an additional SP, two ASPs, six police inspectors and 300 armed police and Ansars will be deployed to maintain law and order.

Three chairman candidates and 35 member candidates will contest the election. Eleven female candidates will vie for reserved seats.

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A cultural function was also arranged on the occasion.

Tofail at DRU course Govt preparing plan to set up IT village

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed has stressed up-to-date knowledge on information technology for professionals to prepare themselves for the next millennium, reports APB.

He said the process of amending the Intellectual Property Rights Act is at the final stage to facilitate investment and export in this sector. The government is preparing a plan to set up an IT village with information hub, he added.

He also said that the government had declared IT to be one of the thrust sectors for export and different ministries have taken various steps to promote the sector.

The minister was inaugurating the three-month-long computer training course for the reporters of the newspapers and news agencies at the office of the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) in the city yesterday.

DRU Computer Club organised the course for the fourth time. Some 70 reporters were already given training while 10 others are being trained in the current course.

As per recommendation of the experts, the government is allowing duty-free import of computers and other accessories including software. Tofail told the audience.

The minister said the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) was organising a fund to provide financial support to the software exporters.

Lauding the role of the young generation in journalism, the minister said the reporters collect information through untiring efforts and save time.

He said the government believes in the freedom of the press. But we expect fair and honest journalism, he added.

Presided over by DRU president Shahjahan Sarder, the inaugural function was also addressed by the convener of the computer club Shaymol Datta, DRU general secretary Mohiul Islam Raju and director of the Cyber Communication Abul Hossain.

2 robbers held with arms in Chandgaon

CHITTAGONG, Apr 10: Chandgaon police here today arrested two alleged robbers from East Bakalia and recovered from them two light guns, two cartridges and one sword, reports BSS.

Police said that the arrested are Yusuf, 25, and Selim, 35, were seriously injured when they were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Metropolitan Police rounded up 28 persons on various charges from different areas of the city today.

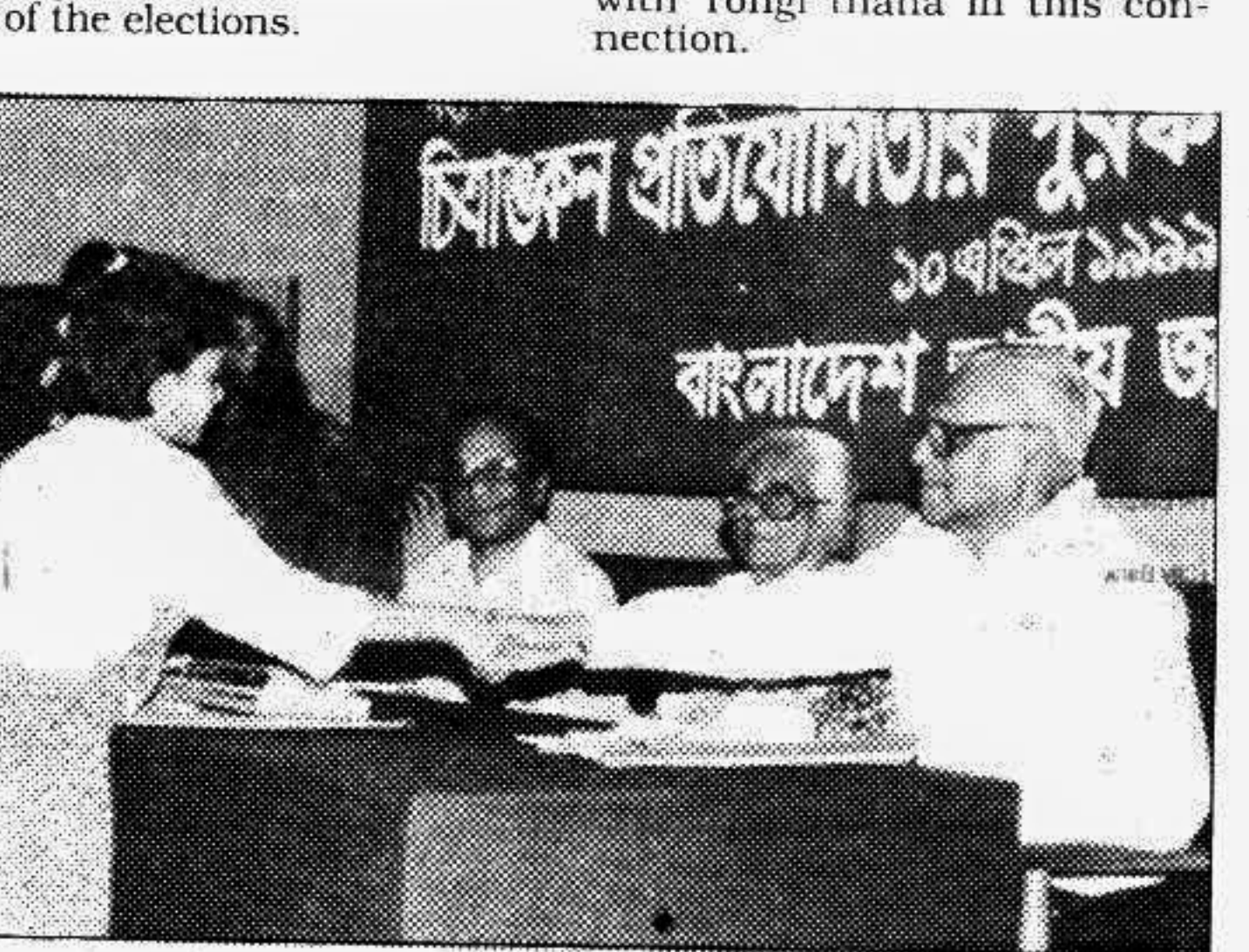
One suspected miscreant and some absconders were among the arrested persons.

3 terrorists held in Tongi

GAZIPUR, Apr 10: Police arrested three alleged terrorists from village Shataish under Tongi pourashava today, reports BSS.

Police said, the arrested are Habibur Rahman, 17, Farid Hossain, 16, and Anwar Hossain, 18.

A case has been registered with Tongi thana in this connection.



Prizes were distributed among winners of the Child-Juvenile Art Competition at the National Museum auditorium yesterday. The competition was organised by the National Museum in observance of the Independence and National Day.

Prize distribution ceremony held

By Staff Correspondent

Renowned educationist and writer Dr Nilima Ibrahim has called upon the children and juvenile of the country to groom themselves to be worthy citizens of tomorrow.

She was speaking as chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony among the winners of the Child-Juvenile Art Competition yesterday. The National Museum had organised the competition in celebration of the Independence and National day.

Director General of National Museum, Shamsuzzaman Khan and Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam also spoke at the function held at National Museum Auditorium, said a press release by the National Museum.

Seminar at JU today

By JU Correspondent

A seminar entitled, "UN at the birth of Bangladesh: Viewed by three newspapers of Muktaganga," will be held today at the Jahangirnagar University.

Organised by the Department of History, the seminar will be held at Room No 201 of Arts building at 10:30 am.

Ashfaq Hossain of School of Social Science at Bangladesh Open University (BOU) will present the keynote on the topic.

Prof Bazlur Rahman Khan and Prof Taibul Hasan Khan of History at JU will take part in the discussion on the paper.

JU exams

The Master's final examinations of 1996 of the departments of Pharmacy, Archaeology and Economics will begin on April 11, 13, and 29 respectively, reports APB.

Another APB says: Sumon Chattapadhyaya, a singer from India, gave a concert at the JU campus on Friday evening.

Jahangirnagar Students' Film Society organised the concert at the university's Mukta Mancha (Open Stage).

JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Alauddin Ahmed and Pro-Vc Prof Abdul Bays attended the function. It was presided over by the film society's president Ahmed Reza.

Sumon Chattapadhyaya presented some folk and Tagore songs.

2 held with arms in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 10: Two youths were arrested with firearms while planning to commit dacoity at the houses of two industrialists at Rajkhal Hafez Nagar in Chandgaon thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said they seized two LGs along with ammunition from the possession of Mohammad Yusuf and Mohammad Salim.

With the help of local people, police gheraoed eight miscreants while planning to commit the dacoity. Six of them, however, slipped from the scene.

A cultural function was also arranged on the occasion.