

## Impeding power and water crisis Govt should resign right now : Mannan Bhuiyan

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said "failures incompetence and callousness" of the government is responsible for the prevailing electricity and water crisis in the country and demanded immediate resolving of the current crisis.

In a statement, he said the Awami League government is not capable to ensure even basic necessities as water and electricity to the people although it had come to power with a pledge to establish right to food of every citizen.

Similarly, there is also no water in river Padma that is causing a severe draught in the northern region of the country.

The government after signing the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty with India had blown its own trumpet, but it is now clear to the people that the treaty was a hoax. The water flow in Ganges has further reduced after signing the treaty. The water flow in Padma is decreasing day by day although the ministers are frequently visiting Delhi," Bhuiyan said.

The BNP leader said that the government after changing the Energy Minister had sat idle

instead of facing the power crisis. The situation has deteriorated further after the Prime Minister herself took over the charge of the ministry.

Due to this crisis, he said, production has drastically fallen in industries and mills creating an adverse effect on internal and external trade. The non-stop load shedding is also hampering public life very seriously.

Mannan Bhuiyan said the government has no moral right to stay in power any more as it has completely failed to ensure supply of water and electricity. "The failure of the government in these sectors is unpardonable. It will be wise for the Prime Minister to step down immediately by admitting her government's failure," he added.

He strongly condemned police action on the protesting people who staged demonstrations demanding supply of water, electricity and gas.

The BNP secretary general called upon the people to make the April 15 nationwide demonstration a success. The programme has been announced to demand proper supply of electricity, water and gas.

## JS body discusses performances of missions abroad

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with its chief Dr Mohammad Selim in the chair, reports APB.

The meeting discussed in detail the overall performances of the country's missions abroad.

It stressed the need for imparting proper in-service training to the officials to enhance their efficiency so as to make country's economic diplomacy a success.

The meeting was appraised about the genocide now being committed in Kosovo and the government's reaction in this regard.

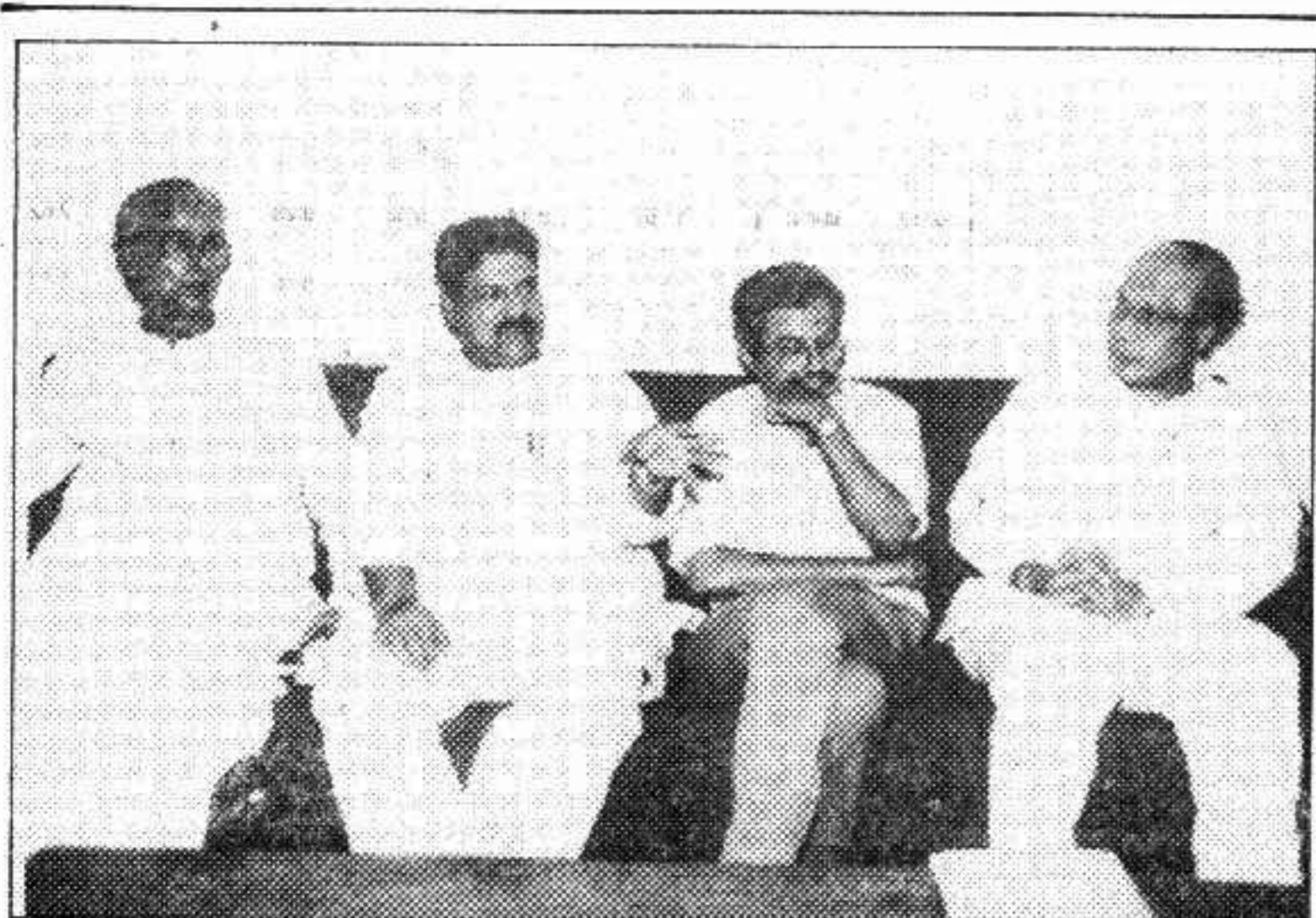
Committee members Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Nurul Islam Nahid, Mariam Begum, M Morsheed Khan and Shamsul Islam were present. Foreign Secretary C M Shaif Shamil also attended the meeting.

## Call to strengthen community policing system

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday instructed the concerned authorities to strengthen community policing system to maintain law and order across the country, reports BSS.

The instruction came following a high level meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Home, Information, Housing and Public Works, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in the conference room of the Home Ministry.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Minister for Housing, Public Works, Civil Aviation and Tourism Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Inspector General of Police, Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Home, Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and Chairman of BRTA.



Visiting Indian parliamentary delegation comprising Promothesh Mukherjee, Dipankar Mukherjee and Moinul Hasan called on the Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor A K Azad Chowdhury at his office yesterday.

## Two killed in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Apr 11: Two motorbike riders were killed when a truck hit their bike on Gafargaon-Bhaluka road at Barabazaar crossing in Gafargaon thana early today, reports UNB.

Police said a trader, Nikhil Nandi, 30, and Gafargaon thana health assistant Badal Mia, 35, died instantly in the road accident at about 5:30 am while travelling to Bhaluka.

Police seized the truck, but the driver managed to flee. A case was filed with Gafargaon thana.

## Shibir sweeps college polls in Khulna

KHULNA, Apr 11: Islami Chhatra Shibir swept the students' union poll of Khulna Government Majid Memorial City College winning 17 posts including that of general secretary and assistant general secretary, reports APB.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (B-K) won the posts of Vice President and four others class representatives in the elections held at the college campus today.

## Robbers loot goods worth Tk 1 lakh from Jessore market

JESSORE, Apr 11: A gang of robbers looted cash and valuables worth about Tk one lakh in a daring robbery at Paul Bari Market of town here on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said the armed brigand numbering 10 equipped with lethal weapons swooped on the market at 2 am after overpowering the night guards posted there.

The miscreants fled away with the booty after a one and half-hour operation.

## Installation of Sher-e-Bangla Hall Students' Union

The installation ceremony of newly elected office-bearers of Sher-e-Bangla Hall Students' Union of BUET was held on Thursday at the commonroom of the hall, says a press release.

Prof Dr Nooruddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, BUET, attended the function as chief guest. Presided over by Prof Dr Md Abdur Razzak Akhanda, Provost, Sher-e-Bangla Hall, the function was also addressed by Dr A F M Anwarul Haque, Prof of IPE Deptt, and Prof Dr Maglub-Al-Nur, Director (in-charge), Directorate of Students Welfare, BUET.



Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries addressing a seminar on Industrial Relations and Productivity at IDB conference room in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## 'Political commitment needed to ensure healthcare to the poorest'

A three-day international workshop jointly organised by World Health Organisation (WHO) and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) on 'Meeting the Health Needs of the Poorest and Most Vulnerable' has begun in the city at CIDRAP auditorium.

Health Minister Salauddin Yusuf inaugurated the workshop. The Health Minister, BIDS Director General Abu Ahmed Abdullah, Executive Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue, Prof Rehman Sobhan, WHO Representative Dr John Martin addressed the opening session.

The speakers at the first session raised their concern over low quality of services provided by the public health sector and poor access and inadequate attention to the poorest section of the society.

Other speakers said that too little have been done to get political commitment from ministers, members of parliament and local leaders to address the needs of the health of the poor. We need the support of prime minister and other ministers to achieve our goals, they said.

They said that the situation of healthcare for the poor in the developing countries was going from bad to worse. "We must bring a change to the situation. It is time we address the problem with a greater responsibility," one speaker said.

The speakers also said that to ensure universal access to health, safe water, sanitation and other basic social needs we must develop the needs of the poorest in the society.

Dr John Martin from Geneva (WHO) underscored the need for linking between health and income and said that investment in procuring better healthcare services leads to better economic growth. Citing an example of what East Asian countries have done to improve the scenario, he said that investing in better education, basic healthcare, sanitation and other sectors that lags behind may lead to the difference of growth in the healthcare sector.

Dr Binayek, a senior research fellow of BIDS said that investment in health sector can bring three dimensions — health as an insurance for income, health as human capital

as productivity increases and health as social capital as new forms of social cooperation is achieved.

The speakers mentioned that not only service quality is low but the service providers also are not sensitive enough to the poor patients' concerns. The poor are ignored because they are not vocal about their rights. They never protest about lack of facilities, doctors and other basic needs at the healthcare centres.

They said that for this reason the poor and the vulnerable group of the society are deprived from basic healthcare facilities in many ways. The speakers also said that budgetary allocation in the health sector has to be increased substantially.

The workshop is attended by different organisations including government, NGOs, donor agencies, academic institutions and various hospitals and clinics.

Technical papers were also presented at the day-long workshop. Dr John Martin of WHO gave an overview of the health and antipoverty prior to the start of the first session.

## Indian parliamentary team meets with Bangladeshi counterparts

Members of the Public Accounts Committee of Indian Parliament yesterday met with their Bangladeshi counterparts at the Sangsad Bhaban, reports UNB.

They discussed the activities of their respective committees, issues of increasing exchange of visits and views and sharing of information and experience.

Both sides expressed the view that relations between the two neighbours can be strengthened and problems removed through greater cooperation, said a press release.

Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, MK Anwar, Md Mujibur Rahman from Bangladesh side and Monoranjan Bhakta, Moinul Hassan, Promathesh Mukherjee, Dr BB Datta, Dipankar Mukherjee, Amar Roy Prodhan and Vima Varma from the Indian side took part in the discussion.

## FM felicitates Moroccan counterpart

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday congratulated Mohammed Beneissa on his appointment as the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, reports BSS.

While wishing his new Moroccan counterpart every success in his office, Azad expressed his firm belief that the close bonds of friendship and cooperation that characterise relations between the two countries will continue to grow in strength in years ahead.

## NSU holds seminar

A seminar on "Career Opportunities at Lever Brothers" was held at North South University (NSU) yesterday, says a press release.

NSU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Hafiz G A Siddiqi inaugurated the seminar. The objective of the seminar was to interview-graduates of NSU for employment at Lever Brothers. A total of 50 NSU graduates and students participated in the seminar.

Thanking Lever Brothers for participating in the seminar Prof Siddiqi said that the event is the auspicious beginning of linkage between NSU with the leading employers of Bangladesh. He expressed his confidence that employers will find the quality of NSU students very satisfactory.

The seminar was organised and conducted by Department of Career Services (DCS) of NSU. The coordinator of DCS M A Raquib informed that more organisations including leading multi-nationals are expected to come to hire NSU graduates in near future.

DCS has successfully placed 40 interns in different companies in the last four months. Most of these companies are multi-nationals, foreign banks and financial institutions. Companies interested to hold on-campus interviews at NSU may contact the Department of Career Services.



To cope with the unprecedented load-shedding of electricity now prevailing in the city, the shopowners in different markets are busy installing generators in their business establishments. This picture was taken yesterday from the Baitul Mukarram Electronics Market. — Star photo

## Employees begin strike Attack on Sherpur collectorate office

SHERPUR, Apr 11: Class three and four employees of the district collectorate went on a wildcat strike today in protest of attack on the office by a section of BCL activists, reports UNB.

The office was ransacked, furniture were damaged and two persons injured during the attack.

The employees began their stoppage at 1 pm for an indefinite period.

Officials said some Chhatra League leaders and supporters in a procession stormed into the office premises at 11:45 am and ransacked the office.

BCL leaders said they went to submit a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, but he refused to meet them as he was presiding over a meeting of the district development and coordination committee.

District Education Officer Trishna Sengupta and an employee of agriculture office Abu Bakar were injured in the incident.

A case was filed against 12 BCL members, including its district president Sanwar Hossain Sami and general secretary Bashirul Islam Sedi.

Police arrested district BCL vice-president Pintu from Tinani Bazar of the town at about 8:30 pm in this connection.

## Bangladeshi students to get excellence awards for GCE results

Top ten Bangladeshi students will be honoured with the "GCE Education Excellence '98 Award" for their results at GCE O and A-Level examinations, reports UNB.

British Council in Dhaka, in collaboration with EDEXCEL-University of London Examinations and Assessment Council, will organise the award distribution ceremony at its auditorium at 4 pm on Tuesday.

Anne Rickwood of EDEXCEL-University of London Examinations and Assessment Council will present the university medals to the best students. Director of British Council Tom Cowin will be present.

## Extortionists injure one in city

A young businessman was seriously injured in a bomb attack by extortionists at the city's Agamasi Lane yesterday, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said a band of youngsters led by Tajul attacked Mohammed Abed Ali, 25, son of Yasin Ali, at 3 pm after calling him out of his home. They exploded bombs after he refused to pay them toll.

Abed, a dice-maker, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with severe burn injuries. Hospital sources stated his condition critical.

Police, with the help of local people, nabbed Tajul from the area.

## DU proposes museum, mausoleum on Nazrul's grave

Dhaka University authorities have planned to construct a mausoleum and museum on the graveyard of the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at a cost of Tk 2 crore, reports UNB.

A 12-member committee with Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury as its head has been formed to implement the project.

"We proposed to build the mausoleum and the museum in a Bungalow-pattern with steel which will look as if made of bamboo," Prof Azad told the agency.

He said the mausoleum and the museum would be made based on Bengali culture, commemorating National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Patua Kamrul Hasan and prominent teachers of the university.

The project will be taken to the prime minister for approval.

The members of the project implementation committee are: DU Pro-VC Prof Shahadat Ali, DU Registrar, DU Chief Engineer, Prof Rafiqul Islam (Member Secretary), Prof Abul Mansur Mohammad Mansur Musa, sculptor Sham-sul Wares, sculptor Rabul Hus-sain, Prof Rajib Humayun Kabir and the Director of the Institute of Fine Arts.

Prof Azad said the birth centenary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed on May 25 and Chancellor of the university Justice Sha-habuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be present to place floral wreaths on the grave. They intend to lay the foundation of the museum on the same day.



## Obtains PhD

Syed Refaat Ahmed, Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court, has obtained his PhD degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, administered by Tufts University with the cooperation of Harvard University, says a press release.

His dissertation on the creation of an international legal regime for undocumented migrant workers was written under the supervision of renowned Human Rights lawyer, Hurst Hannum, an eminent historian and South Asia expert, Sugata Bose.

Ahmed has a previous degree in Jurisprudence from the University of Oxford, and in International Relations from the Fletcher School. He is an alumnus of the University of Dhaka, having stood First Class First in his LLB (Hons) examination.

Specialising in international migration and refugee affairs, Ahmed has served with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Hong Kong and Washington, DC.

He is the son of National Professor Dr Sufia Ahmed and Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed.

## 8th Spring Poetry Festival today

The Eighth Spring Poetry Festival organised by Kabikantha, a front-ranking poetry magazine of the country since 1956 will be held today at the festival's traditional venue of Jalshaghar, Hotel Purbani at 6 in the evening.

"The idea of the festival basically is to congregate annually and read each other's work away from all political bickerings and celebrate this wonderful season poetically," says the initiator of the festival poet Fazal Shahabuddin and editor of Kabikantha.

Leading poets of the country such as A I Mahmood, Aladuddin Al Azad, Mohammad Mir, Anisuzzaman, Al Masud, Abid Azad, Hayat Saif, Abul Khair Muslehuddin, among others will read from their works.

Spring poetry festival started its journey back in 1980 and remained a regular event till 1986. It made a comeback last year after an absence of over a decade.

This year there will be a change in the usual format of the festival with leading reciters reading from the works of all time greats like Jibananda Das and Farook Ahmed and contemporary greats such as Al Mahmood and Fazal Shahabuddin.



Noted Indian singer Rama Mondol presenting songs at a function organised by Surer Dhara at the auditorium of the National Museum in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Anisuzzaman, Samad vizz Ashrayan projects in Ctg

The Prime Minister's Advisor for Food and Agriculture M Anisuzzaman and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr S A Samad yesterday visited the Prime Minister's Ashrayan projects at different places to see for themselves the progress achieved in the work so far, reports BSS.

Ashrayan is a project for housing and settlement of the poorest of the poor of the country.

During their visit, accompanied by the Commissioner of Chittagong division, they went to Teknaf and St Martin's Island where 90 and 10 barrack houses respectively have been constructed.

## Appointments, transfer

Government has transferred one Additional Secretary and one Joint Secretary while one bureaucrat has been given an extension. Another was given a two-year contractual appointment cancelling his LPR, said a PID handout yesterday.

Chairman of Bangladesh Handloom Board Additional Secretary A K M Enayeturrahman has been made OSD at the Establishment Ministry.

Joint Secretary and OSD at the Establishment Ministry Mohammad Shafiqul Islam has been appointed Director General at the Office of the President.

Tenure of contractual appointment of the member of the Turnover Tax Fixation Commission Syed Khairul Islam has been extended for one year from March 20, 1999.

Director of Petrobangla (Mine and Minerals) Syed Anwarul Haq has been given contractual appointment from his joining date cancelling his LPR, the handout said.

## DUI emergency meeting today

An emergency extended meeting of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will be held today at 3:30 pm at the National Press Club, reports BSS.

The meeting will discuss matters relating to public holidays and weekly holidays in the newspaper industry.

DUJ general secretary Azizul Islam Bhuiyan has requested all office-bearers and executive committee members of BFUJ, DUJ, unit chiefs and deputy unit chiefs of different units and senior members of the community to be present at the meeting.

## Death anniversary of Mohiuddin Ahmed today

The second death anniversary of eminent politician, parliamentarian and former president member of Bangladesh Awami League Mohiuddin Ahmed will be observed today in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Wreaths will be placed at his mazar at the Mirpur Mukhtajod-dha Graveyard by different political and social organisations today to pay respect to him.

A *Milad* *Mahfil* will be held at his Dhanmondi residence today after Asr prayers.

A discussion on late Mohi-uddin Ahmed will also be held at the National Museum at 5 pm on April 18.

## Shantu Larma continues mass contact programme

RANGAMATI, Apr 11: Peace process in Chittagong Hill Tracts region is expected to get a new momentum when PCJSS chief Shantu Larma takes over the charge of the 22-member interim Regional Council shortly, reports APB.

The former insurgent leader's assumption of office will signal the end of the impasse in the formation of the council over the last few months, hill watchers say.

Parbatyia Chhattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), a party to the 1997 Peace Accord, is now eliciting public opinion among the hill people on whether to take over the charge. An overwhelming majority is reportedly in favour of a breakthrough in the imbroglio that hindered functioning of the much-vaunted council.

As part of the mass contact programme, the Chairman-designate of the council, Shantu Larma, is scheduled to arrive here on April 15, sources said.

In Rangamati, where the headquarters of the council will be set up, Shantu Larma will sit for crucial talks with CHT Affairs Minister Kalparjan Chakma. The minister is likely to reach here tomorrow.

## Italian envoy calls on FM

Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dr Raffaele Miniero called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his office yesterday, report APB.

They discussed matters of mutual interest.

**SEMINAR ON "CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT LEVER BROTHERS BANGLADESH LTD"**  
AT LEVER BROTHERS BANGLADESH LTD  
ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEW FOR MANAGEMENT TRAINEE  
HOSTED BY: DR. HAFIZ G.A. SIDDIQI, PRO-VC, NSU  
Department of Career Services  
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY  
APRIL 11, 1999

Prof Hafiz G A Siddiqi, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the North South University (NSU) speaking at the seminar.



Abdul Mannan, Minister for Labour and Employment speaking at an international seminar yesterday on 'Human Resources Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation as well as Progress in the Member States of OIC' organised by the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in collaboration with govt of Bangladesh and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) at Hotel Sonargaon in the city.