

### Nasim warns Any policeman trying to protect terrorists to face dismissal

MANIKGANJ, May 8: Home Minister Mohammad Nasim today warned that any policeman trying to protect the terrorists would face dismissal, not a mere suspension, reports UNB.

But if anyone works for curbing terrorism will be rewarded," he said at a reception accorded to Awami League advisory committee member Col (ret'd) Abdul Maleq here today.

Referring to the killings at a Udichi function in Jessore, the Home Minister said he would "show the faces of the killers."

The killers of JSD leader Kazi Aref Ahmed have already been arrested and they will not be freed during the rule of this government," he added.

Nasim said those who attack people or policemen would be dealt with a strong hand. "No terrorist will be spared."

He said Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia issued statements demanding release of the killers of Kazi Aref. "I do not understand her logic, a former Prime Minister can demand the release of a killer?"

The Home Minister alleged that by giving statements in favour of the killers, she (Begum Zia) proved that the BNP men had killed Kazi Aref.

District Awami League organised the reception with District AL president Moslem Uddin Khan Habu Mia in the chair. It was addressed, among others, by Morium Begum, MP, Col Maleq, Gazi Habibullah Khan, A F M Sulatanul Azam, Ramzan Ali and Abu Bakar Siddique.

### Muktijoddha Sangsad protests report

By Staff Correspondent  
The Central Coordination Committee of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad yesterday protested a report published in a section of newspapers regarding the comments of Bangladeshi Kader Siddiqui during his Sylhet visit.

The committee leaders expressed resentment over the report, saying that "it is a matter of regret that Kader Siddiqui's call for the revival of freedom fighters at this critical juncture of the nation is being termed conspiratorial."

Presided over by Istiaq Aziz Ulfat, the meeting was held in its office in the city.

Speakers at the meeting categorically mentioned that there is no conspiracy in his call. Kader Siddiqui made the call for uniting the freedom fighters as the anti-liberation forces are becoming active again, said a statement of the coordination committee signed by Anwar Ahmed.

### SCF for social movement against unfair means adoption

By DU Correspondent  
Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), a left-leaning student organisation, yesterday urged the student community to build a social movement against the practice of unfair means in the examinations.

The appeal was made on the first day of the organisation's two-day long general meeting.

Chaired by SCF president Nurul Islam, the meeting expressed grave concern over the adoption of unfair means in the ongoing HSC examinations across the country.

They urged the students to refrain from such immoral activities and blamed the officials of education sector and the government for the failure to check the bad practice.

### Workshop on role of model clinics tomorrow

A two-day national workshop on the role of model clinics for improvement of the country's health sector begins in the city Monday, reports UNB.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf will open the workshop at BRAC Centre, Health Secretary M M Reza, LGRD Secretary Badrur Rahman and European Union Ambassador Antonio De Souza Meneses will be present.

The government recently set up over 400 community clinics across the country as a model for proposed "one-stop" treatment service being introduced in the health sector.

It plans to set up one "health centre" for every 6,000 persons by the year 2003 under the health and family planning programme, said a press release Saturday.

### 922 arrested during combing operation

A total of 922 persons were arrested yesterday and on Friday during a joint combing operation conducted by police, BDR and Ansar across the country, a police headquarters press release said, reports BSS.

It said 14 illegal arms, 16 rounds of bullet and three explosives were also recovered during the drive.

The persons were arrested on different charges including toll collection and terrorist activities, the release said.

## Govt firm to ensure supply of arsenic-free drinking water: Yusuf

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday said the government is determined to ensure supply of 'arsenic-free' safe drinking water to the affected areas across the country and instructed concerned authorities to create massive awareness about the hazard, reports BSS.

"We are considering rain water harvesting along with the use of coagulation and filtration techniques as effective alternatives for ensuring arsenic-free safe drinking water," the minister said.

The minister was inaugurating a discussion on 'Arsenic contamination' organised by Bangladesh Arsenic Control Society (BACS) at Sasakawa International Training Centre Auditorium of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) in the city.

President of BACS Dr G H Rabbani, Representative of the European Union (EU) in Bangladesh Ambassador Antonio de Menezes, UNICEF's representative in Dhaka Ms Shahida Azfar, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Science Secretary M Fazlur Rahman, Environment Secretary Marghub Morshed, Acting Director of ICDDR,B Prof Lars Ak Persson and Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)

Quadir-uz-Zaman addressed the opening session.

The Health Minister said Bangladesh Medical Research Council would be directed to take appropriate measures about the critical issues of the investigations relating to arsenic contamination.

Ambassador Antonio de Menezes said the EU would assist international scientific endeavours in the field of 'arsenic control.'

"I can't think of anything basic than supply of safe drinking water," the European envoy said.

Referring to the different endeavours of the UN system in Bangladesh to contain arsenic pollution, UNICEF representative Shahida Azfar said "UNICEF is considering to provide more funds in this field."

Dr G H Rabbani said due to lack of scientific studies, it is not known what are the geological causes and sources of ground water contamination by arsenic in Bangladesh.

Urging immediate scientific and social coordination in this field, the BACS President said that it would be difficult to introduce different mitigation strategies in the rural areas of Bangladesh, including sand filtration of surface water, use of rain water and chemical treatment in the absence of necessary social and scientific commitment.

## Solid waste disposal plant to be set up in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 8: The first-ever solid waste disposal plant with a view to checking the environmental hazards and to produce bio-gas and fertiliser from different forms of waste materials will be set up here with an approximate cost of Taka 60 crore, reports BSS.

The Netherlands, a leading country in this field, has shown its keen interest to set up the most modern plant in the country with its technical and financial assistance. The Dutch government is expected to sign an agreement with the Government of Bangladesh to this effect within a couple of weeks, officials of the Chittagong City Corporation told BSS.

Chittagong City Corporation has initiated the proposal to curb the environmental pollution in the city.

The government, on principle, has accepted the proposal and later it was approved by the ministries of Foreign Affairs, and Forest and Environment, the sources said.

A team of experts of the Dutch Government will soon conduct a feasibility study and ascertain the site for setting up of the plant in the city, the sources said, adding that following the report, the construction work of the waste disposal plant is expected to start by the end of this year.

According to City Corporation sources, at least 150 tons of various waste materials, mainly kitchen stuffs, left out in the city everyday.

With these materials bio-gas and fertiliser will be produced while polythene, pieces of iron and tin could be separated from the waste materials when the plant goes into operation.

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Noted Tagore singer Lily Islam presenting a song at a function held at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy to mark the 138th birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore yesterday. —Star photo

## One gets life-term for murdering wife in Tangail

TANGAIL, May 8: The District and Sessions Judge has awarded a life-term imprisonment to Abdul Qudus for murdering his wife Zinat Ara, reports UNB.

Qudus is also required to pay a fine of Tk 2,000 or, in default, serve additional rigorous imprisonment for six months. The other accused, Moktel Ali who is Qudus's brother, has been acquitted.

According to the prosecution, accused Abdul Qudus strangled his wife Zinat Ara at his home on July 20, 1996, dumped the body in a nearby pond and put it up as a case of drowning. But post-mortem and police investigation reports as well as witnesses who included the brother proved beyond doubt the direct involvement of Qudus in the murder.

In another case, a special tribunal has ordered 10 years rigorous imprisonment to Mosharruf Hossain of Kabirajari at Madhupur thana for stealing arms from an army garrison.

It was stated by the prosecution that Mosharruf stole an SMG from an army tent near his village where a field regiment of the Ghatail garrison was engaged in a winter exercise in 1995.

Mosharruf's niece Rokshana saw him hiding the SMG in a potato field and reported the matter to army personnel the next morning. The SMG was re-

covered following her direction and Mosharruf was arrested. Accused Mosharruf admitted the crime but named six accomplices who were, however, acquitted.

In a third case, an Assistant Sessions Judge found two persons guilty of trading in smuggled drug, phensidyl, and awarded them two years rigorous imprisonment and fine of Tk 2,000 each or, in default, three months more in prison.

In another incident, Sarwar Hossain and Abdul Halim of Baimail village in sadar thana were nabbed by detective police on suspicion while they were trying to sell 12 bottles of Indian phensidyl.

## Juba Dal procession today

Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal will bring out a procession today at 4 pm from 'Muktangan' demanding employment for youths, reports BSS.

The procession, which will also demand the withdrawal of cases against workers and leaders of Juba Dal and ending oppression against them, will be attended by Secretary General of BNP Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

BNP Standing Committee members, central and local leaders will join the procession.



A vendor sits helplessly on the pavement as yesterday's downpour forced him to pack up for a few hours. —Star photo

## Weather

### Rain, gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Sylhet, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period, Met Office predicted.

The country's highest temperature 39.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 20.0 degree Celsius at Mymensingh and Feni.

The sun sets today at 6:31 pm and rises on Monday at 5:10 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	30.1	25.0	77	77
Chittagong	28.8	20.3	97	89
Rajshahi	35.8	27.2	71	71
Khulna	36.0	26.5	86	83
Barisal	33.5	27.8	72	74
Sylhet	29.6	21.7	91	77
Cox's Bazar	31.6	22.6	71	95

## Racial bomb attacks in London SAARC envoys exchange views with British MPs

The SAARC Group of High Commissioners and Ambassador in London has commended the prompt and strong action taken by the British Government, specially the London Metropolitan Police, to tackle the situation arising out of the recent bomb attacks in Brixton, Brick Lane and Soho, reports BSS.

The senior South Asian diplomats from Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka urged that the future of the ethnic minorities in Britain lies in their integration into the mainstream of British society and reiterated their support for the ongoing process of the evolution of a multi-cultural society in Britain, according to a message received yesterday.

Initiating the discussion, the High Commissioners of India and Pakistan mentioned the evolving multicultural character of British society and the commitment of the British Government and people to maintain and strengthen the multicultural fabric of the British society. They said the recent bomb attacks in Brixton, Brick Lane and Soho were perpetrated by a small fringe group who represented only themselves.

The SAARC Group of High Commissioners was exchanging views at a meeting with the British MPs and Peers representing ethnic minorities in a Committee Room of the House of Commons yesterday.

## People no longer want to see AL in power: Ershad

MAGURA, May 8: Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad today branded the present government as "incompetent and inept", saying the people no longer wanted to see Awami League in power, report APB.

He said his party went for "movement" as a last resort to realise the "popular demand" to change the government.

The people of the country are already fed up with the misrule and corruption of the Awami League government," he told a workers' rally here.

Ershad alleged that the government had failed miserably to restore law and order even after changing the Home Minister.

Referring to JP's "support" to AL in forming the government, he said the ruling party compelled the JP to go for movement by violating its pledges given to the people.

## JCD rally in Savar protesting killing of Faruk

Savar thana and poura units of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession and held a rally Saturday evening in front of Savar Press Club demanding immediate arrest of alleged killers of its activist Faruk, reports UNB.



The day's programme began with the ceremonial hoisting of the national and Red Crescent flags at the premises of Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital Nursing School.

A colourful rally of 1,000 youths and members and staff of the Society was brought out in the city, which ended at the National Press Club.

People in the procession carried banners inscribed with "the power of humanity" slogan, flags, bunting and placards.

A juvenile art competition was organised on the occasion. Twenty entries of paintings and portraits of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and founder of the Red Cross Jean Henri Dunant were awarded prizes.

On the occasion, the Society started a fund raising and membership drive, which was inaugurated by its Vice-Chairman Sheikh Kabir Hossain.

The Society also planned to recruit 2,000 life-members and create a special fund with Tk 2,000 donation from 2,000 persons during the Millennium Year.

Besides, the Society opened the Millennium Memory Book to record goodwill messages from 2,000 eminent people of the country. The vice chairman made the inaugural remark in the book.

A drive to give special recognition to the babies born yesterday at the Red Crescent Hospitals and Maternity Centres, calling them 'Red Crescent Millennium Babies,' also began with the vice-chairman and treasurer awarding them certificates with flowers at Holy Family Hospital in the city.

Other programmes included voluntary blood donation session with the 40th theme donation by a staff of the Society and dispatch of mobile youth peace missions with the message for

## World Red Crescent Day observed

The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day was observed in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world yesterday in a befitting manner with launching of the Millennium Year, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society chalked out an elaborate programme to mark the day.

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the new Millennium.

Chairman of the Society Major General (ret'd) Abdus Salam Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar highlighting the significance of the day.

Besides, BTV telecast a special feature programme containing the Millennium remarks by the vice-chairman, treasurer and secretary general of the Society. "The Power of Humanity" song by Syed Abdul Hadi and other prominent singers and glimpses of the movement's evolutions and activities.

Special supplements were published by the national dailies.

Important road islands of the capital were tastefully decorated on the occasion.

All the 68 district and city units and 30 coastal thana units of the Society's Cyclone Preparedness Programme also observed the day with elaborate programmes.

Chittagong BSS adds: World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day was observed in Chittagong yesterday.

Chittagong City and the district units of BRCs observed the day through a colourful procession and a discussion was held on the significance of the day.

School children, Red Crescent volunteers and officials joined the procession which was led by the City Mayor and City Red Crescent Society chairman A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

The procession paraded different roads of the city and ended at Red Crescent House at Anderkilla.

The discussion, held at the Red Crescent House, was presided over by Chittagong District Red Crescent Society acting chairman Khalilur Rahman. Speaking on the occasion City Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury called upon the people to be imbued with the ideal of Henry Dunant, who dedicated his life for the service of distressed men and women.

City and the district units secretaries Altaf Hossain Bachchu and Nurul Islam Bhuiyan also spoke on the occasion.

## Dhaka shocked at NATO bombing of Chinese Embassy in Belgrade

Bangladesh government expressed deep shock and sorrow to the people and government of China over the death of diplomats and destruction of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in bombing yesterday, reports UNB.

"We share with the friendly people of China the sense of sufferings at a tragic incident which resulted in deaths and destruction of Chinese Embassy in Belgrade," a government statement here said.

Press reports said NATO, launching the fiercest airstrike yet on the Yugoslav capital early Saturday, hit the Chinese mission what the military alliance called a "deeply regrettable" error.

CPB

General secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Mujahidul Islam Selim yesterday strongly condemned the NATO attack on Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, reports BSS.

"An embassy is usually treated as a symbol of sovereignty of the concerned country," he said.

Selim was speaking at a rally at the party office protesting the NATO attack on Chinese Embassy, said a party press release.

He also called upon the NATO to stop its attack on embassies and civilians.

Among others, party leaders Ashraf Hussain Ashu, Abdul Mannan, Ruhin Hussain Prince and Sajjad Jahir Chandan spoke at the rally.

## Taher Memorial Lecture May 15

The third memorial lecture of Colonel Taher will be held on May 15 at 5 pm at the Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting at the BMA Bhaban yesterday with Dr S M Kabir in the chair.

Anu Mohammad will be the main speaker on "Militarisation and security: The question of people's security in context of global militarisation."



Dr S M Elias, Director General of Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, speaking at annual convention-1999 of Bangladesh Seed Merchants Association at Khamarbari in the city yesterday. —Star photo

## Seminar held at DU

By DU Correspondent  
A seminar was held yesterday at the Arts Building of Dhaka University to mark the birth centenary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

The keynote paper of the seminar was presented by Prof. Begum Akter Kamal while Prof. Rafiqul Islam and Prof. Aminul Islam discussed on the paper.

Organised by the Gobinda Dev Darshan Gabesthana Kendra (GDDGK), the programme was presided over by Prof. Sahadat Ali, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the university.

## Protishabda affiliated to Saatchi & Saatchi

By Staff Correspondent

Protishabda Communications, a local advertising agency, has affiliated itself to advertising giant Saatchi & Saatchi Business Communications Ltd, says a press release.

Protishabda will now get all technical and creative support from the world-famous company to serve the clients at home and abroad.

## BSMA apex body

By Staff Correspondent

The executive committee of the Bangladesh Seed Merchants Association (BSMA) for 1999-2001 has been elected with Siraj A Chowdhury of McDonald Bangladesh Ltd. and F R Mallik of Malika Seed Co as its president and general secretary respectively.

The installation ceremony of the newly-elected 15-member body was held in the city yesterday. Outgoing president Mohammad Masum introduced the new executive committee at the annual convention of the association at Khamar Bari.

## Orientation class of Gono Bishwabidyalaya

By Staff Correspondent

The inaugural ceremony of the first year classes of second batch of the Gono Bishwabidyalaya was held on its campus in Savar yesterday.

Presided over by chairperson of the university Kazi Fazlur Rahman, the inaugural ceremony was attended by Prof Nilima Ibrahim, Dr Syeda Firoza Begum and Gulshan Ara Begum.

A total of 86 students were enrolled this year.

The private university with eight departments was opened on July 15 last year.

## Hazi Ibrahim High School 50th anniversary May 22

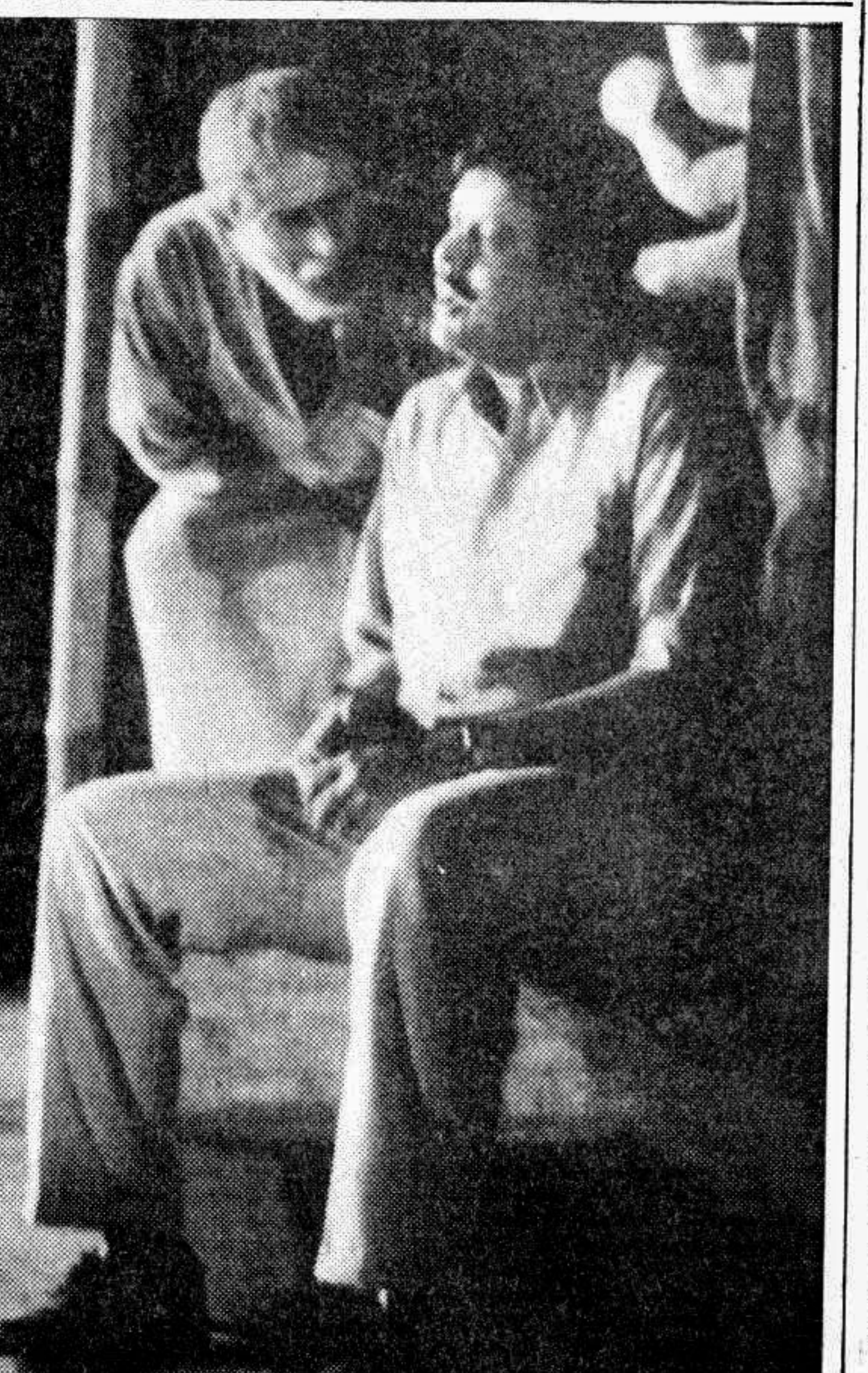
BARISAL, May 8: The 50th founding anniversary of Bhowanipur Hazi Ibrahim High School under Wazipur thana in the district will be observed on May 22, reports BSS.

State Minister for Jute AK Faezul Huq is expected to inaugurate the founding anniversary programmes at the school premises at 10 am.

An emergency meeting was held recently at the residence of Abdur Rahman, president of the managing committee of the school at Nayatola in the city.

A K M Shamsul Huq, A Mannan Howlader, Adv. Mojibur Rahman and Mostafizur Rahman Kamal, among others, attended the meeting.

They urged all former students of the school to register their names by May 10.



Bahurupi, a theatre group from Calcutta, staged 'Chhanchhanga Murti' yesterday at a drama festival being held at the Central Public Library auditorium in the city. Nagorik Natyangan organised the 12-day event that will continue till May 13. —Star photo