

Fruit vendor stabbed to death

By Staff Correspondent

A fruit vendor was stabbed to death by a gang of youths at city's Khilgaon Rail Crossing area on Friday night.

The dead was identified as Mona, 25, police and hospital sources said.

According to police, the gang of five in guise of customers asked Mona to give them a hundred liches at about 9:30 pm when Mona asked them for money, the gang was locked in an altercation with him and at one stage one of the youths stabbed him in his chest.

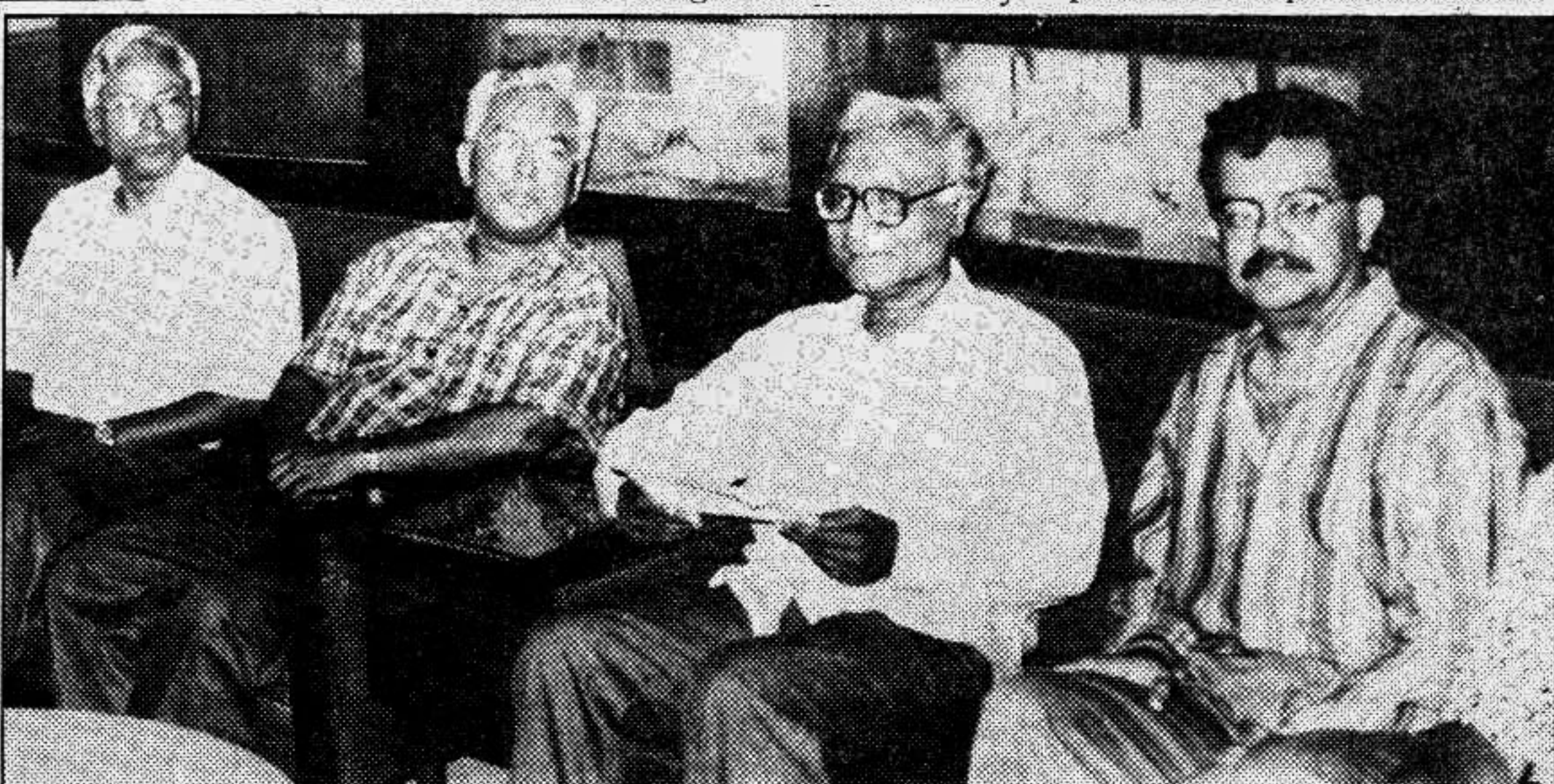
Mona was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in serious condition where the attending doctors declared him dead at about 11 pm. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

None, however, was arrested in connection till last night. A murder case was filed with Motijheel thana in this regard.

JU summer vacation from May 23

By JU Correspondent

The month-long summer vacation of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) begins on May 23. Official sources said no examinations will be held during the vacation. And the classes will resume on June 23.



Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury addressing a press conference at TSC teachers' lounge yesterday organised by the Movement for Saving Eleven Thousand trees at Osmany Uddyan. — Star photo

Int'l Family Day observed

Different socio-cultural organisations yesterday held rallies and discussions to observe the International Family Day with a theme "Family for all ages," reports BSS.

In observance of the day, the Ministry of Social Welfare brought out a colourful procession from the Osmany Uddyan at 8 am and held a rally at the Shishu Academy.

The inaugural function of the day was followed by a discussion in the Shishu Academy auditorium at 9:30 in the morning.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate messages yesterday, wished success of the day.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said the family as an institution should be strengthened as it is vital for the progress of the humankind.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the improvement of peace and discipline in the family is the precondition to building a nation properly.

Yusuf to attend C'wealth Health Ministers' meet

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf left the city for Geneva Friday night to attend the Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting and nine-day-long World Health Assembly, reports UNB.

The Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting will be held today while the World Health Assembly, organised by the World Health Organisation, will be held on May 17-25, said a press release.

During the visit, the Health Minister will address the plenary session of the WHA and call on WHO Director General Dr Gro Harlem Brundland.

Yusuf is expected to return home on May 28.

JCD protests police action

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of main opposition BNP, brought out a silent procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to protest the police action on women BNP activists and journalists in the city during Tuesday's half-day hartal.



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a silent procession yesterday protesting the police action on women and journalists during May 11 hartal in the city. — Star photo

Felling of trees at Osmany Uddyan

Call for movement to change govt decision

By DU Correspondent

Leaders of the Movement for Saving Eleven Thousand Trees at Osmany Uddyan yesterday called upon all to build up a vigorous movement for changing the government decision to cut down the trees for the construction of a conference hall.

"We want to protect every single tree of the Uddyan," said a leader of the committee, a platform of some 47 political and socio-cultural organisations.

The leaders said this while addressing a press conference at the TSC of Dhaka University.

They said they would launch a vigorous movement throughout the country if the government failed to reconsider its decision to build the proposed Bangabandhu Convention Centre at the Osmany Uddyan for the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in 2001.

Describing the Osmany Uddyan as heart of the city, they said cutting of the trees would invite an ecological disaster.

They said the air pollution in the adjoining areas would worsen if the greenery was replaced by the concrete compound. "It will not only rob city dwellers of a much-needed breathing space, but also increase congestion in the already

over-burdened traffic system." Terming Dhaka the most polluted city in the world, they hoped that the government should not resort to such an act further upsetting the ecological balance.

The leaders also urged the authorities to immediately halt all the activities related to the proposed construction and take necessary measures for proper maintenance of the greenery for public interest.

They also mentioned some other alternative sites for the centre including the open space near Bijoy Sarani.

The organisation will also organise a citizens' rally on May 18 and a human chain at the Osmany Uddyan on May 23 to press home their demands.

It has also started a campaign for collecting signatures from across the country from May 12 with a view to mobilise public support to their movement.

Among others, convenor of the organisation Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Dr T Ali, Dr Akmal Hossain, Golam Mahabub, Arbar Chowdhury, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Zoned Shaki, Hasan Tarik Chowdhury, Sohail and Zahurul Islam Pintu were present at the press conference.

Steps for FFs' rehabilitation demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The Distressed Freedom Fighters' Family Welfare Organisation yesterday demanded of the government to take immediate steps for the rehabilitation of the distressed freedom fighters and their family members.

At a press conference in the city, Abdul Baten Bepari, president of the organisation placed a charter of eight-point demands including formation of a separate ministry for freedom fighters, pension and collateral-free loan for freedom fighters, and free education and stipend for the children of freedom fighters.

He said, "the freedom fighters, who have made great sacrifices for the freedom and economic emancipation of the country, now passing their days in starvation on roads with their family members."

He said the anti-liberation forces have become active again and the freedom fighters are their target. He demanded immediate arrest and trial of the persons responsible for the killing of Muktiyoddha commander Nurul Islam in Keraniganj.

Held at the central office of the organisation, the press conference was also attended by Khaliur Rahman, SMA Rajak, Kabir Ahmed, Golam Sarwar, Farid Ahmed, and Ayesha Farid.

Biman's first direct int'l flight to Sylhet

SYLHET, May 15: A Biman Bangladesh airline flight carrying some 185 passengers touched the Sylhet MAG Osmani International Airport today on its first direct international flight from Dubai, reports UNB.

The national flag carrier also plans another direct flight between London and Sylhet very soon. Biman's Managing Director Air Commodore M Rafiqul Islam told a press briefing at the airport.

He also said that the London-Dubai-Sylhet direct flight will start soon if other things go well. "The Dubai-Sylhet flight is being operated on a trial basis and the London-Dubai-Sylhet route is expected to open next winter," he said.

This newly opened Dubai-Sylhet flight will be operated once a week.

Deans' representative election at JU

May 20

By JU Correspondent

The election of deans and provosts' representatives to the Syndicate of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will be held on May 20.

Two candidates are vying for the one post of Deans' representative while the other post for the Provosts' representative has already been decided. The two contenders are Dean of Science Faculty Prof Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury and Dean of Social Science Faculty Prof Tajul Islam.

Provost of Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall, Professor Md Nasiruddin, has been declared winner in the provost category because he was the lone candidate.

The voting will be held at the University Club from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. About 250 voters are likely to cast their votes in the election.

JU to observe birth anniversary of Shakespeare

The birth anniversary of the greatest playwright of English Literature William Shakespeare will be observed by English Department of the Jahangirnagar University on Tuesday, reports APB.

JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Alauddin Ahmed will inaugurate the programme as the chief guest while chairman of the department Ahmed Reza will preside over the function to be held on the occasion at the Arts Building of the university.

A seminar will be held on the occasion on "Deistic Expressions in Macbeth's last Great Speech" where the chairman of the department will present the keynote paper.

Prof Abu Taher Mojumder, Prof Mohammad Rafiq, Prof Shafi Ahmed, Associate Prof Kawsar Hossain, Nayemul Imam, and Sabir Ahmed Chowdhury, among others, will address the seminar.

To mark the birth anniversary, the students of the department will also recite and render from Shakespeare's sonnets, soliloquies and monologues.

Strike observed at Rajshahi Govt College

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, May 15: A strike was observed at the Rajshahi Government College here today. Left-leaning Bangladesh Chhatra Union called the strike to press home its demand for increasing the seats of first year honours course.

Offices and classrooms were kept under lock and key during the strike. BCU brought out procession and held a rally during the strike. Speakers said most students of the northern and southern region are interested to study at the Rajshahi Govt College but a very few of them get the opportunity due to very limited seat. As the admission into intermediate classes stopped, seats for the honours courses should be increased, they added.

Hasina presents action plan to world leaders

Agenda for peace, justice adopted in the Hague

The 5-day Peace Conference, organised by civil society organisations and human rights activists, ended in the Hague yesterday with the unanimous adoption of The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st century, reports BSS.

A 50-point plan of action on war, peace, security, human rights, protection of environment and elimination of poverty and all forms of disparity were incorporated in the agenda with an ultimate objective to build a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

Bangladesh achieved distinguished honour when in presence of world leaders, including UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, the organisers handed over the agenda to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina giving her the responsibility to convey it to the world leaders for implementation.

The closing session of the five-day deliberations was also attended by a number of prominent personalities including Queen Noor of Jordan.

Before her speech, Sheikh Hasina was introduced before a receptive international audience by Nobel laureate Jody Williams, who lauded the Bangladesh leadership for signing

the CHT peace accord and feeding millions of people during last year's devastating floods.

The agenda stressed emphasis on education, human rights and democracy for peace. It also advocated for checking adverse effects of globalisation and neo-colonialism and advancing the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources.

The agenda called for elimination of racial, ethnic, religious and gender intolerance, promotion of gender equality, protection of children and the proper use of youths forces. It proclaimed active non-violence and urged world religious leaders for transforming the culture of violence into a culture of peace and justice.

The agenda suggested to advance the global campaign for the establishment of International Criminal Court, encourage close cooperation between the converging fields of international humanitarian and human rights laws and reinforce support for the International War Crimes Tribunals.

The agenda recommended enforcement of universal jurisdiction for universal crimes

and expanding the role of the International Court of Justice in the context of a more comprehensive system of global justice.

Strengthening protection of and providing reparation to the victims of armed conflicts, ending violence against women in time of armed conflicts, stopping the use of child soldiers, helping victims, bringing to book abusers under international humanitarian and human rights laws were the other suggestions incorporated in the agenda.

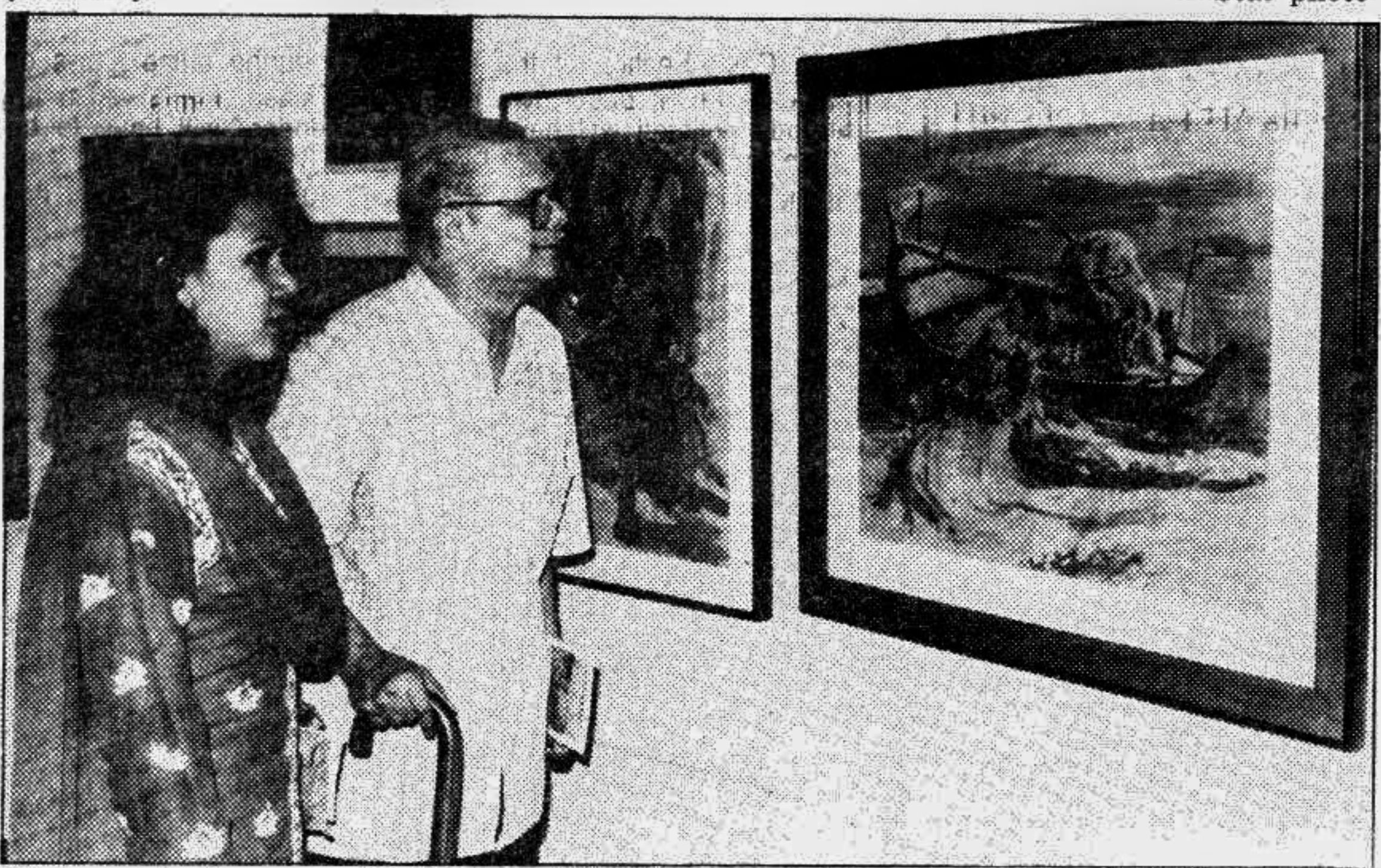
The agenda further suggested for providing training to grassroots organisations on the use of national, regional and international mechanism in the enforcement of international law and promotion of awareness campaign teaching and understanding of international human rights laws.

It also advocated for promoting training to civilian peace professionals and using media as a proactive tool for peace making.

The agenda suggested prevention of proliferation and use of conventional weapons including light weapons, small arms and guns and safeguarding of personal security.



Noted Tagore singer Kalim Sharafi is being presented with a bouquet on the occasion of his 75th birth anniversary at the auditorium of the National Museum in the city yesterday. — Star photo



Visitors at the art exhibition marking 50 years of Art at the Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts yesterday. — Star photo

Relief distributed among families of liquor poisoning victims in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, May 15: District Administration and Narsingdi Pourashabha jointly distributed from their relief funds Taka 50,000 and 2000 kilograms of rice among fifty families of the liquor poisoning victims at the Pourashabha premises on Thursday, reports BSS.

According to official sources, Taka 1000 and 40 kg rice were provided to each of the affected 50 families in the Narsingdi Pourashabha area.

The District Administration allocated Taka 20,000 and five tonnes of rice and Pourashabha allocated Taka 30,000 to help the families of the victims who were mostly day labourers.

The distribution programme was attended, among others, by Deputy Commissioner, of Narsingdi Rafiqul Islam.

Coordinated efforts of govt bodies needed to solve city's water crisis

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday said that an integrated and co-ordinated approach among the different government bodies are needed to solve the existing acute water crisis in the city.

They also underscored the need for social mobilisation and co-operation of the city dwellers to solve waterlogging and sewerage problems.

Dhaka WASA and Paribesh Raksha Shapath (PRAS) organised the meeting at WASA office at Kawanbazar in the city. Khandaker Azharul Huq,

Managing director of WASA, read out the key-note paper on "Problems in water supply, sewerage and waterlogging in Dhaka city: Our responsibility".

WASA MD hoped that there will be no more water crisis in Dhaka city after this July.

Former finance minister A M Abdul Muhiit presided over the meeting while Badiul Rahman, Prof. M. Firoj Ahmed, Kazi Kholiqzaman, Dr Naser Ejazul Huq, Dr. Salimul Huq, Brig. Mofijur Rahman, Kabiruzzaman, and Mujibur Rahman took part in the discussion.

M A Muhiit said that the water crisis in the city can be solved if Rajuk, DCC, WASA and PDW work together. He stressed the need for saving existing water bodies in the city. To protect the environment of the city, we should go for massive plantation, he added.

WASA Chief Engineer Kazi Mohammed Shish said that the WASA would try to supply water in slum areas of the city through non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury gave emphasis on prevention of wastage of water by city dwellers. He also said that "we will have to save the greenery and water bodies of Dhaka city".

He suggested changing the billing system of WASA and computerisation of its activities.

Bangla Academy polls results announced

The election of the executive committee of Bangla Academy was held on Friday on the campus of the Academy, reports BSS.

Among the 41 candidates, Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Abed Khan, Lutfar Rahman Riton, Ahmed Rafique, M Aminul Islam, Alauddin al-Azad and Ramendu Majumdar were elected the members of the committee.

A total of 911 voters out of 1873 cast their votes.

Freshers' reception at JU hall

By JU Correspondent

A freshers' reception and farewell to the outgoing students of Nawab Faizunnesa Hall was held at Jahangirnagar University (JU) on Friday.

Presided over by Provost Prof Roushan Zahan, the ceremony was held at the common room of the hall. JU Treasurer Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir was present as chief guest while Chairman of the Provost Committee Prof Farhad Hossain was special guest.

Prof Kallipada Kunda delivered the welcome address.

The programme was rounded off with a cultural function participated by the students of the hall.

World Telecom Day tomorrow

The 31st 'World Telecommunications Day' will be observed around the world tomorrow, reports APB.

This year's theme of the day is "Electronic Commerce." Bangladesh as well as other member countries of International Telecommunications Union (ITU), a specialised UN body, will observe the day in a befitting manner.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim have given separate messages on the occasion.

On May 17, 1865, International Telegraph Union was established in Paris, which subsequently was re-named as International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

Newspapers will publish special supplements while BTV and Radio Bangladesh will broadcast special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.

Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board will arrange a function and a special issue of 'Telecom' will be published by BCS Telecom Society on the day, said a T&T press release.

DU Senate polls GOP candidates exchanges views with voters

Candidates of the Gono-tantrik Oikya Parishad (GOP) in the election of registered graduate representatives to the Dhaka University Senate yesterday exchange views with the voters, reports BSS.

They talked to the voters at different places on the campus including the Arts Faculty building, teachers' lounge, registrar office, central library, Science Annex Building and Curzon Hall complex.

The candidates and leaders of the GOP urged voters to extend their support to the panel to ensure the triumph of the forces dedicated to establish the spirit of the War of Liberation.

The GOP would continue such campaigns to woo the voters till the polling begins.

Advocate Syed Ahmed, Syed Badruddin Hussain, Dr Rangal Sen, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Dr Harun-or-Rashid, Dr Syed Modasser Ali, Ramendu Majumdar, Dr Muhammad Anwar Hussain, Advocate Abdus Salam Talukdar, Prof Mahfuz Khanam, Ismot Kadir Gama, Muhammad Waheduzzaman Chan, Advocate Mesbahuddin, Abdul Kalam Azad, Begum Khaleda Habib, Azal Hussain, Mohammad Golam Kuddus, Habibur Rahman Khan and Baharul Maznun Chunnun took part in the campaign.

Taher Memorial Lecture held

By DU Correspondent

The third Taher Memorial Lecture on "Socialisation of the Country and People's Security" was held at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University afternoon.

Anu Muhammad, a teacher of Economics of Jahangirnagar University, delivered the lecture at the programme organised by the Colonel Taher Sangsad.

Presided over by Kamal Lohani, the programme was also addressed by Dr Mustaque Hossain.

Teenage girl rescued in Jessore

JESSORE, May 15: Kotwali police rescued a teenage girl on Friday from a house at Sankarpur area in the town after three days of her abduction, reports UNB.

A group of miscreants abducted Sathi, 15, from her Mirzapur village home of Narail district Tuesday and that she allegedly violated her, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Himu at Sankarpur and rescued the girl. They also arrested three people — Palash, Zulfikar and Himu — from the spot.