

● What's on today . . . ●

Discussion meet: Bangladesh National Museum has organised a discussion meeting on 'The Bangladesh National Museum in the 21st century' to mark the 'International Museum Day'. Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 11:30 am.

Discussion: ICOM Bangladesh and Muktijuddha Jadughar have organised a discussion meeting to mark the International Museum Day. Venue: Jadughar auditorium 95, Segum Bagicha. Time: 10 am.

Lecture: A lecture on Extension of Improved Stove Technology in Bangladesh will be held as part of the National Museum of Science and Technology's (NMST) Lectures on Popular Science Series. Keynote speaker: Dr M Eusuf. Venue: NMST auditorium, Agartala. Time: 4 pm.

Slide show: The High Commission of India along with the Drik Picture Library and Pathshala, The South Asian Institute of Photography have organised a slide show on 'Advertorial Photography' — A personal viewpoint by David D'Souza, noted Indian photographer. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House No 119 B, Road No 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00 pm.

Club meet: Rotary Club of Dhaka will hold its weekly meeting. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

World Telecom Day observed US company to install 50000 wireless phones

The World Telecommunications Day was observed in the country yesterday as elsewhere in the world with renewed pledges to expand electronic commerce for keeping pace with changing times, reports BSS.

Echoing with the theme of the day 'Electronic Commerce' the Post and Telecommunications and Home Minister Mohammad Nasim said the government is committed to reach the telecommunications services to the doorsteps of general people to expedite the pace of national economy.

Addressing a meeting as the chief guest to mark the day at a local hotel, the minister said that the private sector will install three lakh new telephones

ENT Hospital opens tomorrow

The newly built specialise ENT Hospital at Mohakalai goes into operation tomorrow, reports UNB.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed is expected to open the 43-bed hospital at 10 am on the day.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Dr M Amanullah will attend the inaugural function as special guest, said a press release.

German Ambassador to Bangladesh Uwe Schramm and Board Member of Andheri Hilfe of Germany Prof Dr Antonius Nienhaus will be present as guests of honour.

BCL observes Hasina's home coming day

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the ruling party, yesterday observed the homecoming day of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Sheikh Hasina returned home on this day in 1981 after six years in exile.

To mark the day, BCL brought out a colourful procession on the Dhaka University campus and held a rally at the Aparajeyo Bangla at noon.

Presided over by Bahadur Bepary, the rally was addressed by Ajay Kar Khokan, Liakat Ali Sikder, Sajjad Hossain, Sujit Roy Nandi, Anisur Rahman, Saifuddin Nasir and AKM Azim.

Two killed in city

Two people were killed and one was stabbed in different incidents in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

DMCH sources said Sujan, 25, was critically injured in a train accident near Sainik Club in Banani in the morning. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

In another incident, police recovered the body of a one-year-old boy Ruble, son of Altaf Hossain of section-13, Uttara, from a nearby drain at about 5 pm. Ruble was missing from Sunday.

Kamal, 20, a bus supervisor, and a resident of Narinda was stabbed near Victoria Park at about 2 pm as he refused to give toll Tk 30,000 to local mastans. He was admitted to the DMCH.

Chehulm

Chehulm of Lutfur Nahar Chowdhury, BCS (education) officer, will be held on May 20 at 'Biswas Darbar,' Mirsarai, Chittagong after Esha prayers, says a press release.

Lutfur Nahar, an Editor at National Curriculum and Text Book Board (NCTBB), died on April 10.

Obituary

By Staff Correspondent

Kazi Taher Uddin Ahmed, retired Chief Designer of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BS-CIC), died at BIRDEM hospital yesterday. He was 68.

He had been suffering from cancer and diabetes.

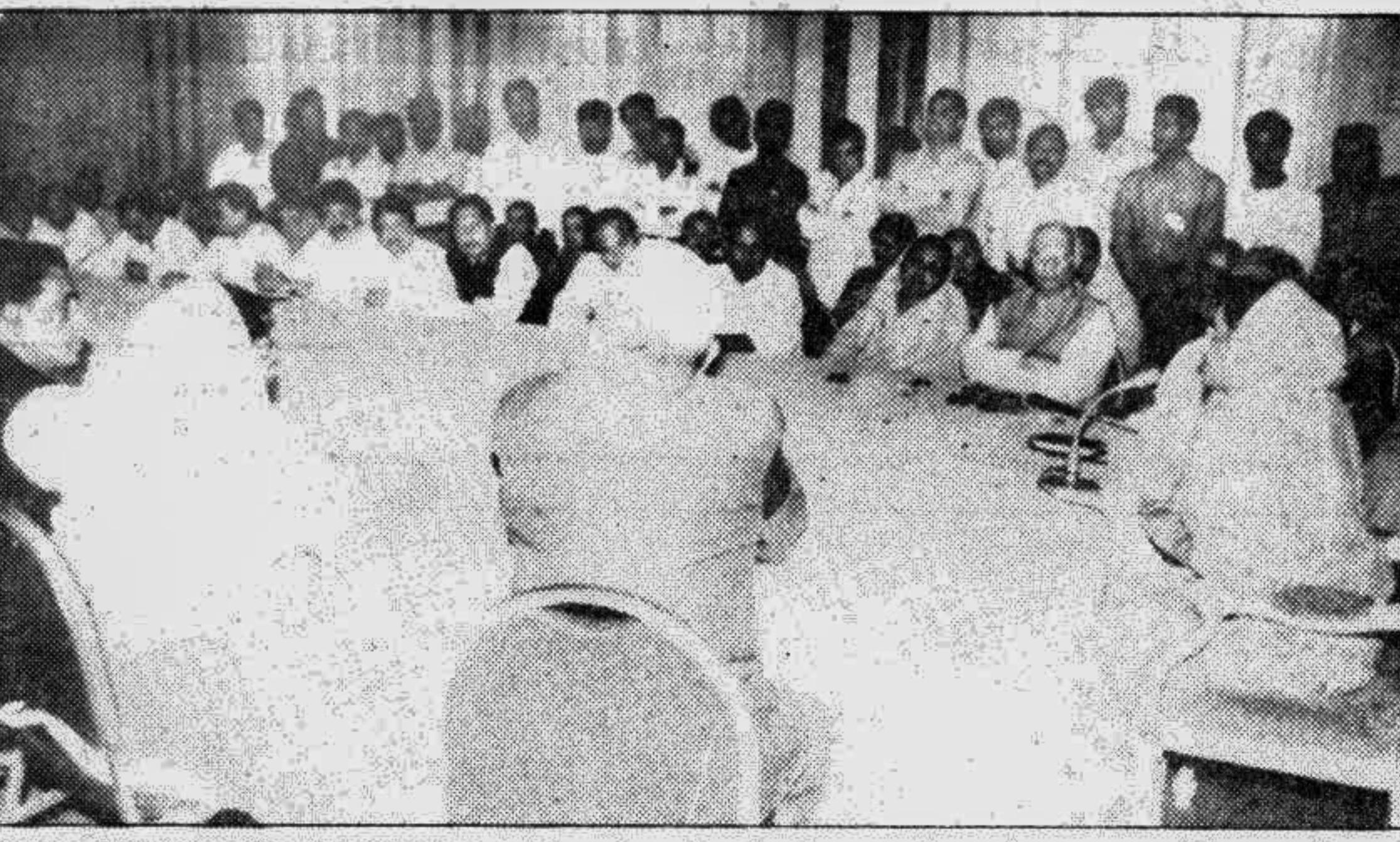
His wife Halima Begum is the Assistant Headmistress of Mohammadpur Girls' High School.

He was buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard.

52 criminals held in Barisal

BARISAL, May 17: Kotwali police arrested 52 criminals from different parts of this town in ten days of combing operation here, according to police sources, reports BSS.

Separate cases were lodged against them in this thana, the sources added.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the leaders and workers of her party who came to Gonobhaban yesterday to greet her on the occasion of her Homecoming Day.

— PID photo

Projects of 4 NGOs selected for Expo 2000 in Germany

Bangladesh will take part in the EXPO 2000 in Germany designed to focus on how people would survive in the future, reports UNB.

Nasim also said that the Cabinet at a meeting yesterday approved a project of a US company to install 50,000 wireless telephones in Dhaka City and a Chinese project to convert 1.5 lakh digital phones to facilitate further trade and commerce in the country.

Referring to the government's liberal telecommunications policy to encourage private sector investment, Nasim said the present government under the dynamic leadership of Sheikh Hasina has also approved a private sector project to introduce satellite telephones.

He also referred to the private sectors' commitment to subscribers and advised them to expand their services through more investment. He was also critical of the private sector for not introducing satellite phones even after government approval.

Mentioning Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTTB) as one of the highest revenue earners, the minister said the present government would never privatise BTTB as per World Bank recommendations.

The minister stressed the need for joint collaboration between BTTB and the Science and Technology Ministry for developing software industry. He said boom of software industries in Bangladesh would create employment opportunity and ensure huge foreign exchange earnings.

Referring to three thousand crore US dollars investment in telecommunications sector around the world by the year 2002, Nasim laid emphasis on more private investment in developing the country's telecommunications sector.

Organised by BTTB, the meeting was also addressed by Post and Telecommunications Secretary Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury, BTTB Chairman M A Mannan Chowdhury and Member of BTTB K A Matin. Former Secretary S D Khan presented a key-note paper on the theme of the day.

Monwar new Chief Engineer of LGED

By Staff Correspondent

Engineer Monwar Hossain Chowdhury has taken over as the Chief Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). He replaced chief engineer Quamrul Islam Siddiqui.

Prior to his new appointment, Monwar Hossain was the Additional Chief Engineer of the same department.

The post fell vacant after Quamrul Islam Siddiqui was made chairman of Power Development Board (PDB).

GSS Karmi Parishad demands expulsion of three

By Staff Correspondent

GSS Karmi Sammiloni Parishad, one of the feuding groups of employees in the Gano Shajhao Sangstha (GSS), yesterday demanded immediate expulsion of three officials of the NGO.

The group, known as supporters of the NGO's executive director Dr F R Hassan, also demanded trial of the three employees — Alauddin Molla, Imadul Huq Anu and Arijit Roy.

The parishad made the demands in a statement issued to the press yesterday. According to the statement, these people are responsible for destabilising the GSS. The parishad also staged a demonstration in front of the Jatiya Sangsad building yesterday afternoon to press home its demands.

Meanwhile, the other group that supports Alauddin Molla and others has been demanding resignation of Dr Hassan on allegations of various corruptions.

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A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Bangladesh and Canada yesterday under which Dhaka will receive Tk 78.80 crore. ERD Secretary Dr Moshiur Rahman and Canadian High Commissioner Nicholas Etheridge signed the MOU on behalf of their governments yesterday.

Canada to extend facilities for boosting trade ties

Canadian government would extend facilities for promotion of business with Bangladesh in consultation with business leaders of the North American country, reports UNB.

The assurance came from the visiting Canadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Raymond Chan, when he called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

Describing the relationship between Canada and Bangladesh as excellent, the Canadian Minister said the relations in economic field should be expanded for the common good.

He apprised the Prime Minister of his meeting with the Bangladeshi business leaders and ministers during his tour. "We had fruitful and effective talks with them," he said.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Hasina hoped that the excellent relations between the two nations would be strengthened further.

She thanked the Canadian Minister for his country's help during the devastating floods in Bangladesh in 1998.

"With the establishment of the system of holding vote under neutral caretaker government, she said, the people are now exercising their franchise in a free and fair atmosphere.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr S A Samad, Foreign Secretary S M Shafi Sami and Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Nicholas Etheridge were present at the meeting.

Seminar at JU today

A seminar on 'Role of OIC in Our Liberation War' will be held today at the Arts Building of Jahangirnagar University, reports UNB.

Prof Delwar Hossain of History Department of Dhaka University will present the keynote paper on the topic at 10:30 am, organised by History Department of JU.

Anti-drug operation

Army destroys poppy plants in CHT

of the security forces is "restricted", were allegedly being used for the plantation of opium, hashish and poppy.

Since March, a number of anti-drug operations were conducted in difficult terrains of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. The members of the Bangladesh Army with assistance from the civil administration and law enforcement agencies carried out similar types of anti-drug operations last year.

The Foreign and Commonwealth office of the British government and British Council in Bangladesh jointly published it on the eve of British-Bangla Law Week to commemorate the 50 years of universal declaration of human rights.

The President expressed his happiness and thanked the British High Commissioner for publishing such a handy publication of the country's constitution.

It will help people to know about their constitutional rights and obligations, he said.

Meet to approve draft shipping policy today

The draft National Shipping Policy will be finalised today at a meeting of the committee for formulating the national shipping policy, said an official press release yesterday, reports BSS.

The meeting of the committee will be held at the Shipping Ministry with State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Mayra in the chair.

The meeting will finalise the Draft of the National Shipping Policy after reviewing the recommendations of a workshop organised by ESCAP and reports of the technical committee and consultant of Danida in this regard.

Condolence meet today

A condolence meeting in memory of Prof Monira Siddiqui, former Head of the Bangla Department, of Dhaka College, will be held in the city today, says a press release.

Organised by Padakkhep '64, the meeting will be held on the East West University campus at 6 pm. The organisation's Chairman and Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Mohammad Farashuddin will preside over the meeting.

Prof Monira Siddiqui passed away on March 8.

Businessman murdered in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, May 17: A businessman was slaughtered by unidentified assailants at his residence in the city's Shahabazar area on Sunday evening, police said, reports AFP.

Hospital sources said police recovered the body of Sirajul Islam Selim, 42, owner of an electronics shop in the city, from his residence at about 8 pm on Sunday.

Police described the murder as "mysterious". None was arrested in connection with the murder.

A case was filed with Boalia police station.

Freshers' reception held at JU hall

By JU Correspondent
Al Beruni Hall of Jahangirnagar University (JU) arranged a freshers' reception and cultural function Monday to welcome its new students.

Split into two parts, the function was held at the common room. Hall provost Prof Abul Hossain presided over the discussion session. Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Alauddin Ahmed was present as chief guest while Treasurer Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir was present as special guest.

MEAA condemns incidents on BUET campus

By DU Correspondent
Mechanical Engineering Alumni Association (MEAA) yesterday condemned the recent violent incidents and massive vandalism on the BUET campus.

The association also demanded proper investigation into the incident and exemplary punishment to those involved.

They also urged all concerned to try their best to restore congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

CHITTAGONG, May 17: One person was stabbed to death, reportedly by some of his fellow workers in Bahodderhat area under Chandaon thana in the city in the early hours of today.

Abul Kalam, 45, a bus driver, was stabbed dead by his fellow workers when he was in sleep at a store house near Azizia boarding bus terminal about 2 am today.

Police said the accident occurred when a bus coming from Sadar Hospital hit a roadside tree while giving side to a speeding truck at 6 pm.

Two killed on Jessore-Khulna highway

JESSORE, May 17: At least two people were killed and 40 others injured in a road accident on Jessore-Khulna highway at Raighat in Avonyagar thana on Monday evening, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Bonya, 4, and Abdul Aziz, 30. Of the injured, 30 were admitted to Avonyagar thana health complex, three at Sadar Hospital, two at Khulna 250-bed hospital and one was sent to Dhaka.

Barrister Rafiqul Huq appeared for the petitioner while Dr Rafiqul Rahman, counsel for Bangladesh Bank, opposed the writ.

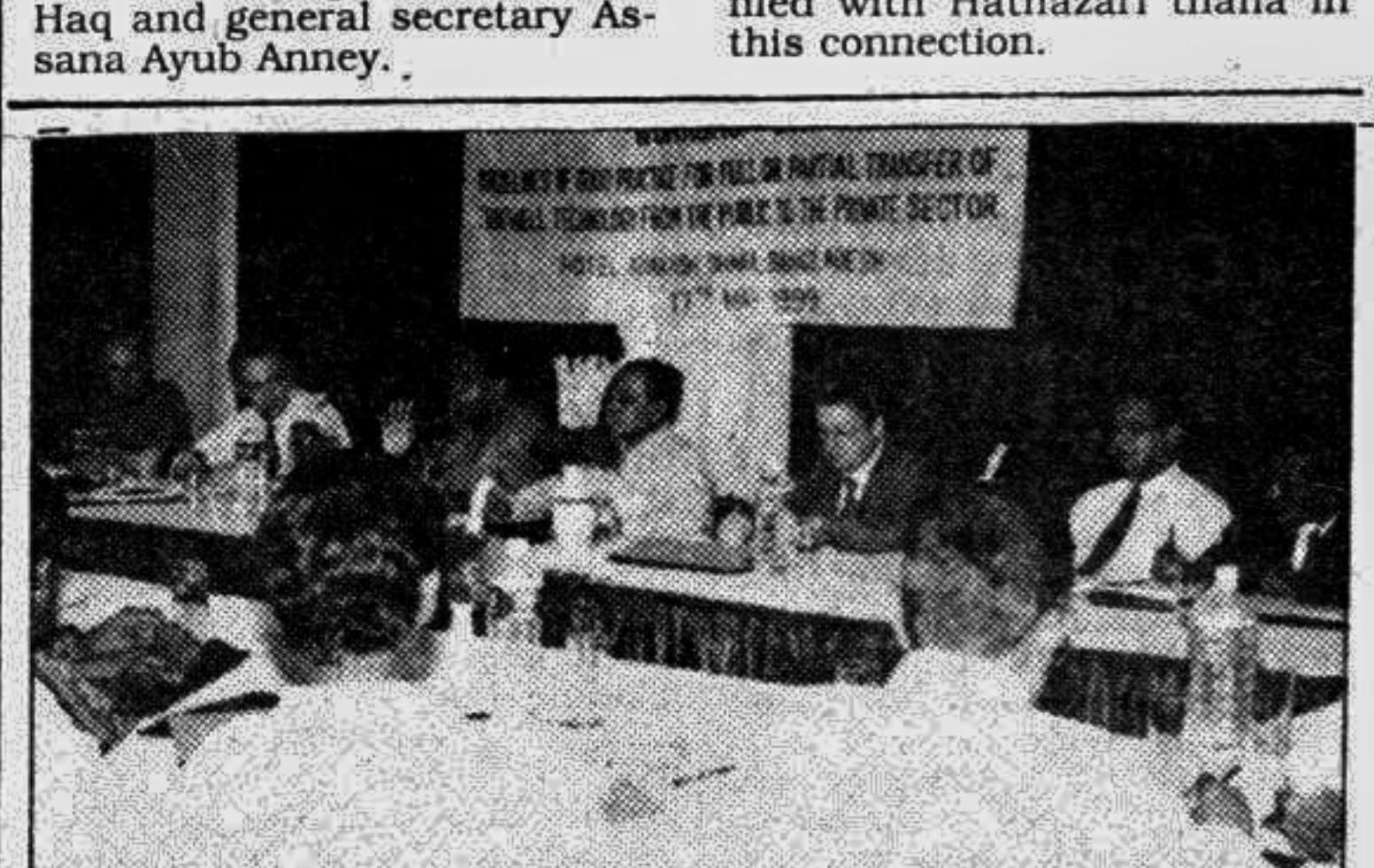
Body recovered in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 17: Hazzari police recovered the body of a youth from Hazzari-Bhatiary Link Road here today, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Taslim Uddin, 28, son of Badsha Mia Sowdagar of Nanupur union under Fatkchhari thana.

District police said the body bore marks of multiple bullet and knife injuries but could not establish the motive behind the murder. Taslim returned home from abroad a few months ago.

The body was sent to hospital for autopsy and a case was filed with Hazzari thana in this connection.



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