

Make fish culture a social campaign, says Rob

Fisheries Minister A S M Abdur Rob inaugurated the Fisheries Week '99 yesterday with a call for making fish culture a social campaign to raise the fish production to 20.75 lakh tonnes by 2005, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the week at a ceremony in the city after leading a march through different city streets, the minister said new entrepreneurship must be developed along with modern technology-based plans for the fisheries sector.

He urged the unemployed, particularly rural youths, to come forward to promote the fisheries sector, by utilising the government facilities for planned fish culture.

Fifty farms joined a "Matsya Mela" (Fish Fair) in Dhaka, organised to mark the week.

Programmes were also organised in different parts of the country to make the week a success.

In Khulna, Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University Prof S M Nazrul Islam opened the week, while State Minister for Religious Affairs Nurul Islam inaugurated the week in Sharishabari by releasing fish fries at a local pond.

Fisheries Week begins in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, July 25: Labour and Employment Minister M A Mannan said here today that development of fishery resources would not only meet the protein need of the nation but also help earn foreign exchange and alleviate poverty, reports BSS.

He said, the government has formulated a fish policy which envisages protection and increased production of fish resources, meeting demand for protein creation of employment opportunity and earning of foreign exchange.

Addressing a function held in connection with inauguration of Fisheries Week at Muslim Institute Hall here, the Minister called upon the people in general and fishermen and fish traders in particular to cooperate with the government in implementing fish policy of the government. The function presided over by district fisheries officer Hosneara was also addressed by local AL leaders Dr Afsarul Amin and M A Rashid and Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Hasan.

The Labour Minister also called upon the unemployed youths to engage themselves in fish production programme which will help them to beat unemployment and earn money. Earlier, a colourful procession was brought out in the city headed by the labour minister.

Later, the minister attended a meeting of officers of Water Development Board held at the local circuit house.

The Minister directed the Water Development Board officials to take appropriate measures against erosion by rivers Sangra, Halda, Sarta and Karnafuli. He also asked the officials to remain alert against possible flood in the district. He also visited embankment from Katra to Kattali near Patenga here.

Nat'l workshop on human resource dev begins

Minister for Agriculture and Food Begum Motla Chowdhury yesterday called upon the Agriculture Scientists to evolve a long-term plan for human resource development in the agriculture sector in the greater national interest, reports BSS.

"You should also undertake different research programme suitable for the country so that it can face the challenges of the next millennium," the minister said.

She was inaugurating a two-day National Workshop on "Human Resource Development Programme of the National Agriculture System-2020" at Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) at Joydevpur.

Begum Motla Chowdhury described the role of agriculture sector as very important to meet the food and nutrition demand in the country keeping in mind the rising population.

She said the role of this sector would be significantly meaningful only when research results could be disseminated to the door steps of the farmers through necessary research and extension programmes.

In this respect, she asked the agriculture scientists to keep the continuity of crop variety with emphasis on High Yielding Variety (HYV) which could be grown on small lands.

Ahmed Humayun's Qulhwani today

The Qulhwani of Ahmed Humayun will be held at his residence at House no 32, Road no 6, Sector 3 after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

All friends, relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the Qulhwani.

Combing operation 1043 arrested across country

The law enforcing agencies arrested 1043 persons across the country in 24 hours ending this morning, sources in the police headquarters said, reports BSS.

The agencies — Police, BDR and Ansars — in their 94th day of the joint operation known as 'combing operation' recovered 11 illegal fire arms, seven rounds of bullet and four explosives from them, the sources added.



A colourful procession was brought out in the city yesterday marking the inauguration of the Fisheries Week '99. Minister for Fisheries ASM Abdur Rob led the march. — Star photo

Lankan trade team arrives

By Staff Correspondent

A Sri Lankan business delegation led by Deshamanya Lalith Kotewala will arrive in Dhaka today on a four-day long visit.

Lalith Kotewala is the chairman of a leading business conglomerate Ceylinco Consolidated.

During their visit, two joint venture agreements are likely to be signed with Integrated Security Services Limited (ISSL), says a ISSL press release yesterday.

Ceylinco Consolidated has as many as 77 subsidiaries and associate companies under its banner including a commercial bank, four finance companies, merchant bank, a development bank and a satellite communication company.

During the visit they will explore the possibilities of co-operation with local companies in various sectors.

DU Rokeya Hall students demand Provost's expulsion

By DU Correspondent

A section of female students of Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally at the hall on Saturday night demanding immediate expulsion of the hall Provost Prof Noor-un-Nahar Rahman.

They also demanded of the university authorities not to extend her tenure, scheduled to expire on July 30 next.

Resident students said that about two hundred female students of the hall came out from their rooms at about 11 pm and took out a procession at the hall chanting various slogans against the provost.

They raised various allegations against the provost, including misconduct with the students, failure to conduct of official duties and misuse of money.

Later, they held a rally at the hall premises where the speak-

ers threatened to launch a greater movement against DU authorities if their demands were met immediately.

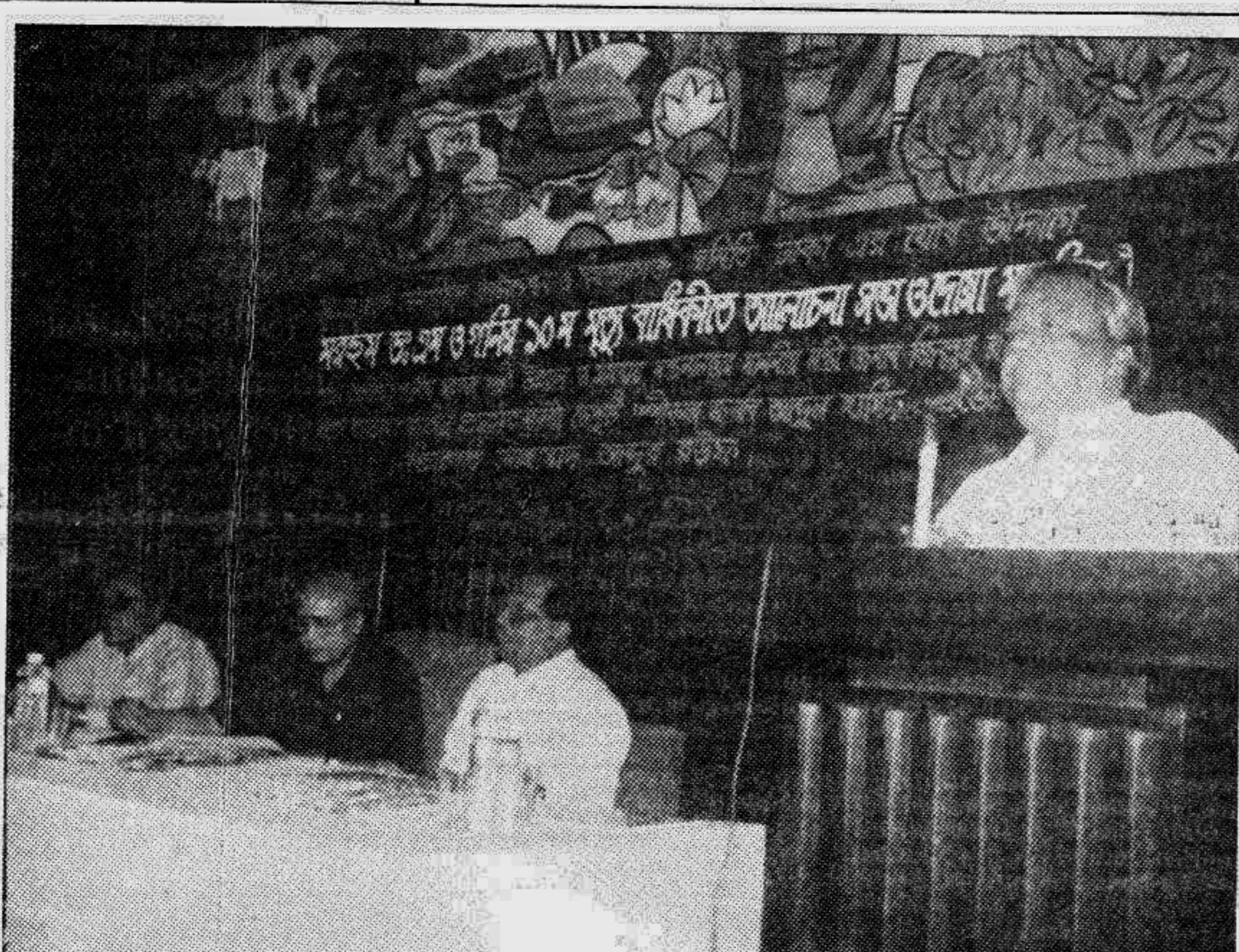
Talking to this correspondent, an MA class student of Rokeya Hall alleged, "She [provost] has no efficiency to carry out her duties. Rather, she is very well 'skilled' to misbehave with the students."

Resident students said that about two hundred female students of the hall brought out a procession in the dead of the night demanding expulsion of the provost on the same issue.

The students then withdrew their movement following DU authorities' assurance to solve the problem.

But the problem was not solved despite repeated allegations by the general students of the Rokeya Hall.

The provost could not be contacted for her comments on the matter.



Kishoreganj Samity, Dhaka and Dr Osman Gani Memorial Foundation jointly organised a discussion meeting to mark the 10th death anniversary of Dr Gani, former Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University, at the BARC auditorium in the city on Friday. Son of the late educationist, Dr Osman Faruque addressing the discussion while Deputy Speaker Adv Abdul Hamid (L), president of the Samity Syed Aminul Haq (C) and convenor of the discussion council Engr Muhammad Yusuf (R) look on.

GK sends medical team to quake-hit Moheshkhali

SAVAR, July 25: Gonostwasthya Kendra (GK), a charitable trust and NGO, has deployed its first batch of medical team to provide first-aid to the earthquake victims in Moheshkhali under Cox's Bazar district, a press release said, reports BSS.

The medical team consists of three senior physicians — Dr Liton, Dr Raithan and Dr Mong Kithin Sagar from Savar Gonostwasthya Hospital and four paramedics — Selina Parveen, Sultana Parveen (Shova), Jonaki and Shahinoor Akther.

The team left Dhaka for Moheshkhali yesterday.

It will open satellite medical service sites at Moheshkhali to cover four badly affected quake unions of Hoanak, Shaplapur, Kalarmpur and Boro Moheshkhali.

The team in consultation with the district and thana level government officials, union parishad authorities and elected representatives will select four to six volunteers from each of the affected unions. They will move from door to door to provide health-care services to the earthquake victims.

BRTA introduces new driving licences

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has introduced laminated plastic card driving licences, replacing the earlier paper book driving licences, reports BSS.

Communications Minister M Anwar Hossain yesterday inaugurated this modern and standard driving licence at a formal function at the Motor Vehicle Inspection Centre of BRTA at Mirpur.

He handed over three new licences to the three general licence holders, an official handout said.

Earlier, the Minister inspected the process of introducing this new card and directed the concerned officials to make BRTA more dynamic and modernised.

The laminated plastic cards with images of the National Memorial and necessary information have been imported under the authorisation of the BRTA.

Other features include BRTA monogram in holographic top code on the top and the words "driving licence pre-printed in four corners of the card, the handout said adding, photographs of the licence holders and ghost image of the photographs will also act as a security measure.

Red and green numbers of the new card indicating professional and non-professional licence-holders are being issued for five years and ten years respectively.

According to the handout, the introduction of the new card would greatly help stop fake driving licences, check unskilled drivers and reduce road accidents.

BRTA will be able to issue 1.66 lakh licences every year to efficient and experienced drivers in the country, it said.

Secretary of the Jatiya Sangsads Secretariat Kazi Mohammad Manzur-e-Mowla is the other member of the delegation.

By Speaker to attend meet in Mongolia

Deputy Speaker Adv M Abdur Hamid left the city for Ulanbator, the capital of Mongolia, Saturday to attend the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, scheduled to begin here today, reports BSS.

Hamid is leading a two-member delegation to the six-day meeting which will be concluded on July 31.

Secretary of the Jatiya Sangsads Secretariat Kazi Mohammad Manzur-e-Mowla is the other member of the delegation.

News

BNP demands polls

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uled to address rallies at four other places including Madhupur, Dhanbari, Sharishabari and Jamalpur today.

Begum Zia is scheduled to address 26 public meetings during the three-day campaign.

People of various age groups, most of them male, were seen waiting for the BNP chief along the road at the entry-points of different venues. At certain places, arches were erected to welcome the leader.

Putting forward arguments for ousting Hasina's government, Khaleda Zia told the gatherings that it had already lost its moral right to rule the country as, according to her, it has failed in all sectors. Painting a gloomy picture of the country's economy, she said, "During three years of AL rule, not a single factory has been set up, rather the factories established during the BNP period are gradually closing down. Peasants are producing crops but they are not getting just price for their produce."

Khaleda Zia also accused the government leaders of plundering people's wealth and handing over the natural resources of the country to 'foreign' powers. 'People are the owners of the natural resources. The Awami League has no right to do anything it wishes with it.'

Referring to law and order, the opposition leader said that there is no security of life these days. 'Besides, women are being harassed by the law enforcers in broad day light.'

She also told her audience the government of Sheikh Hasina has withdrawn almost all facilities the BNP government had offered to educate the girls, while the student wing of the AL has created a reign of terror in the educational institutions across the country.

Resident students said that about two hundred female students of the hall came out from their rooms at about 11 pm and took out a procession at the hall chanting various slogans against the provost.

Early this year, the general students of the hall brought out a procession in the dead of the night demanding expulsion of the provost on the same issue. The students then withdrew their movement following DU authorities' assurance to solve the problem.

But the problem was not solved despite repeated allegations by the general students of the Rokeya Hall.

The provost could not be contacted for her comments on the matter.

ernment resorted to loot, corruption, repression and misrule," the BNP chief said while addressing a huge gathering at Azampur bus stand before the march began.

JP leaders and workers led by its chairperson HM Ershad left here for greater Barisal on a 4-day launch procession. Jamat-e-Islami led by party Ameer Goham Azam started its march from Bogra to Shibganj in Chittagong. Begum Zia started her march from Bogra to Shabganj while IOJ headed by Moulana Azizul Haq began march to Chittagong from the capital in the morning.

She said the government has completely betrayed its election pledge and started looting people's wealth. The corrupt party leaders and activists of the party in power have started plundering public property. Even rivers, canals and marshes are not being spared. Begum Zia alleged that the Awami League ministers and leaders have started a hectic move to loot the natural resources, including gas, as if this resource is their own property.

The BNP Chairperson said the latest RAJUK plot scam by the Awami League government is a glaring example of how they are plundering the country's wealth.

The opposition leader said her party has launched a movement against this 'autocratic' government to free the people from the clutches of the looters, restore democracy, rule of law, rescue people from repression and oppression and protect the hard-earned independence and sovereignty.

Turning to CHT, she alleged that the Awami activists in collaboration of terrorists after signing the CHT agreement have started looting the property of non-tribal people side by side evicting them from their permanent homes. Besides, they are also looting forest resources of the CHT.

The road marchers appeared enthusiastic seeing big gatherings at different places on the way to the first day's destination. Hundreds of local people, who had been waiting for hours on both sides of the road and greeted the road march convoy.

Begum Zia and the marchers will halt at night in Mymensingh yesterday and today. She is scheduled to address meetings at Tarakandi, Fulpur, Haluaghata, Nakla, Natitalbari, Tinam bazaar under Jhenaiatana and Bajitkhila under Sherpur thana sadar today.

Minister to attend workshop in Nepal

Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Saber Hosain Chowdhury left the city yesterday for Kathmandu to attend a regional workshop on "Decentralisation of Efficient Urban Management", reports BSS.

Chowdhury is leading a six-member delegation to the three-day workshop scheduled to begin yesterday.

Ministers, senior government officials and resource persons from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Asian Development Bank and Nepal are taking part in the workshop.

The workshop is being jointly organised by Regional Urban Development Office (South Asia) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Calcutta-based the Times Research Foundation (TRF).

The other members of Bangladesh delegation included Chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof ATM Zahirul Huq, Joint Secretary of the LGRD Ministry Nukminji Bihari Nath, Director General of the National Institute of Local Government Khitish Chandra Kunda, Chairman of Centre for Urban Studies Prof Nazrul Islam and Prof Ghulam Murtaza of Khulna University.

Referring to the deteriorating law and order situation, Bhuiyan said that thousands of BNP leaders and activists had so far been arrested. But the situation has not improved. "It proves that all the criminals belong to the AL these days. Since they enjoy government patronage, the law and order is at its worst."

Another standing committee member of the party Saifur Rahman said that the government has pushed the country's national economy almost to the brink of destruction. Criticising the government for imposing fresh taxes of Tk 15000 crore, the former finance minister said only a few weeks after increasing the price of electricity by budgetary measures, the government has once again increased the price the other day. "AL is indifferent towards the sufferings of common people and that is why we want immediate elections."

Three other partners of the BNP-led alliance — Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) also began simultaneous march, the second of its kind within two months from Dhaka to different destinations of the country to also protest "Awami misrule, corruption, repression, killing of opposition activists, subversive foreign policy and anti-national activities".

The city unit of Ekatorer Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee will hold a discussion in the city today to commemorate the martyrs of July 26, 1994 who were killed by the armed cadres of the Jamaat-Shibin in Chittagong, reports BSS.

The discussion will be held at the seminar room of TSC, Dhaka University. Barrister Shafique Ahmed, journalist Sharmin Kabir, Prof Abdul Manan Chowdhury, Prof Mahfuz Khanom, Prof Muntasirul Islam and Prof Zarina Rahim Khan and Kazi Mukul will participate at the discussion, a committee press release said yesterday.

Explaining the situation, he dismissed the news story run by the Inqilab daily on July 10 reporting that the permission was withdrawn following accusation of manpower export in the name of sending cultural troupe abroad for the festival.

Referring to the news item, eminent artist Mr Ataur Rahaman said the false news was published purposely adding it is part of a deep-rooted conspiracy against the progressive drama activities in the country.

"Communal forces are up for stopping progressive drama movement in the country," he said, urging all to be on the alert against the conspiracy of the forces.

Murder

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Besides, the duty officer quoted Faruk as saying that Jahanara committed suicide jumping from the roof top of the building following an altercation with his wife.

Hospital sources