

## What's on today ....

**Meeting:** ZH Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre will hold a clinical meeting on "Unstable Angina". Venue: Conference hall of the centre at Monica Estate, West Dhanmondi. Time: 8.00 am.

**FEMA-CPB meeting:** Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) will hold a meeting with Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) on Electoral Law Reform. Venue: CPB office at 21/1 Purana Paltan. Time: 11.00 am.

**SNS rally:** Sammita Nari Samaj (SNS) will hold a rally to press its demand for introducing a bill in the Jatiya Sangsad regarding direct elections to reserved seats for women in parliament. Venue: Mukhtangon. Time: 3.00 pm.

**Founding anniversary:** Chandina Juba Kalyan Samity, Dhaka will observe its second founding anniversary and hold its annual general meeting. Venue: Engineers Institution, Ramna. Time: 3.00 pm.

**Film show:** Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Pare* will be screened. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 3.00 pm, 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm.

**ASB meeting:** The monthly general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) will be held. Venue: Seminar room of the Society. Time: 4.00 pm.

**BILIA AGM:** The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) will be held. Venue: Institute premises at house no 22, road no 7, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4.00 pm.

**Seminar:** A dissemination seminar on findings of the 1999 HPSF Baseline Service Delivery Survey. Chief guest: Sahah Uddin Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 9.00 am.

**Workshop:** A 2-day workshop on "Reporting on Information Technology" will begin. Organisers: Dhaka Reporters' Unity Computer Club (DRUCC) and BIASL. Venue: DRU office. Time: 9.30 am.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Film show:** Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Pare* will be screened. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 3.00 pm, 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm.

**Annual general meeting:** The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Terry Towel & Linen Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BTLMEA) will be held. Chief guest: Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries. Venue: Ballroom of Hotel Sheraton. Time: 7.00 pm.

## Weather

### Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country during the period, according to Met office.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the lowest of 21.8 degree Celsius at Chandpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.22 pm today and rises at 6.03 am tomorrow.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	29.8	26.2
Chittagong	29.7	24.8
Rajshahi	29.6	25.3
Khulna	29.5	25.0
Barisal	30.0	25.2
Sylhet	29.0	25.2
Cox's Bazar	28.3	24.4

## HERE and THERE

### BUET

Scores of cybernauts from different parts of the capital observed manoeuvres of excellence among the software programmers of BUET in the first intra-BUET computer programming competition '99 hosted by Association of Computer and Electrical Students (ACES) on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Welcoming the endeavour, Vice Chancellor of BUET Professor Nooruddin Ahmed said as prime institution of technology, BUET should lead the country to encounter the challenges of the next millennium created by the information super highway. He expressed optimism about the ingenious efforts of the students of BUET and said that information technology (IT) world is dominated by the young entrepreneurs and the BUET family should try to win the position of honour in the cyberworld.

Professor Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury said the young professionals should be imbued with a vision to project Bangladesh as one of the software exporting country in the world.

### Dhaka Samajik Sangskritik Shilpi Goshthi

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the cultural activists to take a firm stand against undemocratic, fundamentalist and reactionary forces, reports BSS.

Speaking at the first founding anniversary function of Dhaka Samajik Sangskritik

Shilpi Goshthi in the city, he said these elements had been trying to destroy the Bangali culture after killing Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

Joybanga Sangskritik Oikya Jote President Salahuddin Badal and President of the Shilpi Goshthi Shipon Talukdar also spoke at the function chaired by Khondokar Ruhul Amin.

### Killing of police sergeant condemned

Leading cultural organisations yesterday condemned the killing of a police sergeant by unknown assailants, reports BSS.

Police Sergeant Abdul Ahad was stabbed to death by a gang of muggers near the city's Shapla Chattar on Thursday night.

In a joint statement, Sammita Sangskritik Jote, Group Theatre Federation, Abriti Samanya Parishad and Pathanatik Parishad expressed deep shock at the killing and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

The young sergeant was also a drama activist and husband of noted actress Rokya Prachi.

The statement was signed by Ramendu Majumder, Golam Quddus, Sara Zaker, Liakat Ali Laky, Asaduzzaman Noor, Hassan Arif, Saiful Islam Mahmu, Zahangir Hossain and Mizanur Rahman.



Young participants at the annual science fair of Sunshine School which was held at the school premises at Khilji Road in the city recently.



Udichi Shilpi Goshthi brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to mark the theatre festival that began yesterday. — Star photo

### Conversion of six-digit phone numbers

By Staff Correspondent

Work for conversion of all the six digit digital telephone numbers of Dhaka city beginning with the figure '8' into seven digit numbers was due to have started at 11.55 last night.

The conversion work is part of the countrywide telephone expansion programme. In this process all the present digital telephone numbers starting with the figure '8' will be changed but the last four digits of all the present telephone numbers will remain the same. The first two digits will be converted into three digits.

After the conversion, the first two digits of the present number in Mirpur exchange starting with 80 will be changed into 801 while the first two digits of present number in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar exchange starting with 81 and 82 will be changed into 811 and 812.

The first two digits of present number in Gazipur exchange starting with 82 will be converted into 821 while the first two digits of present number in Mogbazar exchange starting with 83 and 84 will be changed into 831 and 832.

The first two digits of present number in Nilkhet exchange starting with 86 will be changed into 861 while the first two digits of present number in Gulshan exchange starting with 87 and 88 will be converted into 881 and 882.

Besides, the first two digits of present number in Uttara exchange starting with 89 will be changed into 891.

A T & T press release earlier said that during the conversion process, the subscribers may face temporary problems.



Dr Deb Kumar Roy explaining a new approach to develop media technologies. — Star photo

### Multilingual IT can open doors for developing nations

Dr Deb Kumar Roy, Assistant Professor of Media Lab of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA gave a presentation on "Multilingual Computing" at the Grameen Bank auditorium in the city on Wednesday, says a press release.

The growing power and dropping price of personal computers and Internet connectivity presents unprecedented new opportunities in education, health, commerce and poverty alleviation, Dr Deb told his audience. Multilingual information technologies can open doors for developing nations, he said.

Current information technologies are designed to work in only a handful of languages, dominated most noticeably by English. This lack of multilingual technologies makes entry difficult for many developing nations resulting in a widening of the gap between wealthy and poor nations, Dr Deb said.

At the MIT Media Laboratory, researchers led by Dr Deb Roy have proposed a new approach to develop media technologies which are readily adaptable to new languages. Instead of creating technologies through a centralised process, a set of development tools are being created which will enable anyone to create software optimised for their specific language and dialect. These tools will leverage recent research developed at the MIT Media Lab to simplify the process of creating communication systems so that people with less technical training and experience may build technologies customised to their own needs.

### IBA graduates urged to play greater role in economic management

The installation ceremony of 99th of Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Alumni Association was held in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the ceremony as chief guest, Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria said the graduates of the institute are expected to contribute in a bigger way now as the government is patronising the public sector to achieve economic prosperity.

Referring to a proposal of the association members for creating a separate "business cadre" for attracting IBA graduates to government job, he said, "I do not advise you to join a dwindling sector."

The government will look after the governance and the business people will do the business which is now the global trend, he said, adding that except the service sectors the present government is determined to privatise all losing concerns in phases.

### Congratulations

Mohammad Ashraf Haque stood First in the BSc (Ag) examination of 1999 (held in 1999) under Bangladesh Agricultural University.

Mymensingh, says a press release.

Shraf is the son of Mohammad Shawkat Ali and Sonahar Shawkat.

The Library and Information Science Department of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India conferred the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) on Md Mostafizur Rahman recently, says a press release.

Mostafizur was awarded the PhD for his thesis 'Role of Documentation Centres in Communication and Dissemination of Scientific and Technological Ideas in Bangladesh'.

He is the eldest son of Md Seraj Uddin Khan and Khodeja Khatun of Santhia Bazar of Santhia in Pabna.

The Bangla Department of Dhaka University conferred the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) on Nur-i-Islam (Shehu Basit) recently, says a DU press release.

Nur was awarded the PhD for his thesis on 'Dialect of Sylhet: A Structural Analysis'.

He is the son of Fazlul Basit, former official of Sylhet Electric Supply and Anowara Basit, former general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Sylhet unit.

Nur is currently working as a senior Publications Officer in the Public Relations Department of DU.

### Obituary

Md Adilur Rahim, former deputy manager of Sonali Bank, died on October 26. He was 62, says a press release.

Rahim was the only son of late Shamsur Rahim (Buchha Mia) of Ghorashal Mia Bari of Narsingdi. He was buried at their family graveyard in Ghorashal.

His *qukhwan* was held at his Uttar Bashabo residence in the city yesterday.

Nanni Begum died of old age complications on October 27 at her residence in the city. She was 70, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, 5 sons, 3 daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her *qukhwan* will be held at her South Jatrabari residence today.

Pointing to another recommendation of the association providing loans to fresh business graduates, Kibria said it is not likely that any bank will be enthusiastic to come forward to that end.

But he said that there should be new ideas and innovations to help the fresh graduates for doing small business.

The finance minister asked the IBA authorities to recast its curriculum keeping in mind the fast changing global business education.

He expressed the hope that the IBA would remain a centre of excellence to meet the changing needs of time.

Past President of the association Habibur Rahman, General Secretary Nurul Huq Mojumdar and Chairman of its Advisory Council Nurur Rahman also spoke.

President of the association Nurul Alam chaired the function.

### Discussion in memory of four national leaders

A meeting of the Jatiya Chaar Neta Smriti Parishad (Four National Leaders Memorial Council) was held yesterday at the Dhanmondi Awami Foundation office with its president Advocate Syed Ahmed in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting decided to hold a discussion meeting in memory of the four national leaders at the Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium of the National Museum on November 5 at 4 pm.

The four national leaders — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Captain Monsur Ali and Quamruzzaman — were killed on November 3, 1975 in the Dhaka Central Jail.

The Parishad also decided to seek permission from the jail authority to place wreath at the cell of Dhaka Central Jail where the four national leaders were killed.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Bahadur Majnu Chunnun, Kamaluddin Ahmed, Syed Ataur Rahman, Sultan Ahmed, Chowdhury Waker Khalid, SM Karim and Waliullah Sikder.

### UCEP computer training centre opens

The first UCEP Computer Training Centre was inaugurated at the A K Khan UCEP Technical School in Chittagong Wednesday, says a press release.

M Mokammel Haque, Executive Chairman, Board of Investment, was present in the ceremony as chief guest while Salahuddin Kasem Khan, Managing Director of AK Khan Group of Companies and Chairman, UCEP Advisory Council, Chittagong, presided. Denys F Stevenin, Managing Director of Coats (Bangladesh) Ltd, was the special guest.

The UCEP computer centre was established with the computers donated by Coats (Bangladesh) Ltd.

### Lanka makes 3rd contribution to ICDDR,B

The government of Sri Lanka has given its third annual contribution to ICDDR,B, Centre for Health and Population Research. This donation has been made in recognition of the importance of the Centre's work for developing countries throughout the world, and in recognition of the value of the Centre's training programmes for Sri Lankans, says a press release.

Since 1978, the Centre has trained 39 Sri Lankans, 54 Pakistani, 46 Indian, 120 Nepalese, 31 Maldives, 51 Bhutanese, and 255 Bangladeshi health professionals from the SAARC region in diarrhoeal disease management, laboratory techniques, research methods and family planning programme management.

EG Dayananda presented the cheque to Professor David Sack, Director of ICDDR,B.

## Int'l trade fair begins in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 29: Labour and Employment Minister M A Mannan today underscored the need for improving the quality of exportable goods keeping in mind the open market economy and globalisation of trade, reports BSS.

The trained and skilled manpower is the pre-condition for maintaining the quality of goods to make those acceptable in the competitive world market," the minister said inaugurating the 22-day Third Chittagong International Trade Fair (CITF), popularly known as technology exposition at the Railway Pologround here this afternoon.

The minister said the present government has taken up a plan for setting up 50 vocational institutes, 12 technical institutes, and six technical institutes for women at the six divisional headquarters in order to create skilled manpower. Mannan also laid emphasis on bringing about qualitative change in producing goods to cope with the competitive market for which every country has been relentlessly striving.

President over the President

of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Kamaluddin Ahmed, the inaugural function was addressed, among others, by Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment (BOI) M Mokammel Haq, consultant of German Federation of Small Business Technonet (ZDH) in Bangladesh Engineer MA Rahman, convenor of the Fair Celebration Committee M Salimullah and Senior Vice-President of the CCCI Saifuddin Chowdhury (Javed).

Speaking on the occasion, BOI Chairman Mokammel Haq said there are bright prospects for economic activities in the regions of seven sisters of India and northern parts of Myanmar centring the Chittagong Port.

The BOI is actively considering to undertake a plan for developing Chittagong in light with its potentials, he added.

As many as 385 stalls have been set up by local and foreign companies. Six countries — China, Iran, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and Taiwan — have been participating in the fair.

### Exhibition of building materials begins

City Mayor Mohammad Hanif yesterday said only healthy political environment can hasten social development in the country, reports BSS.

"Ensuring healthy political environment is a must for achieving socio-economic development of a country," he said while inaugurating an exhibition of building materials at a city hotel.

Bangladesh Architecture Institute organised the three-day exhibition on the occasion of World Architecture Day.

The city mayor called upon architects to contribute their talents to build a healthy and environment-friendly city for the next generation. "It is possible to do something better with cooperation of all concerned," he added.

Hanif sought cooperation from the city dwellers to keep the city clean and environment-friendly.

Later, the city mayor went round different stalls of the exhibition. Architects Rabiul Hussain, ASM Ismail and Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique accompanied the mayor.

### WP concerned

By Staff Correspondent

Workers Party (WP) leaders yesterday expressed their concern that holding of elections at the convenience of the ruling party will keep other political parties away from the fray.

At a politburo meeting in the city yesterday, the WP leaders also demanded that the Election Commission stop the ruling party's interventions in election process and ensure all-party participation in the polls by creating a congenial atmosphere.

The WP meeting also expressed deep concern at the happenings in some recent elections, says a party press release.

The meeting, chaired by party president Amal Sen, demanded that as per tradition polling in all four city corporations be held simultaneously.

### New timetable for Padma Express

The time schedule of inter-city train Padma Express, that runs between Dhaka and Jagannathganj Ghat, has been changed with effect from November 1, reports BSS.

According to the new schedule, the train will leave Dhaka at 9.35 am instead of 8.40 am and will reach Jagannathganj Ghat at 2.00 pm, a railway press release said yesterday.

It will leave Jagannathganj Ghat at 3.10 pm instead of 2.30 pm and reach Dhaka at 8.35 pm, the release added.

### Red Crescent lottery draw tomorrow

Draw of the 5th Red Crescent lottery would be held at 3:00 PM at the BA Siddique Nursing School auditorium adjacent to Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in the city tomorrow, reports BSS.

A total of 312 prizes worth Taka 50 lakh would be given to the winners. First prize money has been fixed at Taka 40 lakh while second prize money at Taka five lakh, said a press release of BDRCS yesterday.

### Police murder

By Staff Correspondent

Where he died at about 10 pm. Namaz-e-Janaja of Ahad was first held at Rajbarah Police Lines mosque and then at Baitul Mukarram mosque yesterday. He was buried at the Mirpur Intellectuals' Graveyard.

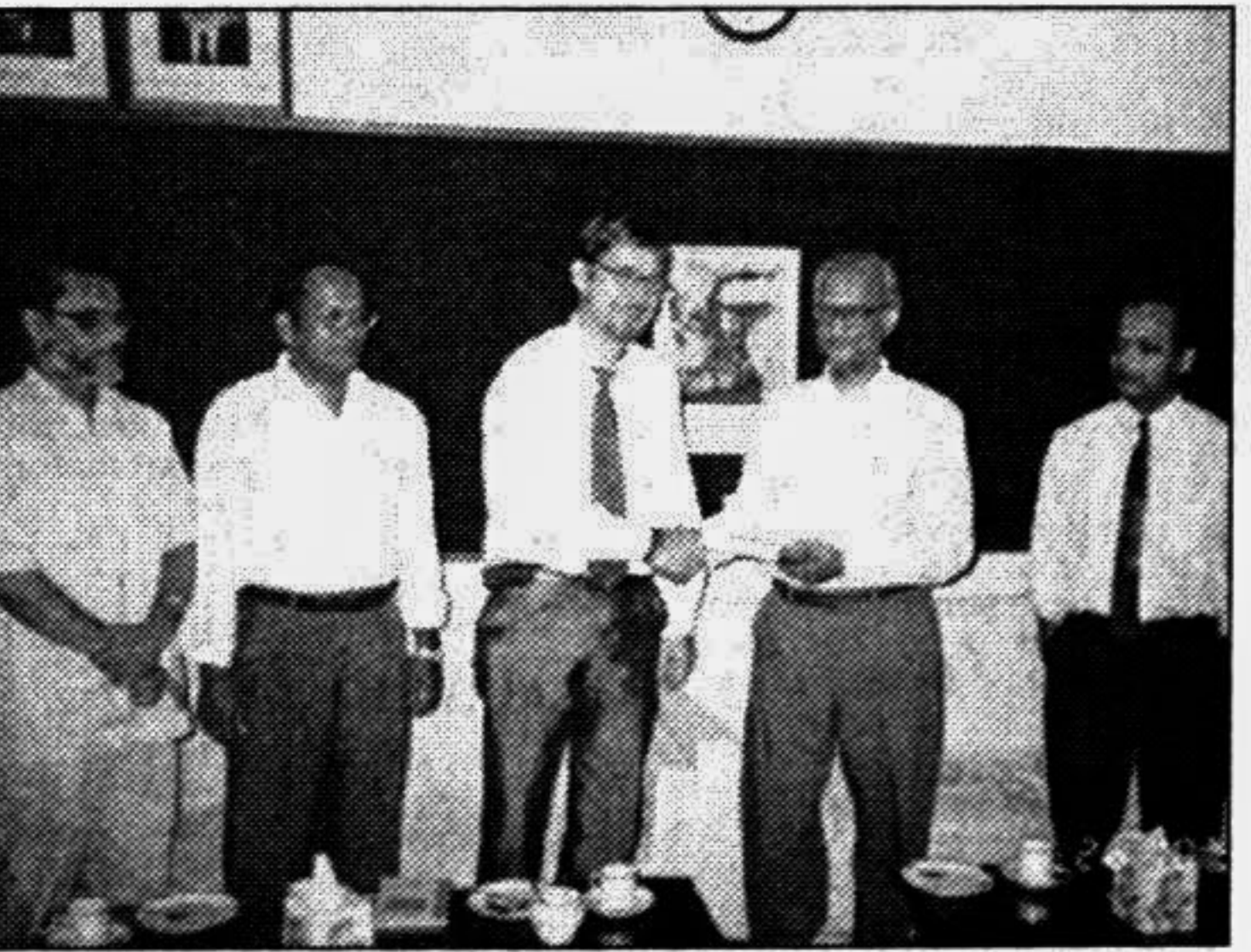
Ahad Parvez, son of late Mohammad Ali of village Taraganj Bazaar under Nalitabari in Sherpur district, left behind his wife and a two-year-old son.

Different cultural and political organisations including Sammita Sangskritik Jote (SSK), Nattyachakra and Bangladesh Communist Party condoled his death.

He performed in a number of dramas staged by Nattyachakra.



Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Engineer Mosharrar Hossain offering prayers after laying the foundation stone of the Biman Muktiuddha Memorial at Biman Head Office in the city on Thursday.



Siemens Bangladesh Limited, a leading multinational company, donated books and technical posters to the Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology as a part of their University Liaison Programme. Managing Director of Siemens Bangladesh Limited Soeren Rendal handed over the books and posters to Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Nooruddin Ahmed at his office recently.

### Bomb planting

From page 1

Dhaka office on October 8. A case (no. 4) in this connection was recorded with Ramna thana in Dhaka on October 8 by the Additional SP of CID as complainant.

Nazmul Anam Khan, now press manager of The Daily Jugantar is being interrogated by detective police of KMP. The Jugantar is yet to come out.

Nazmul Anam has termed the arrest as a plot against him by the management of The Janakantha for his joining The Jugantar.

### Footbridges

From page 1

cials said the footbridges were handed over to Chittagong City Corporation (CCC). "So we have nothing to do with those, one official added.

The bridges were constructed at odd locations, instead of busy road crossing.

CCC officials said their conservancy staff do not dare to clean the footbridges as they are threatened by anti-social elements occupying those. It is the duty of police to evict them, they said.

### KEPZ

From page 1

row to attend the function as chief guest.

Dr Han Duck Soo, minister for trade of the Republic of Korea will attend the function as special guest.

KEPZ will be set up over 2500 acres of land. Foreign investments of 1,000 million dollar are expected there.

Earlier, the Prime Minister attended the ground breaking ceremony of Rangunia Export Processing Zone (REPZ), country's first private sector EPZ, on October 10.

### Housemaid

From page 1

housemaid had apparently committed suicide after being tortured by the inmates of the residence of one Nasir Ahmed, where she used to work.

The Duty Officer of the Kotwali police station said that they were informed about the death of the maid, but nobody had lodged a complaint till the filing of this report at 9 pm last night.

### They spoiled

From page 1

"a lot of training abroad" on HACCP.

"ATDP is not the lone organisation for providing training to fisheries officials. There are many other organisations which offered regular training programme," he said.

The ATDP offer was made following recommendations by James P. Ostergard, a shrimp expert, who visited Bangladesh for two months in June-July under a USAID programme to see HACCP compliance in shrimp processing plants.

He made a seven-point recommendation which included the training programme. He proposed sending of four quality control officials in the first phase.

"Four inspectors or others with direct involvement in HACCP regulatory concerns be sent on a mission to the US to participate in inspector training in the US Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service. It would be beneficial for both the industry and the regulators", Ostergard said.

### Opposition

From page 1

A countryside rail-road barricade programme in the third week of November was also discussed.

"We will not hesitate to call fresh hartal or extend the planned hartals if the government and its terrorists attack opposition activists in the past. Our action will depend on government's action," said another BNP leader representing the party in the liaison body.

### Convocation

From page 1

those in the SAARC countries will be invited on the occasion. VCs and pro-VCs of different universities in the country will also be invited.

A small booklet will be available at the convocation giving details about DU and its achievements so far and future development activities. A souvenir is also to be released on the occasion.

The graduates and the medal recipients who will be eligible for taking part in the convocation are those who got Masters degree in 1996, Honours degree in 1997, Honours and Masters degree in 1996 and 1997 from various institutions of DU, M Phil (January 1995 to June 1998), PhD (after 39th convocation in 1970), MBBS, and BDS in 1997 and 1998, BSc in Textile Technology in 1997, BCS in Nursing Science in 1997 and 1998, BSc (pass) in Home Economics in 1997. Post Graduate degree in Health Science and Research in 1997 and 1998 and those awarded gold medals after 1992.

The DU authorities have asked the graduate and medal recipients to attend the convocation programme attired in the dress to be provided by the authorities.

Interested students, who have already received their original certificate,