

## News

## ● What's on today... ●

**Discussion meeting:** Institute of Architects of Bangladesh will hold a discussion meeting on "Registration of architects by Rajuk". Venue: Goethe Institute, House no 10, Road no 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

**Launching ceremony:** The launching ceremony of Meherba plaza will be held. Venue: Meherba Plaza, 33 Topkhana Road. Time: 7.00 pm.

## ● ... and tomorrow ●

**Painting competition:** Rudra Sangsad will hold a painting competition for children as part of *Rudra Mela '99* in memory of poet Rudra Muhammad Shahidullah. Venue: Charukala Institute, DU campus. Time: 9.00 am.

**Film Show:** Three French films *Quai des brumes* (Port of shadows), *Adieu, ma concubine* (farewell, my concubine) and *Richard III* will be screened. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11.00 am, 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm.

**Photo exhibition:** Drik Gallery inaugurates an exhibition of photographer David H Wells. The photographs are about the relationship between Palestinians and Israelis. Venue: Drik Gallery. Time: 4.00 pm. It will remain open from 3.00 pm - 8.00 pm everyday till November 28.

**Painting exhibition:** A solo painting exhibition of Inqil Ahmed will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5.00 pm.

**Painting exhibition:** A solo painting exhibition of Niladri Paul will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 6.00 pm.

## Weather

## Night temperature may rise

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today. Reports UNB.

Light rise in night temperature is expected over the country during the period. Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.9 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 16 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:12 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:16 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage		
	in Celsius	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.4	19.0	78	74	
Chittagong	30.4	20.1	78	74	
Rajshahi	30.1	18.1	77	81	
Khulna	31.0	19.5	79	67	
Barisal	30.2	18.0	79	81	
Sylhet	29.8	18.5	74	71	
Cox's Bazar	32.9	19.4	70	69	

## HERE and THERE

## WARPO workshop

The Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO) held a workshop yesterday on "Regulatory and Economic Instruments" as part of its ongoing consultation process to formulate the National Water Management Plan, reports BSS.

Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, chaired the discussions, which were based on a Topic Paper prepared by WARPO as part of a series of 18 that are being widely circulated prior to drafting a new Development Strategy for the water sector.

The twin aims of decentralisation and increased private sector participation in the water sector were seen as driving factors in determining the need for a fresh look at regulatory and economic instruments. Globalisation and the opening up of international trade are also major influences on the future courses of action. Whilst many laws are already in place, enforcement was recognised as a key issue. The participants recognised that weak institutions would be an impediment to future management of the sector.

There was general support to most of WARPO's proposals, including the need for more effective

cost recovery mechanisms, regulation in particular situations of water generally viewed with caution, as they often did not bring benefit to those for whom they were intended to help. Nevertheless, they may be effective where they precipitate change in practices and where the interests of the poor needed protection.

## HABITAT-CUS

By Staff Correspondent

Housing and Public Works Minister, Engineer Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said that the government will build 10,000 low cost housing at Uttar Dutapara of the city to solve accommodation problem for the low income groups, said a press release.

The minister was addressing the participants of a two-day long seminar organised by HABITAT and CUS (Centre for Urban Studies) in the city. The minister said that donors and NGOs were showing interest in the government's plan to build dormitory units for garment workers in the city.

He said that plans were also underway to abolish Housing and Settlement Department and create a National Housing Authority.

## Khoka condemns police attack on hotel of BNP leader

By Staff Correspondent

City BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka in press release last night protested and condemned the police attack on a hotel and restaurant at Bangali crossing, that belongs to a Ward Commissioner and also BNP convenor of Kotwali thana unit, during the hartal hours on Tuesday.

The Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kotwali thana allegedly forced the employees of Hotel Razzak which is owned by Hossain Molla, a BNP leader, out of the hotel and closed it during hartal hours though hotels remain out of purview of hartal, the press release said.

The OC also hurled abusive words to the employee and threatened that he would demolish the hotel if they observe hartal in future, it added.

Despite repeated attempts the OC of Kotwali thana could not be reached for his comments last night.

## Prof Sikandar Khan made RSTU Project Director

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 17: Prof Sikandar Khan of Economics Department, Chittagong University, has been appointed the Project Director of Rangamati Science and Technology University (RSTU) yesterday.

Dr Sikandar Khan completed his honours and masters from Dhaka University in Economics and completed M Phil from Lide University in the USA. His Research subject was "Labour Economics" and Agricultural Economics". Recently he conducted a research on small fish and fisherman community, and contribution of Social science to preserve fisheries in the Bay of Bengal.

## ISEFE meeting today

A special meeting of International Society for Ensuring Fair Election (ISEFE) will be held today on the Tangail-8 by-election, says a press release.

Observers who have monitored this by-election on Nov 15, have been requested to attend the meeting with their monitoring reports of their respective voting centres (Tangail-8) by poll area at ISEFE's Dhanmondi office at 4 pm.

## Mathematical confce begins at CU

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 17: The three-day long 12th Mathematical Conference began at the Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Sciences of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday.

The inaugural session was presided over by Prof Subrata Majumder, president of Bangladesh Mathematical Society and a teacher of Rajshahi University while CU Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan was present as chief guest.

Two academic sessions were held on the first day of the conference. Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam presented the key-note paper on "Overview of Aspects of Quantum Field Theory, Gravitation and Cosmology" at the first session.

At the second session, Prof Rawshan Ara Rashid presented the Key-note paper on "Mathematics education at the Secondary and Higher Secondary stage."

## Film show at BUET auditorium

By DU Correspondent

A three-day film show begins at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) auditorium today.

The students of batch '93 of the university, have organised the film show to collect fund for their celebrations marking the end of study course.

A total of 10 films, including Shakespeare in Love, Taal, Mast, Matrix and Roman Holiday, will be screened at the show.

Entry fee for each film has been fixed at Tk 30.

## Training programme on time management

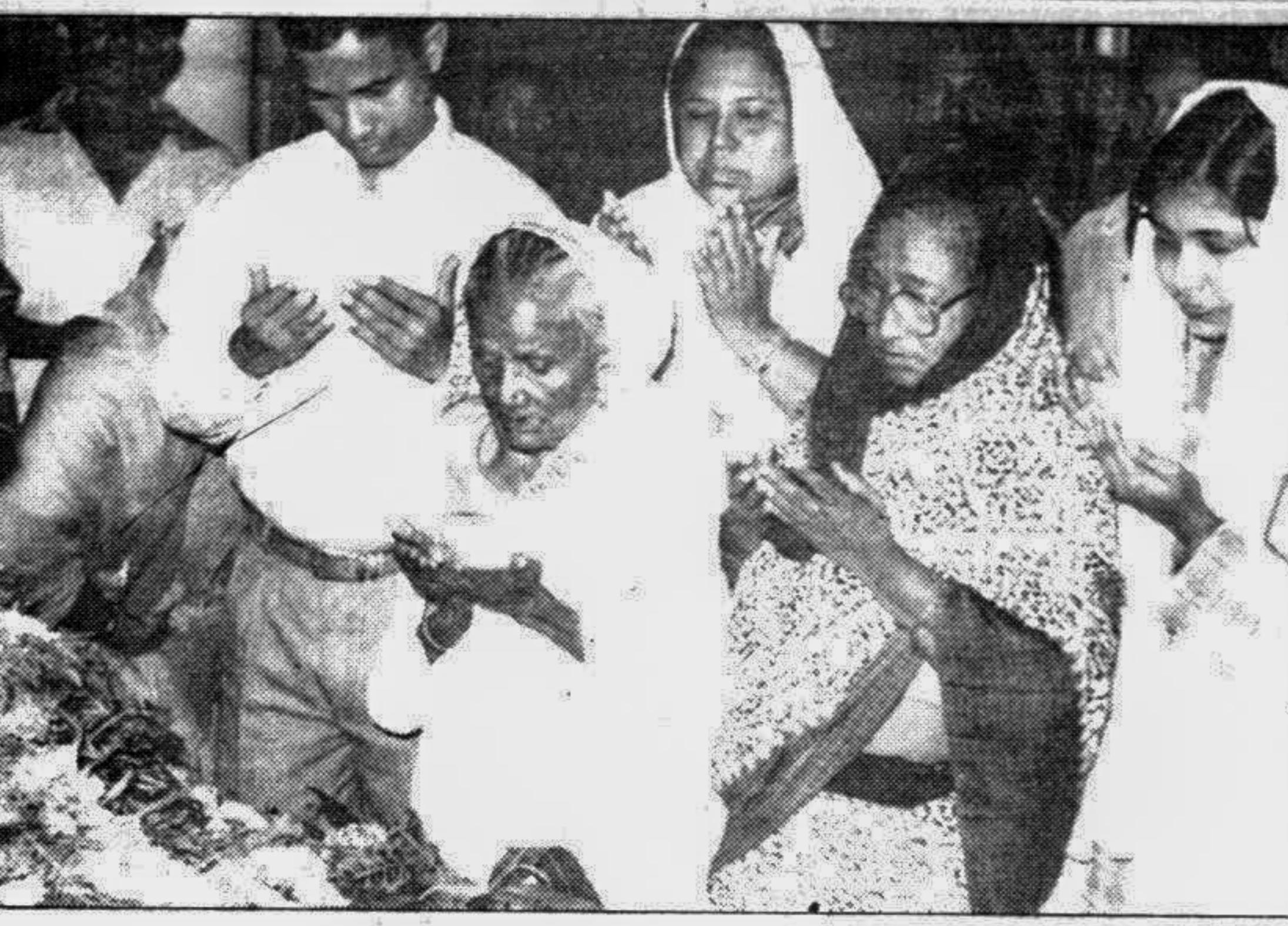
By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Project Management Professionals' Forum, is scheduled to organise at training programme on Time Management today, said a press release yesterday.

A number of theme-based recommendations were also made for follow-up action in the concluding day of the seminar on 'Media, Human Rights and Child Abuse.'

The three-day seminar on 'Prevention of Child Abuse' recommended that child abuse be reviewed from the perspective of the children themselves while developing child friendly approaches to address the issue.

They observed that child labour should only be condemned if it is hazardous. The print and electronic media and other means of communication such as plays, cartoons, skits and story telling should be ex-



The family members of Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani offering *munajat* at the *mazar* of the late leader in observance of his 23rd death anniversary yesterday. — Star photo

## Seminar on prevention of child abuse

## Closer cooperation between media, NGOs and govt bodies underscored

By Staff Correspondent

Participants at a regional seminar called for formulation of specific communication strategies and closer cooperation between the media, NGOs, social activists and government agencies on the issue of child abuse and human rights.

The recommendations emphasised on establishment of domestic institutions like human rights commission with relevant power to investigate cases involving abuse of children and women's rights. It also added that a separate family court be formed to try cases of child abuse.

On the issue of 'Fostering closer cooperation between the media, NGOs, social activists and government agencies', some of the recommendations proposed included that a multi-disciplinary approach be adopted to tackle the issue of child abuse and that a comprehensive strategy of cooperation be formulated.

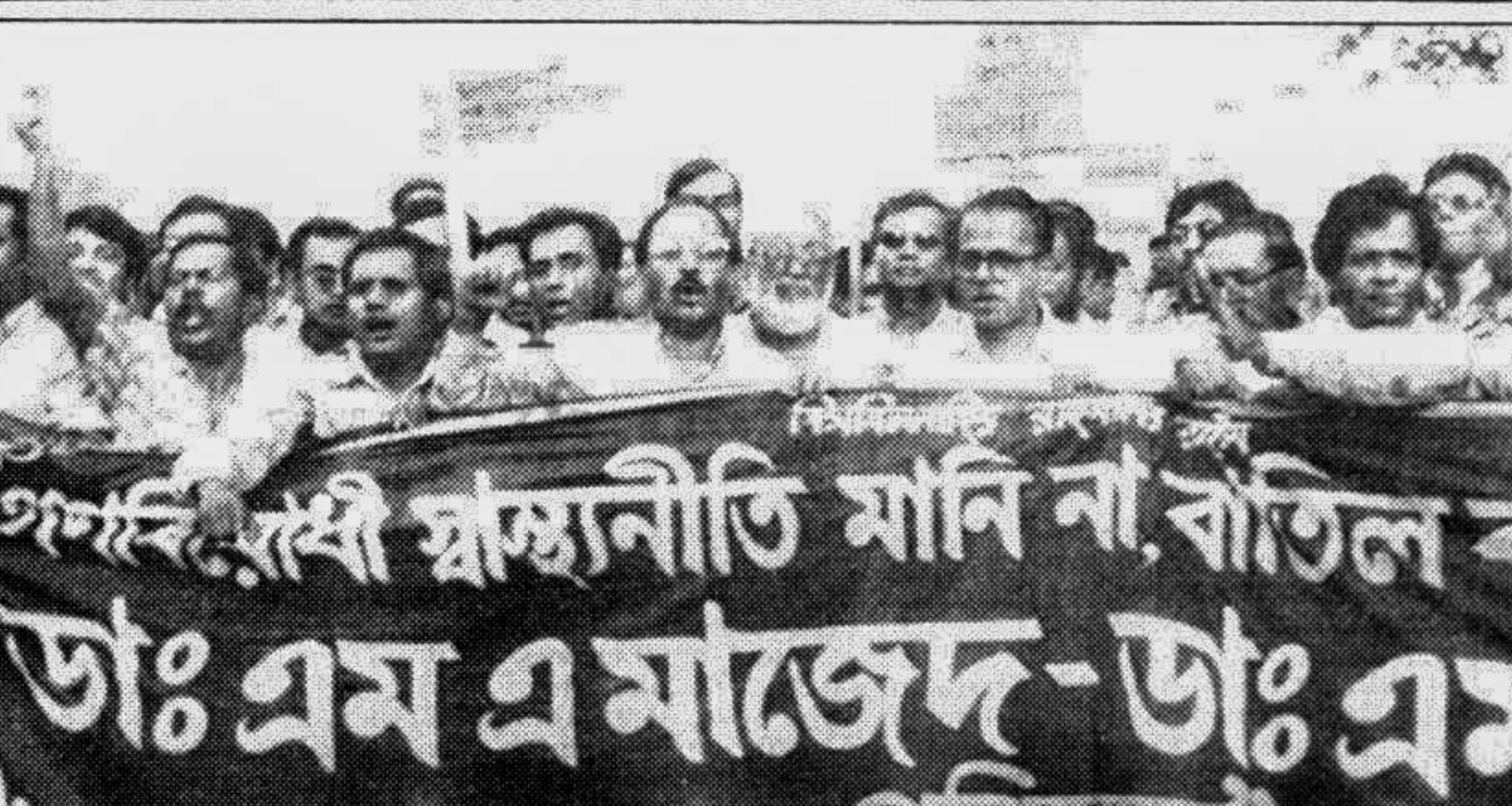
The need for improving the wending relationship between the government, NGOs, media and other stakeholders was

also pointed out to enhance the exchange of information among law enforcers at regional level.

The recommendations also suggested that an Ombudsman be designated in parliament specifically to deal with children's affairs.

About 40 participants from Malaysia, Nepal, Indonesia, India, Philippines, Thailand and host Bangladesh took part in the seminar jointly organised by the Centre for Development Services (CDS) and the Asian Institute for Development Communication (Aidcom) of Malaysia.

The seminar was aimed at increasing awareness among media personnel, government officials and NGOs in the region and to make them better prepared to address incidents of child abuse, protect their rights and develop a civil society where children enjoy better facilities.



Dr M A Majed Parishad of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding scrapping of the health policy. — Star photo



Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, staged a rally in the city yesterday in protest of the 'indecorous remarks' made by the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Jatiya Sangsad recently. — Star photo

## Australian wins playwriting competition

Australian writer Maree Gutterton won the 1999 BBC World Service/British Council International Radio Playwriting Competition, their first joint radio competition, says a press release of the British Council.

The Melbourne-based writer, whose play 'Stuffed', beat off competition from writers from 96 countries, is in London to see her play recorded by the BBC for transmission around the world on BBC World Service this month.

The judges named five regional winners — Stuffed was overall winner and the winner for Asia and the Pacific; Peter Kohtianovsky and Irene Petrova from Georgia were the regional winners for South Asia and the former Soviet Union for 'Misticfactor'; from Africa and the Middle East, Efua Aboah from Ghana won for 'A Noise in the Night'; from Europe, Vincent Vella from Malta won for 'Ernesto Panza'; and for the Americas, Brandt Mowry from the USA won for 'Home Life'.

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## Tofail opens new computer training centre

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed has called upon the organisers of computer training centres to turn the country's unemployed educated youths into IT professionals, reports UNB.

Considering its tremendous prospects, the government has identified the information technology as a thrust sector, allowed duty-free import of computers and arranged bank loans for the interested educated youths from Employment Bank, he said.

Addressing a rally at Muktangan in the city, the leaders criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her indecent remarks on Opposition leader Khaleda Zia and warned that the JCD would not tolerate such remarks in future.

Condemning the 'autocratic and puppet' Al government for their various repressive measures on the opposition, the JCD leaders said such undemocratic activities would be stopped by removing Hasina from the office.

They said democracy would again be restored in the country under the leadership of Khaleda Zia.

The JCD leaders urged the

## JCD threatens to launch tough movement

By DU Correspondent

Leaders of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student front of opposition BNP, yesterday threatened to launch a tough movement to force the government to resign and declare a general election.

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## Drowning of young man: police file UD case

By Staff Correspondent

Police has finally filed a 'unnatural death' (UD) case regarding the drowning of a young man in a *jheel* when he tried to escape a police chase at south Kamalapur in the city's Motijheel area on Monday night.

The dead identified as Shams Uddin Jewel, 22, son of Abdur Rob Chowdhury of south Muddapara.

Hospital sources said Jewel, along with his friend Ripon, was travelling in a rickshaw towards Bangladesh Bank at about 7 pm Monday. Sensing that police was on their trail, Ripon started running leaving the rickshaw.

Jewel also followed him and fell into the *jheel*.

Ripon informed members of Jewel's family of the incident at about 10 pm. They came near the *jheel* and failed to recover the body. Fire Brigade was called to assist who eventually retrieved the body from the *jheel* Monday night.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College hospital for autopsy.

The body was kept in an abandoned state at the hospital without any official formality at the DMCH. The autopsy was carried out only yesterday evening and the body was handed over to the family for burial.

There was no formal inquiry into the death of the young man.

The body was