

## 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, Dharmondi R/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

**Launching ceremony:** The launching ceremony of Meherba Plaza will be held. Venue: Meherba Plaza, 33 Tophkhana 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 *Qual des brumes* (Port of Shadows), *Adieu, ma concubine* (Farewell, my concubine) and *Richard III* will be screened. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Française 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 3.00pm-8.00 pm everyday till November 28.

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

**Painting exhibition:** A solo painting exhibition of Niladri Paul will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance Française 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.

Slight 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 Srirampal.

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 in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	30.4	19.0
Chittagong	30.4	20.1
Rajshahi	30.1	18.1
Khulna	31.0	19.5
Barisal	30.2	18.0
Sylhet	29.8	17.4
Cox's Bazar	32.9	19.4

## 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 Uttara Duttapara 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 Bangsal 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.

## Mathematical confce begins at CU

**From CU Correspondent**

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

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 a training programme on Time Management today, said a press release yesterday.

Dr AKM Saiful Majid, chairman of the organisation and professor of the Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University would co-ordinate the training programme to be held at the training hall of the Dhuiyan Computers at Dhanmandi, the release said.

The programme would be attended by 25 participants of different commercial banks, multinational companies and other business firms, the release added.

## AL activists urged not to intervene in BMA polls

**By Staff Correspondent**

Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the opposition, in a press statement yesterday urged upon the officials and employees supporting the ruling party not to intervene in the elections of the Bangladesh Medical Association.

The last elections of the Association could not be held neutrally due to intervention by the supporters of the ruling party, the statement said asking the conscious doctors community to resist all such nefarious designs of any quarter.

## Protest over Shibir attack on RU students

**By DU Correspondent**

Different left-leaning student organisations yesterday brought out separate processions and held rallies on the Dhaka University campus in protest of the armed attack unleashed by Islami Chhara Shibir at Rajshahi University.

At least 50 persons were injured when the armed activists of Shibir launched a massive attack in different residential halls of RU at dead of night on Tuesday.

Ganatantrik Chhatra Okiya (GCO), a conglomeration of some left-leaning student bodies, brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus in protest against the attack.

GCO demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the Shibir men responsible for the attack which created an uneasy atmosphere at the university. Among others, Sabbah Ali Collins, Shariuzzaman Sharif and Khokon Das addressed the rally.

Left-leaning Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri also brought out processions and held rallies to protest the attack and demanded punishment to the attackers.

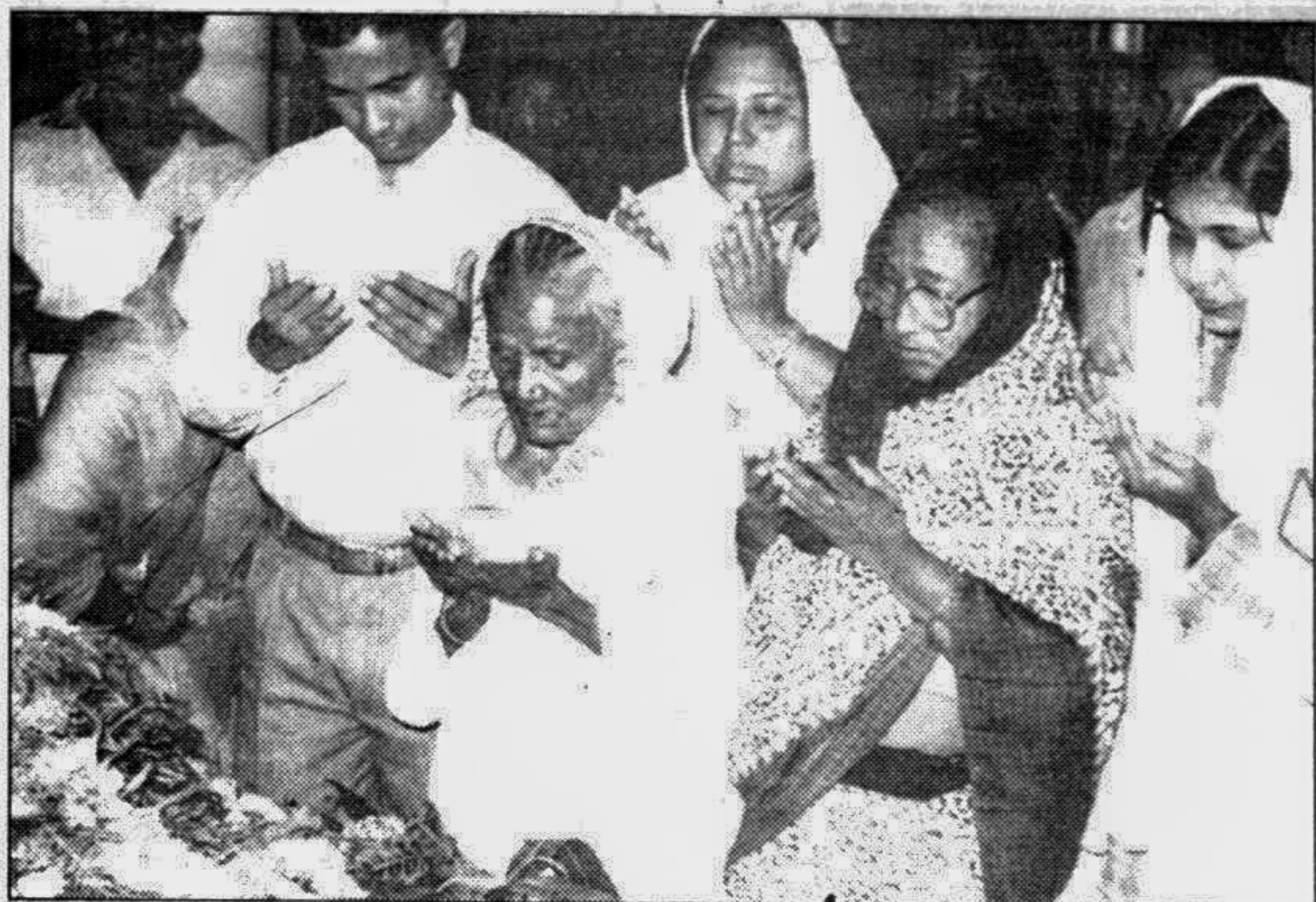
## Death anniversary

The 25th death anniversary of Syed Badruddoza, a renowned orator and parliamentarian, will be observed today, says a press release.

Syed Badruddoza was the fourth and the last Muslim mayor of Calcutta in British India. He was a Member of Legislative Assembly for 25 years and a Member of Lok Sabha for 15 years.

He was also the first Bangladeshi to become the president of Anjuman-e-Taraqqi-e-Urdu in India. He presided over the All India Muslim Convention held at Aligarh in 1953.

On the occasion of his death anniversary, Quarankhwani, and milad mahfil will be held at the residences of his daughters and son in Dhaka.



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.

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 extensively utilised to increase awareness and sensitise policy makers and public at large on the issues, they suggested.

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 comprehensive strategy of cooperation be formulated.

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

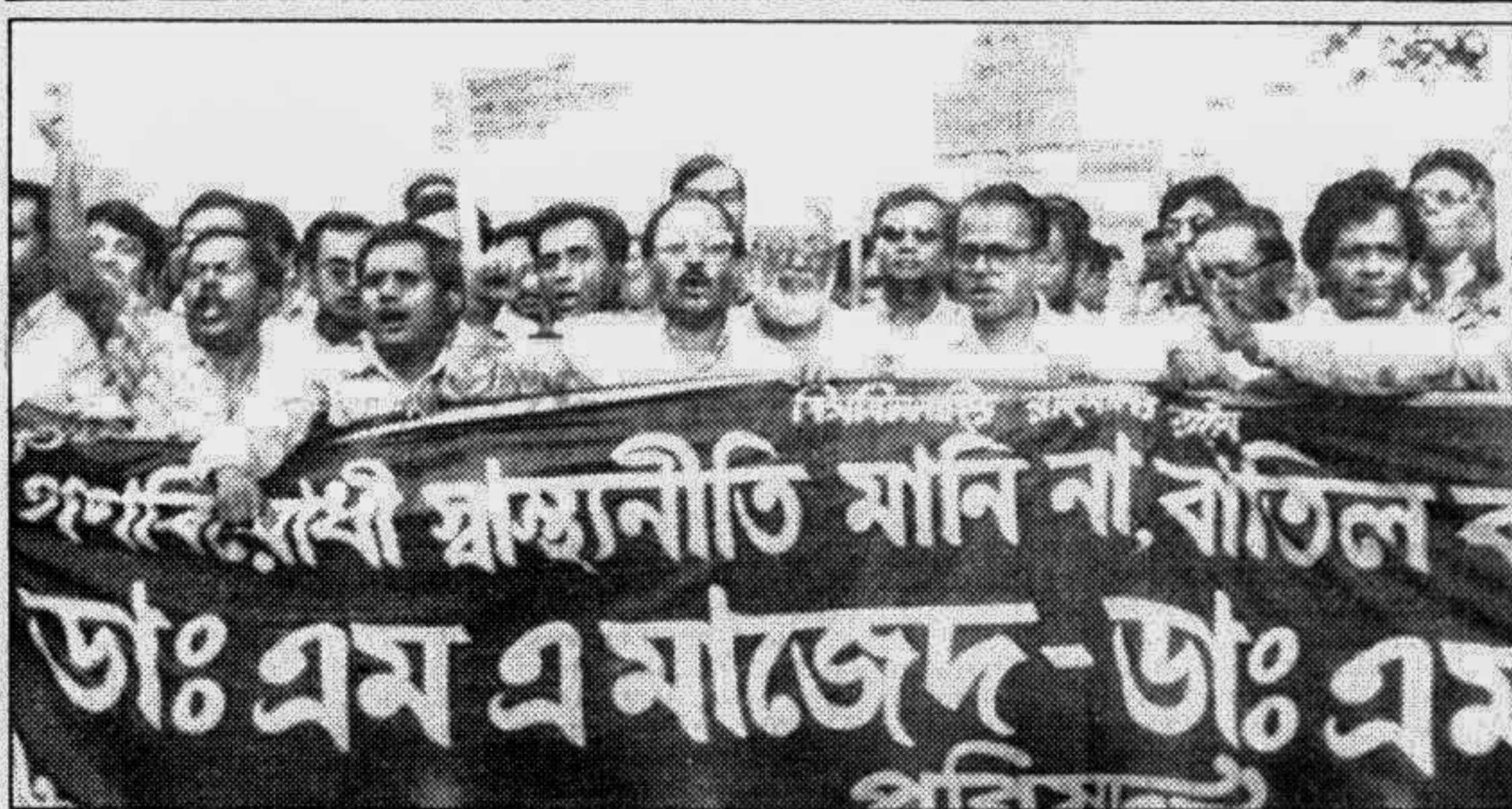
also pointed out to enhance the exchange of information among law enforcers at regional level.

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 (CSD) 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 make them better prepared to address incidents of child abuse, protect their rights and develop a civil society where children enjoy better facilities.

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



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



Jatiyatabadi 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 Marce Guttererson 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 'Mistificator'; from Africa and the Middle East, Efua Abbot 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'.

## 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.

"If needed, the government will provide more assistance and incentives to this sector, because we want to make best use of potentials of this booming sector," Tofail said inaugurating a branch of New Horizons, a US-based net company, at Dharmondi yesterday.

The company is imparting computer training to 25 lakh students in 40 countries. The Dhaka centre is its first step in the SAARC region.

## JCD threatens to launch tough movement

**By DU Correspondent**  
Leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student front of opposition BNP, yesterday threatened to launch a tough movement to force the government of Sheikh Hasina to resign and declare a general election.

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 countrymen and student community to join the BNP-led 'oust government' movement to save the country.

## 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 Abdul Rob Chowdhury of south Mugdhapara.

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 (DMCH) morgue 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.

## Govt employees

**From page 1**

December 1 to 30, hoisting of black flags from January 23 to 27, and four-hour work abstention (11 am to 2 pm) from January 31 to February 2.

The leaders said tougher programmes would be announced on February 2 if the government failed to meet their demands.

The demands include 30 per cent dearness allowance, change in office timing and elimination of discrimination in various levels of administrative system.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Saleuddin Selim, Mahfuzur Rahman and Abdul Mannan.

## Trawler capsized

**From page 1**

The owner was driving the trawler in absence of a trained operator. At one stage the overloaded trawler overturned and capsized.

All but the eight swam ashore. Mother and mother-in-law of the owner also drowned. As the bodies reached the house of Boyati, hundreds of people thronged the house to see the bodies.

The seriously injured, including the owner, were rushed to the district General Hospital. Police arrested the owner from the hospital. The officials of the local administration visited the spot.

## Acid thrown

**From page 1**

Shantinagar area on a jickshaw at about 7:30 am towards Gulistan bus stand to leave Dhaka for Narayanganj.

Suddenly two unidentified young men riding on a motor bike intercepted their rickshaw and demanded money. As Asma and Rita refused to give money they poured acid on them and drove off.

Motijheel police, however, said last night that they were not aware of the incident.

## Shibir-BCL

**From page 1**

the BCL activists with lethal weapons.

The BCL activists also retaliated but had to leave the halls in the face of violent Shibir attack.

The Shibir activists torched two rooms and ransacked 40 others of the two halls.

Later, police raided the two halls and arrested 14 Shibir activists.

The University Syndicate today held a meeting with Vice-Chancellor Professor Wazed in the chair.

The meeting discussed the latest campus situation and decided to maintain a peaceful academic atmosphere at the varsity.

Additional police forces were deployed on the campus to avert further clash.

## Tangail-8 by poll 'Magistrates didn't respond to voters' grievances'

**By Staff Correspondent**

Presiding officers and magistrates at different polling centres under Tangail-8 did not respond to the voters' grievances of having been deprived of their rights of franchise, reports Odhikar, a human rights organisation.

The organisation which also sent its observers to the constituency said many voters upon their arrival at different centres under the constituency had lodged complaint that they found their votes had already been cast.

These voters, mainly supporters of Kader Siddique also lodged written complaints to the presiding officers, the report said adding their problems remained unresolved. Names of some aggrieved voters along with their polling centres, were also mentioned in the Odhikar report.

## Nat'l Film Awards announced

The government yesterday announced the National Film Awards for 1997 and 1998, reports UNB.

"Dukha" as the best film got nine prizes in 1997 while "Jiban O Abhinaya" (Life and Acting) was selected as the best documentary film for 1997.

Asad got prize as the best actor for Dukha while Chashi Nazrul Islam received prize as the best film director for Hangar Nadi Grenade. Sucharita as the best actress and Selina Hossain as the best storywriter.

Ferdous got prize as the best actor for Hathat Brishti for 1998.

Those who got prizes for Dukha in 1997 are best side actor Abul Khair, best side actress Rokeya Prachi, best child artist Nishi, best photographer (colour) MA Mobin, best art director Mohiuddin Farooque, best singer Kiran Chandra Roy, and best makeup man Moazzem Hossain.

Late Khan Ataur Rahman got two prizes posthumously as best music director and composer for Anek Raat Baki in 1997.

Akter Hossain has been chosen as the best photographer (colour) for Hathat Brishti in 1998.

## Manarat teacher

**From page 1**

Hasan was found hanging inside a bathroom on the second floor of school building yesterday morning.

Gulshan police recovered the body at about 10 am. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. The principal of the school filed an unnatural death case with Gulshan thana in this connection yesterday, police said.

## Tangail results

**From page 1**

Mustaque Ahmed Chowdhury who visited the areas on the election day.

However, in his written complaints Kader Siddique said that votes were rigged at 10 centres in the Sakhipur thana. In the Basail thana, rigging took place almost at all the 36 centres, while at nine of them situation was worst, Siddique said.

The irregularities ranged from stuffing ballot papers, ousting Siddique's polling agents from centres, obstructing voters to enter the polling centres, biased behaviour by the magistrates and polling officials and so on. Siddique also accused the Deputy Commissioner of Tangail, who was Returning Officer for the by-elections, of discrimination.

The irregularities will come under the purview of the inquiry," said Aziz Ahmed Chowdhury.

## PDB employees

**From page 1**

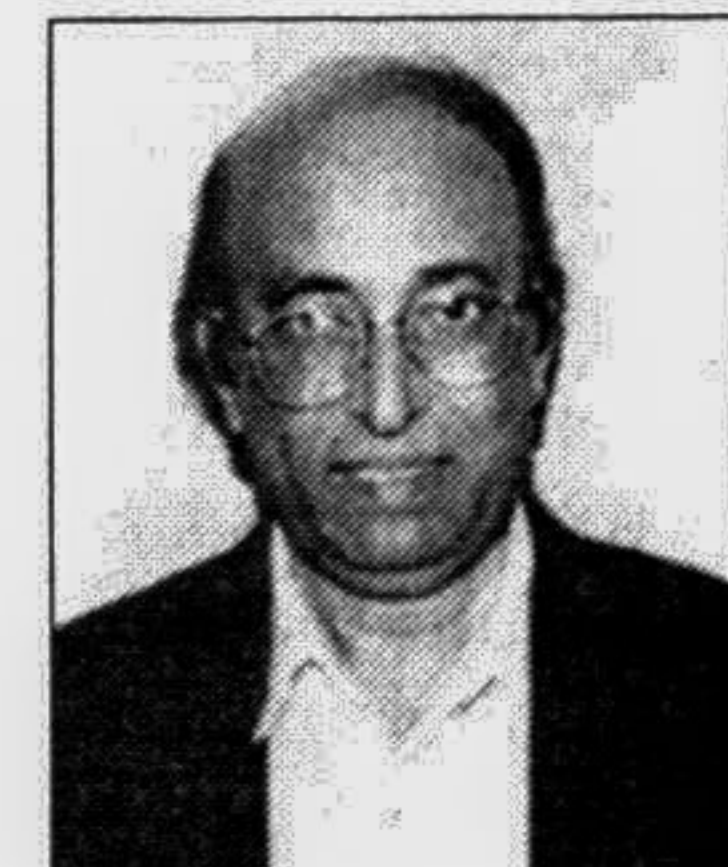
page, it warned. The new law named "Bangladesh Electricity Reform Act 1999" envisages to empower the government to transfer any organisation and property of the power sector to private companies without amending the existing laws.

Under the new law the government will also reserve the right to appoint, change and cancel license for production and distribution of electricity, the release added.

The Oikya Parishad was formed with workers, employees and officials of PDB about a year ago.

## Bank holiday

Bangladesh Bank and all scheduled banks will remain closed on November 24 on the occasion of holy Shab-e-Barat, said a press release, reports UNB.



## BUET teacher passes away

Dr Muhammad Mizanur Rahman, a teacher of Industrial and Production Engineering (IPE) Department of BUET, died of pancreatitis at a Dublin hospital in Ireland yesterday. He was 53, reports UNB.

Former Dean of Mechanical Engineering Faculty, Mizanur Rahman was undergoing treatment at the hospital from August last.

He left behind his wife and a daughter, and a host of friends and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Born in 1946 in Comilla, Mizanur Rahman obtained BSc Engineering degree from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 1967 and joined in the Mechanical Engineering Department as a lecturer in 1968.

He got PhD degree in Production Management from Manchester University, UK, in 1974 and joined the IPE Department in 1984 as a professor.

About 50 of his research articles were published in different local and foreign journals. His body is likely to arrive in Dhaka on November 20, said a BUET press release.