# What's on today . . . .

Human chain: Women For Women, a research and study group will form a human chain as part of the worldwide campaign for peace in the new century by National Commission for Women and The Guild Service. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises. Time: 11:30 am.

Fashion exhibition: An exhibition of fashion apparels by Avalon will be inaugurated. Venue: Cafeteria of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Meeting: The Executive Committee of Jatiya Kabita Parishad will hold a meeting. Venue: Teachers lounge at TSC, DU campus. Time: 4:00 pm.

Fashion exhibition: An exhibition of fashion apparels by Avalon is going on. Venue: Cafeteria of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3.00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Painting exhibition: A painting exhibition by Firoz is going on. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Française de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Meeting: The regular meeting of Lions Club of Dhaka South will be held. Venue: Mohanagar Community Centre. Time: 3:30 pm.

Region meeting: A region meeting of Region-14 of Lions International District 315 B-1 will be held with Zone 1 and 2q. Venue: Officers Club. Time: 4:00 pm.

Memorial meeting: K B Roy Chowdhury Smriti Sangshad will hold a meeting on K B Roy Chowdhury, the late DUCSU leader in observation of his second death anniversary. Venue: House No 1, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4:00 pm.



Meeting: Child, Woman. Relief and You (CWRY), a human rights project of Mukti Lawrence Foundation will hold a meeting on "Dignity and Security of Female garment workers." Venue: Sajna Restaurant, Gulshan 1. Time: 3:00 pm.

### Weather

### Dry weather to continue

Dry weather is likely to continue over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Met Office said night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius

over the country during the period. The country's highest temperature was recorded at 29.4 degree Celsius at Sitakunda yesterday and the lowest 9.6 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.15 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.36 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature Humidity in

in Celsius percentage Evening Dhaka 14.5 15.5 Chittagong Rajshahi 71 78 85 77 Khulna Barisal Sylhet 29.2 Cox's Bazar

## HERE and THERE

**BUET** confce

A two-day long International Conference on Fluid Mechanics and Heat Transfer organised by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, BUET concluded on Thursday at the Council Building of BUET, says a press release.

Prof Dr Nooruddin Ahmed. Vice-Chancellor, BUET inaugurated the conference as chief guest. Twenty internationally reputed scholars from USA, UK, Australia, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and India participated in the conference as resource persons. Fifty-five research papers including six keynote papers were presented in eight technical sessions of the conference. More than eighty renowned researchers and engineers from home and abroad attended the conference.

The inaugural function was also addressed by Prof Dr M A Taher Ali, Chairman, Conference Organising Committee. Prof Dr Md Imtiaz Hossain, Head, Dept of Mechanical Engineering, Prof Dr A M Aziz-ul

Huq. Dept of Mech Engg. Prof Dr A K M Sadrul Islam, Secretary Conference Organising Com-

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Memorial Committee

A meeting of the Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Memorial Committee was held in the city last week with Dr Maliha Khatun in the chair, says a press release.

After observing one minute's silence in memory of Begum Sufia Kamal, the meeting took up discussion of the ideals of the famous pioneer of female education in which members of the Samity, including Fauzia Karim, Farida Ali, Dilara Nurunnabi, Ira Islam, Sajeda Saber, and Husna Banu Khanam took part.

The discussion decided that at least one female student would be supported in education by the Samity every year in line with the ideals of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat.



Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) placing wreath at the National Mausoleum at Savar on Thursday to mark the 29th Victory Day. Star photo

#### Truck accident halts traffic on Dhaka-Bogra route for 3 hrs

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ. Dec 18: All traffic came to a halt on the Dhaka-Bogra highway for three hours today after an overloaded truck broke its axle and fell on its side on the Shahebgani

bridge of the district Suffering of thousands of stranded passengers on the highway mounted due to accident. The incident took place at 5:30 pm and left the driver and

two of his helpers injured. The police ultimately cleared up the jam on the road at about 8:30 pm. Police said that the truck was carrying 15 tonnes of sugarcane violating the load limit by at least ten tonnes.

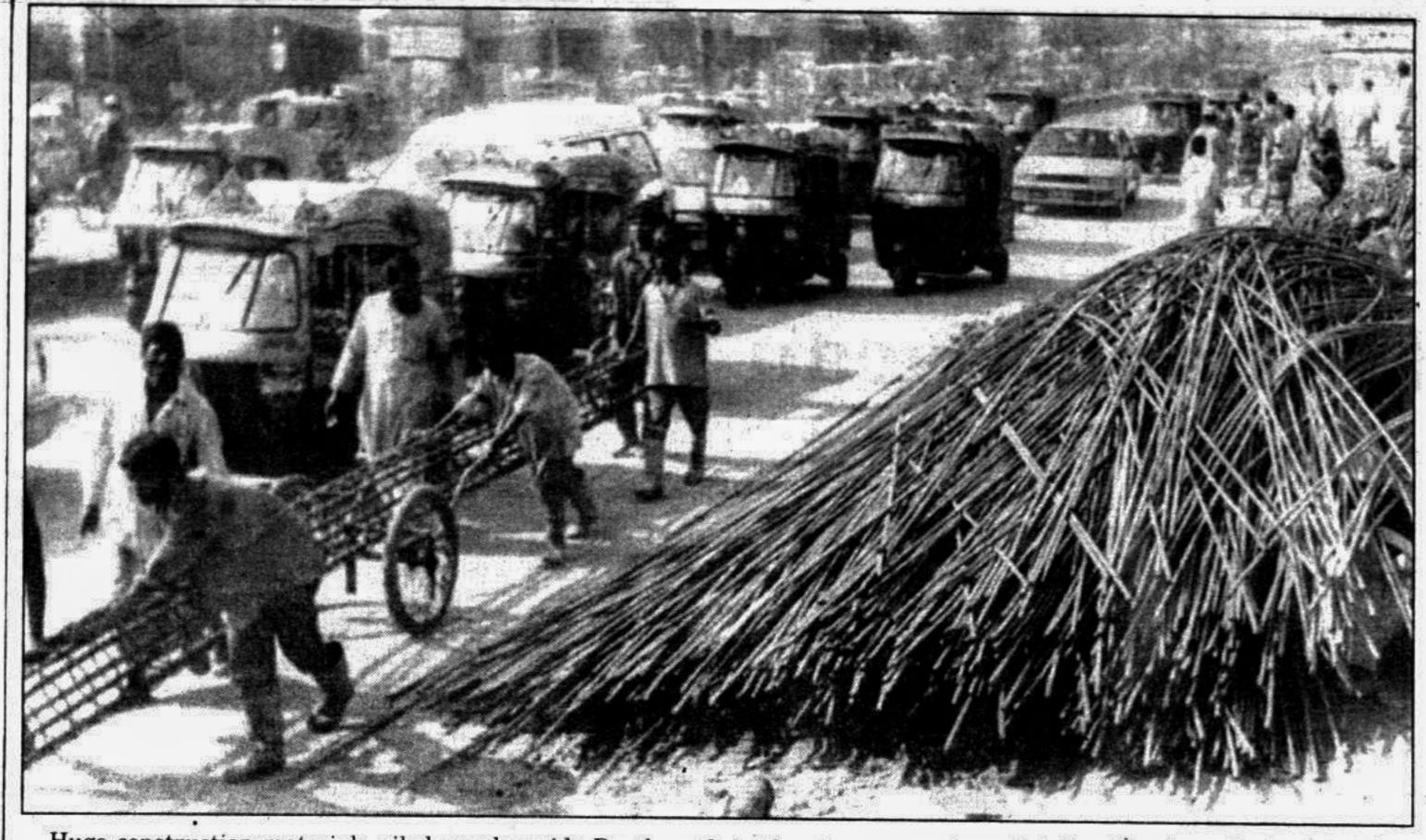
### Three killed in road mishap in Comilla

COMILLA, Dec 18: A private car tumbled into a roadside ditch a Raipur village in Daudkandi thana here today killing three people, reports UNB,

Police said the driver, a young male and a female died on the spot as their car skidded off the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at about 1:15 pm.

Another female passenger was critically injured in the ac-

The bodies were sent to hos-The victims could not be identified immediately.



Huge construction materials piled up alongside Panthapath in the city narrow down this busy road attributing significantly to severe traffic congestion. - Star photo

# Arab, Israel accord to set up 1st war crime tribunal

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 18: Israel and the Arab states have reached agreement on a contentious issue in the treaty establishing the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal that could lead Israel to lift its opposition to joining the court, a leading Jewish organisation said Friday, reports AP.

Israel initially supported creation of the International Criminal Court, but voted against it last year because Syria and Egypt inserted language which the Israeli government feared could have put hundreds of thousands of Israelis at risk of prosecution.

The issue involved the definition of the war crime of forcible transfer of populations into occupied territory.

When the treaty to establish the court was being debated in Rome before its adoption in July 1998, Syria and Egypt inserted language which appeared to eliminate the element of coercion as the key ingredient to making the forcible transfer of populations a war crime. The two Arab nations added

the phrase that forcible transfer of population through "direct or indirect" means could be a war crime, opening the possibility that Israelis who received incentives to move to war-captured territories could face prosecution.

B'Nai B'rith International said this new "crime" was different from other war crimes in that no violence was involved no killing, maiming or torture - and it was aimed specifically

Law Minister

condoles death

of Advocate

Ramzan Ali Khan

Khasru has expressed deep

shock at the death of former

President of Dhaka Bar Asso-

ciation and eminent lawyer

Advocate Ramzan Ali Khan, re-

lence message yesterday said

that Ramzan Ali's death created

an irreparable loss to legal pro-

to the members of the bereaved

family and prayed for peace of

Anwar Ibrahim's

sodomy trial to

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 18:

The politically sensitive

sodomy trial of Malaysia's

jailed former finance minister

Anwar Ibrahim will resume on

January 25 after it was sus-

pended in November, defence

lawyers said today, reports

Anwar's defence lawyer

Pawancheek Merican told re-

porters the resumption date was

set after a meeting with the

prosecution and presiding judge

Feni killing

From page 1

and JCD at Kaliganj Deegi in

was buried at village Birinehi

after namaj-e-janaza while the

body of Zakir Hossain buried at

his village at Durgapur at

their alleged involvement in

been deployed at different point

League announced a weeklong

mourning programme, includ-

ing a procession and rally in

the town tomorrow protesting

killing of Anwar Hossain

District Sramik Dal, the

Police arrested 11 people for

Additional police force has

UNB adds: District Chhatra

The body of Anwar Hossain

resume Jan 25

He expressed deep sympathy

fession in the country.

the departed soul.

Reuters.

Arifin Jaka.

the town.

around 12 Noon.

in the town.

Ratan.

security reasons.

the yesterday's killing.

The minister in a condo-

ports BSS.

Law Minister Abdul Matin

against Israel.

Israel annexed formerly Jordanian east Jerusalem and has occupied most of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to over two million Palestinians. since capturing the areas from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Mideast war. Successive governments have offered incentives and encouraged citizens to move to the areas, now home to some 150,000 Jewish settlers.

Alan Baker, a legal expert at Israel's Foreign Ministry, said after Israel cast a "no" vote that the Jewish state had no choice but to vote against any statue "which would render Israelis war criminals just for being active in setting up or establishing settlements. Since then, Israel has been

working at preparatory negotiations on the tribunal to try to undo the Egyptian-Syrian language. And at the three-week preparatory meeting which ended Friday, Israel and the Arab states reached a compromise, with US support. The compromise text says

that in order for prosecutors to obtain a conviction, they must prove that the forcible transfer of populations occurred during an international armed conflict, and it says the term transfer must be interpreted in accordance with international humanitarian law.

B'Nai B'rith, which is part of the coalition of hundreds of voluntary organisations supporting the establishment of the court, said "the wording is ambiguous enough to leave the

judgement to the judges of the

"I am gratified that the compromise that has been reached is acceptable to all parties, including Israel, and the I hope that Israel will now be able to become a signatory to the statue of the court," said Harris Schoenberg, director of UN affairs for B'Nai B'rith.

The court will become operational when the treaty establishing it is ratified by 60 countries, which Philippe Kirsch, chairman of the preparatory commission, predicted could happen within two years. So far 91 states have signed the treaty and six countries have ratified

B'Nai B'rith said it hopes that by the time the treaty takes effect the Middle East peace process will have been successful, which will "render the whole issue (of forcible transfers) moot."

Kirsch welcomed the Israeli Arab compromise.

"It was a difficult issue. It was a sensitive issue. But it is resolved," he told a news conference. "And that obviously could make life a lot easier for certain states in terms of their position vis a vis the court.

Richard Dicker, associate counsel for Human Rights Watch, said the agreement was "a very significant development and an indication of the breadth of support for the early establishment of the International Criminal Court."

## Malaysia may hold early leadership elections

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 18 : Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad wants to bring forward the date of elections in his ruling party which will choose his likely successor, a report said today, says AFP.

The Sun newspaper, quoting sources in the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO). said the leadership elections would be held after an Islamic festival in March but gave no

It said Mahathir, the party president, wanted the polls brought forward from the traditional month of June to reduce "excessive politicking among aspiring candidates and supporters.

The paper said a meeting of the party's Supreme Council Sunday was likely to discuss the date of the general assembly.

The Sun also quoted the sources as saying the resolution adopted at the party's 1995 general assembly -- that the top two party posts are not contested -- might be retained.

The president of UMNO, largest party in the National Front coalition which has ruled

since independence in 1957, au tomatically becomes premier.

The deputy president becomes deputy premier but the party position has been vacant since the sacking and jailing of Anwar Ibrahim in September

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is now deputy premier but has not been appointed deputy party president. In January this year Mahathir won UMNO's agreement to postpone the party polls until after the next general elec-

193 seats in the November 29 election but UMNO won only 72 seats compared to 94 in the last parliament and the 88 it won in the 1995 election. There was no immediate

The National Front won 148

confirmation of the Sun report. One source told AFP he expected party elections earlier than June but not as soon as March. Mahathir, who turns 74 on

Monday and has announced this is his last term, said Sunday's meeting might decide the date for the leadership elections. These are normally held every three years.

# Sen: Disagreement

Hasina in the same convoca-

Quoting lessons of great French philosopher Rene Descartes, Professor Amartya Sen said, "I doubt therefore I exist ... and the culture of intellectual questions would help Dhaka University feel more proud about its graduates."

He urged all to protect and nurture the rich heritage of creative intellectual disagreement along with meaningful coexistence on the campus.

Pointing towards drastic fall in birth and fertility rate. Prof Sen said according to empirical evidence the fertility rate declined from six to three that means, instead of having six children per family we now have three children here.

The Nobel laureate credited the voice of a generation of empowered young women of

Bangladesh for success in the family planning sector.

of any college or university edu-

Recalling his long associaon Prime Minister Sheikh tion with Dhaka University, Dr Sen said his father was a faculty member of Chemistry and he had dedicated his time to agricultural chemistry. My grandfather was a member of finance committee of this university, he added.

He said universities across the world have produced great personalities like Mahatma Gandhi. Nelson Mandela, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Aung Sun Suu Kyi and Soviet leader Michael Gorbachev.

Terming the conformists as "unquestioning animals", he said social reformer Raja Rammohan Roy could perceive the terrible nature of intellectual death. Rammohon in his poetry said, "Just imagine how terrible you would feel when everyone would be alive and you would be dead (Anya Loke Bakya Kabe Tumi Rabe Nirut-

Expressing instant reaction after receiving the degree. he said, "I feel proud after receiving the honorary degree from Dhaka University, the principal institute of highest learning in the country."

#### Hartal: 25 hurt From page 1

bombs were exploded and shots fired allegedly by JCD activists near Victoria Park, an area close to Jagannath University

at about 10:20 am. The injured policemen were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and later shifted to Rajarbagh Police Hospital, hospital sources said.

Pedestrian Shahjahan was bullet-hit when he was crossing the area, witnesses said. Rickshaw-puller Abu was injured when pickets threw bombs on the street there a short while later. The BNP office at Bangsal

was torched allegedly by some Awami League supporters at about 1:00 pm. They also obstructed fire fighters from putting out the fire and damaged wind shields of a fire fighting vehicle, witnesses said. Three fire fighters were injured. Several powerful bombs

were exploded at the fag end of the hartal hours in front of Naya Paltan Mosque where a huge contingent of police was deployed. When the bombs were ex-

ploded, police fired about a dozen tear gas shells on a JCD rally in front of the BNP central office nearby. The JCD activists took shelter inside the BNP office. Police chased them up to the office, fired several tear gas shells at it and also beat up passers-by, witnesses said. Police also obstructed jour-

nalists from doing their professignal duty and ordered them to leave the place. Bombs were also exploded in

Fakirerpool, Shahjahanpur, Malibagh, Jatrabari and Dholaipar areas. A Maxi Hauler was set on fire near the BNP central office

at about 6am. Pickets also set fire to a rickshaw inside a lane in the area at 10:35am. In the old part of the city.

pickets set fire to a minibus near the Bahadur Shah Park at 8:30am. An autorickshaw was torched at Laxmibazar at around 6 am. An autorickshaw passenger was injured when a bomb was hurled on it at Azimpur in the morning. Police did not allow the Op-

position -- backed student organisations to bring out processions during the hartal. Police clubbed Chhatra Samaj activists and picked up seven of them when they tried to bring out a procession in Segunbagicha area at about 10:35am.

Failing to bring out a procession, over 100 JCD activists chanted anti-government slogans in front of BNP central of-

Acting Secretary General of BNP Abdullah Al Noman, BNP Chairperson's Advisor Major Gen (Retd) ZA Khan, party MPs Fazlur Rahman Patal, Nazimuddin Alam, ANH Ehsanul Haq Milon, Dr Mohammad Ali, city BNP joint convenor Abdus Salam, Ziauddin Ahmed Murad and Ismail Hossain Miah were inside the party office at that time but they didn't come on the

Activists of ruling Awami League and its different front organisations led by AL city unit general secretary and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya brought out an anti-hartal procession from the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue paraded different city streets. Awami League also brought out anti-hartal processions in other areas of the city.

Rickshaws plied the city roads as usual. A few state-run BRTC buses, minibuses and autorickshaws operated in some routes during he hartal hours. Most of the private offices, business houses and shops remained closed.

#### Defamation Newsman held at Barisal

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Dec 18: The staff reporter of Janakantha in Barisal was arrested here last

Kotwali police arrested Shawkat Milton following a defamation suit filed by Aftab Hossain, former UP chairman of Kashipur in Barisal. Aftab filed the case following publication of a series of reports

town today with Mosharraf Hossain Nannu in the chair.

## Macau handover

From page 12

taries shielded themselves with burgundy-colored umbrellas today as they duly carried out ceremonial events including the burial of a time capsule under wind-whipped downpours.

The Portuguese are taking pains to assure the handover goes more smoothly than Britain's return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty two yeas ago, an event preceded by much public bickering between London and Beijing.

But as red carpets were rolled out, security metal detectors were set up and thousands of potted flowers were moved into place under gray skies. Portuguese officials conceded privately that they are concerned about Macau's future in two areas: the independent court system and the political system. Macau's 430,000 residents

and they seem happy to be re-turning to the motherland, although as a special Administra-tive Region of China, Macau is supposed to retain a great deal of local autonomy. It's the same formula of "one country, two systems", that has governed Hong Kong since its handover.

are predominantly Chinese -

"The Portuguese never cared about us. Beijing understands our needs," said shopkeeper Gogo Fong, 38. "The new government can achieve more with broadcasters.

Beijing's backing."

All sides insist Macau's laidback and hybrid lifestyle with street names a mix of Portuguese and Chinese and a cuisine that might feature fried rice washed down by Portuguese red wine - will continue as Macau seeks its place in the world as a gateway to China with a continental European

Many people here hope the new administration, led by banker Edmund Ho, who will be sworn in as Macau's first chief executive early Monday, will restore law and order.

Gambling is Macau's main industry, and it has proved a powerful magnet for Chinese tried gangs who have been waging a bloody turf war, shooting each other as well as government officials and police, the past several years. Macau's future autonomy is

guaranteed by China for 50 years, the same time frame given to Hong Kong under an arrangement dubbed "one country. two systems" that Portugal says will preserve crucial freedoms

about changes in the future, but I'm convinced there won't be any for the next 50 years," Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres said in an interview with a group of Portuguese

# Hartal: 25 injured

course of action is expected to be announced from the demonstration day programme, but possibility of calling more hartals in this month is thin.

The meeting discussed the latest development of the Chittagong City Corporation election, scheduled for January 3. Sources said, the meeting

also discussed withdrawal of all mayoral candidates excepting some 'dummy' candidates.

representatives were planning to bring the four chiefs of BNP Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami

From page 1 (NAP-Bhasani). Today was the last date for withdrawal.

Besides, 61 ward commissioner candidates including three women for reserved seats withdrew their nomination pa-

will now vie for 41 posts of ward commissioners and 35 candidates for the 14 reserved seats for women in the January 3 polls. UNB adds: Informed sources

lowing their secret negotiations with Mohiuddin, which he strongly denied. "I would have been rather happy with a strong rival candidate in the field." Soon after the withdrawal.

overcome the political crisis and also to maintain unity of Mohiuddin called upon the city dwellers to frustrate those

anarchy. Withdrawal of the ward commissioner candidates left four re-elected and one elected unopposed. They are Jalaluddin Ahmed (re-elected) of Ward No 27. Manzurul Alam Manju (reelected) of Ward No 10. Anwar Hossain of Ward No 6. Tareq Solaiman Selim (re-elected) of

#### Battle line

city unit of AL, Mohiuddin Chowdhury, who submitted nomination paper for the may-oral post told this correspondent yesterday that he welcomed the polls as the schedule was announced lawfully. "We must take part in the

He said necessary measures will be taken to foil the attempts by the Opposition to resist the polls. Mohiuddin was re-elected

polls. "We have decided to step up the anti-polls campaign to re-sist the January 3 polls here at

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is expected to arrive in the port city by the end of this month to boost the antipolls campaign, party sources said. She will address a public meeting at Laldighi maidan.

Besides, some central leaders of the alliance are expected to arrive and stay here ahead of the CCC polls, sources said. As a result. the city is likely to witness a heated political situation during the later half of Ramadan and there after, they

Security has already been beefed up in the port city

have been deployed at all important points of the city.

"It's not possible to talk

From page 1

Meeting sources said, fresh

Awami League candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury from the race and observed that the government once again made the CCC polls a farce by fielding Sources said, the liaison

Ctg mayor

A total of 154 candidates

said the withdrawal came fol-

Dilip Bhadra said: "I have withdrawn from the race to help

the pro-liberation forces". trying to resist the election and thus push the nation towards

Ward No 31 and Shahidul Alam (re-elected) in Ward No 17.

Three candidates for the reserved seats for women returned unopposed. They are Hasina Zafar of Ward No 3, Nilufar Rahim of Ward No 8 and Rabeya Rahman of Ward No 10.

From page 1 eral Secretary of Chittagong

election as it is our democratic right. Nobody has the right to resist it".

unopposed the mayor of CCC as the three other candidates withdrew today. Talking to this correspondent, alliance leader and president of city BNP Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin said movement will be launched in every

ward of the city to resist the

any cost," Nasir said.

said.

bomb attack recently.

and Islami Otkya Jote to a single platform at Chittagong prior

to the CCC polls. But this plan is

likely to be abandoned because

of the changed scenario. BNP leader Anwar Zahid. JP leader Kazi Firoz Rashid, Jamaat leaders Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Qader Mollah and IOJ leader ARM Abdul Matin attended the meet-

Meanwhile, BNP Chairper-

son Khaleda Zia last night had a meeting with party MPs now in Dhaka and senior leaders at her official residence and discussed the issues relating to one-point movement. The BNP will hold a public rally at Muktangon and bring out a procession in the city to-

day to protest indictment of

party vice chairman Tariqul Is-

lam in Udichi Murder Case and

arrest of JCD leaders and work-UNB adds: The Liaison Committee also protested the lavish ceremony for conferring doctorate degree by the Dhaka

University on an individual.

annoyance at government's spending of Tk 2 crore for holding the convocation ceremony. Briefing newsmen, Islam said it was a sheer wastage of public money when the country

was facing serious economic

crisis.

The committee expressed

He said the government has pushed the country towards a state of confrontation by holding the controversial convocation that was opposed by majority of the graduates.

The BNP leader said the convocation was held under unprecedented security measures Most of the student organisations, teachers and intellectuals have protested conferring the doctorate degree on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

### Body formed to detect cause of Friday's fire incident in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 18: A three-member inquiry committee headed by Director (Operation) of Bangladesh Fire Service And Civil Defence has been formed to ascertain the cause of Friday's fire here, re-

ports UNB. Some 50 shops and business establishments were gutted and 20 people injured in the fire that originated from a hosiery at number 2 Rail Gate area of the town.

Pratichi Trust

From page 1 "The award has also provided me with a small opportunity to share my prize with others, in pursuit of objects that I believe are important."

Announcing the plan to set

up the Pratichi Fund, he said, "I

am concentrating on India and Bangladesh, the two lands where I grew up. As it happens. the need for social action in removing deprivations is also actively strong in both the

Sen added, Our home in Dhaka, at 14 Larmini Street, was called "Jagat Kutir"—the cottage of the world, which could have been an 'appropriate name too'.

### Azad

From page 1 himself as an Indian and very much a son of the soil of Bangladesh," read Chowdhury. to a rousing round of applause from the audience. Sen accepted the award gra-

ciously.

"My father and grandfather also attended this university," said Sen. "I feel deeply honoured at the conferring of such a degree on me. I am really very glad today." The convocation ceremony began at 10 a.m. with the Chan-

cellor's Procession, which was followed by the national an-In his opening address, President Shahabuddin Ahmed also the university's 'chancellor, emphasised the efforts of

teachers and university au-

thorities to establish a conge-

nial academic atmosphere on campus. He congratulated teachers and students for holding convocation and said he hoped the ceremony would be held on reg-

ular basis.

labour wing of opposition BNP, cident that occurred as the brought out a mourning procesagainst the backdrop of inci-'Keertonkholar Tirey' in the driver lost control over the sion and held a rally in the dents of violence since the anwheels. She was admitted to Appealing to all not to untown this morning. Meanwhile, Barisal Sangsnouncement of CCC polls Gouripur Thana Health Comderestimate the gifted geniuses As tensions mounted in the schedule. The election office at kritik Sangathan Samannaya like Rabindranath Tagore. town, BNP sources said, the par-Jamal Khan road came under Parishad protesting arrest of ty's district general secretary, William Shakespeare and Kazi Milton held a rally in front of pital in Comilla for autopsy. Prof Zainal Abedin, left home Nazrul Islam, Dr Sen said they Additional police forces the Aswini Kumar Hall in the for an undisclosed shelter for flourished without the benefit