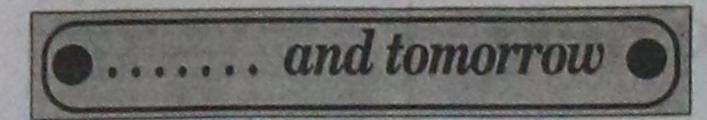
Vhat's on today

Premiere of Bihanga: The Premiere of 'Bihanga,' a leature film produced by the Centre for Rehabilitation of Paralysed (CRP) and directed by Abdullah Al Mamun, will be held. Chief guest: State Minister for Planning Dr Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir. Venue: House No: 8, Road No: 62, Gulshan. Time.

RMMRU consultation: Refugee and Migratory Move-ments Research Unit (RMMRU) will hold a consultation to discuss the need for ratification of the 1990 Convention on the Rights of the Migrant Workers and Members of their families. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Time: 4:30 pm.



Film show: Three French movies Les perles de la couranne, un indien dans la ville and le petit soldat will be screened. Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka. Time: 11.00 a. 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm.

Inauguration: The inaugural ceremony of a painting exhibition by Murtaja Baseer will be held. Venue: Divine Art Gallery, Hotel Sonargaon, Time: 5.00 pm.

Exhibition: The inaugural ceremony of the 3rd solo painting exhibition by Zinat Sattar will be held. Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka. Time: 5.00 pm.

Scientific conference: The inaugural ceremony of the Ninth Annual Scientific Conference (ASCON) of ICDDR.B: Centre for Health and Population Research will be held. Venue: Sasakawa auditorium, ICDDR,B. Time: 6.30 pm.

Weather

Light rain forecast

Light rain or drizzle may occur at one or two places over Dhaka. Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Moderate to thick fog may occur over Dhaka and Rajshahi

night/morning, Met office said. The country's highest temperature 29.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and the lowest 11.0 degree Celsias

divisions and the river basins of the country during

at Srimangol. Rangpur and Sayedpur. The sun sets in the capital today at 5.50 pm and rises on Fri-

day at 6.35 am. Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
23.0	13.7	74	64
27.5	15.6	80	66
21.0	14.0	93	83
25.0	15.2	87	
25.5	14.0		58
25.2	13.8	89	-
28.6	16.9	60	53
	in Ce Max 23.0 27.5 21.0 25.0 25.5 25.2	in Celsius Max Min 23.0 13.7 27.5 15.6 21.0 14.0 25.0 15.2 25.5 14.0 25.2 13.8	in Celsius perce Max Min Morning Ev 23.0 13.7 74 27.5 15.6 80 21.0 14.0 93 25.0 15.2 87 25.5 14.0 95 25.2 13.8 89

HERE and THERE

Proshika

MANIKGANJ, Fcb 9: The newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka. David Preston, today said his country would continue its assistance to Bangladesh to develop its basic human resources, alleviate poverty and attain good governance, reports

While expressing his optimism over a prosperous future of the country Preston said that Bangladesh with its "vibrant, energetic and hard-working people" has scope to emerge as a prosperous nation.

He expressed these views while talking to newsmen after visiting a number of development projects being run by Proshika, in Saturia and

Dhamrai thanas of the district. Preston lauded the achievement of Proshika in enhancing the condition of the country's poor. He particularly mentioned the endeavours of Proshika in empowerment of women and imparting education to the children. Referring to his exchange of opinion with women group members. the Canadian envoy said, "I am happy to see that the women in this remote rural areas attained quality to express their own views, properly react with social and environmental conditions.

Among other programmes, Preston visited a Social Forestry Programme of Kazipara Jagarani Mohila Samity, a non-formal primary school at Janna village, at livestock programme of Mayer Doa Mohila Samity at Saturia, an Irrigation project at Gorakkanda and a popular theatre programme at Jaipara at Dhamrai.





Zoological Society of Bangladesh

The executive council (2000-2001) of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh was formed recently, says a press release.

The new members of the society are Prof Mahmud-ul-Ameen (president), Prof Ayesha Khatun, Masudur Rahman, Prof Miah Mohammed Abdul Quddus (vice-presidents). FH Ansarey (treasurer), SM Manjurul Hannan Khan (general secretary), Dr Abdur Rob Mollah and Nurul Amin (joint secre-

Sayeed asks youths to build 'Sonar Bangla'

GAZIPUR. Feb 9: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Saveed today asked the members of the youth to dedicate themselves for establishing "Sonar Bangla" free from hunger, poverty and exploitation being imbibed with the spirit of patriotism, reports

Speaking as the chief guest at a youth forum in the weeklong rover moot at Bahadurpur here. Prof Sayeed said there is no alternative to patriotism that derives from love for the country, feeling for the people and commitment to the na-

tional development. The State Minister said the Bengali nation under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had earned the independence and sovereignty of the country by breaking the shackles of thousand years of subjugation.

Truck kills schoolboy in Rajbari

Prof Sayeed lauded the role

RAJBARI, Feb 9: A schoolboy was killed in a truck accident near New Mosque at Binodpur area in the town today, reports

Police said Rezaul, 15, a class VIII student of Rajbari Zilla School, was hit by a truck at about 5 pm while he was picking up a cricket ball on the

road. He died on way to Sadar Hospital. The body was sent to the hospital morgue.

Police seized the vehicle but its driver managed to escape. A case was filed with local police.

of the youth community in the great war of liberation, Language Movement and other democratic movements of the

He also underlined the need for changing age-old social system to remove discrimination between man and man and also eradicate social ills.

The State Minister said the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to present before the nation a modern and time-befitting education system.

He said judiciary should be modernised for the sake of rule of law

Prof Sayeed said administration and education system should be made modern and

science-oriented. He asked the new generation to come forward in facing the

challenge of the time Prof Sayeed said the gov-

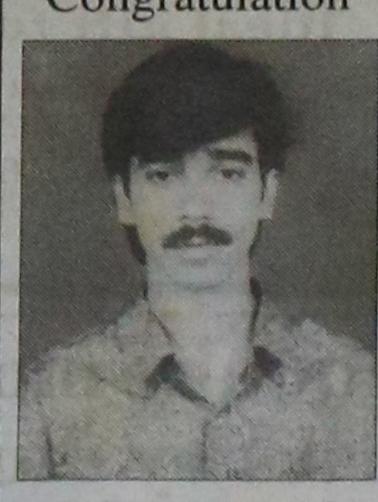
ernment had raised the rate of literacy to 62 per cent from 47 per cent during the last three and a half years.

He underscored the need for grooming the new generation through proper utilisation of human resources to build a bright future for the country.

The function was also addressed, among others, by coordinator of the youth forum SM Gaziur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of National University Prof Aminul Islam, National Commissioner of Rover Scouts Zainal Abedin, representative of Bhutan Master Kinlay and representative of Pakistan Obaidur Rahman.

Prof Sayeed visited the camps of the rover moot. About five thousand rover scouts from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Bhutan are participating in the

Congratulation



Naadir Junaid stood first class first in the Masters Final Examination of 1997 (held in 1999) from the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism. Dhaka university. says a press release.

He also stood first class first in the BA (Honours) Examination of 1996 from the same department and secured 16th 20sition in the Humanities group of Dhaka Board in the HSC Ex-

amination of 1993 Naadir Junaid is the only son of Professor Mohammad Junaid, Principal, Government Titumir College, Dhaka and Professor Kamrun Nahar, Head of the Department of Political Science, Eden Girls College, Dhaka.

50 thousand more new telephone lines to be installed in Ctg by next year

CHITTAGONG, Feb 9: Fifty thousand more new telephone lines will be installed in the city by next year while all thanas of Chittagong zone would be brought under digital network, reports BSS.

This was told at the 26th meeting of the Chittagong City Development Co-ordination Committee held at the corporation auditorium here today, a city corporation press release

The meeting discussed in details various issues and urged the authorities concerned to prepare their respective plans within shortest possible of time in line with the mega city concept, which would later be placed to the government.

The meeting recommended inclusion of the Commissioner of Customs and Roads and Highways (R&H) in the co-ordination committee and empowerment of the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) for spending to the tune of Taka 50 crore instead of the existing five crore to make it self-reliant and port activities more dynamic.

Presided over by the Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, the meeting was attended by heads and representatives of different organisations and public utility services, the press release added.

New schedule for American Citizen Services Unit

The US Embassy in Dhaka announces the following schedule for the American Citizen Services Unit in the Consular Section, according to an USIS press release

The unit's office hours are from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Sunday through Thursday. Telephone hours are from 8 ar. to 4:30 pm, Sunday through Thursday. The telephone and fax numbers are 882-3805 and 882-4449 respectively.

In case of an emergency. American citizens should contact the Embassy in person or by telephone. During workdays. Sundays-Thursdays, 8:00 am-4:30 pm, please call American Citizen Services at 882-3805. In other times, one should call the Embassy switchboard at 882-4700, and ask for the Duty Officer. An emergency is, for instance, if a US Citizen has died, is seriously ill, is in immediate physical danger, or has lost his/her passport (if needed for travel before the next regular business day).

The American Citizen Services Unit does not handle visas or green cards. For assistance with these. Visa Services may be called at 882-3800, Sunday through Thursday, between 2:00 and 4:00 pm. Citizens may also appear in person on Tuesdays before 9:00 am. Citizens wishing to file immigration petitions should come to Window 7 on any workday between 1:30 and 3:30 pm.

FM asks Al Azhar university to provide more seats

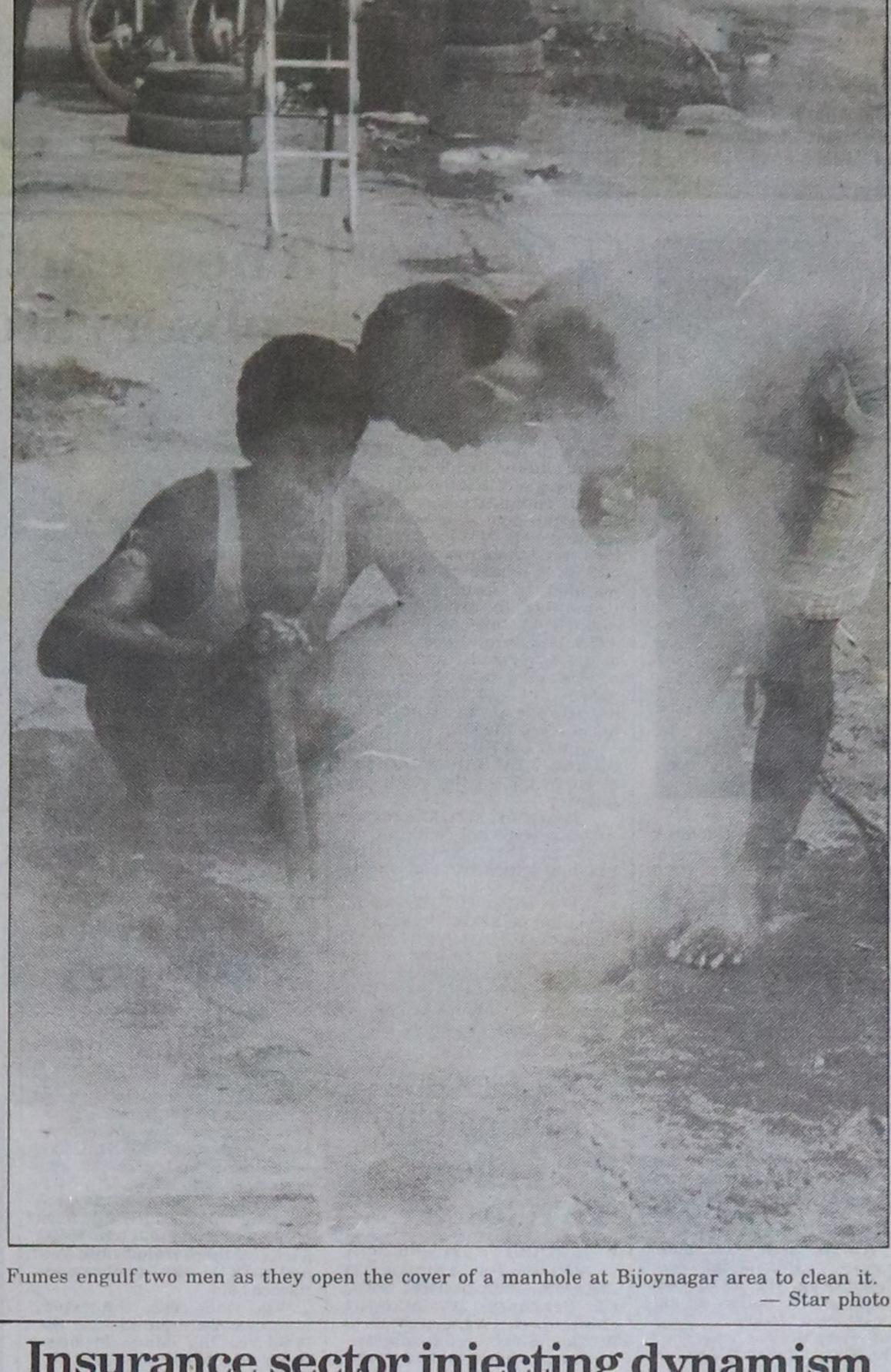
for Bangladeshis Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has requested the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar University to provide more seats and scholarship to Bangladeshi students, particularly female students for Islamic study. re-

ports UNB. The request was made when the Foreign Minister called on Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar University Mohamed Sayed Tantawi in Egypt, according to a message received in the city vesterday.

The Foreign Minister praised the role of Al Azhar in study, research and dissemination of Islamic culture. He also invited the Grand

Sheikh to visit Bangladesh. in response, the Grand Sheikh said al Azhar would actively consider Bangladesh's request for more scholarships and talked of closer relations with Bangladesh in the field of Islamic research and culture.

He also informed the Minister that they had recently started an Al Azhar Institute in



Insurance sector injecting dynamism in economic activities

Tofail says at inauguration of new firm

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said as per WTO obligations. Bangladesh would also have to welcome foreign companies in insurance business within 5-10 years and advised local entrepreneurs to become competitive before the opening up. reports UNB.

He made the suggestion while opening a new insurance firm, Rupali Life Insurance Company, at a function in a city hotel vesterday.

The minister informed the meeting that the present government had given permission to 11 life insurance and 19 general insurance companies to prepare local entrepreneurs to face future challenges of open competition throughout the

"With the increase of ecobusiness is also increasing," he

More insurance activities outside.

will enhance dynamism in economic activities, he said, adding that the present government is strengthening rural economy through ensuring good infrastructure, electricity, subsidies in agriculture and incenlives for local raw material based small and cottage indus-

The Industries Minister suggested that life insurance agents should make rural people aware about the necessity of insurance schemes. Opening of new insurance companies will also create employment opportunity, he

Referring to problems of the industries sector he criticised the previous government for drastically reducing import duties from 350 per cent to 50 per nomic activities, insurance cent in 1993 without preparing the domestic entrepreneurs for competing with products from

'It created sick industries." he said, adding that the BNP government also withdrew tariff and non-tariff barriers to imports at that time.

Although the growth rate of foreign investment Bangladesh is higher than other regional countries, the amount is not so yet healthy, he said. "We have created conducive environment to attract FDI despite opposition's move-

He said investment is a matter of profit and loss and if an entrepreneur can eye a profit from his investment, only then one would he be interested to

The opening session was also addressed, among others, by Mostafizur Rahman MP. Managing Director of Rupali Life Insurance AKM Saiful Islam, its director Ben Afroz and Abdul Matin.

Foundation of space theatre From page 1

through a planetarium. Feature films on space and galaxy will be shown.

The sky, planets and stars will be projected on a big dome - like screen to make people feel that they are watching the sky and travelling through it. The space theatre building will itself be a modern architecture. There will be 350 seats for the

spectators in the main hall. The space theatre will be set up on 5.17 acres of land at an estimated cost of Tk 70 crore. Its operation will start by March 2001. Bengali and English languages will be used in the spectacular shows.

"This space theatre will facilitate learning through entertainment and help the people acquire knowledge about science and technology," the prime minister said.

present government has taken up time-befitting programmes to cope with mainstream development of science and technology. It has also taken up an important project. National Institute of Biotechnology, aiming at socioeconomic development.

Appeal to donate

for treatment of

Rafiqul Islam

Nasim

Bangladesh (PIB) has appealed

to the government and philan-

thropic organisation to donate

for treatment of Rafiqul Islam

Nasim. Acting Director

(Training) of PIB, who is lying

in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

Medical University with

serious kidney problem.

It said a total Tk 1,31,560 in

donations has been received for

his treatment, including Tk

20,000 from Jatiya Press Club.

Tk 25,000 from daily Janakan-

tha and Tk 5,000 from Jha-

lakathi Press Club. But he

needs about Tk 7 lakh for his

reports UNB.

treatment.

The Press Institute of

She hoped that the project being set up on Atomic Energy Commission premises in Savar would create a new chapter for quick breeding of animals and

Hasina mentioned that the government had taken steps to establish National Marine Science Research Institute in Chittagong for research on marine science and collection of marine resources.

Attaching importance to development of Information Technology (IT), she said an IT village is being set up on 47 acres of land at Mohakhali for facilitating software industry and disseminating informa-

Entrepreneurs and businesspeople involved in hi-tech could get all physical facilities in expansion and development of software industry, she said The Prime Minister said adding some 264 acres of land have been allocated at Kaliakoir to set up a hi-tech park.

Hasina said the government has been allocating Tk 12 crore in revenue sector from FY 1997-98 so that scientists and technologists could make contribution to socjoeconomic devel-

Bangladesh's initiative in pro-

assured continued cooperation

They also discussed infras-

tructural development of De-

partment of Environment, so-

cial afforestation, forestry

master plan and Global Tiger

Forum.

Referring to programmes taken up for development of research centre and library of Bangladesh Council fc Science, Industry and Research, she said government has taken effective steps to set up a nuclear plant at Rooppur to meet fuel demand in the country. Science and Technology

Minister Nooruddin Khan, Science and Technology Secretary Fazlur Rahman and project director Maruf Morshed also addressed the function. Later, the prime minister

unveiled the plaque of the foundation stone and saw the design of the space theatre.

Swedish envoy calls on Amu

Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Anders Johnson called on Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations.

Norway keen to Second phase of poppy destruction provide technical begins in Bandarban assistance

BANDARBAN, Feb 9: A spccial team of army began its 10-Norway is keen to provide technical assistance to day long second phase drive to destroy poppy fields in the Bangladesh to address envisouthern areas of Bandarban ronmental issues, reports UNB. During a meeting with Envihill district from Barakadam under Thanchi thana on Februronment and Forest Minister ary 3, according to official Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Norwegian High Commissioner sources, reports BSS. Gerd Wahlstrom lauded

The first phase of the drive was launched from Ali Kadam tecting her environment and thana in January last. Threemonth old poppy plants on one and a half acres were destroyed at bilateral and international and about 5 kg poppy seeds and fruits were recovered in this drive.

> In 1998 and 1999, army and BDR, in a joint drive, had destroyed poppy cultivation on 54 acres and 108 acres respectively

failed. The family members then managed to release Sumon, she said. Sumon then went inside a room at the ground floor of the house. When he attempted to leave the room, a local man wearing a mask caught him at

From page 1

3:30 am, woke up Sumon and

attempted to drag him out." she

said. They were accompanied by about 20 local people who were

wearing masks, some of them

armed. Sumon's mother

claimed. Some of the intruders

had prior link with police, she

The family members chal-

lenged them and asked them to

show warrant of arrest, but they

claimed.

gunpoint.

One of the DB men then fired on Sumon. He died on way to hospital, she said.

JS body unhappy From page 1

committee earlier. It also decided to summon the heads of these organisations and the secretary of the ministry concerned to the next meetings of the committee in phases to discuss the progress and problems they have been facing.

The meeting also stressed the need for maintaining specific principles in forming the 'Board of Directors' of these organisations and corporations.

Alhaj Syed Masud Reza, AKM Mosharraf Hossain, SM Abul Hossain and Faruq Khan attended the meeting.

Dockers From page 1

abstention in two bitumen loaded vessels as they sticked to their demand for increasing workers in gang-booking, port sources and stevedores said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA) has said it would stop gang-booking at Chittagong port from tomorrow if the labour problem is not solved. In a statement issued to the

press today, BMSA chairman A H M Monjur Alam alleged that the stevedores were incurring huge economic loss due to abstention from work by labour-The dock workers illegally

stopped their work defying rules and regulations to realise extra wages and tips, BMSA chairman said. He said that two letters have

already sent to the authorities

concerned to resolve the prob-

IJO mandate

From page 1

Of the total annual world jute production of about 3.37 million tonnes, India's yield has been estimated at 1.836 million tonnes, followed by Bangladesh with 900,000 tonnes.

Bangladesh's exports constitute 70 per cent of the global He said the importers con-

tributed funds for research, development and promotion of jute fibre Jute's market has shrunk due to cheap synthetic products.

such as plastic. However, the IJO is trying to find alternative uses for jute in an eco-friendly marketplace. BSS adds: A special session

of International Jute Council (IJC) ended in the city yesterday with no instant commitment of the European Union to go for a fresh agreement for continuity of the IJO. The session of the IJC, the

governing body of the IJO, was convened to finalise a draft agreement which could not get through following stiff opposition from the EU, conference sources said The EU delegate, however,

told the session that his organisation would inform the IJO secretariat its final decision on the issue before a crucial meeting to be held at Geneva before the current mandate of the IJO expires in April. The IJC session was chaired

by the current council Chairman and Jute Secretary of Bangladesh Mahfujul Islam.

PSI Feb 13

From page 1 dle Eastern and Far Eastern countries has been given to Bureau Veritas.

The NBR chairman said that three companies have been selected to keep the option of shifting duties if any of them make a major mistake or de-

Provisions for punishment and compensation from defaulting importers and inspection agencies have been kept, he Meanwhile, General Secre-

tary of Bangladesh Inspection Companies Association Mian Masud Zakaria, talking o this correspondent alleged that responsibility of inspecting country's total imports were handed over to some multi-national companies, depriving local

The country will suffer due to the monopoly business of those multi-national companies and the economy will collapse within very short period following introduction of the system," he claimed.

According to him, local companies were barred from participating in the bidding by setting some pre-conditions. The condition of membership of PSI committee of the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA) was set

"intentionally", he alleged. "Only five multi-national companies are members of the committee. No Bangladeshi company is its member." Zakaria said.

properly.

But the NBR chairm a said no local company was given the job because none has worldwide network for conducting the PSI

Raid by DB men At the press conference. Sumon's mother also named some of the local people who accompanied the DB men. They are Abul. Zakir, Iban, Hossain, Khokon, Mona. Ismail and Nu-

rul Islam, she said. Sixteen DB personnel in two teams led by AC ASM Rabbani and AC Tanvir Ahmed Chowdhury took part in the 'raid'. The team led by AC Rabbani had

vir's team was sent as re-enforcement, DB sources said. Shyampur police said they had no prior information about the 'raid'. The incident was brought to their notice when the DB policemen were leaving the

area, they said. The DB also took a 'GD number' but no GD was filed till writing of this report last night, Shyampur police said.

Dhaka urges UN to allow Iraqis to perform Hajj

Bangladesh has made a strong appeal to the United Nations to enable Iraqis to perform Hajj, according to a message received yesterday from New York, reports BSS.

Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the United Nations, strongly urged the UN Security Council on Monday that a way must be found out to allow Iraqi Muslims to perform this year's

While participating in the deliberations at the Security Council on the situation in Iraq and the performance of 'oil-forlood' programme of the United Nations. Ambassador Chowdlury made the fervent call. The programme is meant for providing humanitarian assistance to the civilian population

During his intervention, the Bangladesh permanent representative mentioned that the Security Council must find an innovative way to address the Hajj issue for Iraqis this year. He called for an early decision as the next Hajj was imminent, the massage added.

Street dramas

From page 1

Drabir and Nattya Dhara will stage two separate street dramas this afternoon.

Meanwhile, 30 more new books hit the stalls on the third day of the moth-long Ekushey Boi Mela (book fair). The books include "Nijer Songe Nijer Jiboner Modhu by

Humayun Ahmed, "Brishtir Din" by Mainul Ahsan Saber. "Sangskrity O Amar Ekushey" by Selina Hossain, "Batsayan" by Nirmalendy Goon and 100 Songs of Hasan Raja" by Edward Yozijan.

Bangla Academy held a discussion on "Bangladesh in the 20th Century: Political Scenario" at the book fair dais in the afternoon.

the keynote speech on the topic. while Prof. Shamsul Huda Harun and Prof. Harun-or-Rashid took part in the discus-The programme was

Syed Abul Maksud delivered

presided over by Prof. Sarder Fazlul Karim. A discussion on Cultural Globalisation versus Flourishing National Culture: Significance of Mother Tongue" will be

held today at the Bangla

Academy Prof. Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir will present the keynote paper and Kamal Lohani. Hasan Imam. Ramendu Majumder and Mofidul Haq will be present as the discussants. Prof Mamotaj Uddin Ahmed will chair the pro-

gramme. Signboard: DMP

From page 1 A signboard says the land is for the Flower Sellers Association, and allocated to one Ja-

hangir. But Jahangir was not

available for comment. After news reports on his construction attempts, he removed the CI sheet enclosure. leveled the land and cleared all the trees.

Now he is constructing a permanent market there adjacent to a flower shop which was also built illegally during Ershad regime without Rajuk's permission. Dhaka Club authorities who

recently took moves to clear the flower market says the land belongs to the club. DCC officials said that a notice would be served again to the Flower Sellers Association for "violation of the lease order

nursery there" About the new market adjacent to the Police Control Room, they said the matter will be investigated and appropriate

that provided for raising only a

The DCC had earlier tried to build a three-storied market adjacent to the Shishu Park. But it was abandoned after newspaper reports led to issuance of a directive by the Prime Minister on April 13, 1998 forbidding construction of any market in

open spaces in the chy: But some DCC employees managed to skirt that order to lease the land from the Suhrawardy Udvan for setting up a flower market with mirs-

Police officials said that the

new markets are posing diffi-

culties for policemen moving in and out of the Police Control Room. Besides, those are also creating problems in traffic management in front of the DCC-

run Shishii Park -We raised objections to DCC about the markets. But we do not know how they have bypassed our objections", a police official preferring anonymity

told The Daily Star yesterday.

started the raid first and Tan-