

What's on today....

International conference: Bangladesh Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) will hold the inaugural ceremony of its Second International Conference. Chief guest: President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10:15 am.

Workshop: Sangskriti Bikash Kendra will begin a 4-day long workshop on "Dance Therapy for the Disabled". The workshop will be conducted by Arvil Fitman. Artistic Director of Magpie Dance of UK. Venue: Kendra premises at 22/2 Free School Street, Hattipool. Time: 8:30 am-5:00 pm.

Drama: Aranyak Natya Dal will present 'Ibishi' as part of Mamunur Rashid Retrospective. Venue: Mohila Samity Auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

Exhibition: A three-day exhibition of solar energy technology will begin. Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor A K Azad Chowdhury will inaugurate the exhibition. Venue: Energy Park area on DU campus. Time: 9:30 am.

Exhibition: The 3rd solo exhibition of hand painted pottery and home textiles by Shahrukh Shahid is going on. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Rd. Time: 3:00pm-8:00 pm.

Inauguration: The new foot-bridge connecting Ramna Park and Suhrawardy Udyan will be inaugurated. Chief guest: DCC Mayor Md Hanif. Venue: Ramna. Time: 4:00 pm.

Discussion meeting: Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) will celebrate the anniversary of the 1st hoisting of the national flag. A discussion meeting will be held. Venue: Ramna Bataiul. Time: 4:00 pm.

Inaugural ceremony: The inaugural ceremony of the Diabetes In Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean & South East Asia (DMEMSEA) second conference will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:00 pm.

Launching ceremony: The launching ceremony of Minicon, a progestin-only oral contraceptive pill will be held. Organiser: Social Marketing Company. Chief guest: State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 7:00 pm.

Art exhibition: An art exhibition of artist Mahabub-ul Hussain (Nijhum) titled 'Images and words: The Millennium Wist' is going on. Venue: Conference room of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd. Time: 9:00am-12:00 pm, 5:00 pm-8:00pm.

Public forum: The Economic Relations Division (ERD) will organise a public forum on 'poverty reduction strategy'. Venue: Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM), Eskaton. Time: 9-15 am. Chief guest: Finance Minister S A M S Kibria.

..... and tomorrow

Founding anniversary: The 20th founding anniversary of Deep-Shikha Education cum Vocational Training Centre for women and children will be held. Venue: Samaj Ummayan Sangstha Bhaban, 413 Gulbag Road. Time: 10:30 am.

Film show: Three movies, *La vie est un long fleuve tranquille* (Life is a long quiet river), *Diva* and *Schindler's List*, will be screened. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Drama: Aranyak Natya Dal will present *Ora Kadam Ali* on the last day of Mamunur Rashid Retrospective. Earlier a Seminar will be held. Venue: Mohila Samity Auditorium. Time: Seminar — 10:00 am, drama — 9:00 pm.

Monthly meeting: The monthly meeting of the central executive committee of Sandhani Jatiya Chokkhu Dan Samity will be held. Venue: Samity office premises. Time: 10:00 am.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Temporary light rain and thundershowers likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi division in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said forecasting slight rise of day temperature.

The country's highest temperature 31.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and the lowest 11.1 degree Celsius at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:02 pm and rises on Friday at 6:19 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.0	15.4	53	47
Chittagong	27.3	17.0	79	82
Rajshahi	28.8	13.0	68	55
Khulna	30.5	14.2	85	53
Barisal	30.3	14.0	98	73
Sylhet	27.8	13.7	70	45
Cox's Bazar	28.8	18.4	80	82

HERE and THERE

Pabna Samity

Pabna Samity organised a discussion on Ekushey February at its office premises in the city recently, reports BSS.

Samity Acting President Monjurul Haq presided over the meeting, held in observance of the immortal Ekushey February on Friday last.

Speakers at the meeting paid glowing tributes to the memory of the 1952 Language Movement martyrs, who laid down their lives for upholding the mother tongue Bangla.

Heroes of Language Movement Dr Sayed Haider, Adv Abdul Kuddus, Adv Torab Ali, Azad Khan, Rashid Haider, Makid Hader, Sahadat Hossain and Anwar Uddin, among others, spoke on the occasion.

The speakers called upon the country's intellectuals to take

initiatives for development of Bangla language as well as its application in all spheres of national activities.

Samity Secretary Mojibul Haq conducted the function.

Bangladesh Jatiya Bodhir Sangstha

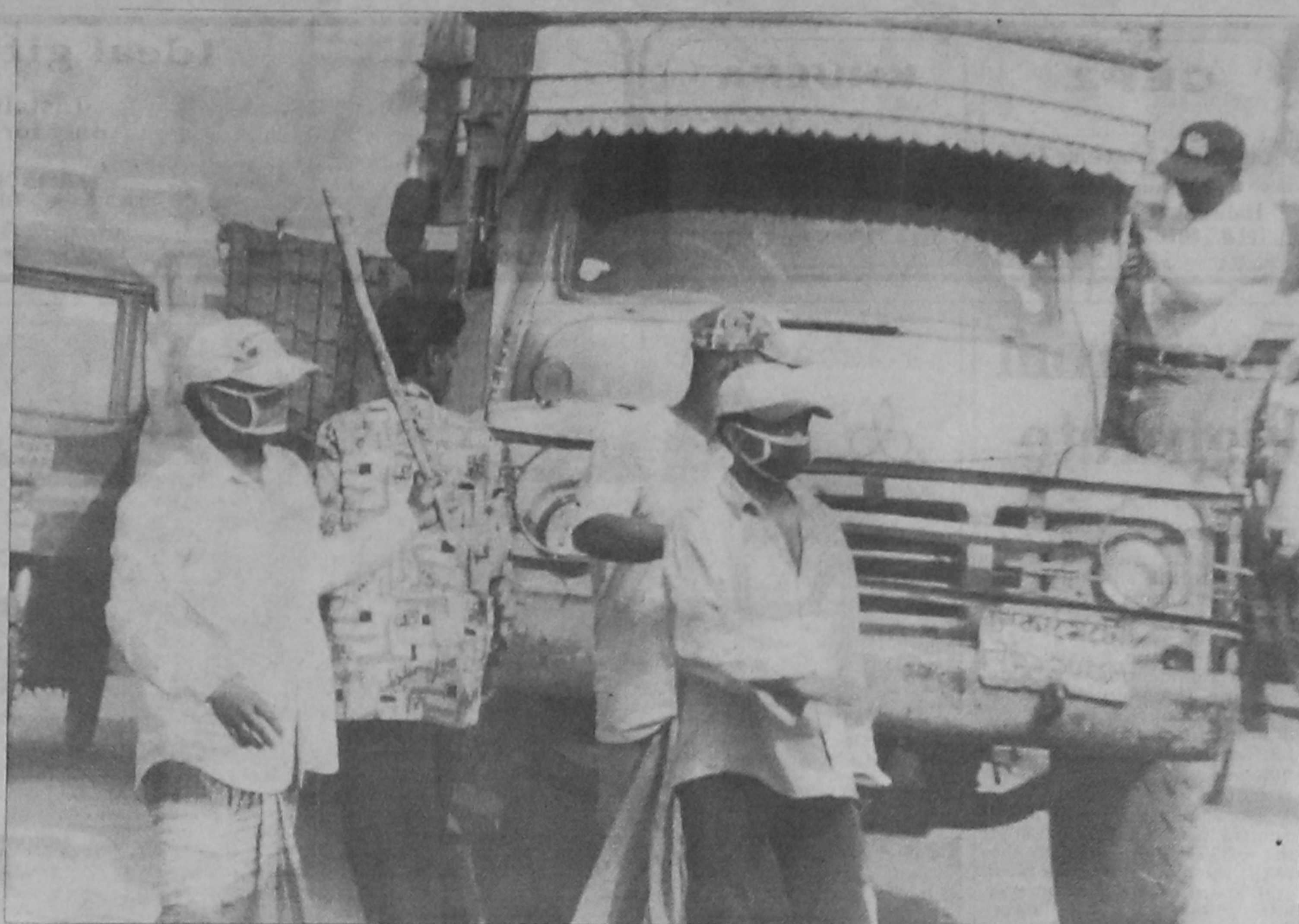
The annual general meeting of the executive committee of the Bangladesh Jatiya Bodhir Sangstha was held at its 62, Bijoynagar office premises recently, says a press release.

The meeting discussed measures for proper utilisation of the institution's property to raise its income and decided to construct multi-storied building there.

President of the Institution Abul Haris Chowdhury presided over the meeting.



The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Jatiya Bodhir Sangstha was held in the city recently.



Unidentified people seen controlling traffic on the busy Gabtoli-Mirpur bus terminal area yesterday. Even though the Police Week is going on, there is no sign of any traffic personnel here, leaving the safety of vehicular movement on this road in the hands of these people as seen in the picture. Whose safety are they looking out for? — Star photo

Clinton's visit Student bodies announce agitation programmes

By DU Correspondent

A platform of some left-leaning student organisations yesterday announced a series of agitation programme on the Dhaka University campus protesting the planned visit of US President Bill Clinton on March 20.

The programmes include procession on the campus and rallies at Aparajevo Bangla on March 4, 6, 8 and 11. Teachers, intellectuals, cultural activists, former student leaders and political leaders will express solidarity with the programmes, a leader of the platform said.

On March 5, they will stage demonstration in six divisional cities and will bring out a black-flag procession towards Foreign Ministry and stage demonstration across the country on March 9.

They will also burn an effigy of Bill Clinton and bring out a procession and march towards American Embassy on March 12 and on March 14 they will stage demonstration and bring out processions throughout the country.

On the day of Clinton's arrival, March 20, they will hoist black-flag in all educational institutions across the country.

The programmes were announced at a press conference at the Dhaka University campus at noon in presence of leaders of the student bodies.

Addressing the press conference, the leaders said Clinton's visit cannot be a friendly visit. The visit is for the petty interest of imperialist USA to manipulate the process of bidding for the natural resources of Bangladesh.

The platform, which is yet to be named, includes Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), Bangladesh Chhatra Maitry (BCM), BSD-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Bangladesh Chhatra Federation (BCF), Jatiya Chhatra Dal (JCD), Biplobi Chhatra Sangha (BCS), Chhatra Oikya Forum (COF), Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) and Bangladesh Chhatra Samity (BCS).

Meanwhile, the organisations also brought out procession and held rallies on the campus separately.

SPAFFC team visits JPC

A five-member delegation of Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPAFFC) visited National Press Club yesterday, reports UNB.

Led by Fu Feng Hao, Secretary General of SPAFFC, the delegation members exchanged views with Press Club President Khandaker Monirul Alam, General Secretary Swapna Kumar Shah and Joint Secretary Bakhtiar Rana.

The delegation arrived in the city on February 28 on a six-day visit to Bangladesh.

Obituary

Begum Safura Khatun, an educationist died of old-age complications on February 28, says a press release. Eldest daughter of social worker late Munshi Borhan Uddin, Begum Safura Khatun's husband late Alhaj Moulavi Mohammad Sekander Ali was an elected member of Dhaka District Board.

She is survived by two daughters, one son and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A *milad mahfil* has been organised after Maghrib prayers at the residence of the deceased at 761 Satnasjid Road today.

JS body told Steps already taken to minimise system loss in power sector

Steps have been taken for strengthening inspection system and snapping illegal electricity lines to minimise the system loss in power sector, a parliamentary committee was told at a meeting yesterday, reports UNB.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry also discussed the quantum of power generation and its demand, supply and loadshedding situation.

It was informed that the country's highest power production in September 1998 was 2,185 mw and it rose to 2,617 mw in the same month of 1999 and now it stands at 2,650 mw.

With the gradual increase in power production, loadshedding has come down to a great extent in the country compared to the previous years, the meeting

observed.

Reviewing the progress of the implementation of its previous decisions, the committee at the meeting asked the authorities concerned to immediately implement those decisions, which could not yet be implemented.

It also urged the Energy Ministry to submit a report on it in the next meeting.

Chaired by committee chairman Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, the meeting was attended by its members — State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam, Imran Ahmad, AB Tazul Islam, M Zillul Hakim and Mahbubur Rahman.

Energy and Mineral Resources Division Secretary Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Acting Secretary of Power Division Arbindu Kar and concerned officials were present.

BKL to observe 'Peasant Killing Day' Mar 15

Bangladesh Krishak League (BKL) will observe March 15 as 'Krishak Hayta Dibash' (peasant killing day) as a mark of respect to 18 peasants who were killed during the rule of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a regular monthly meeting of the BKL secretaries with General Secretary Harun Or Rashid Hawladar in the chair here on Tuesday a League press release said yesterday.

The press release said since March 15, 1995, a total of 18 peasants were killed while running a movement to fertiliser from the then BNP government.

The Krishak League described the incidents peasant's killings as a condemnable incident in the history of peasant movement in the sub-continent.

The meeting has decided to distribute posters and handbills, and wear black badges and hold seminars and discussions at all units of the Krishak League on the occasion.

Muktijuddho Sangathak Parishad formed

Commerce Minister Mohammad Abdul Jalil yesterday chaired a meeting of the camp in-charges of the Muktijuddho Shibir in 1971 at the conference hall of Bangladesh B tar, reports BSS.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed was present at the meeting.

The state minister reiterated the objectives of the Liberation War and said that the freedom fighters participated in the war under the able leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to establish a golden Bengal free from communalism, poverty, hunger and oppression.

He urged all pro-liberation forces to create collective resistance against efforts of the previous governments to establish Pakistani values to destroy the basic spirits of 1971.

The tiger is now at present captive in the house of one Shariful Islam of the village.

Police however could not confirm the incident.

Villagers catch tiger in Benapole

BENAPOLE, Mar 1: Local people caught a tiger alive from village Kandapuri in Sharsha thana today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said villagers caught the tiger after it took shelter inside a culvert.

NAM summit JS body reviews progress of construction of installations

A parliamentary committee reviewed progress of construction of Bangabandhu International Conference Centre and other installations for holding NAM summit, reports UNB.

Construction of 1000 flats for the participating foreign guests and steps for the beautification of Dhaka city were also discussed by the Parliamentary

Standing Committee on Housing and Public Works Ministry in its meeting yesterday.

The committee thanked the prime Minister for her personal initiative for the construction of 216-suite housing complex at Nakhapara as per demand of MPs.

Chaired by committee chairman Akhtaruzzaman, the meeting also urged the authorities concerned to complete the work on time.

At the beginning, the meeting observed one-minute silence at the death of State Minister of the Ministry Dr Alaud-din.

Committee members Housing and Public Works Minister Engr Mosharrar Hossain, Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury, Haji Mohammad Selim, Mustafizur Rahman, Rehana Aktar, Sham-suzzaman Dudu, M Ahsanul Huq Mollah and Ziaul Huq attended the meeting.

Slaughtered body of young man found in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 1: The slaughtered body of a suspected informer of police was recovered from a wheat field in Arat-hajar thana area in the early hours today.

The dead was identified as Jobed Ali, 30, son of Hajrat Ali, a resident of Naikaton village of the thana, police said. Hajrat is an accused in at least five cases filed with police.

According to people of Naikaton village, Ali was an informer working for police. Police, however, could not confirm it.

Police said that three people, known to the victim, called him out of his house on Tuesday night. He has been missing since. His killers dumped his body inside a wheat field at Kaiyampur village after slaughtering him.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. None, however, was arrested in this connection.

A murder case was filed with police in connection with the murder.

Envoys of US, Bulgaria call on Samad

US Ambassador to Bangladesh John C Holzman called on Foreign Minister Abulhasan Azad at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

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

Bulgarian Ambassador in Bangladesh Edvin Sugarev also called on the Foreign Minister at the latter's office yesterday.

During the meeting, Sugarev said the bilateral relations between the two countries would be strengthened in the days to come.

ADP

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ments must take initiatives to improve the implementation process and utilise the total project aid.

Funds may be transferred to the projects that have chances of speedy implementation from the ones with slow pace, it said.

Every ministry and department must ensure effective empowerment of the project directors, the ministry added.

Indian polls

From Page 12

If the mood in Congress camp is not upbeat, there is not much to cheer about in the BJP camp also. True, the NDA managed to wrest power in Orissa and retain it in Haryana, the inescapable message is that it is BJP's allies BJD and Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) which won the battle single-handedly for NDA in Orissa and Haryana respectively.

The results have reduced BJP to second fiddles to its allies in Orissa and Haryana. The BJP suffered major reverses in Haryana because its number of seats went down by almost half compared to previous polls in 1995 and three of its senior leaders in the state had been defeated.

In Bihar, the BJP, disappointed by its performance as well as that of its allies Samata Party and JD(U), pulled itself out of the race for Chief Ministership in spite of emerging as the lead partner of NDA.

There is recognition in NDA that bitter tussle among the constituents over seat-sharing just prior to the elections did not send the right signal to the voters and affected their performance in Bihar.

There is speculation that the assembly elections results will have bearing on ties between BJP and its allies at the centre with the possibility of the latter becoming more vocal after their impressive show in the states.

Some senior BJP leaders have already said the INLD had a hand in ensuring BJP's defeat in at least 16 constituencies in Haryana, a charge denied by INLD president Om Prakash Chautala.

By contrast, Laloo Prasad Yadav has displayed remarkable resilience to survive the odds and stave off the onslaught not only from NDA but also from his one-time allies like CPI, CPI (ML) and Samajwadi Party which had deserted him ahead of the polls.

Laloo Yadav has no doubt been helped by bickerings within the NDA over seat-sharing before the elections and the presence of a fair number of 'rebel' candidates of NDA constituent parties in the fray who were denied nominations.

But more than that, Yadav seemed to have succeeded in carving out for himself the image of a 'martyr' hounded by most of his political rivals who themselves are far from fully united.

Besides, the opponents have failed to make much dent in Laloo Yadav's personal image as a champion of the downtrodden and the backward classes and castes, indicating that political realignments have not had major impact on the caste equations in Bihar that have helped his rule for a decade.

Trade union at EPZs

From Page 1
The labour minister also said his ministry did not make any particular suggestion on the issue. He favoured continuing to woo foreign investment relaxing the labour law.

He observed that if the existing labour laws were strictly implemented many factories would face closure giving rise to unemployment in the country.

The US government is putting pressure on Bangladesh to withdraw restrictions on forming trade union in its two EPZs. Washington also threatened to cancel GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) facilities for Bangladesh's exports to the US market.

The US pressure came after American Federation of Labour Council and Industrial Organisations (AFLCIO), the largest platform of US trade unions, alleged in last June that there were violation of workers rights in the EPZs.

The US ambassador held series of meetings with ministers, BEZA authority and investors of Dhaka and Chittagong EPZ for allowing trade union activities, ensuring freedom of expression and freedom of assembling by the labourers in the

zones. But the government is reluctant to allow free trade union activities in the zones as it may upset the existing peaceful working condition in the zone. Foreign and local investors in the EPZs also threatened to withdraw their investment if the congenial atmosphere was disturbed.

The issue may feature in the official discussion between Dhaka and Washington during Clinton's visit scheduled for 20 of this month.

Bangladesh' permanent mission in Geneva also urged the government recently to solve the trade union issue as there has been serious criticism in various international arena.

In a letter to foreign secretary Shafi Shami, the mission said that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other international organisations were very critical of the country over the issue.

Bangladesh is often singled out as one of the few countries that does not allow to exercise trade union rights in the EPZs, the letter said, calling for quick settlement of the controversial issue.

IT emergency

From Page 1

persuaded us to establish the centre."

In addition to its emergency functions, the centre will serve as a research and training facility where professors and university students can study the effects of viruses on computer systems.

Funding for the centre will come from local and international sources.

"We have received assurances from the government and the Asian Development Bank that they will fund the project," said the official.

The centre will be set up at the council's office in Dhan-mondi. It will be moved to Agargaon once the council's new building is complete. The centre should be fully operational by June 2002.

Sharif

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veal state secrets. Instead the court ordered Sharif and his co-accused to give their testimony in writing.

Judge Rehmetullah Hussein Jalil did however say Sharif could give a verbal testimony, but he would reserve the right to prevent any part of it from being made public.

Sharif's lawyers said that wasn't good enough and resigned.

Today the court allowed Sharif to make a 15-minute statement in which he accused the prosecution of browbeating his defense, planting listening devices in his cell and denying him free access to his lawyers.

However, he refused an offer by the judge to have the trial sent to another court.

Sharif's being tried along with his brother and five other close associates. Lawyers for all, but two of the defendants have resigned.

In court today Sharif said he discovered in newspapers that his lawyers resigned.

"I have not seen my lawyers for the past four days and have come to know about their withdrawal from newspapers," he said.

"The prosecution was trying to browbeat the defense and its witnesses. We were humiliated and provoked by the prosecution and the authorities," said Sharif.

Sharif accused the authorities of denying his lawyers free access to him.

He complained that listening devices have been placed in his prison cell and in the armoured personnel carrier in which he is taken to court.

"I am surrounded by security and intelligence people all the time. And our notes prepared for my statement in the court were stolen. All these factors compelled my lawyers to withdraw," he said.

"A democratically elected prime minister has been branded as a terrorist. What message we are sending to the international community?" he said.

NOTICE

In the court of Sub-ordinate Judge and Artha Rin Adalat No. 4, Dhaka

Money Suit No. 79/99

Rupali Bank Limited

Through, Foreign Exchange Corporate Branch
9/G, Motijheel Commercial Area
P. S. Motijheel, Dhaka.

Plaintiffs.

VERSUS

Md. Abdul Latif

son of late Md. Mogdam Ali
207/1, New Circular Road
Bara Moghbazar, Dhaka.

Defendant.

The above named defendant are notified that the plaintiff Rupali Bank Limited has filed the above mentioned Suit to realise Taka 27,34,269/63 with interest upto 30.09.1999. The defendants are hereby directed to appear before the Court on 21.03.2000 personally or through lawyer duly authorised to submit reply, if any, otherwise the suit shall be disposed of ex parte.

Given under my signature and seal on 24.02.2000

By order

Mohammed Ali Bhuiyan

Sheristader

Sub-ordinate Judge and Artha

Rin Adalat No. 4, Dhaka.