What's on today

Discussion meeting : Bangladesh Astronomical Society will hold a discussion meeting to mark the 25th death anniversary of renowned astrologer Radhagobinda Chandra. Venue: House no 19, Road no 13/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 3.30

BSM national conference: The 1st national conference and scientific session of Bangladesh Society of Medicine (BSM) will be held. Venue: Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.30 am.

..... and tomorrow

Opening ceremony: The Bangal Gallery of Fine Arts will be opened. It will be a part of a multi-purpose art and cultural organisation 'Bengal Shilpalaya'. Noted educationist Dr Anisuzzaman will formally launch the 'Bangal Shilpalaya'. Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, House No 275/F, Road No 27 (old), Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.

Roundtable discussion: A roundtable discussion on 'Role of Press Council in Upholding Press Freedom and Protecting Individual Rights will be held. Organiser: Bangladesh Press Council. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30 am.

DRU meeting: A meeting of the executive committee of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will be held. Venue: DRU premises, 8/4-A Topkhana Road, Segunbagicha. Time: 1.00 pm.

Veather

No change in temperature

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur over the regions of Mymensingh and Sylhet in the 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, the Met Office said forecasting nearly unchanged day temperature across the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 39.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Ishurdi and the lowest 20.4 degree Celsius at Syed-

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.16 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.37 am.

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

	in Celsius		Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.1	25.1	75	55
Chittagong	31.5	22.5	73	77
Rajshahi	38.8	24.0	58	34
Khulna	36.2	25.2	74	48
Barisal	34.5	24.2	74	74
Sylhet	33.3	23.8	77	63
Cox's Bazar	31.6	23.8	77	80

HERE and THERE

IUBAT

A seminar on "Strategy of City Roads and Highways" was held in the conference room of IUBAT — International University of Business Agriculture and Technology at 5.00 pm on Saturday, says a press release.

Dr Murshed Delwar, Transportation Engineer. Washington State Department of Transportation, USA, made a presentation at the seminar.

In his presentation, Dr Delwar described an analysis model, for maintaining a network consisting of roads and highways, that enables the model's user, public or private, to determine a priority based sequence of roads/highways (for maintenance) which will provide the maximum benefit to the road users over its life cycle. The basic concept of the model is that the roads/ highways maintenance decisions and their implementation practices should offer the maximum benefit to their

Dr Delwar was accorded a reception before the seminar which was presided over by Prof Dr Muhammad Abdul Halim Shaikh, Chair, College of Engineering and Technology.

Results of selection test

The results of the selection test for the post of 'Scientific Officer' of Soil Resources Development Institute under the Ministry of Agriculture held on March 3, at Tejgaon College in Dhaka have been announced, says a press release.

The candidates bearing the following registration numbers have come out successful in the

কৃতকার্য প্রাথীদের রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বরঃ-000000, 0000009, 0000000, 000083, 000082,000064,000049,000063, 0000b2, 0000b8, 0000b9, 000b82, ately. 000389,000360,000396,000396, 000199,000506,000516,000566, 000009, 000098, 000006, 000809, 000880,000885,000888,000895, 000898,000820,000822,000006, 000000,0000000,000000,000000. 000668,000633,000632,000633, 000908,000960,000660,000866, 1 PE \$8= 500000

cessful candidates will be intimated in due course through dailies and interview cards will be sent by mail on time.

Death anniversary



am, one of the school premises. organisers of

says a press release.

Dr Ashiqul Alam Foundation has taken up a 3-day programme on the occasion. A memorial meeting will be held at Anirban Nursing Home, 14/29 Shahjahan Road, Mohammadpur tomorrow at 5 pm. A milad mahfil will be held at his Mohammadpur residence at 6:30 pm on that day.

PPRC, Samata

Participants in a grassroots Road Network Maintenance - consultation, with the Paris Consortium meeting in mind. underscored the need for an anti-poverty strategy-building process built on a re-orientation towards regenerating the local economy and coalitionbuilding between local actors, says a press release.

The consultation was organised by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) in association with the land-rights NGO Samata at Samata headquarters in Bishnupur village in Pabna recently. Local NGOs, Union Chairmen and members, professionals from the northern districts participated in the daylong consultation.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman coordinated the consultation while Abdul Quader, Executive Director Samata presided over the occasion. Participants highlighted how common people are transforming the ground realities of Bangladesh and their readiness to embrace meaningful strategies which can lead way out of poverty.

BNCC

A 2-day convention "Elimination of Child Labour and Expedition of Ratification of ILO Convention 182" was held from March 29-30 at the Labour Hall of BCTEU-BNCC premises, says a press release.

The convention was organised by Bangladesh National Coordinating Council (BNCC) of Textile Garments and Leather Workers International Textile Garments Leather Workers Federation and FND.

The convention was presided over by labour leader Mujibur Rahman Bhuiyan. ITGLWF leader and education editor Steve Grinter and representative of FNV Netherlands Annie Ven Wizel spoke at the conven-

By Staff Correspondent The second branch of Fu-The viva-voce for the suc- turekids Gateway (Pvt) Ltd was inaugurated at Road No 27 at Dhanmondi Residential Area in the city yesterday.

Kazi Fazlur Rahman, former secretary of the government of Bangladesh and a former member of council of advisers of The 3rd death caretaker government opened anniversary of the branch of Gateway Kids Dr Ashiqul Al- School of computing at the

After the inauguration Dr H Mass Upsurge K Alles, Director of the Gateway of '69 and for- Kids School of Computing and mer central pre- Gateway Centre for Informasident of Bang- tion Technology briefed the ladesh Private journalists of the courses and Medical Practitioners' Associa- curriculum offered by the instition will be observed tomorrow, tution. It also offers courses for adults. Students of post SSC and HSC students, professionals like doctors, engineers, accountants, bankers, teachers, lawyers, administrative staff and even housewives may take

up the course. The first branch at Dhanmondi opened in December. Three hundred kids are studying there, the organiser source informed.



Rotary's Public Relation Committee held a press briefing at local hotel yesterday on the upcoming Rotary international presidential conference 2000 to be held in the city from - Star photo April 7-9.

Dam that dampens hopes

of a dam that dampens the hopes and aspirations of our triumphant farmers. The embankments, which were conrecurring floods in northern region, have now become barriers to cultivation, reports UNB.

According to sources at Water Development Board, a vast track of croplands in the region remains uncultivated each year because of faulty construction of the embankments.

The embankments were thana. constructed under the 'Chalan Beel Project,' stretching over 12 thanas of Pabna, Natore and Sirajganj.

The project, involving Tk 43.46 crore, was launched in 1977 with financial assistance from World Food programme (WFP) and International Development Fund (IDF) to control flood and thus boost agricultural output.

Under the project, some 123 miles of flood control embankment have been constructed in Rajshahi, Naogaon, Sirajganj, Natore and Pabna in addition to excavating 65 miles of canal, setting up of 12 regulators, 93 flushing inlets, and constructing of three

RAJSHAHI. Apr 2: It's a tale bridges/culverts and 14 build-

But the farmers could not be benefited by the embankments as those were washed away at planned way. structed to save croplands from different points due to unplanned and faulty construc- ment Board had undertaken tion, causing colossal loss to

More worrying is that the project works were abandoned halfway in 1998 in Rajshahi district after installation of a regulator in a connecting point of the Baral River in Charghat

thorities stopped sanctioning funds for the project in 1984 after the engineers concerned sent a report suggesting that 'the remaining works are not neces-On the other hand, a 125-km

According to sources, the au-

embankment was constructed from Kamalnagarpar of Natore to Mahadevpur of Naogaon well before the suspension of funds. But necessary sluice gates

and regulators were not installed in the connecting points of the river and croplands. causing water stagnation and thus damaging crops and Another source said addi-

tional crops worth about Tk three crore could be produced every year if the embankments had been constructed in a

In 1998, the Water Developanother scheme, 'Barnai Project,' before completion of the 'Chalan Beel Project' to provide irrigation facilities to 48,300 hectares of land in Durgapur, Paba, Baghmara, Putia thanas of Rajshahi and Sadar thana of Natore district.

Under the 'Barnai Project, involving Tk 90.58 crore, a 55km embankment was constructed and another 485-km canal excavated. But these dams and canals too have turned out to be unhelpful for the farmers.

Agriculture officials said huge standing crops under the project area were damaged in the last year's flood as 26 kms area of the 147-km embankment on both sides of the Barnai river were washed away.

Besides, overall cultivation on 65,000 acres of land in Baghmara thana of Rajshahi and Sadar and Singra thanas of Natore is seriously being hampered due to lack of water drainage system.

HC asks EC, 4 others From Page 1

to show cause From Page 12 The Speaker sent the same to The High Court vesterday

asked the Election Commission (EC) and four others to show cause within four weeks why the EO notice to Anwar Hossain Manju to submit a reply for determination of a dispute regarding his membership in Parliament shall not be declared without lawful authority, reports BSS. The Bench Comprising Jus-

tice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hossain also stayed the operation of the EC notice dated March 29, 2000 till disposal of the rule. Anwar Hossain Manju, Sec-

retary General of Jatiya Party (M-M) filed a writ petition challenging the EC notice.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rashid Chowdhury on March 28 sent a reference to the EC under Section 66 (4) of the Constitution and under Section 3 of the Members of the Parliament (Determination of Dispute) Act, 1980 for determination of the dispute regarding Anwar Hossain Manju's membership in parliament.

the EC following an application by Jatiya Party Chairman Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

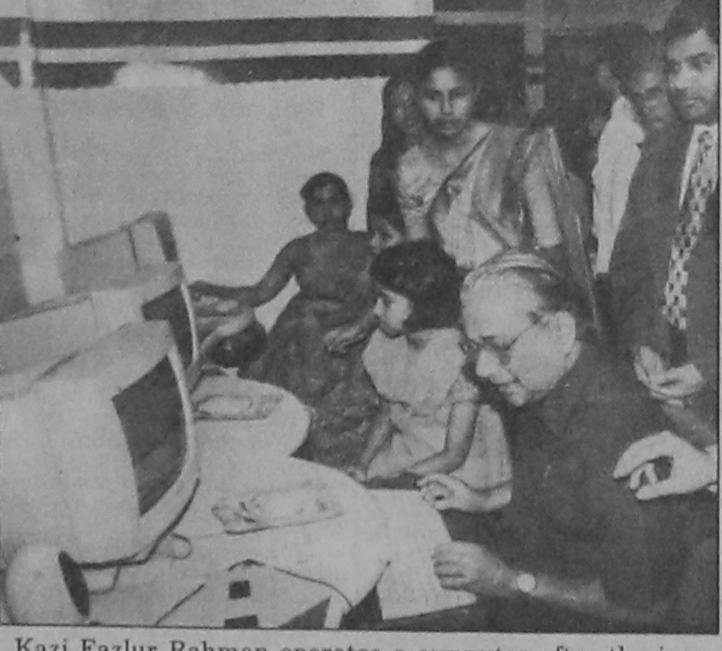
Ershad by a letter on March 2, 1998 asked Anwar Hossain Manju to resign from the post of Secretary General of the Jatiya Party but Manju did not comply with the order of the JP chair-

Thereafter on January 30 1999 as Chairman of Jatiya Party Ershad sent a letter to Manju informing him that his membership has been cancelled from Jatiya Party and proclaimed that Manju is not any more a member of Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party.

The JP Party Chairman also sent a letter to the Speaker informing him the party decision and requested him to refer the same to the EC to cancel the membership of Manju in Par-

Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed with Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmood moved the petition. Barrister Nihat Kabir, Advocate Mubina Asaf Rahman, Advocate Sheikh Hasan Arif and Advocate Mohammad Asaduzzaman assisted them.





Kazi Fazlur Rahman operates a computer after the inauguration of the 2nd branch of Futurekids Gateaway Pvt Ltd at Dhanmondi yesterday morning. The centre provides courses specially designed for children.

- Star photo

3 posh areas

activities in the guest houses/rest houses and clubs, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim told Parliament yesterday replying to a question from Begum Aleya Afroj (AL-Women

He said the government has also formed a taskforce headed by the DG Narcotics Control to stop misuse and illegal business of rectified spirit. The main responsibility of

the taskforce is to formulate recommendations to stop misuse of rectified spirit, he added. Meanwhile, a chemical lab-

oratory will start functioning by June 2000. This will be used by the Narcotics Control Department for speedy disposal of narcotics related cases. The Dog Squad of the Police

Department is also being used for preventing drugs related crimes.

The Home Minister informed the House that so far 30,408 cases against 28,588 people have been filed in the Narcotics Control Department since its inception in 1990.

He said that in September 99, the department recovered 24 kg heroin from three Pakistani nationals in Dhaka.

Nasim: Clinton

From Page 1 States to foil Clinton's visit We are also trying to identify the people behind the conspiracy ... We must unmask their faces." he told the House. The home minister said it

was the opposition who said problem in security provided by Bangladesh government forced Clinton to cancel the Savar visit. But it had no basis, he

"But everybody knows that it nel who decided to cancel his Savar visit, which the US Pres-

Nasim said, "We are sorry that he (Clinton) did not go to Savar. Regarding comments by

Khaleda and other opposition leaders. Nasim said they were making such accusation against the government only for political ends. "Everyone knows Clinton came to see the success of

democracy led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina."

Classes not held at CU on second day

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Apr 2: Situation at the Chittagong University (CU) remained tense as classes were not held for the second day today. Although administrative

activities went on as usual, the situation worsened further today when the university-bound shuttle trains did not operate following abduction of a train driver.

CMCH tense

From Page 12 forts were underway to sort out the problem through dialogue with the leaders of doctors there. He claimed that there was no dislocation in normal services at CMCH.

On the otherhand, a doctor at CMCH. Abul Basher Chowdhury, alleged that a bomb attack was made at his residence in Kulshi area in the city last night. Two bombs were hurled at the first floor of his three storied building at about 1 am but no damage was caused. Negotiations with the com-

He said that he informed police about this as he felt threat-

Police, however, did not confirm the incident

Meanwhile, the Awami League supported Quaderi-Siraj panel which lost the election. has demanded recounting of votes, raising allegation of rigging. Addressing a press conference at the local press club today, incumbent general secretary of BMA unit here Dr Sirajul Islam alleged that the rigging was done as part of a conspiracy backed by BMA polls commission here.

BNP strategy

From Page 1 municipal polls was the 'biggest ever mistake of the party.

"The decision to boycott local government polls frustrated party leaders and activists and also discouraged them to go for anti-government movement," he said and blamed the hard liners and the leaders who lost the 1996 polls for 'misguiding' the party.

"A section of BNP leaders (hard liners) are in fact working to implement government designs and boycott of municipal polls was part of those designs".

Referring to movement, unity in the four-party alliance and formation of an electoral alliance in future, a member of the BNP Standing Committee said the party will not leave the streets until the fall of this government. If necessary, it will go for non-stop hartal and other action programmes to topple the AL government.

He said the party has decided to strengthen the party and take preparations for the parliamentary polls while continuing the current one-point move-

"We will intensify the current movement to press the government to step down and hold early parliamentary polls. Side by side, we will prepare for the next parliamentary polls," BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told this correspondent yesterday.

Bhuiyan said the government is completely isolated from the people because of its immense failures and misdeeds and it has no alternative but to resign and hand over power to a caretaker administration for holding early general elections.

The BNP Secretary General denied that there is any dispute or misunderstanding among the component parties of the BNP-led opposition alliance and said his party is sincerely trying to maintain unity in the alliance and further consoli-

About BNP's current strategy, Mannan Bhuiyan said the party is going for a massive mass contact programme as part of it.

Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia has already visited different parts of the country. She concluded her three-day visit to Khulna, Bagerhat and Narail yesterday and will go to Chittagong tomorrow to address a joint public meeting there.

She is likely to visit Cox's Bazar and some areas of Chittagong on April 9,10 and 11 and Jessore and Satkhira on April 15-16. There is also a plan for a Dhaka-greater Sylhet 'road march' this month.

Nasim: PSA

From Page 1

ishment to an accused only on the basis of prior written testimony of prosecution witness without being cross-examined.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of home affairs for scrutiny, while the chair asked the parliamentary body to submit its report "shortly."

Death ref

the plea that they would go by the serial of death references pending with the HC.

Loadshedding

From Page 1

The Power Development Board (PDB) generated 2464 favour of the party candidate megawatt of power yesterday against a countrywide requirement of 2650 megawatt.

According to officials, suspension of power generation in the units and increase in seasonal demand were the reasons behind severe loadshedding in the capital as well as other parts of the country. Sources said the power re-

quirement in Dhaka Electricity Supply Authorities command areas was around 1100 megawatt yesterday while PDB allocation for DESA was 900 megawatt. The 13 power generating

units which remained shut yesterday are, Ashuganj Gas Turbine-2, Shiddhirganj-4, Sylhet Gas, Shahjibazar 3, 6, 7, Fenchuganj Gas Turbine 1, 2, Fenchuganj Steam, Khulna barge-mounted plant-1, Barisal-2, Baghabari Gas Turbine and Ghorasal-6.

Unocal: Block 7

From Page 1 stay. But no PSCs was signed.

panies lingered over two years

apparently because of the polit-

ically sensitive issue of gas ex-

port which multinational bid-

ders strongly advocate for en-

suring a wide market base for

quick returns on their invest-

against gas export put both the

government and major politi-

gas will be exported only after

having a reserve to meet do-

mestic consumption for 50

figured in the official talks be-

tween Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina and US President Bill

Clinton where the prime minis-

ter also cleared her governmen-

termed the striking of the PSC

as a "milestone in the growth of

agreement has achieved inter-

national standards giving the

country's interest topmost pri-

Terry Budden said they would

carry out exploration with

BAPEX, which will help reduce

production costs and help

RMG sector

From Page 1

The government should also

place the sector under the con-

trol of a single agency, elimi-

nating bureaucratic red tape

and overlap. Spinning, weav-

ing, dyeing, printing and fin-

ishing are governed currently

by the Ministry of Textiles,

while the ready made garment

sector falls under the Export

Promotion Bureau and the Min-

except the essential sector from

hartals and other political pro-

grammes. Police should give

preferential treatment to the

transportation of the sectors

materials and finished prod-

Political parties should also

istry of Commerce.

Unocal Bangladesh chief

Abul Hasnat Abdullah

Rafiqul Islam said, "The

t's position on the issue.

oil and gas sector."

ority here.'

supplies.

The issue of gas export also

cal parties in the same stance:

ments.

years.

mutual benefit. Unocal was among the 22 Unocal proposes companies that took part in the to develop WRIP second-round bidding in 1997 Meanwhile, Unocal proposed for 15 gas blocks. Petrobangla developing the Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP) that received 37 proposals for appraisal and exploration works includes construction of a gas in the 12 blocks, excepting three pipeline from Bhola to Khulna blocks (Block 1, 2 and 23) where and generation of 350 MW no company did show any in-

power from three plants. The government renewed the letter of intent with the US company for the WRIP development recently, with BAPEX as Unocal's proposed partner in

transfer of technology to the

Shahbazpur Gas Field. Unocal expects to supply gas to western region from the Shahbazpur Gas Field, which Strong political opposition may contain more than 400 BCF (billion cubic feet) of recov-

erable natural gas. Unocal and BAPEX would utilise project financing to fund development of the project.

PM: Temple

From Page

to the Prime Minister said this

while briefing newsmen. The Prime Minister pointed out that the government has initiated a large number of reforms in various sectors, and has restored discipline in the

financial sector. The Prime Minister said that Bangladesh needed financial assistance from development partners to set up a deep sea port for faster cargo handling with a view to befitting

the burgeoning economy of the country. Substantial improvement has been achieved in the power and gas sector. Now there is a 500 kilometer integrated national grid through which power can reach remotest areas of the country. The system loss has been brought down from 40

to 25 per cent, she said. Temple while welcoming government's macro management of the economy, sought the Prime Minister's intervention to speed up reforms in some sectors.

The donors have welcomed the signing of water sharing treaty with India and solution of two-decade old ethnic problems in the Chittagong Hill Tracts by signing a treaty and restoring peace in the region, Temple was quoted as telling the prime minister.

privilege of addressing the il-

lustrious scholars at one of the

highest seats of learning in the

prominent individuals like

former US Presidents George

Bush and Gerald Ford, former

Soviet President Mikhail Gor-

bachev, President Olusegun

Obasanja of Nigeria, Greek

President Constantin Stephan-

opoulos and PLO Chairman

Yasser Arafat have spoken at

Shafi Sami said the Prime Min-

ister's trip would be yet another

opportunity to build on the

favourable impression that

ladesh today against the

backdrop of President Clintc.

About the current visit,

Over the past several years,

modern world."

PM leaves tomorrow

for 1999 from the Randolph-Macon Women's College at Lynchburg, Virginia at a special

ceremony. The college decided to honour Sheikh Hasina with the award this year in recognition to her vision, courage and achievements in politics, economic and humanitarian

The day of the award ceremony will be declared as "Sheikh Hasina Day" in the the forum. State of Virginia. The College has chalked out an elaborate programme to extend a very warm welcome to the prime minister.

The Mayor of Lynchburg Americans have about Bang-City will present the key of the city to Sheikh Hasina while the entire community will be involved in the ceremony. The first recipient of the award was former President of Philippines Mrs Corazon Aquino.

deliver a speech on "Role of Women in the 21st Century. Before returning back home,

the prime minister is expected to open the new chancery building of Bangladesh Embassy in Washington.

Minister's presence in Harvard

"successful" visit to Dhaka on March 20. The FS said her meeting with US scholars, students and members of the academia would Sheikh Hasina is expected to enable her to exchange views with them on major issues affecting developing countries. the potential and prospect of Bangladesh as well as her vi-

sion of a new Bangladesh. "The Prime Minister's visit to Harvard University and the Briefing newsmen on the Randolph-Macon Women's visit Foreign Secretary CM College is therefore very

Shafi Sami said: "The Prime timely Asked whether the Hasina will no doubt be an important will see President Clinton in occasion for Bangladesh as the Washington, the Foreign Secre-Prime Minister would be join- tary said when she would be in ing a select group of world the US capital, Clinton would

Rajshahi-5 election

statesmen who have had the not be in the town.

ing the decision of the party

anonymity.

"So, it will really be very difficult for him (Thandu) to win the race", he said. Meanwhile, Awami League high command has already sent

withdraw their candidature in and to work for him. Some AL central leaders are scheduled to visit Rajshahi by Tuesday to settle the matter. party sources said. The last date

'directives' to the 'rebels' to

of withdrawal of candidature is April 6. Brig (Rtd) Anisur Rahman and Azizul Azam have already been contacted and they may withdraw their candidature, but Raihan is adamant, the sources

said. "The party is going to face another debacle in the Rajshahi-5 by-polls after that in Sirajganj-2 by-polls," said an

The Rajshahi-5 seat fell vacant following the death of Dr Mohammad Alauddin on February 26. Another by-polls was held in the constituency on December 8 last when the seat had joined the AL government after being elected on a BNP

ticket in 1996 general election. A top party leader in the district told this correspondent that an attempt was made to replace Nurul Islam Thandu by Brig. (Rtd) Anisur Rahman as the party nominee. The source claimed that Raihan would agree to withdraw his candidature in vafour of Anisur Rah-

But when contacted, both Thandu and Raihan denied any such negotiation. Brig (Rtd) Anisur Rahman could not be reached for comment as he is in

Environ court

From Page 12

district and sessions judges.

court or authority. The courts will be manned by judges who will be appointed by the government in consultation with the Supreme Court. They will be from among the

The environment courts will be considered as criminal courts where criminal procedures and codes will be followed. But to try and dispose of

compensation cases, the Civil

Procedure Code will follow and the court will be considered as a civil court. Hearing of a case will not be adjourned more than three times and it will be disposed of

within 180 days. None other than a person designated by the Director Gen-

was declared vacant by the Elec- eral of the Department of Envition commission following ronment will be authorised to floor-crossing by Alauddin. He conduct investigation.

From Page 1 was Clinton's security personhigh command. Awami League sources said Speakers at the convention ber 8, 1998 for their involveleaders of Rajshahi district and urged the government to ratify ment in the killing of the Faident himself also explained city units of the party are also ILO convention 182 immedither of the Nation Bangabandhu dissatisfied with the nominaand regretted the cancellation." Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along tion. "Some of us also sought There was no question about with most of his family nomination but were refused. lack of security from the Former Awami League Mirpur unit leader Moshiur Rah-Futurekids Gateway members, on Aug 15, 1975. We have no interest in what is Bangladesh side. "I believe there The death reference was man Babu presenting flowers to BNP city convener going on in the area (the conwas no security problem for moved in the High Court four Sadek Hossain Khoka after joining the party yesterday. opens second stituency) regarding the by-Clinton to go to Savar." times earlier this year, but the polls issue," said a city unit Referring to controversy - Star photo state requests were rejected on branch in city leader on condition of over Clinton's cancelled visit,