

# The Nation

## What's on today....

**New year programme:** Institute of Business Studies, Darul Ihsan University will hold a programme to celebrate the Bengali New Year. Venue: Institute of Education, Darul Ihsan University, House No 85/A, Rd. No 11/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 9:00 am.

**Film show:** Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Pare* will be screened. Venue: Sufia Kamal Public Library auditorium. Time: 10:00 am, 12:00 noon, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

**Seminar:** Mount Elizabeth Hospital and Gleneagles Hospital as part of the Parkway Group World will hold a seminar on "Headache is not always simple" and "Cardiac Arrhythmias - What can be done?". Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 7:00 pm.

**Exhibition:** The 2nd art exhibition of Shabin Shahriar *Karun Charu* will be inaugurated. Venue: Zainul Gallery at Institute of Fine Arts, DU campus. Time: 10:00 am.

**Annual general meeting:** The annual general meeting (AGM) 1999 of the Hemophilia Society of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: 495, West Nakhalpara. Time: 3:00 pm.

**Award distribution:** Sher-e-Bangla Shikhiya O Gobeshona Parishad will hold the distribution ceremony of the Parishad's Sher-e-Bangla Gold Medal '99. Chief guest: Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 3:30 pm.

**ICAB seminar:** Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh will hold a mandatory CPE seminar on "Role of Company Secretary in Corporate Governance". Venue: ICAB auditorium, Chartered Accountant Bhaban, 100 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 3:30 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Sylhet Bibhag Jubo Parishad in association with Chatra will hold a discussion meeting on occasion of Bengali New Year 1407. Venue: 881 Shahidbagh. Time: 6:00 pm.

**Rally:** Chander Hat, an organisation for children and youth, will hold a rally to celebrate the Bengali New Year and its 26th founding anniversary. Venue: From in front of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 7:00 am.

**Cultural programme:** Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will hold a cultural programme. Venue: Academy premises. Time: 6:45 pm.

**Cultural programme:** Shetbandha will hold a cultural programme on occasion of Bengali New Year Day. Venue: Apartment No 102, House No 30, Rd No 7, Dhanmondi. Time: 7:00 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow .....

**Certificate awarding ceremony:** Monowara Hospital organises the certificate awarding ceremony of its training course on "Hospital Hygiene and Infection Control" organised with cooperation from ACADE, The School for Specialised Nursing Education Groningen, The Netherlands. Venue: Ball room III, Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 11:00 am.

**Discussion meeting:** Pabna Samity will hold a discussion meeting on occasion of Bengali New Year Day and Independence Day. The event will also comprise the Eid reunion of the Samity and will be followed by a cultural show and dinner. Venue: Samity's office at Shantibagh. Time: 3:00 pm.

**Seminar:** The Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) is association with Study and Research Group (MSS/SGR) will hold a seminar on "Women and Political Parties". Venue: Dhaka Ahsania Mission Auditorium, House No 19, Road No 12, Dhanmondi, R/A. Time: 3:30 pm.

**Distribution of crests:** Institute of Chartered Accountants will hold a ceremony to distribute crests to Language Movement Veterans and Freedom Fighters. Venue: Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh auditorium. Time: 5:15 pm, 9:30 pm.

**Music:** High Commission of India is present an evening of Bengali songs on occasion of *Pahela Baishakh* by students and staff of Sangeet Bhavan Chittagong. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, 754 Satmasjid Road. Time: 7:00 pm.

**Seminar:** The first ever national dissemination seminar on REFLECT, an approach to education, empowerment and social change, will be held. Organisers: Forum for Participatory Education and Development (FPED) in collaboration with ActionAid Bangladesh. Chief guest: State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir. Venue: IDP Bhaban.

## Weather

### Day temp may rise

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary dryness and the regions of Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Jessor and Kushtia 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.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Met Office in a special warning said temporary west/north-westerly Kalbaishakhi squall speed 60-80 kph or more at places with rain or thundershowers is likely over the regions of Jessor, Kushtia, Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Dhaka, Tangail, Comilla, Mymensingh and Sylhet during the next 12 hours commencing 6 pm today.

The country's highest temperature 37.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessor and the lowest 21.0 degree Celsius at Rangamati and Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.20 pm and rises on Saturday at 5.37 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	34.3	24.2	77	51
Chittagong	32.7	22.0	72	72
Rajshahi	34.7	23.8	87	60
Khulna	36.0	23.2	80	-
Barisal	35.3	23.4	77	63
Sylhet	32.5	21.4	69	64
Cox's Bazar	33.4	23.5	59	68

## HERE and THERE

### Suriya Sen parishad

By Staff Correspondent  
Mastarda Suriya Sen Parishad has called upon various social and political organisations to observe the 70th anniversary of youth uprising and Lalababat battle against British colonial rule.

President and general secretary of the Parishad, Fazay Ahmed and Subrata Chowdhury, in a statement yesterday recalled the historic incidents that took place between April 18 and 22, 69 years ago.

The Parishad will hold a discussion meeting on the issue at 5:00 pm on April 21 at Dhaka University's TSC intersection.

### PWD Diploma Engineers' Assoc

Public Works and Housing Minister Mosharraf Hossain has urged engineers to work with honesty and sincerity for quick implementation of infrastructure development programme undertaken by the government, reports UNB.

### Common people to have access to Bangabandhu's cell at Central Jail

Home Minister Mohammad Nasir yesterday said common people will get access to cell number 20 of the older part of the Central Jail where Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was confined by the autocratic Pakistani rulers for a long time, reported BSS.

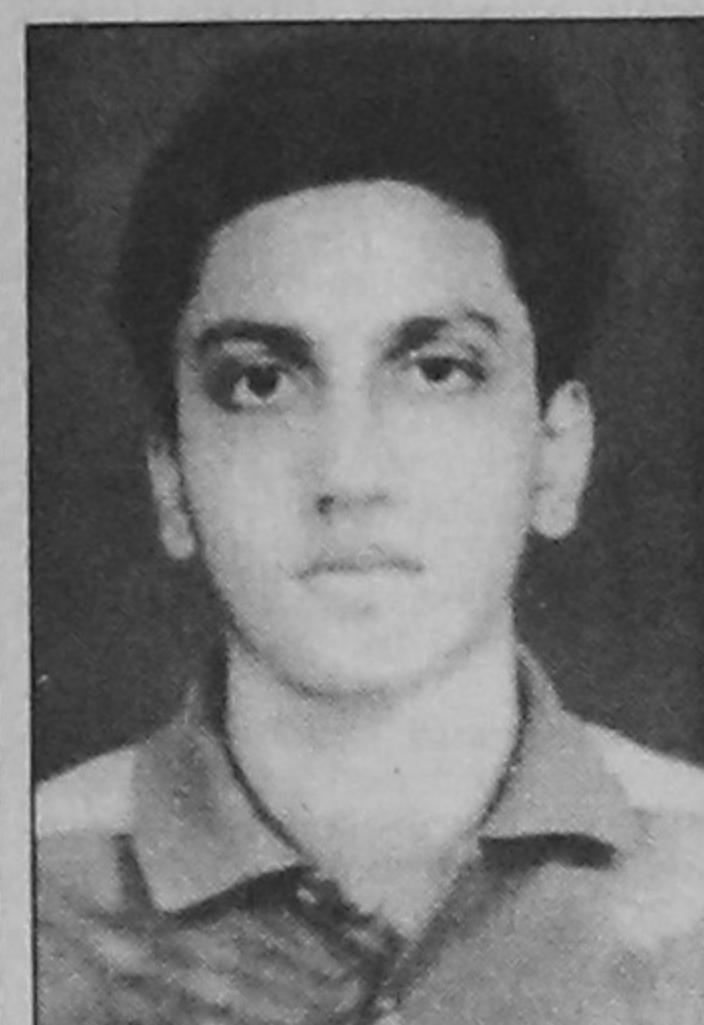
The minister was unveiling plaque of 'Mritan Joye' in the cell number one of the new jail where four national leaders — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Monsur Ali and A H M Kamruzzaman — were killed in a gruesome way on November 3, 1975.

The minister saw memorabilia used by the imprisoned leaders and stood in silence for a while. He visited the kitchen, women's ward, clinic and old part of jail and discussed the prevailing problems of the Central Jail with senior prison officers.

The Home Minister assured that quality of the living condition of the convicts and under trial prisoners would be improved. The prison authorities informed the minister that 80 out of 180 recommendations of the Jail Reforms Commission have been implemented so far.

Nasim said an inter-ministerial meeting would review the state of the commission's recommendations. He also said that necessary allocation in the next budget would be made for immediate refurbishment.

Raziuddin Razu MP, Inspector General of Prisons Brigadier Walur Rahman, Additional IG (Prisons) Mohammad Liqat Ali Khan and Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Abdus Sattar Khan and senior prison officers were present during the visit.



### BUET student dies of viral infection

By Staff Correspondent

A first year student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) died on Tuesday from complications following a viral infection.

According to a press release yesterday Niaz Ahmed, a student of Engineering and Technology School stood first in the admission test of 1999-2000 session.

He was hospitalised at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Hospital (NICVD) where his condition deteriorated. One of his kidneys was damaged. He was brought back to his house in Azimpur where died on Tuesday night.

Niaz, a student of Engineering and Technology School stood first in the Science division in his 1999 HSC exams.

He was buried on Wednesday at the Azimpur graveyard.

**Our reply:**

The report focused on the misuse of granule pesticides by the farmers because most of them use it before attack of the pests on their crop.

Pesticide experts and government officials also confirmed that usage of pesticide before pests begin their attack is a sheer wastage of money and harmful for the crop and environment as well. It kills all insects in the field irrespective of them being harmful and beneficial.

This nexus between money and politics in large measures derives from the murky nature of party finances. People without wealth, or the patronage of wealth or who do not aspire to wealth, have little prospect of surviving in politics.

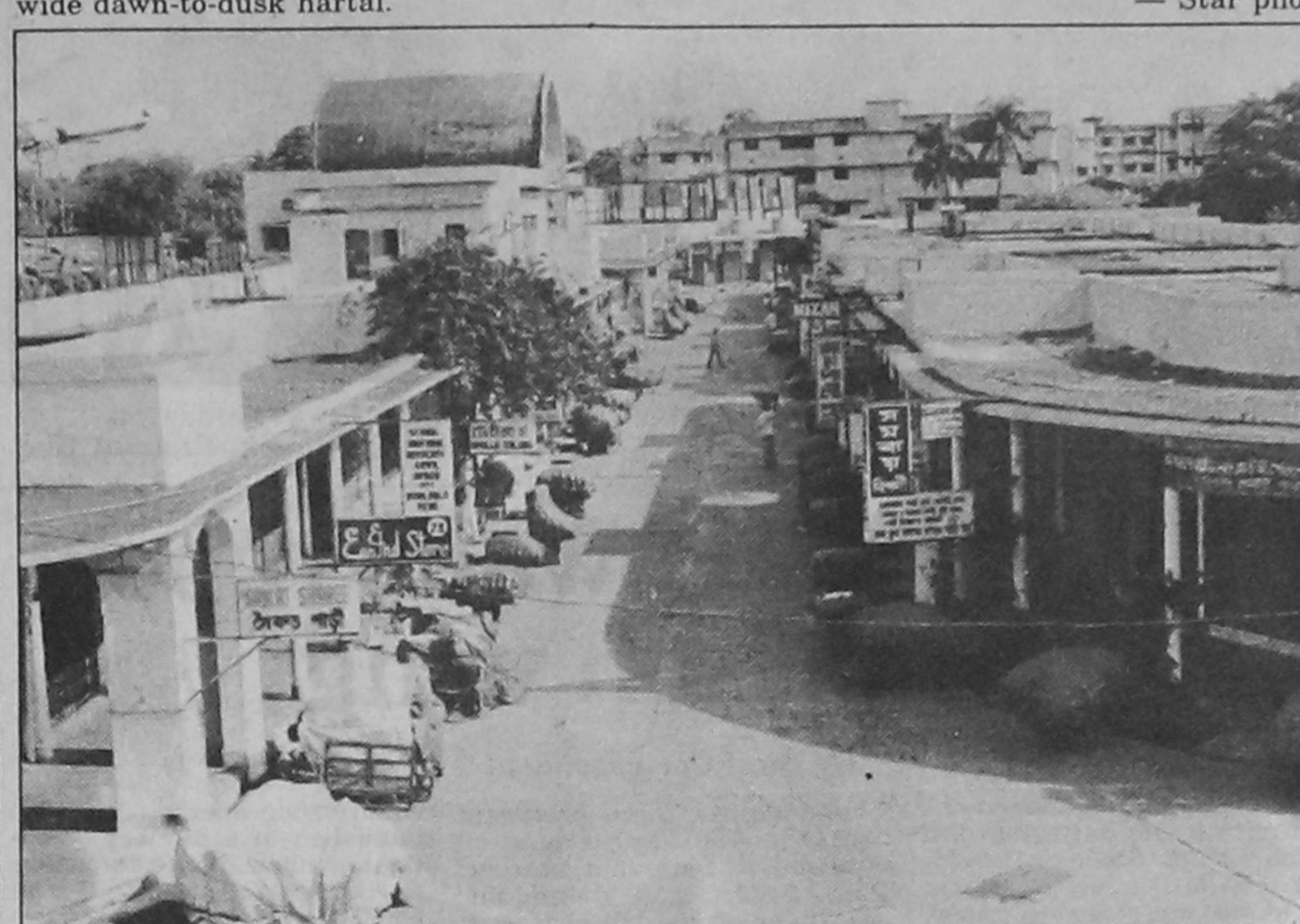
Most party financiers hoped to use their support to promote their business fortunes when the party came to power but there were always some party loyalists who invested their wealth in particular parties out of a sense of political commitment, the CPD report mentioned.

"It was particularly visible during the Ershad regime, was manifested throughout the BNP regime and is now seen as an important constraint under the Awami League regime."

Mastaans reportedly use their immunity from law enforcement to exact tolls from



Pro-hartal activists burned a tyre at city's Jatrabari area yesterday during the country wide dawn-to-dusk hartal. — Star photo



Shops at New Market (picture above) as well as other shopping centres across the city remained closed yesterday during the dawn-to-dusk hartal. — Star photo

### PAB contradicts

By Staff Correspondent

Pesticide Association of Bangladesh (PAB) has contradicted with the views of a report published in The Daily Star on April 7, under the headline "Greener may not mean healthier".

The PAB chairman Siraj A Chowdhury in his rejoinder claimed that most of the granular insecticides do not harm the environment as these work through systematic action in the plant and the pests that attack the plant.

He said farmers use granules as these control pest for a longer period of time minimising the number of application of insecticides. He further said that granular insecticides are very popular amongst rice farmers and recommended by experts all over the rice growing countries.

PAB chairman claimed that the use of granules do not waste farmer's money, that rather helps them in controlling harmful pests to get better harvests.

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Niaz, a student of Engineering and Technology School stood first in the Science division in his 1999 HSC exams.

He was buried on Wednesday at the Azimpur graveyard.

**Our reply:**

The report focused on the misuse of granule pesticides by the farmers because most of them use it before attack of the pests on their crop.

Pesticide experts and government officials also confirmed that usage of pesticide before pests begin their attack is a sheer wastage of money and harmful for the crop and environment as well. It kills all insects in the field irrespective of them being harmful and beneficial.

This nexus between money and politics in large measures derives from the murky nature of party finances. People without wealth, or the patronage of wealth or who do not aspire to wealth, have little prospect of surviving in politics.

Most party financiers hoped to use their support to promote their business fortunes when the party came to power but there were always some party loyalists who invested their wealth in particular parties out of a sense of political commitment, the CPD report mentioned.

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### Politics is investment

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service of the opposition.

In office, the Awami League treatment of opposition workers is the "mirror image of the behaviour of the BNP when in office". As a result, both parties have tended to depend on such quasi-criminal political instruments as political resources, integral for realising their electoral ambitions, it added.

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business, demand their tithes in particular construction contracts and from most other investment activities. In many areas the claims of the mastaans have become a recurrent cost for doing business, the report added.

Ruling party workers increasingly develop either collusive relations with the bureaucracy or conflictual relations when their particular expectation cannot be satisfied, it said adding such tensions constrain the process of governance in various echelons of the government.

"The malfunctioning of parliaments has its roots in the degeneration of the principal political parties themselves."

It said party agendas tend to be designed by a few professionals, in consultation with a few leaders, and are rarely exposed to debate within the party or consultation with the rank and file let alone with the public.

"If we look at the whole gamut of governance problems extending from the state of law and order, the default issue, the deterioration in administration, the degeneration of our education institutions, the pervasiveness of corruption, each of these issues has now become embedded into the socio-political fabric of Bangladeshi society where executive intervention, through particular administrative actions, remain compromised by the socio-political fallout likely to arise out of such initiatives."

"Such a process of political confrontation should be seen as a symptom of a deeper malaise in Bangladesh's political process, which originates in the structural features of its principal political parties and its consequential impact on the nature of national politics."