

## What's on today....

**VHSS orientation:** The inaugural session of a one-day "Orientation on Communication Process on Reproductive Health for the Health Professionals" will be held. Organiser: Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS). Venue: LGED auditorium. Time: 9:00 am.

**Discussion meeting:** Society for Parliamentary Democracy will hold a discussion meeting on "Role of the government and opposition in parliamentary democracy: Bangladesh Perspective". Venue: TSC auditorium. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Meeting:** Movement for Visa-Free World (Visa-Mukta Biswa Andolon) will hold a meeting on "Employment in richer countries". Venue: 83 Science Laboratory Road. Time: 7:30 pm.

**Inauguration:** Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) will inaugurate a 14,500 line digital telephone exchange under its greater Dhaka telephone project. Chief guest: Minister for Home, Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim. Venue: Basabo Telephone Exchange building.

**Meeting:** Anti-fascism Democratic Committee will hold a meeting. Venue: Committee office premises at 68/2, Purana Paltan. Time: 5:00 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**ISKCON Rath Jatra:** A discussion meeting will be held to begin the nine-day long festival to mark the Sri Sri Zagamath Deb's Rath Jatra. Organiser: International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). Venue: Sri Sri Radha Govinda Mandir, 5 Chandra Mohan Basak Street. Time: 2:00 pm.

## Weather

### Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, the Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and Chudanga and the lowest 23.9 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15 am.

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

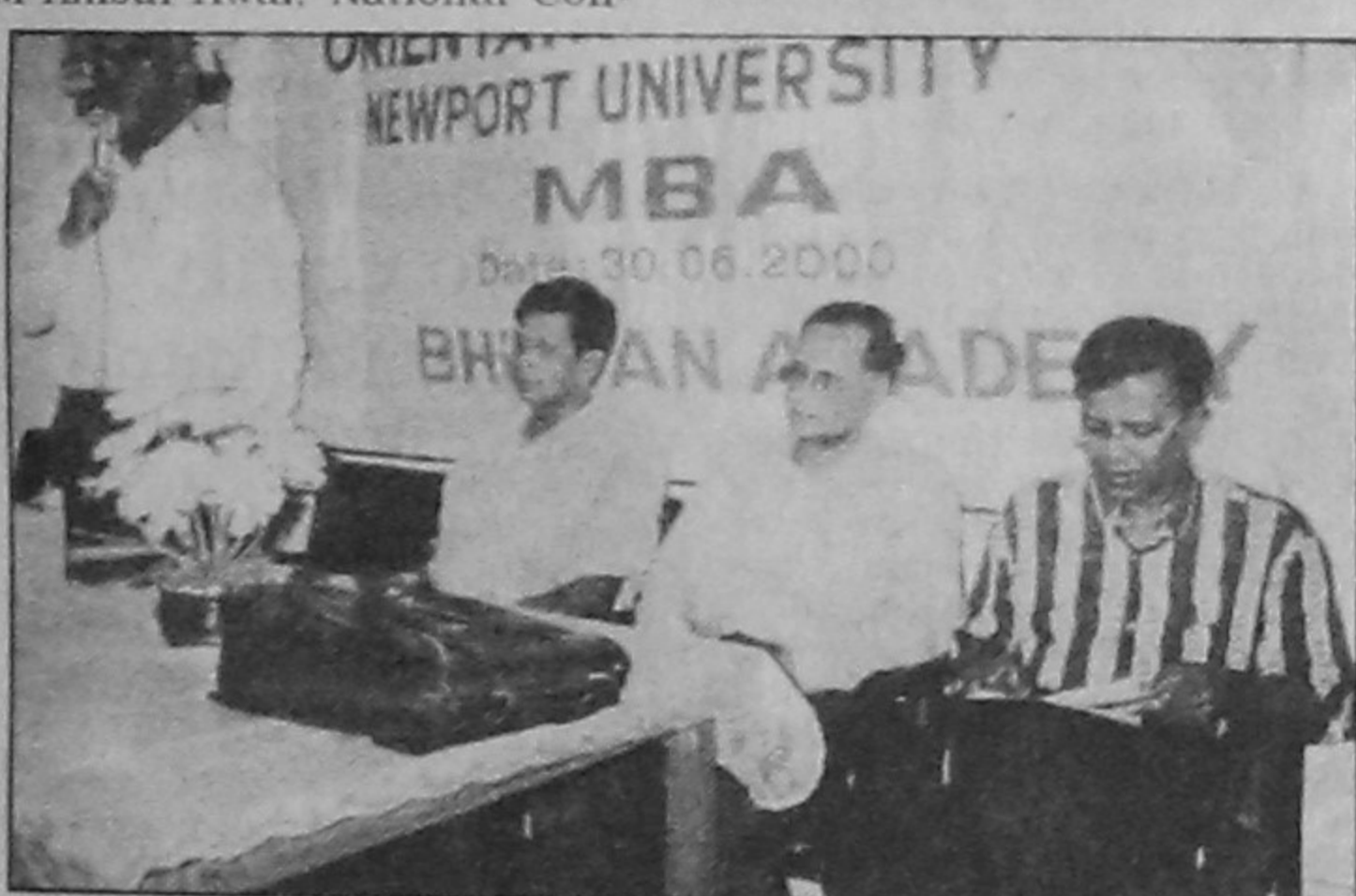
City / Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.7	26.6	71	63
Chittagong	33.5	26.0	93	74
Rajshahi	32.2	27.0	81	84
Khulna	34.2	28.7	79	70
Barisal	33.5	25.5	81	67
Sylhet	29.5	25.7	92	88
Cox's Bazar	33.7	23.9	74	78

## HERE and THERE

### Bangladesh Scouts

A day-long orientation course on integrated nutrition jointly organised by Bangladesh Scouts and Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project was held Friday at the national headquarters, says a press release.

M Fazlur Rahman, Chief National Commissioner and Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, inaugurated the course as chief guest. Dr A A M Anisul Awal, National Con-



sultant, BINP, Ataharul Islam, Line Director (incharge), BINP, Md Abdul Hussain Sikder, Executive Secretary (incharge), Bangladesh Scouts also spoke the occasion, while Mihir Kanti Majumder, Acting National Commissioner (CD & Health) presided. Manzoor Ul Karim, President, Bangladesh Scouts was present as chief personnel in the closing ceremony and pronounced close of the course.

A total of 70 scouts and professionals from all over the country attended the orientation course.

### BUET, Dhanmondi Rotary Club

Prof Dr Nooruddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of BUET, inaugurated a tree plantation programme as the chief guest on the university campus yesterday, reports BSS.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Dhanmondi Rotary Club organised the programme.



Prof Dr Nooruddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, BUET inaugurated a tree plantation programme jointly organised by BUET and Dhanmondi Rotary Club at the university campus yesterday. District Governor Rtn Hassan Maniruzzaman was also present at the event.

## BTAF vows to make July 3 rally a success

By Staff Correspondent

Teachers of private schools and colleges yesterday brought out a procession in the city demanding promotion and 100 per cent allowance from the government.

Private school and college unit of Bangladesh Teachers Association Federation (BTAF) brought out the procession. They also vowed to make their grand rally on July 3 a success.

The procession which started from Segunbagicha High School premises, paraded different thoroughfares of the city before ending at Jatia Press Club.

City and central leaders of the federation also joined the procession, a press release by the federation said.

## CPB rejects DCC budget

By Staff Correspondent

Communist Party of Bangladesh has rejected the new budget for Dhaka City Corporation.

The city unit of the party brought out a procession and held rally protesting the DCC budget.

Addressing the rally, party leaders blamed the sons of the Members of the Parliament of the ruling party for resorting to terrorism in the society.

They also demanded a proper transport management and a ban on plying vehicle with two stroke-engines in city to check air pollution.

Morshed Ali, Ahsan Kabir Lavlu, Mahbubul Haq Ripon addressed the rally presided over by its city unit president Ashraf Hossain Asshu, says a press release.

## Fruit Fair opens

Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday advised all to plant fruit trees in their houses to keep ecological balance, reports BSS.

She said this while speaking at the inaugural function of a fruit fair organised by Ladies Club at the Naval headquarters in the city.

The function was presided over by the club president, Mastura Haque. It was attended, among others, by chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral A Taher and President of Naval Family Welfare Association Dipika Kamrunnessa.

The declining bio-diversity and lack of local variety of fruit creating an ecological imbalance in the country, the minister said.

The function was followed by a cultural programme.

Later, the minister visited different stalls and distributed prizes among the participants.

## Clash between rival bus owners leaves 4 hurt in Shariatpur

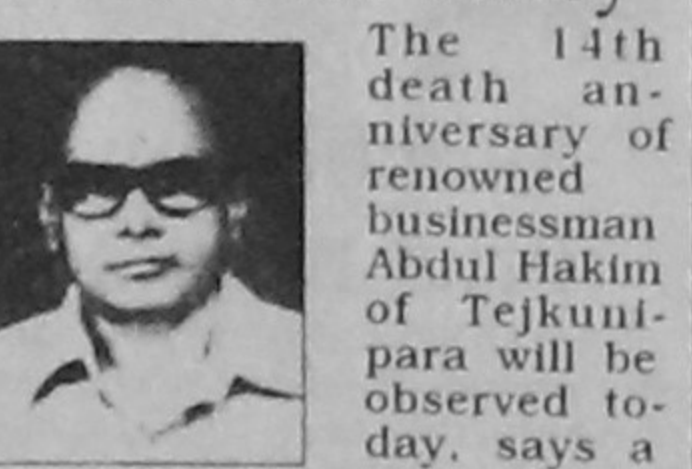
Clash between rival bus owners at Monohor bazar in Sadar thana in Shariatpur district at 12 noon Saturday left 4 workers seriously injured and halted traffic movement on Dhaka-Shariatpur road for 6 hours, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash ensued between supporters Shariatpur District Bus Owners Samity and Dhaka-Shariatpur Bus Owners Samity over establishing supremacy in the area.

Injured Sultan, 30, and Anwar, 28, were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition while Masud 25 and another unidentified worker admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Additional police was deployed at several points in the town as tension was mounting among the rival groups.

## Death anniversary



The 14th death anniversary of renowned businessman Abdul Hakim of Tejgani will be observed today, says a press release.

To mark the day, a *Kangali bhaj* (feeding the destitutes) and *milad mahfil* will be arranged at his village home Barachar (Palash PS), Narshingdi, Late A Hakim was the husband of late Ms Hasina Khatun, former Director, Dept of Social Service.

## 20 prison guards hurt in Rome prison riot

ROME, July 1: Twenty-six prison guards were injured, one seriously, in rioting in Rome's Regina Coeli Prison overnight, police union officials said today, reports AFP.

Four prisoners were isolated after violence broke out in one prison block unexpectedly and without any apparent reason, said Marco Mammucari, an official with the CISL union.

Inmates were said to have attacked guards with iron bars after dismantling beds following a decision by the administration to transfer several detainees from the block after non-violent disputes.

Three prisoners tried to force their way into the office of a prison inspector who was seriously injured in the scuffle, suffering from a broken arm and a concussion.



Two students explaining their project to visitors at the annual Science Fair 2000 of St Joseph School held at its premises recently.

## A communist never dies till he quits, Jyoti Basu says

"A communist never quits, till he dies."

These were the words, that the West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu used before he departed for Israel recently, reports IANS from Calcutta.

The talks of retirement that had been pondering in the air for sometime now, has disappeared with the statement that he at Calcutta Airport, before his departure. Basu will be out of the country for 20 days. He will spend quite a few days in Israel exploring business possibilities. Then he will fly off to London to attend the wedding ceremony of his granddaughter Payel.

"Even though, this is purely a holiday trip, I decided to take along some prominent businessmen of the state to explore investment possibilities with the Israel government and some more in London," he said.

The questions however, were more on the recent elections to the Calcutta and Salt Lake Municipal Corporations. And Basu was quick to point out that the party had suffered because he was absent from the campaigning.

"I could not participate properly during these elections as the doctor had advised me to take rest," said Basu. "I have a persistent backache that demanded rest. So I was forced to stay away from the Municipal Corporation elections. However, that will not be the case in the next Assembly elections," he pointed out. "I've realised that the party has missed me. So I have decided to continue politics. The next

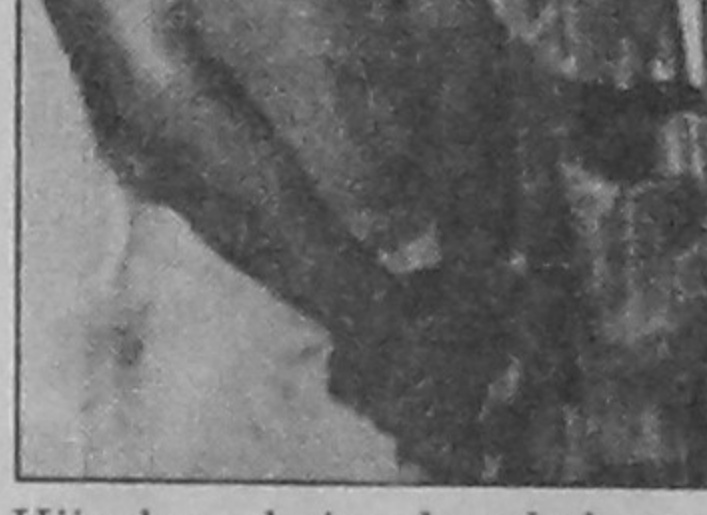
Assembly elections will see me more active," he added.

Basu however, made it quite clear that he was willing to accept the Congress as an alliance to keep out the Trinamul Congress-Bharatiya Janata Party in the Calcutta Corporation. "We are fighting together as an alliance in a number of other states. As far as my information goes, the CPI(M) and the Congress are working together in Andhra Pradesh. So why can't we do it here in West Bengal? One has to decide now. As far as I am concerned, such an alliance, should be our first priority," he said before his departure.

Meanwhile, the Trinamul Congress leader Mamata Banerjee said that she did not want to take the help of the Congress in forming the Municipal Board in Calcutta. "If any Congress candidate wants to leave the party and come over and join us, then he is most welcome," Mamata said. "However, I will not go into an alliance with the party itself. To do so, I would have to sever ties with the BJP which is not possible. They have always stood by me."

On the other hand the Congress state unit president, B A Gani Khan Choudhury stated that the party may ask its elected members to stay away from the Calcutta Municipal Corporation the day the Municipal Board formed.

"We may abstain from voting and may not support any party," Choudhury said adding "The final decision will be



Hijackers being handed over to police after they were caught at Palassy Crossing in the city yesterday.

## Pakistan to buy fighter jets from China

UTHAL, Pakistan, July 1: Pakistan is planning to buy sophisticated F-7MG fighter jets from China but the move should not affect relations with the United States, Military ruler General Pervez Musharraf said today, reports AFP.

"Our air force needs more planes and we are certainly dealing with China to purchase them," Musharraf said after a ground-breaking ceremony for a coastal highway near Uthal in southern Baluchistan province.

"We purchase a lot of things from China, with whom we have a very old relationship," He said the plans should not be read as a slight to the United States, which has cancelled a sale of F-16 fighters to Pakistan and has recently been harsh in its criticism of Islamabad's alleged tolerance of terrorism.

Washington is also understood to have shifted its South Asian allegiances from Pakistan to India after US President Bill Clinton's landmark trip to the sub-continent in March.

"It is not true that we are developing our relations with the Chinese because the US has tilted towards India," Musharraf said.

Musharraf last week described the completion of the Chinese-aided Chashma nuclear power plant near Uthal in northern Punjab province as "a major milestone in Pakistan's peaceful pursuit of nuclear technology."

China has been a strong ally to Pakistan over the years in a bid to counter the equally cosy relationship.

taken on this matter by the high command in Delhi."

Choudhury, however made it clear that Congress will not tolerate any defection. The anti-defection bill is applicable even in the Corporation. So we will not hesitate to employ it, if the Trinamul Congress lures any of our candidates into joining them.

The entire picture regarding the formation of the new board, remains hazy because of these new developments. The Trinamul Congress which had been claiming that they will form the Board, because eight Congress elected councillors will join them shortly has now gone mum on the issue.

Two rebel candidates of the Trinamul candidates who contested the elections and have won, have been taken back into the party. This has increased the strength of the alliance to 64 (Trinamul Congress 57, BJP 4, Trinamul supported independent candidate 1 and rebel Trinamul Congress candidate 2). On the other hand, the Left Front has a total of 62 councillors (Left Front 60, Left Front supported independent candidate 2). Against this backdrop the Congress has only 14 councillors.

One person also won as a rebel Congress candidate from ward number 109. So even if he joins the Trinamul the strength of the TMC-BJP alliance will still be only 65, six short of the majority mark.

There is a feeling in the air, that ultimately, the Left may have the last laugh with the help of the Congress.

## Khaleda

From page 1

development of the country. The former prime minister said the Opposition tried its best to play its due role in the Jatiya Sangsad but the government did not allow the opposition lawmakers to speak in the House.

"There is no scope to discuss important national issues in parliament. The Ganges Water Sharing Treaty and the accord relating to Chittagong Hill Tracts were signed secretly and without any discussion in the Sangsad," she said, adding that the Opposition has been boycotting JS sessions after it failed to speak on the above national issues.

"The Jatiya Sangsad has been turned into a ruling party forum and the people have no confidence in it".

The BNP chief called upon all to come forward and work together to protect the country and its people from the present suffocating situation "and advised them to face government's repressive acts with courage."

"Let's us work together to build a liveable country for our future generation by eliminating terrorism, corruption and immoral practices. Let's we join the current struggle to consolidate our hard earned independence and democracy. Our united efforts will enable us to face the challenges of the 21st century," she said.

Khaleda lauded the Rotarians' programmes to resolve the arsenic problem and appreciated their fresh drive to ensure supply of arsenic free water to the people.

Rotary District Governor Hasan Maniruzzaman, Kazi Wahidul Alam, M Mosharraf Hossain, Iftekharul Alam and Abdul Mannan MP addressed the function while a large number of Rotarians and leaders from different parts of the country attended. Some Rotarians from abroad were also present.

Prominent Rotarians Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, Dr R A Gani, Prof Jalal U Ahmed, Enad-ul-Haq and Tawfiq Aziz Khan were present on the occasion.

## 12 injured in C'nawabganj clash

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 1: At least 12 people were injured in a clash between two groups of people at Courtbagh microbus stand here today, reports UNB.

Of the injured, four were admitted to Sadar hospital in critical condition. They are: Nasirul, 22, Shahid, 22, Sayeed, 27 and Mukul, 25.

Police said the clash ensued at about 10:30 am following a scuffle between the helper and driver of a microbus as the helper demanded his dues.

## China begins new military exercises

TAIPEI, July 1: China began a new round of military exercises in an area close to several Taiwan-controlled islands today, but Taiwanese authorities shrugged off the threat posed by the drills, calling them "routine," reports AFP.

The two-day live-fire manoeuvre is the fifth of its kind in the same area since May 25 when the People's Liberation Army (PLA) began a series of artillery exercises in waters stretching from Quanzhou Bay to Shenhui Bay in the southeast Chinese province of Fujian.

"It is merely part of the PLA's many routine drills," said a Taiwanese defence ministry official.

"The exercises are not directed at Taiwan or its frontline islands," he said.

Taiwanese authorities had warned ships and airplanes to avoid the drill area, which is close to Kinmen, a fortified island manned by Taiwanese troops just two km off the mainland's southeast coast.

Taiwan itself is expected to hold the annual joint forces wargame "Han Kuang (Chinese Light)" in August.

China, which considers Taiwan as part of its territory awaiting reunification, has threatened to use force against the island if it should declare independence or indefinitely prolong reunification talks.

## Death from beating

From page 1

Kolinton Begum, a pregnant housewife, was beaten to death at Hatilpur village in Bogra Sadar on June 14. Abul Hossain, father of the victim filed a case accusing the victim's husband, mother-in-law, brother-in-law and six others.

Another pregnant housewife, Shahida Begum, 24, was beaten to death by her husband at Katipara village in Nilphamari Sadar on June 24 as she tried to resist his second marriage.

A trilling matter cost the life of another pregnant housewife at Bashudia village in Laxmipur Sadar upazila. Anena Begum, 25, was beaten to death by a male neighbour on June 26 during an altercation over collecting coconuts from a tree.

A young housewife, Lata Begum, was beaten to death by her husband at Tangal on June 11 on suspicion that she had extra marital affair.

Sakina Begum, 18, was beaten to death by her husband Yunus Mian in less than three weeks of their marriage. The incident took place at Sari-shakata village under Bhulagata union in Cox's Bazar district on June 13. Local people

who caught Yunus and handed him over to police alleged that he used to beat her almost every day since the marriage.

Housewife Lutfa Begum was beaten to death by her husband Azizul Huq for dowry at Bhelazan in Thakurgaon district on June 1. He had demanded Tk 50 thousand.

Nur Nahar, 35, a garments employee, was beaten to death by her jobless husband in Chittagong on June 24 as she refused to meet his demand for money.

Shamsul Huq, father of a domestic help — Shapla — was beaten to death at East Sherpur village under Parbatpur thana in Dinajpur on June 11 after a pair of gold bangles of the house lady was found missing.

Shapla used to work at the house of one Abu Yahya. Her father was called and beaten to death when the house lady failed to recover her ornaments even after confining Shapla for three days.

Abdul Mannan Bapari, was beaten to death by his son-in-law at Dholapal in Dhaka city June 17. The incident took place when Mannan went to his daughter's house and charged his son-in-law for not providing sufficient food to his wife.

## Trawler loot

From page 1

union allegedly led the looting of the trawler belonging to Ayub Ali, a businessman of Barguna district.

According to a reliable source of KMP, ward commissioner Babul has replaced Ershad Shikder along with a group of AL leaders at Skid Ghat. He is now involved in smuggling of foodgrains and Indian sugar, drug trafficking, looting of foodgrains, fuel and fertilisers from ghat areas.

A BNP leader and former MP, is also in the list of KMP for his alleged involvement in drug trafficking and smuggling. The KMP source said, But he is being spared from police action due to his secret links with a group of ruling party leaders.

A top ranking official of KMP said today that about efforts are being planned for keeping Skid Ghat and other key commercial areas free from terrorists and political godfathers.

But there are allegations that situation in those areas have already taken an alarming turn with the re-appearance of absconding armed cadres of Shikder, who have started re-organising themselves with full support of a group of ruling party leader.

BCL activists

From page 1

at Surja Sen Hall. They first took the girl to IER building and then to an unknown place where she was allegedly raped, the reports said.

Meanwhile, Dhaka University authorities in a press release on Friday night said the news published in two national dailies in this regard was "confusing and baseless."

Different organisations yesterday expressed their concern over the alleged incident of rape of a young woman, after kidnapping her from university's Mall Chatter on Wednesday.

Gana Forum, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Biplobi Chhatra Maitri, Nagarik Samaj, Chhatra Oikya Forum yesterday issued press releases protesting the alleged incident. The organisations also demanded punishment to the culprits.

## 348 raped

From page 1

The report said 27 of the victims died in the jail custody and five in the custody of law enforcers. Five others were shot dead by the law enforcers.

A total of 83 women suffered burn injuries from acid throwing. Twenty-five of them were victims of family feud.

Nine women were tortured following *fatwa*, the report added.

A total of 21 women were tortured in thanas while 60 in different places.

## US actor Walter Matthau dies

LOS ANGELES, July 1: US actor Walter Matthau died of a heart attack early today, a spokesman for Saint John's Health Centre in Santa Monica, California said. He was 79, reports AFP.



Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed speaking at a discussion on 'Industrial Development and Investment' organised by Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) at its auditorium yesterday. (Story on page-6)