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## 'Vested Property Act must go'

By Staff Correspondent

A ruling party leader yesterday expressed grievances at the slipping away of vested properties from the government's grips and continuous migration of minority Hindus because of deprivation.

Speaking at a book-launching programme in the city yesterday Awami League leader Advocate Shudangshu Shekhar Haldar said that at least 60 per cent land under the Vested Property Act (VPA) had gone out of the government's possession and were grabbed by lessees.

The book, *An Inquiry Into Causes and Consequences of*

**'People for  
democratic  
rule only'**

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 21: The people of Bangladesh will not accept any system other than a democratic one as they created a history by putting an end to military rule.

This was observed by Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star and Publisher of The Prothom Alo, while speaking as chief guest at a certificate distribution ceremony at the Chittagong Press Club.

The ceremony followed a week-long workshop of writers and journalists of The Prothom Alo. The workshop titled Alokito Chattogram was organised by Grameen Star Education Centre here.

"Bangladesh can do a miracle in the world if it is run by proper political leadership" said Mahfuz Anam. "We need to have self confidence and patriotism and must do away with inferiority complex".

He went on, "There is no alternative to development of the country if we want to live with a sense of pride and glory".

He referred to the laurels brought by Dr Muhammad Yunus with his outstanding concept of Grameen Bank.

Mahfuz Anam urged the participants in the workshop to help create a mass awareness for consolidating democracy. He also replied to some questions from the participants after distributing the certificates.

The function was also addressed by Chairman of Grameen Star Education Centre Lokman Chowdhury and Resident Editor of The Prothom Alo Abul Momen.

## DU senate elects VC panel

By DU Correspondent

The three-member panel of Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University was elected yesterday with the incumbent VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury. Prof. Shamshud Huda Harun of Department of Political Science and Prof. RIM Aminur Rashid, provost of Salimullah Hall and President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA).

The election was held at the special session of the university senate, the highest policy making body. Eighty out of the 84 senate members took part at the session with Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

According to Dhaka university Order '73, the three-member panel was elected for the appointment of a Vice Chancellor for a four year tenure. Chancellor of the University, President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will appoint the VC for the next term soon.

Pro Awami League 'Blue Panel' and BNP-Jamaat supported 'White Panel' contested the election while the left leaning 'Pink Panel' did not vie for it.

Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury got the highest 64 votes, Prof. Shamshud Huda Harun bagged

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## 7 BB officials jailed in Khulna

Khulna

KHULNA, Sept 21: A court here on Wednesday sentenced seven Bangladesh Bank officials, including a Joint Director, to three years rigorous imprisonment in a corruption case.

reports UNB

- AFP photo

The court also fined them Tk 1.21 lakh each, in default, to suffer nine months more in jail.

Six of the convicts are Joint Director Abul Hossain Shah, officers Badru Alam, M Abul Hossain, Champani Kumar Basu, Enamul Haq Molla and Mirza Saifuddin Hassan.

The case history in brief: The convicts withdrew Tk 7.25,400 through four fake cheques in the name of Agriculture Extension Department forging the signature of the District Accounts Officer, Bureau of Anti-corruption filed a case against them on Sept 30, 1993.

The accused again withdrew Tk 7.69,144 in the name of Family Planning Department through fake cheques and a case was filed against them on Sept 19, 1994 with Kotwali.

During interrogation police learnt that they were also involved in the bomb planting incident at Kotalpara with Mufli Hannan, the alleged mastermind of the bomb planting incident.

Police said they were already shown arrest in the treason charge for planting bombs at Kotalpara to kill the Prime Minister and her cabinet colleagues.

CID police is interrogating the accused here taking them on a ten-day remand from a first class magistrate of Gopalganj.

Gazi Khan and Marfath Ali were arrested recently from

## Three stabbed by muggers in city

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers stabbed three people in two separate incidents in the city yesterday and took away Tk 75,000 from them.

The first incident took place at Alu Bazar while the second at Gulshan.

At Alu Bazar, the muggers stabbed a cashier of a private firm and took away Tk 50,000 from him.

The victim Shohag, 27, cashier of Abdur Rashid Enterprise, came under attack when he reached at Alu Bazar in an autorickshaw at around 1.30 pm.

A gang of three muggers stopped the autorickshaw and asked Shohag to give his values.

As Shohag refused to comply with their demand, they started beating him. At one stage, the muggers stabbed in his right hand and took away Tk 50,000.

The victim was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Kotwali police admitted the incident, but no case was filed till filing of this report at 8 pm.

The second incident oc-

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## Prayer Timings September 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Sept 22	4:45	5:15
Sept 23	12:15	1:15
	4:30	4:45
	6:03	6:08
	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

The court also decided that the 14 "will be detained upon

the arrest," while the sentence would become valid "from the date of the arrest."

The 14 were charged with "inciting an aggressive war, war crimes against the civilian population, use of banned combat means, attempted murder of the Yugoslav president (Slobodan Milosevic), as well as with the violation of the country's territorial integrity."

They were sentenced to all five charges.

Each of the sentences read by Rakitic were followed by applause from the public present at the main Belgrade courtroom.

Our human criminal law has not anticipated higher sentences, because none could have anticipated such crimes might be committed," Rakitic said, sitting below a photo of Milosevic and the Serbian and Yugoslav state symbols.

The defendants were "found guilty for five criminal deeds which are socially the most

dangerous ones," he explained.

They "must pay the costs of the trial in a 15-day period, under threat of forced execution," said the verdict, which is to be delivered to the defendants and their defence lawyers.

At the start of the trial, Rakitic said the accused had all been sent a translated list of the charges through diplomatic channels.

It took three hours for Belgrade prosecutor Andrija Milutinovic to read the 183-page indictment against the leaders, followed by the names of 890 alleged victims of NATO bombings - 503 civilians, 240 soldiers and 147 Serb policemen.

However, Rakitic said in the verdict that the 14 were guilty for acts that "caused the death of 546 soldiers, 138 policemen and 504 civilians, among them 88 children." No explanation was given for the difference in the figures in the indictment and the verdict.

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