

METROPOLITAN

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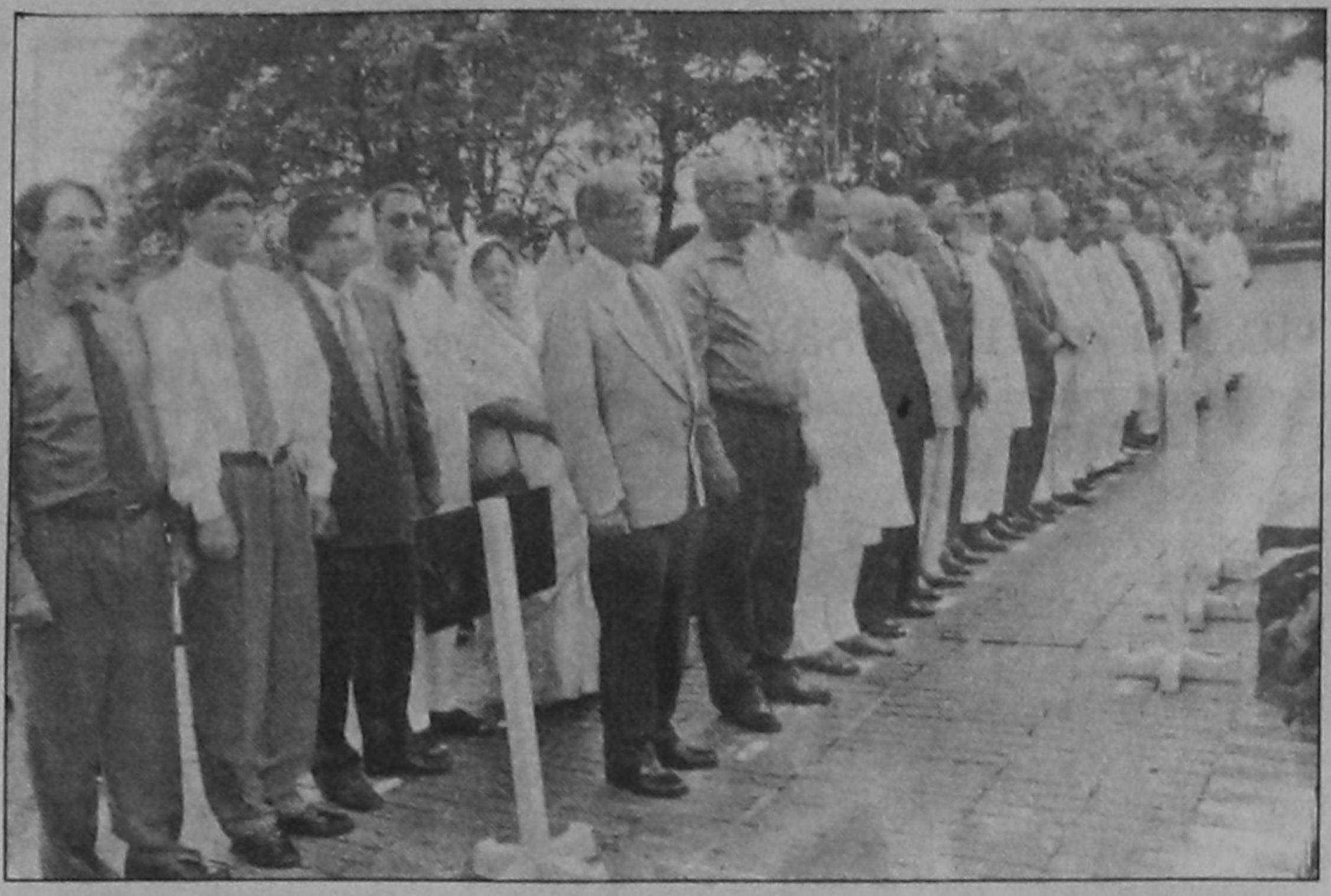


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Ministers line up before placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar yesterday.

British Council debate competition tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

A debate competition for all corporate members of British Council's Young Learners' Centre (YLC) will be held at its auditorium at 10 am tomorrow.

The YLC in collaboration with Working for Better Life, an NGO, is organising the three-round competition. The topic of first round is 'The education system should be completely privatised for better output.'

Seven English medium schools - Scholastica, Bangladesh International Tutorial, Sunnyside, British School, Bangladesh International School, Salvation and Methodist School - will participate in the competition.

Six arms seized

BSS, Dhaka

Police seized six firearms, five other weapons and nine bullets on the 86th day of the countrywide combing operation.

Police also arrested 898 people including three listed terrorists from across the country during the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

Outgoing Nepalese envoy calls on Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

President of the Commission of the European Communities Romano Prodi yesterday extended most sincere congratulations to Khaleda Zia on her assumption of office of the Prime Minister.

In a message to Khaleda, Prodi said, "The European Commission was delighted to be able to accompany and support the election process in Bangladesh with the presence of a strong Election Observation Mission. I sincerely hope that the popular verdict of the country's electorate under free and fair conditions will strengthen further the democratic institutions in Bangladesh."

The European Union is a leading partner of Bangladesh both in trade as well as development cooperation. "We are confident that under your leadership relations between Bangladesh and the European Union will develop further across a whole range of activities," Prodi said.

"In presenting my best wishes for the future success of the country and people of Bangladesh, I request you, dear Prime Minister, to accept the assurances of my highest consideration," he added.

Terming Nepal a good friend of Bangladesh, Hasina said it had extended support to the country's Liberation War in 1971. She hoped the bilateral ties would be consolidated in future.

Charge d'Affaires of Switzerland Giambattista Mondada also called on Sheikh Hasina at her residence and discussed various matters of bilateral interests.

EC greets Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Outgoing Ambassador of Nepal Madhu Raman Acharya yesterday made a courtesy call on Awami League president and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina at his office.

During the meeting the envoy thanked the former prime minister for extending cooperation during his tenure in Bangladesh.

He praised the steps taken by the immediate past government of Sheikh Hasina for poverty alleviation and socio-economic development of the country.

Acharya hoped that the existing friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries would be further strengthened in the coming days.

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F H Abed made chairperson of BRAC

Fazle Hasan Abed, founder Executive Director of BRAC, has been elected chairperson of BRAC by the governing body of the organisation, says a press release.

Meanwhile, Abdul Muayeed Chowdhury, Executive Director Designate of BRAC, took over as its Executive Director yesterday.

Earlier, Chowdhury held a number of senior government posts such as secretary of different ministries, executive director of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority and chairman, National Board of Revenue. He was also an adviser to the last caretaker government.

Body to probe irregularities in BSS

BSS, Dhaka

The government has formed a two-member committee to probe various irregularities in Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), including appointments, financial and administrative matters, official sources said yesterday.

The committee comprising Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information, Sarwar Hossain, and Deputy Secretary (Administration), Dr Aminur Rahman, has been asked to submit its report within 15 days.

Qulkhwani

UNB, Dhaka

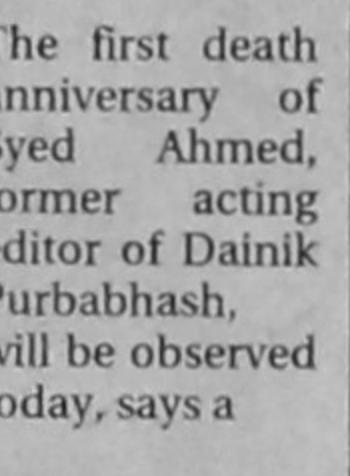
Quelkhwani of Alhaj Hazrat Ali Master will be held at his village home at Ekuria in Kapasia of Gazipur district after Jumma prayers today.

Death anniversary

UNB, Dhaka

The first death anniversary of Syed Ahmed, former acting editor of Dainik Purbabhash, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at the Jamil Eye Hospital at Kaliganj after Asr prayers today.



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