

## IN MEMORIAM

On the occasion of the fourteenth death anniversary of Syed Tanweer Murshed, son of the late Syed Manzoor Murshed and the late Begum Hasina Murshed, relatives and friends are requested to pray for the departed soul.

Yasmeen, Maher and Madiha Murshed

## 14 firearms recovered

UNB, Dhaka

Police recovered 14 unauthorised firearms and 28 rounds of bullet from different parts of the country in last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday.

Besides, police arrested some 1,283 people on various charges during the period.



Two artists performing a dance number at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day Rabindra Conference at the Shishu Academy auditorium in the city yesterday, organised by the Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha.

# 'Raise number of reserved seats for women in parliament'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different women organisations reiterated their demand for direct election of women MPs and increased number of reserved seats for women in parliament.

They were addressing a press conference organised by a number of organisations including Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha, Proshika,

British Council, NCBP and FEMA at the National Press Club in the city on Thursday.

"We have been placing the demand for last three decades to enable the women to participate in all spheres of national life," said the leaders.

A draft of the proposed bill prepared by the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and the Beijing+5 related NGO Coalition Bangladesh (NCBP) was handed over to Law

and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed on January 22, they added.

Mentioning the contribution of women to nation-building activities, the leaders hoped that the government will come forward to fulfil their demand.

Hena Das, Ayesha Khanam, Rokeya Kabir and Advocate Kohinur Begum were present at the press conference.

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## Union Parishads to be strengthened: Mannan

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said Union Parishad (UP) is the oldest and modest tier of the local government system and the government will take all necessary steps to strengthen the tier.

"UP chairmen, members and secretaries will be given more responsibility and their executive powers would be enhanced for carrying out development activities and programmes of poverty alleviation in rural areas," he said while addressing the National Congress of the Bangladesh Union Parishad Secretaries Association (BUPSA) at the IEB auditorium in the city.

The LGRD minister said the government has undertaken a project to impart training to the chairmen, members and secretaries of the Union Parishads for making them efficient to accomplish their tasks.

"We are striving for making a strong local government system in the country to materialise our election pledges and a cabinet committee has been working in this regard," he said.

Mannan Bhuiyan said construction work of union complexes is going on so that all development activities in rural areas can be revolved around these complexes.

He said that with a view to building up a strong local government, elections to three city corporations were held and elections of 19 municipalities would be held within one month. Election to Sylhet and Barisal city corporations will also be held after that, he added.

Deputy Minister for LGRD Ruhul Qudus Talukder Dulu attended the function as special guest.

Presided over by BUPSA president H M Rezaul Karim Tuhin, the function was also addressed, among others, by joint secretary of the LGRD Ministry Abdus Samad Mallik, central BNP leader A M Badruzzaman, Chhatra Dal leader Khabirul Islam Babul and BUPSA leaders S M Surat Alam and Delwar Hossain.

Mannan Bhuiyan assured the UP secretaries that steps would be taken to pay their salaries from one office. He urged them to co-operate with the UP chairman to maintain law and order in the unions and help alleviate poverty.

**Sun Crest Cola**

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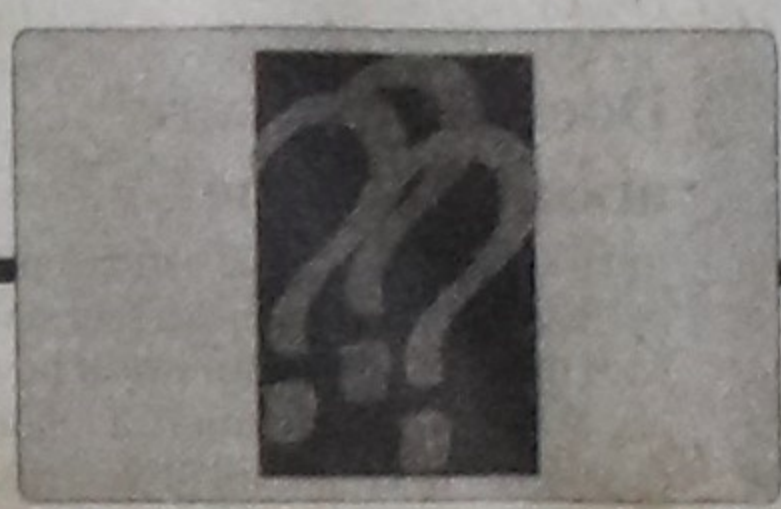
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