UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government would enact a new law soon to ensure standard healthcare services at private hospitals and clinics, besides taking measures to improve the quality of treatment at government hospitals.

"Formulation of the law is at the final stage. On completion of necessary formalities, it will come into force soon," she told a function of physicians.

Addressing the function at the National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute at Mirpur on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, the prime minister urged the physicians to restore people's confidence on the country's healthcare system at any cost.

Khaleda is the chief patron of this heart foundation hospital and institute.

Rahman, Health Minister Dr Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Health Amanullah Aman, president of the heart foundation Justice Chowdhury ATM Masud and secretary general of the foundation Brig (retd) Prof Abdul Malik also spoke on the occasion.

Referring to support and encouragement given to private initiative in setting up medical educational institutions and hospitals by her government during

the previous term, the prime minister said: "This time we also want more specialised hospitals to be built at private initiative.'

But she cautioned against setting up hospitals merely for commercial purpose. "We will have to think about poor patients. Treatment fees and fees for various tests will have to be kept at reasonable

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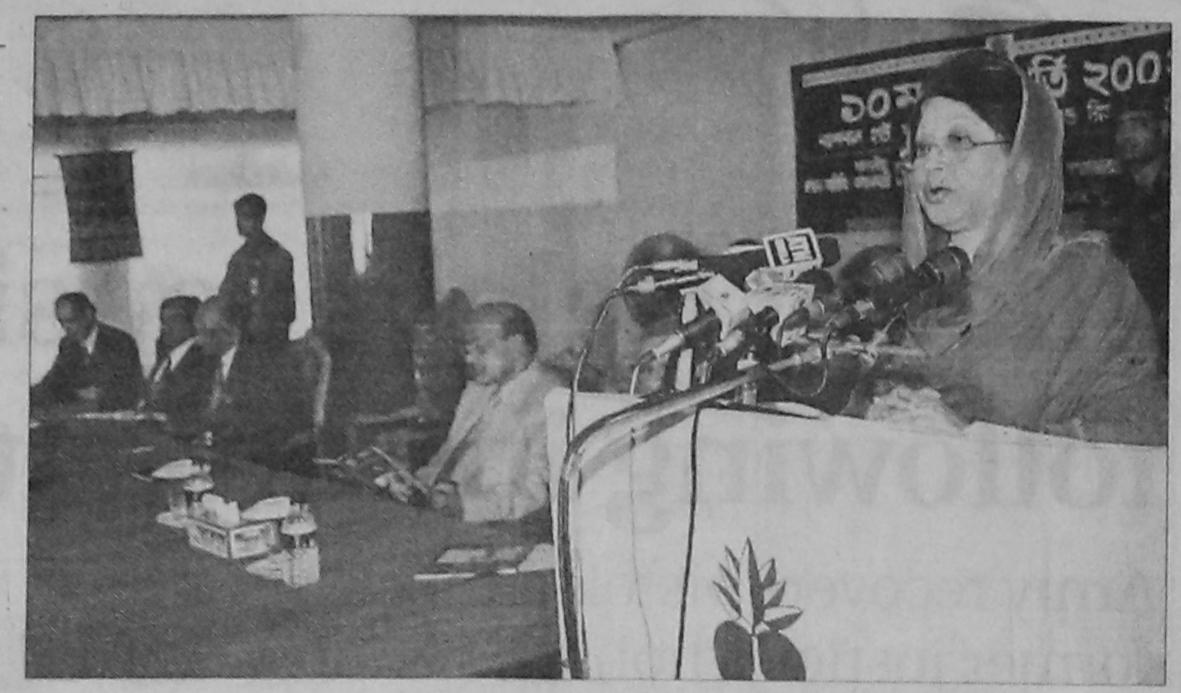
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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at a function marking the 10th founding anniversary of the National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute in the city yesterday.

levels for their interest.

The prime minister also asked the physicians of the government hospitals to remove of all kinds of mismanagement from the hospitals immediately.

Saying that heart disease is the number one killer disease in Bangladesh, the prime minister stressed the need for adequate facilities for the treatment of heart patients in the country to stop patients from going abroad for treatment.

And the responsibility mainly

lies with the physicians, she said. She lamented that the country is still lagging behind in the field of specialised treatment. On the other hand, there has been scepticism in public mind about the quality of specialised treatment.

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meritorious and skilled specialists certainly we have. Despite that, many patients go abroad for specialised treatment draining hardearned foreign currencies out of

ate end to such an unwanted situation.

the country.

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Must be conversant in multimedia presentation

Referring to her party's election pledges, she said it want to reach health services to the doorstep of the people and mentioned some steps to that end.

health centres would be further activated to strengthen primary ments made in this field.

healthcare services. hospital complexes will be increased in phases and arrange-

ment made for necessary equip-

"It is not that we don't have ment and medicines, the PM as-

Khaleda sought private initiative alongside government efforts in expansion of treatment facilities. She said her government would welcome private ventures The PM called for an immedi- in setting up infrastructure in the treatment of other deadly diseases, not only heart diseases.

> Later, the Prime Minister went around various sections of the hospital and research institute.

Finance Minister Saifur Rah man told the medical profession She announced that the union als that returns from health sector were less compared to big invest

He said a health project in Numbers of beds in upazila volving Tk 10,000 crore, the biggest health-sector programme in Asia, would run in Bangladesh for next four years.

JU Al Beruni Hall Provost, house tutors submit resignations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Provost and eight house tutors of Al Beruni Hall, a dormitory for male students of Jahangirnagar University (JU), submitted resignations yesterday as the authorities' failed to resolve accommodation crisis for house tutors.

The hall authorities earlier took the decision of resignation at a meeting on Saturday.

Sources said the teachers were protesting the authorities' decision to allot a flat of Al Beruni Hall teachers' quarters to a newly appointed teacher who was made house tutor of Fazilatunnesa Hall.

"Allotment of a flat has added to the existing accommodation crisis of teachers in the hall quarters, but the authorities did not take any step to resolve it," said one senior house tutor.

Vice-chancellor Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmad was not available for comment.

White panel wins DU dean elections

UNB, Dhaka

Pro-government 'White panel won two posts of deans of Dhaka University in the elections held yesterday.

White panel candidate Prof M Sirajul Islam of Management Department was elected Dean of Commerce Faculty bagging 74 votes against 38 polled by his rival Dr Mahfuzur Rahman of Finance and Banking Department, a Blue panel candidate.

In the Faculty of Zoology, White panel candidate Prof Syed Salehin Kaderi of Biochemistry Department was elected dean polling 80 votes against 65 secured by Blue panel candidate Prof AZM Nawser Ali Khan of Botany De-

3 muggers held

gers with a country-made pistol at Aliganj under Fatullah police station at 10 pm on Sunday.

ple caught the three while they were trying to snatch money and gold necklace from female garment workers on their way home from workplace.

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The muggers were identified as Ramzan Ali, 19, Ruhul Amin 18, and Mujibar Rahman, 18.

According to police, local peo-

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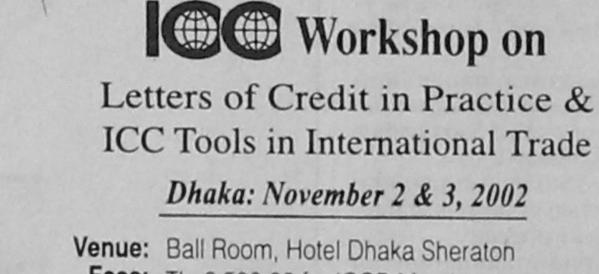
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- Last Date of Submission of Applications: 10th November, '02.
- Admission Test: (An hour's written test of MCQs on Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English & General Knowledge) on 15th November, '02.
- Publication of the result of the Admission test: 18th November '02 Last Date of Admission : 25th December '02.
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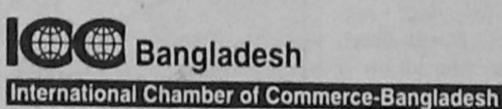
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JSD leader Abdun Noor inaugurates the two-day national convention of Jafiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday.

JSD convention begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day convention of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) began in the city yesterday with a call to establish rule of law, fight communalism and globalisation and ensure participation of workers, professionals and women in running the government.

JSD leader Abdun Noor inaugurated the convention at the Paltan Maidan with party vice president Sharif Nurul Ambia in the chair.

JSD General Secretary Hasanul Haq Enu, Shireen Akhter and Moinuddin Badal spoke on the occasion.

Rashed Khan Menon, president workers, professionals, women of Workers Party, Mujahidul Islam Selim, secretary general of Bangladesher Communist Party, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, general

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organisations and civil society in national politics' will be held at Mohanagar Natyamancha at 10.00am today.

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secretary of Jatiya Party (Monju)

and Colonel (Retd) Shawkar Ali

leader of Awami League also

Addressing the convention

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The council of the party was

A discussion on 'The role of

attended the inaugural function.

Hasanul Haq Enu said deployment

of army proves the failure of the

government in maintaining law

procession was brought out that

paraded different city streets and

returned to the convention venue.

held in the afternoon with vice

president Sharif Nurul Ambia in

and order in the country.

the chair.

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