STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Anti-Corruption Commission, Chittagong yesterday filed a case against 15 employees of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and two clearing and forwarding agents on the charge of misappropriating imported cloth worth about Tk 35 lakh from the port in 2000.

Deputy Assistant Director of the ACC, Chittagong

department. Clearing and Alam, owner of Ebco Enterprise, was also sued. of Ebco Enterprise.

statement, M/S Apparels Sources Limited, a company in the capital's Uttara, imported 100 bales of 6 in 2000.

container with the bales of cloth were kept in a warehouse at the port and later in the evening the container was found open with 90 bales of the cloth missing, it added.

Garbage on

FROM PAGE 5 Meanwhile, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique unveiled a book titled "Bangladesh Niye" by Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

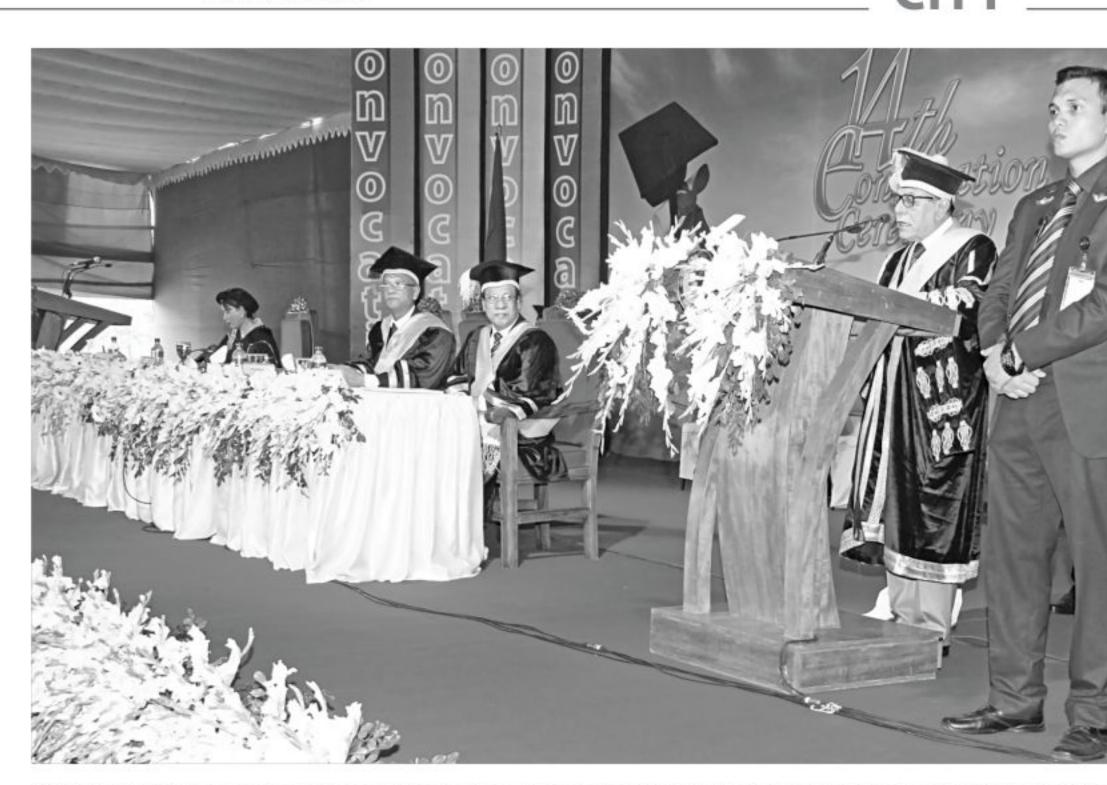
Sarwar and state ministers Nasrul Hamid Bipu and present.

more day to go, the fair saw the arrival of 122 books and publication ceremonies of 15 were held.

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President Abdul Hamid addresses the 14th convocation of American International University, Bangladesh (AIUB) at Bangladesh Military Museum in the capital yesterday. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid was present as the special guest, while University Grants Commission Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury was the convocation speaker. A total of 2,730 graduates were conferred degrees this year, and of them three received the chancellor's gold medal. PHOTO: COURTESY

Litterateurs, connoisseurs 2 jailed for

FROM PAGE 3

Four more academic papers on violence within and across borders and how it came up in literary discourses in Nepa and Sri Lanka were discussed in another session chaired by Bangla Academy Director General Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan.

Sri Lankan academician MA Nuhman and Nepali poets Bal Bahadur Thapa and Prakash Subedi and cultural activist Shiva Rijal presented their papers. The day's attraction was the discussion between two

legendary Bangla litterateurs, poet Shamsul Huq of Bangladesh and Samaresh Majumdar of India, on "Historical fault lines and reconciliation".

In the discussion, moderated by Syed Badrul Ahsan, executive editor of The Daily Star, Shamsul Huq presented his personal recollection on the partition. "Borders cannot divide language or the emotions of

human being," said Majumdar, adding that he was proud to write in Bangla, the language for which people laid down their lives. The day ended with poetry recitations in different

Chair of one of the sessions, Prof Niaz Zaman, told The Daily Star, "Conferences of this sort are platforms where we can express our common humanity and overcome our differences."

Rubana Huq, secretary general of WRITE Foundation, said they plan to hold a bimonthly lecture series on literary subjects and start working on translations of Bangladeshi writings which lack exposure.

"Instead of calling it a conference we preferred festival to celebrate the togetherness," she said, adding that the festi val, being held for the second time, was first held in 2001 by Foswal.

selling dead chickens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday jailed two persons for two years for collecting and selling dead chickens in the capital's Tejgaon area.

The court also seized 102 dead chickens from their possession raiding a wholesale chicken market near Tejgaon Railway Station.

Delwar Hossain, 45, and Asma Begum, 40, were given two years' imprisonment.

They were also fined Tk 1 lakh each, in default to serve three months more in jail, said Anwar Pasha, an executive magistrate who led the

court assisted by Rab. The duo confessed to selling the dead chickens to some restaurants and fast food shops in Uttara, Gulshan and Dhanmondi

at low prices, Pasha said.

Prosecutors miss attendance FROM PAGE 3

2nd Edition

international standards".

It also said the "judges had improperly conducted an investigation on behalf of the prosecution" and expressed worries over "collusion and bias among prosecutors and judges". Ghulam Azam, considered by many as the

symbol of war crimes during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971, was jailed for 90 years on July 5 by the tribunal-1. Another state lawyer, Tureen Afroz, said

of yesterday's proceedings. "The date was not fixed beforehand and therefore the matter was not mentioned in

she was occupied with a case and not aware

our diary," claimed Prosecutor Zead Al

Malum, adding that since the defence was to was "deeply flawed" and "it had not met the file its reply, the prosecution did not have any possibility of being prejudiced.

> During the day's proceedings, HRW lawyer Anisul Hassan prayed for deferment of the hearing on the reply till June and for allowing HRW attorney Dinah Pokemner, a US citizen, to send an affidavit copy of the reply through the Bangladesh embassy in Washington DC. Otherwise, she will have to fly to Dhaka which would take time, said Anisul.

In response, the tribunal fixed March 6 to hold a hearing on its plausibility and set April 10 to file the reply.

The three-member tribunal-1 served a show cause notice on HRW on September 2 last year for its post.

speak in Urdu and used to accompany the

Pakistani occupation forces and help them

identify shops and houses of pro-liberation

people and Hindus before those were

there were contradictions in the witnesses'

Appellate Division fixed March 2 for resum-

Earlier, defence lawyers told the SC that

A five-member bench of the SC's

looted and set on fire.

ing hearing for the 37th day.

statements.

JMB man's father-in-law arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipi

Police yesterday arrested the father in-law of Zakaria Islam, the driver of one of the two microbuses some Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) operatives used to snatch three top militants from police in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh on Sunday. Sabbir Ahmed, 55, was

caught in Kaliakoir upazila of Gazipur on information, while he was travelling on a Dhaka-bound bus from Naogaon, said police. Zakaria, 29, is a senior

JMB member and one of the planners of the ambush to have the three, including two death row convicts, freed, according to police.

Hailing from Gomostapur upazila, Chapainawabganj, Zakaria had been arrested in 2005 for his involvement in militancy.

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Gone are the days of being

government would take measures to remove the persisting regional disparities in development, and Rajshahi would not be deprived.

of Chapainawabganj will be a big railport, playing roles in trans-national connectivity. "Regional connectivity among Bangladesh, India, China and Myanmar has become urgent now for the region's development." The government has moved to revamp

Mongla port in Bagerhat that would help Bangladesh's south-west to prosper, he said.

Shahriar Alam also talked of elevating Rajshahi to be an international cricketing venue by building a five-star hotel. He also said, "Although the incidence of The days are not very far when Rohonpur border killings has reduced remarkably,

> to zero. If the killings still continue, we will not let the incidents go unchallenged". The minister shared plans to double remittances by exporting skilled workers

> we've requested India to bring the number

in place of unskilled ones and introduce a fourth train on the Dhaka-Rajshahi

Double pry school stipends FROM PAGE 5

packages, said Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman. The stipends, mostly focused on upazilas experiencing high poverty, brought huge success in enrollment rates. "We have seen that the money is spent on buying stationary for the children and paying for extra

classes," stated Zillur.

The programme also impacted students' presence as a drop in attendance results in stipend cancellation, said Rasheda.

"However, despite the successes, dropouts and poor quality of education still plague the system," said Pascal Villeneuve, Unicef representative in Bangladesh.

indigenous leader Sanjeev Drong, Parbatya

Activists rip into

FROM PAGE 5 The signatories include Khushi Kabir of

Nijera Kori, Prof Anu Muhammad of Jahangirnagar University, writer Rehnuma Ahmed, development activist Dr Meghna Guhathakurta, rights activist Sara Hossain,

Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) leader Mangal Kumar Chakma, Gono Sanghati Andolon coordinator Zonayed Saki, JU teachers Manas Chowdhury and Dr Shadhin Sen, and Dhaka University's Dr Mohammed Tanzim Uddin Khan.

Chakma Circle Chief Raja Debasish Roy,

Doctors will be made to stay

He added that the MPs have to monitor whether the doctors stay at their workplace. "If a UNO, TNO and an agricultural officer can stay in an upazila then why you (doctors) can't?" Nasim said.

The minister said the Sheikh Hasina-led national council on health affairs will sit very soon to decide on giving incentives to doctors so that they serve in rural areas.

He also assured MPs of providing ambulances to their respective upazilas.

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PWs' statements authentic

filed by the Jamaat-e-Islami leader challeng-

ing the death penalty International Crimes Tribunal-1 handed down for his crimes against humanity in 1971. According to the verdict, eight prosecu-

Sayedee on May 7, 1971 actively took part in the looting of 25/30 shops and houses of Hindus and the Awami League men.

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Mohammad Sirajul Hoque filed the case. The accused include six staff of CPA's traffic department and nine of security

forwarding agent Md Shah The other accused is a staff According to the case

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Samakal Editor Golam

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