

268

## Rajsanjani lays foundation of Persian Language Centre at DU

The visiting Iranian President, Mr. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Wednesday formally laid the foundation stone of a building for Persian Language and Research Centre at a simple function in Dhaka on the campus of Dhaka University, reports BSS.

The Iranian government will provide the fund for construction of the proposed 600 square metre building as a gesture to symbolise the religious, cultural and linguistic bonds between Iran and Bangladesh.

Speaking on the occasion,

Contd. on page 8 col. 1

## Persian Language

Contd. from page 1

President Rafsanjani said that the centre would serve as a centre of Islamic culture.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed, Vice-President of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) Mr. Amanullah Aman MP, and Dean of the Arts Faculty Prof Aminul Islam also spoke at the function.

President Rafsanjani traced the background of the Persian language and literature and said the then British government by a decree issued in 1837 had prohibited the use of Persian language in the subcontinent.

The Iranian leader said he had learnt that some 7000 Persian words had been incorporated in the Bengali language.

He spoke on the role of a university in the present day world and said teachers, scholars and ulema could contribute largely to the development of a society in keeping with its own tradition and cultural heritage.

President Rafsanjani said the Muslim countries could develop themselves further through cooperation among them.

Earlier, welcoming President Rafsanjani Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed said the establishment of this centre at the Dhaka University would provide enhanced facilities to learn Persian language and come in closer contact with the Persian culture in the context of international brotherhood.