



## MPs to head govt college bodies

By Staff Correspondent

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday told Parliament that relevant laws would be amended to enable the MP's to become the chairmen of the governing bodies of government colleges in their respective areas.

Replies to a supplementary question from Mosharrif Hosain (AL-Faridpur), the minister said some provisions in the Universities Ordinance 1973 bar MPs from becoming chairmen of degree colleges.

Thana Nirbahi Officers (TNOs) are the chairmen of degree colleges while the MPs head the managing committees of the non-government colleges.

BSS adds: The Education Minister assured the Jatiya Sangsad that the present government would nationalise one college in each thana by 1995, much earlier than the proposal of Abdul Matin Khasru who had pleaded to do it by the year 2000.

Barrister Sircar reiterated that the government had under-

## Tk 400 cr plan to shift Jail

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ernisation of all the jails would take place in phases.

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday — a private members' day — also witnessed discussions on three more resolutions moved by Opposition members.

Of the three, one was rejected by voice vote while two others were withdrawn following assurances of consideration by the ministers concerned.

The resolution, rejected by the House, demanded construction of shelters for homeless people at every district and thana headquarters.

While persuading AL member Tabbir Rahman Sarder to withdraw the resolution earlier, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah told the House that a national housing policy, in the offing, would aim at providing accommodation to the lower income group.

The minister said that the government had already implemented several housing schemes for the low-income group, including one at Mirpur in the city. The government had also taken up a housing scheme for the poor at Dhaka and Khulna on some eighty acres of lands. Barrister Rafiq added that the scheme was already under the consideration of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Referring to the United Nations' Human Habitat Programme, the minister also said that Bangladesh was engaged in implementation of the programme to ensure shelters for the poor and homeless.

He said although it was a constitutional obligation for the state to provide shelter to each and every citizen, this could not

364 students went abroad under scholarships

By Staff Correspondent

Some 364 students have gone abroad for study under foreign scholarships during the past three years. Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar told Parliament yesterday.

Replies to a question from Awami League member Abdul Matin Khasru (Comilla-5), the Education Minister said the exact figure of students studying abroad was not recorded with the ministry since the students need no certificate or permission from the ministry.

The minister said the highest number of 154 scholarship winners have been studying in neighbouring India, followed by 50 in England.

Some 15 countries awarded scholarships to the Bangladeshi students.

The last three years break-up of scholarships are as follows:

Morocco-5, Australia-24, Turkey-4, Hungary-2, Canada-13, Egypt-6, the United States-18, Poland-1, Czechoslovakia-4, China-40, Japan-34, Pakistan-6 and Russia-3.

**'Threat from opposition'**

**Huda tells JS**

By Staff Correspondent

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday said in Parliament that he is feeling a 'threat' from the Opposition in the House.

Yesterday one Opposition member threatened to attack my house and today another member is proposing to send me to jail," a smiling Huda said appealing to the Deputy Speaker to record the threats.

The minister's appeal came when the House was discussing jail reform.



A Russian soldier and his cheering girl friend, among others, watching US rock star Michael Jackson performing during his concert in the "Luzhniki" Stadium, Moscow Wednesday.

— AFP photo

## 'Too many rules create bottlenecks, encourage corruption'

By Staff Correspondent

Trimming and streamlining of the governmental machinery could help foster good governance.

Prof Mohabbat Khan of the Public Administration Department and AK Monawar Uddin Ahmed, of the Economics Department of the Dhaka University made this observation in their paper on "Governance in Bangladesh: An Overview", presented on the concluding day of the ADB-sponsored conference on the Bangladesh economy at the Hotel Sheraton yesterday.

The other resolutions, later withdrawn, were moved by AL legislator Professor Rafiqul Islam and Jamaat MP Maulana Abdus Sattar.

The House was adjourned yesterday at 8:55 pm to resume again at 4:30 pm on Sunday.

### NO NEW PRY SCHOOL TO BE NATIONALISED

By Staff Correspondent

A Tk 427.30 crore scheme has been undertaken for the development of 8,830 registered primary schools across the country. State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan informed Parliament yesterday.

Replies to a supplementary question from Tabbir Rahman Sarder (AL-Jessore), the minister said the government had no immediate plan to nationalise any new primary school. Currently 70,766 schools and other institutions are engaged in imparting primary education, the minister said in reply to another question from Maulana Ataur Rahman Khan. But the government has a plan to set up 200 satellite schools and 4032 low-cost institutions during the Fifth Five-Year-Plan.

He said at present 1,69,90,181 children are eligible to go to school for primary education. The state minister said 41,65,279 students were studying under the compulsory primary education programme.

In reply to another question from Abdul Matin Khasru (AL-Comilla), Eunus Khan said some 6,90,000 children would be benefitted from the newly-initiated "Food for Education" programme in 64 districts. Tk 89,23,33,000 have been earmarked to implement the project, the minister added.

### SIX GOVT SECYS

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The concerned ministries where the top civil servants have completed their tenures are Finance, Home Affairs, Land, the Election Commission, Special Affairs, Religious Affairs and Forests and Environment.

The official retirement age is 57 or completion of 25 years of service.

The Secretary of the Special Affairs Ministry, under the Prime Minister's office, Nasirullah Khan and Additional Secretary-in-charge of the Forests and Environment Ministry Abdus Selim are both due to retire in October next.

Secretary of the Finance Ministry Nasimuddin Ahmed and Secretary of the Home Affairs Ministry Azimuddin Ahmed, both of whom are twins, are scheduled to complete their service on November 22. They are both erstwhile Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP) cadre officials.

Secretary of the Land Ministry Aminul Islam, Secretary of the Election Commission, under the Law Ministry, A Z M Shamsul Alam and Secretary of the Religious Affairs Ministry Abdul Awal are all due to retire in December.

In addition, the Chairman of the Administrative Restructuring Committee, under the Finance Ministry, Nurunnabi — a former member of the Planning Commission — has already gone on LPR.

Secretary of the Cabinet Division Ayubur Rahman is also due to go on retirement in May next year.



A Russian soldier and his cheering girl friend, among others, watching US rock star Michael Jackson performing during his concert in the "Luzhniki" Stadium, Moscow Wednesday.

— AFP photo

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## Diplomatic ties with Moldova

Bangladesh and Moldova have established diplomatic relations, reports BSS.

A protocol was signed to this effect on September 14 in Kishinev, capital of the Republic of Moldova.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh in Russia Mustafizur Rahman and the Foreign Minister of Moldova Nicolae Tau signed the protocol on behalf of their respective countries.

The protocol provides for mutual cooperation in political, trade, economic and other fields and diplomatic relations at the level of embassies.

Bangladesh has already established diplomatic relations with the other 14 republics of the former Soviet Union.

### 15 hurt in gang attack in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 16: At least fifteen villagers, including ten women, were injured when a gang of armed men attacked the house of a peasants' leader at Bhabnaha under Fakirhat Police Station of Bagerhat district today morning.

According to eyewitnesses, the gang of 10 to 15 people armed with lethal weapons attacked the house of one Jafar Farazi who led the peasants of that village against a fish gher (farm) owned by one Amjad Nikary at about 9:30 this morning.

The hoodlums allegedly tried to kidnap Jafar after ransacking the house by exploding hand bombs and firing shots. They also beat the female inmates of the house.

As the news of the attack spread villagers encircled the house and caught two of the miscreants alongwith their firearms.

The besieged gang at one stage fired at the villagers indiscriminately, injuring some fifteen villagers including ten women.

### Saifur: NCB

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cisions promptly if a genuine entrepreneur submits a proposal for funds," he said.

Rahman observed that some of the bank officials were showing very good performance while some others were not performing their duties properly.

In this context, he said the banks have to take steps to give incentives to those who were showing good performance. Free market economy is an incentive oriented economy.

Speaking on unrecouped bank loans, the Finance Minister said previously one Manager or General Manager disbursed loan and another had to recover that loan from the loanee.

"This situation must be changed... those who disburse loans, both working capital and term loan, will be responsible and they must recover the amount," Rahman said.

Criticising the commission-based activities, the Finance Minister said this type of activities are harmful for the economy and industries are lying sick due to this agent-based tendency. The tendency of not returning bank money is also destroying the environment of investment in the country, he said.

Israel and the PLO are convening joint committees to flesh out the agreement, the Washington Post reported in early editions today.

The newspaper said the groups would meet in Washington, Israel and the occupied territories to deal with issues of public safety, economics and administration.

"We have to expect that some of these events will continue for a certain period. I don't know how long. But the important point is that we have to move

fast to put these pieces of paper into effect on the ground."

This will help both of us to overcome these events."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation is pressuring Israel to free detainees, let back deportees and take other measures to make life easy for Palestinians under occupation.

In an interview with Reuters television after returning to his headquarters in Tunis on Wednesday, he said the violence by opponents of peace was insignificant compared with the expressions of Palestinian popular support for the agreement.

He said: "You are only looking at some small events here and there and you are forgetting the flood of support from the masses everywhere, especially in the Gaza Strip."

Regarding violation of the decisions of the Review Committee, he said the decisions of the Review Committee were not mandatory for the banks and financing institutions. They could follow their own rules if they deemed those to be more beneficial for the rehabilitation process, he said.

The official, however, mentioned that the ministry was looking into the discriminatory principles adopted by some of the financing institutions and, if needed, it would intervene in the matter.

There are also allegations about violating a number of decisions of the Review Committee, especially against the Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangsads (BSRS).

According to the sources, the BSRS is following its own style in rehabilitating the sick industries, which the entrepreneurs

## The Midnight File

### Pak commission to probe govt officials' corruption

ISLAMABAD, Sept 16: Pakistan set up a special commission today to investigate corruption among government officials in a drive by interim Prime Minister Moen Qureshi to stamp out bribery and influence-peddling. The commission will review and propose action in corruption cases involving public servants, the official APP news agency said. It will also investigate the system of federal government and suggest reforms, reports Reuter.

### Khamenei blasts Israeli-PLO pact

NICOSIA, Sept 16: Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei today urged the Islamic world to mount a "counter-attack" against the Israel-PLO peace pact. "The enemies of Islam think they have taken a step forward, but the Islamic world should launch a counter-attack and push them back," he told a group of revolutionary guard commanders in a speech reported by Iranian television, reports Reuter.

## Biman restores all international flights

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 16:

After nearly four months of disruption Biman Bangladesh Airlines has restored all its international and regional flights suspended following the accident of one of its DC-10s in May, officials said yesterday.

The flight schedule is back to normal after two leased DC-10 aircraft joined the fleet.

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