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# The Daily Star

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**Govt won't endorse degree given by unauthorised medical colleges**

The government will not endorse any degree or take any examinations of the students belonging to unauthorised medical colleges, a PID handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

The handout said "according to the laws of the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Act 1980, it was banned to conduct any education or training courses or awarding any degree, diploma, licence or certificates without the approval of the government or dental council. In this respect there is a provision for two years jail term with fine".

The government has directed See Page 12 Col 4

## Separation of judiciary from administration No constitutional changes needed: HC verdict

No constitutional amendment will be required for separation of the judiciary from the administration, the High Court pronounced in a judgment yesterday, reports UNB.

It directed the government to take necessary steps for speedy implementation of the process for separation of the judiciary from the administration in consultation with the Supreme Court.

The High Court ordered that copies of the judgment be sent to the Prime Minister and the Law Minister so that the administration of the government could take necessary steps in accordance with the judgment.

The court gave the verdict delivering its judgment on a writ petition filed by 441 judges of the lower courts from district judges to assistant judges working in different parts of the country.

They filed the writ petition for declaration of their status as judicial officers working in the post of district judges to assistant judges.

The court declared that the existing service conditions including salary, allowance and other facilities which are being accorded to the judicial officers are not in accordance with the provision of the Constitution and as such the same were *ultra-vires* and unconstitutional.

In its judgment the court directed to apart the status of the judicial officers from the administrative service and accord all sorts of service facilities which are required to be given to the judicial officers as per provision of the Constitution.

The High Court further directed that the judicial officers are not required to go to the administrative tribunal in order to solve their problems relating to their service since the court of the respective judicial officers is not under the jurisdiction of the administrative tribunal.

It said in the judgment that the terms and conditions declared for the judicial officers would be also applicable for judicial magistrates who are discharging their functions as judicial works.

This writ petition was filed on November 19, 1995 before the High Court Division and the court issued rule upon the government accordingly.

The hearing of the petition had taken place in several days and yesterday was fixed for delivery of the judgment.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Mozammel Huq and Hasan Amin took hearing of the writ petition and delivered the judgment.

Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain and See Page 12 Col 6

## Hasina, Zillur re-elected AL President, GS

By Staff Correspondent

Sheikh Hasina and Zillur Rahman have been unanimously re-elected president and general secretary respectively of Awami League for a three-year term.

Councillors at the party's two-day triennial national council in the city yesterday afternoon supported AL leader Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury's proposal to re-elect Sheikh Hasina. The proposal was seconded by another party leader Abdur Razzak.

The councillors and delegates then gave her a standing ovation and congratulated her on becoming the party chief.

With this re-election, Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, became Awami League president for the fourth time. She is leading the party since 1981.

Later, the councillors also empowered party chief to select a new presidium and a central committee of the party.

After a three-hour discussion with the subject-committee and senior party leaders of the party, Sheikh Hasina announced the name of Zillur Rahman as general secretary and Mohammad Nasim as organising secretary of the party and the names of presidium members at around 9 pm.

Selection of other office bearers and executive members of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be made later through further discussions, Hasina told a packed audience at the Outer Stadium comprising councillors, delegates and party leaders and workers from across the country.

The two-day council concluded yesterday.

Only one new face — Abdul Jalil (formerly a joint secretary of AL) was inducted into the party's 13-member presidium. One post of presidium member fell vacant earlier following the death of Mohiuddin Ahmed.

The other members of the presidium are: Sayeda Zohra Tajuddin, Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Md Qamruzzaman, Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdul Momen, Amir Husain Amu, Abdur Razzak, To-fael Ahmed, Pulin Dey, Dr Mofa See Page 12 Col 1

## BMA polls today: 64 contesting from 2 panels

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) will elect its 32-member central executive committee today.

As many as 64 candidates from two panels are contesting the polls to be held simultaneously in the 66 centres all over the country, including one in the capital.

Dr Mahub-e-Rashid and Dr MA Majed are vying for the post of President while Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Dr Gazi See Page 12 Col 2

## Tagore's birth anniversary today

By Staff Correspondent

The 136th birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore will be celebrated today.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid glowing tributes to the poet in separate messages.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said Tagore's literary works, based on the ideals of brotherhood and amity, remain a source of inspiration for all.

"His writings are invaluable assets of world literature," the

**Editorial on page 4**

president said while paying glowing tribute to the great poet.

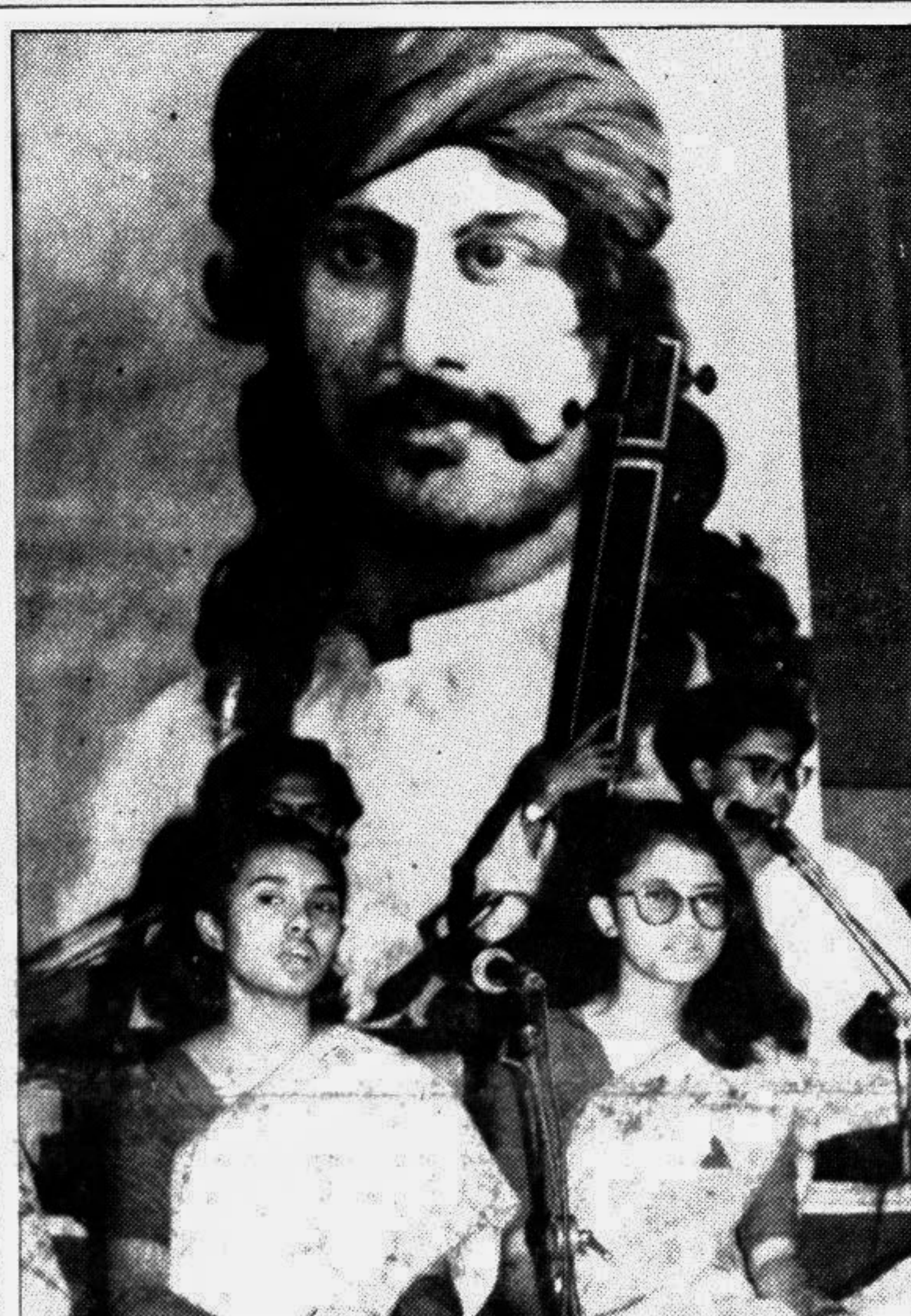
The President recalled the poet's extraordinary contribution in enriching Bengali language and literature and establishing Bangla in a dignified position in the world.

Sheikh Hasina said works of Rabindranath Tagore had inspired us with undaunting courage and indomitable strength to fight the War of Liberation.

"He imbued us with a strong spirit of patriotism," Hasina said in her message.

"Rabindranath, composer of our national anthem, is very close to our Sonar Bangla," the Prime Minister said adding that Tagore's songs are also the guiding force for us all.

Meanwhile, the government See Page 12 Col 8



Members of Chhayana rendering Tagore songs at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Mobutu leaves Zaire, perhaps for good

KINSHASA (Zaire), May 7: Under heavy security but with little fanfare, President Mobutu Sese Seko flew out of Kinshasa in his private Boeing 727 today, perhaps for the final time after ruling Zaire for almost 32 years, report agencies.

Journalists were kept out of the airport terminal but saw a motorcade of at least a dozen vehicles, including two stretch limousines guarded by three military jeeps armed with mounted machine guns.

Unlike the reception by thousands of cheering people when Mobutu returned last year after convalescing in France for months, his departure today to a regional summit in Libreville, Gabon, drew little attention.

See Page 12 Col 8

## HSC, Alim, Fazil, Kamil exams begin today

The combined Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations under five education boards will begin across the country today amidst tight security, reports UNB.

A total of 7,22,215 candidates will appear at the HSC examinations in 945 centres, including five abroad.

Besides, Alim, Fazil and Kamil examinations under the Madrassah Education Board are also beginning today.

Officials said the government had taken all precautionary measures to ensure peaceful atmosphere during the examinations for their smooth conduct.

They also said strict security measures had been taken to prevent leakage of question paper. Authorities have advised the examinees not to be misled by any rumours about question-paper leakage.

This year, for the second time, the HSC examination is going to be held with common sets of question papers under the education boards of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Jessore, Comilla and Chittagong.

The highest 232,113 examinees, including 91,885 female, will sit for the exam under Dhaka Education Board. They will appear at the examination in 264 centres, including 46 in the capital.

Examinees living abroad will sit for the examination under Dhaka Board in five centres in Jeddah, Riyadh, Tripoli, Doha and Abu Dhabi.

The breakup of candidates in four other education boards are: Rajshahi—1,91,460, Jessore—1,36,472, Comilla—1,10,375, and Chittagong—53,795.

Sources said authorities have taken extra-security steps this year against the backdrop of massive leakage of question papers for SSC examinations held recently.

District administration, police and examination centre authorities have also been asked to remain alert to avert any leakage out of their mistakes, they added.

See Page 12 Col 6

## 3.20 lakh tons paddy, rice procurement target

The government has set a target to procure two lakh metric tons of paddy and 1.20 lakh metric tons of rice from IRRIBoro producers during the current season, reports UNB.

According to an official handout yesterday the prices of each quintal of paddy and rice have been fixed at Tk 700 and Tk 1000 respectively.

Meanwhile, the drive to procure rice and paddy began on May 7 and it will continue upto August 12.

The handout said each and See Page 12 Col 1

## Proportionate representation Meet demand on JS committees: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has reiterated its demand for proportionate representation in all the Jatiya Sangsad committees as proposed by a parliamentary sub-committee.

If the demand is not met, the already created 'deadlock' over the formation of JS bodies will worsen, affecting smooth functioning of the House, warned BNP Vice-Chairman and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury.

Addressing a press conference at the Minto Road official residence of Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia in the city yesterday, Prof Chowdhury also urged the Speaker, the Leader of the House and the Treasury bench leaders to make sincere efforts to make the Sangsad effective by activating the JS committees.

Otherwise, he said the government would be held responsible for a fresh deadlock.

In this regard, he cited examples of 10 democratic countries including UK, US, Italy, Germany, Canada, Japan and India where, he pointed out, members of parliamentary committees were appointed in proportion to a party's strength in parliament.

Accusing the ruling party of showing 'narrow partisan attitude in forming JS bodies, Prof Chowdhury said his party had attended meetings of the Business Advisory Committee and the JS Rules Amendment Committee despite its boycott of other parliamentary bodies only because it (BNP) sincerely wanted to make the JS effective.

See Page 12 Col 2

## 30 minor girls rescued from Kandupatti brothel

By Staff Correspondent

Police rescued 30 minor girls and arrested four persons, including a "madam," from the Kandupatti brothel in the old part of the city yesterday afternoon.

The arrested were identified as Banu and her associates, Nurul Islam alias Nuru Sarder, Monju Sarder and Anuri Sarder, police said last night.

According to police, the arrested persons brought the girls to the city from different areas of the country luring them with the assurance of jobs. But they See Page 12 Col 6

## Prime Minister leaves for Male May 11 SAGQ concept likely to be debated at SAARC summit

By M Anwarul Haq

Heads of state or government of the seven SAARC countries will endeavour to break new grounds in expanding areas of cooperation particularly in commercial and economic fields at the upcoming summit, according to diplomatic sources.

The ninth summit meeting of SAARC in 13 years is being held in Male, capital of the Maldives, from May 12 to 14.

The summit will give priority to evaluating the progress made in the sphere of tariff concessions under the umbrella of the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAFTA). The summit leaders are also likely to review the report of the committee of Economic Cooperation (CEC) prepared at a meeting in Delhi last month regarding creation of a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) for the common economic benefit of the member countries, the sources added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka on May 11 to attend the summit. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad is due to leave today to attend a three day meeting of the Council of Ministers beginning tomorrow.

Ahead of the summit, a meeting of the Standing Committee comprising foreign secretaries of the SAARC countries began in Male yesterday to review the progress of the organisation and deliberate on the proposed agenda of the summit which will be approved by the meeting of the Council of ministers.

The upcoming summit would see the participation of four new leaders in the SAARC platform. They are Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Nepalese Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and newly elected Prime Minister of India Inder Kumar Gujral.

Diplomatic sources feel that the participation of four new heads of government is expected to bring new dynamism in the 13-year-old organisation, often criticised for making slow progress or inaction.

The recently floated concept of South Asian Growth Quadrangle (SAGQ) mooted by four countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India — is likely to be a subject of discussion and debate at the summit.

If the platform of sub-regional cooperation is endorsed by all the seven member-states invoking Article 7 of the SAARC Charter, the concept may have a fair accommodation within the domain of SAARC giving the other member-countries scope to form their own sub-regional groups for cooperation, the See Page 12 Col 3

## Inside Today

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## Tomorrow

The Star magazine unfolds poignant stories behind child custody—a forgotten agenda. Make sure you get your copy tomorrow.

## Chittagong port users announce phase-wise boycott from May 11

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 7: The Port Users Forum today announced on phase-wise programme to boycott the Chittagong port from May 11 in protest against what it said government's failure to give decision on use of private equipment in handling container cargo.

Announcing the programme at a press conference at the Chittagong Chamber House, Convenor of the Forum Kamaluddin Ahmed said that in the first phase, they would boycott the port for 24 hours from 7 am on May 11.

In the second phase the boycott will continue for 48 hours from 7 am on May 15. In the third phase, a boycott for an indefinite period will start from May 20, he said.

Replying to a question Kamaluddin said that the boycott might cause a dislocation in import and export trade in addition to congestion for ships at Chittagong port.

The port users had also observed a boycott programme in March this year demanding use of private equipment claiming that those were imported with the permission of the port authorities. But the permission to use the equipment was post-poned by the authorities when the port workers went on strike from March 15 opposing the decision.

Kamaluddin said that imported equipment worth crores of taka were lying unused at the port for the last one and a half years due to lack of a decision by the port authorities.

He said that the government was to decide on the use of private equipment before April 5 as per an agreement between the port Users Forum and the port authorities signed at a tripartite meeting on March 19.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP had attended the meeting as a special representative of the Prime Minister. City mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was also present, he said.

Kamaluddin said leaders of the Forum also held three meetings with Deputy Minister for Shipping Dharendra Devnath See Page 12 Col 7

## Rebels gun down 20 troops in Manipur

GUWAHATI, May 7: Twenty Indian soldiers were killed by separatist tribal guerrillas in India's far eastern state of Manipur, the state's Home Minister said today, reports AFP.

Militants belonging to the outlawed National Liberation Front of Tripura attacked a paramilitary patrol at Khumlong.

"All the soldiers died on the spot," he said.

Choudhury said the incident occurred at about 8:30 am (0300 GMT) and was the biggest rebel attack on security forces yet.

"According to preliminary reports, militants ambushed the troops at Khumlong, situated in a remote southern district which is almost inaccessible," the home minister said.

"Some of the soldiers were injured in the attack and they have been rushed to a primary health centre in the district," he added.

The Tripura government has asked the army and paramilitary troops to launch a search operation for the insurgents, Choudhury said.

A separate group of tribal guerrillas in February killed at least 50 people in west Tripura, setting houses ablaze and leaving thousands homeless. The federal government later issued shoot-at-sight orders to army troops deployed in the area.

Tribal guerrillas fighting for an independent homeland in Tripura have killed more than 5,000 people during the last 10 years.

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— Editor