## BLUE DART

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#### Jamuna Bridge BRAC to implement compensation project

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) will implement a project 'Compensating the Erosion and Flood Affected Persons' as per an agreement with the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA), reports BSS.

The area covered by the arrangement stretches from 8 kilometer upstream to 10 kilometer downstream of the Jamuna Bridge including both the mainland and the chars, said a BRAC press release yesterday.

The three-year project is designed to identify the land and the people to make proper arrangements for paying compensation to those who have lost or likely to lose their land, houses structures and sources of income due to possible erosion in the area caused by river training and construction of the Jamuna Bridge.

Twenty out of 49 spans of bridge have already been constructed and BRAC is using satellite images to monitor the behaviour pattern of the river including the rate and places of erosion.

#### WHO official murder: None arrested yet

By Staff Correspondent Police were yet to arrest the persons involved in the killing of a WHO official at Mizmizi in Siddhirganj Thursday.

Siddhirganj police, who were investigating the case said yesterday the murder was preplanned. However, they could nto find out the motive behind the crime.

Saifuddin Mahmud, 35, a programme support officer of the WHO, sustained bullet injuries when gunmen shot him at Mizmizi, about 20 kilometres from the city. Thursday night. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

According to police, the gunmen fired on the WHO official soon after he boarded his car to return to his residence at Malibagh in the city. Police said, they have ques-

tioned a number of people in this regard. The brother of the victim has filed a murder case.

#### BNP candidates

From page 1

Dal workers to foil government conspiracies through agitation. Blaming the AL government for 'killing' some 150 members of his party and resorting to 'repression' on the people, the BNP secretary general said. "The country is now passing through a state of lawlessness. Terrorists have held the attempt to destroy the BNP has led to people hostage . . . government anarchy in the country."

Calling the AL a facist party, he alleged the party has re-established fascism in the country and it has been isolated from the people due to its repressive activities inefficiency, failures autocratic attitude and services to its foreign masters. "The government has lost public confidence while making abortive attempts to damage

BNP's image", he said. Mannan Bhuiyan also charged the government with 'destroying' the youth community, the main force to rise against its 'tyranny', and urged his party's youth activists to foil all intrigues in this regard.

Chaired by Juba Dal President Mirza Abbas, the meeting was also addressed by Barqatullah Bhulu MP, Goyeshwar Roy. Badruzzaman Khashru Moazzem Hossain Alal, Saju Kamal and Kowsar Ahmed.

#### AL demands

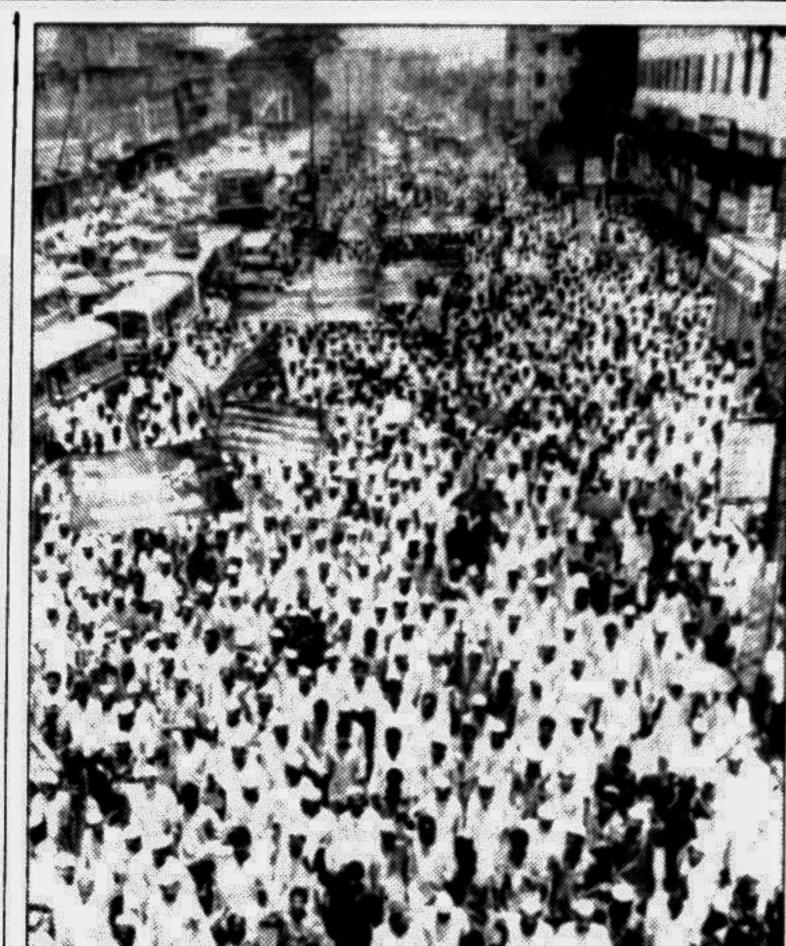
From page 1

groups, parties and pious people to build resistance against the "anti-state, and anti-religion" elements. It strongly condemned the

"attack" on the Thursday's inaugural function of a 15-day programme organised by Islami Foundation at the mosque premises.

Calling it subversive, the meeting observed that the fundamentalist and anti-liberation forces had disgraced Islam, and also the President of the Republic.

Presided over by acting President of Awami League Amir Hossain Amu, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, Environment Minister Sajeda Chowdhury, AL Joint Secretary Shamsur Rahman Khan Shahjahan, Abdul Momen and Mozaffar Hossain



An Eid-e-Miladunnabi procession in the city Friday.

## Miladunnabi observed

From page 1

across the country held daylong programmes.

The programmes included "Jasne Juluse" processions, milad mahfil, waz mahfil, Qurankhwani, seminar, discussion, special prayer and munajat and blood donation.

A milad mahfil was held at Bangabhaban in the afternoon in observance of the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi. President Shahabuddin Ahmed attended the milad mahfil

In the capital, several "Jasne Juluse" processions were brought out from different parts of the city and paraded the thoroughfares. The biggest "Jasne Juluse" procession of the country was brought out in the morning at the port city of Chittagong under the auspices of Anjuman-e-Rahmania Ahmedia Sunnia from Khanka-e-Kaderia Taibiya at Sholosha-

In the capital, Anjuman-e-Rahmania held a discussion meeting at the High Court Darbar Sharif premises. Among others, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam attended the discussion.

Anjumane Asadia Nuria Shahabia held a discussion

meeting followed by a blood donation programme at Mirpur Darbar Sharif. State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharaf was present. A "Jasne Juluse" procession was also brought out.

Anjumane Rahmania Mainia Maijbhandaria held a seminar at Mirpur Section One. Later, a "Jasne Juluse" procession was brought out under the auspices of the organisation. Ahle Darbar Sharif brought

From page 1

falling to a rash stroke early in

the innings before the Sri

Lankans ran away with the

game after they were nine for

self under intense pressure

amid media speculation that

the Indian selectors will not

hesitate to hand the captaincy

back to his predecessor Mo-

hammad Azharuddin if the de-

from the team for the Indepen-

dence Cup at home in May due

to poor form — but he turned the

tables on his detractors with an

unbeaten top-score of 81

Transport workers

From page 1

Police picked up six persons

— Md Kuddus, Md Manir Hos-

sein, Md Abul Kalam, Forkan.

lim, Saheb Ali and Pannu Gazi,

more than 15 students and the

driver of the college bus were

admitted to the Barisal Medical

the Barisal-Patuakhali Mini-

bus Owners Association at a

press conference at the local

press club condemned the inci-

sity College have also con-

demned the incidents and de-

manded immediate punish-

ment to those responsible.

The students of B M Univer-

Meanwhile, the leaders of

Three police men — Md Se-

Anwar and Nasir.

College hospital.

dents.

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It is Tendulkar's genius with

against the Sri Lankans.

Azharuddin, 34, was dropped

Tendulkar now finds him-

two in the third over.

cline is not halted.

Asia Cup cricket

out a "Jasne Juluse" procession from the High Court Mazar premises while another was brought out by Anjumane Ashekane Mostafa (SM) and Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat from Kamlapur Railway Masjid premises.

BNP's front organisation. Jatiyatabadi Olema Dal, held a discussion meeting at its central office at Purana Paltan. The party's central office was illuminated on the occasion.

A discussion meeting followed by a milad mahfil was held at the Jatiya Party's Kalabagan central office after Asr prayers.

Murtaza murder

#### Trial of Zardari, 18 others begins

KARACHI, July 19: A Pakistani court here today started the trial in jail of Asif Ali Zardari, husband of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, and 18 other accused in the Murtaza Bhutto murder case, reports AFP.

The accused have been charged with involvement in a conspiracy that allegedly led to the assassination of Murtaza.

Hun Sen rejects ASEAN mediation PHNOM PENH, July 19: A

peace mission aimed at resolving Cambodia's political crisis failed today when defiant coup leader Hun Sen flatly rejected outside mediation, reports AP.

His refusal to accept a peace proposal by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which would have required him to share power — brought the initiative to a halt.

the bat that India need most

against Pakistan in a match

that will almost certainly

carry the winners into the final

runs," Tendulkar admitted. "We

made 227 against the Lankans

which was at least 35 runs less

enced batsman Navjot Sidhu

and uncapped left-arm spinner

Nilesh Kulkarni in their 12 for

Sunday's game leaving out off

omitted on Friday, is expected

to get the nod to strengthen the

batting, that would however,

leave just three front-line

bowlers with part-timers Ajay

Jadeja, Robin Singh, Saurav

Ganguly and Tendulkar filling

This will be the first match

in as the fourth and fifth

between the teams since May 21

when Saeed Anwar blazed a

world record score of 194 at

Madras to lift Pakistan into the

Raja said his team enjoys a psy-

chological edge despite the ab-

sence of four strike bowlers -

Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis,

Mushtaq Ahmed and Moham-

mad Akram, who are playing in

English county championship.

when they play us," Raja said.

"They are a side with great po-

tential but I don't think they

have lived up to that potential.

young players who are mentally

very matured. They do not give

intensely-fought game in keep-

ing with the on-field rivalry be-

tween the two teams but hoped

the supporters would not get

thing. The Indian players are

our friends but we will obvi-

ously fight hard on the field," he

"It's not a national issue

up easily."

carried away.

"The Indians tend to choke

"On the other hand, we have

Raja, however, predicted an

Pakistani captain Rameez

Independence Cup final.

Sidhu, who was surprisingly

The Indians named experi-

"We have to score more

against Sri Lanka.

spinner Noel David.

than I wanted.

#### Erosion takes serious turn in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 19: Flood situation in Kushtia remained static but erosion by the river Ganges took a serious turn at the Daulatpur point.

Ganges has eroded 22 villages, 5 border outposts, 30 educational institutions, 50 mosques and 28 bazars so far.

Erosion has also devoured 10 kilometre flood protection embankment and made the lives of about 18 thousand people in three unions miserable.

Twelve villages of Ramkrishnapur union under Daulatpur thana have been totally devoured. The villages are Mohammadpur, Charuikuri, Talpatty, Thotarpara, Charpara, Insafnagar, Alinagar, Munshiganj, Khoribona, Kandirpara, Bogmari and Sonatala.

About 10 thousand people of these villages have taken shelter in safer places including the embankment. Most of them are living under the open sky with no relief materials from any quarters

Six villages of Philipnagar Union have also been badly affected by erosion. The villages are Uttar Philipnagar, Islampur, Farashdanga, Keru Dover Char, Nadibharat and Uttar Bahirchar.

#### Shop looted in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 19: At

least seven people were injured when a group of armed terror ists attacked a grocery shop at Khatunganj last evening and looted about Tk two lakh and a colour television.

The armed group came in autorickshaws and started firing They also beat the employees of the shop with iron rods, police

The terrorists decamped with the booties in the same vehicles.

The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College hospital.

#### Garments workers

From page 1

said a press release. In another meeting yesterday with Abul Hossain in the chair, 10 trade union bodies formed Garments Sramik Oikya Parishad in order to gear up their agitation. Meanwhile, General Secre-

tary of the International Textile Garments Leather Workers' Federation Neil Kearney expressed his deep shock at the death of garments workers in a fire on Tuesday. In a condolence message, he

also hoped that the authorities concerned would take immediate steps to protect the labourers from such incident in future, said a press release.

#### Ctg jail From page 1

and the jail authority did not ring the Pagla Ghanta (red-signal) as the incident was a small one. The prisoners, who are involved in the clashes will face internal trial", he said.

But, Chittagong Metropolitan Police sources said 11 prisoners and five jail guards were wounded in the clashes during which they heard the sound of Pagla Ghanta.

There are some 3,487 prisoners in the jail against the capacity of 747, sources said, attributing the incidents to indiscipline, lack of facilities and accommodation.

#### Four villages of Maricha union have been totally devoured and the villages are

Natun Char, Purardiar, Hachener Char and Mullukpur.

Meanwhile, flood situation in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts may continue to improve while it may inundate more areas in Dohar and Nawabgani of

A Flood Information Centre bulletin said the Brahmaputra continued to fall at all points and the Ganges registered rise at upstream points during the last 24 hours

The rivers in the Meghna basin recorded rise and fall while in South Eastern Hill basin marked fall.

Four rivers - the Ganges at Bhagyakul, the Surma at Kanaighat, the Kushiyara at Amalshid and Sheola and the Meghna at Bhairab Bazar were flowing above their respective danger marks

BSS adds: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today directed the authorities concerned to reconstruct the damaged part of Mujib Embankment along the River Jamuna in Pabna.

The Foreign Minister visited the flood affected areas of Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari. Rangpur, Dinajpur and other parts of the North

#### Looted garments recovered in N'ganj: 4 held

NARAYANGANJ, July 19 Police today recovered readymade garments worth Tk one lakh and 10 thousand and ar rested four persons from a house at Uttar Masdair under Fatuliah thana, reports BSS.

A group of decoits looted the goods from Daffodil Knit-Wear, a garments factory at Masdair early today, the police said.

The decoits entered the factory by cutting the grill and decamped with the goods, overpowering the guards, the

A case was filed with Fatullah thana

#### Mosquito

From page 1

while the mosquito eradication programme is run by the DCC's health department.

DCC officials, citing the reasons of failure to eradicate mosquitoes last year, said there was a lack of coordination between the DCC's zonal and the central office. Moreover, insecticides were not applied correctly. They said they had hardly any control over the operation. There was a management problem which arose out of a wrong administrative set up," one of the officials said.

They said the DCC intended to clean all city ponds with hyacinth and other places where mosquitoes might breed by September. Under the mosquito eradication programme. DCC was now spraying larvaecide and Malaria Oil-6 in the city.

In the coming season it is estimated that DCC would spend Tk six crore or more for the mosquito eradication drive, a DCC source said. "Tk four crore would be spent for insecticide while Tk two crore would go for buying equipment," he said.

The DCC is also working on enacting the Vector Control Act which would penalise anyone found guilty of helping mosquitoes or other dangerous insects breed.

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#### Khaleda visits 2 mazars in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, July 19: BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia visited Amanat Shah Darbar Sharif and Moju Shah Bhandar Sharif here today, reports UNB.

Begum Zia flew into the port city in the morning and straight went to the Darbar Sharif of Hazrat Amanat Shah (R) in Kotwali area. She offered fateha and presented a gilap there.

The BNP Chairperson later went to Bhandar Sharif of Moju Shah, another spiritual leader. at village Bhengura in Boalkhali thana, about 20kilometres off the city.

#### Constable recruitment test Aug 6

By Staff Correspondent The written test for recruitment police constables is scheduled to be held on August 6

throughout the country. About

3500 constables will be recruited According to official sources, the test will include physical and medical examina-

The test will be held on the scheduled day at every police lines of the districts.

#### Bangabandhu murder Try killers in special tribunal

By Staff Correspondent Various socio-cultural organisations in separate statements yesterday appealed to President Shahabuddin Ahmed to constitute a special tribunal for trial of the killers of Banga bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rah

The organisations include. Nari Mukti Andolon, Garments Sramik Kendro, Bangladesh Jubo Unnoyan Parishad Bangladesh Ganotantrik Nari Andolon, Tofazzal Hussain Manik Mia Parishad, Dakkhin Bangla Jubo Kalyan Samity and Mehediganj Unnoyan Parishad.

#### JS probe body From page 1

charges but hinted that the prosecution did not produce adequate documents to prove the alleged misdeeds of the accused Shima Chowdhury was allegedly raped by four policemen at Raozan police station in Chittagong on August 7 last year. She died in jail custody on February 7 this year.

An 11-member parliamentary committee, headed by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, was formed in February last year amidst demands from different women's organisations for exemplary punishment to those involved in the incidents - rape and murder. It was scheduled to submit the report 'as soon as possible.'

However, the members of the parliamentary body has so far visited Raozan areas twice and talked to many people concerned

## JRC talks begin

a 13-member Indian team was led by its Minister for Water Resources Sis Ram Ola. The two sides were assisted by senior officials of the foreign and water resources ministries and technical experts of their respective countries.

Today, the officials of the two sides are expected to meet in the morning to wrap up the talks and finalise the minutes. the sources said.

The JRC was apprised of the need to carry out scientific studies for finding the reasons for shortfall in the flow of water to Bangladesh side of the Ganges. The Joint Committee (JC) of India-Bangladesh set up earlier as per provision of the Indo-Bangladesh water accord in its report on the first year of the treaty, finalised recently, recommended conducting detailed studies to identify causes of shortfall of the Ganges water in

#### 2 Khulna BCL leaders arrested on charge of burglary

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, July 19: Kotwali police arrested Anowar Hossain, ex-vice president and Subrata Kumar Samaddar, joint secretary of city BCL on a charge of burglary in the store room of 'Islami Ummah' at Natun Bazar on July 14.

A case against them was earlier filed by the store officer of Islami Ummah.

According to FIR, the BCL leaders, along with five others had stolen valuable goods worth over Tk 20 lakh. The two were arrested after

the recovery of some stolen goods from their possession. Car import

#### From page 1 from the date of issue. Earlier, the HC in February

this year had declared illegal the assessment of import duty and sales tax on reconditioned cars on the basis of value based on Clear Report of Finding (CRF) and invoice given by importers. The Yellow Book' published in Japan was the basis of determining the value of a reconditioned car. Taxes and duties were imposed on the basis

of 'Yellow Book' value. However, the new ruling of the HC has reverted to the system of taxation on 'invoice value' given by importers which had cost the exchequer Tk 1000 crore because of under-invoicing. This was disclosed by Attorney General K S Nabi during arguments on two writ petitions brought by importers in Febru-

NBR officials now fear that unless the new dispute is disposed of quickly, the government will face great loss of revenue as cars are now being released on 'invoice value'.

"Even if the government wins the case, it will never be possible to realise the extra duties because in most cases the names, addresses and TIN of importers are not mentioned correctly," said an official, "The government should take up this case on a priority basis to avert another jeopardy in tax collec-

Every year, the country imports about 10,000 reconditioned cars. But the NBR does not have

the sources said. Car owners in Dhaka were found confused regarding the new order. They said a huge number of cars are now being

funds to expedite these cases.

released through under invoic-"Such frequent change of orders is bringing uncertainty and hampering business practices," said a car importer on condition of anonymity, "We prefer a uniform system

Bangladesh side.

The JRC meeting also deliberated on flood management, flood forecasting and broad aspects of river basin development, it was learnt.

Talking to newsmen about the outcome of the meeting. Water Resources Secretary Dr A T M Shamsul Huda said that "considerable progress" was made in the discussions yesterday and that the talks will continue today.

About the subjects covered in the deliberations, he said, "Implementation of the provisions of the Ganges water treaty, the 'Teesta' river issue and other relevant matters came up for discussions." He said that the issues were discussed "in a cordial atmosphere."

Mentioning that substantial progress has been made at the meeting. Dr Huda attributed the delay in holding the JRC meeting to absence of a needed political atmosphere. He said the long delay of seven years had also led to accumulation of several problems. He was, however, happy to note that "substantial progress has already been made in the talks.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak is due to meet the press today, where the outcome and more details about the meeting are expected to be

#### CHT talks

From page 1

some 40,000 refugees in squalid camps, that the UNHCR and ICRC be involved in the repatriation and rehabilitation pro-Besides, demands for more power and authority for the

proposed regional council for

the CHT, virtually consisting of

the tribals, dissolution of the CHT district councils, to be replaced by elected councils with more authority, land rights for tribals, eviction of the settlers from tribal lands and their resettlement on khas lands and folding of security camps also plagued the talks. UNB adds: The meeting

ended without fixing any date for the next round of talks. Abdullah said the date for the next meeting will be set through future consultation. A Panchhari report says. tribesmen and women gathered

to greet Shantu Larma when he alighted from the army heli-Before going back into hideout, he talked briefly with the

at the helipad and waved hands

waiting tribals. In his tribal dialect, the PCJSS leader was learnt to have told the tribals that the talks with the government continued and 'there is nothing to

worry about'. He reportedly said the government is sincere in resolving the Chittagong Hill Tracts prob-

A tribal who was present there told UNB on condition of anonymity that Shantu asked his compatriots to have patience and not to be misled'. He sought cooperation from

all in reaching an acceptable

solution to the problem. He

stopped short of elaborating on the six-day peace talks in Dhaka with the government. Members of the Parbatya Chattagram Liaison Committee - Mathura Lal Chakma and Mohammad Shafi - were also

#### and his aides. Rohingyas

present at Dudukchhara heli-

pad to welcome Shantu Larma

From page 1

supposed to be held in Yangoon. Instead a field-level meeting was held at Mongdow of Myanmar on May 13, officials said. So far, over 2,30,000 Rohingya refugees have been

repatriated, they said. More than a quarter of a million Rohingva refugees entered Bangladesh's south-eastern Teknaf town and surrounding areas from the Arakan state of Myanmar alleging atrocities

Narayanganj. In a bid to offer

better service, a number of bus

and repression by troops.

## Bus service opens

From page 1

throughout the year."

an example by launching the air-conditioned bus service in Uttara-Motijheel route, which is quite popular now. Each bus, of Indian origin, is fitted with Chezkh-made air-coolers and cost Tk 23 lakh. The service will start at 7 am and continue till 9 pm.

A office-goer who expressed enthusiasm about the new bus service said. "We hope the journey will be a comfortable one but the fare seems to be a bit high. We travel in the same route in ordinary buses paying Tk six only", a bank official said. "A fare of Tk 20 instead of Tk six for the same distance seems to be unfair"

The company director agreed that the fare seems to be high but said 'We have decided to charge the minimum to cover the cost of fuel for the air-coolers. During traffic congestion, a bus may have to wait in queue for hours consuming extra fuel. To cover for the additional expenses, we have decided to fix the fare at Tk 20.

About 300 local buses run between the capital and

owners over the last few years introduced 'nonstop' services promising to reach destinations on time. Initially, the services were very popular. The fixed fares and scheduled arrivals convinced majority of the commuters that the services were good. But they started to complain when the buses touched stoppages in the sched-The Urban Transport Project, which aims at improving

private bus services under strict supervision of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA). recommended development of a number of routes including Narayanganj-Dhaka route. The inaugural ceremony of

the bus service today will be attended by, among others, Alhaj Makbul Hussain, president of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity; Maj Gen (Retd) K M Shafiullah, S M Akram, A K M Shamim Osman, Emdadul Haq Bhuiyan, and Segupta Yasmin - all MPs - Communications Secretary Rezaul Havaat and BRTA Chairman A N Hussain.

from the universities.

From page 1 more effective. DU VC A K Azad Chowdhury said that when society is controlled by a market economy,

one should not expect much

Opposing politics by students, he said, the degeneration of Dhaka University could not be stopped unless there was change in society itself. JU VC Amirul Islam Chowdhury emphasised on changing

the selection process for the ap-

pointment of a vice chancellor

and the students' admission system. Khan Sarwar Murshid suggested immediate reform of the 1973 University Ordinance and pointed out that the society did not need consensus at all levels but only among the two main political leaderships. "But

politicians do not want to understand that," he said. Shamsul Haq said that the weakest part of our education

system was examinations. Students learn to recite answers. not meanings. He further noted that all students wanted to study the few job oriented subjects like economics, BBA or English.

Anisuzzaman said that as the number of students was too high, the universities lost their residential characteristics. He urged the authorities to reconsider whether to keep the universities residential. Mustafa Chowdhury said

that a VC should be appointed

for one term. He suggested that more emphasis should be given on the teaching of English. Criticising teachers, Monwar Uddin Ahmed said that classes at DU were not held regularly. Many teachers did not take classes for months. He observed that there were some

teachers in Dhaka University

who would not qualify even as a

college teacher. "But they have

become powerful teachers by

maintaining lobbies," he added.

#### cease-fire BELFAST, July 19: The Irish

Republican Army announced a new "unequivocal" cease-fire today, opening a fresh chapter in Northern Ireland's search for peace, reports AP. In a statement the outlawed

paramilitary group emphasised that it was restoring the 17month truce it observed until February, 1996 "to enhance the search for a democratic peace settlement." The new truce is to take effect at noon Sunday, (1100 GMT). British Prime Minister Tony

Blair, who had promised that the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party could enter negotiations on Northern Ireland's future in September in exchange for a new IRA truce, welcomed the move as "good for the people of Northern Ireland and for the people of Britain."

# IRA declares

- Star photo

### A Roundtable on 'Dhaka University on the Threshold of 21st Century', organised jointly by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and the Bhorer Kagoj, was held at the CPD office in the city yesterday. Politicisation blamed