

## JU first year honours classes begin today

By JU Correspondent

First year honours classes in Jahangirnagar University (JU) of the session 1996-97 will begin today. The students have been asked to be present at their respective Departments at 9:30 am to attend their orientation classes at 10:00 am.

Authorities of all the nine residential halls yesterday allotted seats to around 1,008 students enrolled this year.

However, some of the halls authorities could not allot seats to all of their students and they were asked to reside at the TV rooms and dining halls for few days. Rooms were not available at the dormitories as the students of outgoing batch of the session 1991-92 did not leave their rooms because they could not yet complete their examinations. As a full-fledged residential university, JU enrolls students against the vacant seats in the dormitories.

The students passing their HSC examination in mid-1996 are starting their classes at graduation level in JU after one and a half years.



## Anniversary of Akhtaruzzaman Ilyas' death today

The first death anniversary of noted litterateur Akhtaruzzaman Ilyas will be observed today, says a press release.

In observance of the death anniversary the Bangladesh Lekhak Shibir has taken up a day-long programme which include placing of wreaths at her patriot at 10 am at the auditorium of the Modern Languages Institute of Dhaka University and book and painting exhibition at 10 am.

A memorial meeting will be held at 4 pm at the same venue. Noted litterateurs, poets, and cultural activists of the country will take part in it.

Eminent litterateur Shawkat Ali will preside over the memorial meeting.

## Trees as firewood being used in brickfields

More than 3,000 brickfields in 16 northern districts including Sirajganj are using trees as firewood instead of coal for burning bricks, reports UNB.

According to a survey conducted by a non-government organisation, so far about 10 lakh different trees in the region have already been felled and are being used in brickfields.

In Pabna and Sirajganj districts there are more than 1,500 brickfields. Most of the owners deprive the government of huge revenue with the connivance of some dishonest officials.

Many owners have no genuine licences and the brickfields have sprung up violating the government rules, the reports said.

The environmentalists expressed concern over the indiscriminate cutting of trees for use as firewood in brickfields threatening the ecological balance.

They called upon the government to take immediate action against those who are using firewood in burning bricks defying the existing ban.

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## Khaleda congratulates Sharif

Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad and Chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Begum Khaleda Zia has congratulated Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for his recent success in dealing with political crisis at home, a press report in Pakistan said, reports BSS.

According to a report published on Thursday January 1, in an Islamabad daily "The Nation", former prime minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia has congratulated Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for successfully dealing with crisis.

In her letter to Sharif, the BNP chairperson "hoped that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sharif the people of Pakistan will continue their march on the road to establish a lasting peace and achieve all-round prosperity," the report said.

## President, PM greet Gen Than Shwe of Myanmar

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has felicitated Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar on the occasion of the country's Independence Day, reports UNB.

In a message yesterday, the president expressed his confidence that the existing friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years to come.

He also wished Senior General Than Shwe's good health, long life and happiness and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

"I took this decision not for mass uprising or movement, but to avoid a massive bloodshed," he said.

The former President said he held his last cabinet meeting on December 3, 1990 and Jatiya Party presidium meeting on the same day. "I informed both the meetings of my decision to transfer power constitutionally."

Ershad said he rejected the then army chief Lt Gen Nooruddin Khan's proposal for promulgating martial law.

Being the President and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, Ershad claimed he had got the overwhelming support and loyalty from soldiers.

"So, the army chief (Nooruddin) could not impose martial law at his sweet will," Ershad said responding to Nooruddin's press statement. "Rather, the army had support to my decision and that's why I could take all steps to transfer power in a constitutional way."

Responding to a point made by Gen Nooruddin, the former President said how an army chief could claim that he had "commendable role in mass movement," which is against law and Constitution.

According to police sources, a group of armed dacoits shot at and stabbed Abu Taher, brother of Abu Toyab who attempted to resist the dacoits.

Later the dacoits decamped with cash and other valuable items.

The seriously injured Abu Taher (48) was declared dead by the attending doctors when he was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The body was sent for autopsy.

A case was filed with Boalhali thana in this connection.

## Dacoits kill one in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 3: One Abu Taher was killed by a group of armed dacoits at village Sarwatali under Boalhali thana here last night, reports BSS.

According to police sources, a group of armed dacoits shot at and stabbed Abu Taher, brother of Abu Toyab who attempted to resist the dacoits.

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## Workshop

A three-day workshop on writing on women issues, organised by News Network, will begin on Tuesday in Sylhet, reports UNB.

A total of 20 journalists from different national and regional dailies will take part in the workshop, said a press release.

The minister yesterday visited the construction site at Fatullah and witnessed the development activities of the new stadium including earth-filling and foundation of the pavilions.

The government has allocated Taka 23 crore for the construction of the 3rd national stadium which is covering 25 acres of land. The construction of the stadium is expected to be completed by next two years and likely to be named after eminent politician and social worker late Khan Saheb Osman Ali.

Earlier, the state minister visited the proposed site for the construction of national stadium number four at the eastern side of Kamalapur Railway Station in capital Dhaka.

Secretary of Jatiya Krira Parishad and directors accompanied the minister during his visit in the two places.



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia inaugurated a function marking the 19th founding anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Diploma Engineers' Institution yesterday.

## Ershad refutes statement of Gen (Rtd) Nooruddin

Deposed President H M Ershad yesterday asserted that it was Gen (Rtd) Nooruddin Khan and some army officers who insisted on promulgation of martial law in the country on the plea of his (Ershad's) personal security, reports UNB.

Refuting Energy Minister Gen (Rtd) Nooruddin's press statement, Ershad said that he decided to quit power constitutionally in accordance with the framework of the three alliance to maintain democratic rule.

"I took this decision not for mass uprising or movement, but to avoid a massive bloodshed," he said.

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Ershad said he rejected the then army chief Lt Gen Nooruddin Khan's proposal for promulgating martial law.

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