

## 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 concerned 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.

## 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.

In a separate message Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has greeted Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar, on the occasion of the country's Independence Day today.

In the message of felicitation, the Prime Minister extended her heartfelt greetings to the Myanmar leader and through him to the government and people of that country on the happy occasion.

"I take this opportunity to express my sincere hope that the close bonds of friendship, mutual understanding and fruitful cooperation which so happily exist between our two neighbouring countries will acquire greater depth and dimension in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of our two peoples," she said.

The Prime Minister also wished his good health, happiness and long life as well as for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

## Dacoits kill one in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 3: One Abu Taher was killed by a group of armed dacoits at village Sarwatali under Boalkhali 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.

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 Boalkhali thana in this connection.

## 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.

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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 upsurge 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.

He rejected as boastful utterance by former army chief Gen (Rtd) Nooruddin that one does not require any permission to promulgate 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.

## Speedy completion of construction of nat'l stadium no 3 directed

State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader yesterday directed the authorities concerned for the speedy completion of the construction work of number three national stadium, reports BSS.

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.



Chairman of Local Govt Council in Khagrachhari Samiran Dewan welcomed tribal refugees at Ramgarh on their return to homeland Thursday.

## Daring dacoity in Satkhira

A daring dacoity was committed at three houses of Kadakakti village under Assanuni thana of the Satkhira district on Tuesday night, reports BSS.

According to police sources, a group of armed dacoits entered forcibly in the houses of Prafullah Basar, Kinopada Basar, and Subash Gain by turn at midnight.

The dacoits looted cash and other valuables worth over Taka sixty-five thousand from these houses.

Cases were lodged with Assanuni thana in this connection.

Another report adds: More than two hundred members of BNP of village Mridienga and Kaliani Solgharia under Sadar thana joined Bangladesh Awami League at a function held at Kaliansoyghoria School on Wednesday last.

## Dearest Nakiba

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## What's on today . . . .

**Inauguration:** The first fashion gallery of the city will be inaugurated. Venue: House No 1/A, Road No 13 (New), Dhanmondi. Time: 3 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dilkusha:** An intercity meeting in honour of the visiting President of the Rotary International Glen W Kinross will be held. Venue: Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 3 pm.

The meeting will be held under the auspices of Rotary Club of Dilkusha.

**Discussion:** A discussion meeting on 'Hiroshima tragedy' organised by Hiroshima Sculpture Project will be held. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 4 pm.

## Families of two garments workers compensated

Families of two garment workers who died of fire-panic at Messrs Dorin Garments on November 21 last year were compensated at a simple function in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Each of the victim families received cheques of Taka 50,000, of the amount, Taka 29,000 was paid by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Messrs Dorin Garments Taka 21,000.

BGMEA President Mostafa Golam Quddus and the owner of Dorin Garments Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui handed over the cheques to the victim families.

Daughter of late Laili Begum, Laboni and father of late Matjeda Begum, Abdul Aziz received the cheques on behalf of their families.

BGMEA Treasurer K M Zaman, executive committee members Lutfar Rahman, Golam Zakaria and Abdul Quayyum were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Golam Quddus emphasised the need for remaining alert both by the owners and workers to avoid the incidents of fire at the garment industries.

He praised the owner of Dorin Garments for taking adequate measures in preventing fire incidents. He pointed out that a section of vested quarters were engaged in conspiracies in a bid to destroy the garment industries sector.

## Tea stall owner found dead in Rangunia

CHITTAGONG, Jan 3: A young man was allegedly killed at his tea stall at Nishchintapur in Rangunia thana yesterday, reports UNB.

Police said victim Danu Mia, 25, son of Abdul Khaleque, was found dead with his eyes gouged out when his mother called him for Sehri at around 3 pm.

The body of Danu Mia was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The cause of the killing could not be ascertained. A case was filed with local police.

## 2 killed in road accidents

Two people were killed in two separate road accidents on Wednesday in Sylhet, reports UNB.

Police said a van-puller named Bachan Mia was hit by a microbus at Dayamir Bazar on Dhaka-Sylhet highway. He was rushed to a health centre where the attending doctor declared him dead.

## JUTA's rejoinder and Star's reply

In a clarification on the news item "JUTA demands formation of new probe body" published in 'The Daily Star' Friday, president and secretary of Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir and Dr M A Matin denied that the JU teachers were unaware of the meeting between JUTA leaders and the Prime Minister (PM). The decision to meet the PM had been taken at a meeting of the JUTA executive committee. The clarification also said that it was not decided that the teachers would go on a strike after the holy Ramadan.

Our reply: The report said that teachers criticised JUTA leaders as 'they met the Prime Minister (PM) keeping the other teachers unaware of it'. The fact is that the teachers at the general meeting of JUTA, held on Thursday, 31 December '97 were critical of the JUTA leaders as the 'decision was not made at a JUTA general meeting prior to the meeting with the PM', a number of teachers who attended the meeting told 'The Daily Star'.

Regarding the teachers' strike, our report was that the issue was only 'proposed at the meeting' and there was no indication in the report that it was decided or resolved at the meeting.

## Democratic practice should continue, says Anwar

Jatiya Party Secretary General and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain yesterday said democratic practice in the country should continue, otherwise chaos might grip the nation, reports UNB.

Addressing a public meeting at Lebulunia bazar in Sattaria union under Rajapur thana, Anwar Hossain said parliament should be strengthened further in order to run the country properly.

The Jatiya Party leader said if parliament could not work properly, unrest would prevail in the country and development activities would be hampered.

"A democratically elected government cannot be ousted through movement and it should be given adequate scope to work for the country up to its stipulated term," he said.

Hossain said the role of BNP on the issue of CHT accord would not bring any good to the nation.

Presided over by Sattaria UP chairman Mohammad Shamsuddin Talukder, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Enayet Hossain Khan Milu, Milon Mahmud Bachchu, Shah Alam Khan and Abdul Mannan Khan.

## Weather

## Night temp may fall

The prevailing dry and cold weather is likely to continue across the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and slight fall expected over Rajshahi, Barisal and Khulna divisions.

The sun sets today at 5:25 pm and rises on Monday at 6:43 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	23.5	10.9
Chittagong	24.3	11.5
Rajshahi	20.0	7.2
Khulna	21.8	7.8
Barisal	22.2	8.5
	Morning	Evening
	74	70
	79	69
	92	77
	79	65
	92	87

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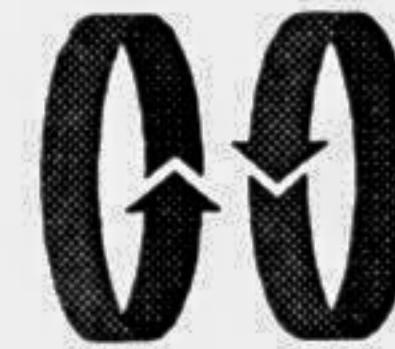
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