Ministers' picture

about change in the growth figfigure was wrongly put in the May 26 meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC). "It was a printing mistake that you saw 3.3 per cent growth in agriculture. The real figure would be

About allegation of tempering with figures to match government's claim of achieving 5.2 per cent growth rate, Alamgir said he was "ready to take a challenge if any one can prove it".

sentatives' remark that the GDP growth rate was a miracle, the bureaucrat-turned minister said, "It is miraculous but, not unrealistic. Our victory over Pakistan in cricket is miraculous but not unrealistic".

He explained that since the last Paris Consortium meeting, GDP target was revised twice. from 3.8 per cent in December 1998 to 4.9 per cent in January this year and again to 5.2 per cent in May. "Such revision is a normal process depending on change in economic indica-

From Page 1

held within 180 days thereafter.

The elections, therefore, must

number of provisions of the law

rather "vague and faulty". For

example, the law says that one-

third of members of an Upajila

Parishad will be female, but

does not specify whether they

will come from different Union

Parishads under the Upajila, or

whether the option for one

Union Parishad to send all the

tion, the ministry admitted to

sions and resolved to introduce

certain rules to make the law

fool-proof. It took a lot of time

not pay attention to some ad-

ministrative responsibilities

necessary to prepare for the

polls. While making the legis-

lation, the government created

Mujibnagar under Meherpur

district, Dumki under

tence, Gazette notification in

EC has recently pointed out to

the Prime Minister that July is

not a 'good time' for holding

polls due to inclement weather

The Commission also commu-

nicated to the PMO that it would

prefer well-contested Upajila

elections, participated by

mainstream opposition parties

that had earlier boycotted mu-

nicipal polls. It also suggested

that the law be amended to hold

the polls in January next year,

paving the way for a political

negotiation with the opposi-

decided on a revised date, but

given clear indication that the

law would be amended in the

This is not the first time that

The Union Parishad elec-

the government has failed to

tions were scheduled for

February 28, 1997 but eventu-

Terms of seven UPs expired

on February 28, 1997. As per

provision of the Local

Government (Union Parishad)

Ordinance, 1986, elections were

to be held, therefore, by

February 28, 1997 - "within

180 before the expiry of the

rious about holding the polls on

time, it would have requested

the EC to announce schedules

for the polls before February 13,

1997. Because, according to the

rules concerned, the EC has to

announce the schedule "at least

15 days before the date of a

take that path. Rather, it got the

ordinance concerned amended

on February 23 - only five days

before the elections were to be

held - which gave it the author-

ity to fix a fresh date for the

polls through a gazette notifi-

tion criticism for obtaining the

authority to arbitrarily deter-

mine the date of elections, the

government, however, pub-

lished the gazette the next day

that announced that the UP

elections would be held in

Association objected to the tim-

ing on the ground that it would

not be possible to hold elections

in rural areas, especially due to

seasonal flood and inclement

weather. The government did

cided to shift the polls to

December. It also resolved for a

change in the law to accommo-

date the Local Government

Commission's recommenda-

tion that female members of

Union Parishads should be

elected directly by the people.

The law was amended in

law in less than eight months,

the elections of the Union

Parishads were held in

tions were held 11 months later

Municipality expired on March

6, 1988. Under the Paurashva

Ordinance, 1975, the deadline

for fresh elections was due on

March 5, 1998 - again "within

180 days before the expiry of the

than originally scheduled.

Similarly, municipal elec-

The term of the Habigani

After two amendments of the

On August 11, the cabinet de-

not respond at that time.

UP

Chairman

September, 1997.

September 1997.

December 1997.

The

In the face of strong opposi-

cation.

But the government did not

Had the government been se-

ally took place in December.

budget session of parliament,

scheduled to begin June 6.

hold elections on time.

The government has not yet

In another development, the

this regard is yet to come out.

Upajilas -

Besides, the government did

the vagueness of certain provi-

When brought to its atten-

female members exists.

to make the rules.

three new

Meanwhile, the EC found a

be held by July 30.

the water-power-gas sector, the December estimate of 4.5 per cent growth rate has now been scaled down to 2.4 per cent, he

jection of 0.03 per cent. Similarly, in trade services, the rate of growth has been 5.7 per cent now over December's 5.2 per cent. The agriculture minister said as per the latest estimate.

crop production in fiscal 1998-99 reached 216.52 lakh tonnes. which was largely due to a bumper Boro yield of 105 lakh tonnes.

Motia Chowdhury said despite last year's worst deluge, agricultural production registered 5 per cent growth in fiscal 1998-99 compared to that of 1997-98. She gave credit to the farmers and added that gov-

ernment's policy and price support came as blessings.

She quoted from figures of the Bureau of Statistics to say that Boro acreage rose to 35 lakh hectares from 29 lakh hectares in the previous season. The acreage could be as high as 45 lakh hectares according to the Space and Atmospheric Research and Scientific Organisation (SPARSO), she

The minister said in view of decreasing foreign assistance for the sector, the government increased ADP allocations for it to Tk. 484.32 crore in 1998-99 from the previous fiscal's 423.89 crore.

Both Motia and Alamgir several times said that the growth figure was estimated conservatively. Motia said she put the total crop production in the year at 215 lakh tonnes although all indications suggest more. Going one step further, Alamgir said government has calculated GDP growth rate at 5.2 per cent considering total crop production at 213 lakh

Hills

tee also has representation

from the police, civil adminis-

tration, department of envi-

ronment, Chittagong WASA

and Chittagong City Corpora-

in huge numbers in Chittagong

City City officials are finding it

difficult to cope with the clogged

drains and canals during the

monsoon as the silt washing

down the remains of the hills

fill the natural drainage chan-

heavy rains the poor always

pay the price when collapsing

hills and landslides bury their

Corporations were to be held -

to hold the polls of all the

Corporations at a time - by

quested the cabinet on January

15, 1999 for an amendment of

the city corporations laws in

line with those of the UPs and

Municipalities, i. e., provisions

be made for one commissioner

each from the wards and direct

election of the female commis-

sioners. But the cabinet rejected

change of heart on the cabinet's

part. It resolved that the laws

concerned should be changed in

the light of the LGRD ministry

separate cases in connection

with the delimitation of certain

Corporation and Chittagong

City Corporation. The cases

could not be settled on time, due

to the LGRD ministry's clumsy

City Corporation Laws

amended in parliament on

amendment that replaced the

word "before" with "after" in

the law as regards holding of

According to the amended

March 15. There was

The government later got the

Meantime, there were two

Dhaka City

But on March 8, it was a

the idea.

proposal.

elections.

wards of

handling of affairs.

The LGRD ministry re-

homes at the foot of the hills.

Every monsoon during

As the hills are disappearing

chairman, CDA.

From Page 1

12 killed in road mishaps at this hour", one CDA official preferring anonymity, said. At least 12 people were killed CDA sources said that deand 21 injured in separate road spite a ban on levelling of hills, accidents in Sherpur, Bogra and exceptions could be made in Sirajganj yesterday, report emergencies, public and naagencies. tional interests or for develop-

Of them, seven people were ment needs. The Public Works killed in Sherpur, three in Bo-Ministry can only give permisgra and two in Sirajganj. sion after vetting by a 12-member committee headed by the UNB adds: Seven people, including a wonian, were killed The high-powered commit-

and 15 others injured when a truck overturned on Dhaka-Sherpur highway in Sadar thana yesterday. Of the dead, two were identified as Rahima Begum, 30, and

Abdul Mannan, 25. The identity of others could not be known. Police said the accident occurred at Kanashakhola when driver of the cement-laden truck coming from Sherpur tried to give passage to a passenger coach.

The cement bags rolled down on the victims when the truck overturned leaving six of them dead on the spot. Another died on way to hospital.

Eight of the injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital in critical condition. The truck driver fled the

scene. A case was filed. A Correspondent from Bogra writes: Three people were killed and three others injured in a car accident on Bogra-Rangpur Highway at about 11 am yester-

The dead were identified as

Lutfar Rahman, 50, Mansur Rahman, 25 and Lal Miah, 28, The accident occurred when the driver of a Kurigram-bound car lost its control over the vehicle and hit a road side tree. Lal Miah, driver of the car, died on the spot while two others - Mansur and Lutfar - succumbed to their injuries at Bogra Mohammed Ali Hospital. The three other injured are undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

In Sirajganj, two persons were killed and three others injured in two road accidents on Dhaka-Bogra and Bogra-Nagarbari Highways yesterday,

according to APB. Police said Bhulu Mia, a helper of a Syedpur-bound truck, died on the spot when the truck collided with another one coming from opposite direction at Nalka in the morning.

In another accident, Asma. 56, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck while Mile in Raiganj at about 8 am.

with respective police stations.

she was crossing road at Sholo Two separate cases were filed

"The government should announce a midterm election just now handing over power in a democratic manner," she said, claiming that it was a popular

Addressing the 7th conference of the Association of Engineers, Bangladesh (AEB) in the evening at the Engineers Institution auditorium, the BNP chairperson said the ruling party did never abide by

Accusing the government of

Begum Zia said the Prime Minister even then could not rest assured about victory in general elections.

"So the Prime Minister,

sensing their shaky foundations and popularity, openly says she will call elections only when she will be confirmed of her party's victory," said the Leader of the Opposition.



BNP chairperson and Leader of Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the 7th conference of Engineers Association of Bangladesh (EAB) at its auditorium in the city yesterday. - Star photo

Khaleda renews snap poll call

Opposition leader Begum ing ballots in "farcical" polls, Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the government to quit 'just now and call a midterm election to prove that it respects democratic norms.

democratic norms. "The government has re-

sorted to signing agreements against national interest in a bid to cling to power," Begum Zia, who is leading an anti-government movement, told the function. BNP leaders Prof A Q M

Badruddoza Chowdhury, Saifur Rahman, Dr Engineer R A Gani, Manjurul Ahsan Munshi and Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman also spoke.

patronising terrorists for capturing polling booths and stuff-

Menacing or meek?

England. "I can't see any weak points but everything must click together to beat a competitive side like Australia."

Tendulkar, who has batted at number four in the last three matches, may revert back to his opening slot if the conditions were right at the Oval.

"It's an option we are considering, but we will wait to see the wicket before making a decision," he said. "He will certainly

open if it looks good." Tendulkar, who has made a record 21 one-day centuries as opener, dropped down the order against Kenya and came up with

Tendulkar goes into the key

He has scored centuries in each of his last three one-dayers The first, 143 off 131 balls.

Bangladesh in October. "He had Australia for break-

fast, lunch and dinner," Gaekwad said. "We hope he can do it again.'

their six World Cup matches against India, including the last two in 1992 and 1996.

India (probable): Saurav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Mohammad Azharuddin (capt), Ajay Jadeja, Robin Singh, Nayan Mongia, Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Mohanty Debashish

Venkatesh Prasad Australia (probable): Adam Gilchrist, Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Steve Waugh (capt), Michael Bevan, Darren Lehmann, Tom Moody, Shane Warne, Brendon Julian, Damien Fleming. Glenn

'Concerted effort

suffering of

disaster victims'

Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf yesterday called upon experts and donor agencies to undertake coordinated efforts to strengthen institutional capacity of the health sector to mitigate suffering of disaster victims, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking at the concluding session of a national workshop on 'Policy Development for Health Emergency Preparedness and Management' in the city.

World Health Organisation (WHO) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the function was also addressed, among others, by WHO representative in Bangladesh W Hardjotanojo, Director of Primary Healthcare Dr Shamsul Huq and Joint Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Khandaker

services. The minister stressed the management of healthcare services for better preparedness

time prayer by a defence lawyer.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman. 15, the youngest daughter of industrialist Latifur Rahman, was raped and murdered at her Gulshan residence on April 23 last year. A murder case and another case under the Woman and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995 were filed with Gulshan thana in this connection.

Shazneen murder trial

Proceedings

halted till

June 21

By Court Correspondent

Metropolitan Sessions Judge's

Court yesterday adjourned the

proceedings of Shazneen Mur-

der Case till June 21 following a

The First Additional

Police submitted charge sheets against seven people — domestic help Shahid, contractor Hasan, supervisor Badal, carpenter Shani Ram, guard Humayun Kabir, maids Parveen and Minu. Of the accused, guard Humayun Kabir died of cardiac arrest on January 11.

All the six accused were produced before the court yesterday.

During yesterday's proceedings Advocate Saika Ferdous, assistant of Mosarraf Hossain Kajal — the lawyer for maids Parveen and Minu, submitted the time prayer before the judge. AK Roy, saying the hearing of the criminal appeal in the High Court is likely to be held on June 15. On April 13, Advocate Kajal

filed a criminal appeal with the High Court Division praying for settling aside the order of the Special Court for Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, that framed charges against his clients in the Shazneen Rape

Saifur From page 1

opment in Bangladesh - impli-

cations for public administration reform, jointly organised by the Public Administration Reforms' Commission (PARC) and the Institute of Policy Studies at the CIRDAP auditorium yesterday.

The BNP leader criticised the government for doctoring different macro economic indica-

tion of the agriculture sector to the GDP every year, he said: There are three crops, a year, and it is true that boro production is marginally higher this time, but it cannot push the GDP rate to 5.2 from 3 per cent

The National Economic Council at a meeting late last month said the country will post a 5.2 per cent growth this fiscal. "The achieved growth in 1998-99 is something spectacular as the country faced serious setback during the prolonged flood last monsoon," the meeting chaired by the prime minis-

World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh Frederick T. Temple has also termed the figure "miraculous". The Bank estimates that the growth rate in FY 1998-99 would be between 3

to 4 per cent. The government asked the foreign ministry to ask development partners to refrain

10 years RI for

possessing illegal arms

arms, reports UNB.

trict Mohammad Amanullah gave the verdict against Fakhrul Islam (25), son of Mirza Amir Hossain of Nakole village in Sripur thana of the district on May 25.

case was filed and after investigation police submitted charge

sheet against him. Rotary Club annual award distribution

today The Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will host the Annual

Award Presentation Ceremony of RI Dist 3280, Bangladesh, today at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel at 2:30 pm, says a press release. Of the 92 clubs in Bangladesh, Rotary Dist Governor MA Awal will distribute awards to clubs which have undertaken noteworthy service projects to improve quality of life, alleviate poverty, eradicate hunger, improve literacy in their respective communities and foster the cause of international understanding and goodwill. Individual Rotarians will also be recognised for out-

From page 12

is disappointing. When contacted, officials claimed that police were responsible for detecting such unregistered clinics. But police officials said they can do it, only if the Health Directorate provides them with

cial at the DMCH said, "We have warned those who are involved at the hospital in such business. If anyone is found involved in such activity, we will take necessary action."

But the illegal business con-

Patuakhali and Meghna under Another amendment said Comilla district - and said that eventually held in February. polls to all 463 upajilas have to that the government would en-City Corporation Polls were be held simultaneously. But the joy the right to appoint an adno exception. ministrator in a municipality, government started delimitation of the newly created local in case elections were not held on schedule. The administrator bodies only the other day, thanks once again to EC insis-

would serve as chief of the municipality for the period between expiry of the term of a municipality and the first meeting of the newly-elected

Inspired by the Union Parishad elections under the changed law, the Paurashava Chairman Forum suggested that every ward of a municipality should have the scope for sending a commissioner to the local government body. Besides, the female commissioners should be elected directly by the

1998, the government neither did anything about the PCF suggestions, nor made any decision about fresh elections to the Habiganj municipality - the tenure of which had expired on

March 6. suggestions on March 24, 1998. sions. According to one amendment, elections could now be held within "180 days after the expiry of the tenure". held within "180 days before

However, under the changed law, the deadline for municipal elections was September 2, 1998. Once again, an unfavorable climate for holding polls.)

Meantime, Secretary General of the UP Chairmen Forum filed a writ petition with the High Court, challenging the newly-adopted provision for appointing government administrator in the municipal bodies that are supposed to be run by elected representatives of the people. Forum got a stay order

from the High Court in June. Later, the writ petitioner and the prosecution reached a negotiated settlement that they would pray for an HC verdict for holding the elections, pending the constitutional debate over the scope for appointing administrators in the municipal bodies. When it so happened, the HC ruled on September 19, 1998 that the municipal polls had to be held within six months from the date of delivery of the verdict. So the fresh deadline for the municipal polls was March 19, 1999. The elections were

The term of Khulna City Corporation expired on April 4 last. Rajshahi on April 6, Chittagong on April 11 and Dhaka City Corporation on

May 4, 1999. Under the City Corporation law, elections have to be held 180 days after the expiry of the terms of the Corporations. The elections are, therefore, now

From Page

tion as chief guest. With city Mayor Mohammad Hanif in the chair, Obaidul Quader, BCB president Saber Hossain Choudhury and captain of the national cricket team Aminul Islam Bulbul will

The prime minister will distribute her promised gifts among the team members there. parties and former national cricketers will be given seats on

ers including MPs and representatives of small parties are expected to attend the programme.

Noor will anchor the show.

Meanwhile, major opposi-

party activists who will wait

If the reception is not possible by June 8, the BNP will seek

made special arrangement to transport its students, who have turned the university campus into a centre of ecstatic celebration of the victory, to the reception venue. The university buses will op-

Return

speak on the occasion.

Representatives of political the podium. They will also be allowed to greet the victorious

Bangladesh Television will telecast, live, the grand recepzens proud of the national achievement.

England on June 8, BNP sources

Lini

reception that is being organised by the Dhaka City Corpora-

cricketers with bouquets. Ministers, ruling party lead-

Popular actor Asaduzzaman tion, expected to be attended by numerous cricket fans and citi-

tion parties such as BNP, Jatiya Party (Ershad) and Jamaat-e-Islami have decided to boycott today's reception. However, a 15-member BNP delegation led by party's sports' secretary Hafizuddin Ahmed, MP will greet the cricketers with bouquets on behalf of party chief and Opposition leader Khaleda Zia on their arrival at the air-

The BNP team will also include former state minister for sports Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Mohamedan Sporting Club general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan and footballer Zakaria Pintu. The BNP team will be backed by a group of

outside the lounge. The party also plans to organise a separate reception for the cricket heroes, later Hafizuddin will write to the BCB president seeking a date for holding their planned reception before the team goes back to

a date when the team will be back home after the World Cup cricket final on June 20. Opposition leader's official residence at Minto Road has been chosen for the BNP reception. The Dhaka University has

erate on all regular routes and carry the students from the

tor, Kalabagan and New Market areas and finally coverage at the Central Shaheed Minar.

From Page 1 Waugh, whose side was on the verge of elimination after losthe top five individual scores of ing to New Zealand and the tournament so far. Ganguly's 183 against Sri Pakistan, believes he can keep Lanka is 18 more than what the Indian run machine in Ricky Ponting, Australia's leading scorer in the tournament,

has made in five matches. Mark Waugh's 146 from five, is only one more than Dravid's 145 against the Sri Lankans. Dravid, who also made 104 against Kenya, leads the batting charts with 369 runs with

Ganguly following close behind Tendulkar, looking to renew his intriguing battle with leg-

spinner Shane Warne, is sixth

"It's working for us. The plan we have has started to come off," Waugh said. Vice-captain Warne too is exuding confidence. "Now that

we've reached the next stage of the World Cup I think we have got to be considered among the favourites again," he wrote in the Times.

Indian coach Anshuman Gaekwad was equally optimistic: "We have batted well in

the tournament and the bowl-Australian captain Steve ing was pretty keen against HIBAD-TO-HIBAD

Australia lost an away Test series 2-1 in March last year. They won a tri-nations tournament there, beating India in the final after losing both their qualifiers against them. The result was reversed in the Sharjah Cup a month later when Sachin Tendulkar scored a 134 on his 25th birthday. It was India's first win against Australia in a one-day tournament decider. India also beat Australia in the mini World Cup in Dhaka in October. India have won four of the last seven onedayers between them.

AUSTRALIA: Coach - Geoff Marsh. Captain - Steve Waugh INDIA: Coach - Anshuman Gaekwad. Captain - Mohammad Azharuddin 1999 WORLD CUP RESULTS

Australia - bt Scotland by six wickets, lost to Pakistan by 10 runs, lost to New Zealand by five wickets, bt Bangladesh by seven wickets, bt West Indies by 6 wkts. India - lost to South Africa by four wickets, lost to Zimbabwe by three runs, bt Kenya by 94 runs, bt Sri Lanka by 157 runs, bt

England by 63 runs. PREVIOUS WORLD CUPS Australia have the edge, with four wins out of six. They have

also won the last two games, including the 1996 clash, when 126 runs from Mark Waugh and five wickets from Damien Fleming saw their side home by 16 runs. Tendulkar made 90. VENUE

The Oval, London. The ground has become synonymous with the landmark pale-blue gas tank which overlooks the northeast side of the ground. Steeped in history - it was used as a prisoner-of-war camp during the second world war - the Oval has seen Len Hutton's 364 and Sri Lanken Muttiah Murlitharan's 16-wicket haul last year. Capacity: 18,000 (AFP)

JU honours admission tests begin July 12

By JU Correspondent

First year honours admission tests under the academic session 1998-99 at Jahangirnagar University will be held from July 12 to 20 this year, official sources said.

The decision was taken at a

meeting of the Central Admission Committee of the university yesterday. Though the period to begin the admission tests has been finalised, the authorities are yet to decide the different schedules of admission tests of 24 departments under a total four units. Some of the concerned officials said that admission tests of different departments under the Science Faulty will begin from July 12 while tests of the departments under Life Science Faculty, Social Science Faculty and Arts Faculty will be held respectively after completion of

quota and 72 under the quota for teachers, officers and employees' wards.

54 candidates are vying for each of the merit listed 662 seats this year. Of them, 9950 candidates will vie for 206 seats under 'Ka' unit, 10270 candidates for 178 seats under 'Kha' unit, 6137 candidates for 193 seats under 'Ga' unit and 9427 candidates for 83 seats under 'Gha' unit.

The university is introducing four new departments this The departments are

'International Relations' under Arts Faculty, 'Environmental Science' under Science Faculty, 'Urban and Regional Planning' under Social Science Faculty and 'Bio-Chemistry and Molecular Biology' under Life Science Institute. Meanwhile, with a bid to reduce the time to complete the

partment alone will have to attend a viva voce exam of 10 marks.

Gaekwad hinted that

his 22nd ton. match with a huge psychologi cal advantage over Australia.

against Steve Waugh's men. helped India reach the Sharjah Cup final in April. Two days later, on his 25th birthday. Tendulkar made 134 to win the final. He followed that with 141 at the mini World Cup in

Australia have won four of

SQUADS

McGrath. needed to mitigate

Health and Family Welfare

Jointly organised by the

Mizanur Rahman.

during emergency.

tors and said it would not bring any good to scriety. Referring to huge contribu-

this year.

from making controversial re-Youngman awarded

MAGURA, June 3: A youngman was awarded ten years rigorous imprisonment by a court here for possessing illegal Assistant Judge of the dis-

The prosecution in brief was that police arrested Fakhrul from his home with a loaded pipegun on October 11, 1996. A

standing community, social and international service activities, the release added.

a list of unregistered clinics. When contacted, a high offi-

admission procedure, the authorities have abolished the Science Faculty tests. campus to the reception. The workshop aims to put A total of 35784 students customary viva voce examina-Tomorrow, the BCB will orforward recommendations for will vie for 809 seats into 24 detion for all departments except ganise a victory procession the formulation of future polipartments. Out of this, 445 male with the cricket heroes. Startfor the admission into Drama cies on emergency preparedness and management of healthcare students and 217 female stuand Dramatics Department. ing at 10am from the BCB ofdents will be enrolled from the Earlier, the viva voce exam posfice, the procession will parade sessed no marks except that of merit list, 12 under players' through the streets through Drama and Dramatics Depart-Fakirerpool, Kakrail, Malquota, 15 under tribals' quota, need for building consensus on 48 under freedom fighters' ward ment. Candidates for that deibagh, Maghbazar, Bangla Modifferent aspects of emergency newly appointed Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal. They

Distributing figures of the ure. Alamgir admitted that the Bureau of Statistics among newsmen, Alamgir said, growth rate in industrial sector was curtailed to 2.5 per cent from 4.7 per cent in last December. In

five per cent". On the other hand, growth in agriculture hit 5 per cent compared to last December's pro-Referring to a donor repre-

Too many missed deadlines

term of a municipality."

Until the last week of March

The government got the Paurashava Ordinance amended, accommodating PCF While amending the law, it changed a couple of vital provi-Previously, elections had to be

the expiry of the tenure."

Exhibition: A week-long solo painting exhibition by Minakshi De will begin. Rafiqun Nabi, Professor of Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, will inaugurate the exhibition. Venue: Divine Art Gallery, Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30

pm. The exhibition will remain open from 10 am

servation of Environment (BSCE) has taken up a 3-day programme to mark the World Environment Day. A painting competition for children will be held on the inaugural day. Chief guest: State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy premise. Time: 4 pm. Seminar: A seminar on 'Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia and Contemporary Journalism," organised by newly formed Manik

Mia Smriti Sangsad, will be held to mark his 30th death anniver-

sary. Chief guest: Barrister Istiaq Ahmed. Venue: VIP Lounge, Na-

Drawing competition: Bangladesh Society for Con-

to 9 pm till June 10.

Reunion: The opening ceremony of the day-long reunion '99, organised by the Executive Committee of the Marketing Alumni Association, will be held. Chief guest: DU VC Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Venue: TSC auditorium, DU campus. Time: 9:30 am. Govt firm to foil bid to

NARSINGDI, June 3: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman said here today that the government was determined to foil any bid to create indiscipline and anarchy in

the social life with an iron

meeting organised by Raipura

Addressing a big public

hand, reports BSS.

tional Press Club. Time: 4 pm.

Thana Awami League at the local playground, he said that the government would not hesitate to take stern action against the terrorists disturbing public se-The Minister criticised the Leader of Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia and said by threat-

ening to drag the present gov-

ernment from power, she

(Begum Zia) has demonstrated

ing to mislead the people in the

the government during the last

three years, Rahman said, we

have fulfilled our election

pledges one by one and found

presented a crest to him.

name of mid-term elections.

He said Begum Zia was try-

Listing the achievements of

her autocratic character.

create anarchy: Zillur out solutions to the outstanding problems of Chittagong Hill Tracts and water sharing of the Ganges water with India.

> Rahman described the opposition allegations of harassment to their leaders and workers as baseless. Science and Technology Affairs Minister General (Retd)

> Nooruddin Khan and Deputy

He pointed out that opposi-

tion members are getting

maximum time and opportu-

nity to speak in the Jatiya

Sangsad than any time in the

Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate addressed the meeting as the special guests. Presided over by Raipura Thana Awami League president Afzal Hossain, the meeting was addressed by Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju, MP, district Awami League president Advocate Asaduzzaman, general secretary Mahbubur Rahman and

Jubo League leader ABM Reazul

- Star photo

Kabir Kawsar.

Supreme Court Bar Association hosted a reception to

due to be held on October 27 this Act(s), elections to the