

## JS body reviews tea garden situation

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Land Ministry at a meeting yesterday discussed the illegal occupation of Tarapur tea garden in Sylhet, reported UNB.

It formed a five-member sub-committee headed by Majibur Rahman Talukder to investigate the matter and recommend measures within two months for proper management of the tea garden.

The meeting, held at Sangsab Bhaban with committee Chairman Talukder in the chair, also discussed the vested property issue and decided to invite some lawyers for their advice in the next meeting.

Committee members State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharraf, Enamul Haq, Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Suranjit Sengupta, M Abdul Latif Siddique, Zulfiqur Ali Bhutto, Shaikh Razzak Ali, Kabir Hossain and Salauddin Ahmed attended the meeting.

Land Secretary Omar Farooq and senior officials concerned were present.

## Take part in local polls, Zillur urges Opposition

KISHOREGANJ, June 25: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman today urged BNP and other opposition parties to participate in the ensuing local elections, reports UNB.

"Give up negative politics. Do participate in upazila and other local body elections," he called on the boycotting opposition while addressing a function on the occasion of installation ceremony of the chairman and commissioners of Kishoreganj pourasava.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid was present at the function which was also addressed by MPs A K M Shamsul Haq, Dr Mizanul Haq and Syed Ashraful Islam with poura chairman Nurul Islam in the chair.

Zillur, also General Secretary of the ruling party, categorically said with all conspiracies BNP and its anti-liberation allies would not be able to stop the victory march of Awami League which is now celebrating the golden jubilee.

"Three years of the present government are a success story. Awami League achieved the success by solving the problems created in last 21 years realising people's welfare programmes," he said.

The vested-interest groups had always conspired against the Awami League since its inception on June 23, 1949 as the party constantly worked for people's rights, he added.

"The vested-interest groups continued conspiracy and propaganda against the Awami League in last 21 years. And such conspiracies are also going on now as the present government earned successes in every sector," the minister further said.

## Janaza of M R Chowdhury today

The namaz-e-janaza of country's leading immunologist and renowned physician Major General (Rtd) M R Chowdhury will be held today after Asr prayers at the Allahu Mosque of Dhaka Cantonment, reports BSS.

He will be buried at the Armed Forces Graveyard in Banani.

General Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Society for Immunology and chairman of the Technical Committee of the National AIDS died of cardiac arrest Thursday morning.



S M Tariqul Islam and Shaikh Imtiaz Shumil

## New executives of DU Debating Society

By DU Correspondent

A 17-member Executive Committee of Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) for the year 1999-2000, was formed yesterday with S M Tariqul Islam, Liton and Shaikh Imtiaz Shumil as president and general secretary respectively.

The other members of the committee are Md Abdul Obah Shetu and Md Ashikur Rahman (vice presidents), Rafiqullah Romel Sana and Majibur Rahman Lavlu (joint secretaries), Amit Das Gupta (officer secretary), Moin Uddin Sabui (finance secretary), Rezaul Karim Sumon (publication secretary), Mahmud Bin Alam (international affairs secretary), Sabiha Rahman Shama (function secretary), Jakia Karim Sohana (training and liaison secretary), Rashedul Haq Rashed (publicity secretary), Abul Hasan Rubel, Shampa Saha, Rashedul Islam Rafi and Bulbul Hasan (executive members).

# Literacy rate goes up to 56 pc

A series of measures undertaken by the government in the education sector during the last three years have brought about a qualitative change in this field, raising the country's rate of literacy to 56 per cent, reported BSS.

The changes, according to concerned officials, infused dynamism into the educational administration and system and its infrastructural development across the country.

One of the major successes of the government's persistent endeavours, they said, is the freeing of the five districts of the country from the curse of illiteracy. The districts are: Chuadanga, Lalmonirhat, Magura, Rajshahi and Gaibandha.

As recognition to the government's success in the field of education, the Primary and Mass Education Department received 'UNESCO International Literacy Prize' for outstanding contribution towards eradication of illiteracy in 1998. As regards the infrastructural devel-

opment, 75 government secondary schools and 2292 primary schools have been set up across the country with a cost of Tk about 234.79 crore during the last three years.

The imparting of training to a total of 1,52,203 teachers of Secondary and Higher Secondary level and 1182 principals of different colleges had also been completed to improve quality of education.

Officials said the government's measures for expansion of higher education included initiatives to set up at least 12 Science and Technology Universities in the greater district headquarters, and 13 polytechnic institutes and 13 vocational training institutes.

They also said the government under its 'Satellite School Programme' has so far set up 2726 schools to provide education to children.

A programme has also been taken to introduce 'double shift' in 414 schools across the country to ease pressure of the students, the officials added.

Sources at the Education Ministry said, "it has taken a

programme to introduce computer education course in the country's 154 government colleges."

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## JU admission tests begin July 12

By JU Correspondent

Admission tests for first year honours classes under the academic session 1998-99 at Jahangirnagar University (JU) will be held from July 12 to 20, official sources said.

Written tests of the departments of 'Statistics', 'Computer and Electronics', 'Chemistry' and 'Environmental Science' will be held on July 12; 'Geological Science', 'Mathematics' and 'Physics' departments' tests are scheduled for July 20.

The one-hour written tests will begin at 9:30 am everyday and will be held in shifts.

There will be a half-an-hour break between two shifts, officials said.

All classes and examinations of the university will remain suspended during the period.

A total of 35784 students are vying for 660 seats in 24 departments under four units — 'Ka' unit (Science), 'Kh' unit (Social Science), 'Ga' unit (Arts and Humanities) and 'Gh' unit (Life Science). The ratio between the seats and admission seekers this year is about one to 54.

Tests of the departments under Social Science Faculty will begin July 17. The tests of the departments of 'Economics' and 'Anthropology' will be held on July 17; 'Government and Politics' and 'Geography' on July 18;

## Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, Projonmo '71 honoured

Projonmo '71, an organisation of children of the martyrs of the War of Liberation, and Barrister Shafiq Ahmed have been honoured with the Jahana Iman Award 1999 for their contribution to the movement against communalism, fundamentalism and war criminals, reports UNB.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury announced the names of the recipients of the award at a discussion meeting at the TSC of Dhaka University on Thursday.

The award was introduced by Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, which was founded by late Jahana Iman.

Nirmul Committee organised the meeting marking the fifth death anniversary of Jahana Iman to be observed across the country today.

Nirmul Committee president poet Shamsur Rahman presided over the meeting.

It was addressed by Nirmul Committee Advisory Council President Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahan, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Shahriar Kabir, Shymoli Nasrin Chowdhury and Prof Mahfuz Khanam.



Islam Chhatra Majlis brought out a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

## News



Visitors at the Sea Food exhibition that began at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## 191 killed, 350 hurt across country last year: BRCT

Some 191 people were killed and over 350 others injured by law-enforcing agencies and during political clashes across the country since January this year, reports UNB.

This was stated by the leaders of Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (BRCT) at a press conference yesterday.

The press conference was organised at a local hotel on the occasion of 'United Nations Day in Support of the Repressed' to be observed today.

Giving details, the leaders said physical repression by the members of law-enforcing agencies killed 15 people while 28 were shot dead by them. Twenty-five people died inside the prison during the period.

They also said that some 100 people were killed during political clashes among different parties and factions. Nineteen members of law-enforcing

agencies were killed while performing their duties and 117 others injured.

The leaders said they (members of law-enforcing agencies) raped 17 women and girls during the period while 152 others.

They put forward 25 recommendations to stop any kind of repression in the country and demanded implementation of these recommendations. Besides, they said mass awareness should be created side by side the government efforts to stop repression.

BRCT President Dr Khalilur Rahman, General Secretary Akram Hossain Chowdhury, Medical Director Dr Md Ekrul Huq and Dr Md Khaled were present at the press conference.

"Unless a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute was reached in the shortest possible time, situations like Kargil would continue to erupt, threatening peace and endangering the stability of the region," he said.

Meanwhile, Indian PM Atal Behari Vajpeyi said today that India was in a position to defeat Pakistan if Islamabad forced a third war over Himalayan Kashmir.

"If a war is thrust on us, we will fight with all our might, and we will win," Vajpeyi thundered at a public rally in Patna, the capital of the eastern Indian state of Bihar. These Pakistanis fight us again and again, and lose every time, he said to applause.

Vajpeyi said New Delhi would resume its peace talks with Islamabad only after Pakistan withdrew the fighters who are occupying high altitude peaks along the cease-fire line in northern Kashmir.

He said Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had invited me for peace talks, and

The Indian air force said the

air raids, which began May 26, in Kargil, were yielding results.

"It has degraded the fighting

capacity of the enemy and boosted morale of our soldiers," a spokesman said.

Tigers Hills is near Tololing, a cluster of four peaks taken by Indian troops in 21 days of combat. It overlooks the Srinagar-Leh road which gives the Indian army access to the strategic Siachen glacier front.

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