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Election of teachers

representatives

to JU bodies

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Down to Earth

City's Community Centres

By AS M Nurunnabi

In Dhaka City, community sary to book them well in adcentres are a source of lucrative business. They are a wellknown phenomenon in our urban society. Lately they have proliferated in many areas of the city. They represent a far cry from the days when social functions like weddings, birthday parties, wedding anniversaries etc. used to be held within the four walls of one's house or in space topped by canopy set up in close proximity to one's house. Such practices still continue when the number of guests to these kinds of functions is ture, crockery, cutlery, service small. But where the number of charge for cook, bearers and commodation capacity in ur- function is held at night. ban settings has given rise to the need for hiring a commu-

There is no dearth of community centres which now dot many important areas of the important social functions are localities, Dhanmondi residential area or Iskaton area, for examples, there are well-known out the month.

nity centre.

winter, whereas a compara- neighbouring areas. tively dull season ensues in the rainy period or in the month of Ramadan for obvious reasons. In a thickly populated city like Dhaka, there is always a steady demand for such places, so vate community centres and much so that it is often neces- offer moderate, if not equal, fa-

High-powered

tea team to

visit Pakistan

From Staff Correspondent

high-powered tea delegation is

expected to visit Pakistan by

the end of this month, sources

ing export of Bangladesh tea to

Pakistan, which is a major

Bangladesh Tea Board

Brigadier Danial Islam, the

team will include the represen-

tatives of tea growers and

bers of the team will attend a

tea convention and held meet-

ings with Pakistani tea im-

porters and government offi-

cials in a bid to promote export

of Bangladeshi tea to that

istan visited Bangladesh few

Indian troops

kill 11 Maoists

in Bihar

tary troopers shot dead 11

Maoist guerillas today in the

eastern Indian state of Bihar,

the region's police chief said.

said the leftwing militants be-

longed to the People's War

Group Maoist organisation,

which has been targeting upper

caste Hindu farmers and land-

lords in the eastern state for

following an eight-hour gunbat-

tle in a village, 100 kilometres

south of the state capital Patna

in the crime-prone district of

ered fake police uniforms and

assault rifles from the killed

guerillas, who are locally called

running feud between the Nax-

alites and private armies of

powerful landlords and the re-

gion has seen more than a

dozen inter-caste massacres

which have left hundreds dead

Jehanabad is the site of a

He said the troopers recov-

Jehanabad, Jacob said.

The 11 guerillas were killed

Bihar police chief K A Jacob

PATNA, Mar 3: Paramili-

A tea delegation from Pak-

During the visit, the mem-

buyer of it, sources added.

The visit is aimed at boost-

Headed by the chairman of

concerned said.

country.

months ago.

reports AFP.

decades.

Naxalites.

in recent years.

CHITTAGONG, Mar 3: A

cilities. Because of their convevance, particularly those with high popularity.

Many of the community centres in the city are spacious enough to accommodate a large number of guests with provision for parking space. Many of such places are at present equipped with air-condition facility.

In general, the basic rent for such places which are well-appointed range from Tk 8,000/to Tk 12.000/- for the AC fitted ones for a day. With this is added charges for hiring furniguests is large, the limited ac- cost of illumination, if the

There are also a number of community centres established in some wards of the city by the Dhaka City Corporation. They have a low profile with limited space and rather poor facilities. Some of them are of such a low city. Such centres as venues for standard that they cease to serve as community centres and the result of high demand for are used for a miscellany of such places in the context of our purposes such as office, social ethos. In some particular godowns and rickshaw parking

As the rent of the City Corporation's community centres establishments of this nature is rather low and thus affordwhich draw business through- able for many with moderate means, they are mostly patron-The peak season comes in ised by low-income groups in

There are also some community centres near residential government colonies in the city. The rent for these places is less than those charged for pri-

THE HAGUE, Mar 3: The UN

war crimes tribunal sentenced

former Bosnian Croat General

Tihomir Blaskic today to 45

years in prison for orchestrat-

ing bloody ethnic cleansing

against Moslems during the

1992-1995 Bosnian war, reports

kic, the most senior figure to be

tried by the UN court, was the

counts covering grave breaches

of the Geneva Convention, vio-

lations of the laws or customs

of war and crimes against hu-

manity. One count on the

shelling of Zelenica had been

lapsed and was carried sobbing

out of the court after hearing

the sentence. Blaskic appeared

war ... the villages reduced to

people forced to abandon their

lives are unacceptable," presid-

month trial in which 158 wit-

nesses produced more than

only the eighth in the seven-

year life of the International

Criminal Tribunal for the for-

Blaskic, 39, was a comman-

1993 before torching their said.

der of the Bosnian Croat HVO

mer Yugoslavia.

3,000 pages of evidence. It was

The verdict ended a 25-

ing Judge Claude Jorda said.

Blaskic's wife Ratka col-

dropped by the prosecution.

heaviest it has handed down.

The sentence against Blas-

He was found guilty on all 20

Reuters.

nient locations, they are mostly favoured by residents of the

Outsiders also are eligible for hiring these places. The comparatively favourable terms offered by them for their use act as an incentire both for the residents of the colonies as well as for outsiders.

Observers note a disturbing aspect of the community centres operating in the residential areas of the city. In their opinion, they tend to disturb the peace in such areas and also affect the social structure of the families living there. The traffic situation in those areas is similarly disturbed by the heavy influx of vehicles carrying guests to the centres quite frequently, particularly on hol-

The new ethos of holding social functions in community centre have created a new outlook for the city dwellers because of the prevailing space constraints for holding such functions. Besides, they offer a steady and prized source of income for their owners.

The financial benefits accruing from them have led many entrepreneurs to favour construction of such projects in preference to residential housing. With the rising city population, this trend is likely to attain greater pace, whatever be the implications of the government's Guest Control Order,

Tihomir Blaskic

to take the necessary and rea-

sonable measures which would

Defence counsel Russel

and announced that Blaskic

a just verdict. I hope the appeals

told reporters.

for the Tribunal.

chamber will affect justice," he

Paul Risley said the verdict

marked a new powerful phase

to concentrate on the small fish

who carried out the crimes. We

can focus on the most senior

Three senior former

"As a commander, you failed

observance.

Blaskic found guilty

on all 20 counts,

jailed for 45 yrs

The crimes you committed have prevented the commission

General Tihomir Blaskic, are of those crimes or the punish-

rubble, the houses and stables Hayman said he was "surprised

set on fire and destroyed, the and disappointed" at the ruling

homes, the lost and broken intended to appeal. "This is not

forces. He played a key role in a individuals who orchestrated

notorious incident in the Lasva the crimes, commanded units

Valley, when Bosnian Croat or attempted to cover the crimes

forces murdered more than 100 committed. This is a remark-

villagers in Ahmici in April able day for the Tribunal," he

While not charged with Bosnian Serb military figures,

killing a Moslem by his own General Radislav Krstic, Chief

hand. Blaskic was guilty of fail- of Staff Momir Talic and Cen-

ing to prevent the crimes and eral Stanislav Galic, are due to

punish the perpetrators, the stand trial in the next six

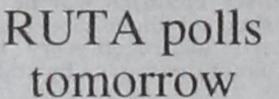
months.

extremely serious. The acts of ment thereof," Jorda said.

which seems to be followed (lecturer category) The candidates of Mustahidmore in its breach than in its Sharif Enamul Kabir panel are Prof. Enamul Haq Khan, Dr Mahboob Kabir, Mujibur Rah-War crimes in Bosnia

Besides, six associate professors are vying for three posts of associate professors while six from assistant professor and lecturer are contending for three posts of assistant professor or lecturer in the Academic Council

Idris Ali (Mustahid-Sharif Enamul group) are contending for the lone post in the Finance Committee.



of the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) will be held on Sunday, reports

backed by Awami League and White by BNP and Jamaat-e-Is-

Prof Abu Saleh Abdun Noor of Population Science and Human Resources Development Department, Dr M Abdus Sobhan (2) of Applied Physics and Prof Mohendranath Adhikari of Philosophy are contesting for the posts of President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively from the Yellow

Panel are Prof Abdul Quader Bhuiyan of Social Science Department, Dr Shamsul Alam Sarker of Mathematics and Prof Abul Hasem of Applied Physics.

university are expected to cast their votes in the election to be held from 8 am to 1.30 pm We will no longer be forced without any break.

teachers

By Staff Correspondent The non-government primary school teachers continued their strike for the sixth day yesterday, said a press release.

across the country demanding | Khan, Abu and Karim, Others nationalisation of their service. The Non-government Primary School teachers' Association has threatened to announce a tougher movement

7 Bangladeshis detained in UK

Star Report

British police detained seven Bangladeshis hiding in two trucks from a town in middle England, BBC reported last

km away from London. Police is yet to know from

trucks and what was their destination. BBC Bengali Service They are now being interrogated by immigration officials. | day night.

Failing to export gas may mean missing the bus

Dhaka should get highest benefit out of its gas, observes Shell MD

With an estimated reserve to meet domestic need for at least 45 years. Bangladesh should seriously consider exporting gas failing which may mean missing the bus, says a top executive of a multinational company.

reports UNB. "Bangladesh should look at getting the highest benefit out of its gas. It should fix an energy policy and consider exporting to generate funds for reinvestment in energy sector," said managing director Andrew Vaughan, Shell Bangladesh, as other companies are not the au- problems in the energy sector. intense lobbying went on to get thorities to decide on the issue. their suggestion through.

The Anglo-Dutch oil and gas exploration company's Bangladesh Chief said yesterday gas in the ground is worthless and Bangladesh has too much of it for a small domestic market.

coverable gas reserve of 13 trillion cubic feet, three trillion of which have already been extracted. Shell maintains the reserve is 15 trillion, and more to

"If neighbouring India even-

tually decides to buy gas from the Middle East, Bangladesh is likely to miss the bus," he told members of Overseas Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (OCAB).

It is the Bangladesh government, and to some extent the Indian side, who are to take the

Vaughan said export of gas through pipeline would be easier and more profitable for

Bangladesh has a proven re- Bangladesh instead of selling power after building plants and connecting with the buyer coun-

He identified corruption, in-

decision and bureaucracy as obstacles to the pace of development in the sector, but hastened to add: "Shell has never paid any bribe in Bangladesh." The Shell managing direc-

tor proposed setting up of a separate body comprising representatives from both public and He, however, said Shell or private sectors to overcome the

> "Bangladesh should seriously take up an energy policy possibly on the basis of a 1993 one, which was again brought forward in 1996... It will help guide the energy sector," he told the journalists.

See page 11 col 8



Karwanbazaar in the city a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. -Star photo

Stagnant water and rubbish have made the place behind the Dhaka WASA building at

Hasina asks partymen Project govt's

achievements to people FARIDPUR, Mar 3: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today

asked her partymen to work unitedly and project government's successes to the people so the party could return to power at next election, reports "If we cannot come to power for the next term, the people

will not get the real fruits of development activities conducted by the government." she said asking her party leaders and workers to stand united. Addressing leaders and

workers of district Awami League and its front organisations at the Circuit House in the afternoon she said the government would be able to complete its welfare programmes if elected to a second term.

The basic needs of the people will be fulfilled and none will remain homeless or illiterate if the Awami League comes to power again, she said. "Already we have worked a

lot and taken massive development programmes across the country and the people have started getting the results," she said and mentioned government's project for the homeless, landless and illiterate. Governments in the past

plundered public money and were only busy amassing wealth, they unleashed terrorism and resorted to repression on the people to make their fortune, she told her workers. During the meeting, the

Prime Minister also listened to various problems of the party and the workers and suggested them to uphold party interest above personal interest. Earlier, the Prime Minister attended the Chehlam for late

Afsana Mosharraf, wife of Khandoker Mosharraf Hossain. She went to the house of Mosharraf Hossain and joined Sheikh Helal Uddin, MP, Prime Minister's son-in-law

Khandoker Mashrur Hossain and her daughter Sayma Hossain Putul and their relatives attended the chehlam.

Biman aircraft averts mishap at Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Mar 3: A Biman aircraft averted accident at Sylhet Osmani International Airport tonight. Biman officials said.

The aircraft, an F-28, developed technical problem just before landing at the airport at about 8:30 pm.

A Biman official said there were 84 passengers and five

crew on board the aircraft.

Some passengers said there were a number of severe bumpings seconds before the BG 607 flight landed.

Pinochet returns to Chile

SANTIAGO, Mar 3: Former dictator Gen Augusto Pinochet returned to Chile today, 16 months after he was detained in Britain on torture charges, reports AP.

Pinochet's plane was greeted by Chilean flags, Gern in march music and vociferous debate about his fate.

A constriction workers was electrocuted and seven others were injured when an iron beam fell on a live electric wire at Bashabo in the city yester-

The dead was identified as Mohammad Ananda, 25. Of the injured, four were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). They were identified as Mahbub, Yar injured were sent to the local clinic last night.

The incident took place at about 7 pm while they were working in an underconstruction building, west of Bashabo cinema hall.

Ananda's body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Injured Feni BCL activist dies in city FENI. Mar 3: A Chhatra

League activist, who was injured by a group of terrorists on Tuesday, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Dhaka on Thursday night, reports UNB. Family sources said Jane

Alam Kiron, 20, was abducted They were arrested about 100 | by the terrorists from West Chhilonia on Tuesday. They took Kiron to a brick-field in Lalpur area and tortured him. Kiron was first admitted to Cosmopolitan Hospital at Feni

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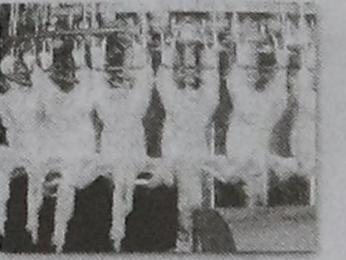


Aftab Products at Gulshan

a. Dressed Broiler

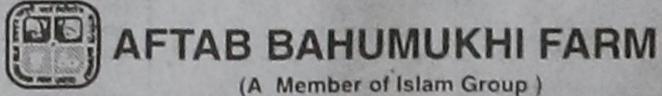
b. Aftab Fresh Milk

c. Egg d. Varieties of fresh fish



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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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One of Sharif's lawyers to return to case KARACHI, Mar 3: One of de-Sharif returns to court on

posed premier Nawaz Sharif's lawyers agreed today to withdraw his resignation, which he submitted last week to protest a court ruling barring Sharif from giving uninterrupted testimony in an open court, reports AP.

Khawaja Sultan said he agreed to return after a personal plea from Sharif, who is facing charges of kidnapping, hijacking, terrorism and attempted murder - charges that carry either the death penalty or life in prison.

"Because I have been associated with the case from the beginning it will be very difficult for another lawyer to take over," Sultan said in an interview.

Monday along with his six coaccused.

Last week Sharif's legal team resigned en masse to protest a court ruling which required Sharif to submit his testimony in writing. The ruling however allowed Sharif to make a verbal statement, but one that could be censored by the judge.

The order followed a request which it is alleged he refused to from the prosecution who feared Sharif could reveal state secrets or jeopardise national security in an uncensored statement. The prosecution had requested a closed court ses-

The judge refused, but agreed to monitor Sharif's statement. Sharif's legal team submitted their resignations to protest.

The judge should not have the sole authority to decide what should be made public and what shouldn't be," he said. Last Wednesday the court ordered Sharif to find a new legal

team or one would be appointed by the court. The charges against Sharif, his brother, and five close aides, were laid in connection with an Oct 12 incident in

allow the aircraft returning

Pakistan's army chief to land

in southern Karachi.

That same day the army took power, arrested Sharif and eventually allowed the Pakistan International Airlines passenger plane to land. The aircraft had apparently only seven minutes of fuel remain-

today By JU Correspondent Election of teachers' representatives to the Syndicate. Academic Council and Finance Committee of Jahangirnagar University will be held today. The voting will be held at the

university Teachers' and Officers' Club from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Some 250 teachers are likely to cast their votes today to elect 11 representatives-- four to the Syndicate, six to the Academic Council and one to the Finance Committee.

Four panels of teachers-- two Pro-Awami League and two Pro-BNP-- are contesting in the elec-But sources said some pro-BNP teachers belonging to

Sayeed Khan group" and pro-Awami teachers belonging to "Bayes group" have reached an understanding and are contesting for alternate posts. Some other Pro-BNP teachers tagged with "Mustahid group" and pro-Awami teachers

belonging to "Sharif Enamul"

group have also reached similar understanding. Four teachers' representatives-- one each from the professors, associate professors. assistant professors and lectur-

ers-- will be elected. Teachers of Sayeed Khan-Bayes panel for the four Syndicate posts are Prof. Amin Muhammad Ali (in the professor category). Ahmed Reza (associate professor category) Abdur Rob (assistant professor category) and Sanwar Hossain

man and Khodoker Ashraful

Prof. Ruhul Amin (Bayes-Sayeed Khan group) and Prof.

RUTA polls

RAJSHAHI, Mar 3: Election

Some 30 candidates from two panels - Yellow and White — are contesting the election for 15 posts. The Yellow Panel is left-leaning parties while the

Their rivals from White

Prosecution spokesman Some 800 teachers of the

Non-govt pry on strike

About 23,000 non-govern ment primary school teachers began a 13-day long strike

from their grand conference at Paltan Maidan in the third week of April if their demand is not met immediately.

where these people boarded the said quoting police sources.

One electrocuted, 7 hurt in city By Staff Correspondent