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VOL. 1 NO. 336 REGD. NO. DA 782

POUSH 15, 1398 BS,

DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 30, 1991

JAMADIUS SANI 23, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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Dhaka Day by Day



HLD Mahindapala, a versatile talent from Nepal, who visited The Daily Star office the other day, discussed issues ranging from press freedom to separatism to development in the South Asian context Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

10 hurt in Saadat College clash

Five investigators, two magistrates and three employees of Saadat University College were injured Sunday as some examinees of the on-going honours examinations allegedly attacked them demanding to allow them for adopting unfair means in the examination. The investigators left the examination halls protesting the incident. The examinations were held despite the discipline, reports BSS.

BUET teachers withdraw strike

Engineering University Teachers Association Sunday decided to withdraw their abstention from work programme in a general meeting of the association, an association press release said. Earlier the teachers of the Engineering University had decided to abstain from work in protest against alleged anomalies in appointing professors in CSE department and the terrorist activities of November 19, reports BSS.

Hashish recovered from Pak ship

By Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Dec 29: The Chittagong Customs late Saturday recovered two bags of hashish worth Taka four lakh from a Pakistani vessel at the port. Officials Sunday said team of the port customs recovered the hashish weighing 36 kilograms concealed inside the locker of the Pakistani flag bearer MV Sakhtina-e-Najam late on Saturday night.

Rangoon asks for list of Rohingyas

Burma agrees to talk tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Burmese government has finally responded to Bangladesh's peace initiative and agreed to sit for talks.

Foreign Ministry sources said that the government of Burma (Myanmar) yesterday conveyed its decision to attend the proposed flag meeting with the Bangladesh side on Tuesday at the Maungdu township to discuss the crisis arising out of the cross border attack of the Burmese border guards on a BDR outpost on December 21.

Two Bangladeshi citizens, including a BDR man, were killed in the surprise attack

and another 22 were injured. Tension has since been prevailing along the 176-mile Bangladesh-Burma border.

The Ministry sources said that Myanmar Foreign Minister U Ohu Gyaw conveyed Yangon's (Rangoon) decision to attend the proposed flag meeting to the Bangladesh Ambassador Mostafa Farooq Muhammad.

The proposed meeting, scheduled to begin at nine in the morning tomorrow, will be participated by the local border guards commanders of both the countries.

Earlier, Bangladesh had

twice proposed for meeting and set dates but the Burmese authorities had expressed their inability to attend.

The positive response came after Bangladesh had made the offer for the third time.

The Burmese envoy, U Soe Myint, was summoned thrice to the Foreign Ministry since the Burmese attack. Bangladesh's strong reaction over Burma's continued indifference to the talks offers was conveyed to the ambassador.

The Myanmar ambassador left Dhaka for the Burmese capital Sunday for consultations with the Burmese gov-

ernment, Foreign Ministry sources and embassy officials said.

They said the envoy, who is scheduled to return to Dhaka on January 2, will also visit the BDR outpost at Rijupara of Bandarban district.

His helicopter trip has been okayed by the Burmese government, the sources added.

UNB adds: Burmese authorities have requested Dhaka to submit lists of the Rohingya Muslims fleeing that country into bordering areas of Bangladesh.

Foreign Ministry officials
 See Page 12 Col 3

Fresh taxes on commodities under fire

Star Economic Report

The business community on Sunday bitterly criticised the fresh enhancement of taxes on some daily necessities and viewed that this would have an adverse effect on the already squeezed purchasing power of consumers.

The Government on Tuesday raised taxes on daily necessities like tinned and powdered milk, pepper, cinnamon, cardamom, cumin seeds and copra inedible upto

15 percent amounting to Taka 50 crore.

The President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Manzur Elahi in his reaction to the tax hike said increase in taxes on such ad hoc basis would reduce the demand of these items in the domestic market. He said the depression of demand would result in less import of commodities. The
 See Page 12 Col 1

Golam Azam declared Jamaat chief

By Staff Correspondent

The Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh has officially declared Professor Golam Azam as its Amer Sunday night.

Azam, who had until recently been playing off the stage will from now on be doing it on the stage.

Azam's election was made public through a press statement.

Azam lost his citizenship for anti-liberation activities in 1971.

A Pakistani pass port-holder, Azam returned to Bangladesh during the regime of late President Ziaur Rahman and since then he had been acting as the Jamaat chief. But
 See Page 12 Col 1



Students of the Institute of Fine Arts brought out a procession in the city on the occasion of Shilpakala Uddin Malik's birthday yesterday.
 — Star photo

Shantibahini men kill 7 more

CHITTAGONG, Dec 29: Outlawed Shantibahini gunmen today shot dead seven people and wounded one in Baghat-chhari upazila of Khagrachhari hill district, reports UNB.

Official sources said the tribal insurgents kidnaped eight Hindu fishermen from Karangatali village while fishing in river Kasalong at about 4:30 pm and sprayed bullets on them in a nearby forest.

Seven fell dead on the spot while one escaped with severe wounds.

The dead were identified as Dayal Haridash (35), Shefal Das (12), Avimou Das (55), Ball Das (23), Rabi Bala Das (12), Himangsu Das (18) and Sudhansu Das (21).

Injured Rajib Das was admitted to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital.

Earlier, Shantibahini gunmen killed six people at the same spot on June 29.

About 4,000 people have been killed by the outlaws in the troubled Chittagong Hill Tracts since the insurgency began in mid 70s.

জাতীয় নাট্যৎসব '৯১



Drama festival begins today

The first National Drama Festival begins today with much enthusiasm at the Shilpakala Academy, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate at 6:30 pm the 29-day festival, organised jointly by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum, Additional Secretary to the Ministry Islam Uddin Malik
 See Page 12 Col 8

REB tender bars local firms from bidding

Star Economic Report

The Rural Electrification Board (REB) has recently floated an international tender for procurement of materials and equipment barring Bangladeshi firms from bidding. Only the firms from OECD and developing countries except Bangladesh are eligible for bidding, the tender notice said.

The materials and equipment to be procured will be used for the construction, maintenance and operation of a system for 11 KV distribution lines to be installed in rural areas of Bangladesh. Sources say the items, mainly electrical ones, are also manufactured locally and are of international standard.

Business circles view the terms and conditions of the tender as outrageous.

Such terms and conditions will discourage local manufacturer.
 See Page 12 Col 7

Air Force to be made stronger: PM

JESSORE, Dec 29: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today that the members of Air Force should set examples of individual skill and efficiency in the onward march of the Bangladesh Air Force, reports BSS.

Begum Zia said the people expected that the Air Force, which had a glorious tradition of solidarity with the masses, would emerge stronger and steadier in the future.

The Prime Minister was addressing the graduation parade marking the commissioning of the 23rd GD (P) and the 27th non GD courses of Bangladesh Air Force at BAF base Maitur Rahman here.

Begum Zia said the members of the Air Force, formed during the War of Independence, had to earn the love, confidence and honour of the people through their work.

The Prime Minister said the motto of the Air Force of keeping the sky free from any intrusion should be reflected in the life of its members.

She called upon the members of BAF for increasing their knowledge, efficiency and professional skill to make best use of the equipment acquired in exchange of the hard earned money of the countrymen.

The Prime Minister said the nation would always remember with due respect the active participation of the

members of the Air Force in the relief and rescue work besides the administration. The sincerity and sympathy of the Air Force personnel reflected in the relief work deserved appreciation, she said.

Begum Zia said that proper leadership would have to be given to continue the unflinching devotion of the Air Force personnel to the nation.

Earlier, the Prime Minister reviewed the smartly turned out parade and took the salute at the impressive march past and distributed awards and wings among the outstanding cadets.

Flight cadet Sergeant SM Nazmul Anam was adjudged the best all round cadet and was awarded the coveted "Sword of Honour".

Flight Cadet Wing under officer Md Mostafizur Rahman received Osmani Gold Medal for outstanding feat in general service training while the Commandant's Trophy for best performance in GD (P) and non-GD branches went to flight cadet Shaheen Md Iqbal Hossain Bhuiyan and Cadet Farhad Ahmed Tanvir respectively.

Squadron Number Two got the academy colour for the wiper term from the Prime Minister for being adjudged the champion squadron for best performances in all competitions.

The parade ceremony was attended, among others, by Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam, State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum, State Minister for Shipping Harunur-Rashid, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Gayeswar Roy, State Minister for Irrigation, Water Resources and Flood Control Mosharruf Hossain Shahjahan, Deputy Minister for Shipping Zahidul Huq and Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Huq, Wing Commander (Retd) Ilamuddinul Khari, MP, Selina Rahman, MP, Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rauf, Defence Secretary Anisur Rahman and the chiefs of three services.

Dead live in voter list

By Nazmul Ashraf

All who were killed in the April 29 cyclone in the coastal areas are still 'eligible' voters for the coming Union Parishad elections.

The ghost voters exist in the voters' list since no initiative was taken to exclude the cyclone victims from the list.

Relevant quarters apprehend that false voting might occur due to existence of the ghost voters in the list. According to official record, a total of 1,38,000 people were killed in the April 29 disaster. But the voters among the victims could not be numbered as
 See Page 12 Col 6

PWD employees announce fresh programmes

By Staff Correspondent

The Public Works Department (PWD) employees Sunday announced a series of action programmes to press home their demands that include abolition of engineering cells in various government department.

At a press conference at the National Press Club, leaders of the PWD Employees Action Committee said some 25,000
 See Page 12 Col 6

Now come undivided Indiawallas

By Staff Correspondent

An organisation styled Subcontinent 'Resurrection Movement' has been floated Sunday, aimed at furthering a voluntary grand congress of all nations and sovereign countries of South Asia for building a prosperous future of the people of this region.

The name and objective of the organisation were announced at a Press conference held at a local hotel yesterday. The organisers believe that Bangladesh, India and Pakistan should go back to the August 13, 1947, and restore undivided India to materialise the hopes and aspirations of over one billion people of the region.

A five-member organising committee of the organisation has also been announced with Mr Amanullah and Mr Shaiful Alam as its President and Secretary respectively. Shaiful Alam served the then all-Pakistan Awami League as its office secretary for several years, the Declaration read out at the Press conference claimed.

The leaders of the newly formed organisation told the newsmen that their long cherished desire for the 'resurrection of the subcontinent' got a spurt right from

BCL activist beaten at DU

By DU Correspondent

A Chhatra League (S-A) activist was beaten up allegedly by a group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) workers at the 'Kala Bhavan' (Arts Building) area yesterday (Sunday) at about 12.30 pm.

Several rounds of gunshots were heard from the Jahurul Huq Hall and Surja Sen Hall areas at that time.

Campus sources said Tuheen, a first-year student of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, was assaulted near 'Aparajita Bangla' and was hit by 'rifle butt' and received head injury.
 See Page 12 Col 7

Hasina likely to return Jan 3

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina is expected to return home from Singapore on January 3, reports UNB.

Hasina left here for Brunei on November 26 to see her ailing brother-in-law Prof Shafigue Siddique undergoing treatment at a Singapore hospital.

Prof Siddique, the husband of Sheikh Rehana and a teacher at Brunel University, is suffering from paralysis. He was recently operated upon in
 See Page 12 Col 6

Loyalists drive out Georgian rebels

TBILISI, Dec 29: Georgian government troops on Sunday drove rebel forces out of the parliament building and took control of a main square in the embattled capital, reports AP.

Despite the loss of ground, opposition fighters trying to oust President Zviad Gamsakhurdia said they planned to plunge into a new offensive against the mammoth Government House where Gamsakhurdia was holed up.

The opposition made gains on Saturday when a group of senior officials in Gamsakhurdia's government defected and demanded the president surrender his power to the parliament chairman. But Gamsakhurdia did not budge from his underground bunker, which is guarded by several hundred troops.

The defections came after negotiators tried in vain to call a cease-fire in a week of street battles that have left the city centre in flames and killed at least 50 lives by Health Ministry count.

In an event that could effect the power struggle, the opposition said Gamsakhurdia's forces on Sunday arrested the leader of group of Afghan war veterans that so far has remained neutral.

Participation by the battle-hardened veterans, estimated at several hundred, could tilt the balance against the government. Their leader, Nodar Georgadze, was a deputy defense minister and one of the officials who defected Saturday. He was taken to the parliament building, the opposition said.

Fighting erupted in the Georgian capital Tbilisi today after beleaguered President Zviad Gamsakhurdia again re-

fused to resign, Radio Moscow said, reports Reuter.

The new wave of violence shattered a ceasefire agreed on Saturday evening between leaders of rebel and loyalist armed groups in the Transcaucasian republic.

The groups unite to demand the resignation of Gamsakhurdia, hiding in the basement of the parliament building, but Radio Moscow said he had refused the new demand.

The fighting resumed after Zviad Gamsakhurdia rejected the demand of the opposition to resign, it said.

Rebel National Guards have been bombarding the parliament since last Sunday in a bid to oust Gamsakhurdia, who they accuse of trying to impose a dictatorship, since winning presidential elections in May. Health Ministry officials on

Saturday said at least 51 people had been killed and 283 wounded so far.

Moscow Radio said armed opposition units had occupied part of the parliament and government complex where Gamsakhurdia and his supporters were sheltering.

The government house and nearby buildings are on fire, it said. Many buildings along the central Rustaveli Avenue have been burnt out.

Military and political figures, some formerly loyal to Gamsakhurdia, met on Saturday night and issued a communique insisting the President hand over his power to the republic's parliament. They also called for new elections.

The armed opposition considers it its duty to declare that President Gamsakhurdia, who has been unable to pre-
 See Page 12 Col 2

এটলাসের ৩২% ডিভিডেন্ড ঘোষণা

এটলাস বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর সন্মানিত শেয়ার হোল্ডারদের অত্যন্ত আনন্দের সাথে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে গত অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য কোম্পানীর ৩২% ডিভিডেন্ড ঘোষণা করেছে। গত বৃহস্পতিবার ২৬-১২-১৯৯১ ইং তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত এটলাস বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর ৭ম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভায় এই ঘোষণা প্রদান করা হয়।

এটলাস বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড

২৬৫-২৬৭, টপী শিল্প এলাকা, গাজীপুর,
 ফোনঃ ৬৯০১৪১, ৬৯০১৪২, ৬৯১৩৮২,
 ৮৯২৩২৭, ৮৯২৩৩৭, ৮৯২৩৯৭

কিএসইসি/পিআরডি/৪১(এ)
 ২৯/১২/৯১ ইং