

Contraband item sale deadline ends today

As the December 31 deadline for the disposing of contraband draws to close today (Tuesday) latest surveillance report says, market places have now become lean of smuggled goods, reports UNB.

Official sources quoting intelligence reports said Monday, most traders refrained from replenishing their depleted stocks for the last couple of weeks and were busy only with disposing of smuggled goods already in possession.

A fresh supply of contraband items, although on small scale, was seen after December 15 when the authorities deferred the anti-smuggling drive in market places for the second time in a month in the face of stiff opposition from the traders.

Inflow of smuggled goods, particularly through the sea routes, has also declined significantly since the government announced its plan to invade shops and shopping centres in search of contraband.

Major shopping complexes in the capital saw a spruce of sales of popular smuggled consumer items, including Indian saree and foreign fabrics from Japan and Thailand.

For the last two months, shopowners have been trying to attract consumers with continued advertisements for reduction sales.

Meanwhile, the government has reached a consensus with the trading community in the wake of the much-talked-about countrywide anti-smuggling drive.

The authorities have reportedly given assurance to the traders that retailers would be

least harassed in the operation and agreed to involve representatives of the private sector with the anti-smuggling drive.

Series of meetings between the government and private sector representative bodies were held in last one-and-a-half months on the modality and schedule of the drive.

The bipartite consultations produced a list of items falling under the hunt. In all, 29 categories of contraband foreign items have been identified for the first phase of the drive.

Major items on the list include cotton saree, silk fabrics and grey cloth, foreign cigarettes, illegally imported foreign liquors, import-banned wears, foreign umbrellas, soap and razor, foreign ceramic and cutlery, electric ceiling fans etc, tube light, ball pen and bicycle spares.

Concerned officials said items which had long been hitting local industries would be dealt with seriously in the planned drive. Textile products including cotton saree and cigarettes were pointed out as such items.

Home Ministry officials said a joint force comprising police, BDR, customs and the representatives of trade bodies would be in charge of launching the push.

Divisional anti-smuggling task forces will direct the operation in their respective jurisdictions. In districts, deputy commissioners will be responsible for guiding the operation.

The national anti-smuggling task force will guide and monitor the whole operation, starting on the new year's day (Wednesday).

CIS agrees on joint nuclear command

MINSK (Belarus), Dec 30: Leaders of the 11 former Soviet republics agreed Monday to establish a unified command over nuclear weapons but could not resolve differences over conventional military forces, a source said.

Another meeting will be needed in the new year to decide the remaining issues, according to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

No date was set for that meeting, he said.

The leaders, holding their second meeting, agreed that former Soviet Defense Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov should stay on as military commander for two more months, according to the source, who attended the meeting.

Shaposhnikov was named interim commander at the Dec 21 commonwealth meeting.

Failure to appoint Shaposhnikov for a longer period reflected growing differences over control of the armed forces, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan have said they want to form their own armies.

Monday's negotiations were "very controversial," the source said.

AFP adds: Opposition to Russia's potential domination of the new Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) hardened today as talks among leaders of the 11 republics opened here.

The first point on the agenda — adoption of CIS statutes was dropped. Tass news agency reported, although leaders of the 11 republics had been expected to endorse a council of heads of state and

council of heads of government, as well as set up a special committee for ecology and emergency situations.

Ukrainian president Leonid Kravchuk was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying: "We must first take a close look at what this Commonwealth signifies before we talk about Ukraine's signature on CIS statutes."

Kravchuk said agreements signed when the CIS was founded December 8 had since been broken. "The single round space is a fiction," he said, referring to the decision to use a single currency throughout the CIS, and several states' subsequent announcements that they will set up their own currencies.

One killed as BDR, rice dealers clash in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Dec 30: One person was injured by gunfire and fifty others by lathi charge at Jhaudanga Bazar under Satkhira upazila, Monday morning, following a clash between rice dealers and BDR personnel.

Reports say that a group of rice dealers came to Jhaudanga Bazar from their villages to sell rice when BDR personnel seized the rice claiming it had been brought from India. The dealers denied this and claimed that they were bona fide rice dealers showing legal documents, yet the BDR personnel paid them no heed, which led to the altercation between them.

4 prisoners flee court

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The Daily Star that they were kept in two cells in the court. Mukim, Babul and Arzu were in one cell while Alraf, Hanif and he himself were in another cell, Julhash added.

He said, Mukim who designed the plot managed to bring the three in his cell. Mukim showed Julhash a revolver and gave him a dagger and threatened to take his life if he did not agree to follow Mukim's order.

Julhash also said they took the chance when on duty police unlocked the gate of the cell. Four of them managed to escape but Alraf and he himself could not, he added.

Julhash said that he met his wife and children in the court before being transferred to Mukim's cell.

Habibul AKM Mainuddin told the photographer that Julhash stabbed him first when the gate was unlocked. He even tried to grab Mukim by his hair but failed as he was repeatedly stabbed and because of the smoke of crackers, he added.

Immediately after the incident, Dhaka Metropolitan Police from different units began hunt for the prisoners and their accomplices.

Police later arrested Alamgir Alam (18), Yasir Mozammel alias Jhalak (17), Iqbal Hossain alias Kabir (18) and an auto-

ricksaw driver Jasimuddin from Khilgaon Rail Crossing. They were in the auto-ricksaw bearing number Dhaka Metro-Da-6668. Police seized the auto-ricksaw and recovered a dagger from them, police said.

Police said, all of the four prisoners were wanted in number of cases with different police stations.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police in a press release last night declared rewards for information on whereabouts of the four prisoners and their accomplices.

Severe cold ahead

Staff Correspondent

The cold wave now sweeping the country may turn severe today (Tuesday) as the night temperature is expected to fall further by 1-2 degree Celsius.

The bite of cold would continue for at least another two days, Met Office said.

The temperature fell below the average normal by 2-6 degree Celsius all over yesterday.

Rajshahi experience the lowest temperature of the day as well as of the season yesterday when the mercury fell to 7.5 degrees which was 8.4 degrees on Sunday.

In the capital the minimum temperature fell to 10.5 degree from Sunday's 10.9.



Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya holding sit-in in front of the Secretariat yesterday. — Star photo

Chhatra Oikya presses for 10-point

By DU Correspondent

Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) sat on demonstration, Monday in front of the Secretariat to press home the ten point demand of the students community and to root out campus terrorism immediately.

GCO held a rally during the demonstration from 11 am to 2 pm.

The GCO leaders said that Jatyaabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Chhatra League (S-A) and Chhatra Shibir were responsible for the continued violence on the campuses.

The leaders also said that the 10-point demand of the students community and the other demands of different sectors were being neglected and that autocratic rules still existed in the Country.

GCO has taken on a series of programmes till February 14, 1992. The programmes included Anti-Imperialism Day on January 1, demonstration and procession against 'false case' and political suppression on January 18, Shaheed Azad day on January 20, Mass Movement day on January 24, Anti-autocracy day on February 14.

The rally was addressed among others by student leader Nazmul Huq Khan Prodhon, Nasir-ud-Doza, Belal Chowdhury, Noor Ahmed Bakul, Shafee Ahmed, Faizul Hakim Lala, Razekuzzaman Ratan, Rajib Ahsan Munna, Abdus Sattar Khan, Bidhan Roy with student leader Aminul Islam in the chair.

AL protests

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result thousands of Muslim refugees had entered into Bangladesh which would affect adversely the economy of the country, they added.

They said by keeping the elected Burmese leader and Nobel Prize winner Aung Suu Kyi under house arrest instead of handing over power to her and by continuing barbarous and repressive measures on the people, the Burmese regime was gradually making the regional political situation complex.

The Awami League leaders said the democracy loving people of Bangladesh as neighbours could not remain unchained at the heinous activities of violating democracy and human rights in Burma. They extended their support to the struggle for democracy of the Burmese people and expressed the wish for peaceful coexistence and good relations based on mutual respect with the neighbouring countries.

They also criticised the Bangladesh government for its alleged failure in making immediate protest and undertaking necessary steps against the border attack. It also alleged that the government was not informing the people about the tense situation prevailing along the Bangladesh-Burma border.

They urged the government to take immediate and effective steps for easing the tension prevailing in the Bangladesh - Burma border, peacefully.

They also condoned the death of BDR Lance Naik Mosharraf Hossain and expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

BNP fails to fulfil hopes of people: Jamaat

PAIDNA, Dec 30: Top Jamaat-e-Islami leaders today (Monday) accused the BNP government of failure in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people, reports UNB.

The people had voted BNP to power for two square miles a day but the government had failed to fulfil their aspirations, Deputy Ameer of Jamaat Abbas Ali Khan told a public meeting at the local town hall this afternoon.

Furore over Golam Azam

From Page 1 Col 6

media on Monday, instructed the relevant agencies to collect reports on the motive behind the Jamaat action. A competent source in the ministry told this correspondent that the ministry will forward the agencies' report to the Prime Minister on its receipt, Tuesday.

The Home Ministry which has rejected Golam Azam's prayer for citizenship several times, was also surprised to know that he had become the Jamaat chief, the source says. The government cancelled Golam Azam's Bangladesh citizenship in April 1972 for his activities opposing the country's War of Liberation in 1971 and collaborating with the occupation forces of Pakistan.

Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Mohammad Quamruzzaman told The Daily Star last night that the Mujlis-e-Sura, the highest decision-making body of the party had elected Golam Azam the Ameer of the party as the party workers did not want their leader to remain out of the scene. Besides, he added, there was assurance by the present government of recognising Azam as a Bangladeshi citizen, he said.

Zaman argued that his party considers Golam Azam a citizen by birth.

Since the cancellation of his citizenship, in 1972, Golam Azam applied to regain it three times before coming to Bangladesh on July 11, 1978. In spite of being rejected, Golam Azam came here with a Pakistani passport and prayed for citizenship once again in November 1978 and has since been staying in Bangladesh.

The reactions from the Awami League, Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) and the Five-party Combine came in the wake of press reports that Golam Azam addressed a party meeting following his election as Ameer of Jamaat.

The opposition leaders called all pro-liberation and democratic forces to rise against the quarters which were trying to rehabilitate the identified anti-liberation elements like Golam Azam.

Talking to the UNB the Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, said those who allowed the Pakistani citizen Golam Azam branded as anti-liberation element, to enter into the country are responsible for rehabilitating him in the national politics.

"It's an ominous sign for country's politics and a total

disrespect to the blood of the martyrs and spirit of the Liberation War," Sajeda said.

She also urged the freedom-fighters and democratic forces to resist the 'unholy forces' unitedly.

The CFB President and a leader of the PDF Saifuddin Ahmed Manik said, 'we can't understand how does a foreign national do politics in another country.'

Manik said the government should take legal action against the party which made Azam its chief.

Hasanul Haq Inu of the Five-party alliance in his reaction to the UNB said Golam Azam is an identified anti-liberation element who was directly involved in killing during the Liberation War. He demanded of the Home Ministry to explain to the people how a Pakistani citizen, a hated man like Golam Azam could be made chief of a political party in Bangladesh.

The Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, MP, in a statement termed the Jamaat act as anti-constitutional and said the nation could by no means accept the party's decision.

He termed Golam Azam's becoming the Jamaat chief as a challenge to country's constitution and its War of Liberation.

Bomb blast kills 20 in Beirut

BEIRUT, Dec 30: A powerful car bomb exploded in a poor residential neighborhood Monday, killing at least 20 people and wounding 40, police said, reports AP.

The wounded included former Prime Minister Shafiq Wazzan, who was passing through the area in his bulletproof car. Police said Wazzan was hospitalized and later discharged.

Hartal call

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M Kafiluddin, former MP and Member of the advisory committee, AKM Abdul Mannan, an Awami League leader and member of advisory committee, Afsaruddin Chowdhury, General Secretary of Chittagong City Chapter of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and other leaders of Muslim League, JSD (Inu), Chittagong Dock Sramik League, BNP, Jatyaabadi Sramik League, Chhatra Dal and Juba Dal were present during the meeting.

According to sources close to the committee members, it failed to advance its activities any more as the committee members belonging to AL boycotted the committee meetings in protest of government's initiative to form anti-terrorism committees throughout the country comprising solely of BNP men.

According to sources, two meetings of this committee were held in the meantime with AL members.

The Law Minister and the Chairman of the committee has not convene any meeting of this committee during the last two weeks.

There is no chance for any meeting of the parliamentary committee on campus violence before January 4, said a ruling party MP last night since 'the Law Minister is busy working on the Indemnity Bill.'

Use of wood as fuel

From Page 1 Col 6

Increasing the use of coal and saving the trees of the country. A merely routine job on the part of the Government would entail an "invisible doom" for the country, one importer said.

The Secretary General of Bangladesh Brick Field Owners' Association Kazi Anisur Rahman told The Daily Star that lack of gas supply, although inferior quality of coal forced the owners to go for burning fuel wood.

The government has to ensure gas connection and supply high-grade coals for ending the use of wood at the fields, he said.

Rahman, however, conceded that the use of fuel wood at the brick fields was damaging the ecological balance as destroying the forests. "We too are definitely concerned," he added.

Rahman said that the government announcement of resuming supply of gas would help reduce the use of fire wood at the brick fields.

Brick fields owners were also vocal against the police, who they even if they used coal at the brick fields.

The high price of coal coupled with the cost of meeting the "seasonal demand" of the police forced them to use fire wood at the kilns, they said.

Land for stage soon: PM Drama festival begins

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said Monday government has decided to allot a piece of land in Eskaton area in Dhaka for construction of a national drama stage, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a month-long drama festival, jointly organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in the city Begum Zia said the repeal of the Performance Control Act was under active consideration of the government.

She said her government believed in artists' freedom and indicated that a positive decision would be taken soon after considering various legal aspects of the act.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Prof Jahannara Begum, and Additional Secretary in-charge of Cultural Ministry, Islamuddin Malik, attended the function as special guests.

Kamal Lohani, Director General of Shilpakala Academy, and Nasir Uddin Yusuf, Chairman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, also spoke on the occasion.

A message of renowned actor Mohammad Zakaria was read out at the function.

Begum Khaleda Zia said the government had directed the Shilpakala Academy to set up a 500-seat national drama stage.

The Prime Minister said drama had played an important role in awakening public opinion during the anti-British movement, Liberation War of the country and in the anti-autocracy movement.

Arms seized in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Dec 30: A semi-cannon was recovered from Beparipara in the town Sunday midnight, police said. Acting on a tip, police raided a house in the area and nabbed Shahid Mian (20). The two-inch mortar was said to have been seized from his possession, reports UNB.

Bank holiday today

The Bangladesh Bank and all scheduled banks will remain closed for transaction today (Tuesday) on account of bank holiday, a Bangladesh Bank press release said, reports BSS.

JS bodies

From Page 1 Col 4

The committee had discussions with different quarters including the vice chancellors of the universities, representative bodies of university teachers and officials of the Home Ministry.

According to sources close to the committee members, it failed to advance its activities any more as the committee members belonging to AL boycotted the committee meetings in protest of government's initiative to form anti-terrorism committees throughout the country comprising solely of BNP men.

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Khaleda

From Page 1 Col 4

the existing land condition of the country. She said 'we can help the landless peasants more effectively if we know the land position.'

She said it was not the responsibility of the ruling party alone to solve the problems of the farmers, the vital productive force of the society.

Begum Zia called upon the Krishak Dal leaders and workers to work for freeing the farmers from the social and economic hardship rising above the petty party interest.

You have the responsibility to inform the democratic government about the real condition of the farmers knowing closely, she said.

She called upon the student leaders, who had developed an interest to work for the farmers, to go to the rural areas and remain by their side to help them achieve a prosperous life.

The function largely attended by the councillors of Krishak Dal from across the country was also addressed by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar, Labour and Manpower Minister and Convener of Krishak Dal

Abdul Mannan Alshuyyan, Farida Hasan MP, Alangir Kabir, MP, Khet Majur Samity Secretary Mojahidul Islam Selim and Jatyaabadi Samity President Abdul Matin.

The Midnight File

Fighting between two Somali army units

NAIROBI, Dec 30: Fighting broke out Monday in a Red Sea port in secessionist northern Somalia, and a United Nations official said the clash appeared to be between two army units. "We understand a unit went to the barracks and the soldiers there refused to leave," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We don't know whether it was supposed to be a routine rotation or the units supported different political factions." The official had no information on casualties in the fighting in the port of Berbera and said all relief workers had been told to stay indoors, reports AP.

France wants closer ties with Algeria

PARIS, Dec 30: France is committed to deeper ties with Algeria regardless of whether Islamic fundamentalists take control of Parliament, the Foreign Ministry said Monday. In the first official government comment on last week's legislative voting in Algeria, ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard said France was pleased that democratic elections had taken place for the first time since its former colony gained independence in 1962. Bernard declined to assess the results of Thursday's first-round vote, in which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front won 187 seats in the 430-seat National Assembly, 29 short of a majority, reports AP.

Heavy fighting in Croatia

ZAGREB, Dec 30: Fierce fighting broke out along battle fronts throughout Croatia on Monday, and a radio report said Yugoslav warplanes attacked at least three positions in the secessionist republic. Air raid warnings sounded in 10 Croatian cities, following a weekend of heavy fighting in the republic, where thousands of people have been killed in more than six months of civil war. Heavy artillery barrages were reported on two flanks of the front in central Croatia on Monday near Pakrac, 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of Zagreb; and Nova Gradiska, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) further east, Croatian Defense Ministry officials said. It wasn't known whether Croatian militants or the federal army was attacking, reports AP.

Flag meeting

From Page 1 Col 4

border to defuse tension, forces said.

Burma has massed about five brigade of troops along its frontier with Bangladesh, according to the latest reports received here.

It has also put anti-aircraft guns and tanks, gunboats and advanced fighters on alert along the border which they sealed off and closed all transit facilities since the December 21 attack.

Hundreds of inhabitants have deserted their homes in the bordering areas fearing fresh attacks from across the border.

Reports say shooting of guns and roaring of cannons are constantly heard from the other side of the border.

The situation was aggravating as the influx of Rohingya Muslims from Burma into Bangladesh continued.

A Foreign Office spokesman expressed optimism about the outcome of today's flag meeting between the two countries. It will at least bring about a rapprochement to pave

they way for solution to the problems, he said.

Bangladesh pursuing a policy of peaceful co-existence and non-interference in internal affairs, always seeks solution of problems at negotiation table, he added.

BSS adds: There was no official confirmation whether concentration of Myanmar troops and weapons on the border along Bangladesh would come up for discussion. A source hinted that Bangladesh would impress upon the Myanmar side to hold check

influx of Arakanese Muslims into Bangladesh and their safe return to their homes in Arakan.

Bangladesh side would also seek cooperation of the Lushin, so that there was no recurrence of trespassing by Myanmar army and police into Bangladesh territory with a view to maintaining good friendly relations between two neighbours.

Several hundreds Arakanese Muslims meanwhile held demonstration in Cox's Bazar yesterday demanding their early return home.

Cop's death Azad slates BNP attack on AL workers

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senior police officers for giving "indulgence" to student activists.

A police constable who refused to give his name told UNB correspondent at the hospital that they wanted to mop up the feuding armed student activists before the situation deteriorated but were restrained by their senior officers.

Witnesses said about 400 constables from the police line crammed into the hospital for taking over the body of Shahidullah. They became unruly and heard accusing the officers for the death of their colleague.

The body was brought to the police line. None of the police officers are available till late tonight to comment on the situation.

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G-1149

Editor: S. M. Ali

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. Fax No. 88-02-863035. CPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.