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 to take Toll of the
 Political Leaders**

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NEWS BRIEFS

Arms surrender time extended

Government has extended the deadline for the surrender of illegal arms of the outlawed underground political parties from January 8 to January 15. A government handout Wednesday said the amnesty would be applicable to all underground armed organisations including Biplobi Communist Party, Purbo Bangla Communist Party (M-L) and all factions of Purbo Banglar Sarbahara Party, reports UNB.

RUCSU elections on February 25

RAJSHAHI, Jan 8: Election to the Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU) and hall unions will be held on February 25. Election of five student representatives to the University Senate will also be held concurrently. Vice-Chancellor Prof Amanullah Ahmed today announced the rescheduled date for the elections, reports UNB.

Body recovered from hotel

PABNA, Jan 8: Police today recovered the body of a young businessman from a local hotel. The victim was identified as Abdul Kaseem (28), son of Abdul Rashid of Madherchar in Bhairab upazila of Kishoreganj district. Police said he came to the hotel 'Star' in the town at 10 pm Tuesday, reports UNB.

Try Golam Azam as a war criminal, demands opposition

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition members in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday demanded that the government clarify its position on the Golam Azam issue.

The opposition members taking part in the discussion on the Golam Azam issue in the Jatiya Sangsad termed his election as Jamaat chief illegal and unconstitutional.

They demanded his trial for his active collaboration with the occupation army in unleashing genocide against the people of Bangladesh in 1971.

The Jamaat MPs, however, tried to defend their position saying there was nothing illegal in electing Golam Azam party chief while a ruling party

MP found nothing wrong in forgiving him for his past role. The Jatiya Sangsad (JS), following four separate adjournment motions moved by the opposition MPs earlier, picked up the issue for a two-hour debate.

With three opposition MPs staging walkout and eight MPs taking part in the discussion, the House spent one hour yesterday afternoon while another hour would be spent next Sunday afternoon.

Golam Azam lost his citizenship in 1972 for collaborating with the Pakistani occupation forces during the country's War of Independence in 1971.

He was allowed entry into the country by the then government reportedly to see his ailing mother and has since been staying. He used Pakistani passport to get the entry permission.

The Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh elected him chief on December 29 last.

The four JS members who moved the adjournment motion on the issue include Shamsul Hoque of Awami League (AL), Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party, Azizur Rahman and Abdul Awal Mia of AL.

Azizur Rahman, however, was not present in the House
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A large number of shopowners demonstrating against extortionists in the city yesterday.

—Star photo

Ministers' absence annoys Speaker

By Staff Correspondent

The absence of the Leader of the House, Deputy Leader and senior ministers led to a two-hour debate at the Jatiya Sangsad Wednesday.

Even Speaker Sheikh Razaque Ali was visibly annoyed at the absence of senior Treasury Bench members in the session.

The second day of the winter session of the House resumed shortly after 3 pm with the front row of the Treasury Bench remaining empty excluding presence of cabinet members M K Anwar and

Keramat Ali. Opposition members took strong exception to the non-appearance of senior cabinet members saying that parliamentary democracy cannot be effective if such a large-scale absence of ruling party members continues.

Treasury Bench members maintained that the ministers always responded to the queries directed towards them in Parliament and added that they were well aware of the cabinet being collectively ac-
 See Page 12 Col 3

Transport strike in 4 districts today

JAMALPUR, Jan 8: Transport owners and workers in four districts called for a dawn to dusk strike tomorrow (Thursday), reports UNB.

The Transport Owners' Association and the Transport Workers' Association of Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Tangail and Sherpur jointly called the strike to press for alternative roads at the construction sites on Dhaka-Mymensingh and Dhaka-Jamalpur highways.

Meanwhile, North Bengal Transport Owners' Association today called off their strike following an assurance from the government to resolve the deadlock

'Govt will make statement in JS soon' Myanmar agrees to hold flag meetings regularly

Myanmar has agreed to Bangladesh's proposal of holding 'flag meetings' on a regular basis to ensure a peaceful border, a Foreign Office spokesman said Wednesday, reports BSS.

He told newsmen that Myanmar informed this at the 'second flag meeting' at Teknaf that began Tuesday afternoon and ended in the small hours of Wednesday.

The meeting, scheduled to begin at 9 in the morning,

was delayed and it began at 3.45 pm. But it continued till 2.50 Wednesday morning since it covered a wide range of issues involving the borders of the two countries.

Bangladesh has proposed that the third flag meeting be held on January 16.

Two rounds of talks, first round being on December 30, have helped subside the tension that flared up after the Myanmar forces had raided a Bangladesh border post on

December 21 killing one BDR jawan and injuring several others.

The flag meeting is a step forward in the direction of restoring peace along the border," the spokesman said.

Myanmar sent an 18-member delegation to the second flag meeting and reiterated its keenness to cooperate with Bangladesh to maintain peace and tranquility along the border.
 See Page 12 Col 6

'Refrain from going to South Korea'

The government has urged the people to refrain from trying to go to South Korea without knowing in detail about the employment position in that country, reports BSS.

An official handout issued Wednesday said the government was aware that some Bangladeshi citizens, being duped by a section of dishonest traders and brokers, had gone to South Korea. They were now facing numerous problems there.

The government has taken adequate measures to check
 See Page 12 Col 2



Zafar Iqbal dead

Film actor and singer Zafar Iqbal, aged 45, died of kidney and liver ailments at the PG Hospital here yesterday morning, reports BSS.

Iqbal, who was also a television performer had been admitted to the PG Hospital four days ago with acute abdominal pain.

The namaz-e-janaza of Zafar Iqbal was held in Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) premises after the Zohr prayer and he was buried at the Azampur graveyard. The janaza was largely attended by the colleagues of the deceased, his relatives, friends and admirers including film and entertainment personalities.

The qul-khiwan will be held at his residence, House-7, Road-6, Sector-7, Rabindra Sarani, Uttara Model Town, on January 11 after the Asr prayer.

'Late Zafar Iqbal left behind his aging mother, wife Sonia Zafar, two sons, three brothers, three sisters and a large number of friends and admirers to mourn his premature death.

Noted singer Shahnaz Rahmatullah and music director Anwar Parvez are Zafar Iqbal's sister and brother.

Zafar Iqbal, popular among the youngsters for his style and trendiness acted in more than 100 feature films during his 14-year career. He made his debut in the film 'Apan Par' in 1968 while his last released film was 'Lakkhir Sangsar'.

Zafar Iqbal earned fame as a singer by his song 'Sukhe Thako Omar Nandini'.

He also played in the television feature film adopted from Humayun Ahmed's novel 'Shankhanil Karagar', which is yet to be released.

Bangladesh Film Artists Association yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Zafar Iqbal.

DUST TO DUST: Broken and silent Zafar's son having the last glimpse of father yesterday.

—Star photo

'Yangon lives in shadow of fear'

Star Special

An uneasy calm prevails in Yangon, but to student activists, the capital of Myanmar remains in the shadow of fear, according to visitors who arrived in Dhaka this week from the trouble-torn country.

The uneasy lull in Yangon, perceptible to all visitors, is interpreted in different ways. The consensus among local analysts, ready to visitors and diplomats — the majority avoid contacts with outsiders — is that another upsurge among students in Yangon may take place anytime, perhaps, within three months.

Another view is that the army may launch a preemptive attack on students, fill the jails with activists and thus make what one journalist described as a "last ditch attempt" to crush the pro-democracy movement.

As with all political issues,

few are willing to talk about the continuing tension along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. However, one official described it as a "minor affair" which, he said, would be satisfactorily resolved "in due course."

On prospects of student activists taking to the streets again, journalist says, one this time "it may well be a fight to the finish". It is also assumed by many student leaders that the military junta, ruling Myanmar today, is without any sense of direction and, what's more, does not know where to turn for support.

As one visitor to Yangon says, the new international prominence gained by Aung San Suu Kyi in winning the Nobel Peace Award has further weakened the moral position of the armed forces, giving a boost to opposition leaders.

The same observer claims that the prestige of Suu Kyi among her people remains as strong as ever. But some fear for her physical safety.

According to another visitor, the decline in Myanmar's trade with the outside world has begun to have an effect on the economic life. Even in the capital city of Yangon, consumer goods appear to be in short supply. However, with official statistics no longer available, it is difficult to assess the state of the economy of the country.

One view heard among residents in Yangon, says one visitor, is that another reason for the shortage of goods is the government crackdown on smuggling. Meanwhile, the black marketing in currency remains brisk.

According to another visitor
 See Page 12 Col 8

Bush collapses at state dinner

TOKYO, Jan 8: A gasping and dazed President Bush collapsed at a state dinner Wednesday evening. Less than an hour later, he was described as suffering from nothing more serious than the flu and was resting comfortably, reports AP.

"All indications is that it is a normal case of the flu," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater. He said Bush fell nauseous at about 8:20 pm (1120 gm) and vomited.

After Bush left, his physicians at his side, the dinner given by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa continued. Barbara Bush - though pale and clearly concerned - stayed behind.

The president bypassed a waiting ambulance and walked instead to his limousine. He was driven to his Tokyo residence at Akasaka Palace, where he was given an anti-

nausea medication called tigan and was expected to sleep through the night before resuming an abbreviated schedule here Thursday.

Video of the dinner showed that Bush fell to the floor from his dinner seat and those sitting nearby leaped to help him.

At one point, the president's head was lifted above table height and he looked strained and pale.

The first lady shouted something and then stood next to him wringing her napkin.

Bush got to his feet a few minutes later, his hair disheveled. Secret Service agents and national security adviser Brent Scowcroft helped Bush down his raincoat, and a guard behind him helped pat his hair back into place.

Bush paused to wave to the dinner guests before departing. He joked to his security agents, "I just wanted to get a little attention."

About an hour later, Fitzwater briefed reporters. "President Bush is in his suit at the Akasaka Palace and is feeling fine following a bout with
 See Page 12 Col 7

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 See Page 12 Col 7

Bangabandhu's home coming day tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The home-coming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be observed tomorrow (Friday).

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returned home after being released from months of captivity in Pakistan on this day in 1972.

The Pakistani occupation forces arrested and took Bangabandhu away to Pakistan soon after the independence of Bangladesh had been proclaimed on the night of March 25 in 1971. Since then he had been detained in Pakistani jail.

To mark the historic day, the Awami League has chalked out programmes to be observed throughout the country.

One killed in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent

A pedestrian was run over by a minibus at Jurain, Demra Wednesday afternoon.

The minibus bearing number Dhaka (Cha-3653) ran over the unidentified man of 35 at about 1.15 pm. The driver, however, managed to escape, police said.

UNB from Barguna adds: At least 15 people were injured when a loaded bus fell into a road-side ditch in Amtali upazila yesterday.

Israeli army chief suggests time limit on expulsions

JERUSALEM, Jan 8: Israel's army chief of staff has proposed limiting Palestinian deportations to 18 months to quiet world criticism of the practice, Israeli news reports said Wednesday, reports AP.

Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak told a parliament committee that a time limit also could facilitate more expulsions because the penalty would be less severe than the government's current policy of issuing open-ended

deportation orders. The Israeli Supreme Court also agreed to hear a petition from 12 Palestinians facing expulsion to make the deportation review proceedings public. The case will be heard Sunday, Israeli radio reported.

The Hebrew daily Maariv quoted Barak as telling a closed-door session of parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday that with a limited

deportation period, Arabs could be expelled "not in groups of 12 but 120 or 1,200 at a time."

Maariv said Barak mentioned a limit of 18 months, with an option for even shorter durations.

Barak told state television he believed "the root of world opposition (to expulsions) is...the feeling that the punishment, as it is inflicted today, amounts to an irrevocable

uprooting of a person for an indefinite period."

He added that setting a time limit "could take some of the political sting out of world opposition...and allow more efficient use of this tool."

Meanwhile, a delegation of Palestinians from the occupied territories left Jerusalem on Wednesday en route to Middle East peace talks in Washington.

The group, numbering

about 40, bused to the Jordanian capital of Amman and was to proceed to the United States by jet late Wednesday or early Thursday, according to spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

"We are determined to engage in direct, bilateral negotiations," she told reporters at a news conference in Arab east Jerusalem.

The Palestinian delegates had postponed the trip last

week to protest Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinian militants. The expulsion orders were issued after four Jews were killed in ambushes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

They later said they would attend the talks if the UN Security Council strongly denounced the expulsion orders. The council did so late Monday.