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A meeting with Tania Zaman, who had been in Hanoi as a UN official for three years, was 'exciting' and 'interesting' for Rahat Fahmida, a Star Feature Reporter Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Transport strike in 4 districts

JAMALPUR, Jan 9: A dawn-to-dusk transport strike jointly called by the owners and workers associations was observed peacefully in 4 districts of Mymensingh region today. The transport owners and workers associations of Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur and Tangail called the strike for protesting the alleged corruption of the contractors in road construction and to press for alternative roads at the construction site on Dhaka-Mymensingh and Dhaka-Jamalpur highways, reports UNB.

World Bank VP due tomorrow

The World Bank Vice-President for South Asia Joseph Wood will arrive in Dhaka Saturday next on a five-day official visit. During his stay here, Wood is expected to meet Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Ministers for Finance, Industries, Planning, Commerce, Energy, Communication, Jute, Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives, Education and Health. He will also hold meetings with high officials including Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), reports UNB.

Shootout, blasts mar BCL anniversary programme

Student leader gunned down on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League (S-A) leader Moniruzzaman Badal was shot dead Thursday evening by some unidentified assailants in the Jagannath Hall area of the Dhaka University.

Sources said that the incident occurred following an altercation between two rival groups in the BCL (S-A) Moniruzzaman Badal, Or-

ganising Secretary of the BCL (S-A) and a former student of the Political Science Department of the Dhaka University, was the third son of Nasiruddin Ahmed, the former upazila chairman, Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat.

Sources said that Badal left behind his wife, child and parents. Following the incident the

BCL activists set ablaze a private car in front of the National Press Club and damaged four vehicles including a BRTC bus in the High Court and Paltan areas.

Sources said that a group of men called Badal from the venue of the function of the BCL (S-A) in front of the Teachers Student Centre (TSC) in observance the 44th

founding anniversary of the Chhatra League where Awami League leaders were present.

At the same time, several shots and blasts were heard from the Jagannath Hall areas.

Police rushed to the spot and found Badal lying injured on the road between the Jagannath and Shamsun Nahar halls, sources said. See Page 12 Col 7



BCL activists brought out a procession carrying the body of Badal on a stretcher in the city yesterday evening. — Star photo

'Govt conspiring to restore Azam's citizenship'

Power has gone back to cantonment: Hasina

The Awami League President, Sheikh Hasina, has said, "Power was in the hands of people only during December 3-5, then it went to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and finally it went back to the cantonment," reports UNB.

"Power from autocratic Ershad was just transferred to his neighbour in the cantonment," she said. "Had there been Awami League in power, the situation

could be different...there would have been stability in political and economic fronts," she observed while speaking at a discussion meeting at the Dhaka University.

Our DU Correspondent adds: Sheikh Hasina, the Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Thursday accused the BNP of conspiring to restore citizenship of Prof Golam Azam.

"We have reasons to believe that the government is contemplating to restore Golam Azam's citizenship since it was formed with the support of Jamaat-e-Islami which elected Golam Azam its chief," Hasina commented while addressing a students' rally at the Dhaka University.

The opposition leader at her first public address since she returned from Singapore on Tuesday also alleged that all-out efforts were being made to satisfy the defeated forces of See Page 12 Col 5

Badal killed in internal feuds: Press Note

A Chhatra League (S-A) leader, Moniruzzaman Badal, was killed following internal feuds of Chhatra League in the Dhaka University campus yesterday, according to a Press Note here, reports BSS.

The Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs last night said two police constables were seriously hurt at the pelting of stones by the Chhatra League activists.

The Chhatra League activists also went on the rampage following the killing and damaged several vehicles in the city. They also set fire on a vehicle in front of the Press Club, the Press Note said. See Page 12 Col 3

Treasury bench tastes its first defeat

By Staff Correspondent

The Treasury Bench tasted its first defeat in the Jatiya Sangsad Thursday in a division over a private member's resolution.

The resolution to set up a marine police force, moved by Independent member Nurul Islam Moni, was adopted by 62 to 57 votes. Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and other opposition parties and independent members voted for the resolution while the ruling party opposed it.

After the discussions on the

resolution, Speaker Shakh Razaque Ali called for a voice vote as Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury refused to accept it and Nurul Islam Moni declined to withdraw.

Before any opinion of the chair on the voice vote, Awami League MP ASM Feroze and some other opposition members stood up and pressed for a division. The Speaker accepted the demand and asked the members who were in favour of the resolution and those against respectively to rise in their places. On a count being taken, the Speaker announced the result of the division vote and declared that the resolution was adopted.

The whole opposition cheerfully thumped their desks and rejoiced at the victory. Moni was congratulated and embraced by a number of members.

Later, all the amendments on the resolution were withdrawn by individual members when the Speaker sought their opinion. The resolution was finally adopted by the House in its original form.

The resolution was for setting up a marine police force to check piracy in the coastal areas. This was the second as well as the last resolution moved on the private members' day.

Moving the resolution, Moni pointed out that, in recent months, piracy in the coastal areas increased alarmingly causing immense sufferings to the people of the area, primarily the fishermen.

The independent member said during the current fishing season, 293 fishermen had been killed and nearly 1500 injured at the hand of pirates. The pirates also looted away resources worth taka 30 crore See Page 12 Col 7

Morgue for women

By Staff Correspondent

A private member's resolution for setting up a separate morgue for dead women in each hospital was unanimously adopted by the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday.

The resolution said separate arrangements, according to respective religious rites, to keep dead bodies of women in morgues be set up in phases in every hospital in the country.

The resolution was moved by Sardar Sakhawat Hossain (Bakul) of BNP from the Narsingdi-4 constituency on private members' day.

The resolution received support, along with suggestions from eight members of Parliament.

Following the acceptance of suggestions by Minister of Health Choudhury Kamal Hne Yusuf, the resolution was unanimously adopted in an amended form by the House.

Presenting the resolution Sakhawat Hossain cited the example of how the body of a woman pilot of Birman, who died in a 1985 plane crash, See Page 12 Col 7

Peace talks may resume Monday

US policy on occupied areas hasn't changed

WASHINGTON, Jan 9: US policy on the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza hasn't changed even though the United States supported a UN resolution describing the territories and Jerusalem as "Palestinian territories occupied by Israel," the Bush administration says, reports AP.

To reinforce the point, the State Department on Wednesday gave reporters a statement in which US Ambassador Thomas Pickering called the UN reference "merely demographically and geographically descriptive and

not indicative of sovereignty."

The resolution, approved unanimously Monday by the United States and the 14 other members of the UN Security Council, condemned Israel for planning to deport 12 Palestinian Arabs it suspects of inciting terrorism on the West Bank and in Gaza. Four Jewish Israelis have been killed there in the last 10 weeks.

Jordan held the West Bank and East Jerusalem and Egypt controlled Gaza until the Arab nations were defeated by Israel See Page 12 Col 1

Political leaders like close ties with NGOs

Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a workshop on Thursday stressed coordination of activities between political parties and non-government organisations (NGOs) to alleviate rural poverty.

The workshop, "organising the rural poor: Experiences of the NGOs and political activists," was sponsored by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

The speakers, representing different political opinions and NGOs, observed mistrust and rivalry between the two should be removed to help emancipate the distressed people of

the country.

After a day-long debate, political leaders and NGO workers reached the consensus that, to achieve success, development activities at grassroots level must be commensurate with national development plans.

The workshop, held in two sessions at the conference room of the BIDS, was participated by Begum Matia Chowdhury MP, (Krishak League), Delwar Hossain MP, (BNP), Rashed Khan Menon MP, (Workers Party), Hasanul See Page 12 Col 4

Yangon abolishes six parties

YANGON, Jan 9: Myanmar's military government announced today it had abolished six opposition political parties after they failed to provide authorities with detailed party structures, reports Reuter.

The official working People's Daily newspaper said the abolished parties had not succeeded in achieving a reasonable stage of stability after three years in existence.

It said the government's Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission decided that "in implementing a compact and stable democratic system, such political parties should not be allowed to continue their existence" it did not elaborate.

The banned parties were

the League of Democratic Alliances, the Union of Myanmar Democratic Front, the Myanmar United Democratic Front, the Rakhine Nationalities Democracy Party, the Rakhine National Unity Organisation and the Amyothar Party.

At least two of the parties represent Muslim-dominated Rakhine (formerly Arakan) state in western Myanmar bordering Bangladesh.

London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International said last month that Yangon's military leaders, who have steadfastly refused to hand over power to the civilian politicians, who won general elections in May 1990, had pursued an active campaign of

arresting opposition members. It said information obtained from various sources in and outside Myanmar showed that nearly 600 people were arrested by the military during the first seven months of 1991 in connection with opposition political activities.

Amnesty said most of these people were apparently still being detained.

It said they were held on an array of charges ranging from engaging in violent acts of political sabotage to criminal activities like gambling and black marketing.

Yangon has denied charges by other countries of alleged human rights violations and of large-scale arrests of opposition politicians.

'Govt backed terrorists have killed Badal'

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina Thursday protested the killing of Chhatra League leader Moniruzzaman Badal saying "It's a pre-planned murder by identified terrorists backed by the government", reports UNB.

In a press statement she demanded immediate investigation into the killing of Badal, Organising Secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League, and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

The Awami League chief al- See Page 12 Col 1

Bush taking home a loose pledge from Japan

TOKYO, Jan 9: President Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Kishi Miyazawa announced Friday a series of steps to increase the sale of US autos and other products in Japan, but American carmakers traveling with Bush expressed disappointment, reports AP.

After round-the-clock talks marked by angry exchanges, negotiators agreed Thursday on a hodgepodge of proposals that both Bush and Miyazawa termed a success.

Within minutes after a joint news conference by the two

leaders, US auto executives traveling with Bush with the president's prognosis. Asked if he saw anything significant in the accord, Ford Motor Co. chairman Harold A. Poling said "Not what I've seen so far."

Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca said Japan's target for purchases of American autos "doesn't sound like a lot of cars."

Bush and Miyazawa reaffirmed the importance of their nations' post-war alliance, but the visit was dominated by efforts to defuse trade frictions that have marred the relation-

ship. The joint appearance came a day after Bush collapsed at the feet of Miyazawa during a state dinner. The US president dismissed the illness as "a little tummy bug of flu."

The final sticking points of marathon working-level talks described by both sides as "severe" came when Washington demanded that Japanese automakers buy \$20 billion of parts in fiscal 1994, more than doubling previous purchases.

Japan refused to budge further after setting a target of

\$19.1 billion, the quasi-governmental NHK television station said.

Bush, who gave the summit its focus by linking the US recession to Japan's trade practices, will take home a loose pledge from Japan to buy 20,000 more US cars per year, double purchases of US auto parts, relax car inspection and other standards and boost sales of other goods.

"I think we have created jobs," Bush said, declaring his "message has been received."

But the agreements are expected to barely dent Japan's

deficit with the United States, which the US side blames on closed markets. Japanese negotiators contend the Bush administration is making Japan a scapegoat for America's inability to cure its own economic ills.

"No doubt we have much more work to do," Bush said as he neared the end of a four-nation trip through Asia.

Miyazawa said "some friction is inevitable" but called the summit agreements "epochal."

In the history of the human race, never before have two na-

tions of such different history and culture deepened such a relationship of mutual interdependence," he said.

In a separate "Tokyo Declaration," a statement of broad goals, the longtime allies made oblique reference to their new rivalry, saying that "economic issues have assumed new prominence... in the post-Cold War era."

JS indemnity body meets on Monday

The 8th meeting of the Special Parliamentary Committee on the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill will be held on Monday at 6 pm at Sangsad Bhaban, reports UNB.

Chairman of the committee Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz will chair the meeting in the Committee Room No 1, an official handout said last night.

Members of the committees are: Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, Major Gen Majidul-Haq (Rtd), Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Khandker Delwar Hossain, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, Sudhangsu Sekhar Halder, Mohammad Nasim, Advocate Fazle Rabbi and Sheikh Anwar AB.

Sheikh Mujib's home-coming day today

By Staff Correspondent

The home-coming day of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be observed today.

On this day in 1972, Bangladesh returned to Bangladesh after the Pakistan government released him from jail.

Awami League will organise a discussion meeting at its central office in the city today at 3 pm to mark the day.

Besides, the portrait of Bangladesh at his 32, Dhanmondi Residence will be garlanded at 8.30 pm. The national flag and the party flag will be hoisted atop all the offices of the party throughout the country.

In observance of the day, different units of the party in the city and elsewhere in the country have also chalked out elaborate programmes.

Thursday meet: PM hears 30

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia passed yet another evening Thursday giving audience to the people of different walks of life, who came to her with various problems, reports UNB.

More than 30 people, including students, artists and businessmen, came to the Prime Minister's Sugandha office during the meet-the-people programme. She gave a patient hearing to them and issued immediate orders in some cases.

Mosammat Amena Begum, a widow with four children, came all the way from Mymensingh seeking the Prime Minister's assistance in getting a job to run her family.

Alhaj Mohammed Motiur Rahman Munshi sought government's patronage for marketing a cyclostyle machine developed by him with indige-

See Page 12 Col 6

Fog stops ferries in mid river

MANIKGANJ, Jan 9: Thousands of ferry passengers remained stranded in the middle of the rivers Jamuna and Padma Wednesday night due to thick fog, reports UNB.

Six ferries, to and from Aricha ghat with full load of buses and trucks, were stuck in the mid way as visibility became poor, BIWTA sources said here today.

Ferry Enayepuri with about 2,000 passengers and 19 buses, lost its way after it rolled out from Aricha ghat at night. It got stuck 4 km from Aricha at a submerged char in the deep river.

It was later rescued by two relief launches when the fog See Page 12 Col 1

One killed, 20 injured in road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

At least one person was killed and 20 others were injured in three separate road accidents in and around the city Thursday afternoon.

One person was killed on the spot and 15 others were injured when a staff bus skidded off the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway near Bhabanpur Bazar yesterday afternoon, our Gazi-pur correspondent reports.

The ill-fated bus of the Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory was returning to the See Page 12 Col 2