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Inside Today

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Parliament versus the People

If the government had been more interested in its obligations to the electorate and the economy and less concerned with politically accommodating the bureaucracy and its militant left arm, SKOP, it could have taken the issue to the people through the media

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Birendra may reclaim power

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Dhaka Day by Day



Joining a bridegroom's party is often fun but more often than not it can turn out to be troublesome indeed

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NEWS BRIEFS

BMA rally today

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) will hold a rally today at 11 am at PG Hospital Auditorium to protest against the assault of its General Secretary Dr Gazi Abdul Haq and damage of the BMA building Thursday by unruly youths, according to a press release said in Dhaka Friday, reports BSS.

Dacoits raid 45 houses 2 days

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 10: At least 30 people were injured and valuables worth about Tk 20 lakhs were looted when dacoits raided 45 houses of village Bogra in Ullapara upazila of the district over the last two days, reports UNB.

6 wagons of goods train derailed

By Staff Correspondent
Six wagons of a Chittagong-bound goods train were derailed Friday evening near the Tejgaon Station in the city. Railways sources said that the accident at about 6.30 pm Friday and none was injured. Relief train rushed to the spot and officials were working till late night to restore normal communication, the sources added.

Bomb blast: 1 held

By Staff Correspondent
Police arrested one person Thursday in connection with a bomb explosion at Shaheenbagh area in the capital. Tejgaon police said a special squad arrested Sobhan from a house in Shaheenbagh slums after a bomb exploded there Thursday evening.

Influx of Rohingyas continues

Myanmar troops back on border

By Staff Correspondent

Myanmar troops returned to its front line positions on Friday while Bangladesh was waiting for 'yes' to the third round of talks on January 16 to resolve the border issue.

Officials in Dhaka said Friday that they were expecting the consent of the Myanmar authorities to sit for the proposed third flag meeting between the border guards of the two countries.

Bangladesh, during the second round of flag meeting on Tuesday proposed another meeting on January 16 in a bid to defuse the tension along the border, building up since December 21 after a cross-border attack by the Myanmar border guards on a Bangladesh Rifles out post, that left two

people killed and another 22 injured.

The Myanmar authorities during the second meeting agreed to Bangladesh's proposal for holding regular flag meetings between the two countries for ensuring a peaceful border, a Foreign Office spokesman said on Wednesday. The second flag meeting is a step forward in the direction of restoring peace along the border," he further said.

Our staff correspondent in Chittagong adds: The Myanmar authority ordered its troops to return to its front line positions on Friday.

Sources said that Myanmar forces which were pulled back one kilometer inside its territory on January 6 came back to

its earlier positions along the Bangladesh border.

The Myanmar army has also reportedly taken control of the positions from the "Lunthin" border guards and the police who were stationed at the posts following the withdrawal.

However, sources in Cox's Bazar indicated that the proposed third round of talks, if it takes place on schedule, will be held in Burma at the sector commander level. Earlier meeting were held at the level of battalion commanders.

Meanwhile, influx of Rohingya Muslims into Bangladesh continued while an uneasy lull gripped the border villages. The refugees, mostly young men and women, en-

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A group of Rohingya refugees entering into Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar. —Star photo

Ukraine halts transfer of nuclear weapons

LONDON, Jan 10: Ukraine has suspended its transfer of tactical nuclear weapons to Russia, a newspaper reported today, reports AP.

The European, an English-language weekly, based its report on unidentified sources in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and US intelligence.

The article, however, did not say if the transfer of weapons was halted permanently or just delayed.

Ukrainian leaders have said they want a nuclear-free country and will immediately get

rid of their strategic, or long-range, nuclear weapons. However, they had estimated it would take until 1994 to dispose of the tactical, or short-range, weapons.

In Brussels, Belgium, a NATO source told The Associated Press,

he was unaware of any refusal by Ukraine to hand over tactical nuclear arms.

All nuclear weapons were in the process of being moved into the paper quoted the NATO source as saying.

"The US just spotted it. They realized immediately that

the Russians had a problem getting the nuclear weapons back," the newspaper quoted the source as saying.

AFP says, the former Soviet army started withdrawing its tactical nuclear weapons from Ukraine today, the Ukrainian news agency Ukrinform said.

A huge security force was deployed for the retreat, in line with Ukraine's goal to remove all nuclear weapons from its territory, which was being carried out in the strictest secrecy, Ukrinform said.

A long line of tanks and

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Education proves women's bane

By Masud Arif

Women in Bangladesh are not getting the chance to acquire the qualifications that could make them fit to compete in the open labour market and private sector.

Rather their education is getting them limited occupations not related to industry and low prospects of career advancement, says a recent study.

Conducted by Bikas C. Sanyal and J.E. Collins under International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) the study revealed that the most decisive factor favouring the advancement of women is a flourishing economy and that new norms could be established only where groups so desired and economic conditions were favourable.

In Bangladesh, and even in Pakistan, most women come from highly-educated, higher-income families and the majority of them study for their own sake and social prestige, at least a third on graduation eventually become voluntarily employed, the study noted.

It however noted that in this type of culture 'interest of work' was ranked low amongst both males and females as a reason for pursuing a certain career and that women earned considerably less than men in the same fields.

Some developing countries hold a very restrictive socio-cultural condition (mainly in Bangladesh, Pakistan) where even the clerical and medical fields are not generally open to

females.

In Bangladesh higher education grew rapidly from 1977 to 1984 and women increased their low proportion in the student population from 14 per cent to 18 per cent and Humanities and Social Science were the main fields over that period.

The salaries of female graduates in 1982 were 20 per cent lower than those of the males. The females had to wait longer to get jobs and around 68 per cent of them were still unemployed after a year.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) report on "Bangladesh Statistics 1990" around 50 lakh girls participated

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Israel has doubled settlements in '91

JERUSALEM, Jan 10: The US government is monitoring Jewish settlement construction in the occupied territories by spy satellite because Israel is not providing the information, an Israeli newspaper reported Friday, says AP.

Exact data on settlements will be crucial in the renewed debate on Israel's request for the \$10 billion in US loan guarantees, and in Middle East peace talks expected to resume in Washington next week.

Israel is the largest recipient of US aid, receiving \$3 billion in military and economic assistance annually.

Therefore using spy satellites would be unusual for the United States to receive information as Israel could simply provide it through diplomatic channels.

The satellite pictures show that construction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip more than doubled in 1991, compared to the previous year, the Haaretz daily reported.

Visiting US Sen Phil Gramm, was quoted Friday as saying that if the accelerated pace continues, President Bush will not approve the guarantees, likely meaning Congress will not pass them.

"I've known George Bush for 25 years and there is no subject he feels more adamant about than settlements," Gramm, told the Jerusalem Post.

US policy is that the settlements built on the land that Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war are an obstacle to peace. The United States backs UN resolutions calling for the return of occupied land in exchange for peace.

Israel asked for the guarantees in September, but Congress put off consideration for four months at the request

Four arrested on Badal murder charge

Police Friday night arrested four students of Dhaka University in connection with the murder of Chhatra League leader Moniruzzaman Badal, reports UNB.

The arrested students are: Kazi Jasimuddin alias Jessi (22), second year Accounting (Salmullah Hall), Emdadul Haq alias Emdad (22), second year Public Administration (Jahurul Haq Hall), Nasimul Haq Gani alias Kamal alias Piai (20), second year Philosophy (Salmullah Hall), and Subrata Kumar Das (20), second year Public Administration (Jagannath Hall).

Police said a special squad of detective branch arrested them from near Bakshi Bazar crossing at about 10 pm. They were brought to the Detective Branch for interrogation.

The arrested students were also allegedly involved in another case of vehicle-burning at BUET last November.

DU postpones anti-terrorism rally

By DU Correspondent

A meeting of the Provosts of various halls of Dhaka University presided by Vice-Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Miah sought cooperation from general students and all concerned to restore normalcy on the Dhaka University campus yesterday (Friday).

It expressed deep condolence at the death of the Organising Secretary of Chhatra League (S-A) Moniruzzaman Badal, who was shot dead by some unidentified assailants Thursday evening in the Jagannath Hall areas of the Dhaka University.

The meeting postponed the anti-terrorism rally scheduled to be held on January 12, Sunday.

Asia to become largest economy, says Miyazawa

TOKYO, Jan 10: Japan's Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has predicted that Asia will become the largest economy in the world but will not form an exclusive trade bloc, reports Reuter.

"Fortunately, Asia has diversified cultures, races and historic and economic developments," Miyazawa said in a lunch speech to businessmen today.

"Our region will not be anything like the bloc formed by the United States, Canada and Mexico" and that formed by the EC (European Community).

Miyazawa said he wanted Asia to be the most attractive region for investors and he was optimistic about its future prosperity. He did not elaborate.

Rivals ask JKLF chief to sign papers at gunpoint

ISLAMABAD, Jan 10: The political chief of one of the main militant groups fighting Indian rule in Kashmir said today he had been held at gunpoint in Pakistani Kashmir for 12 hours by a rival splinter group, reports Reuter.

Amanullah Khan, head of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), said he was released in the early hours of today after refusing to sign documents under threat.

Khan, speaking by phone from his headquarters in Rawalpindi, said he went to Bugh in Pakistani-ruled Azad

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BCL factions fortify positions Gunmen turn DU halls into forts

The Dhaka University campus remained tense yesterday following the killing of Chhatra League (S-A) leader Moniruzzaman Badal on Thursday, reports UNB.

Campus sources said all three factions of the Chhatra League allegedly assembled huge arms and ammunition to fortify their respective positions at the Zahurul Haq, Salmullah and Jagannath halls of the university and are ready to press the triggers.

Residents of the Zahurul Haq Hall said they had seen a microbus loaded with armed outsiders entering the hall premises late night of Thursday "evading" police guards.

Gunmen were seen posted at main gates and roof-tops of the three halls, the strongholds of Awami League-backed Chhatra League.

Armed activists at

Salmullah Hall were seen drying damp bullets in front of the hall guest room at about 11.30 am yesterday (Friday).

At Zahurul Haq Hall, an armed militant was seen talking to his colleagues sitting on a sofa in the guest room with an automatic weapon in the ready. He was given an additional loaded magazine by another cadre.

"We are ready to smash any attack on us... we are well prepared," said the militant to his followers.

Many residents left the dormitories for fear of further violence. Some boarders of the Zahurul Haq Hall said they were chased from the hall gate by the armed activists yesterday (Friday).

At present there are three factions in the pro-Awami League student organisation. These are: Gopalganj, Barisal

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Anti-independence forces ruling: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Who are ruling the country? Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina posed the question at a public meeting in the capital Friday. "The local and foreign agents who opposed the country's independence," she answered herself.

"The forces defeated in the Liberation war have been out to destroy the spirit of the struggle since the killing of the 'Father of the Nation,' Bangabandhu in 1975. They have been dominating the corridors of power in different manners since then," Hasina, the Awami League chief, told her audience. The BNP which has been reinstated in power

with direct blessings of the anti-Liberation elements is acting to please its source of power," she went on. "People of the country shed blood for the restoration of their rights in the past 16 years and now time has come to deal with the enemies of Liberation," Hasina told the meeting held at the Bangabandhu Avenue to mark the home-coming day of Sheikh Mujib.

Saying that her party had relentlessly been struggling for people's economic emancipation, the Awami League (AL) chief alleged that the politics of killing has started in 1975

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Acute liquidity crisis hits jute mills

By Inam Ahmed

The jute mills of the country are facing severe liquidity crisis as they could not get the government subsidy against their exports since the beginning of the new fiscal year.

The fund requirement for the fiscal 1991-92 is Taka 97.94 crore. A cabinet sub-committee meeting on jute on January 2 decided to disburse subsidies among some selected mills. But no action has been taken since then, sources said. The Finance Ministry has not yet replaced any fund to the Bangladesh Bank for disbursement among the mills through different commercial banks.

Sources said lack of liquid-

ity is also hitting the productivity of the mills. They added that it led to the low demand resulting in the underpricing of raw jute during this season.

The government has been disbursing the subsidy since fiscal 1989-90. During fiscal 1989-90, an amount of Tk 97.31 crore was disbursed and, Taka 113.61 crore during 1990-91. Of this amount, the public sector jute mills lifted almost half the subsidy with the rest divided between the private sector jute mills and spinning mills.

Sources said the delay in

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12 killed as truck, coach collide

BOGRA, Jan 10: At least 12 people, including two women and a child, were killed tonight when a speeding truck collided with a Dhaka-bound night coach on Ghoga Bridge in Sherpur upazila, reports UNB.

Nine passengers died on the spot while three others succumbed to injuries at Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, police and medical sources said.

Forty injured passengers were admitted to the hospital at Bogra. The night coach from Kurigram was travelling with about 55 passengers.

The accident on the Bogra-Nagarbar Highway occurred at about 9 pm.

Strike called in 7 UZs of Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 10: A day-long strike has been called for tomorrow (Saturday) in seven upazilas of the district demanding a new district in Patiya, reports UNB.

"Patiya Zila Implementation Committee" today called for the strike in Boalkhali, Anwara, Chandanaisah, Satkania, Lohagara, Banakhali and Patiya upazilas.

People of Patiya observed strikes at different times to press the authorities for declaring the upazila as an independent district comprising the seven upazilas.

The Convenor of the committee in a press release said that all the subdivisions of the country were made districts during the Ershad regime excepting Patiya which was relegated to the position of upazila.

But the people of rest six upazilas are strongly opposed to the demand saying that they would prefer to continue as part of the historic Chittagong district.

Meanwhile, people of Do-hazari, a commercial centre of south Chittagong, have also raised similar demand to declare the upazila as a district.

Israeli air raid on Palestinian base: 10 killed

BEIRUT, Jan 10: At least 10 people were killed in an Israeli air raid today on a base held by a radical Palestinian faction south of Beirut, a Lebanese military source told AFP.

The source also reported several wounded in the raid on the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. He did not specify if the victims were civilians or guerrillas.

A military spokesman in Jerusalem confirmed the raid.

"Our planes bombed a base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. The pilots report hitting their targets, and they returned to base without any damage," he said.

The spokesman said the base east of Damur, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Beirut, had been used to launch terrorist attacks against Israel.

Harkishen Singhe becomes new CPI-M General Secretary

NEW DELHI, Jan 10: India's oldest Communist leader, EMS Namboodiripad, has stepped down as General Secretary of the Communist party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) at the age of 82 newspapers reported today, says AFP.

Party veteran Harkishen Singhe Surjeet, 76 was named to replace the ailing Namboodiripad at the helm of the country's most powerful left group at a party congress which ended late Thursday in the city of Madras.

Newspaper headlined the change and declared it the end of an era. They also said the party congress had ended with a show of unity and a call for mass action against the Indian government's radical new economic policies.

Namboodiripad, who led far leftists from the Communist Party of India into the breakaway CPI-M in 1964 and has headed it for the past 14 years, retains a position on the party's central committee, which has been expanded from 12 to 17 members.

In his acceptance speech, Surjeet called on the party's cadres to "fight back to force imperialism into retreat," despite the fact that the "forces of socialism were now off the retreat everywhere."



FUN AND FRIENDLINESS: Near a busy city street the boy is having some moments off with his monkey. —Star photo