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VOL. 1 NO. 350 REGD. NO. DA 782

POUSH 29, 1398 BS

DHAKA MONDAY JANUARY 13, 1992

RAJAB 7, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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Dhaka Day by Day



Riding rickshaws through
 the old city was
 one of the most enjoy-
 able experiences I had,
 says David Austin, the
 out-going press and
 political officer at the
 British High Commis-
 sion. David, after a
 three-year stay, de-
 parts Dhaka
 tomorrow
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NEWS BRIEFS

New one-taka note to be issued today

A new one-taka note to be issued by the government from the head office of Bangladesh Bank at Motilheer Commercial Area goes in to circulation today, an official hand out said here last night. The new one-taka note will be signed by the Principal Finance Secretary Khorshed Alam.

10 injured as youths clash

BARISAL, Jan 12: A total of 10 people including four policemen were injured in a clash between two youth groups here today.

Home Minister placates angry opposition

Govt reviewing legal aspect of Azam issue

By Staff Correspondent

Golam Azam, the newly-elected Chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, is not a citizen of Bangladesh and the government is studying legal implications of the Jamaat's electing him its Ameer. This was revealed by the Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury while making a statement on the Golam Azam debate in Parliament yesterday afternoon. Golam Azam's citizenship was cancelled by the government in 1973 on the charge of his actively collaborating with

the Pakistan occupation forces that unleashed a genocide against the people of Bangladesh in 1971.

Golam Azam entered the country with a Pakistani passport in 1978 and, since then, he has been staying in the country illegally.

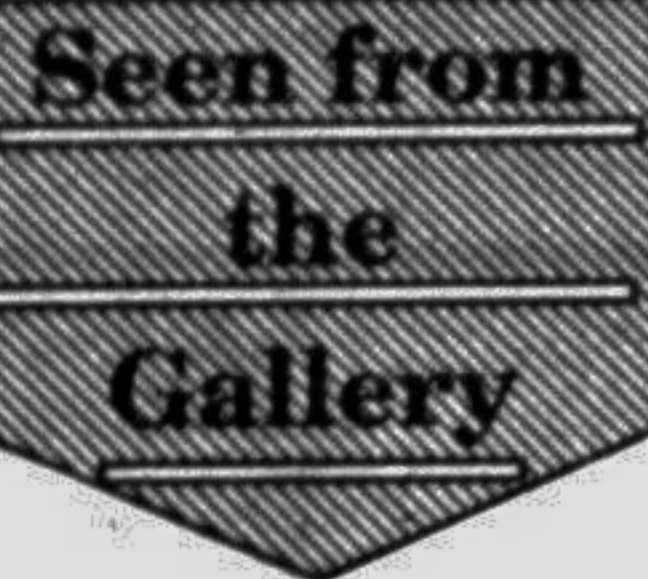
Jamaat recently announced that it had elected Golam its chief and the announcement created a storm in the whole of country, especially among certain political quarters.

Four adjournment motions were moved in the present

session of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) on this issue by the members belonging to the Opposition Bench except those of the Jamaat. The Speaker of the Sangsad allowed the House to deliberate on the issue for two hours.

One hour, in this regard, was spent on January 8 with 8 JS members speaking on the issue while rest of the time was spent yesterday afternoon covering the deliberations of 15 JS members with the Home Minister's statement on

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By Mahfuz Ullah

English poet P B Shelley probably had the present Bangladesh in mind when he wrote the line 'If winter comes, can spring be far behind?'

The words came to mind again and again yesterday as the Jatiya Sangsad took up the issue on Golam Azam for discussion. With apologies to the great poet in heaven let me rewrite the line like: 'If winter is here can political heat be far behind?'

Political heat has already been generated in the current session. Winter keeps the air

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Protests in Russian towns Soviet army up against Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Jan 12: Officers of the former Soviet army called on the military to seize power as 50,000 people demonstrated against Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his price rises here today. Interfax news agency said.

Meanwhile protests against price liberalization took place in at least three other Russian towns and Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan, according to Tass news agency and Russian television.

In a speech to the protest organized by communists and other conservatives, an officer identified only as Major Vachenko urged the army to carry out its constitutional

duty and take power in the country.

He said former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev should be tried by a military court.

Another officer, who said he represented the 'union of officers', warned that the patriotic forces will not allow the disorganization of the army nor the placing of our nuclear arms under the control of NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization), Interfax said.

It identified the second speaker as Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Terekhov.

During the four-hour demonstration protesters held

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Navy holds defaulting vessel

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 12: Bangladesh navy Saturday held a foreign vessel that was sailing out of the port without paying its dues outstanding to the port authority and salaries to the crew.

The ship, M V Dyna, a Honduran flag carrier, harbouring at Base Creek-4 of Mongla Port arrived October 17, 1991 with cement clinker.

Fourteen Bangladeshi crew of the ship signed-off the ship about 15 days ago and demanded their due salaries in dollars according to the terms of their agreement with the shipping company. However, the local agent of the ship refused to pay them in dollars.

The crew complained to the ship movement officer of

See Page 12 Col 6

WB urged to withdraw credit suspension

The government at an aid utilisation review meeting Sunday requested World Bank to immediately lift suspension of credit supply to energy and financial sectors, reports UNB.

The on-going aid was suspended by the WB for lapses in implementing some of the structural adjustment measures prescribed by the multi-lateral donor agency, such as failure in launching DESA (Dhaka Electric Supply Authority) in time.

Problems of aid utilisation and possible remedies were discussed in detail at the meeting between the Economic Relations Division and the visiting World Bank Vice President, Joseph Wood, official sources said.

ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury led the home side at the talks.

The government side expressed concern at the low aid

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90 pc of export stabilisation fund remains unutilised

By Inam Ahmed

About 90 per cent of the Export Stabilisation Fund (Stabex) provided by the European Economic Community (EEC) remains unutilised because of the lack of proper project formulation, sources said.

The EEC has been providing the fund as compensation for the losses in export earnings in the jute and tea sectors since 1986. The fund was originally formulated for the Arabian, Caribbean and Pacific countries. However, Bangladesh persuaded the EEC to include it in the list.

The EEC provided the Stabex fund to Bangladesh in

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An armoured vehicle takes position in front of the presidential palace in Algiers yesterday after the surprise resignation by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on Saturday. —AFP photo

Tanks guard key points in Algiers

ALGIERS, Jan 12: Tanks guarded key buildings in Algiers today and the military vowed to keep peace after President Chadli Bendjedid resigned as head of state, reports Reuter.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali ordered the army in late yesterday when Chadli quit as President after 13-years in power.

He stepped down in the face of an Islamic fundamentalist advance to seize power in parliament and put the nation under Sharia (Islamic) law.

The National People's Army will carry out its duty to the nation in responding resolutely to the demand of the head of government to safeguard public order, the Defence Ministry said.

Military units guarded government buildings, ministries, the treasury, radio, television and communications centres.

10,000 stranded at Aricha as auto strike on

PABNA, Jan 12: Thousands of commuters remained stranded for the last two days as a nonstop transport strike paralysed road communication in the country's northern region for the second day today, reports UNB.

About 10,000 passengers, bound for different destinations, were reported stuck up at the Nagarbari ferry ghat, as all auto-vehicles were kept off the roads by the owners.

Sources said about 600 loaded trucks had also been stranded at the ghat on river Jamuna. Many of those are carrying perishable items which are about to be rotting.

North Bengal Transport Owners Association has called the strike in 16 northern districts to continue until its demands are met. The strike brought inter-district movement of the people to a total standstill.

Chief patron of the NBTOA

Baby Islam told UNB here today that the government had not yet taken initiative to resolve the crisis.

The owners are demanding halt to illegal toll collections and resolution of a crisis arising out of their transport workers' demand for appointment letters.

Baby urged the government for taking necessary measures to solve the problems without delay.

UP Chairman candidate shot dead

PABNA, Jan 12: A chairman candidate in the ensuing union parishad election was shot dead by assailants in Dushuria Union of Iwardi upazila of the district early hours today (Sunday), reports UNB.

Poll offenders may face summary trial

By Nazmul Ashraf

The government is drafting a law to provide 'summary trial' to 'election offenders', ministerial sources here said.

The Law Ministry will soon forward the draft to the cabinet division of the government. If the cabinet okays the draft, it will be placed in Parliament by the relevant ministry for Election Commission (EC) approval, the sources added.

The Election Commission recently proposed the law to hasten the procedure of trial of 'election offenders', the sources added.

According to the Law Ministry, the proposed

'summary trial' would provide punishment to the offenders as per the existing penal code, but faster.

The proposal for 'summary trial' is one of the special steps the Election Commission has taken so far to stop election offences including corrupt or illegal practices, bribery, impersonation and undue influence in the coming Union Parishad (UP) elections January 22.

The EC is also actively considering making the existing penalties for offences in the polls more severe, officials said explaining that the term of

imprisonment might be extended and the amount in fines increased.

In a departure from the previous system the UP elections have been spread over 14 days instead of being held in a single day to control law and order. Over 500 people were killed in the last violence-plagued UP polls held in 1988.

This year's schedule provides the holding of the polls in a single upazila under one district in a single day so that the total strength of law enforcing personnel may be used more effectively.

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Speaker's views dismay Law Minister

By Staff Correspondent

Law Minister Mirza Golam Haifz Sunday expressed his dismay over the 'unkind observations' made by the Speaker with regard to allowing the State Minister to introduce a bill on behalf of the Minister last Wednesday.

However, the Speaker, while paying his respect to the elderly parliamentarian, upheld his ruling that a written authorisation from the concerned minister, as member-in-charge of a government bill, would be necessary to allow another cabinet member to introduce the bill in the House in his absence.

The Law Minister drew the attention of the Chair immediately after the recess for Asr prayers. He said that the Speaker's ruling broke established practices as the Speaker under Rule 316 had residuary powers in such a situation arising out of the absence of the concerned Minister for the smooth functioning of the business of the House.

The ruling by the Speaker was made in Wednesday's session when the Law Minister was called upon to introduce the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill. The

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Powerful Navy a must: Khaleda

CHITTAGONG, Jan 12:

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday called upon the newly-commissioned officers of Bangladesh Navy to attain highest professional efficiency through continuous training and hard work, reports BSS.

Begum Zia was addressing at the graduation parade to mark the commissioning of a batch of midshipmen of Bangladesh Naval Academy at Patenga here this morning.

She said they should be well informed about modern naval technology and the progress of science in naval warfare. 'The number of naval ship and equipment is less than necessary, but you will have to balance the short fall through de-

veloped technology and optimum utilisation of the limited resources', she added.

She said the higher training would continue for the talented cadets and midshipmen abroad.

Referring to the importance of navy in the overall defence system of a country, the Prime Minister said that a powerful navy was very important in view of the special geographical situation of Bangladesh.

Begum Zia said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman was first to realise the need for an efficient and modern naval force. He took the initiative to set up a complete Naval Academy, she said adding the frigates, sub-marine chaser,

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Tk 300 cr needed to reactivate sick units

By Sohail Manzur

The government would require about Taka 300 crore to rehabilitate the 1,800 sick industries which applied for rehabilitation, a source close to the high-powered body on sick

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Announcement

The Daily Star steps into the second year of its publication tomorrow, January 14, 1992.

We shall be celebrating our first anniversary along with our countless readers, patrons and well-wishers by bringing out a 12-page Special Number on the Day.

Please ask your hawkers today for your copy tomorrow.

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NOTICE

To facilitate easy access to different persons/Depts., the telephone numbers of The Daily Star have been re-distributed as under:-

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245061 246023
 245062 246024

Direct Numbers after midnight:
 News : 246024
 Production : 246023

Our Fax No: 88-02-863035 remains unchanged.

—Management

Middle East talks resume today

WASHINGTON, Jan 12: Heads of the Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian peace negotiating teams are due to meet tomorrow (Monday) morning in an effort to resolve a procedural dispute which obstructed the previous round of Middle East peace talks, reports Reuter.

Arab officials told Reuters on Saturday that Jordanian, Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian delegates agreed in a meeting on Friday night to push the Washington talks to Monday rather than Sunday, the date favoured by Israel.

They did not give a reason for wanting a later date and said Palestinian members of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation still insisted on meeting separately with the Israeli side.

The talks was adjourned on December 18 without resolving the Palestinian request. But

the Israeli side said this week the issue could be cleared, opening the door to talks aimed at agreeing on self-rule for 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip by November.

The Israeli delegation handed the Jordanian-Palestinian side a proposal to hold a general meeting tomorrow (Monday) but the Arab side responded with a request to attempt to resolve the dispute in talks at the state department between the heads of the delegations.

'If the heads of the teams resolve the issue, the delegates will join the talks — nothing has been resolved so far in separating the two delegations,' Jordanian spokesman Marwan Mousasher said.

But Chief Israeli negotiator Eli Rubinstein said, 'we believe we can soon finalise the procedural stage and move to

agenda and subjects leading to substance if the rules are respected.'

The delegations are arguing over how to pursue what both sides agree should be twin-track negotiations between Israel and Jordan on the one hand and Israel and the Palestinians on the other.

Israel officials say they have detailed proposals on self-rule that they will present as soon as the procedural dispute is solved.

The Palestinians pushed hard last month for virtual recognition as a separate delegation when negotiating Palestinian issues. Israel resisted fiercely, seeing the move as a dangerous precedent that could in the future lead to Palestinian independence.

While they argued this point, both sides refused to enter the negotiating room at

the state department. Delegation heads spent the six days wedged together on a couch in a corridor.

The Palestinian team is backed in this round by the chief political adviser of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, Nabil Sha'ath.

The PLO is officially banned from the talks but Washington granted Sha'ath a visa for this round, although he was denied one during the December talks.

His presence angered Israel, which regards the PLO as a terrorist organisation and opposes any role by the PLO in the talks.

The Cairo-based Sha'ath, who carries an Egyptian passport, is staying at the same hotel as the Palestinian delegation and is in constant contact with them and the PLO leadership in Tunis.