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# The Daily Star

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Moudud, Mohiuddin, Tofael plunge into bitter debate

## Rage, rancour run high in Opposition bench

By Staff Correspondent

The House on Thursday witnessed a near Pandemonium when exchanges of accusations and counter-accusations erupted between Jatiya Party-leader Moudud Ahmed and Awami League front benchers.

The episode started midway through the private members' day with AL veteran Mohiuddin Ahmed pointing his finger at the JP leader and identifying him as being part of a autocratic government.

After the question and answer hour, the AL leader sought the attention of the Speaker Sheikh Razzaque Ali to inform the House about an oil spill in the Bay of Bengal.

At one stage while explaining the matter he pointed his finger at Moudud sitting a few seats to his left and said that such incidents of oil spills also occurred during the autocratic regime.

The JP leader immediately took the floor to defend himself and said that coming from a man like Mohiuddin Ahmed did not really fit in as Moudud was a founding member of Bksal. Moudud

pointed out, adding that Bksal instituted autocracy in Bangladesh.

After Maghreb prayers Mohiuddin Ahmed took the floor for personal clarifications and told the House that Moudud's statement was damaging to his image.

He referred to Moudud's past political activities and pointed out that he had served under all the past military regimes.

When the floor was given to Moudud to defend himself, he noted that he did not expect a



With the winter drawing to an end date juice collecting is also coming to a close. — Star photo

## Foreign exchange reserve \$1275m

Country's foreign exchange reserve rose to US 1275 million dollar equivalent to about Tk 4870 crore on December 30 last year from 638 million dollar (Tk 2283 crore) on December 30, 1990, reports UNB.

This was stated by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman in parliament Thursday while replying to Sakawat Hossain Bakul of BNP.

He said the country earned 63.37 million dollar (Tk 226.48 crore) as interest from the placement of foreign exchange in the international market during 1990-91 as against 56.42 million dollar (Tk 196.61 crore) in 1989-90.

## BNP MP retracts two bills in JS

Star Report

Abdur Rad Chowdhury, a ruling party MP, yesterday withdrew the bills he submitted earlier under orders from the party.

One of the bills, the Public Servants (Retirement) Amendment Bill, 1992, was bitterly opposed by Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz when Chowdhury sought leave to introduce it Thursday, January 16.

Amid a war of words between the Law Minister and Chowdhury the Speaker adjourned the session due to which the other bill, the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 1992 remained untouched on the day.

As the House took up the issue yesterday Chowdhury did not want to press the bills and withdrew his move. But he was quick to add that he would raise the bills again in three month's time. After Chowdhury agreed to withdraw, the Law Minister commented "I will give full remedy to his demands."

BNP sources say, earlier in the day Chowdhury was served written instruction from the Parliamentary Party to withdraw the bills.

The issue came up for discussion when party MPs from Chittagong division were invited to a lunch by the Whip Mahbul Alam Tara.

The lunch was attended by the Leader of the House Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and other senior leaders of the party.

When contacted, Tara said that the Prime Minister accepted Chowdhury's move sportingly and expressed her desire for a withdrawal.

The lunch over, Chowdhury

## Fate of DUCSU, hall union polls uncertain

By Masud Arif

The fate of the DUCSU and the hall student union elections is uncertain.

Even seven months after the terms of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and the hall student union office bearers ended June 6 last year the authorities are still not sure about the holding of the DUCSU polls.

Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders at a press conference of the DUCSU yesterday blamed the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A) as being what it termed the obstacle to the holding of the DUCSU polls. They said they were ready to go to the polls

Meanwhile, BCL (S-A) leaders said that they were facing a crisis after the death of Maruzzaman Badal, shot dead by some unidentified miscreants in the Jagannath hall area January 9.

The BCL source said that the DUCSU and the hall elections would be a cry if a consensus of all the students organisations in the DU was not reached.

## Shaheed Matiur Stage opened

# All help to rear children : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said Thursday that the government was committed to put in its all-out efforts for the flourishing of merit and talents of the country's children to build them as future leaders, reports BSS.

"Children are our most precious assets. We will continue our sincere effort in all levels of society to groom them up as worthy citizens," Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister was addressing a function organised to mark the inauguration of the seven-day Shishu Ananda Mela (Children's fun fair) of Bangladesh Shishu Academy at the academy premises.

Begum Zia called upon the guardians to rear up children in a way that they are imbued with ideals based on human values.

She advised the children to think for the under privileged children.

The Prime Minister said the children should read the history of the War of Independence and know about the freedom fighters, who had sacrificed their lives for the independence of the country.

The Prime Minister paid tributes to Shaheed Matiur Rahman a young boy, who was killed on January 24 during the mass upsurge of 1969. She told the children that Shaheed Matiur had sacrificed his life for realising the rights of the countrymen.

Begum Zia expressed her deep respect to the memories of Shaheed Matiur and prayed for the peace of his departed soul.

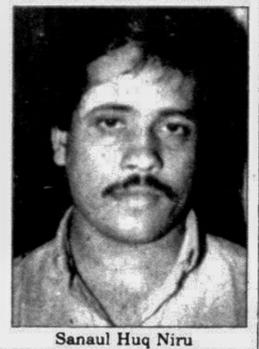
## Niru arrested

By DU Correspondent

Sanaul Huq Niru, an accused in the Dr Milon murder case, was arrested Thursday at around 2.30 pm.

Niru, a former leader of the BNP-backed Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), was arrested by the Detective Branch of the DMP in front of a Chinese restaurant in the Naya Paltan area in the city.

Police have so far arrested 10 persons including Niru out of the 14 chargesheeted for their alleged involvement in the murder of Dr Milon.



Sanaul Huq Niru

## Death squad in Kashmir to halt BJP motorcade

SRINAGAR, Jan 23: Army was asked to standby as militant groups in a bid to prevent BJP's 'ekta yatra' from reaching Srinagar warned people to keep away from an 80-KM stretch of the national highway for two days from Saturday, reports PTI.

Meanwhile, three warring militant groups — the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and Al-Umer issued a warning after a joint meeting at Pampore.

An HM spokesman warned vehicles and pedestrians alike to keep away from Qazigund-Lal Chowk stretch of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

A death squad of HM had been formed to face the yatra, he said. The JKLF has already announced the formation of "a special squad" to attack anyone carrying Indian flags on January 26.

The call to army and other tough security measures had been taken to prevent outbreak of violence during the yatra, scheduled to reach Jammu, winter capital of the Jammu and Kashmir, tomorrow.

AP says, Shikh militants ambushed two buses Thursday, killing three supporters of a right-wing Hindu party's anti-terrorism motorcade through Punjab state, police said.

The buses were not part of the main procession but were heading up the road to join it, police said.

Witnesses said the militants were dressed in police uniforms and aroused no suspicion until they opened fire.

In Jullundur, where most of the wounded were taken, police said at least 26 people were wounded among the 93 passengers of the two buses.

The attack occurred at least 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of the motorcade, which had paused in Ludhiana for a rally. Deputy Inspector General of Police Chandrar Shekhar said in Ludhiana.

## Mass upsurge day today

By Staff Correspondent

The historic 1969 mass upsurge day will be observed through out the country today with due solemnity recalling the martyrdom of minor boy Matiur Rahman.

This day in 1969, Matiur Rahman, a student of class nine of Nabo Kumar Institution, was killed by police in an attempt to suppress the historic 11-point movement launched by the students against the dictatorship of Ayub Khan.

The martyrdom of Matiur gave a new sense of direction to the movement and people from all walks of life, including the government servants, took to the streets.

The streets of Dhaka turned into a sea of humanity demanding end to the dictatorial Ayub regime. Since then, the day is observed as mass upsurge day.

Some organisations have undertaken the programmes to observe the day.

The Shaheed Asad Parishad (SAP) will conclude its five-day long programme through a public rally and a cultural function at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) this evening. The United Communist League of Bangladesh will organise a discussion at its central office at Tophkana Road at 4 pm.

The Gonatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) will lay wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar and bring out a procession to observe the day.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**French frigate to dock at Ctg**  
 The French frigate "Protet" will call and dock at Chittagong harbour from 5th to the 10th February. Commanded by Commander (captain) de Roquefeuil, the vessel will have 10 officers, 65 petty officers and 85 quarter-masters and sailors on board, said a French Embassy press release here yesterday, reports UNB.

**AL PP meet on Sunday**  
 A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party will be held on Sunday at 2pm at the conference room of the Leader of the Opposition, party sources said. Mohammad Nasim, opposition Whip, has asked all MPs of the party to attend the meeting in time, reports BSS.

**Boy crushed under wheels**  
 From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Jan 23: A nine-year-old boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus at Fatullah on the Dhaka-Narayanganj Highway today. Police said Shanto, a body of Panchabati at Fatullah, was killed on the spot when he was dashed by the Dhaka-bound minibus (Dhaka Ja-3278) at about 3.45 pm today.

**Snatcher nabbed**  
 Police arrested a young snatcher from a hotel in Waise Ghat in city Thursday. Arrested Topon (26) along with nine associates stormed into hotel Sabaria at Abdullah Market to snatch cash money at knife point, reports UNB.

## EC aid mechanism changing

By Inam Ahmed

The aid mechanism and the strategy of the European Community (EC) in Bangladesh are undergoing some changes for making the aid utilisation more effective.

Sources said the EC aid utilisation and disbursement would be more effective in Bangladesh through evolution of a new mechanism under which the Commission of the EC and the member states would co-finance the projects.

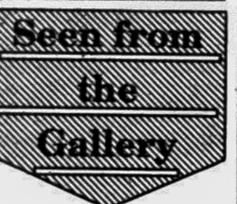
Previously, the commission and the member states channelled their aid independently. Sources said the cooperation between the commission and the member states would make the projects effective and at the same time would reduce the overlapping of projects. Bangladeshi policy planners had been critical of the overlapping of projects.

The EC has also taken on the social sector as the thrust point for disbursement of aid. It has already approved assistance for 20 million European Currency Units (ECU) for supply of contraceptives for the fourth population and health project (1992-97).

Sources said the EC would gradually switch over to commodity aid in addition to project and food aids. The EC has for the first time approved 19 million US dollar as commodity aid for import of cement to assist the cyclone rehabilitation programme.

On the question of any cut in aid flow due to the changes in East Europe and the former Soviet Union, concerned sources said the EC aid flow to Bangladesh would not be affected. They said the newly industrialised countries (NICs) would face cut in aid. But not the Third World countries like Bangladesh. The EC had previously concentrated on Arabian-Caribbean Pacific (ACP) countries which were mostly French colonies. However, the EC has recently diverted its attention to Asian-Latin American (ALA) countries. In the ALA categories, Bangladesh is the second largest EC aid recipient after India.

With the recent change in mechanism, the EC declared that policy of tying aid to human rights, democracy and reduction in defence expenditure will also be applicable to Bangladesh, sources said. But they added, it would take time to make the policy effective for Bangladesh.



By Mahfuz Ullah

A distant cautionary warning can be very misleading in a country like Bangladesh. So is the usual warning up game in Parliament when deliberations become drab.

It started with the often uttered word 'sairachar' (despotism) yesterday. Mohiuddin Ahmed, the Awami League MP, made a reference to the word pointing his finger at Maudud Ahmed, the JP MP.

## UP election : Voting postponed in 9 centres

By Staff Correspondent

The Union Parishad elections were held by large peacefully in 53 unions of nine upazilas under nine districts on the second day of the 14-day staggered polls.

According to the Police Control Room in Dhaka, polling was postponed at six centres in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha district, two centres in Bishwanath upazila of Sylhet district and another in Halpur upazila of Magura district following disturbances.

However, the Election Commission reported the postponement of voting at two centres in Bishwanath upazila of Sylhet as the situation went

out of the presiding officers control.

On the first day of the UP polls on Wednesday, the authorities had to suspend polling in 42 centres following armed clashes between the rival groups, which left three persons dead and another 100 injured.

The Police Control Room spokesmen said authorities suspended polling at nine centres after bids to snatch ballot boxes and ballot papers by miscreants at different unions. Police also fired blank shots to enforce law and order. It said that police fired four shots following the disturbances.

# Arabs meet today to find common stand on ME talks

MARRAKESH (Morocco), Jan 23: Arab Foreign Ministers will meet in Marrakesh tomorrow to coordinate positions on multilateral Middle East talks in Moscow at the end of the month, Moroccan officials said, reports Reuters.

Foreign Ministers of seven Arab League countries would join representatives of more than a dozen Islamic states already in Marrakesh to discuss the status of the city of Jerusalem, they added.

King Hassan called today's one-day meeting of the organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) states to review the status of Jerusalem, which both Muslim and Jew claim as their religious capital.

But the officials said the talks would be expanded tomorrow to give the Arab world its last major opportunity to coordinate a common position before the third phase of US-brokered Middle East peace talks begins in Moscow on January 28-29.

Syria and Lebanon have said they will boycott the Moscow round in protest at Israeli 'intransigence' at bilateral talks in Washington but diplomats in the region do not expect the majority of their Arab allies to follow suit.

Moroccan officials said King Hassan, chairman of the OIC Jerusalem committee, would chair tomorrow's talks.

The Jerusalem talks are being attended by government ministers or ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Senegal, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Foreign ministers or representatives from Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Somalia, Oman, Kuwait, Egypt, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Libya and Djibouti were also expected.

First word that such a major gathering was planned came from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in a weekend statement in Tunis, but Moroccan officials at first denied the meeting was planned.

The Palestinians—the PLO was excluded from the US talks—are under pressure to attend the Moscow round to maintain the momentum of negotiations between Israel and Arabs which began in Madrid last October.

The Moscow round is due to discuss secondary but long-term problems of water rights, arms control and refugees.

Arafat believes he has assurances from Washington that they might provide the chance for him to sit at the negotiating table, diplomats in the region said.

Moroccan officials said British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis were due to meet King Hassan in Morocco at the weekend for bilateral and international discussions.

The diplomats said European Community (EC) states were keen to take a more active role in the Middle East peace process.

The EC hopes to get more involved, possibly to chair some of the committees that will be set up in Moscow and to be seen to be at the heart of things. They felt a bit left out in Madrid, said one diplomat.

King Hassan met the Pope in Rome in November and has suggested that the Vatican get involved in discussions between Muslims and Jews in the peace process, an idea which would be pursued in Marrakesh, the Moroccan officials said.

AFP says, China said today the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel would not alter its support for the Palestinian people or its demand for Israel to return the occupied territories.

## Diseases spread in Rohingya camps

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Jan 23: Thousands of Muslim Rohingya refugees continue to suffer in makeshift camps as the arrivals from across the border go unabated.

Reports reaching from different areas speak of a deterioration of the situation.

Doctors of some voluntary organisations working at the camps reported that the refugees were living a sub-human life there with acute shortage of food, clothes and medicine.