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NEWS BRIEFS

RUCSU polls schedule

RAJSHAHI, Jan 26: The Rajshahi University authorities today announced detailed schedule for the RUCSU election which will be held on February 25. According to the schedule, rough voters' list will be published on Feb 1, final voters' list on Feb 8, distribution of nomination papers on Feb 9 and 10, filing of nomination papers, scrutiny and publication of primary candidates' list on February 15, withdrawal of nomination and final publication of final candidates' list on Feb 17. Official sources said the February 25 polls, besides electing RUCSU office-bearers, will elect students' representative to the Senate as well as the unions of 12 residential halls, reports UNB.

129 Sarbaharamen surrender

From Our Correspondent
 BARISAL, Jan 26: A total of 129 members of the outlawed Sarbahara Party surrendered to the respective police stations at ten upazilas in Barisal district till Saturday when the amnesty period expired. Of the surrendered party members 125 belonged to the Kamrul group while the other four belonged to the Zia group.

Alleged terrorist held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 26: Chittagong Port police arrested the alleged terrorist Jasim Uddin alias Jastima from Bandartila area here today in special raid. Police said, Jastima had been wanted in connection with several criminal cases including carrying explosives and terrorising the people in Bandartila area, reports BSS.

Heroin, ganja recovered

A special squad of the Narcotics Control Department has recovered five grams heroin from different parts of the city during the last few days and arrested three persons in this connection, reports BSS.

Israelis training Myanmar troops

From Nurul Alam in Chittagong and Abdul Monayem Khan in Cox's Bazar

Military experts from Israel are training the Myanmar military personnel, according to sources.
 Sources say that a number of top Israeli commando experts have been imparting anti-insurgency training to the Myanmar troops for some 15 days now at several military stations near the Bangladesh border.
 The Israelis including some female commandos, have been teaching the soldiers how to fight insurgency by the rebellious Mujaheds of Rakhaine in Myanmar.
 A student leader, who had

fled to Cox's Bazar district to escape repression by the Myanmar authorities a few weeks ago, said that the National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders would announce a 15-member government in exile of Myanmar next week.
 The opposition NLD won the general elections in 1990 but the military rulers refused to hand over power.
 Preism of All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) told The Daily Star Sunday that the elected members of parliament and top leaders, who had gathered in Rakhaine province bordering

Thailand, would announce the formation of the government.
 The NLD has stepped up its campaign in Rakhaine province against the ruling State Law and Order Council (SLORC) of Myanmar, he said.
 Meanwhile, a top Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) leader Sunday said that the Muslim Rohingya refugees would not return to their homeland without international guarantee.
 RSO President Dr Muhammad Yunus, in a statement issued to the press Sunday, said that the Rohingyas were doubtful about the bilateral

talks between Bangladesh and Myanmar seeking ways for repatriation of the refugees.
 The statement was issued two days before the third round of border talks between Bangladesh and Myanmar to explore steps for early repatriation of the Rohingyas and to defuse the prevailing tension along the 176-mile border between the two countries.
 The meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, will take place at a government bungalow at the Mongdu township in Myanmar. Col Ali Ahsan, the local Sector Commander of

Bangladesh Rifles will lead the Bangladesh team, officials said.
 The commander of the 'Lunthin' border security force at Rakhaine (formerly Arakan province) is expected to lead the Myanmar side.
 The Bangladesh team would also include representatives from the Bangladesh Television.
 The first flag meeting between the border guard commanders of the two countries was also held at Mongdu on December 31 while the second round of talks at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar district on January 4.

Tension has been prevailing since the December 21 cross-border attack by Myanmar troops on a BDR border outpost at Rezapara in Bandarban district which left two Bangladeshi citizens killed and another 27 injured.
 The RSO statement also warned that the Rohingyas would be forced to take up arms against the Myanmar military regime if their fundamental rights were not ensured by the international guarantee. It also spelled out seven demands which include full security to the lives and
 See Page 12 Col 6

Power workers plan greater movement

By Staff Correspondent
 Leaders of the striking labour unions in the power sector Sunday said that they would announce greater movement programme today.
 A section of the employees of Bangladesh Power development Board (BPDB) and Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) Sunday began a 24-hour strike which will end at 6 am today.
 The strike organised jointly by the Bangladesh Bidyut Sramik Federation, Bangladesh Bidyut Sramik Union and
 See Page 12 Col 7

Walkouts mark passage of Upazila repeal bill

By Staff Correspondent

The Upazila (Repeal) Bill was passed yesterday despite stiff opposition protests.
 The Jatiya Sangsad witnessed a stormy debate and separate walkouts first by the Jatiya Party and then by the Awami League.

Despite an impassioned appeal by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to withdraw the bill, the Local Government (Upazila Parishad and Upazila Administration) (Repeal) Bill 1992 was passed by a voice vote.

Opposition Awami League members staged a walkout immediately before the bill was placed for passage following a prolonged period of debate.
 Describing the Ordinance abolishing the upazila system as "constitutional, democratic and orderly", LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam

Talukdar refuted all opposition allegations against the bill in his winding up comments.
 All amendments to send the bill to elicit public opinion and to send it to a select committee were rejected in separate voice votes. One amendment to send the bill to a parliamentary select committee by a Treasury Bench member was withdrawn. A third set of five amendments to the bill was not introduced in the House.

'Knife the healer can be knife the killer'

By Staff Correspondent

The knife that can save a life when used by a doctor in the operation theatre can take a life when used by a doctor. This statement was made by Awami League (AL) presidium member and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad MP as his party was staging a walkout
 See Page 12 Col 7

tee were rejected in separate voice votes. One amendment to send the bill to a parliamentary select committee by a Treasury Bench member was withdrawn. A third set of five amendments to the bill was not introduced in the House.
 Immediately after the bill was taken up for consideration by the House, JP leader Sardar Amjad Hossain sought the floor to make a statement but was refused.

The JP members promptly staged a walkout and did not return for the remaining part of the days proceedings.
 Twenty-one opposition MPs belonging to the Awami League, Jamaat-Islami Bangladesh, Communist Party of Bangladesh, National Democratic Party and independent member Nurul Islam Moni
 See Page 12 Col 3

White panel sweeps DU Syndicate polls

By DU Correspondent

White panel swept the Dhaka University Syndicate, Academic Council and Finance Committee elections Sunday.
 The elections involved a total of 13 seats that included six for the Syndicate, five for the Academic Council and one for the Finance Committee.

White panel own four seats out of a total of six to the Syndicate, five seats out of a total of six to the Academic Council and the sole seat to the Finance Committee.
 The Blue panel bagged the rest three seats while the pink panel failed to bag any one.

Md. Mashuzzaman, Dean, Science Faculty was elected to the Dean representative post. Dr A M S Arefin Siddique of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department, to the Assistant Professor post and Prof Md Anis Ahmed of the English Department to the Academic Council member post. They are all from the Blue panel.

The representatives from the White panel are Prof. Manrul Huq, Provost of the Ziaur Rahman Hall elected to the Provost post, Dr. A K M Mohsin of the History Department elected to the Professor representative post, Dr Sayed Rashidul Hasan of the Marketing Department, elected to the Associate Professor post, Prof Abdul Mannan Miah of the Management Department elected to the Lecturer post.

Meanwhile five teachers from the White panel elected to the Academic Council member posts are, Prof. Ishrat Shamim of the Sociology Department, Prof Md Asaduzzaman of the Public Administration Department, Dr M Saedul Islam of the Bio-
 See Page 12 Col 1



A teacher of Dhaka University casting her vote at the Syndicate election at TSC yesterday. — Star photo



The Dhaka Theatre with its drama 'Hat Hodai' at the National Drama Festival at the Shilpakala Academy yesterday. The month-long festival ends today. — Star photo

UP polls enter fifth day

By Staff Correspondent

Barring only three centres, elections in all the rest 472 centres in 94 unions of 13 upazilas under 12 districts were held peacefully on the fourth day of the current union parishad polls Sunday, the Election Commission (EC) said.
 The EC said that polling was postponed in two centres of Sylhet district's Kanaighat upazila and another in Tabalchhari union of Matranga upazila under Rangamati district. The postponement followed clashes between the rival groups of supporters, snatching of ballot boxes and blank shots by police to bring order at some polling station. None was injured in the incidents, the EC added.
 The police control in Dhaka monitoring law and order situ-

ation of the polling areas reported disturbances in the lone centre of Kanaighat upazila in Sylhet. On the fifth day of the countrywide UP polls today (Monday), elections will be held in 353 unions of 42 upazilas under 35 districts.
 Our Gaibandha correspondent said seven persons were unofficially elected chairmen under Fulchhari upazila of the district.
 They are: Akbar Hossain of Kanchipara, Saiful Islam of Gajaria, Abdus Sabur of Fulchhari, Abdul Hamid Mia of Uria, Abdur Rashid Nannu of Arendabari, Abul Hossain Bachehu of Fazlupur, and Mesbahuddin of Udakhali.
 Besides, the unofficial results of nine unions under Sundarganj upazila were also announced. The chairmen-

elect were: Abdul Jabbar Basunia of Bamondanga, Nurul Islam of Sonaroy, Azizul Haq Tarapur, Afsar Ali of Sharbonanda, Mokhesure Rahman of Dhopadanga, Rezia Begum of Santirama, Joinal Abedin of Kachibaria, Ashmatullah of Chapperhatti and Nesaruddin of Kapasia.
 The only women chairman-elect Rezia Begum is the wife of an MP from the Jatiya Party, Hafizur Rahman Pramanik.
 BSS adds: Polling was suspended at Luxmiprashed Government Primary School of Luxmiprashed (west) union and Chhotadesh Government Primary School of Kanaighat upazila under Sylhet district and Balabil Government Primary School of Tabalchhari union of Matranga
 See Page 12 Col 8

BJP hoists flag in Kashmir amid unprecedented security

SRINAGAR (India), Jan 26: Hindu nationalist leader Murli Manohar Joshi unfurled the Indian flag amid tight security at the Lal Chowk (red square) here today in a challenge to Muslim secessionism in Kashmir, reports AFP.
 Joshi, who drove to the square in a bullet-proof car, raised the tricolour at 8:32 am (03:02 GMT) in the presence of troops, journalists and some 100 activists of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, or Indian People's Party).

Sporadic gunfire could be heard in the distance as Joshi hoisted the flag, completing the task he undertook when he set off December 11 on a 15,000 kilometre (9,300 mile) 'ekta yatra,' (unity voyage) spanning the length of India.
 The biggest security operation ever seen in Srinagar, a hotbed of separatist militant supporters, ensured the anti-secessionist flag ceremony passed off without injury but emphasised the gulf between Muslim Kashmiris and India,

according to Reuters.
 Every building bordering Lal Chowk (red square) was emptied of its Kashmiri inhabitants.
 SRINAGAR, Jan 26: A Hindu nationalist leader Murli Manohar Joshi alleged Kashmiri militants attacked his aircraft as he flew out of Srinagar, the heartland of their revolt, after hoisting the Indian flag there today, reports Reuters.
 Troops and paramilitary commandos took them over.
 According to a senior police official, more than 1,000 soldiers and paramilitary troops stood guard in the square.

They set up rocket-launcher bunkers at each corner as gunfire from the nearby old city crackled sporadically in the cold, grey morning.
 Kashmiri militants, who once advocated merger with neighbouring and Islamic Pakistan but now seek independence, had vowed to kill

Joshi if he raised the Indian flag in Srinagar, said AP.
 "To those who say Pakistan is incomplete without Kashmir, I say to them, India is incomplete without Pakistan," Joshi told the security troops and reporters who were brought to the 17-minute ceremony.
 No Srinagar residents, confined to their homes by an around-the-clock curfew, were in sight. Soldiers and paramilitary police stood on balconies and in windows overlooking

the square.
 Before he left Srinagar in an air force helicopter, Joshi was asked about his Pakistan remark.
 "Yes, well, if that's what they say in Pakistan, this is my answer to them," he said told a news conference conducted on helipad at the army parade ground.
 Joshi and his Bharatiya Janata Party followers said they zigzagged India to demonstrate the need to preserve the unity
 See Page 12 Col 7.

Biman employees to go for bigger movement

By Staff Correspondent
 The employees of Bangladesh Biman would go for a greater movement as the dispute over the pay scale with the management was not resolved till Sunday.
 The employees' leaders said their 'no' to the management offer on Sunday the deadline set by the authorities, and resolved to continue the movement in the greater interest of some 5,500 employees of the national flag carrier, Biman. Sramik Union sources said.
 The management proposed a 'considerable' rise in various allowances without revising the pay scale, but the employees' union were insisting on removing the 'anomalies' in the pay scale.
 General Secretary of Biman Sramik Union Mohammad Solaiman told the Daily Star over telephone that the employees would continue procession and rallies everyday till Thursday and then hold a
 See Page 12 Col 8

Disinvestment: Govt sits with workers today

The authorities will sit with the union leaders of three public sector corporations today (Monday) to begin a dialogue over the unions' demand to halt government's disinvestment move, official sources said, reports UNB.
 The government initiative for talks comes in the wake of recent stepped up movement against privatization by the workers and employees of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) and Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC).
 The Ministry of Industries so far identified 40 units under the three corporations for disinvestment. Of these units 15
 See Page 12 Col 3

Judgement of Ershad's case stayed till Thursday

The pronouncement of judgement in the corruption case against former president Ershad was stayed Sunday till Thursday by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, reports UNB.
 Delivery of the judgement by Special Judge Mohammad Ali Khan was scheduled for today.
 The Appellate Division comprising Justice M H Rahman, Justice Afjal, Justice Mustafa Kamal and Justice Latifur Rahman will hear Thursday the petition for leave to appeal filed on behalf of Ershad against the judgement of the High Court last week.
 The counsel of the accused was supplied with the certified copy of the judgement of the High Court Division from the office of the Attorney General Sunday evening so that they could file regular petition for leave to appeal before Thursday.
 The High Court Division last week rejected a petition seeking to stay judgement of the corruption case against Ershad by the special court.
 Already sentenced to 10 years in jail for keeping illegal arms, Ershad was accused of amassing wealth including a cash of Tk 1,90,81,565 found in his official residence Senabhaban.