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### Inside Today -Article

It is Time for the Opposition to Set up a "Shadow Cabinet" Column: At Home and Abroad by S M Ali Page 4

### International



Kashmiri women in Karachi protest unfurling of the Indian flag

in Srinagar. Libya to cooperate with UN chief in investigations

### **Business**

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Improved fabrics seen a must for garment, textile future Page 7

# Feature

**Environment** 

Asia's rural poor deserve better deal Page 8

### Metropolitan Dhaka Day by Day



"You as journalists must obtain better training for yourselves. If unions can sit and negotiate salaries, why not negotiate training?" says Morton Giersing, a UNICEF advisor for communications

## **NEWS BRIEFS**

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### New HC judges

The President has appointed Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury, Justice Kazi Ebadul Huq and Justice Ainur Reza Chowdhury, additional judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, as the judges of the High Court Division, reports BSS Monday.

### AGM of DUJ begins today

The two-day annual general meeting of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) begins today (Tuesday) at 10-30 am at the National Press Club. The meeting will be inaugurated by Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Professor M. Muniruzzaman Mia. DUJ President Jahirul Hoq will preside over, reports BSS.

### Heroin recovered: Two arrested

CID police Monday recovered 75 grams and 50 packets (puria) of heroin and arrested two persons in this connection from the Babupura slum under Ramna thana. A CID police team led by Inspector M. Ziaul Hasan raided the slum and arrested them recovering heroin from their possession, reports

### Presiding officer suspended

The Election Commission, under section 5 (3) of the 'Election Officials ( special act). 1991' has temporarily suspended from service Dijendra Lal Majumdar, a presiding officer and an assistant teacher of Latifpur Abdul Jalil High School of Sitakunda upazila under Chittagong district. Majumdar was suspended for his illegal involvement in favouring a contesting candidate by putting marking seal in the ballot papers, reports BSS.

# AL willing to give more time to Indemnity body

By Nurul Kabir

Golam Hafiz, was formed last August to scrutinise the AL sponsored bill seeking removal of constitutional bar to try the people involved in killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

The Awami League will

agree to another extension of

the deadline for the submis-

sion of the report of the par-

Indemnity Repeal Bill.

liamentary committee on

meeting of the Awami League

Parliamentary Party (AL PP)

extension of the deadline, the

AL will consider it. AL PP

to ask the government to clar-

ify its position on "some for-

eign missions' frequent in ita-

tion" to Professor Golam Azam.

A 15-member Special

Parliamentary Committee.

headed by Law Minister Mirza

The AL PP has also resolved

that concluded yesterday.

It was decided at a two-day

If the ruling BNP asks for an

MAGH 14, 1398 BS,

The committee failed to finalise its report on the bill within the time limit given by the House as it could not reach a consensus after meeting several times. The extended time limit expired on January 14

On January 14, the committee requested the House to allow another two weeks to finalise the report and the House extended the deadline up to January 31, 1992.

But with only three days of

More Rohingyas arrive, allege persecution

Third round of talks today

the stipulated time left, the committee is yet to hold any meeting. The committee members belonging to AL told The Daily Star yesterday that they had not yet received any message of holding meeting.

An AL member of the committee, who preferred anonymity, told this correspondent yesterday 'Although we are skeptical about the ruling party's attitude towards the passage of the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill, we will let the government a last chance to give a second thought to the

The AL PP has decided to extend the deadline, provided the government wants it from this point of view, the AL PP

From Our Correspondent

third round of border talks

Myanmar begins today

(Tuesday) at the frontier

township of Mongdu in

Bangladesh Rifles, led by

Commander Colonel Ali Ahsan

will start at 11 in the morning

Col Ahsan will be assisted

for the venue of the meeting.

by General Staff Officer at the

BDR headquarters Lt Col

Rashid Ahmed, Commander of

37 Battalion of BDR at Cox's

Bazar Major Abdul Khaleg and

the Commander of 10 Rifles

Myanmar border security

forces (Lunthin) based in

Rakhaine (formerly Arakan)

province will represent the

the December 21 attack on the

Rejupara border outpost, con-

tinued military build-up by

Myanmar troops along border

and influx of Muslim Rohingya

refugees into Bangladesh, offi-

tween the border guard com-

manders of the two countries

took place at the same venue

on December 31 while the

second round of talks at

Teknaf in Cox' Bazar district

on January 4. Both the meet-

ings were held at battalion

Bangladesh delegation has al-

ready arrived here (Monday)

and they would start for

Officials said that the

commander level.

The first flag meeting be-

The discussion will focus on

The area commander of

Battalion Major Ebsan,

Myanmar side.

ctals said.

A 10-member team of

between

Chittagong

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 27: The

Bangladesh and

Sector

According to sources close to the committee members belonging to ruling BNP, the chief of the committee Mirca Golam Haftz would convene the committee meeting immediately before the fresh two weeks deadline expires on January 31.

According to a ruling party member of the committee, the Law Minister is awaiting the decision of the BNP high command on this issue.

If the BNP do not support the passage of the bill, the AL would definitely take to the streets to press for it, another ALPP resolution said.

'Newspapers will

be given protection

against threats'

Barrister Nazmul Huda told the

Jatiya Sangsad yesterday night

that the present government

would not tolerate any

provocative actions by any

quarter which might lead to

chaos, indiscipline damage and

destruction to property, re-

Jatiya Sangsad, the Informa-

tion Minister said the present

BNP government expected

responsible behaviour from all

quarters to maintain peace and

ment in response to Awami

League Member Sheikh Fazlul

Karim Selim's demand of the

government to protect the

freedom of the press from

threats, by certain vested

quarters. Sheikh Selim earlier

drew the attention of the

Speaker to a news item pub-

lished in today's daily 'Ajker

Kagoj\*. He said the daily has

been facing threats because it

had published cartoon series

"Tui Razakar". He also alleged

that Maulana Delwar Hussain

Sayedi of Jamaat-e-Islami had

threatened to burn two news-

papers -Ajker Kagoj and

the present government would

not tolerate any such provoca-

tive activities, it would simul-

taneously expect that the

newspapers of the country

would come forward to create

public opinion against all such

anarchy. He pointed out that a

section of the newspapers are

not properly condemning the

lawlessness and destruction of

ment had already started tak-

ing actions against indisci-

pline and lawlessness.

He also said the govern-

Barrister Huda said while

Dainik Bhor.

public property.

He was making the state-

Making a statement in the

ports BSS.

discipline.

Information Minister

The final course of action See Page 12 Col 1

# Term of office of city corporations extended

The Jatiya Sangsad Monday night passed four amendment bills approving the extension of term of office of the four city corporations of the country to five years from three years to facilitate the corporations in devoting fully to development activities, reports BSS.

Piloted by the LGRD Minister, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder the Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi city corporations bills were brought to give legal cover to the ordinances promulgated early last month. ending the term of office of some of the corporations on December 31 last year.

At the end of two-hour long debate, the House rejected by votce votes all amendments for

either eliciting public opinion or sending them to select committees, moved by Opposition members.

The statements of object and reasons of the bills said the three-year term of the city corporations of Dhaka Chittagong, Khulna and Raishahi is inadequate.

Because the first year passes away in taking over charges by commissioners and becoming alert of their responsibility. They devote themselves to their work in the second year and preparations for the next elections start in the third year. So, they get only one year for work which is inadequate to devote fully to the development ac-

See Page 12 Col 3

political relations between the

visit, said that there was

tremendous scope for promot-

ing bilateral trade between

the two countries. He pointed

out that Mongla Port could be

very beneficial to Bhutan after

it was fully developed.

Tsering, on a short private

two nations as 'excellent'

## **Summary trial** for two poll offences

Parliament Monday night passed a bill providing for summary trial for the offences of bribery and personation at

an election, reports UNB.

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill 1992, was adopted unanimously as the Opposition members described it as a good law.

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz piloted the bill inserting offences of bribery and personation at an election under sections 171E and 171F of the same Code". It replaced sub-clause (tt) tn subsection (i) of Section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of

Six members from the opposition took part in the general debate on the bill. They were: Dr Mozammel Hossain. Shajahan Khan, Abdus Shahid Suranjit Sen Gupta, Abdul Matin Khasru and Tabibur Rahman Sarder.

### Power workers announce 72-hour strike from Feb 10

By Staff Correspondent

Several labour unions in the power sector Sunday announced a 12-day programme for greater movement to press for five-point charter of de-

The programme ends with a 72-hour strike beginning at 6 am on February 10 by the employees of Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) and Dhaka Electric Supply

Authority (DESA) The demands of the PDB and DESA employees include, among others, a separate wage scale and implementation of

See Page 12 Col 7

### Biman employees hold grand rally tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent The employees Bangladesh Biman strugglir to realise their one-point de mand of a revised pay scale, would hold a grand rally on Wednesday in front of Bimar office. Sramik Union source

Leaders of the unions an nounced the date at a brief rally of the workers near the Biman office Monday morning. They also held a procession to press home their demand.

They said that the workers from Chittagong, Rajshahi, Jessore, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Syedpur would attend the rally in which the new programmes of action would be announced.

See Page 12 Col 4

'No allocation in

current budget

to meet teachers'

demands'

resolve the problems of teach-

ers through discussions,

**Education Minister Barrister** 

Jamiruddin Sircar told the

Jatiya Sangsad Monday, re-

House on the teachers' strike

following queries from the op-

position members, the minis-

ter said talks were continuing

between the government and

some Teachers' Associations to

He said that the teachers

Making a statement in the

ports BSS.

reach a solution.

The government is keen to

### Neighbours are fuelling terrorism: Bhutan's FM By Staff Correspondent

Bhutanese Foreign Minister Lynpo Dawa Tsering Monday blamed 'radical' groups from neighbouring Nepal and India for patronising anti-state terrorism in his country.

Talking to newsmen at the residence of the Bhutanese Envoy in Dhaka Tsering said that the movement in the guise of democracy and human rights by ethnic Nepalese in southern Bhutan has 'unfortunately turned terror-

They are being supported by some ambitious people in south Bhutan who are trying to grab power in Thimpu," he noted, adding 'radical groups like the communists, leftists and Naxalites in India and Nepal are also supporting

He said that although the activities of the militants were limited to southern Bhutan, the situation was turning out to be 'serious' and is fast becoming a threat to national secu-

"The tragedy is that the terrorists are receiving open and widespread support from people in Nepal, Tsering, who has been heading the foreign ministry of the tiny Himalayan kingdom of 46,000 sq km, for the last 22 years, pointed out.

Describing the Bhutanese monarch as 'a very modern, well-informed and progressive ruler", he said that the King was presently trying to introduce democratic order through decentralisation of power and participatory development.

Referring to the existing bilateral relations with Bangladesh, the Foreign Minister of Bhutan termed the



"We have not yet developed our third country trade with Bangladesh, he said, adding that currently the Calcutta Port was being used for that purpose as it is well developed.

The present bilateral trade between the two countries stands at around six million US dollars. Bhutan imports jute goods, readymade garments, locally assembled Pajero jeeps while the import of medicine was also under consideration, he noted. Bangladesh on the other

hand imports fruits, timber, coal, boulders, dolomite and See Page 12 Col 5

### detained by Myanmar troops have taken refuge in a camp Myanmar tomorrow after a at Marichha of Cox's Bazar district. - Star photo See Page 12 Col 1 Pakistan withdraws support from Afghan hardliners

Two young Rohingya children whose father has been

ISLAMABAD, Jan 27 : Pakistan accepted today the UN Secretary General's plan to convene an intra-Afghan dialogue to replace the Kabul government and warned hard-line resistance leaders to drop their opposition, reports AFP.

"We have been trying hard. and taken a lot of time to convince the resistance, but they have not been able to get together." Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Siddque Kanju told a press conference here.

"The entire UN plan cannot be held hostage by a few," Kanju said, indicating a major shift in Pakistan's policy towards the Muslim resistance over the guerilla leaders' failure to reach a consensus on the future of their country.

Sounding a clear warning to the rejectionist groups among the Pakistan-based resistance factions, the minister said Pakistan would try to persuade them to accept the proposal aimed at ending the 13year war. "but we will not wait for them."

At least three Mujahideen groups, including the Hezb-i-Islami party, led by the most radical leader. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, have refused to sit with representatives of the Kabul government as envisaged in the May 21 five-point UN

The broad-based Afghan Assembly would be convened by UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali, who would draw up a list of participants, Kanju

He gave no date for the meeting but western sources here said the intra-Afghan dialogue had been tentatively planned to take place by the end of February. Egypt, Turkey and Switzerland have been mentioned as possible venues for the gathering.

Kanju said the modalities of the assembly would be decided by Boutros-Ghali. If asked, Pakistan would happy to host it, he added.

"We will facilitate the convening of a representative assembly and respect it outcome," the minister said, adding that prospects for a just political settlement have greatly improved.



Two soldiers of US army engineers team now in Bangladesh to help construct cyclone shelters in coastal areas are at work in Halishahar, Chittagong. -Star photo

# Asia-Pacific—the 'hungriest region' in world From Chapal Bashar

BANGKOK, Jan 27: A 5-day regional conference on nutrition opened here Monday with a call to step up efforts to remove poverty and malnutrition that afflict half a billion people

in the Asia-Pacific region. Sponsored jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), the conference is the first of several meetings the two UN agencies are scheduled to hold this year in different parts of the world. Some 150 officials and experts from Bangladesh and 28 other countries gathered at the meeting that will discuss the state of nutrition in Asia

and the Pacific region. Welcoming the delegates FAO Assistant Director General A Z M Obaidullah Khan described the Asia-Pacific region as the "hungriest region" in the world with half a billion of its population living in "extreme poverty".

Khan, a former minister of Bangladesh and also the FAO representative for Asia and the , Pacific, said that 350 million women suffer from nutritional anaemia. Besides 20 million children are condemned to premature death and another 250,000 go blind every year because of nutritional deficien-

"This is our shame", he The regional conference planned for this year will cul-

minate into an International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) scheduled in FAO's headquarters, Rome, in December. The main objective of the Bangkok meeting is to provide the regional input for the

ICN is to produce. The Rome conference will be the first of its kind where food, nutrition and health will be considered at the global level in political terms.

Rome conference and the

Global Plan of Action which the

Thailand's minister attached to the Prime Minister's office Meechai Viravaidya inaugurated the meeting at the FAO regional office. Referring to the Rome con-

ference, the Thai minister said: "This will be a valuable opportunity for the world community to devote the political will and necessary resources to improve nutrition for all, but most importantly for those who otherwise would suffer mainutrition."

The minister expressed the hope that the Bangkok meeting would highlight the necessity of increasing awareness of the magnitude, causes and consequences of all forms of malnutrition.

Minister Meechai maintained that the closer cooperation and greater involvement of the private sector are essential to alleviate poverty and malnutrition.

"The struggle to alleviate See Page 12 Col 8

#### had some grievances but negotiation, persuasion and discussion' were necessary to See Page 12 Col 3 Yeltsin cancels appointments

MOSCOW, Jan 27: Russian President Boris Yeltsin cancelled all of his appointments Monday and Tuesday and left Moscow for unspecified reasons. His chief spokesman denied reports it was due to ill health, reports AP. "He is in good health. He's

for two days

in more than good health. He is in excellent sports condition," said the spokesman, Pavel Voshchanov.

Voshchanov gave no reason for the cancellations by the 60year-old president, but said there would be an announcement Tuesday night.