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The Daily Star

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Notice

Due to a mechanical fault at the printing press, we are obliged to interleaf pages of The Daily Star. We expect this problem to be resolved within a couple of days. We regret the inconvenience caused to our readers.
 Management

NEWS BRIEFS

JS adjourned till Feb 3

The House was adjourned at 8-44 pm Thursday to meet again at 3 pm on February 3, reports BSS.

AL emergency meet tomorrow

An emergency meeting of the Awami League central working committee will be held on Saturday at 4 pm at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition at 29 Minto Road. Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) meeting will be held in the conference room of the Opposition Leader at Sangsad Bhaban on Sunday at 11 am, reports UNB.

Restriction on movement

JAMALPUR, Jan 30: The local administration today forbade the people of the district to visit neighbouring Sherpur Sadar upazila tomorrow (Saturday). The DC office here imposed the restriction on movement of the Jamalpur residents in view of elections to be held that day in the union parishes of the nearby Sadar upazila of Sherpur district, reports UNB.

Bandits loot store, stab its owner

PABNA, Jan 30: Masked bandits looted a cloth store and stabbed its owner in the town this evening. Police said the gang stabbed Afzal Hossain when he tried to resist the armed attack. He was rushed to the Pabna Sadar Hospital, reports UNB.

Indemnity body submits report Feb 6 with split opinion

By Nurul Kabir

The parliamentary committee on Indemnity (Repeal) Bill will submit its report before the House on February 6, official sources said.
 A unanimous report is, however, highly unlikely, sources say.
 The Awami League will decide its next course of action after Sheikh Hasina's return from Singapore, an AL leader said.
 The fifteen-member special committee, headed by the Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, was formed last August to scrutinise the Awami League (AL) sponsored bill that seeks removal of the constitutional bar

from trying people involved in the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in August, 1975.
 The committee — comprising 8 MPs and one each from Jatiya Party (JP) and Jamaat-e-Islami — in its several meetings held so far failed to reach agreement on various points.
 The committee sat for the last time on last Wednesday at 8 pm and continued deliberations till midnight resulting in a failure.
 The committee members realising that such meetings would not produce anything positive agreed that the chairman of the committee

would submit the report in parliament Thursday next.
 The report will contain every member's position on the issue separately.
 The committee members who attended the last meeting of the committee are: Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, the Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Water Development Minister Majedul Hoque, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Deputy Leader of the House Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury and Chief Whip Khadimul Karim Hossain of the ruling party, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in parliament

Abdus Samad Azad, Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim and Shudhansu Sekhar Haldar of Awami League. Jamaat representative in the committee Sheikh Anwar Ali was absent from the meeting on Wednesday. JP representative Fazle Rabbi did not attend any meeting of the committee.
 According to sources, the ruling party representatives at the last meeting maintained that they were, from the legal point of view, in favour of trying the killers of Mujib while they could not accept it from the political point of view.
 See Page 12 Col 2



Maneka Gandhi, a former Indian State Minister for Environment, embraces Sri Lanka's ailing opposition leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike yesterday in Colombo. Maneka's estranged mother-in-law and late Indian PM Indira Gandhi was a close family friend of the Bandaranaiques.
 — AFP photo

JS takes up border issues with Myanmar Monday

By Staff Correspondent

A two-hour general discussion on the situation along the border with Myanmar and the refugee problem will be held in the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Monday.
 Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali took this decision following a prolonged debate in the House in which the Opposition members demanded at least a general discussion when Fore-

ign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman wanted to deliver a statement on the current situation.
 Earlier, six adjournment motions were moved on the private members' day to discuss the issue in the House. Separate motions were moved by Shahjahan Straj of the JSD, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party and Rahmat Ali,

Mohammad Nasim, Imran Chowdhury and Abul Ahsan Chowdhury of the Awami League.
 While acknowledging the importance of the issue, the Speaker rejected the adjournment motion. But he repeated his request, made the day before, to the Foreign Minister to make a statement on the current situation.
 See Page 12 Col 1

UP elections pass eighth day

Polling in two centres was postponed amidst violence on the 8th day yesterday of a staggering 16-day election to union parishes, reports UNB.
 Official sources said voting was postponed at a centre in Fatehpur (East) union of Matlab upazila in Chandpur district and at another in Silarchar union of Sadar upazila in Madaripur district.
 Control Room sources said clashes between supporters of rival candidates forced the authorities to hold up the polling in Silarchar union.
 Election was held to 172

union parishes in 23 upazilas of 21 districts, yesterday raising to 2,292 the number of unions where elections have so far been concluded since it began on January 22.
 There will be no polls today (Friday), the weekly holiday. On Saturday, polling will be held in 407 unions of 51 upazilas in 44 districts. Election Commission said.
 Elections were held peacefully in nine unions of Sreebardi upazila of Sherpur Wednesday, according to another report.
 Polls were, however, sus-

pending in one union of the upazila due to violence.
 Unofficially elected chairman of the nine unions of the upazila are: Liakat Ali — Kuriakhanta, Abdul Halim — Tatihat, Dr Sa'adul — Goshapur, Syed Mesbahuddin — Ranni Shymul, Hamidul Talukder — Kaklakura, Md Ali — Kharia Kazirchar, Serajul Haque — Singa Baruna, Delwar Hossain — Bhalua and Shuruzzaman — Sreebardi.
 Election in Gourgaripa union of the upazila was suspended immediately after an
 See Page 12 Col 7

Yeltsin urges Britain, France, China to cut N-arms

LONDON, Jan 30: Boris Yeltsin, on his first foreign trip since the Soviet Union collapsed, called on Britain, France and China Thursday to follow American and Russian nuclear arms cuts pledges, reports AP.
 The Russian president, whose call is likely to be brushed aside by Britain's Conservative government, was greeted by officials in an arrival ceremony shrouded in heavy fog at London's Heathrow Airport.
 On aid, he said it was more a question of tapping "our mutual resources in order to help Russia embark on a civi-

lized road and join the international community."
 His short London visit marked the start of a trip to the United Nations in New York, then Washington to meet with President Bush, and finally the Canadian capital, Ottawa.
 Yeltsin, who travelled with his wife, Naina, flies to New York on Thursday afternoon.
 Yeltsin will confer with US congressional leaders Saturday after his Camp David summit with President Bush, a diplomatic source in Washington said Wednesday.
 The session will take place

at the Russian Embassy.
 Yeltsin will spend the morning at the Camp David meeting with Bush and travel by helicopter to Washington.
 In an interview with ABC's "20-20" programme before the trip, Yeltsin disputed rumours that he drinks to excess and said that, unlike Mikhail Gorbachev, he does not consult his wife about political decisions.
 Britain has promised a friendship treaty and possible help in dismantling nuclear weapons. But Major says Britain's new US Trident missile system remains essential.

New bill for newspaper declaration likely

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday disclosed in Parliament that the government plans to make new laws concerning the declaration of newspapers in a bid to encourage objective journalism in the country, reports UNB.
 Replying to supplementaries from Rahmat Ali of Awami League and Rashed Khan Menon of Workers' Party, the minister said a new bill is likely to be placed before the House in this regard.
 The new law, he said, will have the provision that an editor of a daily will have to have experience of working as a journalist at least for 10 to 15 years.
 Pointing out at the mushroom growth of newspapers, Huda said many of them are being published to serve "special" interests, "obstructing flourishing of objective journalism."
 "Liberty does not mean licence. We want to give freedom and not licence... our government will encourage practice of objective journalism", said the Information Minister.
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'Complicacies' stand in way of radio, TV autonomy, minister says

Information Minister Nazmul Huda Thursday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that implementation of the proposed autonomy in radio and television would take some time because of the complex situation created during the autocratic regime, reports BSS.
 To say definitely when the autonomy could be granted would depend on when the complications could be removed, he said.
 In a written reply to a question from Abul Hasan Chowdhury, the Information Minister said it was necessary to think over what kind of autonomy would be given to radio and television.
 It was also necessary to consider whether that much autonomy would be befitting in case of radio and TV as being enjoyed by the other autonomous bodies, the minister stated.
 He said in fact the BBC and the Voice of America are the national organisations, self-administered and self-reliant, and it was impossible for our radio and television to be established in their pattern.
 The minister said radio and television are dependent on news agencies for collecting local and international news so
 See Page 12 Col 6

One held for Mahbub murder

By DU Correspondent
 Motuiddin (28) an accused of the Mahbub murder case was arrested Wednesday night by the detective branch of DMP from the Khilkhet Namapara area in the city.
 Student leader Mahbubur Rahman Mahbub was killed in a gunbattle on the Dhaka University campus last year.
 Motuiddin also involved in the Badal murder and several violent activities on the DU campus, the police source added.
 Maniruzzaman Badal, Organising Secretary of the Chhatra League (S-A) was killed at DU January 9.

SAARC spirit guides regional foreign policy: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said Thursday that Bangladesh as a peace-loving nation firmly believed in peaceful resolution of all contentious issues, reports BSS.
 Addressing the graduation ceremony of the 16th army, 10th naval and 12th air staff courses at the Defence Services Command and staff College at Mirpur in Dhaka, Begum Zia said, "We uphold the collective conviction and the spirit of SAARC. This is the cornerstone of our foreign policy in the regional context, she said.
 The Prime Minister said through SAARC Bangladesh

hopes to explore and develop new vistas of cooperation and prosperity. In SAARC we find hope" she said.
 Begum Zia said besides our regional commitments, our foreign policy is well reflected by the nations represented in the Staff College with all of whom Bangladesh enjoys a deep and meaningful degree of bilateral and multilateral relations.
 A total of 73 students, including 15 overseas officers from Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, United States of America and Zambia, graduated from the
 See Page 12 Col 4

Commentary: India-Israel ties offer wrong signals, bad risks

By S M Ali

The decision by India to extend full diplomatic recognition to Israel, announced on Wednesday, will come as a surprise to many countries, apart from causing some anger among New Delhi's traditional friends in the Arab world.
 It can be argued that with so many countries which had once refused to set up ties with Tel Aviv now recognising the Jewish state, a change of New Delhi's policy falls in line with the new international climate. Again, the new Rao administration may suggest that this new move is part of his country's open-door policy in external relations.
 There are two aspects of New Delhi's move which will evoke strong criticisms in many countries, including Bangladesh. First, it is the timing, in the current Middle East peace talks, Israel has been particularly difficult, almost totally uncompromising, on issues ranging from the settlement of Russian Jews in occupied Arab territories to the future status of Jerusalem.

India's diplomatic recognition of Israel may provide Tel Aviv with a wrong signal, suggesting that an acknowledged friend of the Arab bloc — an ardent founder-member of the Non-Aligned Movement — is either indifferent to what goes on at the peace talks or somewhat lukewarm on the position taken by the Arab states and the Palestinians.
 True, it may be said that since even Cairo and Moscow have set up full diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv, the international community should take New Delhi's move in its stride. However, it should not be overlooked that ties between Egypt and Israel came about as part of an accord which provided the return of the Sinai to Cairo and obliged Tel Aviv to accept the right of autonomy of Palestinians living in the occupied zone, a right which remains unimplemented. On the other hand, Moscow's gesture was linked to Tel Aviv's acceptance of the former Soviet Union as a co-ture
 See Page 12 Col 1

Corruption case: Ershad's petition for staying judgement dismissed

By Supreme Court Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Thursday dismissed the Leave to Appeal Petition of former President HM Ershad paving the way for the trial court to deliver judgement on February 3.
 Justice MH Rahman presided over the Bench, which comprised Justice ATM Afzal, Justice Mustafa Kamal and Justice Latifur Rahman.
 Ershad preferred the leave

to appeal against the judgement and order dated 21.1.92 passed by a Division Bench of the High Court Division in a criminal revisional application. The High Court rejected the prayer for stay of the proceedings in a criminal case of corruption pending before the Divisional Special Judge, Dhaka.
 BSS adds: The judgement of
 See Page 12 Col 7

Wait, winter not yet gone!

Star Special
 A retreating winter is giving way to spring, but weather experts advise to wait before sending the warm clothes back to wardrobes.
 Though pre-spring breezes are warming the days, nights are still cool, though not unpleasant.
 Predicting that the weather will continue to get warmer experts at Dhaka Met office are not ruling out another cold spell.
 "From now on the temperature will continue to rise. But this is not the final word. There is still a possibility of strong northerly wind and a penetration of a Siberian High that may bring another spell of chilly weather," said Mir Fakhrul Quayyum, a Deputy Director at the weather office.
 Meteorologically, the winter will hang on throughout February. In practical terms, day temperature will be too high to wear warm clothes.
 See Page 12 Col 3

Dhaka proposes national bodies for nutritional status

From Chapal Bashar
 BANGKOK, Jan 30: Bangladesh today suggested formation of high level national bodies to formulate and approve policies and plans for improving the nutritional status of the population of countries in the Asian-Pacific region.
 The suggestions were placed at the regional meeting on nutrition which began here on Monday last. The suggestions, if accepted by the meeting, will be incorporated in the final report which will be adopted tomorrow (Friday).
 The regional conference — sponsored jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) — is the first of a series of meetings the two UN organs plan to hold this year in different parts of the world. The meetings will culminate into the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) in Rome December.
 See Page 12 Col 4

US may impose anti-dumping duty on towels

Star Economic Report
 The United States may come up with an anti-dumping duty to slow down the export of shop towels from Bangladesh.
 Bangladesh in 1990 alone exported shop towels worth 2.46 million US dollars to the US.
 The US Department of Commerce has already determined that Bangladeshi companies are dumping towels on US market, according to
 See Page 12 Col 2

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