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NEWS BRIEFS

Special train for pilgrims

CALCUTTA, Feb 4: A pilgrim special train, carrying about 1,500 pilgrims from Bangladesh, will be run from Rajbari in Bangladesh to Midnapore in West Bengal on the occasion of 'urs' festival at Azangachi (in Midnapore) this month. Eastern railway sources said today that the pilgrim special train would arrive at Gede in India via Darshana on February 16 and reach Midnapore next day via Ranaghat, Naihati, Dum Dum Jn, Dankuni, Liluah and Howrah, reports PTI.

BCS (econ) assoc postpones strike

Bangladesh Civil Service (Economic) Officers Association Tuesday decided to postpone its work stoppage programme scheduled to begin today, reports BSS.

Top level transfer

Syed Shamim Ahsan, Member of the Planning Commission, has been appointed Secretary of the Railway Division, the Ministry of Communications. Nurul Momen Khan, the incumbent Railway Secretary, has been made Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. A K M Hashem, a Deputy Secretary at the now-defunct Vice President's Secretariat has been promoted to the rank of Joint Secretary and made Officer on Special Duty (OSD) at the Ministry of Establishment. Syed Nurul Huda Shamsuzzaman, a Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Establishment, has been promoted and made an OSD (Joint Secretary) at the same Ministry, says a handout.

Indemnity Repeal Bill

Hasina launches offensive to woo opposition colleagues

By Mahfuz Ullah and Nurul Kabir

Sheikh Hasina has launched a 'quiet offensive' in a bid to ride over the obstacles in the way of passage of the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill. The offensive came yesterday against the backdrop of a losing hope that ruling BNP was not going to support the bill. The first phase of the offensive includes meeting with

leaders of other political parties having representation in Parliament. Sheikh Hasina's desire to talk to others was communicated to parliamentary colleagues by Chief Whip of the party Mohammad Nasim. Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Chief of Awami League (AL) had a meeting with Rashed Khan Menon, MP, the General Secretary of the

Workers Party. Suranjit Sen Gupta, MP of the Ganatantri Party, Fazle Rabbi MP and Manirul Haque Chowdhury, MP of the Jatiya Party (JP), Shahjahan Siraj, MP of JSD and Shamsuddoha MP of CPB in her parliament chamber yesterday late afternoon. Awami League sources say Hasina will have meetings with other political parties, individ-

uals and professional groups in coming days to decide her future course of action on the bill. The Indemnity (Repeal) Bill is now pending before the special parliamentary committee. At the last meeting last Wednesday, insiders say, the committee members failed to reach agreement on the repeal. Earlier, the AL Working

Commentary

AL should think carefully before mass agitation

By Mahfuz Anam

It is not clear why the Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina did not preside over the AL Parliamentary Party meeting last Monday. Whatever may have been the reason, it was a wise move. It gives her time to think things over seriously before going for the mass agitation.

Committee in an emergency meeting, presided over by Abdus Samad Azad, decided to go for mass agitation after the failure of the Special Parliamentary Committee to come to a consensus decision on repealing the Indemnity Ordinance of 1975 that protects the killers of Bangabandhu. Earlier, the AL Working

Countdown to Shaheed Day

Star Report

Following the success of the January 30 strike at the Dhaka University against Prime Minister Khwaja Nazimuddin's assertion three days earlier that Urdu would be the only state language of Pakistan, the movement for Bangla gathered momentum with a province-wide strike on February 4, 1952.

The Dhaka University State Language Action Committee (DUSLAC) called the strike at all educational institutions throughout East Pakistan, with the hub of the action naturally being in Dhaka.

However, problems were

Leela Samson enthral audience

Our Staff Correspondent

Leela Samson presented a wonderful treat of poise and a sense of joy de vivre in her Bharat Natyam recitals at the National Museum on Tuesday.

Dressed in rose and gold, Leela was confident, ecstatic and flamboyant. In the first piece 'Vernam' she combined many different styles and expressions. The dancer spoke of the glory of the Lord Shiva.

In the second item 'Padam' the dancer was wandering around the Mandhara mountain. The dancer said she was not the one the Lord sought. Romance filled the air.

In 'Sargis Kongu', Radha was shown as covering her face, and beckoning Sri Krishna shyly. He too gazed at her, Radha's 'Sahi' meanwhile, teased her about following someone who chase girls in Brindavan.

In 'Ashapadi'— once again was based on the Radha Krishna love theme. Radha pined for Krishna but turned away because of her pride. The subject of flowers and arrows were brought into the theme.

The last pieces—, were

Hearing of Milon murder case begins Saturday

By Asiuzzaman

The hearing of Dr Milon murder case begins Saturday before the court of Additional District Judge Mohammad Ismail Hossain, court sources said.

Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon was killed by the assailants allegedly killed by the ousted autocratic regime on November 27, 1990 near TSC square of the Dhaka University. His death gave momentum to the anti-Ershad movement which forced the regime to resign on December 6, '90.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) after long investigation framed charges against 14 accused.

The accused are Golam

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Tinbigha transfer talks at final stage, JS told

Negotiations are at final stage between Bangladesh and India for implementation of the agreement providing transfer of Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman informed the Jatiya Sangsad Tuesday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Begum Rashida Khatun (Jamaat), he told the House in a written reply that a land boundary agreement between the two countries was signed in New Delhi on May 16, 1974.

Under the accord, the Foreign Minister said, South Berubari, southern portion of No. 12 union and the adjoining

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Khaleda, Schaefer talk bilateral issues

Visiting German Deputy Foreign Minister Helmut Schaefer called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence Tuesday evening and discussed matters of bilateral interest of the two countries, reports UNB.

The German minister, who came Tuesday on a three-day official visit, appreciated the development efforts of the

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Nab terrorists even if they're in my party, PM tells police

KHULNA, Feb 4: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today asked police to crack down on terrorists and culprits without fear or favour for maintaining peace and order in the country, reports UNB. "Nab the terrorists... even if they belong to my party," she said while addressing senior police officials at the Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) Commissioner's office this afternoon.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Inspector General of Police M Enamul Haq also spoke at the meeting. Begum Zia said maintenance of peace and order had become imperative for consolidating and perpetuating democracy.

"Anarchy and violence are impediments to development... we must enforce law and order because the government believes in welfare of the people."

Stressing the need for sincerity and dedication on the part of the officers and personnel in discharging their

duties, she sought their all-out cooperation in ensuring peace and development in the country.

In this connection, she also laid emphasis on gearing up drive against smuggling. Unless it is done, indigenous industries will not flourish, she said.

Begum Zia referred to nine years of autocratic rule and said the government would solve the problems of police gradually despite resource constraints.

The Prime Minister urged the police to work together with the people, saying they are friends under a democratic setup.

She also said improved training facilities would be provided for enabling them to tackle new crime patterns.

Another report adds: In the morning Begum Khaleda Zia addressed the seventh anniversary of KMP here (Khulna).

Begum Zia also inspected a guard of honour and took salute from a smartly turned out contingent of police force.

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam, Inspector General of Police M Enamul Haq, Syeda Nargis Ali MP and Whip Md Harun-Ur-Rashid were also present at the function.

In her speech, the Prime Minister said that the main guarantee of democracy is to ensure uninterrupted peace and stability through maintaining of law and order.

Referring to introduction of metropolitan police system in the country by late President Ziaur Rahman, she said another metropolitan police will soon be raised in Rajshahi.

She lauded the glorious role of police during the War of Liberation and congratulated them for their positive and pro-people role in the march towards re-establishing democracy in the country.

Mentioning present-day popular concept of 'community-oriented policing', the Prime Minister urged the law

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Non-govt teachers' strike Degree exams under DU, CU uncertain

By DU Correspondent

The degree examinations under the Dhaka and Chittagong universities, scheduled to begin February 10 and 12 respectively, have become uncertain because of a planned strike by the non-government teachers.

The Central Liaison Committee in the Teachers' Movement (CLCTM), an alliance of three teachers' organisations Monday announced a boycott of the examinations if the government failed to fulfil its demands with the 6th of this month.

Over 85000 students are to appear the Degree examinations under the Dhaka University this year. 69 out of 125 centres are at the non-government colleges.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Examination Controller told The Daily Star that the authorities were taking necessary steps to hold the examinations despite the teachers' announced boycott.

"What can we do if the teachers won't conduct the exams," the Deputy Examination Controller of the DU said.

Principal A K M Shahidullah, Secretary General, Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Association (BFTA), said "We are firm on the decision not to conduct the exams if the government fails to give us a positive result."

The non-government teachers have also called upon the government teachers to boycott the examinations.

The leaders of the BFTA said that the government had not taken any decision regarding the boycott of the examinations.

Principal Shahidullah added that it would cause session jam if the Degree examinations were not held.

The non-government teachers have been on an indefinite strike since January 18 demanding immediate implementation of their 15-point charter of demands.

Arafat weds

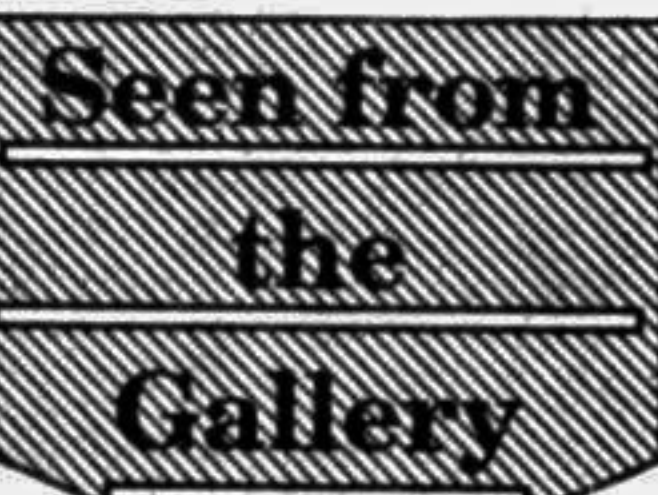
PARIS, Feb 4: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, 63, married his 28-year-old economic adviser several weeks ago, a well-informed source said in Paris Monday, reports AFP.

Arafat's bride, Souha Tawil, originally from Jerusalem, was a former member of the Greek Orthodox Church who had converted to Islam, the source said.

He added that the marriage took place in Tunis, where the Palestine Liberation Organization has its headquarters.

The two started to work together when the PLO Chairman first visited France in May 1989.

Arafat's new wife is the daughter of Raymond Tawil, who once headed the Palestine Press Service.



By Mahfuz Ullah
 Directive or no directive, on-time attendance remains a problem for the House. Quite often, the day's business starts with a thin attendance, sometimes lacking in quorum. So was the problem yesterday. Immediately after the Quran Tilawat, Rashed Mosharrarf of Awami League raised the question of quorum and wanted to

the House. With the passage of the Bill, the Chief Justice will now receive a monthly salary of Taka 12,800 in place of the earlier salary of Taka 8,500 prescribed in the 1978 Ordinance. Similarly, the Judges of the Supreme Court will receive Taka 12,000 in place of Taka 8,000 while the Judges of the High Court will receive Taka 11,500 instead of Taka 7,750.

The amendment, accepted by the Law, Justice and

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