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VOL. II NO. 29 REGD. NO. DA 783

MAGH 28, 1398 BS,

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 1992

SHABAN 6, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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NEWS BRIEFS

PM's salary raised

Parliament Monday night passed a bill as amended by the select committee enhancing the remuneration and privileges of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's salary has been increased to Tk 14,000 from Tk 8,000 per month under the Prime Minister's (Remuneration and Privileges) Bill, 1992. The Bill also increased the amount of discretionary grant at the disposal of the Prime Minister to Tk 50,00,000 from Taka 3,00,000 per annum, reports UNB.

Jute policy soon

By Staff Correspondent

The government will announce a jute policy before the jute cultivation season. Jute Minister Brig (Retd) Hannan Shah told Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) yesterday.

5 killed, 58 hurt in road mishaps

PABNA, Feb 10: At least three persons were killed and 50 others injured when a BRTC bus fell into a roadside ditch near Chaplai bridge on Bogra-Natore highway, 10 km from Natore this afternoon, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Mattur Rahman (45), Giasuddin (32) and Momin Hossain (25).

Among the injured, about 40 were admitted into Rajshahi, Natore, Pabna and Bogra hospitals. Natore police sources said

Five injured in bomb blast

JHENIDAH, Feb 10: Five people, including two women and three children, were injured when a bomb was lobbed into the house of a newly-elected UP chairman Sunday



Clouds of smoke from tear gas shells fired by police during a skirmish with JSD (Inu) backed BCL students on Dhaka University campus yesterday

—Star photo

It's govt's duty to find funds: Hasina All but one demand of transport owners settled, JS told

By Staff Correspondent



By Mahfuz Ullah

A performer par excellence, as he was and is, Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury knows how to outwit his opponents and invite thunderous applause from loyalists. It is not only oration nor control over emotions, neither a name as one of the leading physicians. It is a total appearance that charms others.

And, the Deputy Leader of the House again proved it yesterday while making concluding remarks on the general debate on the on-going transport strike.

As he stood up, Tofael Ahmed was asking for his

See Page 12 Col 7

Eighteen out of a total of 19 demands of the transport owners had been settled in the bilateral discussions between the government and the Transport Owners Association much before the latter went on strike.

This was revealed by the Communications Minister Colonel (ret'd) Oli Ahmed in Parliament yesterday while winding up the general discussion on the situation arising out of the countrywide transport strike by the Owners Association that began Saturday.

Yesterday's general discussion, however, was marked by the Opposition Bench's accusing the government of consistently ignoring the people's problems and the Treasury Bench's refuting the allegations against the government.

The Communications Minister while making the statement in the House said that the government had already conceded to some important demands of the Owners Association including the turning of the transport

sector into the 'service industry', providing the owners with bank loans and other facilities granting of tax rebate on the importing of buses, mini buses, trucks, tank-lorries etc., reduction of duty on spare parts by 25 per cent etc.

On the reduction of diesel price, the vital demand in its 19-point charter of demands, the government assured that it would be duly considered in July, the statement added.

Despite such specific steps by the government and assurance of solving their problems, the transport owners went on a strike even before the conclusion of the mutual discussions, the Minister regretted.

He, however, called upon the transport owners to immediately call off the strike and free different sections of people being held hostage.

Fazlur Rahman Patal, State Minister for Communications said that the government was convinced that the price of diesel should be reduced. But the budget of the current fiscal year was not in a position to

See Page 12 Col 7

Improve power sector situation: WB

Donors threaten not to resume funding

The World Bank, expressing dissatisfaction at the government's 'continued unsatisfactory' performance in curbing electricity theft, has warned that donors will not resume funding to the power sector until the situation improved, reports UNB.

In a letter to the Finance Minister Monday, the Bank pointed out that instead of showing any improvement, system loss now rose to 44 per cent and accounts receivables of PDB and DESA mounted to a staggering 7.1 months' bill.

The World Bank and other donors — ADB, Japan, United Kingdom and Germany — suspended funds to the power sector in mid last year asking improvement in curbing system loss as well as PDB's accounts receivables position. When the fund was declared

suspended, system loss was running at 42 per cent and PDB's account receivables was six months of electricity bills totalling about Tk 600 crore.

The latest figures, quoted by the World Bank, show that situation in the power sector deteriorated further in last six months despite various measures taken by the government for improving performance.

Official sources said the World Bank letter, marked "most urgent", carried donors' extreme dissatisfaction at the performance of the power sector.

"Continued unsatisfactory performance in the power sector would prevent us and other development partners from resuming funding to the power sector", read the letter.

The World Bank strongly

See Page 12 Col 1



—AFP photo

Alex Haley dead

SEATTLE (Washington), Feb 10: Alex Haley, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Roots", the bestseller which prompted people of all races to find their ancestors died here today, a hospital official said. He was 70, reports AFP. Haley died shortly after

See Page 12 Col 8



A terrified student running for cover during police-student clash on DU campus yesterday.

—Star photo

Students, police clash

By DU Correspondent

JSD (Inu)-backed Chhatra League (N-S) protesting 'police action' on its rally near Jatiya Press Club damaged several vehicles in the city Monday.

The students locked in clash with the police at three places in and around the Dhaka University campus. A series of pitched battles took place at the High Court, Central Shaheed Minar and TSC areas of Dhaka University. Police lobbed at least 30 tear-gas shells to disperse the agitating students demanding trial of the killers of Abu Hasan Murad, a BCL (Inu) leader.

Witnesses said the Chhatra League (N-S) after a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the morning tried to submit a memorandum to the Ministry of Home Affairs. But the demonstrators had to turn back from the spot without submitting the memorandum following a brawl with the nearby policemen, they added.

The demonstrators while returning to the Dhaka University campus pelted stones to several vehicles on the way. Police lobbed teargas shells at the demonstrators in the High Court area. The students

See Page 12 Col 7

Non-govt teachers stay away Degree exams begin

By DU Correspondent

The Degree examinations under the Dhaka and Chittagong universities began yesterday with the non-government teachers staying away from invigilation duties.

The examinations, mainly invigilated by government officials were held peacefully with some 1.18 lakh students appearing in 202 centres under the two universities.

The non-government teachers who have been on an indefinite strike since January 18 decided not to conduct the examinations if their demands were not met. However a number of them conducted the examinations in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country for what they termed the greater interest of the students.

The examinations had faced uncertainty because of the indefinite strike.

On Sunday the government

instructed the DCs to hold

the exams utilising government officials including magistrates, UNOs and others.

Meanwhile, a large number of policemen were deployed at the centres in the capital.

Anxious guardians were seen waiting outside the centres. Degree examinees coming from distant places faced difficulties because of the on-going transport strike.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Associations (BFTA) leader Sheikh Amanullah regretted the participation in conducting the exams by some non-government teachers and also by the teachers of government colleges.

See Page 12 Col 4

Bank unions defer movement

By Staff Correspondent

The Coordination Council of Trade Unions of the four nationalised banks on Monday deferred their movement by seven days and called on the

See Page 12 Col 5

Countdown to Shaheed Day

Star Report

The failure of Maulana Akram Khan's Dairik Azad, and the Sangbad edited by Khairul Kabir to support the Language Movement between 1948 and February 21, 1952, did not, however, lead to public opinion being formed in favour of Urdu.

The principal reason for this was, of course, the Bengalee people's refusal to accept a foreign language as the lingua franca of the country in place of their own mother tongue.

For the leaders and activists of the movement, however, there was a different problem. The Muslim League regime and its spokesmen in the media relied heavily on distorting the movement's demands and the logic behind those demands, by branding the pro-Bengali forces as "anti-Islamic" and "Indian agents".

The movement, particularly at its early stages, was there-

See Page 12 Col 6

Rohingyas suspend jungle warfare

By Farid Hossain

Arakan's Rohingyas, insurgents have suspended their jungle warfare against Myanmar (Burmese) soldiers to avert clashes between Myanmar and Bangladesh on this issue, a rebel source said Monday.

"We have decided to suspend our guerilla operations along the jungles and shift them to urban areas," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The source, a top leader of Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO), was reached by telephone in Chittagong.

The RSO earlier claimed that it had set up at least 12 guerilla camps along the dense forests in Myanmar's western province of Arakan, home to three million people, majority of them Muslims.

Myanmar has cited the insurgency as the reason for deploying nearly 55,000 troops along its 175-mile frontier with Bangladesh.

Myanmar's military junta has also accused Bangladesh of

See Page 12 Col 2

Teachers threaten to boycott SSC exams

By DU Correspondent

The non-government teachers' organisations held a grand rally Monday in front of the National Press Club during the Degree examination hours demanding immediate imple-

See Page 12 Col 2

Allout move to thwart today's JKLF march

MUZAFFARABAD (Pakistan), Feb 10: Paramilitary troops Monday set off landslides, erected barricades and dismantled bridges to try to stop a planned march by Muslim militants across a heavily guarded ceasefire line into Indian-held Kashmir.

At least eight people were injured and 40 were arrested in scuffles with police who stopped caravans of buses and cars bearing signs proclaiming "We will spill our blood for freedom."

The Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front said thousands of unarmed supporters would cross the UN monitored ceasefire line Tuesday to ex-

press solidarity with Kashmiris fighting to secede from predominantly Hindu India.

Dozens of Kashmiri leaders were arrested as Pakistani authorities blocked roads to stop militants, officials and militants said.

The JKLF said about 250 people were believed arrested as motorcades transporting its workers were intercepted at about half a dozen places.

JKLF chief Amanullah Khan said here that 190 buses were stopped, but that nevertheless hundreds of people had been pouring in with the intention of storming the border Tuesday, despite the clamp-down by the authorities.

The Pakistani government said it was prepared to use force to block the march.

Military sources in Islamabad said more than 40,000 troops had been deployed in and around Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

India placed its army on high alert and said the militants would be shot if they crossed the cease-fire line.

Reuters says, India laid mines on the border with Pakistan and imposed a curfew in most of Kashmir today to block a march by Muslim insurgents across the frontier.

The local government in Indian-held Kashmir banned civilian movement in areas

close to where an estimated 100,000 separatists have threatened to cross the border on Tuesday.

Civilians have been evacuated from at least four villages in the mountainous Himalayan region, said officials in Srinagar.

PTI said, air surveillance has been introduced as part of the stepped up vigilance along the line of actual control (LAC) and the international border.

Meanwhile, the Indian Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, today said that any attempt at engineering a secession of Kashmir from India would be firmly resisted.

In his opening remarks at an all-party meeting convened by him to discuss the current development in the wake of the proposed march by JKLF activists the Prime Minister said the government had taken some initial steps to prevent any large-scale intrusions across the line of actual control.

"It is my hope and expectations that the government of Pakistan will fulfil its assurances and will not allow any escalation of violence or tension on the Line of Control or across the international border," Rao said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
 ঢাকা।

রঙানী পণ্যে ব্যবহৃত উপকরণের উপর প্রদত্ত শুল্ক ও করাদি ফেরতের ব্যবস্থা সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ হতে রঙানী বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে রঙানীকারকের প্রাপ্য শুল্ক ও কর প্রত্যর্পন দ্রুত দেয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। শুল্ক রেয়াত ও প্রত্যর্পন পরিদপ্তর (ডেডলাইন) রঙানীকারকের প্রাপ্য প্রত্যর্পনের অর্থ চেকের মাধ্যমে তাদের ব্যাংক একাউন্টে জমা প্রদানের জন্য ইতিমধ্যে চেক ইস্যু করতে শুরু করেছে।

০২। বাণিজ্যিক রঙানীকারকগণ রঙানী করলে অথবা মূল্য সংযোজন কর আরোপিত হয়নি এমন পণ্যের প্রস্তুতকারী রঙানী করলে অথবা একশত তাল পণ্য রঙানী করলে এমন পণ্যের উপর মূল্য সংযোজন কর আরোপিত থাকলেও উৎপাদনকারীরা রঙানী করলে শুল্ক রেয়াত ও প্রত্যর্পন দ্রুত থেকে সরাসরি প্রাপ্য শুল্ক ও করাদি প্রত্যর্পন পেতে পারেন। কোন পণ্যের উপর মূল্য সংযোজন কর আছে এক এর কিছু অংশ পণ্য স্থানীয় বাজারে বিক্রয় হয় এমন পণ্যের উৎপাদনকারী পণ্য রঙানী করলে সংশ্লিষ্ট কালেক্টর, মূল্য সংযোজন কর-এর মাধ্যমে প্রাপ্য শুল্ক ও করাদি প্রত্যর্পনও ডেডলাইন করে।

০৩। এ বিষয়ে প্রয়োজন হ'লে নিম্নবর্ণিত ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

পরিচালক
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