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The Daily Star

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 FIS activists kill
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Tomorrow

Focus on Middle East:
 Have the Pletinians
 been abandoned?

NEWS BRIEFS

Body to look into garment issues

Government yesterday
 constituted a seven-member
 committee with Finance
 Secretary as convener to look
 into different problems of the
 country's export oriented
 garments industries. The mem-
 bers of the committee are:
 Commerce Secretary, Textile
 Secretary, Vice Chairman of
 Export Promotion Bureau,
 Director of Textiles
 Directorate and two representa-
 tives of Bangladesh Garments
 Manufacturer and Export
 Association (BGMEA), reports
 UNB.

Saifur off to Rawalpindi

Finance Minister M Saifur
 Rahman left for Rawalpindi
 yesterday on a two-week offi-
 cial visit to Pakistan and Libya.

GCO observes hunger strike

RAJSHAHI, Feb 11: Some
 500 activists of Ganotantrik
 Chhatra Oikya (GCO) today
 (Tuesday) observed a dawn-to-
 dusk token hunger strike at
 Shaeb Bazar Square of the city
 demanding withdrawal of cases
 against 60 student leaders.
 Jamaat-e-Islami backed Islami
 Chhatra Shibir filed four cases
 against 60 student leaders of
 Rajshahi University accusing
 them of killing four Shibir
 workers - two in November,
 1988 and one each in April,
 1989 and in June 1990, re-
 ports UNB.

14 feared drowned in Jamuna

JAMALPUR, Feb 11: At
 least 14 people were killed
 when a boat capsized in the
 river Jamuna at Gouthail in
 Islampur upazila on Friday, of-
 ficials said today. Bodies of all
 the passengers were recovered
 but only eight could be identi-
 fied, reports UNB.

Myanmar hands back looted arms

By Farid Hossain

Myanmar has returned to
 Bangladesh all the arms and
 some ammunition its border
 guards took away during last
 December's attack on Rejupara
 BDR outpost, a Home Ministry
 source said on Tuesday.

Bangladesh lost one heavy
 machine gun, two light ma-
 chine guns (LMG), two sub
 machine guns, 27 rifles and a
 huge quantity of ammunition in
 the unprovoked attack on Dec
 21, when a BDR jawan and a
 civilian were killed and 22
 wounded.

The arms along with 64
 rounds of ammunition were re-
 turned during the fourth flag
 meeting of the two countries
 held at Maungdu in Arakan
 state Monday.

The Home Ministry source
 said that in returning the arms
 Myanmar, the new name of
 Burma, did not admit that its

forces attacked the BDR camp.
 They told us that they got
 the arms during an operation
 which occurred unintentionally
 inside Bangladesh territory,"
 the highly-placed source
 said.

He said Bangladesh is re-
 building and reinforcing
 Rejupara outpost.

Since the attack Myanmar
 marshalled more than 55,000
 troops along its 175-mile
 frontier with Bangladesh rais-
 ing border tensions.

The Myanmar military gov-
 ernment's alleged atrocities in
 the western province of Ara-
 kan forced more than 90,000
 Muslim Rohingya refugees to
 flee to Bangladesh.

Our Correspondent Nurul
 Alam reports from Chittagong:
 During the fourth flag meeting
 with Bangladesh at Maungdu,
 Myanmar agreed to maintain a

peaceful coexistence with
 Bangladesh along the border. It
 said that to remove any misun-
 derstanding, it would sit at flag
 meetings with Bangladesh
 whenever required.

According to official sour-
 ces, Myanmar denied charges
 of a troop build up along its
 border with Bangladesh.

At the fourth flag meeting,
 the 15-member Myanmar side
 was led by Luthin Battalion
 Commander Lt. Col San Lu
 while the 13-member Bangla-
 desh team was led by BDR Is-
 taltion Commander Major MA
 Khalique.

After the flag meeting and
 the return of arms by Myan-
 mar, tension along the border
 was defused to a great extent.
 However, the influx of
 Rohingya Muslims continued
 even till Tuesday.

BSS adds from Cox's Bazar:

About 45,760 Rohingya refu-
 gees have so far been enlisted
 in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban
 districts, according to official
 sources.

Enlistment of Rohingya
 Muslims crossing into Bangla-
 desh started a month ago and
 is still continuing.

Meanwhile, 3000 Rohingya
 Muslims crossed into Bangla-
 desh during the past three
 days through different border
 areas and according to local
 people 1000 to 1,500 Rohing-
 yas are entering Bangladesh
 daily.

The government has sanc-
 tioned Taka eight lakh, 400
 metric tons of rice, 200 met-
 ric tons of wheat and 1650
 bundles of CI sheets for the
 Rohingya refugees. One hun-
 dred rolls of polythene have
 also been allotted for raising
 sheds for the refugees.

Jamuna bridge work starts in a year

By Staff Correspondent

Communications Minister
 OH Ahmed informed the Jatiya
 Sangsad Tuesday that work on
 the Jamuna Multi-purpose
 Bridge will begin within one
 year.

Responding to a call atten-
 tion notice moved by Jamaat-
 e-Islami Parliamentary Party
 leader Matjur Rahman Nizami,
 he said that initially the bridge
 would be built with a four-lane
 road and power lines. "We
 hope that we will be able to
 begin work on the Jamuna
 Bridge within the next one
 year," he added.

However, the Minister said
 that necessary provisions
 would also be made to accom-
 modate a metre-gauge railway

track, and gas pipelines on the
 bridge in the future as the
 foundation and superstructure
 will be built in such a way so
 that rail tracks can be added to
 it at a minimum expenditure.

When the rail tracks are
 added to the bridge the four
 lanes would be converted into
 a two-lane road and two break-
 down metre-gauge lines, he
 added.

Earlier, drawing the atten-
 tion of the Communications
 Minister, Nizami noted that
 although the bridge was sup-
 posed to have provisions for
 road, rail-track, gas line and
 east-west inter-grid power
 supply line on it, rumours
 were circulating that the rail-
 track and gas line had been
 left out of the final plan.

Public miseries mount as transport strike drags on

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting between the gov-
 ernment and the transport
 owners takes place today as
 the countrywide transport
 strike enters its fifth day.

Reports from different parts
 of the country said that private
 buses, mini-buses, trucks and
 tank lorries remained off the
 roads and normal life was se-
 riously disrupted. The govern-
 ment operated a few BRTC
 buses on the long routes under
 police escort.

The Secretary General of
 the Bangladesh Road Trans-
 port Association Muhammad
 Ashraf Khan said that a high-
 level meeting between the
 government and the leaders of
 the Association would be held
 sometime today (Wednesday)
 to negotiate a settlement. He
 did not elaborate.

In the capital, long queues
 of private cars and auto-rick-
 shaws were seen at several fuel
 stations that had received sup-
 plies late Monday night.

The supplies were made by
 30 tank lorries requisitioned
 by the government to stop the
 petrol pumps' drying up.
 See Page 12 Col 3



EMERGENCY SUPPLY: Tank lorries heading towards fuel stations in the city. Special arrangement has been made to prevent the stations going dry. —Star photo

Bill on remuneration and privileges MPs give Law Minister a real talking-to

By Staff Correspondent

A statement of the Law
 Minister Mirza Goolam Hafiz
 sent the whole House in roar-
 ing anger yesterday and the
 consideration of the bill relat-
 ing to privileges and remunera-
 tion of the members was de-
 ferred till next Sunday.

Members belonging to all
 parties took exception to the
 comments of the Law Minister
 and the Treasury benchers
 were the first to express their
 irritation.

As the Law Minister contin-
 ued with his statement, oppo-
 sition members joined their
 rivals and the Speaker had
 difficulties in soothing the anger.
 Amidst shouting and angry
 comments the Speaker ad-
 journed the House for ten
 minutes in a bid to bring the
 situation under control.

When the House reassem-
 bled after the unscheduled
 break, order was restored but
 the members continued with

their anger.

While moving the Members
 of Parliament (Remuneration
 and Allowances) (Amendment)
 Bill 1991, the Law Minister
 took off by making compar-
 isons with the privileges and
 remuneration enjoyed by
 members of the parliaments in
 other SAARC countries. He
 gave a lengthy details of these
 benefits.

Before the Law Minister
 could deal with the prevailing
 situation in India the BNP
 backbenchers started creating
 noise. The Speaker, around
 this time, was heard asking
 the BNP Whips to stop the
 members.

Bewildered by angry be-
 haviour of the MPs, the Law
 Minister wanted to withdraw
 the bill unconditionally. The
 desire to withdraw the bill
 again made the MPs angry and
 the Opposition rose to their
 feet to oppose the move.

Finding no other alternative
 the Speaker adjourned the
 House.

After the break the Law
 Minister asked for permission
 to refer the bill to a new
 committee. The Speaker
 turned down the proposal.

The Speaker then gave the
 floor to Maj (Retd) Hafiz, the
 independent MP, to explain
 the amendments he moved on
 the bill.

Hafiz, in an emotion-choked
 voice, said "I strongly believe
 that all the 330 MPs of the
 country do not bother about
 the enhancement of their re-
 muneration."

What actually matters to
 them is the status and rights
 they should enjoy as the
 elected representatives of the
 people, he added.

Today's incident in the
 House will give an impression
 to the people that the MPs are
 See Page 12 Col 4



By Mahfuz Ullah

Tagore wrote 'let others say
 anything I want my golden
 deer' (sorry for the self-styled
 translation!).

But, sitting in the gallery of
 the Sangsad yesterday, one
 could very well rephrase the
 sentence like 'let others say
 anything I want my duty-free
 car.'

As the Speaker was dispos-
 ing of a privilege notice on the
 import of the duty-free cars,
 Treasury benchers and Oppo-
 sition members all joined
 hands in thumping the table
 expressing solidarity with the
 'privilege.'

The Deputy Leader of the
 House Prof Badruddoza Chow-
 dhury was also no exception.

The privilege notice was
 served seeking clearance from
 the Speaker. Before the Speaker
 could conclude reading the
 notice he was amused by the
 unconditional unity of the
 members on the question of a
 See Page 12 Col 6

Social movement for sanitation a must: PM

Prime Minister Begum
 Khaleda Zia Tuesday called for
 a social movement through
 concerted efforts by govern-
 ment and non-government
 agencies to improve water
 supply and sanitation, reports
 UNB.

"Let each of us give our best
 to contribute meaningfully for
 promoting sanitation and cre-
 ating hygienic environment",
 she said.

The Prime Minister was in-
 augurating a day-long national
 conference on "Social Mobil-
 isation for Sanitation" at
 Shere-e-Bangla Nagar MP hos-
 tel ground Tuesday morning.

Begum Zia resented that
 progress in various fields dur-
 ing the last two decades was
 not encouraging. "Even today,
 about 1000 children die every
 day in the country due to diar-
 rhoea and other diseases...
 more than 90 per cent of our
 people are still deprived of
 sanitation facilities."

Terming people as the main
 force and actors in the national
 development process, she said
 true development can only be
 ensured by giving the people a
 chance of participation in im-
 proving their own lot.
 She emphasised on devel-

opment of human resources
 for ensuring the country's
 overall progress and prosper-
 ity.

"We need skilled people to
 develop the country", she said
 referring to her government's
 emphasis on human resources
 development.

She also stressed the need
 for involving women in water
 supply and sanitation promo-
 tion activities. "It is the
 mother who is responsible for
 maintaining family health and
 hygiene. Her role in sanitation
 promotion is, therefore, vital",
 she said.

Begum Zia termed motiva-
 tion on adoption of sanitation
 habits as a big challenge
 adding, "a challenge also pro-
 vides an opportunity... it
 generates strength to face
 the problems and inspires the
 people to reach the goal
 quickly."

The national conference is
 aimed at mobilising leading
 forces of the society, including
 the administration, Ansar-VDP,
 teachers and students of pri-
 mary and secondary schools,
 health and family planning
 workers as well as other gov-
 ernment and non-government
 See Page 12 Col 8

Pak army halts JKLF attempts to cross border

JAMMU, Feb 11: The JKLF
 activists made abortive at-
 tempts to cross the Line of
 Control (LOC) at three places
 in Poonch sector today.

A Defence spokesman told
 PTI here that the activists of
 JKLF carrying flags and raising
 slogans made attempts to
 cross the border at Durandi,
 Madarpur and Tenthrinad vil-
 lages in Poonch sector this af-
 ternoon but were prevented by
 the Pakistani army.

The Pakistani army pushed
 them back to their side when
 the activists tried to move
 ahead towards forward posts,

the spokesman said.
 Meanwhile, a report from
 northern-west Kashmir said
 some groups of youth were
 seen sitting half a kilometer
 away from across the LOC at
 Chakhoti and Hajipeer vil-
 lages in Uri side.

However, they did not make
 any attempt to cross the bor-
 der, the reports said.

Reuter adds: Pakistani au-
 thorities said today they had
 halted a march by thousands of
 Kashmiris to cross an Indian-
 defended ceasefire line.

Pakistan-ruled Azad (free)
 Kashmir's Prime Minister

Sardar Abdul Qayyum, quoted
 by the state-run Radio
 Pakistan, said the marchers
 were halted at the town
 Chinari near the border.

He said about 15,000 peo-
 ple had reached Chinari to
 cross the control line "but they
 were stopped from proceeding
 further".

AP from Ghari Dupatta adds:
 Pakistani soldiers fired tear
 gas Tuesday to repel Muslim
 militants who tried to storm
 into Indian-held Kashmir
 while thousands more pushed
 toward the frontier.
 The militants of the

Jammu-Kashmir Liberation
 Front, vowing to cross the
 border to show solidarity with
 Kashmiris fighting to secede
 from India, tried to cross the
 border at five points in groups
 ranging from less than 100 to
 about 1,500 officials said.

They were met by clouds of
 tear gas fired by some of the
 estimated 40,000 Pakistani
 riot police and paramilitary
 troops deployed along the
 mountainous 280-kilometer
 (175-mile) border to stop the
 marchers, government officials
 said.
 India has put its forces on

alert, scattered land mines
 along the border and warned
 the militants would be shot if
 they crossed into India. There
 were no reports of firing
 Tuesday by Indian soldiers.

A UN-monitored ceasefire
 line divides Kashmir. India and
 Pakistan have fought two wars
 over the Himalayan territory.

As the vanguard of militants
 clashed with Pakistani security
 forces, about 7,000 Liberation
 Front supporters trudged
 through ankle-deep mud on
 the main winding road that
 heads to the border, breaking
 through four landside trig-

gered by Pakistani soldiers to
 stop the march.

"We're flying high today.
 Nothing can stop us," said
 Liberation Front chief
 Amanullah Khan as he and his
 supporters shouting "Death to
 India" started their 55-kilome-
 ter (35-mile) march.

The Liberation Front had
 planned to cross the frontier
 line en masse at noon Tuesday
 (0700 GMT), but they had only
 reached the half-way mark at
 the village of Ghari Dupatta by
 evening. Amanullah said they
 planned to reach the frontier
 on Wednesday.

Countdown to Shaheed Day

Star Report

Between 1948 and 1952,
 the political mood of the coun-
 try (meaning East Bengal) un-
 derwent a qualitative change,
 and nothing illustrated that
 fact better than the difference
 in the people's reactions to
 attempts to impose Urdu on
 this country's public life during
 those two watershed years.

In 1948, the demand to
 make Bengali a state language
 of Pakistan alongside Urdu
 was made principally by a se-
 ction of Dhaka University stu-
 dents, teachers and the intel-
 ligentsia. The country beyond
 Dhaka remained largely un-
 touched by the growing mood
 of rebellion at the university.
 Even in the provincial capital
 itself, participation of the gen-
 eral public in the movement
 remained negligible.

Badruddin Umar, in his
 three-volume "East Bengal's
 Language Movement" said that
 student agitators were often
 insulted by people living in the
 old part Dhaka during the
 1948 movement.

That mood of public indif-
 ference had gone by the time a
 new phase of the Language
 Movement began with a strike
 at Dhaka University on January
 See Page 12 Col 7



Tyson found guilty of rape

INDIANAPOLIS, USA, Feb
 11: A jury Monday found
 former heavyweight boxing
 champion Mike Tyson guilty of
 raping an 18-year-old beauty
 pageant contestant, reports
 AFP.

The verdict, in which Tyson
 was also found guilty of two
 counts of criminal deviate
 conduct, came after the 12-
 member jury deliberated for
 about nine hours.

The judge set sentencing
 for March 6, and ordered
 Tyson to surrender his pass-
 port. Tyson remained free on a
 30,000-dollar bond.

Tyson, 25, could be sen-
 tenced to 60 years in prison -
 20 years on each of the three
 counts.

He sat impassively as the
 verdict was read, and left the
 courthouse without making any
 comment.

Tyson's accuser, a contes-
 tant in the Miss Black America
 beauty pageant, testified that
 he lured her to his hotel room
 here last July 19 and overpow-
 ered her, laughing as he forced
 himself upon her and she
 pleaded with him to stop.

Tyson admitted that they
 had had sex but maintained
 that it was consensual.
 (Details on Page 11).

'No way to check if India carries arms'

The State Minister for Ports
 and Shipping admitted in pa-
 rliament yesterday that the gov-
 ernment had no control or
 device to check transportation
 of arms by India to her eastern
 state of Assam through Bangla-
 desh under the inland water
 transit facilities provided to
 that country, reports UNB.

"There is no mention in the
 inland water transit protocol
 signed with India as to what
 goods she will carry nor do we
 have means to ascertain it",
 Haroon Al Rashid said during
 the question hour.

Nanna Miah dead

Prominent politician, former
 minister and veteran par-
 liamentarian, Syed Arzul Huk
 (Nanna Miah) died Tuesday
 evening at his East Tazury
 residence, reports BSS.

He was 80.
 Family sources said Nanna
 Miah collapsed as he was tak-
 ing his supper and died.