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NEWS BRIEFS

PM will address Feb 16 meeting

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also the chairperson of BNP, will address a public meeting organized by Sutrapur and Kotwali thana units of city BNP on February 16 at 3 pm at Dholaikhal square, reports BSS.

Foreign loans

The present government has received 449 million dollar in foreign loans during April-December 1991. Finance Minister Saifur Rahman informed parliament Wednesday. In a written answer to Sardar Shakhwat Hossain Bakul (BNP) during question hour, the Finance Minister said the amount in local currency comes to Tk 1,684 crore, reports UNB.

Tk 59 cr house building loans

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman told the parliament Wednesday that a sum of Taka 58,76,12,000 was sanctioned by the nationalised banks as house building loans during 1990-91 financial year. In reply to a written question from Haji Rashed Mosharrif (AL-Jamalpur), the State Minister said during the same period Grameen Bank sanctioned Taka 31,53,24,000 as rural house building loan, reports BSS.

Shantibahini man killed

RANGAMATI, Feb 12: One tribal terrorist was killed and three others were arrested in an exchange of fire between security forces and insurgents at Buniapara in Nanterehar upazila of the district today. The dead was identified as Rehati Mohan Chakma (29) of the Upazila, reports UNB.

68 held in city

Metropolitan Police during the last 24 hours arrested 68 people from different parts of the metropolis on charges of various offences, reports BSS.

Hectic parley to end transport strike

A hectic negotiation was on between the government and the transport owners Wednesday night to end a five-day transport strike across the country.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Road Transport Association Wednesday night sat for a final round of talks with the government to break the stalemate. Talks focused on reduction of fuel price to the pre-Gulf war level, the foremost demands of the transport owners.

The meeting between the State Minister for Communication Fazlur Rahman and the central leaders of the Bangladesh Road Transport Association, the owners' platform, began at 9-15 pm and continued till late last night. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority Chairman B Zaman

'Call off strike or face legal action'

Government Wednesday urged road transport owners to call off their strike immediately saying that people of all walks of life, overall development activities of the country, transport owners as well as workers are being affected due to their strike, reports BSS.

Gunshots rock DU campus

Dhaka University campus was rocked with gunshots when supporters of two rival student groups triggered automatic weapons Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League (S-A) allegedly opened fire from Mohsin, Suryasen, Jagannath, Jasmuddin and Zahurul Haq halls.

Countdown to Shaheed Day

Star Report
By all accounts, the East Pakistan Communist Party, through its cadres in the Jubo (youth) League, had become a major player in the Language Movement by 1952. But between 1947 and 1951, the party in East Bengal was faced with virtual collapse.

JKLF chief arrested: 12 marchers killed in clashes



Supporters of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), defying curfew, demonstrating Tuesday in northern Kashmir — AFP photo

CHINARI (Pakistan), Feb 12: Pakistan security forces arrested a Kashmiri militant leader and 100 of his diehard supporters after up to 12 people were killed in clashes while trying to march to the border with India today, reports Reuters.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said its leader, Amanullah Khan, and several of his closest aides were snatched by the army after being separated from other activists who had fought their way to the border.

In Indian-ruled Kashmir hundreds of people staged demonstrations on Wednesday to back the pro-independence march from the Pakistani side. Witnesses said demonstrators in Srinagar, taking advantage of a five-hour break in an indefinite curfew imposed on much of the Kashmir valley, carried placards demanding an end to Indian rule.

Myanmar recalls retired soldiers to tackle unrest

Myanmar is recalling retired soldiers to duty to tackle anti-government agitation, according to some Rohingya refugees who have fled to Bangladesh.

The refugees at Teknaf said Wednesday that Myanmar's military government is raising a special force comprising retired army personnel to help regular soldiers and police crush the pro-democracy movement.

with them since Dec 21, when a Burmese patrol killed a BDR jawan and a civilian in an attack on a BDR outpost at Rajpara of Bandarban district. They alleged that Myanmar authorities at Kyan Pyu island, the base of the joint venture project, restricted their movements and often prevented them from going to mosques.

Seen from the Gallery

By Mahfuz Ullah
A good news for television watchers but a bad (?) one for the silver screen idols.

Govt hesitancy may prove to be expensive

By Mahfuz Anam
It is curious as to why an elected government should be so hesitant about going to its electorate when it is being so unreasonably pressured to implement sectarian interest.

15,292 cases against loan takers filed
By Staff Correspondent
Authorities have so far filed 15,292 cases in the commercial courts against the defaulters whose outstanding loans of Taka 797.59 crore lie with the commercial banks and the Development Financing Institutions (DFIs).

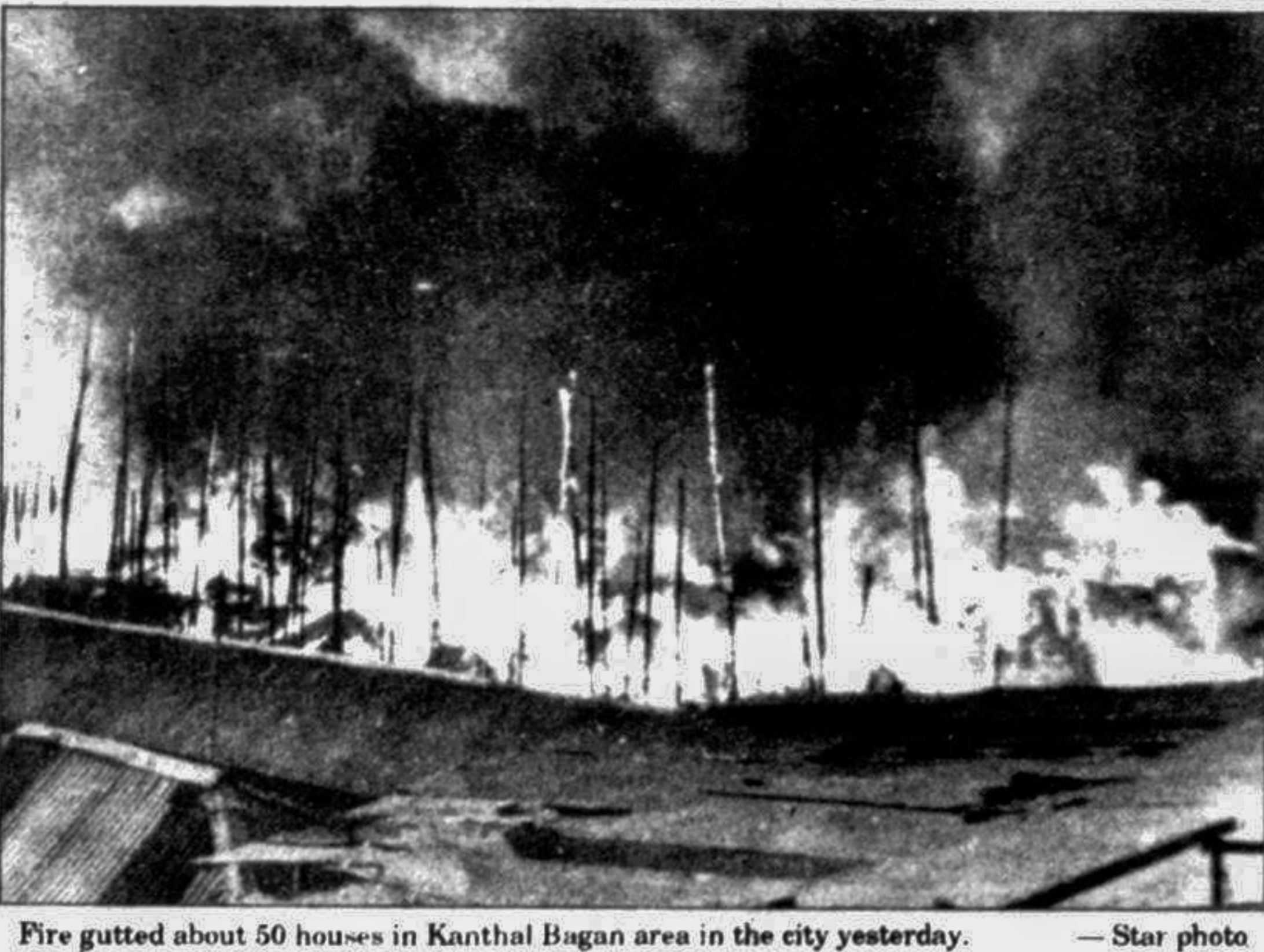
BTMC incurs loss of Tk 219.74 cr since '72

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) incurred a total loss of Taka 219.74 crore from July 1972 to June 30, 1991.

The causes of the loss, according to the Committee report, include, lack of proper market study before fixation of the target of commodity production, non-recovery of outstanding dues, sale of yarn with high discount, stockpiling of products due to lack of quality of the commodity and low price, increased establishment cost due to delay in construction, unfriendly relations between the workers and the management and shortage of working capital etc.

100 houses gutted in two fire incidents

Two separate fire incidents in the city yesterday burnt about 100 tin shed kutcha houses and made more than 500 people homeless in Mirpur and Kathalagan areas, reports UNB.



Fire gutted about 50 houses in Kanthal Bagan area in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Expert group re-examining terms of KAFCO deal

A government expert group is re-examining certain terms of the KAFCO deal to make it acceptable to the government as well as the foreign shareholders, official sources said Wednesday, reports UNB.

The group of experts drawn from the Ministries of Finance and Law is due to finalise its report for submission to the Prime Minister early next week.

Prices of gas and its payment modality are in the centre of the row between the government and the foreign shareholders, particularly the Japanese investors who have a major stake in the project.

50 per cent of the minimum economic price of gas in the current market.

shareholders have recently agreed to increase the gas price at 1 dollar per MCF but stuck to their position on deferred payment for gas after three and a half years.

Teachers' grand rally postponed
By DU Correspondent
The teachers' employees' grand rally scheduled to be held on 15th February has been postponed due to the transport strike.